

Ola Palma Sola! Greetings Westminster!



September Ola!

**A Virtual Rally Day in The Transitional
Pastor, Dr. Ted Land.**

Jimmy Durante sang, “It’s a long, long way, from May to December...but the days grow short, when we reach September.”

From the Florida Room at our ranch house in Desoto County, I watch the sunset when we are there. I watched it shortly after the Winter Solstice, when we had just celebrated “Blue Christmas/ Longest Night/Service of Remembrance at the Botanical Gardens. I watched it in March, when the Vernal Equinox occurred. I watched it in June, when the Summer Solstice marked the shortest night of the year. And in a few short weeks, I will see

the sun set in the position that marks the Autumnal Equinox. It will then swing to the South, to reach the point of the Winter Solstice again.

Little did I imagine in March that in September we would still be worshipping virtually, and having ZOOM meetings and fellowship time. Little did I imagine that we’d be making plans for a “Virtual Mission Fair” as part of our Rally Day Sunday. Little did any of us foresee the pandemic and its complications and ramifications for our lives.

There have been some exciting things

There have been some exciting things happen. Having five states represented on line at the Palma Sola Book Club in July was one of them. Having to wear masks way be exciting for children on Halloween, but for the rest of us, not so much.

Another old song keeps rattling around my brain, just a line from Amazing Grace:

“Tis grace has brought me save thus far, and grace will lead me home.”

God’s amazing grace has brought us safe this far. God’s grace is sufficient for all our needs. Yes, we have suffered isolation. Yes, we have suffered loneliness. Yes, we have missed seeing our friends, our families. Yes, we have missed going where we wanted to go and doing what we wanted to do. We’ve cancelled vacations, reunions, cruises, birthday parties, anniversary celebrations Weddings, funerals, memorial services, have been postponed or limited at best.

But grace has brought us safe this far. And grace will lead us home.

September Sermon Schedule

Led by Transitional Pastor: Dr. Ted Land

SEPT. 6

Communion Sunday
Where Two Or Three
Are Gathered

SEPT. 13

How Many Times...

SEPT. 20

Rally Day!
Fair Wages

SEPT. 27

By What Authority?

Worship Services are posted on YouTube every Sunday. Links to the Worship Service and Bulletin are available in the Sunday Message and on the [PSPC website](#)

Palma Sola Session Update

- Approved the release of \$14K from the Dreyer Trust account to RIP Medical Debt Relief to write down \$1.4 million of outstanding medical debt from some 700 families in Manatee County. Westminster contributed \$3.5K of this total amount.
- Approved a request from Diane McCall to hold her wedding in our sanctuary on September 28th with Pastor Ted officiating and ten people attending.
- Approved the Outreach Team request to hold a virtual Rally Day on Missions Sunday, September 20th. Our mission partners will participate with pre-recorded presentations, and the Brass Quartet will also perform.
- A drive-through collection of school supplies for Palma Sola Elementary will be held on Saturday, September 12th from 10a-12p. Needed items are listed in the Outreach Team article in this newsletter.
- Approved a new Benevolence Assistance tri-fold folder which outlines how members and residents of Manatee County may apply for assistance from Palma Sola. Members of the Westminster congregation are also eligible for aid. The tri-fold will be distributed electronically while the pandemic continues.
- New simplified forms for the annual review and performance evaluation of our Staff were approved.
- With the Sessions of both Westminster and Palma Sola being moderated by Pastor Ted, joint issues of transition can now be dealt with by the two Sessions. Consequently, subject to concurrence by Westminster, Session approved the dissolution of the Nesting Transition Team.
- Approved a plan for reopening the facility to the Scouts BSA and to the Creative Arts Academy, beginning the week of September 14th, providing there is no spike in COVID-19 cases following the mid-August reopening of schools in Manatee County. Specific details of our facility safety policy, including wearing facemasks and 6' social distancing at all times, will be discussed with each organization to ensure their compliance.
- Approved revising the Administrative Manual to permit two members of the same family to serve on Session.

Mission Update

Hi Everyone,

Just wanted to post our video update. We are so excited to be in the process to open a Children's Home. We would love your prayers and support as we begin the licensing process, as well as, begin to look for a house that will meet the requirements of a group home.

Thank you!
Lisa Norton and Family.

View the video update here:
<https://nortonsinguatemala.blogspot.com>

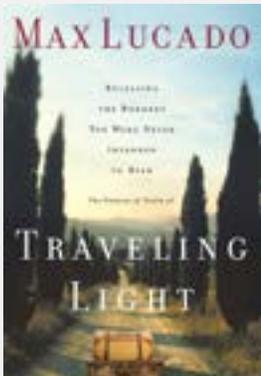


**Financial Support
for the Children's Home**
may be given through:

<http://www.hopeforhome.org/donate.html>

Simply choose "Individual Support (K-Z)" and choose our family from the drop down list on the Pay Pal page.

Men's Group



SEPT 2020

Join us via ZOOM every
1st & 3rd Thurs at 8AM

**Traveling Light
by Max Lucado**

How Psalm 23 helps you
release burdens you were
never intended to bear.

September 3 | Lesson 9

Get Over Yourself: The Burden of
Arrogance

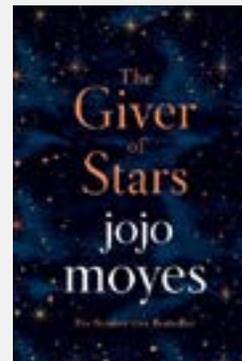
September 17 | Lesson 10

I Will Lead You Home: The Burden of the
Grave

**Call Ron Dickerson for a Zoom invitation
(941) 792-9104**

Palma Sola Book Club

**LOVE A GOOD BOOK? LOVE TO TALK ABOUT
GOOD BOOKS?**



SEPT 14TH | 12P via ZOOM

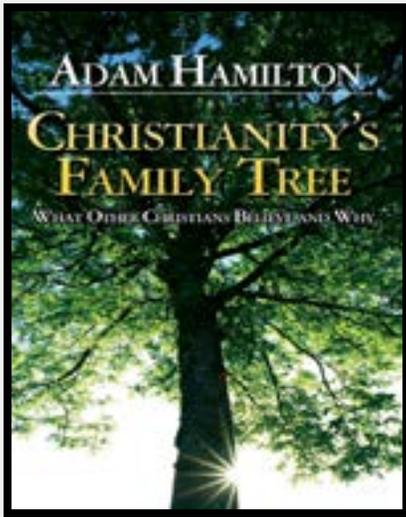
Meets second Monday to laugh, share,
and learn. Open to both congregations
and their guests.

[View 2020 book list here.](#)

INTERESTED?

**Contact Vicki Schooley:
(941)792-5672 | VLSchooley@gmail.com**

UPCOMING Christianity's Family Tree Class



Christianity's Family Tree Class

Have you ever wondered what other Christian denominations believe and why? An upcoming class will explore how each of eight denominations and faith traditions has a unique, valuable perspective to offer on the Christian faith.

This eight-week participatory study is planned for Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 pm, with leaders Betty Bashaw and Marilyn Gillette, and will use a DVD curriculum by Adam Hamilton. Stay tuned!

Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build Home Dedication

A few months late and in a whole new socially distanced manner, the Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build home was dedicated on August 12th. Sponsors, including members from Palma Sola and ten other worshipping communities, gathered at the newly completed house to welcome Markisha Harris and her children to their forever home. Initially planned for a spring completion, construction was delayed due to COVID-19. For the dedication, face masks were worn, ribbons replaced the laying of hands and blessings were done outside instead of in each room, but the spirit and enthusiasm of this special day could not be changed. Markisha stated that owning a home is one of the biggest accomplishments for her and her family and will change their life for the better. Palma Sola was blessed to be a part of this life-changing event and was pleased to gift a mower and other lawn tools to help the Harris family maintain their new home.



OUTREACH UPDATE

Your outreach committee continues to meet via ZOOM to plan ways to reach out to those in need. Our three focus areas are: **Education and Literacy**, **Food Security** and **Elderly Connections**.

Education and Literacy:

We are planning a drive through collection for **Palma Sola Elementary School** on **September 12th**, from **10-12**. We will be collecting items for classrooms and the health clinic. Suggested items for the classrooms are: pencils, expo markers, glue sticks, composition notebooks, tissues and copy paper. Items for the clinic include: juice boxes, snacks, flushable wipes, disinfectant wipes/spray, Kleenex, hand sanitizer and paper towels.

Take this list with you to the store next time you go, and add a few of the items to your cart to drop off at our contactless drive on **September 12th**.

Food Security:

Thanks to those who participated in our **Drive Away Hunger** food drive for the **Food Bank of Manatee County** in July and the **Parking Lot Pocket Change** for **F.E.L.T (Feeding Empty Little Tummies)** on August 29th. We raised \$476!

Do you see the trend we have going? Drive through opportunities each month to wave to each other, and get out and help people in need in a safe environment.

We will be contributing to Rise Against Hunger with funds from our Local and International Missions account (\$250) and our Food Security account (\$500) to purchase 10 boxes (each box contains 216 meals) for "Building a Pallet Program" which provides food and aids our friends around the world.

Elderly Connections:

We hope you enjoyed the ZOOM Estate Planning Seminar. It was very informative.

We continue to look for ways to support the elderly, especially those who cannot get out. Call your neighbors and visit on the ZOOM fellowship hour at 11:30 following the Sunday service. Let us know if you have ideas of ways to connect.

Mission and Outreach Collection

- \$1350 was collected in May and June for **Meals On Wheels**. There has also been a donation of \$1300 in June for Missions. In July and August we were collecting for the Food Bank. We do not have that number as of this writing.
- **Our Daily Bread** is ready for volunteers to pack up meals to be served by their staff. Speak with Don Azbell or Dottie Simes if you would like to volunteer.
- **Turning Points** needs volunteers to help with non-contact services. Contact Cheryl Hedger at Turning Points (941-747-0383) or Gregg Pead if you would like to volunteer.
- **RALLY DAY** is returning virtually on Missions Sunday, September 20th during our regular Sunday service. We hope to have about 15 mission partners make brief presentations via ZOOM. Please tune in on Sunday September 20th to hear about the many opportunities for service.
- Prayers and Blessings for your health safety.

September Outreach Offering

September's Outreach Offering goes to **Bible Mission USA**.

This ministry spreads God's Word by providing, free to those in need, Bibles and books of the Gospel translated into common vernacular by founder Dr. Paul Eckel.

Please mail your check, with memo "Bible Mission," to PSPC at 6510 3rd Ave W Bradenton FL 34209, or give online to the Outreach Fund using your debit or credit card.

**"Let our hands extend your reach...
in making Jesus known through His Word."**

Safety Practices for When We Return to In-Person Worship

The Ad Hoc Reopening Task Group has been tracking COVID-19 statistics, watching for Manatee County to meet the key criteria for resuming in-person worship for our members that were established by the Session in mid-June. Unfortunately, we're not there yet. But we want to share with you the safety plan we developed in June for when we do resume worship.

The following two pages summarize the plan. The four practices highlighted on the next page have been proven successful in other settings, are currently being followed by our staff, and will be asked of our campus-partner youth groups when they return.

At the time of this writing, August 20, we're seeing a downward trend in daily new COVID-19 cases in Manatee County, from a peak of 221 (in a 14-day average) on July 24, to an average of 68 cases a day today. While encouraging, this is still higher than the average of 30 daily new cases we were seeing in mid-June. In addition, our 2nd criterion, established by the World Health Organization, is unmet: that over a two-week period only 5% of those tested are found to be positive.



Worship Safety Practices



In the Great Commandment, Jesus calls us to love God, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. To do this, we want to offer worship that is meaningful and honors God, and we want to protect each other and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community. The following four practices will help us fulfill that mission.



1. Answer the Questionnaire

Before coming to church, please review a questionnaire that has been mailed to you on COVID-19 exposure and symptoms.



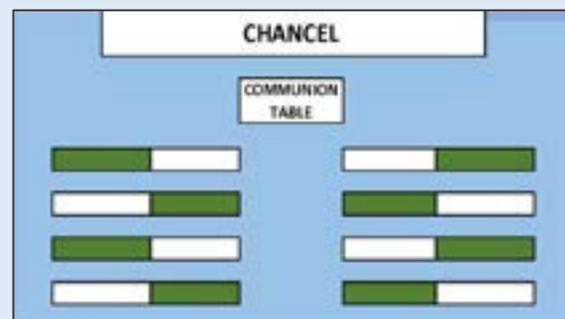
2. Wear a Facemask

All worshipers are to wear face masks. Their purpose is mainly to protect others if you are asymptomatic. Please bring your own face mask.



3. Cleanse Your Hands

Clean your hands when entering and leaving the building, using one of the touchless hand-sanitizer dispensers.



4. Socially Distance

Maintain 6' distance from others indoors and outdoors. Seating is in alternate halves of pews (see green above). Members of a single household may sit together.



Entering and Leaving the Building

When you arrive, enter through the open front doors. Arrows and ushers will guide you to your seat. After the service, the Pastor will release the pews in an orderly sequence for exiting through the front and east doors.

Making an Offering

Baskets are placed on the pews in each designated seating area, for the tithes and offerings of those seated there, and are collected after the service. Please bring your own envelope (provided by mail) and pen.

Hugging and Handshakes

Maintaining a safe social distance unfortunately means no hugs or handshakes. Learn 'Peace Be with You' in sign language (see recent newsletters).

Music

Worshippers and staff will not sing or hum during the service. Wind instruments will not be played.

Bibles/Hymnals

These are removed from the sanctuary, along with all papers. The Order of Worship will be projected on the sanctuary screen.

Restrooms

Restrooms will remain accessible before, during, and after worship.

Coffee

Coffee and other refreshments will not be served. For now, the narthex will be a passageway only.

Returning to in-person worship offers us opportunities to exercise the spiritual gifts of patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control, as well as opportunities to savor the gifts of love, joy, peace, generosity and faithfulness. Let us be faithful, to God and to one another, as we receive these gifts and work through these challenging times. If you have questions, please contact the Pastor through the church office, 941-792-3141.

P&G Update

Your team has been very busy! Below you will see the projects we have been working on. The lightning issue created a very large mess for us to repair and get working again. The final room to get new LED lights to replace burned-out ballast (and fluorescent bulbs) is the choir room. We will then have replaced all florescent lighting with LED, reducing our electric bill and keeping the church cooler!

- The storage area for Banker Boxes is 90% complete.
- Room 10 has been cleaned out for Westminster.
- Westminster is to determine where to locate a phone line and a computer line in Room 10, and how to equip a volunteer station. We will jointly determine what large Westminster tables we can use, and make room for them in the fellowship hall storage room.
- Furniture has been moved into a new second administration office to be used for project work. Samaritan Counseling relinquished this office for us, moving their second therapist to a new full-time office in the old preschool area.
- We will Install a front door crash bar in the Narthex.
- The restrooms in the scout area have been painted.
- All hedge trimming is complete by the handicap ramp going into the sanctuary, and on the rest of the grounds.
- All outside doors will be caulked to fill cracks from drying wood, and then painted. The pressure wash did a good job of cleaning them up. You can see thru the front narthex door!
- We will finish fluorescent light replacement. LED bulbs have arrived to do the last few rooms, including the choir room.
- The election on August 18 went well without incident.
- We will be costing out fence replacement for around the dumpster.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers and sanitizer are anticipated to arrive in September, on back order.
- Lightning damage work completed since our last report.
 - All exit lights repaired
 - Internet and WIFI repaired, with new hot spots, by Discount Telecom
 - Omnitech Communication Protection Fire alarm system repaired, with all new alarm detectors
 - Kitchen stove hood equipment repaired by Pye Barker
 - Electrical wiring and circuit breaker repaired by Anthony's
 - Damaged florescent ballast replaced
 - Kitchen hood alarm parts repaired
 - Ice Machine repaired

RIP MEDICAL DEBT

PSPC and WPC Abolish \$1.4M of Manatee County Medical Debt

Palma Sola Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church are clearing \$1.4 million in medical debt for some 700 Manatee County residents and their families, through a \$14,000 donation to RIP Medical Debt (RIP).

Medical debt contributes to more than 60% of bankruptcies in the USA. 43 million Americans now owe about \$75 billion in past-due medical debt. Until resolved, medical debt lingers on one's credit report, negatively impacting the ability to buy or rent a home, buy a vehicle, get a loan or get a job. People with medical debt tend to avoid medical care to prevent additional debt.

This Spring, PSPC contacted RIP to inquire how it might help Manatee County residents struggling with crippling medical debt. PSPC was excited to learn that an achievable donation amount would cancel the medical debt of all financially qualifying residents in the county. With a donation from WPC and proceeds from PSPC's Dreyer Trust, \$14,000 was recently transferred to RIP to forgive this debt.

Recipients of Manatee's medical debt relief will each receive a letter explaining that their debt has been abolished with funds generously provided by PSPC and WPC, and there are 'no strings attached,' including no tax consequences.

To learn more, go to: www.RIPMedicalDebt.org

Sept. Birthdays & Anniversaries

SEPT 2	Sonia Wegner	SEPT 25	Rick & Penny Gullbrants
	Gene & Jane Mittel	SEPT 26	Shirley Schexnayder
SEPT 5	Tiffany Chinwuba	SEPT 27	Chris Wolf
SEPT 6	Dennis & Vicki Schooley	SEPT 28	Al & Bev Zimmer
SEPT 7	Pearl Hockman	SEPT 28	Neil Redford
SEPT 8	Fred Schouw	SEPT 30	Tim Pedon
SEPT 12	Mary Anne Paulsen		
SEPT 14	Roger & Lynne Smith	***A special belated birthday wish***	
SEPT 16	Jason Onugh	AUG 14	Minister of Visitation, Peter MacFarlane
SEPT 24	Ron & Gail Dickerson		



I wanted to let members know what's been happening with our Westminster hymnals that were donated in honor or memory of loved ones.

John and I went through every single one of those hymnbooks to look for names we recognized in order to return them to family members. (I guess that honor came from being such long time members!) Included in this group were our former Bell Choir Director and a former Pastor. Several we contacted were local and came by the church office to pick them up.

So far, we have mailed books to: Texas, Massachusetts and Fernandina Beach, Florida. Everyone expressed their thanks for our effort in locating them.

If you donated one or more and we have not contacted you, please let us know and we will make an effort to locate the book(s).

Joyce & John James



Al Zimmer is organizing a Community Garage Sale to be held sometime this Fall, if we are back serving the community in person.

On August 1 and 8, our Drive Thru Donation Drives filled PSPC's outdoor shed and indoor storage room to full capacity. Thank you for your donations!

Al now needs volunteers to help sort through the items in preparation for the sale.

If you can help, please contact him at Alvin.zimmer@frontier.com, or 941-792-8859.

JOIN US ONLINE EVERY WEDNESDAY FOR



HOLY BIBLE

Our Mid-Week Bible Study for Sept focuses on

A study of The **Great Ends of the Church** beginning on September 2. The Great Ends of the Church is a part of the **Foundations of Presbyterianism found in The Book of Order.**

Sept. 2 - The Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind

Sept. 8 - The Shelter, Nurture, and Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God

Sept. 16 - The Maintenance of Divine Worship

Sept. 23 - The Preservation of the Truth

Sept. 30 - The Promotion of Social Righteousness

Oct. 7 - The Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World

We will explore the Biblical warrants behind each of the Great Ends, how they have been lived in the life of the church in the past, and how they are being lived out today. For more Information visit the [PSPC Calendar](#) on the Palma Sola website

Parker's Update on Lebanon

Scott and Elmarie Parker, our sponsored missionaries in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon report they are safe following the massive explosion in Beirut on August 6th. The blast, which has been blamed on a stockpile of chemicals in the Port of Beirut, has left at least 160 dead and more than 6,000 wounded. More than 300,000 people were displaced and are in need of assistance.

Rev. Elmarie Parker, World Mission's regional liaison for Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, has been coordinating with partners in Beirut. She has been sheltering-in-place in Oregon since March. Her husband and fellow-mission co-worker, the Rev. Scott Parker, was in Beirut, where he is sheltering-in-place and escaped injury. He said the blast felt like an earthquake. Officials said the blast registered as a 3.3 magnitude earthquake that could be felt as far away as Cyprus, more than 100 miles away. "We've got stay-at-home orders because of the spread of chemicals through the air," wrote Scott Parker on Facebook. "Please pray for the vulnerable, and the hospital and rescue workers and all who are helping those in need." Blessed School, where Scott Parker volunteers, sustained heavy building damage, but all staff and students are safe.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is supporting the humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of the explosion by processing solidarity grants to their partners on the ground in Lebanon. Solidarity grants are used for emergency humanitarian needs, which can include anything from medical supplies, personal protective equipment, shelter, water and more. Please pray for our mission partners and for the people of Lebanon who have been affected by this devastating explosion.



A view of the severely damaged port area in Beirut, Lebanon. (Photo provided to the Rev. Elmarie Parker)

Following our Virtual Communion Service ON SUNDAY SEPT 6TH



*Wpc & Pspc
Fellowship Time*

You are invited to a joint fellowship time EVERY Sunday at 11:30 am via Zoom. Grab your coffee and enjoy catching up with friends old and new from the comfort of your own home.

You may join in anytime between 11:30 am and 12:30 pm by clicking on the link in your emailed Sunday Message, found in the Fellowship announcement. You may be asked if you want to join by "audio" (yes) and by "video" (yes).

Never been on Zoom – it's easy! Prior to Sunday's fellowship, time [click here](#) to follow simple instructions. Any questions, contact Gail Dickerson at 941-224-1117.

See you there!



Mark Your Calendar for our
Rally Day on Missions Sunday, September 20
An Online Mission Fair and Musical Extravaganza!

Watch representatives from our mission partners, as they describe their goals and needs in short presentations. Dream up ways we can assist them in these challenging times. More than a dozen of our mission partners participating!

**Palma Sola Presbyterian
Church**
- September Newsletter 2020 -

6510 3rd Ave. W.
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-792-3141
pspchurch.org

**Westminster Presbyterian
Church**
- September Newsletter 2020 -

3011 19th Ave. W.
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-748-2848
wpcbradenton.com

September

SUN MON TUE WED THUR FRI SAT

		1	2	3 MEN'S GROUP 8a COMMS TEAM – 1p STEWARDSHIP – 2:30p RENEWAL – 6:30p	4	5
6 Worship Online CANTONMENT Sunday Zoom Fellowship - 11:30a	7 HAPPY LABOR DAY PNC —6:45p	8 PERSONNEL – 10a OUTREACH– 3p P&G – 6:30p	9 BIBLE STUDY Online	10 FINANCE TEAM MTG– 3p	11	12 Palma Sola Elementary Donation Drive 10a – 12p
13 Worship Online Zoom Fellowship - 11:30a	14 Book Club Palma Sola 12p WPC SESSION MTG - 1p PNC —6:45p	15 WPC SERVING AT OUR DAILY BREAD—9:15a PSPC SESSION MTG—6:30p	16 BIBLE STUDY Online	17 MEN'S GROUP 8a	18	19
20 RALLY DAY Worship Online Zoom Fellowship - 11:30a	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE PNC —6:45p	22 DEACONS ZOOM MTG—5:30p	23 BIBLE STUDY Online	24	25	26
27 Worship Online Zoom Fellowship - 11:30a	28 PNC —6:45p	29	30 BIBLE STUDY Online			

The Church Office is Temporarily Closed

Please email palmasolachurch@verizon.net or call 941-792-3141

For more information, please visit pspchurch.org. Click here to view past and present [Bible Study](#) and [Worship Service](#) recordings, and the online [Calendar](#)