

# The Grapevine



## *An Inviting Church*

**Reverend Edward Dunn**

I never met a church that didn't want to grow. Growth consistently ranks as one of the top priorities of congregations. What do we mean when we say we want to grow? Are we ready and able to handle growth?

Here are some observations about growing churches:

1. Most who talk about church growth are almost always talking about increasing numbers. Most conversations among church leaders about growth end up with laments that there aren't more young people, particularly children in church.
2. Some who talk about church growth, in the end are really talking about church revenues. These conversations center on how we can generate more money.
3. A few who talk about church growth argue that we need to hold more Bible Studies and initiate more prayer groups. Their discussions lament that we don't seem to be spiritual enough.

Church growth is far more complex than any of these ideas suggest. Growing a congregation should be a high priority for every leader and a welcomed outcome of our work. If we are to be a growing church we must first become an inviting church.

Here are a few observations about an inviting church:

1. Inviting congregations are introspective and adaptive. If our goal is to attract young people or families with children, we must examine how we appear to them and make changes that appeal to those younger families.
2. Inviting congregations see their legacy in persons not endowments. The return on investment in persons pays far greater dividends.
3. Inviting congregations promote individual and group spiritual development through support groups and engagement in mission projects. Fellowship through shared interest promotes spiritual growth.

As we begin our second year of ministry together, I invite you to consider joining me in conversation about how we can become a more inviting church. I am planning a Lenten study on being invitational that will begin in early March 2022 and will take place on Zoom. Watch for additional details about this opportunity and for an informational session about how to use Zoom.

## *We Continue Being The Church* **PROTECTED BY OUR CURRENT COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

While the highly-contagious Omicron variant is causing the biggest surge in COVID cases to date, we are following these safety protocols for protection of each other and our community:

- Masks must be worn properly at all times, covering both the nose and mouth.
- Our worship service has no congregational responses or choral/congregational singing.
- Visitation or conversation before or after the service is only permitted outdoors, not in the Sanctuary.
- Just 2 from the same household may sit at green ribbons and 1 at white ribbons for 6' social distancing.
- During the Postlude, worshipers should leave the Sanctuary pew-by-pew starting from the rear and go directly outdoors.

If you have cold or flu symptoms, even mild ones, please don't come to church, avoid close contacts, and take a test.

After-worship fellowship is held on Zoom at 11:30 am.

Sunday and midweek classes are held in the Fellowship Hall with masks worn and social distancing by all participants.

We all hope the Omicron surge declines soon. Meanwhile we can take comfort in positive news in the January/February issue of the AARP Bulletin on the "smart path forward for otherwise healthy older Americans:"

- With Omicron, breakthrough cases are no longer rare, but a booster shot restores your vaccine to about 80% effectiveness and makes any illness you experience much less severe.
- Wearing a mask, especially a N95 or KN95 mask, provides even better protection.
- We are likely to see more new variants, but if they are resistant to current vaccines manufacturers can rapidly create new vaccines because they know exactly how to do it.

# SOUPER SUNDAY

## TAKE AWAY EVENT

Please join us for our **2nd annual Souper Sunday** and help support hunger relief! On Sunday, **February 13th** gather out on the church lawn and pick-up a yummy meal to go. Members of the Outreach and Fellowship Teams will offer soup, bread and dessert in to-go containers for a suggested purchase of \$5. **All proceeds will go to the CROP Hunger Walk scheduled for February 27th.**

Crop Walks are community events throughout the United States sponsored by Church World Services and organized by local churches. 75% of the money raised goes to help fight hunger around the world and 25% goes to local hunger relief.

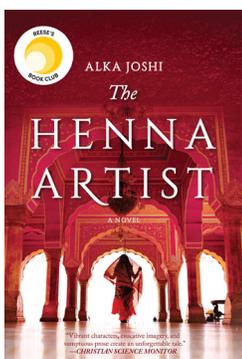
**Help us make this a SOUPER event!**

*Volunteers Needed!*

Please call 941-792-3141 for details.

**Admin/Office  
Safety Team**

### Palma Sola Book Club

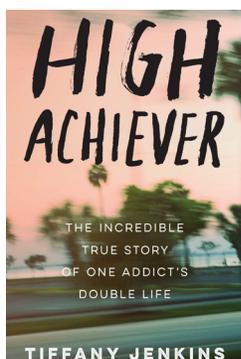


**FEB 14 | 12 - 1PM    MAR 14 | 12 - 1PM**

Book Club meets on Zoom. Join any second Monday for fun conversation and refreshments. Find the book selected for the month in our book list.

[View Current 2021-22 Book List](#)

For more information, call Vicki Schooley at (941) 518-2315.



### Men's Group



## MEN'S GROUP

You're invited to attend the Morning Men's Group. Get to know the men you see in church. **Share your story. Enjoy fellowship.**

**Meetings start at 8:30AM**

**FEB 3 - Fellowship and breakfast at Poppi's Place restaurant, at an outside table**

**FEB 17- Fellowship and Christian topic discussions, outdoors on campus**

Attend one or both gatherings each month.

**Please contact Rich Wachunis (941) 567-5041 for information**

# Palma Sola Session Highlights

## December

- Welcomed Elders-elect Marilyn Gillette and Lynne Smith to Session. Gillette will have responsibility for Christian Ed and Smith will be Personnel Chair. Expressed appreciation for the work and service of Elders Brackmann (Communications), Montano (Worship) and Wachunis (Christian Ed), who will be leaving Session.
- Recognized the retirement of Sandra Buntin at year-end and moved to provide the assistance of Elder Pead to the Westminster Personnel Committee in filling this position as soon as possible.
- Agreed to establish a Task Group to consider how the chancel space might be redesigned to accommodate all elements required during worship, and to make the space ADA compliant.
- Approved February 20, 2022, as the date for the 2021 Annual Meeting of the congregation, to hear reports, approve the terms of call for Pastor Edward and review the 2022 Operating Budget. The Annual Corporate meeting will be held on that date, as well.

## January

- Approved Sunday, February 6th, as the date for ordination and installation of newly elected Elders and Deacons of both congregations.
- Approved the 2022 Operating Budget. The Budget will have an anticipated deficit of around \$44k, which will be covered from cash reserves.
- Agreed to change its meeting day to the third Monday of the each month, with the start time remaining at 6:30 pm.

# Westminster Session Highlights

- Westminster mourns the deaths of Joyce Johnson and Junita Starkweather and sends our prayers to their families.
- We received a wonderful donation from the estate of Dr. Perry Matz.
- Our 2022 budget was approved.
- Westminster will begin using a new online membership and finance program – Realm – in 2022.



# PALMA SOLA ANNUAL MEETING

**SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 20**  
**AFTER WORSHIP**

**ANNUAL TEAM REPORTS**

**APPROVE PASTOR'S TERMS OF CALL**

**REVIEW THE 2022 OPERATING BUDGET**

**PICK UP ANNUAL REPORT BOOKLETS ON FEBRUARY 13**

## 2022 CHURCH OFFICERS

### **PSPC RULING ELDERS**

Roy Williams - Communications  
Gail Dickerson - Fellowship  
Ron Dickerson - Property & Grounds  
Donna Lesch - Outreach & Mission  
Gail Dickerson - Worship  
Gregg Pead - Finance, Endowment  
& Stewardship  
Lynn Smith. - Personnel  
Marilynn Gillette - Christian Education  
Roy Williams - Clerk of Session

### **WPC RULING ELDERS**

Ed Richter  
Nancy Shimandle - Clerk of Session & Worship and Music  
Georgina "Georgie" Townsend  
Burt Tupper  
Joyce James

**PSPC**  
**DEACONS**  
FLOCK LEADERS

Vicki Schooley, Chair | Don Azbell |  
Linda Azbell | Betty Bashaw, Secretary  
| Myrna Felix | Jeanette Lindo | Tim  
Peton | Sonia Wegner | Judy Giles |  
Debbie Grubb | Bob Miller

## *Church Contacts*

The work of our church family--Palma Sola and Westminster Presbyterian Churches--is done through three teams and their subgroups, along with the Deacons at Palma Sola.. Contact a leader to learn more, join, make a suggestion, or volunteer for an event.

### **Renewal Team (Worship)**

Worship: Gail Dickerson, Nancy Shimandle  
Christian Education: Marilynn Gillette  
Fellowship: Gail Dickerson, Linda Progar

### **Releasing Team (Outreach)**

General Outreach: Donna Lesch, Andrea Harmon, Nancy Shimandle  
Education and Literacy: Donna Lesch  
Food Security: Myrna Felix  
Older Adult Ministry: Gregg Pead  
Missions: Don and Linda Azbell  
Visitor Welcome: Patty Dawson

### **Resources Team (Support)**

Property & Grounds: Ron Dickerson, John Progar  
Finance, Endowment & Stewardship: Gregg Pead, Sherri Kramer  
Personnel: Lynne Smith, John Progar  
Clerks: Nancy Shimandle, Roy Williams

# Outreach Update

Welcome to a new year of innovation due to covid. Your Outreach team will continue to plan opportunities for giving, serving and socializing within a safe environment.

In December we collected **43 bags of food for Our Daily Bread food pantry**. We wrote our **second pen pal letters** to 75 2nd graders at Palma Sola Elementary. \$451 was collected for the **Christmas Joy Offering**. \$78 was collected for **F.E.L.T.** (feeding empty little tummies). A total of \$43,699.11 was contributed to the Christian Care Alliance through the **Dryer Trust**. Our **puzzle program** now has 125 puzzles ranging from 100-1500 pieces. Feel free to borrow one to challenge yourself.

Our **January outreach offering** was for **Our Daily Bread** to support free meals and a food pantry for those in need. **We collected books for Turning Points** to create an onsite library for clients who can borrow or take a book to keep to improve reading skills, life skills, or just facilitate the joy of reading. We had hoped to sponsor a **Mindset Class** to learn more about cognitive aging and how to stimulate memory and thinking. This class will be rescheduled, so stay tuned for more information.

On Sunday January 30th we collected for the **3 cents a meal** project. Donations are divided among Our Daily Bread, Beth El Farmworker Ministry and Mision Peniel. The Habitat For **Humanity Ground Breaking** was January 27th. Several members of our church attended. Look for opportunities to volunteer and donate needed items in the future.



Groundbreaking on the next Habitat for Humanity Faith Build has begun! Volunteer work days are scheduled to begin in March. Look for sign up sheets for this and other ways you can be involved in the coming months.

In February **our outreach offering** continues to be for Our Daily Bread. **The DOES IT Project** will be collecting school and clinic supplies for the second semester for Palma Sola Elementary School. On Sunday **February 13th** we will host **“Souper Sunday”** and sell soup to take away after church for a \$5 donation for **CROP Walk**. Crop Walks are community events throughout the US sponsored by Church World Services and organized by local churches. Money goes to fight hunger locally and around the world. A **Rise Against Hunger** event is scheduled for Saturday February 26th, pending covid restrictions. Look for further information as it gets closer.

The session has passed supporting the **Earth Care Pledge** with an emphasis for 2022 on reusability. We are close to being certified as an **Earth Care Congregation**. 2022 plans have been developed for all church committees and will be disseminated. You will learn more about how you can help protect the environment through the church.

# February DOES It!

Our DOES It (Done On Every Sunday) project for February is restocking clinic and classroom supplies at Palma Sola Elementary School. Items needed are:

Colored pencils  
24 pack Crayola crayons  
8 pack washable markers  
Dry erase markers/Expo markers  
Glue sticks  
Composition notebooks  
Copy/print paper  
Index cards  
White card stock  
1” 3-ring binders  
Clorox wipes  
Baby wipes  
Flushable wipes  
Facial tissues  
Boy’s underwear sizes 4-6  
Individually wrapped snacks (ex. Teddy Grahams/Cheez-its)

Drop your donated items to the Narthex or church office by February 27th and help support our students and schools during this very challenging time.

## **February Outreach Offering**

Our Outreach Offering for **February** will continue to go to **Our Daily Bread of Bradenton** to support free meals and a food pantry for those in need. Our Daily Bread staff and regular volunteers (that’s us on Friday’s!) serve hearty meals seven days a week from 10-11:30 am. At Our Daily Bread’s self-serve food pantry, clients can shop free once a month for fresh produce and other food items of their choice. Over 20,000 people a year are served by the pantry. With food insecurity stemming from the economic impacts of COVID-19 and other supply chain issues, the need is great.

You may donate to **Our Daily Bread**:

- during the worship service, in your offering envelope,
- by mailing a check to the church office with “ODB” in the memo line, or
- Palma Sola members may also contribute through [online giving](#)

# MISSION THANK YOU LETTER

## An Abundance of Joy Shared on December 17th!

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of churches and individuals, we were able to share YOUR joy with 517 children who each received a bag of holiday treats and \$20 in gift cards for parents to pick out a gift of joy for their child. Yes, that represents \$10,340 in donations received to make this day a special one for so many families! Joy shared is joy doubled!

Thank you to all who shared in this joy-filled event at Misión Peniel!

**We supported their Abundance of Joy Project with \$500.  
Just view the happy faces!**

We give God thanks for a year filled with generous hearts in support of this mission and its outreach into the community! May Christ's gifts of hope, peace, love and joy continue to be received and shared year round!

With Appreciation and Anticipation,  
*Pastor Miguel Estrada and Ruth DeYoe*

## Christmas Joy Gift Give Away Photos





# We Begin Our Journey as a PC-USA Earth Care Congregation!



Earth Care Congregations are congregations that have committed to the Earth Care Pledge and accomplished a specific number of actions toward caring for God’s earth in four categories: worship, education, facilities and outreach.

To prepare for applying for Earth Care Congregation certification, last Fall Palma Sola completed a self-assessment of actions taken in the four categories. In November, the Palma Sola Session affirmed the Earth Care Pledge (see box).

Congregations earning 25 points in each of the four categories will be certified, and we have earned those points through modification and sharing of our facilities, holding outdoor events, donating pre-used items, and other actions. This month, we will apply to PC-USA for certification.

# Earth Care Congregation Continued...

In 2022, as an Earth Care Congregation, our primary focus is to reduce the amount of waste we produce. Our specific goals are to reduce the plastic we use by using our ceramic cups and metal flatware more than half the time, and recycling more than half the paper, aluminum, glass and plastic we use.

Responsibility for achieving these goals is shared across all church teams. Congregation members will be invited to participate as individuals by completing similar actions in their homes.

Certification must be renewed each year, which requires earning 50 points with a minimum of 5 points in each of the four categories. Achieving the above goals along with other actions such as completing our transition to energy-efficient lighting will qualify us. We will also gradually expand our efforts in the worship, education, facilities and outreach areas.

We look forward to growing as an Earth Care Congregation, answering the challenge to live in a manner consistent with God's call to care for and commune with Creation.

## Earth Care Pledge

- **Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.**
- **In education, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice, and community.**
- **Our facilities will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.**
- **Our outreach will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation, and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.**



# LENTEN SOUP LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP

Enjoy a cup of soup with bread and fellowship

**Every Wednesday starting**

**March 2nd to April 6th**

**From 11:45am to 12:30pm**

Please let the office or sign up in the Narthex  
how many are coming.

## *February Birthdays & Anniversaries*

**FEB 5** Becky Beckwith

**FEB 8** Bill Ball

Jane Mittel

**FEB 10** Gregg Pead

Maggie Forster

**FEB 14** Dick & Millicent Riley

**FEB 16** George & Libby Saile

**FEB 18** Linda Progar

**FEB 24** Janesse Fritzmeier

**FEB 25** Martha Johnson

**FEB 26** Mike Starcher



**JOIN US SUNDAYS FOR  
VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP**

*11:30am on Zoom*

[CLICK HERE](#)

### **Palma Sola Presbyterian Church -February Newsletter 2022-**

6510 3rd Ave. W.  
Bradenton, FL 34209  
941-792-3141  
[pspchurch.org](http://pspchurch.org)

### **Westminster Presbyterian Church -February Newsletter 2022-**

6510 3rd Ave. W.  
Bradenton, FL 34209  
941-748-2848  
[wpcbradenton.com](http://wpcbradenton.com)

# FEBRUARY

2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Outreach Team 3pm	2 Bell Choir 6p	3 Morning Men's Group 8:30a Seeing Gray in a world of B&W - 2pm Renewal - 6:30P	4	5
6 Ordination & Installation of Elders and Deacons Worship Service 10am (Communion) Zoom Fellowship 11:30a	7 Personnel Team 1pm	8	9 Bell Choir 6p	10 Seeing Gray in a world of B&W - 2pm FINANCE - 3:30P	11	12
13 Worship Service 10am Souper Sunday Take Away - 11a Zoom Fellowship 11:30a	14 Valentines Day  Palma Sola Book Club 12p	15	16 Bell Choir 6p	17 Morning Men's Group 8:30a	18	19
20 Worship Service 10am Zoom Fellowship 11:30a	21 President's Day WPC SESSION 1pm PSPC SESSION 6:30pm	22	23 Bell Choir 6p	24 Newsletter Input Deadline Peace River Presbytery Meeting	25	26 SAVE THE DATE: RISE Against Hunger Food Packing 9:30a
27 Worship Service 10am Zoom Fellowship 11:30a	28					

## Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday | 9am - 4pm

View the online church [Calendar](#) for latest information about Sunday worship services, Bible study, outreach and other events. Livestreamed and recorded worship services may be viewed at [Online Worship](#).