

# The Good News

Emmanuel United Methodist Church | APRIL 2025

5115 Cortez Road West – Bradenton, FL 34210 – 941-792-3497

## PASTOR'S DESK

Reverend Haley Eccles



# stir

In March, several of our leaders attended the Stir Conference at Grace United Methodist Church in Venice, exploring ways to strengthen our church and grow in ministry. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Debbie Allen, challenged us to embrace free flowing ministry—ministry that moves beyond scarcity and actively reaches our community while trusting in God's provision.

That challenge has already begun shaping our work. Recently, we have connected with key community leaders, including the Manatee County School Board, the CEO of Turning Points, and the church liaison for the Department of Children and Families. We also participated in the Manatee County Neighborhood Summit, a gathering focused on bringing organizations and resources together for community impact.

Some seasons are about growth; others are about preparing the soil. John 1:14 (The Message) reminds us that "Jesus moved into the neighborhood," and we trust that Christ has already been at work in Manatee County. Our role is to listen, discern, and faithfully step into that work.

As we move forward, I invite you to pray, reflect, and seek where God is leading us as a church. Together, we are part of something greater than ourselves, and I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

Blessings,

Pastor Haley



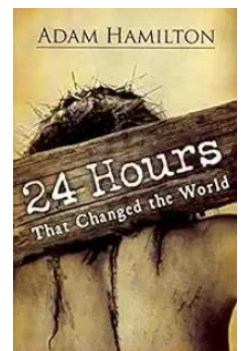
## NEW LENTEN STUDY

Please join us in a new Lenten study on the book '24 Hours that Changed the World' by Adam Hamilton.

**Every Wednesday until April 16 at 1pm in McCay Hall**





The suggested donation cost per book is \$9. To sign up for the study or for more details, please contact the leaders, Gary and Susan Brelsford, 727-804-5897 or email [gbrelsford@gmail.com](mailto:gbrelsford@gmail.com).

You can also **just show up!**





# APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 1:00pm Lenten Study, McCay Hall  4:00pm Worship Choir Practice	3	4  <i>National Vitamin C Day</i>	5  <i>National Caramel Day</i>
6 Communion  9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	7	8  <u>The Lunch Bunch</u> 11:30am Beef 'O' Brady's Call for more info. 863-512-0678	9 1:00pm Lenten Study, McCay Hall  4:00pm Worship Choir Practice	10  <i>Missional Vital Signs Due</i>	11  <i>National Pet Day</i>	12
13 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall 	14 12:00 noon Leadership Board Mtg., McCay Hall  <i>National Gardening Day</i>	15	16 1:00pm Lenten Study, McCay Hall  4:00pm Worship Choir Practice	17 <u>MAUNDY THURSDAY</u> 4pm Communion Service	18 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 12 Noon Service at First UMC of Bradenton located at 603 11 <sup>th</sup> St. W. in Bradenton	19
20 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 9:30am Worship Service 	21 <b>Church Office Closed</b>	22 <b>EARTH DAY</b> 	23 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice  <i>National Administrative Professionals Day</i>	24 <b>MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b> 	25	26  <i>National Audubon Day</i>
27 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	28  <i>National Pay It Forward Day</i>	29	30 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice  <i>National Oatmeal Cookie Day</i>			



## SAVE THE DATES- Holy Week

April 13 Palm Sunday Service  
 April 17 Maundy Thursday Service, 4:00 pm  
                     Communion will be served  
 April 18 Good Friday Service, 1<sup>st</sup> UMC  
                     Bradenton, 12:00 Noon  
 April 20 Easter Sunday Service



ChurchinBradenton.com  
 OR EumcBradenton.org

Find us on Facebook at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/churchinbradenton>

# Let's Celebrate!

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Marion Stephenson
- 2 Miriam Pante
- 3 Ken Abbott
- 4 Elmer Noles, Jr.
- 6 Bill Gilmore
- 9 Nancy Van Der Walde
- 11 Paul Pante
- 13 Judith Ann Strausser
- 13 David Zieber
- 14 Bobbette Art
- 15 Alvin Terhaar
- 21 Carl Ruddell

- 22 James Warrender
- 25 Mary Pelter
- 27 Sue Ruddell

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

5 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Brelsford

*If your birthday or anniversary was missed, please contact the Church office at email: Secretary.eumc@gmail.com*



## Record of Faithful Giving

### General Offering

3/2	\$ 9,110.00
3/9	\$ 4,389.00
3/16	\$ 2,001.00
3/23	\$ 2,260.00
3/30	\$ N/A

### Weekly Attendance

3/2	104
3/9	81
3/16	89
3/23	91
3/30	N/A

### Sunday School Bible Study

10:45am

3/2	11
3/9	11
3/16	11
3/23	16
3/30	N/A

### FEBRUARY: Online Viewers

	FB	YouTube
2/2	45	27
2/9	55	19
2/16	0	16
2/23	53	19

# 2025

## Keeping Up

Thank you for being faithful in your giving.

It is through your generosity that the church can continue to operate, and these gifts are very important and very much appreciated.

Here are the ways you can give to Emmanuel UMC

1. In Person on Sunday Morning
2. Drop off at the office in the mail slot located in the church office door.
3. Mail to the church at:  
5115 Cortez Rd. W.  
Bradenton, FL 34210
4. Easily online!

You may visit our website online and click the donate button to give digitally. **You may also copy and paste the link below into your favorite web browser:**

<https://www.eumcbradenton.org/online-giving>

## Dear Emmanuel Church Family & Friends

Please remember these and our dear ones in Assisted Living, Homebound, in the Hospital and out of state in your prayers. Your prayers, cards and other expressions of Christ's Love will help give encouragement & lift their spirits. If you need an address, please contact the church office at 941-792-3497.

### Recent Requests

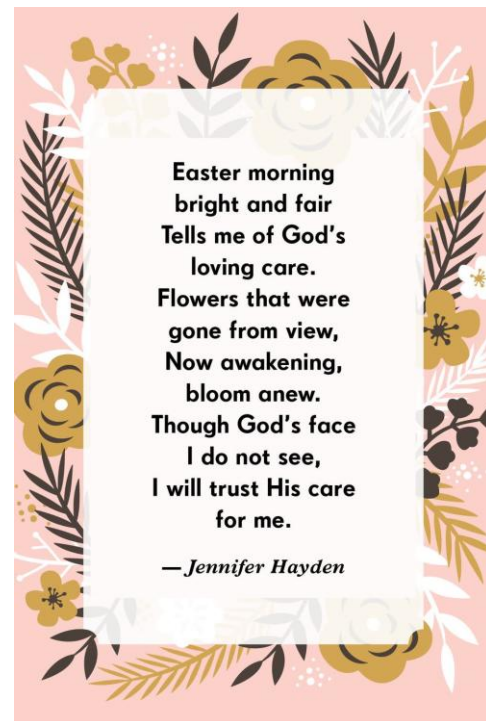
April G.	Kris B.
Bill D.	Marcia G.
Chad C.	Maxine J.
Dee Dee S.	Paul P.
Grayson P.	Paula S.
Janelle F.	Sara F.
Jennifer A.	Susan A.

### NEEDING PRAYER?

If you have a prayer request and want to be added to our prayer list, please feel free to write on your 'Connect card', call or email the church office and leave a message.

941-792-3497

Secretary.eumc@gmail.com





AT EMMANUEL

## Lunch Bunch- April 8<sup>th</sup>!

Lunch Bunch is April 8<sup>th</sup>! Don't miss this great time of fellowship. We meet in Beef 'O' Brady's private dining room at 11:30 (4925 W. Cortez) and we each order what we'd like from their menu. Everyone is welcome!



## Ashes to Go! Blessing Our Community.



*Barbara Sigler & Susan Brelsford Blessing the community.*

Thank you, to all who participated in our Ashes to go event. Many were blessed in our community.

## Farewell Friends

We thank all our Northern friends for their company & volunteer hours this winter! We pray you have a safe trip back home & see you next year. Please notify the office with changes to your address. We are also asking if you clean out your food pantries to please consider donating your non-perishable food items to our food bank collection. Thank You!



## OH BABY! For Your GENEROSITY!



March was Baby month at the Manatee County Food Bank where they assembled emergency baby baskets with critical care items for infants and toddlers in need. Thank you for your wonderful and generous donations to the collection. So many children and families will be blessed by your giving! Every year you do a fantastic job pouring back into the community as a church family. Thank you!



In **April** we will be collecting MACARONI & CHEESE for the Manatee Food Bank. Any kind, brand is great, the box dinners that come with the cheese sauce pouch is fantastic for families who may not have milk & butter available. What a blessing this will be for so many in our community!





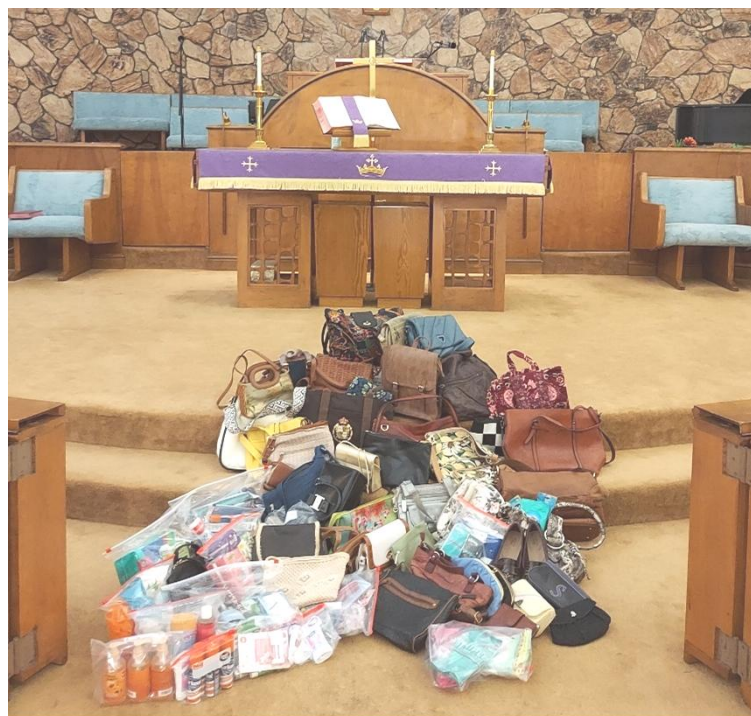
# A MOMENT FOR MISSIONS



"The Women of Manatee had a great breakfast with a devotional on "Seeds". Seeds we sow in the lives of others by our example, sharing & seeds that are sown in our lives by others. All resulting in serving others in the name of Christ while being the best we can be. Our prayer listing requested in sharing some burdens. Then we had a knock at the door from women named Joy & Faith who came from Emmanuel United Methodist Church with a large collection of purses for our "Purses with a Purpose" outreach mission! What a very nice surprise! We will have a purse stuffing day soon with a Covered Dish Lunch & invite the Emmanuel ladies too!"



Thank you so much Emmanuel for your enthusiastic participation in our Purses with a Purpose Drive for the underserved women in our community. Your donations were graciously received by the women of Manatee Life Church and they wanted to extend their thanks and invitation to join them for their monthly women's breakfast sometime.



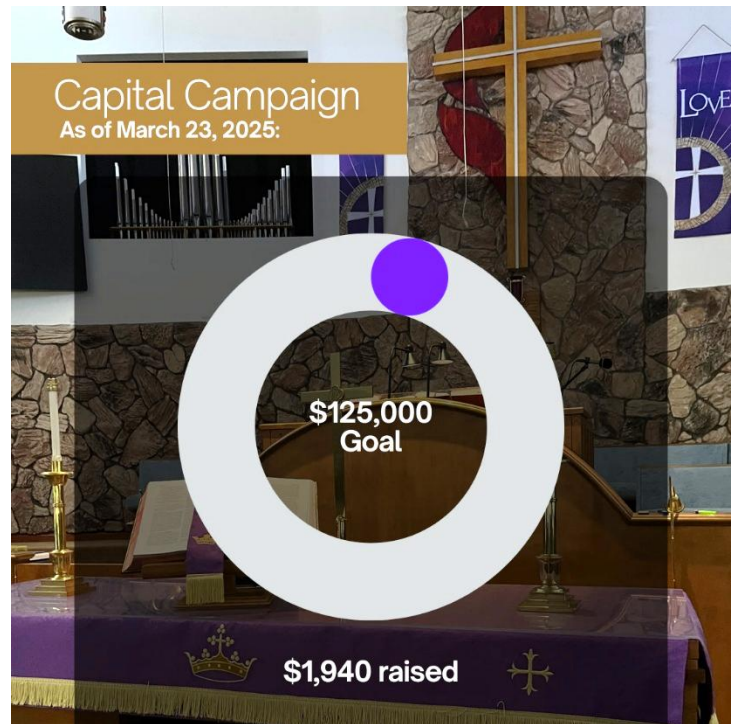


# AN UPDATE ON OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our capital campaign. As we seek to serve our neighborhood, we also want to steward our church space well, ensuring it remains a place of hospitality and ministry for years to come.

Our goal of \$125,000 is ambitious, but necessary. These funds will allow us to meet urgent needs, such as air conditioning repairs and updated livestream equipment—tools that help us reach beyond our walls. They will also help us prepare for the future, preventing deferred maintenance from becoming a barrier to ministry.

Please pray about how you might give above your regular offering to invest in the present and future of our church. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.  
Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our church's mission.



## Veterans Benefit Update Meetings Set

MANATEE COUNTY, Fla. (March 21, 2025) – Veterans and/or their spouses residing in Manatee County are invited to attend one of five Veterans Services' annual meetings this April to receive updates on eligible Veterans Affairs benefits.

"This is a great opportunity to get updates on benefits," said Manatee County At-Large Commissioner — and Marine Corps Veteran — Jason Bearden. "As a veteran myself, I know how important it is to stay informed about the resources available to those who have served. I encourage all veterans in our community to attend, connect with fellow service members, and take advantage of the resources that can make a real difference in their lives."

**No registration is required.**

Please contact Veterans Services at (941) 745-3795 if you have any questions or require special accommodations.

**The five identical meetings will be held at the following locations:**

- **Saturday, April 5, 2025**  
Rocky Bluff Library (6750 US Highway 301 N., Ellenton)  
9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- **Tuesday, April 8, 2025**  
Braden River Library (4915 53rd Avenue E., Bradenton)  
9:30 a.m.- 12 p.m.
- **Tuesday, April 15, 2025**  
South Manatee Library (6081 26th Street W., Bradenton)  
5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- **Thursday, April 24, 2025**  
Lakewood Ranch Branch Library (16410 Rangeland Pkwy., Lakewood Ranch)  
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Monday, April 28, 2025**  
Veteran Services Office (1401 3rd Ave. W., Bradenton)  
2 p.m. -4:30 p.m.

Lectures will include Compensation, Non-Service-Connected Pension, Health Care, Burial and State Benefits. All meetings are free and will be facilitated by Manatee County Veterans Services Counselors.