

The Good News

Emmanuel United Methodist Church | MARCH 2025

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

PASTOR'S DESK

Reverend Haley Eccles

For me, the beginning of this year has been steeped in the beginning of the Bible. I, along with others in our church, embarked on an Immerse reading plan, reading from Genesis to Deuteronomy in January and February. Many of these foundational stories help us establish who God is and who we are. As we end Deuteronomy, the people are given a choice:

"Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!"
- Deut. 30:19b

Choosing life feels like it would be an easy choice. When reading a book about transforming our churches in light of the changing realities in our communities, Todd Bolsinger tells us that change isn't just hard; Change is loss. He says, in a study of those who were faced with life and death choices—stop drinking or you will die, stop smoking or you will die, change your diet now or you will die, nearly 90% choose to risk death.

Lent is often a time of reflection where we consider our choices, and how lifeless they are without Christ and the hope of the resurrection. What are the ways that we are trying to do things on our own or otherwise making choices that are killing us. This is what we are going to explore in our Lenten series: Dying to Live. I hope you will choose to join us, starting at our Ash Wednesday service at 4pm on March 5.

I am praying that this would be a meaningful and life-giving season for us all.

Blessings,
Pastor Haley

S. T. R. E. A. M.
Stronger Together Reaching Equality Across Manatee



**Nehemiah Action
Mon, March 31st**



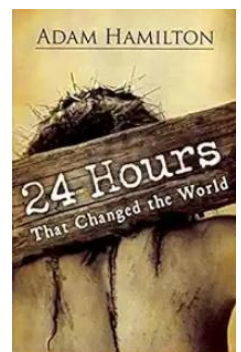
You are invited and encouraged to join us at this year's STREAM Nehemiah Action Gathering on Monday, March 31st! We hope to have at least 30 folks from our church participate. This year, Manatee justice ministry called STREAM is working on ways to increase affordable access for mental health services for everyone, especially children and teens in Manatee County. We need you to join us at this gathering on the 31st so that our county leaders realize that there is lots of community support for improving and increasing mental health services in our county. We will meet at the church Fellowship Hall for a free pizza dinner at 4:30 before we load up on a bus to take us to the 6:30 event. Stay tuned for more information to come. Questions, call Kayline at 863-512-0678.

NEW LENTEN STUDY

You are not going to want to miss this new Lenten study series! Gary and Susan Brelsford will lead the class using the book titled: '24 Hours that Changed the World', by Adam Hamilton.

**Wednesdays March 12 – April 16
1pm in McCay Hall**

The suggested donation cost per book is \$9.00. To sign up for the study or for more details, please indicate on your Connect card, call or email the church office with your contact information.



MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 <i>National Peanut Butter Lover's Day</i>
2 Communion 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	3 <i>National I Want You To Be Happy Day</i>	4 <i>National Sons Day</i>	5 Ash Wednesday 7:30am-10:30am Drive-Thru Ashes 4pm Ash Wed. Worship Service <i>Fat Tuesday</i>	6 <i>National Dentist's Day</i>	7	8 Daylight Savings 
9 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	10 <i>Missional Vital Signs Due</i>	11  <u>The Lunch Bunch</u> 11:30am Beef 'O' Brady's Call for more info. 863-512-0678	12 1:00pm Lenten Study, McCay Hall 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice <i>National Girl Scout Day</i>	13 <i>Good Samaritan Day</i>	14 <i>National Children's Craft Day</i>	15 <i>National Quilting Day</i>
16 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 1:00pm Lenten Study, McCay Hall 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice <i>National Certified Nurses Day</i>	20 	21 APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 	22
23 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	24 <i>National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day</i>	25	26 1:00pm Lenten Study, McCay Hall 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice	27	28	29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day 
30 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall 5 th Sunday Offering 	31  	<h2>OH BABY!</h2> <p>March is Baby month at the Manatee County Food Bank. They are assembling emergency baby baskets with critical care items for infants and toddlers in need. With your help, they will be successful in helping many families. You can drop off your donations at the display in the Narthex.</p>				



SAVE THE DATES- Holy Week

April 13 Palm Sunday Service
 April 17 Maundy Thursday Service, 4:00 pm
 April 18 Good Friday Service, 1st 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>



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

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Matthew Rowell
- 2 Philip Catalano
- 2 Judah Eccles
- 5 Pat Singeltary
- 6 Ann Phillips
- 7 Kris Eccles
- 8 Michael Galbraith
- 11 Rev. Haley Eccles
- 12 Marcia Goggin
- 12 Ben Miller
- 16 C. Juanita Clark
- 17 Helen Magnus
- 20 Patricia Lindstrand
- 23 Joe Patty
- 31 Norm Hunt

A very HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Juanita Clark. She will turn 101 on March 16th!

Our love and warm wishes go out to her. Cards and notes may be sent to the address below.

Juanita Clark
2609 67th St. W.
Bradenton, FL 34209
 (03/16/1924 dob)
 Member Since 11/10/74



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.	Maxine J.
Chad C.	Paul P.
Dee Dee S.	Paula S.
Grayson P.	Sara F.
Janelle F.	Susan A.
Jennifer 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



Record of Faithful Giving

General Offering

2/2	\$ 4,472.00
2/9	\$ 5,379.97
2/16	\$ 3,287.00
2/23	\$ 898.00

Weekly Attendance

2/2	88
2/9	92
2/16	91
2/23	93

Sunday School Bible Study

10:45am

2/2	15
2/9	18
2/16	12
2/23	15

JANUARY: Online Viewers

	FB	YouTube
1/5	51	20
1/12	339	36
1/19	No Video	No Video
1/26	49	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>



The Florida United Methodist Children's Home was established in 1908 and since that time, has grown into an organization serving abused, abandoned, and neglected children. In addition to providing therapeutic residential care, we also provide foster care and outpatient counseling. Every fifth Sunday, we at Emmanuel collect a special offering for Residing Hope. **Prayerfully consider what you might contribute to this life changing ministry on March 30th.** If you are writing a check, please make it out to: **Emmanuel United Methodist Church**, and designate 'Residing Hope' on the "memo" line.

Lunch Bunch

You're invited! Come enjoy lunch with your church family on **Tuesday, March 11th**, at 11:30. We meet at Beef 'O' Brady's (4925 W. Cortez) in their private dining room. This wonderful group would love to welcome you.

BEEF 'O' BRADY'S

♦ GOOD FOOD, GOOD SPORTS ♦



THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for your support of our Second Annual Strawberry Shortcake Missions Fund Raiser!! It was a big success! The treats were delicious and we had lots of fun. Special thanks to Detwiler's Farm Market on 53rd Ave. W., and Sprouts Farmers Market on Cortez for donating all the strawberries. Thanks also to the individuals that donated all the cakes, whipped cream, ice cream, decorations and fresh flowers. This event could have never happened without the hard work of "The Crew". Be sure to thank them: Lucy Blinn, Susan Brelsford, Carole Brigham, Pastor Haley Eccles, Pam Gabbard, Teresa Hill, Maxine Jackson, Kayline Lowe, Nancy Pearson, Karen Ponader, Josie Seamon, Barbara Sigler, Wally & Joan Sprague, Barb Tasket, and Nancy VanDerWalde.

So far the total collected for missions through this fund raiser is \$667. Thanks again to everyone! Please know that if you were unable able to attend, you may still make a donation to Missions, just write "missions" on the envelope. We are working hard to reach our goal of \$6,300 for the year.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the donors that made the purchase of the new commercial refrigerator possible! We appreciate you!

OH BABY!

March is Baby month at the Manatee County Food Bank. They are assembling emergency baby baskets with critical care items for infants and toddlers in need. With your help, they will be successful in helping many families. You can drop off your donations at the display in the Narthex.



Emergency Baby Baskets contain critical care items for infants and toddlers in need.

Critically Needed Items

- Diapers (Sizes Newborn to 7)
- Infant Formula
- Nighttime Potty-Training Pants (Good Nights or Pull-ups)
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Cereal/Baby Food
- Sippy Cups
- Baby Bottles
- Pacifiers
- Burp Cloths
- Bibs

