



The Grapevine



Odds and Ends

Reverend Edward Dunn

April 2024 is shaping up to be a month of odds and ends (unrelated yet important tasks) for the Pastor and for the church, too!

Odds and Ends #1:

Planning a “Celebration of a Lifetime”

Saturday, April 6 | 10am | At the church.

Join me for a workshop where I’ll share information and resources to consider in planning a celebration of life (a funeral or memorial service) upon your death. This sounds quite depressing and yet the preparation you make in advance for a service will be helpful for your loved ones at a time of immense sadness.

Odds and Ends #2: A Memorial Service for Barry Yoder
Friday, April 12 | 10am at the National Cemetery in Sarasota

You are invited to join the family of Barry Yoder for a service of scripture and prayer and military honors at the Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Road 72, Sarasota. Barry was a former member of Westminster where he was an active participant of the music program and at United.

Odds and Ends #3: Clean up day | Saturday, April 13 | 8am

Help us maintain our church grounds. We'll be pulling weeds, spreading mulch and other tasks as we are able.

Odds and Ends #4: Hope Seeds | Wednesday, April 17 | 10am the Fellowship Hall

Our spring seed packing event for Hope Seeds will take place mid-week this year. Please mark your calendar to attend and help provide seeds and food for those who struggle to have a resource that we often take for granted. You'll find more information in the next few pages of the Grapevine.

Odds and Ends #5 Celebrating Pen Pals | Monday, April 22 | 10am

We will celebrate our connection with this year's second grade pen pals at Palma Sola Elementary. We have such a great time meeting our pen pals in person and spending time talking with them. There's additional information in this month's newsletter.

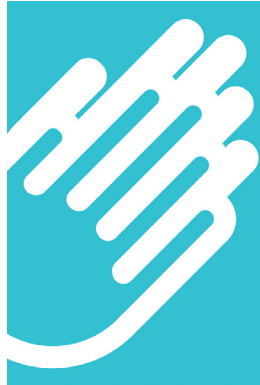
Odds and Ends #5 Thank you, thank you, thank you!

The past six weeks have been busy with preparations for Easter: tasks that are essential and yet can go unnoticed. I am grateful to those who provided Lenten lunches and helped serve them: to those who shared the gift of leadership during our worship services – the Bell and Chancel Choirs, our team of musicians, those who served as Lay Readers, and those who oversaw the decoration of the sanctuary during the season. I am thankful for a great church staff who see that the small and great details are taken care of each week.

And I am thankful to each of you. Your participation and contributions to our ministry and God's mission in the community bear witness to your faith. Your contributions are not just "odds and ends" but an important and central part of all we can do for others in Christ's name.

Blessings
Edward

Brookdale Hat Decorating Photos



PRAYER GROUP
2nd & 4th Tuesday 11a | Room 14

Reminder: Please Turn off the Lights!



Help meet our church pledge, which aligns with PC(USA)'s denomination-wide pledge, to reduce our carbon footprint 25% by July 2022.

Where you see signs next to light switches, "Please turn off lights when leaving," please turn off the lights! This will also help reduce our operating costs.

Easter Events at United



March Session Highlights

- With the merger of Westminster and Palma Sola churches essentially completed, Session officially disbanded the Joint Merger Committee with thanks for their work.
- Approved vacation for Rev. Dunn on Sunday, April 28th
- Approved plans for a Celebration of Life event for the church and community on April 6th, to help interested individuals think about the design of such a memorial service.
- Approved sponsoring an electric tram tour of Robinson Preserve for 20 members at a cost of \$5 each.
- Endorsed initiatives by Outreach to encourage other churches to initiate a Peanut Butter & Jelly sandwich ministry with Our Daily Bread.
- Applauded installation of a new handrail on the walk leading to the Office Entrance on Second Avenue.
- Welcomed the City inspection of the storm gutter along the curb in front of the church and their concurrence that it presented a falling hazard to those parking on Third Avenue, or loading the Freedom Village bus. We await their plan for remediation.
- Approved a church Outside Clean-up Day for Saturday, April 13th from 8 am to Noon.
- Applauded the news that United has been Certified as an Earth Care Congregation for the third consecutive year in recognition of the many conservation and recycling activities that have been undertaken.
- Approved the purchase of a new digital sound mixer and iPad controller to replace the existing aged analog sound board, thereby improving the audio quality of our streamed video worship service, and hopefully also upgrading the sound distribution within the Sanctuary.

**CHANCEL CHOIR
REHEARSALS**

WEDNESDAYS AT 7P IN THE SANCTUARY

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

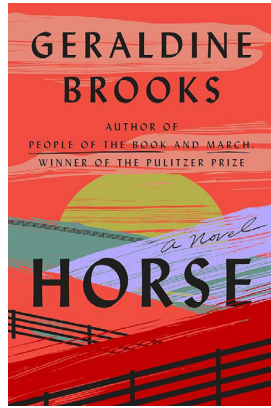
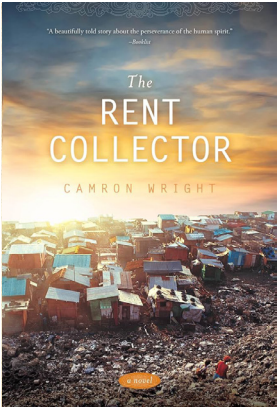
WEDNESDAYS AT 6P IN THE SANCTUARY



Grounds Enhancement Team

We are forming a team to envision and plan enhancements to our church grounds that are inviting to our community and Earth friendly. The goal is to identify both near-term, simple improvements and longer-term concepts we might work towards. The initial team gathering will be in early April on campus. If interested, please contact Ron Dickerson.

Palma Sola Book Club



APR 8 | 1 - 2:30PM **MAY 13 | 1 - 2:30PM**

Join in any second Monday at 12pm in the Media Center & Zoom for fun conversation.

2024 READING 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 8:30A

APR 4 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

APR 18 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Rich Wachunis
rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com

HOLY STROLLERS WALKING GROUP



**JOIN US ON A WEEKLY STROLL
TO GET SOME FRESH AIR**

EVERY FRIDAY | 9AM

**ROBINSON PRESERVE
(NORTH ENTRANCE)**





Adult English Learning Center

Lighting the world one mind at a time through language

Mission Spotlight: Project Light of Manatee, Inc.

In 1994, Sister Nora Brick and community members Ed and Ann Griffin joined efforts and founded Project Light to teach English to adult speakers of other languages in our local area. Their mission was to support the advancement of adult learners through English proficiency, literacy, citizenship, and employment skill development. Founded on the principles of access, equality, dignity, and opportunity for all, Project Light continues to carry out its mission today. Now celebrating its 30th year, Project Light is a non-profit that serves Manatee, Sarasota, and surrounding communities.

Project Light offers English, computer, and citizenship classes at a minimal cost to the student. Students are diverse and come from many parts of the world. Except for the executive director and executive administrator and curriculum developer, all teachers, office workers, and board of directors are volunteers. Located in the heart of downtown Bradenton, Project Light is a highly accessible language and learning center offering both morning and evening classes. The academic year is August through May and classes are available to anyone 18 years and older.

Weekly English classes in groups of 6-18 people meet in-person with a volunteer teacher. Classes are geared toward real-life, career focused scenarios. Students work on listening skills, reading comprehension, writing, and speaking.

Computer classes including basic introduction to computers, using the internet, online job searching, and resume writing are available for a separate fee. Citizenship classes designed to help students prepare for the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services Naturalization test are also offered.

In 30 years, Project Light has taught English to over 5000 students, prepared more than 100 new citizens, and empowered countless students to get a better job. The vision to integrate adult English language learners into the economic, educational, and social fabric of the community is being realized and is worthy of our continued support.

April Outreach Update

As we spent time in March preparing for the joy of Easter, you also spent many hours sharing love and joy with people in our local community and world.

Recap of March Events:

- You provided much needed clothing through your donations of men's pants and shorts to the clothes closet at Turning Points.
- As part of our PB & J Sandwich Ministry you made an additional 400 sandwiches for hungry clients at Our Daily Bread.
- You encouraged English skills to speakers of other languages by providing paper for students of Project Light of Manatee.
- You generously donated to One Great Hour of Sharing through our March Outreach Offering. These funds will provide support for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.
- You provided Easter lilies for our Deacons to share with homebound members during Holy Week, reminding them that we continue to care for them in our hearts and deeds.
- Folks volunteered every Friday at Our Daily Bread.
- You provided a special time of fellowship and fun with residents of Brookdale Palma Sola, helping them create lovely Easter hats and share their memories of their own spring celebrations.
- You continued blessing those depending on the services of Our Daily Bread by contributing to our 3 Cents a Meal collection.
- You celebrated the Lenten season and each other by gathering for a simple soup lunch on Wednesday's. Thank you to all who gave of their time and talents to provide these meals.

April Outreach Opportunities:

- Our DOES It (Done On Every Sunday) project for April is collecting reading glasses for the students at Project Light of Manatee. Project Light helps teach English to speakers of other languages from right in the heart of downtown Bradenton. All strengths and styles of gently used reading glasses for adults are needed. Clean off your nightstands and end tables (or buy new!) and drop your donations in the bins in the Narthex or bring them to the church office by Sunday, April 28th and help give the vital gift of reading and writing to those in need.
- Please plan to attend a Celebration of Life Planning program led by our own Pastor Edward on Saturday, April 6th at 10 am in Fellowship Hall. The program will help people plan the details of their memorial service or Celebration of Life and have a written record to keep on file for when the time comes. The program is free, open to the community, and refreshments will be served. Please sign up in the Narthex or call the church office if you would like to attend to ensure we have materials for everyone.

April Outreach Update Continued

- We are excited to offer a private electric tram tour of Robinson Preserve for you and your friends on Wednesday, April 10th at 10 am. Arranged by our own Earth Care Community Engagement Team and led by staff of Manatee County Natural Resources Department, the tour lasts about 1 hour and is limited to just 20 people. The cost is \$5 per person and includes a drink and snack. Sign up in the Narthex or call the church office to reserve your spot.
- Pack a seed, fill a need! Please join us for our spring Hope Seeds packing event on Wednesday, April 17th from 10am-noon in Fellowship Hall. Join with other volunteers to assemble seed packets to be distributed all over the world. Hope Seeds is a Christian, charitable organization that seeks to improve the nutrition of the poorest in the world by providing quality garden seed and agricultural education through Christian missionaries and organizations. All supplies are provided, and work is done seated at tables. Suitable for ages 8+. Come for an hour or stay the whole time. Friends and family are welcome!
- Pen pal letters have been returned from the second graders at Palma Sola Elementary and are available for pickup in the Narthex. Completed letters are due back Sunday, April 14th. Also, mark your calendars for our annual Pen Pal Party scheduled for Monday, April 22nd at 10 am at the school. More info to follow about this fun event!

Ongoing Opportunities:

- Servers for Our Daily Bread on Fridays are always needed. Contact Dorothy Simes if you would like to volunteer.
- We continue to collect non-perishable food items in the cart in the Narthex to donate to Our Daily Bread of Bradenton. They are always in need of shelf stable items to stock the Loaves & Fishes food pantry.
- Please keep in mind our Blessing Box by the east parking lot. The Blessing Box serves as a mini food pantry for our local neighborhood, and you are welcome to add to it or take from it as needed.
- Contributions of loose change, soft money, and checks for FELT (Feeding Empty Little Tummies) are always welcome. To donate, use the envelopes in the pews or mail a check to the church office with "FELT" in the memo line.
- Join your church family in Fellowship Hall after worship each week to make PB & J sandwiches to share with the clients of Our Daily Bread. Thank you to all who have been bringing in supplies, making sandwiches, and helping SPREAD the love of Christ to your neighbors in need!
- The Holy Strollers walking group meets every Friday at 9 am at the north entrance of Robinson Preserve. You are invited to gather for exercise, conversation, and a short devotional in the great outdoors.

April Outreach Offering



Our Outreach Offering for April will go to Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee, which provides nutritional assistance and caring, supportive services to homebound seniors in Manatee County. Home delivered meals are distributed by volunteers to over 800 seniors per day. These meals serve those who are not able to leave their homes and purchase food, or who have limitations that leave them unable to prepare meals. This crucial service allows seniors to continue living independently. Last year Meals on Wheels delivered almost 300,000 meals to homebound or disabled seniors in Manatee County.

You may donate to Meals on Wheels:

- during the worship service, in your offering envelope,
- by mailing a check to the church office with “MOW” in the memo line, or
- through [online giving](#)

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

APR 1 Andrea & Lee Harmon

APR 4 Janice Jarrell

APR 5 Mark Wolf

APR 6 John Crowell

APR 7 Carol MacFarlane

APR 10 Myrna Adams,
Peter Sokolich

APR 12 Marilyn George

APR 15 Edith Onugha

APR 18 Janet DeGross

APR 19 Kay Lee

APR 20 Bev Banks

APR 21 Toby Chinwuba

Alease Hamilton

Kathy Muscatell

APR 26 Tim & Amy Pedon

APR 27 Joan Carlson

Chris James

APR 28 Robert Felix

- **United Presbyterian Church | April 2024 Newsletter** -

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Bradenton, FL 34209
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pspchurch.org

April 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 <i>Outreach / 3p</i>	3 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	4 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a <i>Renewal 6:30p</i>	5 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a Church Picnic	6 <i>Celebration of Life Planning</i> 10a
7 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Communion Fellowship @11	8 <i>Palma Sola Book Club / 1p</i>	9 PRAYER GROUP 11A	10 Robinson Preserve Tram Tour 10a Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	11 Finance - 3:30P	12 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a <i>Barry Yoder Service / 10a</i>	13 CHURCH GROUNDS CLEAN UP 8A
14 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship Pen Pal Letters	15 UPC SESSION 1p	16	17 Hope Seeds Packing 10am Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	18 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a	19 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a May Grapevine Deadline	20
21 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	22 EARTH DAY Pen Pal Party 10-12p	23 PRAYER GROUP 11A	24 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	25	26 ARBOR DAY HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	27
28 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	29	30				

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.