

The Good News

Emmanuel United Methodist Church | DECEMBER 2024

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

PASTOR'S DESK

Reverend Haley Eccles

Happy New Year!

Does that feel a bit early or odd to hear? Did you know that our Christian Calendar actually starts with Advent? You may be waiting until 2025 to tackle some new goals, but I personally love that amidst this season – a season filled with joy, a season filled with traditions, a season that can feel really fast, but also offers these times that we might move slow as we settle in with family and friends to celebrate – amidst this season we are also starting fresh.

Our year starts in the beginning. And we consider the world that God created and the waiting we experience as we wait for its re-creation. We hope for the new heavens and earth (Rev. 21:; the oneness with each other and God, the fullness of the kingdom, to come. There is hope and anticipation for that future reality, and many of us are weary in the waiting. "O Holy Night" describes the reaction to Jesus' birth, saying, "the weary world rejoices."

While the Christmas season can rush us into that joy and hope, advent invites us to slow down and embrace the truth for a moment. Some of us may not be ready for the joy, especially if you are in a personal season of grief. Some of us may feel like the world is more than weary. Perhaps you would use the words broken, crazy, lost? While telling the truth of where we are, we will use this season to look toward the promises of what's to come. God has promised us truth, compassion, restoration, justice and Christ.

I hope you will join us in our advent series, "The Weary World Rejoices" on Sunday mornings. You can dive deeper by following a free daily devotional, which can be downloaded at: https://katebowler.com/seasonal_devotional/the-weary-world-rejoices/#individual. You can also join us in small group discussion either during the Sunday School hour after church or on Mondays at 1pm in the parlor room.

I also hope that you will invite others to join you throughout the season, especially to one of our

Christmas Eve services either at 4:30p or 6:30p. I am praying for you a meaningful season of promise.

Blessed Advent,
Pastor Haley

Start your Advent journey with "The Weary World Rejoices" daily devotional by taking out your phone. Open up your camera app and then scan QR code to the right, it will bring up a link that you can press and it will take you to a website where you can sign up. →



Tuesday, December 24
at 4:30pm and 6:30pm

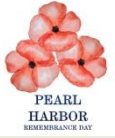







BEEF O' BRADY'S
Lunch Bunch! ★ GOOD FOOD, GOOD SPORTS ★

You are invited to come to a casual lunch with your church family. All are welcome. We will meet on Tuesday, December 10th, at 11:30 at Beef 'O' Brady's close to our church. We enjoy spending time together and getting better acquainted as we enjoy a meal from the Beef's menu. Mark your calendar and we look forward to seeing you.



DECEMBER 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Communion 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Advent Study McCay Hall	2 1pm Advent Small Group- Parlor	3 Giving Tuesday	4 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice	5 S.T.R.E.A.M. meeting 10am McCay Hall	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance 
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Advent Study McCay Hall	9 1pm Advent Small Group- Parlor S.T.R.E.A.M. Assembly 6:30pm Peace Presbyterian church Call for more info. 863-512-0678	10  The Lunch Bunch 11:30am Beef 'O' Brady's Call for more info. 863-512-0678 <i>Missional Vital Signs Due</i>	11 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice	12 Gingerbread House Day	13	14 2pm – 4pm Cookie Party Hosted by Rev. Haley & Family at Parsonage Call for more info. 941-792-3497
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Advent Study McCay Hall	16 1pm Advent Small Group- Parlor	17  6:30 pm Trinity UMC	18 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice	19 JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 	20 National Ugly Sweater Day	21 
22 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Advent Study McCay Hall	23 1pm Advent Small Group- Parlor	24 Christmas Eve  Service 4:30pm & 6:30 pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH OFFICE OFFICE CLOSED 	26 HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE OFFICE CLOSED 12/25 – 1/01/2025 (return 1/02/2025) Boxing Day	27 National Leftovers Day	28 National Call A Friend Day
29 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall 5th Sunday Offering 	30 HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE OFFICE CLOSED 12/25 – 1/01/2025 (return 1/02/2025)	31 HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE OFFICE CLOSED 12/25 – 1/01/2025 (return 1/02/2025) New Year's Eve	January 1, 2025 NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS In observance of the Christmas holiday the Church Office will be closed Wednesday, December 25 & will reopen Thursday, January 2, 2025. Phone messages will be checked.		

Dear Friends in Christ!

Choir practice
4-5pm on Wednesdays

Due to shortened afternoon light, and the fact that I depend on bike transport, it is more favorable to have earlier music assembly for preparation of Special Music. I look forward to working with returned snowbirds and pray all present or would be participants are in agreement!

Thank you.
Karen Ponader, Music Director




Emmanuel
UNITED METHODIST



Churchinbradenton.com
OR Eumcbradenton.org

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

DECEMBER



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



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 David Brachey
- 8 Chris Curry
- 10 Barbara Frank
- 12 Bill Molinet
- 25 Carole Brigham
- 25 Pamela Gabbard
- 27 Doris Abston
- 28 David Brown

ANNIVERSARIES

- 23 Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Petschel
- 27 Mr. & Mrs. John Brigham
- 28 Mr. & Mrs. Keith Antworth



Record of Faithful Giving General Offering

11/3	\$ 3,770.00
11/10	\$ 4,016.05
11/17	\$ 1,353.00
11/24	\$ 3,021.50

Weekly Attendance

11/3	56
11/10	69
11/17	68
11/24	62

Sunday School Bible Study

10:45am

11/3	10
11/10	12
11/17	N/A
11/24	9

OCTOBER: Online Viewers

	FB	YouTube
10/06	3	28
10/13	0	0
10/20	0	0
10/27	3	22

2024

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>

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Barbara Frank
- Bill Deutsch, Jr.
- Bobbette Marks
- Calvin Merrill
- Carl and Sue Ruddell
- Chad Curry
- Corky Parker
- Debbie Chick
- Dee Dee Sigler
- Emma Operacz
- Gerald Goggin
- Grayson Posewitz
- Heang Prom
- Janelle Sigler-Ferebay
- Jennifer Adams
- Jim Warrender
- John Bookheimer
- Juanita Clark
- Katherine Peterson
- Kris Bennett
- Lee Zerkel
- Linda Poling Rhoades
- Marcia Goggin
- Marvin Zerkel
- Maxine Jackson
- Michelle Gabrielse
- Mike Poling
- Nathanial Stehley
- Paul Pante
- Peggy Whitcomb
- Pete Chick
- Phil Nilsen
- Rosemary Nauenburg
- Sara Wannemacher
- Sharon Locasio
- Sharon Roach
- Sherri Blais
- Susan Amon
- Teresa Schmitt
- Tom Postlethwaite
- Vera Niles

NEEDING PRAYER?

If you would like to be added to the listing of prayer requests please feel free to call or email the church office and leave a message 941-792-3497 Secretary.eumc@gmail.com

JESUS
is the
Reason
FOR THE
SEASON



Here is a wonderful opportunity to help some children from Prine Elementary with their Christmas wish lists.

We will have a tree in the Church Narthex decorated with names of the children that Emmanuel assisted during the Day for Hope event at Prine Elementary School.

Be watching for more details coming soon. Thank you so much in advance, for your generosity!

The Christmas Mailbox!



Christmas cards make this time of year special. An excellent, tried-and-true, way to promote love and friendship in our church is **The Christmas Mailbox**. Just bring your cards (no address or postage needed) and place them in the alphabetical mail slots. **The Christmas Mailbox** is located in the Church Narthex. Extend your card list to many in the congregation that you don't know, it will brighten their day. The cards will be a blessing. **Remember – to check the Christmas Mailbox each week to see if you have cards.**

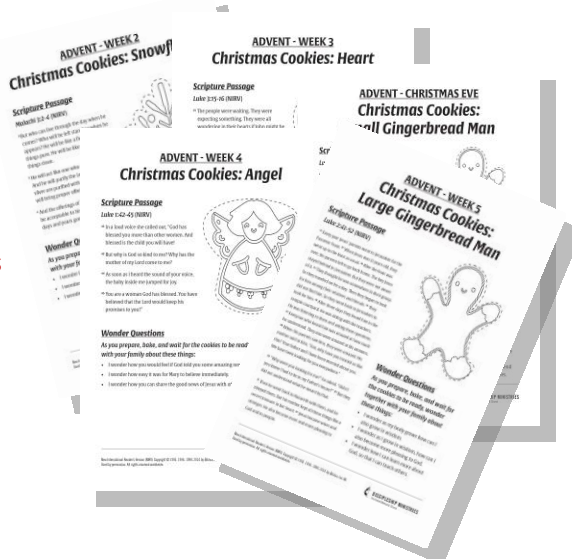
DECEMBER:

We are focusing on collecting, Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, etc.) for the Manatee County Food Bank. Please drop off your food donations either in the church Narthex or church office. Thank you for supporting The Food Bank of Manatee County!



CHRISTMAS COOKIES!

As part of the discipleship ministry of the United Methodist Church our children will be participating in Advent this year in a fun way, using Christmas cookies! Each cookie cutter shape represents a biblical meaning which will help lead them through this advent season.



CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING PLAN

Week of December 1, 2024

- Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 12-14
- Monday:** 1 Corinthians 15-16
- Tuesday:** 2 Corinthians 1-4
- Wednesday:** 2 Corinthians 5-9
- Thursday:** 2 Corinthians 10-13
- Friday:** Acts 20:1-3, Romans 1-3
- Saturday:** Romans 4-7
- Sunday:** Romans 8-10

Week of December 9

- Monday:** Romans 11-13
- Tuesday:** Romans 14-16
- Wednesday:** Acts 20: 4-38; Acts 21; Acts 22; Acts 23:1-35
- Thursday:** Acts 24-26
- Friday:** Acts 27-28
- Saturday:** Colossians 1-4; Philemon
- Sunday:** Ephesians 1-6

Week of December 16

- Monday:** Philippians 1-4
- Tuesday:** 1 Timothy 1-6
- Wednesday:** Titus 1-3
- Thursday:** 1 Peter 1-5
- Friday:** Hebrews 1-6
- Saturday:** Hebrews 7-10
- Sunday:** Hebrews 11-13

Week of December 23

- Monday:** 2 Timothy 1-4
- Tuesday:** 2 Peter 1-3; Jude
- Wednesday:** 1 John 1-5
- Thursday:** 2 John; 3 John
- Friday:** Revelation 1-5
- Saturday:** Revelation 6-11
- Sunday:** Revelation 12-18

Week of December 30

- Monday:** Revelation 19-22





Florida United Methodist Children's Home has a new name, **Residing Hope**. Formerly....



For over a century, the Children's Home has been guided by an unwavering commitment to serving children and families throughout the state of Florida with compassion, integrity, and faith. Since our beginning in 1908 as the Florida Methodist Orphanage, we have expanded over the years into a diverse organization serving abused, abandoned, and neglected children. That expansion has brought the realization that we have outgrown the Children's Home name and needed something that better represented the purpose we serve and the care we provide.

Offering Envelopes

Each giver who makes a contribution to the church is assigned a giving number. This is how the Financial Secretary keeps tracks of your donations. The counters then know where the donations are to be distributed. Everyone who gives has the opportunity to order a box of envelopes.

Please call or email the church office to let us know if you would like envelopes ordered for 2025. The following information is needed:

Contribution Envelope # _____ (If you don't know your # we can look it up for you).

Do you want Contribution Envelopes for 2025?

Yes or No

Do you want Monthly Contribution Envelopes or Weekly

Contribution Envelopes?? Both sets have Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas envelope including the monthly envelopes.

Please indicate below your choice.

- ___ Monthly Contribution Envelopes
- ___ Weekly Contribution Envelopes



Church office phone #: 941-792-3497

Church office email: secretary.eumc@gmail.com

Why A New Name?

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home was first established in 1908 as the Florida Methodist Orphanage.

Since that time it has grown into a multi-faceted organization serving abused, abandoned, and neglected children from across the state of Florida. In addition to providing a higher level of therapeutic residential care in two locations, we also provide foster care and outpatient counseling in multiple counties. We realized that we had outgrown the Children's Home name, and needed something that better represented the purpose we serve and the care we provide. That new name is Residing Hope.

EVERY 5TH SUNDAY

We collect a special offering for Residing Hope. Prayerfully consider what you might contribute to this life changing ministry on December 29th.

If you are writing a check, please make it out to: **Emmanuel United Methodist Church**, and designate 'Residing Hope' on the "memo" line.

2024 Year End Contribution Statements

Thank you for your generous giving in 2024!!

As 2024 Year End Contribution Statements are being prepared **please assure that the church office has your correct mailing address.**

SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Contributions collected on Sunday morning are used for the general budget of the church. If you would like to designate your offering to a specific fund, please use a contribution envelope found in the pew or your pre-numbered giving envelope.

When using an envelope that is not pre-numbered, remember to write your giving number or your name, so that you can receive credit. Include your check number and the designations you would like. Thank you.

As the year nears its end and tax season is upon us, your Finance Committee would like to remind you Emmanuel United Methodist Church is a **Non-profit organization** and donations are **tax deductible**.

Service of Remembrance

This year, Emmanuel will join together with Trinity United Methodist Church for their Blue Christmas Service, Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at **3200 Manatee Avenue West** in Bradenton for the annual Blue Christmas service. This service is for any who finds this time of year difficult. If you have had a loss of some sort, you find the season a bit overwhelming or you need a time of quiet rest with God, this is where you will find the respite you need. Plan to join us there or if you need to car pool, let Joy know at the church office at 941-792-3497.

TRINITY'S NUMBER: #941-747-3704



Blue Christmas
*a service of reflection, contemplation,
and support for those living with loss
and depression this time of year*

Tuesday December 17th 6:30 pm

 **Trinity United Methodist Church**
3200 Manatee Ave W - Bradenton, FL



(Stronger Together Reaching Equality Across Manatee)

What is STREAM? It is the justice ministry that our church has been involved in for over 3 years. It is made up of 16 churches of many different denominations across Manatee County that come together to do seek justice, just as Nehemiah of the Old Testament did. It is a non-partisan group that comes together to help make big changes in our community. The group tackles problems that one individual church could never achieve. The organization has worked diligently with county leaders to make affordable housing a priority and this year the goal is to increase mental health services, especially for school aged children. There are only 4 meetings a year that we would like you to try to attend.

We are having our first meeting for this new year on Thursday, December 5th at 10:00am in our Fellowship Hall. You are invited to come join us and learn more about how our ministry can make a difference in our county. Hope to see you there!



Grace Moving In GIVING 2025

Pledge Statements

If you haven't already done so, please turn in all pledge cards as soon as you can, preferably before the end of 2024. You can also send it by mail to the church at Emmanuel United Methodist, 5115 Cortez Rd W, Bradenton, FL 34210 or bring with you to the next service.

Thank You!