



# The Good News

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Emmanuel United Methodist Church | MAY 2025

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

## PASTOR'S DESK

Reverend Haley Eccles

### **A Brand Plucked from the Fire: Reflections on Motherhood and Spiritual Legacy**

As we turn the calendar to May, two days rise from its pages with deep resonance for our faith journey—Mother's Day (May 11) and Aldersgate Day (May 24). One invites us to celebrate those who have nurtured us; the other calls us to remember a moment when grace broke through in the life of a searching soul. And at the intersection of these two moments stands Susanna Wesley, a mother whose quiet, persistent faith helped shape the heart of the Methodist movement.

Last September, when visiting Epworth, John Wesley's childhood home, we were invited to look at a painting that recalled John's near-death as a child when he was rescued from a fire that consumed the rectory. However, Susanna saw more than a miracle of survival; she saw a calling. She began telling John early on that he was a "brand plucked from the burning," and she believed God had preserved John for a purpose. Her persistent encouragement over the years, helped forge in John a sense of divine purpose that would one day ignite a revival across England and beyond.

Susanna Wesley's influence didn't come from grand stages or official titles. It came from a kitchen table, where she taught her children the Lord's Prayer. It came from quiet moments, where she set aside time—amidst raising ten children—to pray and read Scripture. It came from the wellspring of faith she passed on, not only to John but to Charles as well, whose hymns still shape our worship today. She was a theologian in the truest sense—teaching with love, discipline, and grace.

As we honor mothers this month, I am mindful that the meaning of Mother's Day evolves over time.

For many in our congregation, this day is filled with joy as you watch your children or grandchildren grow into who they are becoming, celebrating them taking on the title of "Mom." For others, it may be a time of grief—mourning a mother who has passed or navigating the quiet ache that lingers when Mother's Day cards no longer fill the mailbox.

Still others have stepped into roles of mentorship, spiritual motherhood, or grandmothering—not just to their biological families, but within the church and community. Your stories, your prayers, and your steady presence have shaped lives in ways you may never fully know. Like Susanna, your influence may be more eternal than immediate—more formative than flashy.

And so this May, we give thanks:

- For the mothers who carried us, taught us, prayed for us.
- For the women who became spiritual mothers, guiding us in faith.
- For those who grieve, and for those who hold memories close.
- For every person who has believed in another's calling, even before it could be seen.

As we approach Aldersgate Day, we recall the moment when John Wesley's heart was "strangely warmed" and he experienced assurance of God's love and grace. That moment was not the beginning of his faith—but it was the fruit of a foundation laid long before. A mother's words, a household of prayer, a God who does not forget the seeds sown in love. May this month be a time of remembrance, gratitude, and renewal, as we honor the legacies that have shaped us and recommit ourselves to shaping others in faith, hope, and love.

In grace,  
Pastor Haley



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  May Day	2	3 Kentucky Derby
4 COMMUNION 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	5	6 National Teachers Appreciation Day	7 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice	8 National Student Nurses Day	9	10 Missional Vital Signs Due
11 MOTHER'S DAY 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	12	13  <u>The Lunch Bunch</u> 11:30am Beef 'O' Brady's Call for more info. 863-512-0678	14 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice	15 National Bring Flowers to Someone Day	16 Bike-to-Work Day	17 Armed Forces Day
18 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	19	20	21 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice  National American Red Cross Founder's Day	22 JUNE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 	23 National Taffy Day	24 National Brother's Day
25 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	26 MEMORIAL DAY  Church Office Closed	27 National Grape Day	28 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice  National Hamburger Day	29 National Paperclip Day	30	31 

Annual Conference- 06/05 thru 06/07/2025- Florida Southern College- Lakeland,

**MAY** we are focusing on Canned Soups & Stews for the Manatee County Food Bank.

Please drop off your food donations in the church Narthex.



Join us online for all the latest news at Emmanuel, events and an easy way to give. Scan the QR code to get started.



ALSO CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

6 Mr. & Mrs. David Zieber  
26 Mr. & Mrs. Jay Barker  
26 Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Catalano

## BIRTHDAYS

1 Wally Sprague  
3 Margaret Catalano  
3 Rebekah Reagan  
4 Elmer Noles, Jr.  
10 Pete Chick  
11 Hadija Yankyera  
12 Nancy Otstot  
13 Sharon Shoemaker  
16 Pam Zepik  
19 David Blinn  
19 Kayline Lowe  
21 John W. Bookheimer

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



## Record of Faithful Giving

### General Offering

4/6	\$ 4,115.00
4/13	\$ 3,140.00
4/20	\$ 8,892.47
4/27	\$ 2,598.00

### Weekly Attendance

4/6	66
4/13 Palm Sunday	76
4/17 Maundy Thurs.	20
4/20 Easter	86
4/27	68

### Sunday School Bible Study

10:45am

4/6	15
4/13	12
4/20	Canceled for Easter
4/27	13

### MARCH: Online Viewers

	FB	YouTube
3/2	75	28
3/9	103	33
3/16	65	27
3/23	97	27
3/30	70	23

# 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.
Bonnie N.	Maxine J.
Chad C.	Paul P.
Dee Dee S.	Paula S.
Grayson P.	Robin S.
Janelle F.	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

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**Life doesn't come with a manual, it comes with a mother.**

*Unknown*

“

**Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.**

*Unknown*



## AT EMMANUEL

### Lunch Bunch



**May 13th!**

Join Us! We'd love to have lunch with you on Tuesday, May 13th, at 11:30 at Beef 'O' Brady's, 4925 Cortez Rd. W. We each order what we'd like off of the menu and pay individually. It's always a great time of fellowship and a fun way to get to know your church family. Hope to see you there!



CHANGING LIVES FOR FAMILIES IN  
NEED THROUGH THE LOVE OF A  
CARING COMMUNITY, LIKE YOU!



Did you know there are countless children in our area who are in great need, in transition or homeless?

Emmanuel is once again partnering with Kirkwood Presbyterian to support **Day4Hope** – a mission to equip children experiencing homelessness with everything they need to start the school year strong.

Each child receives a backpack filled with school supplies, family food, toiletries, reading books, a Bible, and a clothing gift card for their parent(s) to use for their child(ren). This year, we're aiming to raise \$5,000 to serve 50 students from Prine Elementary.

To give, simply place your offering in the plate with **"Day4Hope"** on the memo line. Together, let's continue to be a beacon of hope in our community.

## Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs):



A QCD is a tax-free donation made directly from your traditional IRA to a qualified charity. If you're 70½ or older, you can donate up to \$100,000 annually this way. These gifts count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) but aren't taxed or included in your income.

### Why Use a QCD?

Instead of paying income tax on your RMD, a QCD lets you support causes you care about tax-free—ideal for donors affected by deduction limits.

### Requirements:

- Must be age 70½ or older
- Transfer must go directly from IRA to a qualified charity
- Each spouse can give up to \$100,000 per year
- No income tax deduction is allowed for the gift

### Benefits:

A QCD fulfills your RMD, avoids income tax, and supports your favorite charity.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

This is the time of year that our Florida Conference Bishop Tom Berlin and his Cabinet make announcements concerning clergy appointments for the coming year beginning July 1st, 2025.



Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, was Announcement Sunday across the Florida conference. It is with a grateful heart that we announce, Pastor Haley has been reappointed to serve as our spiritual leader here at Emmanuel. We are truly blessed by her Christ-like leadership and her love for our Lord. Her experience, integrity and her commitment to Christ have been priceless.

Please continue to be in prayer for her and encourage her with your love and support. We look forward to growing closer to Christ this coming year with Pastor Haley leading us. Thank you, Pastor Haley, for all that you do! We are so very grateful!

## Mission Update:



We are beyond thankful for your financial support! The Easter offering collections were \$1,692.00! Your donations were designated to our mission's fund. The 3 large missions that we support are:

- 1)** The identified homeless or near homeless children at Prine Elementary, not far from our church, through the **Day4Hope** program (we have 50 children to help)
- 2) STREAM** Justice Ministry working to increase mental health services for school age children and youth in our county
- 3) Healing River Ministries Kenya** with David Blinn, our EUMC member.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider making a donation at any time to help support our missions.

# ART AT EASTER

Our Website & Program Coordinator, Terrie Zieber, also happens to be an amateur artist! She displayed 4 of her many art creations in the Narthex during Holy Week. Two pastel chalk and two oil paintings titled: Jesus in the Garden: Guardian Angel: A Crown of Thorns: The Ascension. Many of our members and friends enjoyed her display and remarked that she should continue painting. A few offered to purchase the paintings, which were not for sale but hang proudly in her home.



## IN LOVING Memory

**Maxine Thompson**  
**08/24/1928 - 3/30/2025**

On Sunday, March 30, 2025, one of our former members Maxine Thompson died peacefully at the age of 96. Maxine and her husband retired in Bradenton in 1984. She was an active member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church, holding many

leadership positions and leaving a lasting legacy. Maxine was known and loved for her style and grace, her unwavering positive attitude in any circumstance, her sincere kindness, generosity, humility, quick wit and fun sense of humor. She wrote that her life lesson to us was "To be thankful for what you have and not wanting for what you don't." Her niece, Mellissa, cared for her in her later years. Maxine will be dearly missed.

**Cards and notes of sympathy can be sent to:**

**Melissa Bean**  
**905 Willeo Place**  
**Marietta, GA 30068**





## A Mother's Love, A Mother's Prayer



For young mothers, just starting their way,  
With dreams for tomorrow and hope for today,  
God's grace be your guide, His strength be your light,  
As you nurture with love, through day and through night.

For mothers who've lost, with hearts full of pain,  
Know that God sees your tears and will sustain.  
In His arms, your children rest, ever near,  
He wipes away sorrow, He calms every fear.

For those who've lost mothers, in life's tender span,  
God holds you close, as only He can.  
He is your Father, your Comfort, your Friend,  
A love that will heal, and never shall end.

For spiritual mothers, with hearts full of grace,  
You nurture and guide with God's loving embrace.  
Your wisdom, your prayers, are gifts so divine,  
Reflecting God's love, like stars that will shine.

**"As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you." — Isaiah 66:13**



## MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

### In Honor of the Brave

We remember those who gave their all,  
Answering duty's urgent call.  
With courage bold, they stood and fought,  
For freedom's price, their lives were bought.  
On this Memorial Day, we pause to say,  
Thank you to heroes in skies and clay.  
Their sacrifice, forever bright,  
Guides us toward a future light.

#### Prayer for the Grieving:

Lord, comfort those who mourn the loss of loved ones,  
Give them peace in the midst of sorrow,  
And strength to carry on with hope. Wrap them in Your arms,  
and let Your love heal their hearts. Amen.

**"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." — Matthew 5:4**



## PENTECOST SUNDAY

June 8, 2025

Pentecost Sunday, celebrated 50 days after Easter, marks the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles, as described in Acts 2. This moment empowered the early disciples to share the Gospel and is often called the "birthday of the Church."

For Methodists, Pentecost is a time to remember that the Holy Spirit is active and present in the world today. It is the Spirit who equips and inspires us to live out our faith, grow in holiness, and serve others in love. Pentecost reminds us that the Church is not just a building or a service, but a community of believers, called and sent to continue Christ's work in the world.

In the Wesleyan tradition, the emphasis is on the transforming grace of God. John Wesley, founder of Methodism, believed that the Holy Spirit works in our hearts to make us more like Christ—what Methodists call sanctification. Pentecost, then, is a celebration of both personal renewal and the power of the Church to witness, serve, and love through the Spirit's guidance. The color red, symbolizing the fire of the Holy Spirit, is often used in worship on this day.



**2025 FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
JUNE 5-7 • LAKELAND, FL**

*Florida Southern College  
111 Lake Hollingsworth Dr.  
Lakeland, FL 33801*