



a New Beginning - a New Name Reverend Edward Dunn

THANK YOU FOR VOTING!

The ballots are in and the votes are counted. You have selected:

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Joint Merger Committee has submitted the church name that you have selected, to the Peace River Presbytery for approval at their May meeting.

Work is progressing for the recommendation of Church structure and the Session approval of procedures for nomination and election of Church officers. There is a great deal of work to be accomplished during the next seven months and with your help, it will be accomplished.

One of the lessons learned from our work at merging two churches is this: "Faith was never intended to be a destination, a status, a holding tank, or a warehouse. It was to be a road, a path, a way out of old and destructive patterns into new and creative ones." This statement written by Brian McLaren summarizes the work that the Joint Merger Committee was gathered to do. The partnership of the JMC and the Administrative Commission of Peace River Presbytery will keep what we are doing in proper focus and in the right order.

It was an exciting moment and privilege to share the new name, United Presbyterian Church in Bradenton with the congregation on April 23. The choice of the name was based on your suggestions and your preferences. The vote tally indicates that 41% of each congregation participated in the balloting. It was not an easy task, for it required you to let go of the familiar and comfortable. The announcement of a new name was a mile marker that what is ahead of us can be lively and promising even as we journey toward it in faith.

The Joint Merger Committee is already at work discussing the organization of United. The Sessions of Palma Sola and Westminster have concurred with the initial ideas for organizing the Session and establishing a new Nominating Committee. There are ongoing conversations about the work we are called to do and how we can best be organized to do it.

Your involvement is important for the future of United Presbyterian Church. New members of the governing board and committees/teams are essential to the work we can accomplish and the next series of communications from the Merger Committee will be invitations to join in this work; to help us continue this journey in faith.

The announcement of a new name, while exciting may have generated concern for some of our members. The giving up of a former church name can be difficult however we're all in this together and we trust that God goes with us and is ahead of us along this road.

Please keep all those who are working at these tasks in your prayers. The invitation to everyone is to come along with us on this journey and help us make it a faith filled one.

Blessings, Edward

Easter Sunday Photobook





















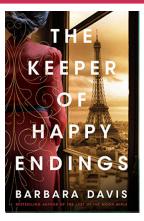


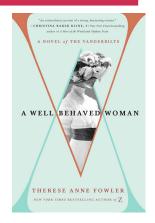


Palma Sola/Westminster foint Sessions Highlights

- This joint meeting of Sessions provided an opportunity to update each group on the activities of the Joint Palma Sola/Westminster Merger Committee (JMC) and to hear from the Moderator of the Presbytery's Administrative Commission (AC) about how that group would work alongside and support the work of the JMC.
- The AC Moderator, John Warburton, reviewed the perceptions of the commission members who attended the Listening Gathering after worship on April 17th. In short, the AC heard a strong conviction that God is doing a new thing here: the new church is not Palma Sola or Westminster, but God's church. A new creation. He emphasized that both the AC and the JMC must be transparent in future recommendations and policies to avoid misunderstandings. Continual communications are important, even to a fault.
- Dick Haynes, JMC Meeting Leader, reviewed the work of that committee to date and outlined the items that would be prioritized during the remainder of the year. Task Groups of individuals with specialized skills or interest will be needed to work out many merger details.
- Sessions approved a request from the JMC to petition the AC to obtain Presbytery approval for our new church name at its May 18th meeting.
- Sessions concurred in recommendations from the JMC that:
- 1) Terms for Elders on the new Session would be for two years duration with a limit of six consecutive years of service before stepping down for a year,
- 2) After Presbytery approval of the merger (October), the current Church Nominating Committees would meet jointly to nominate members of the new Session, and
- 3) A new five-person Church Nominating Committee will be proposed by the new Session for electing future church officers.
- Approved holding a Bible Study on the Christian Family Tree at Brookdale Assisted Living.
- Approved budgeted Missionary support to the Nortons in Guatemala (\$3,500) and to the Parkers in the Middle east (\$2,000).
- Approved allocating \$2,500 from Session Designated funds to support another Habitat for Humanity Faith Build home project.
- Approved in concept two campus Eagle Scout Projects.

Palma Sola Book Club





MAY 8 | 12 - 1PM JUN 12 | 12 - 1PM

Join in any second Monday at 12pm in the library or on Zoom for fun conversation.

2023 READING LIST

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

MAY 14 Diane Hayward

MAY 19 Phyllis Wachunis

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

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

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

Joyce Knouse

Please contact Rich Wachunis rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com

HOW TO ORDER CHURCH ENVELOPES

Offering Envelopes are available by calling Dina Breneman at 941-792-3141, Gregg Pead at 941-348-0773 or email Gregg at peedethree@gmail.com.

May Birthdays & Cinniversaries

MAY 4	Lee Schouw Mary Ellen Pickering Ron Dickerson Gilbert & Anita Smith	MAY 23	Robert Anderson Joan Dowling Ruth Voorhes Louise Rifenburgh
8 YAM	Roger Tyrrell		Elenita & Marty Musgrove
MAY 12	Don Azbell	MAY 27	Donna Lesch
	Charlie Hullfish	MAY 28	Jeanne Schrader

MAY 30

May Outreach Update

As the saying goes, April showers bring May flowers. April didn't bring much rain this year, but it certainly brought a shower of love, outreach, and support from you to our community.

Recap of recent events:

- The deacons enjoyed a visit and a gift of **Easter lilies** with our homebound members during Holy week.
- You **baked dozens of cookies** for Rich Wachunis to share with inmates and volunteers at a Kairos Prison Ministry weekend retreat.
- You generously gave to **One Great Hour of Sharing** providing people around the world with safety, sustenance, and hope.
- Folks volunteered every Friday at Our Daily Bread.
- You supported missionaries doing important work around the world by sending \$3500 to the Nortons in Guatemala and \$2000 to the Parkers in the Middle East.
- Through your pocket change and other donations, you sent \$341 to FELT (Feeding Empty Little Tummies) to fill weekend backpacks of food for hungry students in Manatee County.
- You donated **nearly 150 packages of baby wipes** supplemented by \$350 of budget funded diapers and baby formula to the food pantry at **Our Daily Bread**. Many struggling families will be blessed by your kindness.
- As part of our PB & J Sandwich Ministry, you made 600 additional sandwiches to donate to Our Daily Bread, for a total of 3400 since September.
- You donated \$400 for earthquake disaster relief in Turkey and Syria.
- We celebrated another successful year of being pen pals with the second graders at Palma Sola Elementary. During our **annual Pen Pal Party**, the students met their church pen pals and we shared conversation, snacks, and a treat bag filled with a book and other goodies. Thank you to all that wrote so faithfully all year long!
- You hosted an **Earth Day Fair** for the community to highlight ways we can "Invest in the Future" and lower our carbon footprint.
- You once again shared your blessings by donating to our 3 Cents a Meal offering.

April Outreach Opportunities:

- Our DOES It (Done On Every Sunday) project for May is collecting pet food for the furry friends of Meals on Wheels PLUS clients. Knowing that pets are often the sole companions of their homebound clients, Meals on Wheels PLUS has been delivering cat and dog food two times a month to clients in need since 2010. This ensures that both the owners and pets can enjoy their bond as long as possible. Dry and canned food, as well as treats, for both dogs and cats are needed. Drop your donations in the bin in the Narthex or bring them to the church office by May 28th and help seniors in our local community feed their furry friends during the dog days of summer.
- Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a Senior Resources Fair on Tuesday,

May Outreach Update Continued

May 9th at 10 am in Fellowship Hall. Learn about important resources for seniors that are available in your local community. Enjoy presentations by professionals who will information on home health care, placement into Senior Living Communities, and moving management services. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, gather information, and network with others. As many of us get older, we need help ourselves or know others who could use assistance navigating through these big life changes. The program is free and open to the community. There is a sign-up sheet and flyers in the Narthex. Contact Gregg Pead for more information.

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**. They are always in need of canned vegetables, fruits, meats, and soups as well as boxes and bags of pasta, rice, cereal and other staples to stock the Loaves & Fishes food pantry.
- Also, 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!

May Outreach Offering

Our Outreach Offering for May 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 delivered by volunteers to over 1000 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 over 306,000 meals to homebound or disabled seniors in Manatee County.

You may donate to Meals on Wheels PLUS:

- during the worship service, in your offering envelope,
- by mailing a check to the church office with "MOW" in the memo line, or
- Palma Sola members may also contribute through online giving

Earth Day Recap

On Saturday, April 22, the Palma Sola and Westminster congregations hosted an Earth Day Fair in the Fellowship Hall. The Fair carried out the theme of this year's international Earth Day, "Invest in the Future." There was a nice turnout from both the congregations and the community. Attendees browsed displays, watched videos, picked up information sheets, sampled foods, and considered future actions they might take in caring for the Earth.

Stations included:

1) why this is the critical decade for addressing climate change; 2) Florida's energy profile now and planned for the future; 3) how to calculate your carbon footprint and the best things you can do to reduce it, including making use of the Inflation Reduction Act; 4) planting Florida native plants and landscapes, and why that is important to sustain wildlife; 5) eating for a healthy planet; and 6) books to sustain and inform you while caring for Earth.

A great time was had by all!

Earth Day Fair Photobook















Earth Day Fair Photobook Continued



























Earth Care Congregation Press Release

Two Churches Commit to Lowering Their Carbon Footprint 25% by June 2026

[Bradenton, Florida] – Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, and its partner Westminster Presbyterian Church, have committed by vote of their boards to lower their carbon footprint 15% by January 2025, and 25% by June 2026. The second goal meets a denomination-wide objective set by the ruling body of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in July 2022.

The two churches are hosting an Earth Day Fair April 22, 10 am-12pm, at Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, which will carry out the theme of this year's international Earth Day, "Invest in the Future." The public is invited to drop in, browse displays, watch videos, sample foods, and consider future actions they might take in caring for Earth.

In March 2022, Palma Sola Presbyterian was certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the denomination's Presbyterian Hunger Program, and was recertified last month for another year. The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches committed through their actions to the Biblical charge "till and keep" the garden.

To become an Earth Care Congregation, a congregation affirms an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into its worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Palma Sola is one of the 305 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) churches who have chosen to dedicate themselves to intentional earth care.

"Our congregation seeks to care for our planet and one another in a variety of ways," says Pastor Edward Dunn. "Even the smallest of actions taken today will make a significant difference for future generations and for the life of our world. We challenge others to join in caring for the Earth."

Westminster Presbyterian has been nesting with Palma Sola since June 2020. At the end of 2023, the two churches expect to formally merge. A name for the new church will be announced on Sunday, April 23, to be followed by a dedication ceremony for a newly planted live oak tree to commemorate the merger and Arbor Day, Friday, April 28.

Among other earth care accomplishments in the last year, the churches switched from using disposable cutlery and dishes to using all washable and reusable items. In 2020, Palma Sola replaced its roof with high Solar Reflectance Index shingles (SRI 24) that meet the nation's highest standard for reducing wasteful building energy consumption.

For more information, contact Rev. Edward Dunn at pastorpspc@gmail.com or 941-792-3412. For information on church activities, visit www.pspchurch.org. For information on the Earth Care Congregations program visit www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.

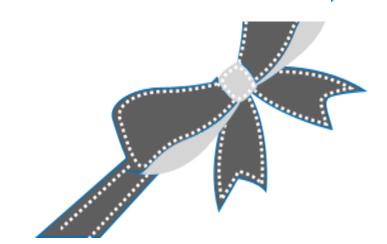


6510 3rd Ave. Bradenton, FL 34209

In The Fellowship hall



For more information contact Gregg Pead, 941-348-0773 or peedethree@gmail.com





CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY MAY 21

FOLLOWING SUNDAY SERVICE

The Church will provide BBQ Chicken.

Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share.

Please put your name on the sign-up sheet (in the Narthex) to let us know how many are coming an what dish you are bringing



Let's get together to spread God's word. Join the Fellowship & Worship Committee Today! Reach out to Gail Dickerson for more information at 941-224-1117

Pen Pal Party Photos











Ever wonder what the PLUS in Meals on Wheels PLUS is for? The PLUS is because they are so much more than meals! Meals on Wheels of Manatee was founded in 1972 with the purpose of providing nutritious meals to the elderly and disabled residents of Manatee County. The organization has grown over the years in response to community needs, and the "PLUS" was eventually added to the name as a way of representing the many other services offered. Programs are:

Home-delivered Meals – includes weekday fresh and weekend frozen meals delivered by volunteers to over 1000 seniors per day, along with fresh fruits and vegetables once a month, and twice monthly cat and dog food deliveries to those in need.

The Food Bank of Manatee – along with being the largest hunger relief agency in Manatee County, The Food Bank operates a mobile produce pantry, emergency family food programs, and a baby basket program for mothers and infants up to 2 years old in critical need.

Daybreak Adult Day Center – provides a safe and secure environment with social, recreational, and therapeutic activities designed to meet the needs of older adults who live at home with a loved one but cannot be left alone while their caregiver works or attends to other responsibilities.

Friendship Dining Centers – a program for people over 60 who would like to make new friends, participate in fun activities, hear from experts on a variety of topics as well as enjoy a nutritious meal.

In 2022, Meals on Wheels delivered over 306,000 meals to seniors in the community; distributed nearly 3.4 million pounds of food through The Food Bank; provided over 90,000 pounds of fresh, free produce; dispensed 145,000 meals to families in need and 140,000 pounds of food for hurricane relief; and offered nutrition and therapeutic activities to over 85 seniors in their social and congregate meal programs. Helping the most vulnerable in our community is certainly a "PLUS!" Please support Meals on Wheels PLUS through the May Outreach Offering and be a partner in this important work.

Tree Planting Photos









Boy Scout Eagle Projects

There are 2 Boy Scout Eagle projects by Troop 22 being developed currently.

One is putting in a flagpole with a flag on the southside of Fellowship Hall. This will be a symbol of our church's civic interest and give the scouts a flag for ceremonies. it will be opposite and parallel to the new oak tree. It would be done by Jake Burdette. The pole will be 25' tall and lighted. Paver blocks will surround the bottom for lawn equipment protection. The pole will be mounted between cemented supports so that removing a couple long bolts can allow the pole to be dropped down for repair and for hurricanes. The scout is to secure funding, purchasing and labor.

The second Eagle project will be to refurbish parts of the west side old playground.

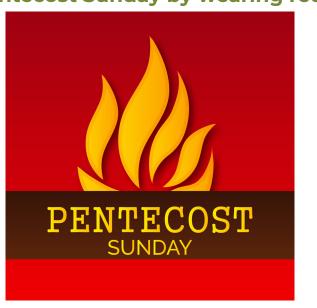
It will be done by Noah Disher. The multicolor doors will be sanded, prepped and painted the same offwhite color as the east Narthex door. The outside hallway in front of these doors will be pressure cleaned. The benches built around the oak trees that have deteriorated will be removed. The picket fencing will be removed. The church has donated the paint for the doors but the tools and supplies will be funded by the scout. The depry removal will be included.

It should be known that these scouts chose our church to repay for the support we give all the scouting groups.



May 28th will be the last day of fellowship after worship for the Summer. See you in the Fall!

On May 28th we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday by wearing red.







CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 7P IN THE SANCTUARY

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 6P IN THE SANCTUARY

Palma Sola & Westminter Presbyterian Churches
- May Newsletter 2023 -

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



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Outreach / 3p	3 Bell Choir 6p Chancel 7p	4 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a Renewal 6:30p	Ginco De Mayo HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	6
7 Worship Service 10a Communion Fellowship @ 11	8 Palma Sola Book Club / 12p	9 Senior Resources Fair @ 10a PRAYER GROUP 11A	10 Bell Choir 6p Chancel 7p	11 Finance / 3:30p	HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	13
14 Mother's Day Worship Service 10a Fellowship	15 WPC SESSION 1p PSPC SESSION 6:30p	16	17 Bell Choir 6p Chancel 7p	18 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a	HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	20
21 Worship Service 10a Fellowship Church Picnic 11a	22	23 PRAYER GROUP 11A	24 Bell Choir 6p Chancel 7p	25	26 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a CREATIVE ARTS ACADEMY PROGRAM 6P	27
Pentecost Sunday Worship Service 10a Fellowship	29 Memorial Day	30 Ice Cream Social @ Brookdale 2p	31			

<u>Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday | 9am - 4pm</u>
View the online church <u>Calendar</u> for latest information about Sunday worship services, Bible study, outreach and other events. Livestreamed and recorded worship services may be viewed at Online Worship.