



The Grapevine



Lent as Pilgrimage

Reverend Edward Dunn

I had never associated the word, Pilgrim, with Lent until I previewed this year's Lenten devotional, Local Pilgrim; a Wandering, Wondering Daily Devotional. Lent is a season of penitence observed by the church beginning in February and lasting until Easter. It is a time of reflection and repentance that starts on Ash Wednesday (this year coinciding with Valentine's Day) in which participants may be asked to give up something (like chocolate or coffee) or as I prefer to take on a practice (like intentional prayer or Bible reading or charitable work or giving).

The idea of Lent as pilgrimage is shared by the editor/author and other writers in this year's devotional. It is described as a venture "to places equally beautiful and mundane, as a sacred exercise in attending to whatever God lays before us in our lives and our communities."

We will provide a weekly link or copy of these devotionals in our emails or to be picked up in the Narthex. I invite you to spend time each day reading and reflecting on the places you have been or going to new places to witness the holy in our world.

I encourage you to join us each Wednesday in Lent for a Lenten lunch beginning at 11:45a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. These meals are an occasion to share a simple meal and to engage in conversation with other “pilgrims” along our journey together. There will be an opportunity to receive ashes at our meal on February 14 or in a new experience to receive ashes as part of a Drive Thru Ashes between 4:30 and 6:30p.m. that evening.

A Drive Thru is exactly what you think it is: Come to the church, stay in your car and receive the imposition of ashes and a copy of the first week’s Lenten devotional. I invite you to share the news about this new program at United with your family, neighbors and others in your community.

And later this month, I hope you’ll join us for a special week of Bible Study called the Mayberry Bible Study. We’ll watch an episode of the Andy Griffith show and then spend time discussing its meaning as connected by scripture. And as a bonus, there will be a dee-licious treat like the kind Aunt Bee would make. Join us beginning Sunday, February 25 following worship; and then Monday through Wednesday, February 26-28 at 6:00p.m.

Join us for the following episodes:

- Andy’s English Valet - Ephesians 6:7
- Class Reunion - Psalm 85:8
- Dogs, Dogs, Dogs - Matthew 5:7
- The Darlings are Coming - Proverbs 16:3

Blessings
Edward



2023 Christmas Season Photos



Habitat Build Photobook



January Session Highlights

- Noted with pleasure that an updated Member Directory is being prepared by the Office. In addition to member information, it will provide information on church officers, Team/committee membership and meeting times, as well as a general church calendar of events. Please inform the Office as soon as possible if your address, phone number or E-mail address has changed recently.
- Approved a number of church events coming up: Scout Sunday, February 4th, Lenten Luncheons beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, Maundy Thursday Service and Communion on March 28th and the Easter Sunrise Service at Palma Sola Botanical Park on March 31st.
- Learned that the new church website name will be 'UPCBradenton.org'. Information is being moved onto the new website, which will soon be activated.
- Approved the 2024 Operating Budget.
- Endorsed the Terms of Call for Pastor Dunn. Terms for 2024 will be reviewed/approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 18th.
- Elected Sherri Kramer as Church Treasurer for 2024.
- Endorsed a 'technical revision' to the new church Bylaws to permit a non-active Elder serving as Clerk of Session to be nominated for service as corporate Secretary. Also, a similar requirement pertaining to the corporate Treasurer would be eliminated. These changes will be voted on by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- Acting in its role as Trustees, the following individuals were nominated for corporate office: John Progar, President, Andrea Harmon, Vice-President, and Gregg Pead, Director/Agent. These individuals will be elected at the Annual Meeting of the corporation.

Scout Sunday

Is when we recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting and honors a Scout's "Duty to God."

February 4th, the scouts will be part of our Sunday service. They will be serving pancake breakfast after the service.

Let's all go down to the Fellowship Hall to show your support.





Mission Spotlight: Our Daily Bread of Bradenton

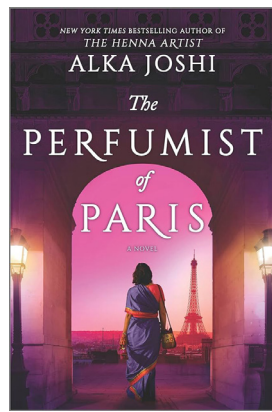
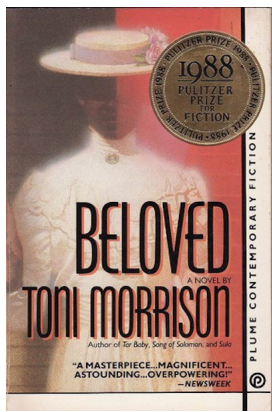
Our Daily Bread, located in downtown Bradenton, was established in 1984 in response to the community's need to feed the hungry. Our Daily Bread serves nutritious meals 364 days a year from 10-11:30 am, averaging 200 meals a day for men, women, and children. The majority of clients are not homeless, but local families struggling to raise children and make ends meet. A typical meal includes a hot main dish, green salad, fruit, dessert, drink and bread.

Our Daily Bread also operates Loaves & Fishes, a self-serve food pantry where clients can shop once a month for staple items as well as fresh produce, meat, and dairy. Loaves & Fishes is open from 8:30-11 am every Monday and Friday. The store design, where clients can choose foods they like, cuts down on food waste and provides for the nutritional needs of the community in a compassionate and worth affirming manner. The food pantry averages over 1000 clients per month.

Our Daily Bread vans are on the road 7 days a week picking up food from local grocery stores. Feeding Tampa Bay makes deliveries of food every Wednesday to use in both the hot meal and pantry programs. Purchases from The Food Bank of Manatee fill in the gaps of other items needed. Additional expenses including staff, supplies, electric, and building upkeep continue to rise. Donations of food and money are always appreciated.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Our Daily Bread's programs. Staff and volunteers cook, serve meals, clean-up, and stock shelves, logging over 15,000 hours each year. United Presbyterian Church volunteers serve meals every Friday. It is wonderful way to serve God's people and make a difference in our local community. Please contact Dorothy Simes or sign-up in the Narthex if you are interested in volunteering.

Palma Sola Book Club



FEB 12 | 1 - 2:30PM MAR 11 | 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

FEB 1 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

FEB 15 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Rich Wachunis
rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 7P IN THE SANCTUARY

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 6P IN THE SANCTUARY

HOLY STROLLERS WALKING GROUP



JOIN US ON A WEEKLY STROLL TO GET SOME FRESH AIR

EVERY FRIDAY | 9AM

ROBINSON PRESERVE (NORTH ENTRANCE)



Lenten Soup Lunch and Fellowship



**Every Wednesday starting February 14th to March 20th
11:45am to 12:45pm**

Enjoy soup, salad, bread with cookies and fellowship.
Please call the office at 941-792-3141 or sign up at the Narthex.

February Outreach Update

December & January Outreach Highlights:

- You shopped for and filled 22 bags of food for our 12 Days of Christmas collection to benefit families in need at Our Daily Bread's Loaves & Fishes food pantry.
- \$526 was collected for Presbyterian Mission Agency's Christmas Joy Offering.
- You brightened the lives of the residents of Brookdale Palma Sola by hosting a Christmas Caroling, Cookies and Cocoa event there this holiday season.
- You provided Christmas gifts for children of two families at Palma Sola Elementary school who otherwise would not have received any gifts this year.
- You donated \$500 from budgeted funds to support the Presbyterian Hunger Program.
- From the proceeds of our Cookie Exchange, you were able to help purchase and wrap over 300 pairs of socks that were gifted to clients of Our Daily Bread on Christmas Eve.
- You contributed \$695 to help provide weekend backpacks of food for children through the Feeding Empty Little Tummies program.
- As part of our PB & J Sandwich Ministry you have made and donated 7300 sandwiches to Our Daily Bread since the beginning of this ministry.
- Folks volunteered every Friday at Our Daily Bread.
- Proceeds of the Dreyer Trust blessed many families with the gift of assistance, helping with the costs of healthcare, utilities and rent for a total of \$46,475 this year.
- During our Jelly January you filled the pantry with much needed jelly for our weekly PB&J sandwich making.
- You supported the goal of home ownership by assisting with construction at the Habitat for Humanity worksite.
- You helped safeguard seniors by hosting a Senior Scammers and Swindlers Seminar, providing important information about common scams and how to look out for them.

February Outreach Opportunities:

- Let's make it a SOUPER month! Our DOES It (Done On Every Sunday) project for February will be collecting ready-to-heat soups for Our Daily Bread. Any variety of canned, boxed, or jarred soups will help feed those in need during our cooler months. Drop your donations in the bins in the Narthex or bring them to the church office by Sunday, Feb. 25th.
- Please plan to attend a HUGE meal packing event on Saturday, February 17 from 10:30a-12:30p in Fellowship Hall. We are partnering with Rise Against Hunger to sponsor and pack over 10,000 meals that will help fight hunger all around the world. Rise Against Hunger will bring all the ingredients and supplies needed, all we need to do is supply the space and the volunteers. There are a variety of jobs, both sitting and standing, and anyone 5 and older is invited to attend. The event is free and open to the community. We need at least 40 to 50 volunteers so please sign up in the Narthex or call the church office if you would like to help. This is a great event for friends, family, grandchildren and others to be welcomed into our united church and to make a difference in our world.

February Outreach Update Continued

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.



February Outreach Offering

Our Outreach Offering for February will 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 Fridays!) 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.

You may donate to Our Daily Bread:

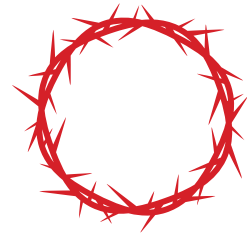
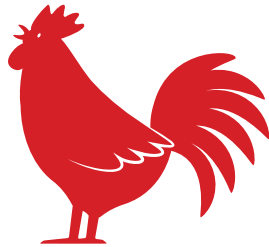
- during the worship service, in your offering envelope,
- by mailing a check to the church office with "ODB" in the memo line, or
- through [online giving](#)

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent season. It is the day of repentance and confess our sins and profess their devotion to God.

February 14th

You can receive your ashes at the **Lenten Luncheon** at noon or come drive up at the roundabout between 4 and 6 pm.

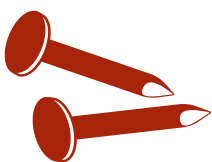


Mark Your Calendars for Holy Week!

- Palm Sunday is March 24th
- Maundy Thursday March 28th
- Easter Sunday March 31st

Sunrise service 7am | Church Service 10am

More details to come next month



February Birthdays & Anniversaries

FEB 5 Dick & Daphne Haynes

FEB 8 Bill Ball

Jane Mittel

FEB 10 Gregg Pead

FEB 18 Linda Progar

FEB 24 Janesse Fritzmeier

FEB 25 Martha Johnson

FEB 26 Mike Starcher

All Birthdays Celebration Photos



- United Presbyterian Church | February 2024 Newsletter -

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

The background of the entire poster is a photograph of several children, primarily of South Asian descent, wearing green school uniforms with white-striped collars. They are gathered around a table, focused on packing food into containers. The lighting is bright and natural, suggesting an indoor setting with large windows. The children's expressions are concentrated and some are smiling, conveying a sense of community and purpose.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER®

Meal Packing Event

Saturday, February 17th
10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

**Ages 5
and up**

**Sign up in
Narthex or by
calling the church
office**

February

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a <i>Renewal 6:30p</i> Team Annual Reports Due	2 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	3
4 Scout Sunday Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Communion Scout Breakfast @ 11	5	6 <i>Outreach / 3p</i>	7 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	8	9 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	10
11 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	12 <i>Palma Sola Book Club / 1p</i>	13 PRAYER GROUP 11a	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Valentine's Day LENTEN LUNCH @ 11:45A Drive Thru Ashes - 5p Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	15 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a	16 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	17 RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKING EVENT 10:30A
18 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Annual UPC Cong, Mtg @ 11 Fellowship @ 11:15	19 PRESIDENTS DAY UPC SESSION 1p	20	21 LENTEN LUNCH @ 11:45A Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	22	23 Mar Grapevine Deadline HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	24
25 Mayberry Bible Study Worship Service 10a Fellowship	26 Mayberry Bible Study	27 Mayberry Bible Study PRAYER GROUP 11a	28 Mayberry Bible Study LENTEN LUNCH @ 11:45A Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	29		

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.