

The Good News

Emmanuel United Methodist Church | JANUARY 2025

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

PASTOR'S DESK

Reverend Haley Eccles

A Word for the Journey

As we begin 2025, we are invited to reflect on how God is speaking to us—individually and as a church family. Epiphany gives us this reminder, as God speaks in ways that all people can hear: through Angels bringing messages, through the prophets who've hinted at this birth and through the stars.

On January 5th, during our Epiphany worship service, we'll have the opportunity to select star words: a single word to guide our spiritual journey throughout the year. Inspired by the Magi, who followed the star to find Jesus, this practice helps us focus on God's light in our lives and what it might reveal to us in the months ahead. Your star word might be one you draw at random—perhaps a word like hope, gratitude, or trust. Or it might be a word that stands out to you, sparking something in your heart.

Whatever word you receive, consider it a gift and an invitation to deeper reflection. How might this word shape your prayers, your actions, or your perspective this year?

Once you have your star word, keep it somewhere visible—on your fridge, by your favorite chair, or in your Bible. Last year, my word sat on my dashboard in my car as a constant reminder. Return to it often. Pray about what God might be saying to you through it and notice how it shows up in your daily life. You might journal about your word or share your reflections with others.

Let's also think about how God might be guiding our church family as a whole in 2025. Just as the Magi journeyed together, so do we. What might be the "star word" for our church this year? What is God calling us to reflect on, to pray for, or to act upon as a community? Is it *courage*, as we find new ways to reach out to our community? Is it *build*, as our capital campaign this year will help us prepare our space to serve our community? Is it *harvest*, as we

look for opportunities to reap the fruit that God is sowing all around us?

Let us follow God's light into this new year, trusting that wherever it leads, Christ will be with us every step of the way.

Blessings,

Rev. Haley Grace Eccles
Senior Pastor

I M M E R S E
The Bible Reading Experience™

New January Bible Study

IMMERSE- The Bible Reading Experience:

Wednesdays

January 8- February 26

9:30-10:30am in the Parlor
AND
on Zoom from 7-8pm

To sign up, please contact the church office or see Pastor Haley at service.

Lunch Bunch!

Calling all ladies and gentlemen! January 14th at 11:30. You're invited to start out the new year with your church family at Beef 'O' Brady's for a casual lunch and fellowship. It's always a good time of laughter and encouragement. There's a seat waiting for you!

BEEF 'O' BRADY'S
★ GOOD FOOD, GOOD SPORTS™ ★



JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 New Year's Day- Office Closed	2 Church Office Reopens	3 National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day	4
5 Communion 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	6	7	8 9:30am 'IMMERSE' Bible Study, Parlor 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice 7pm 'IMMERSE' Bible Study, via ZOOM	9 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day	10 Missional Vital Signs Due	11 National Milk Day
12 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	13 Prine Elementary tutoring orientation 9am RSVP Pastor Haley revhaleygrace@ gmail.com	14 <u>The Lunch Bunch</u> 11:30am Beef 'O' Brady's Call for more info. 863-512-0678	15 9:30am 'IMMERSE' Bible Study, Parlor 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice 7pm 'IMMERSE' Bible Study, via ZOOM	16 Fig Newton Day	17	18
19 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	20 Martin Luther King Day- Office Closed	21 Squirrel Appreciation Day	22 9:30am 'IMMERSE' Bible Study, Parlor 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice 7pm 'IMMERSE' Bible Study, via ZOOM	23 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 	24 National Peanut Butter Day	25
26 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School McCay Hall	27 Holocaust Remembrance Day	28 National Blueberry Pancake Day	29 9:30am 'IMMERSE' Bible Study, Parlor 4:00pm Worship Choir Practice 7pm 'IMMERSE' Bible Study, via ZOOM	30	31 National Hot Chocolate Day	



We are focusing on collecting, **Pet Food** (can or dried) 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!



online

Churchinbradenton.com
 OR Eumcbradenton.org

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



BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Bonnie Noles
- 5 Wayne Hasek
- 7 Julie Antworth
- 16 Katherine E. Peterson
- 18 Denise 'Dee' Scott
- 21 Grendolyn Calkins
- 25 Joel Yankyera

ANNIVERSARIES

- 22 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Michael

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



Record of Faithful Giving General Offering

12/1	\$ 5,447.00
12/8	\$ 2,615.00
12/15	\$ 2,900.00
12/22	\$ 7,592.00
12/29	\$ N/A

Weekly Attendance

12/1	60
12/8	69
12/15	74
12/22	79
12/24	4:30pm #68 6:30pm #35
12/29	59

Sunday School Bible Study

10:45am

12/1	13
12/8	14
12/15	N/A
12/22	22
12/29	Canceled

NOVEMBER: Online Viewers

	FB	YouTube
11/03	3	29
11/10	4	31
11/17	2	25
11/24	5	26

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>

2025 PRAYER REQUESTS

As we enter the New Year, we are embracing a fresh start with our church prayer list. We are resetting the prayer request section of the newsletter and bulletin in order to allow new prayers and intentions to come forth and an opportunity for an organized follow up process to be put into practice. We encourage everyone who has a prayer intention to submit your request for this New Year as we step into 2025.

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

The Lord's prayer

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE THY NAME,
THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE,
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.
AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES,
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE
WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US.
AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.
FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM,
AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY,
FOR EVER AND EVER.

Amen

Prine Partnership

Thank you for your support of our partnership and sponsoring gifts for 51 children at Robert H. Prine Elementary. We delivered the gifts on Wednesday, December 18 and they were so appreciative for our support of their kids.

We can continue to support students at Prine. Tutoring starts up again in January. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Pastor Haley to help you navigate the background process. There is an orientation on January 13 at 9am. Please let Pastor Haley know if you plan to attend so she can RSVP on our behalf.

Thanks!
Rev. Haley Grace Eccles



Thank You...

I M M E R S E
The Bible Reading Experience™

Immerse Resources

The website can be found here: <https://immersebible.com/beginnings/>

Resources on the website include a video overview each week and an audio recording for each day if it is easier to have the passages read to you. They also have a downloadable family guide.

Week 1

- 6-Jan Gen 1:1-3:24
- 7-Jan Gen 4:1-11:26
- 8-Jan Gen 11:27-18:15
- 9-Jan Gen 18:16-25:11
- 10-Jan Gen 25:12-30:24

Week 2

- 13-Jan Gen 30:25-35:29
- 14-Jan Gen 36:1-38:30
- 15-Jan Gen 39:1-41:57
- 16-Jan Gen 42:1-46:27
- 17-Jan Gen 46:28-50:26

Week 3

- 20-Jan Ex 1:1-5:21
- 21-Jan Ex 5:22-10:29
- 22-Jan Ex 11:1-15:21
- 23-Jan Ex 15:22-18:27
- 24-Jan Ex 19:1-24:18

Week 4

- 27-Jan Ex 25:1-27:21
- 28-Jan Ex 28:1-31:18
- 29-Jan Ex 32:1-34:35
- 30-Jan Ex 35:1-38:31
- 31-Jan Ex 39:1-40:38