



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH, 2020 MORNING MESSAGE**

**TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TED LAND**

**BRADENTON, FLORIDA**

### **Greetings in Christ Jesus!**

After three weeks of worshipping together in the Palma Sola Sanctuary, Palma Sola and Westminster Churches will be worshipping separately this morning.

Thus, persons have three opportunities for worship today, the prerecorded video service here, and the two "live" services. At 10 A.M., our Praise Band and I will be leading worship in the Palma Sola Sanctuary. At 10:30, R.C. Smith, former Transitional Pastor at Westminster, will be leading a closing worship service for Westminster's Sanctuary. Woody Johnson and a Handbell Ensemble will be providing music for that service.

That service marks the closing of the Sanctuary, not the closing of Westminister Presbyterian Church of Bradenton, Florida. WPC has worshipped in that facility for less than 35 years. For the time being, Westminster and Palma Sola Churches will be worshipping together in the Palma Sola Sanctuary.

At the close of the service at WPC this morning, the Bible, Cross, and Communion Ware will be removed in a solemn recessional. Next Sunday, November 1, at the beginning of the service at Palma Sola, those symbols will be carried down the center aisle to be placed on the Communion Table. This symbolizes the "nesting" of Westminister with Palma Sola. Two congregations, with two Sessions, two Boards of Deacons, and two budgets. No one has ever seen or heard of anything quite like it.

One of the joys of being the Transitional Pastor for Palma Sola during this time has been seeing two very different yet very competent women use their talents and experience to work together amiably, indeed joyfully. Sandra Buntin has been the Office Administrator at WPC for a number of years. Faraja Keyes came to PSCP as a “temp” early this year. She was going to be the Administrative Assistant at PSCP until the WPC property was sold, and Sandra moved over to that office.

Then came the pandemic, and the need to video worship services and Bible studies, and schedule ZOOM meetings, and edit videos, and post all those on line on things like YouTube and these were skills that Faraja brought with her. So she has been hired as the Administrative Assistant/Communications Assistant at PSCP. A couple of days a week, she and Sandra are working together in the PSCP office. When I passed by the other day, I could hear them chatting, and giggling like a couple of teenagers. What a joy it is to see and hear them work together as well, and what a joy to know that we have two such cheerful and cordial people as the ones who will answer the phones and greet people coming to the office in the future.

The videos we watch each Sunday are the product of many talented people, but it is Faraja Keyes who puts them together and posts them online.

In this week’s Sunday email, you will find the bullet or program for the final service in the Westminster Presbyterian Church Sanctuary. This was produced by Sandra Buntin. We honor and commemorate the history of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Bradenton, Florida, today, realizing that it has not always been located where it is now, nor worshipped in the sanctuary that closes today.

Who knows what the future may hold? God knows, for God holds the future.

As Avery and Marsh wrote:

“The church is not a building,  
The church is not a steeple.  
The church is not a resting place.  
The church is a people.

I am the church!  
You are the church!  
We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus,  
All around the world  
Yes, we’re the church together.”

Your Transitional Pastor,  
*Ted Land*