



The Grapevine



Mental Health Prayers

Reverend Edward Dunn

May is designated as Mental Health Awareness Month; observed in the U.S. since 1949. Mental illness has carried a stigma for generations, the earliest explanations for it was demonic possession or a form of divine judgment on an individual. Today we recognize that there are biological and experiential element that contribute to mental illness.

Biological factors might be genetics or exposure to certain toxins or chemicals, drug abuse, brain defects or injuries. Social factors that contribute to mental illness include social isolation or loneliness, poverty, grief, long-term stress, or physical health conditions.

Mental health illness often goes un-noticed by others – those who suffer from it develop tools to mask or disguise it from family and friends. Those who suffer from severe forms of mental illness may act out, oftentimes in inappropriate ways that make others uncomfortable. In certain instances, severe mental illness can lead to violent acts of self-harm or injury to others.

At the recent gathering of STREAM (Stronger Together Reaching Equality Across Manatee) the topic of mental health among children and youth was promoted as the Nehemiah Action project for our county commissioners and school board. You have begun hearing more about our congregation’s exploration of this grassroots organization and ways we might connect with other churches in Bradenton to offer our support for this type of project. Additional information was shared with the congregation in worship on April 21st, or you can check out the website for STREAM at www.streammanatee.org.

I invite you to learn more about this organization but also to consider other avenues of supporting agencies that are working to promote mental health. Check out the National Alliance of Mental Illness (www.nami.org) or local healthcare providers or our public schools for additional information.

During this month, let us be in prayer for those who struggle with mental health illness, for those who are caring for persons with mental health illness, and for professionals who work with those who are mentally ill.

May God provide us with the wisdom and compassion to walk beside those who need to know love.

Blessings
Edward

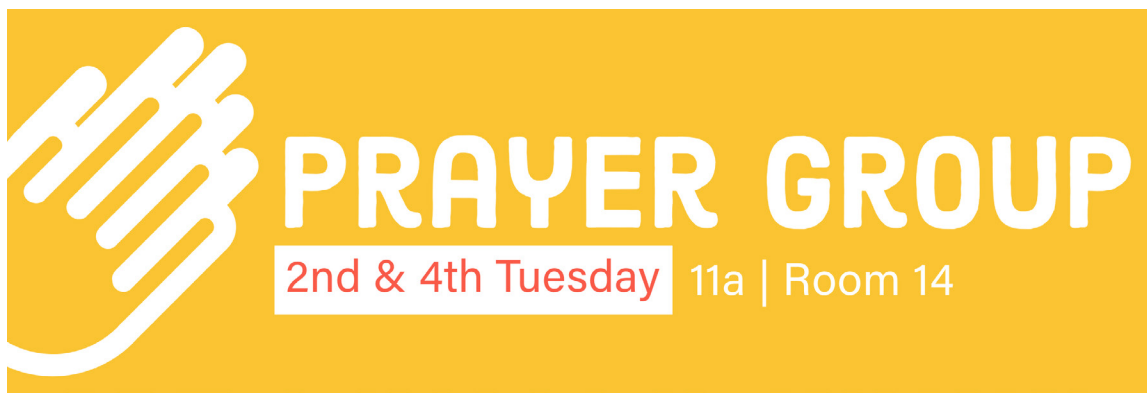
**HOLY STROLLERS
WALKING GROUP**

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

EVERY FRIDAY | 9AM

**ROBINSON PRESERVE
(NORTH ENTRANCE)**

Robinson Preserve Tram Tour

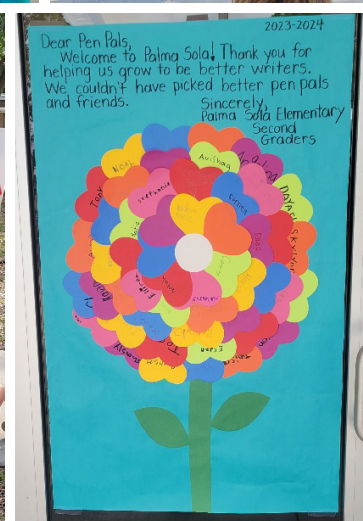


Thank You Volunteers!

I would like to recognize work done by several church member volunteers. Led by Shirley Christian, she and a few other volunteers gave the women's lounge off the glass hallway a new look. Shirley purchased and donated a lamp, two pictures and bookshelf items for the lounge. Diane Hayward made and donated new pillows for the couch made at the Freedom Village sewing group. Jane Mittel contributed bookends for the bookshelf. Shirley personally volunteered to wash the American flags in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. She also did a lot of detailed cleaning in the Parlor, Fellowship Hall and the glass hallway. Thank you ladies for your help.

- Property Manager, Ron Dickerson

Pen Pals & Packing Seeds



April Session Highlights

- Approved two activities for the membership and friends of United:
A) a kayaking Event on Saturday, May 18th at Robinson Preserve, and
B) a Summer Field Trip Series beginning June 1st to include the Dali Museum, the Florida Museum and Train Ride, the Selby Gardens and the Rays Faith Day baseball game.
- Endorsed plans to pause Fellowship after worship during the summer months (June, July & August). However, coffee and cookies before worship in the Narthex and the making of peanut butter/jelly sandwiches in Fellowship Hall will continue during this period.
- The 'Present Word Bible Study' will continue during the summer.
- Noted with pleasure the planting of a new oak tree in the 'merger memorial' location of our front lawn. The tree was donated by Jim & Sue Wedel.
- Approved the purchase of an upgraded digital sound mixer for the audio system of the sanctuary. The mixer approved last month was determined to be less favorable for use by our Audio/Visual Team.
- Approved preparation of a Long Range Study by the Session acting as a committee of the whole to determine the best operational plan for United Church over the next 3-5 years. The group will initially estimate future demographics and giving, project maintenance and project expenditures for the campus and consider strategies to reinvigorate and grow membership.
- Appointed Elders Harmon and Shimandle as Commissioners to the May 16th Presbytery Meeting.

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 7P IN THE SANCTUARY

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 6P IN THE SANCTUARY



May Outreach Update

April was a busy time of enjoying the beautiful spring weather, celebrating new growth, and sharing your blessings with each other and the world. As we bid farewell for now to our snowbird friends and welcome the joys of a slower pace in the summer months, we continue to reach out to others in Christ's love.

Recap of April Events:

- You aided adult students learning to speak English through your donation of reading glasses to Project Light of Manatee.
- As part of our PB & J Sandwich Ministry you made an additional 500 sandwiches for hungry clients at Our Daily Bread.
- You generously donated to Meals on Wheels of Manatee through our April Outreach Offering. These funds will be added to our May collections to provide support for homebound seniors in our local community.
- Folks volunteered every Friday at Our Daily Bread.
- 20 people gathered for a fun tour of Robinson Preserve on their new electric tram, learning about the history and continued work being done in this natural treasure. You joined forces to spruce up the grounds around the church in preparation for the summer growing season.
- You provided home baked cookies for Rich Wachunis to share at the Kairos Prison Ministry Reunion, showing Jesus' love through your actions.
- You helped feed hungry children on the weekend through your generous donation of \$760.50 which was sent to FELT (Feeding Empty Little Tummies) from our first quarter collections.
- You hosted a Celebration of Life Planning program to assist in the preparation and recording of an individual's final wishes.
- Many people enjoyed meeting their pen pal during our annual Pen Pal Party with the second graders at Palma Sola Elementary School. We shared conversation, snacks, and a treat bag filled with a book and other goodies purchased from budgeted funds. What a joy it was to greet the students face to face and celebrate their reading and writing skills. Thank you to those who wrote so faithfully all year long!
- You generously allocated \$5,000 from budgeted funds to three important Presbytery sponsored missions sending checks to the Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Mision Peniel, and Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center.
- You packed 3100 packages of cabbage seeds to be sent around the world to teach communities in need to grow their own food. \$500 from budgeted funds was used to provide the seeds and supplies for this important Hope Seeds mission.

May Outreach Opportunities:

- Our **DOES It (Done On Every Sunday)** project for **May** is collecting baby wipes for the food pantry at **Our Daily Bread**. Loaves & Fishes is a self-serve food pantry where

May Outreach Update Continued

clients can shop free once a month for fresh produce, personal care, and other food items of their choice. They are always in need of baby supplies. The Outreach Team plans to purchase diapers and formula with budgeted funds, and your donations of baby wipes will help complete their baby needs. Drop packages and containers of baby wipes (not Clorox wipes or other anti-bacterial wipes) in the bins in the Narthex or bring them to the church office by Sunday, May 26th and support families in need in our local community.

- Sign-up to grab a paddle and join us for a **kayaking event on Saturday, May 18th at 8:30 am in Robinson Preserve**. Gather at the north entrance and enjoy fellowship and fun on a leisurely one-hour trip through the waters of the preserve. Kayaks, vests, and paddles will be provided. Bring sunscreen, water, and be sure to wear something that can get wet. The event is free and open to family and friends. Sign-up in the Narthex or call the office to reserve your spot.

- Please join members of the Outreach Team for a **Memorial Day celebration at Brookdale Palma Sola on Tuesday, May 21st at 2 pm**. As part of our Older Adult Ministry we will visit, share ice cream, and sing patriotic songs with the residents there. They always look forward to our visits and we have a great time in fellowship with them.

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.

May Outreach Offering

Our **Outreach Offering for May** will continue to 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](#)



Summer Field Trip Series

Introducing our inaugural Summer Field Trip Series!

As crowds thin during the summer, join your UPC family for a variety of field trips to celebrate local attractions. From museums to botanical parks to baseball, there are so many fun things to do close to home. Admission cost will be paid in advance by those attending, and transportation will be arranged through carpooling of the participants. Look for more information, sign-up sheets, and deadlines in the Narthex and on the church website.

Friends and family are welcome – hope to see you there!

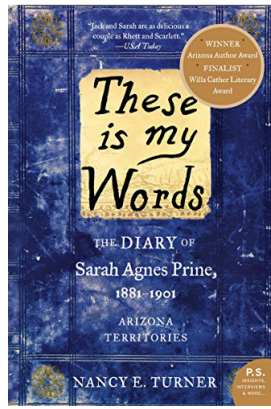
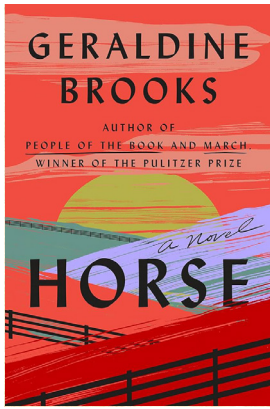
Saturday, June 1st | 10am
Selby Botanical Gardens Sarasota
Admission: Adults \$26; children ages 5-17 \$11

Saturday, June 29th | 10am
Salvadore Dali Museum St. Pete
Admission: Adults 18-64 \$29; Seniors \$27; children ages 13-17 \$20 and 6-12 \$12

Saturday, July 20th | 11am
Florida Railroad Museum & Train Ride in Parrish
Admission: Ages 12+ \$18; children ages 3-11 \$14

Saturday, August 17th | 4:10pm
Faith Day at the Tampa Bay Rays vs. the Arizona Diamondbacks
Tickets \$39 – include lower-level seat and Rays hat

Palma Sola Book Club



MAY 13 | 1 - 2:30PM JUN 10 | 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

MAY 2 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

MAY 16 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Rich Wachunis
rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

MAY 1 Lee Schouw
MAY 2 Liz Brackmann & George Peredy
MAY 6 Ron Dickerson
Gilbert & Anita Smith
MAY 8 Roger Tyrrell
MAY 14 Diane Hayward
MAY 19 Phyllis Wachunis

MAY 20 Jackie Hoyle
MAY 22 Robert Anderson
MAY 23 Joan Dowling
MAY 25 Louise Van Pelt
Elenita & Marty Musgrove
MAY 27 Donna Lesch
MAY 28 Jeanne Schrader
MAY 30 Joyce Knouse

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

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pspchurch.org

May 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a <i>Renewal 6:30p</i>	3 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	4
5 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Communion Church Picnic	6	7 <i>Outreach / 3p</i>	8 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	9 Finance - 3:30P	10 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	11
12 MOTHER'S DAY Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	13 <i>Palma Sola Book Club / 1p</i>	14 PRAYER GROUP 11A Deacons - 6P	15 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	16 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a	17 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	18 KAYAKING @ ROBINSON PRESERVE 8:30A
19 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	20 UPC SESSION 1p	21	22 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	23	24 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a June Grapevine Deadline	25
26 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	27 MEMORIAL DAY	28 PRAYER GROUP 11A	29 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	30	31	

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](#).