

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VOLUME 42 - ISSUE 2

February 2011

Sunday Worship: 8:00 am - 11:00am - 6:00pm www.pcumc.info 941-625-4356 ph / 941-625-0144 fax

Certainty For Life's Uncertainty

I met with a couple the other day. They were telling me how difficult their life had become and how the strains of finances and an uncertain work environment had put them in a precarious position. A lot of their fears about life were wrapped around the uncertainty of their future. They even talked about the uncertain future of our church. What is going to happen in our world, in our country, in Port Charlotte, at Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, in our lives?

There really is a lot of uncertainty in the lives that we live. Things seem to change so quickly and we work harder and harder to try and adjust until some people just give up. "Nothing is certain anymore!"

Remember when the disciples asked Jesus about how He prayed? They asked Him if they could pray like He prayed. Do you remember how He responded? *"This, then, is how you should pray: Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread."* (Matthew 6:10-11)

Jesus didn't say "Pray this prayer," but "Pray in this manner." He taught us something wonderful about prayer: it's not the length of our prayer, the logic of our prayer, or the language of our prayer, but the faith, the focus, and the force of our prayer that causes it to be heard in heaven. "Bread" in this prayer is really symbolic of any need you have. Do you have a need today? God delights to meet your need.

There are four truths Jesus shares that can offer us certainty about our future when we pray for "daily bread."

1. Proper Priority

Did you notice the priority in this prayer: Thy name, Thy kingdom, Thy will! First comes God's name, His kingdom, and His will. Our needs follow God's needs. If we don't grasp that order then our prayers will never have the proper power. God is not a heavenly housekeeper, running around to meet our needs. Prayer isn't the way we get our will done in heaven. Prayer is the way God gets His will done on earth! If you don't establish that priority, you're not going to get your prayers answered. Why should God answer our request for daily bread if we're not going to use the strength we receive to serve Him?

2. Prayerful Petition

Some of us don't ask. It's that simple. You simply say, "Lord, I have a need." *"You do not have because you do not ask God."* (James 4:2) God answers prayer. *'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'* (Jeremiah 33:3)

February 3

New UMC Circle Begins!

February 5

Pancake Breakfast

February 11

Valentine Dinner



3. Proper Perspective

This doesn't mean you have the key to Fort Knox or you're going to get everything you want. It doesn't say God's going to meet our greed. God is going to meet our need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19) "Give us...our daily bread," may be also translated "give us this day bread sufficient for us." Our Lord taught us to pray for bread, not for cake. Sometimes we want things we don't need. And sometimes we need things we don't want. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and God will delight to meet your need.

4. Personal Part

Prayer is not a substitute for work or diligent effort. If you pray for bread, do you know how to bake it? "For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: '*The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.*'" (2 Thessalonians 3:10)

God doesn't bless laziness. Don't sit back and say, "I'm going to show my faith by doing nothing." In fact, you will show your faith by doing something, for faith without works is dead.

Jesus is heaven's bread for earth's hunger. He became the Bread of Life so you and I could have our deepest hunger met. Do you know Jesus? Friend, if you had all the bread in the world and died and went to hell, how has it helped you? There's a hidden hunger never satisfied until it's satisfied in the Lord Jesus Christ. "*Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*" (Matthew 4:4)

When you go to bed tonight, have that Bread in your heart. His name is Jesus. He'll be sufficient for tomorrow. Keep going and never quit!

Grace,

Pastor Brian

Letters

Thank you to everyone for their generosity during the holidays.

The James Family

We would like to thank you for Thanksgiving Dinner.

Pete and Dorothy Lonneville

Blood Drive Update

There were 8 blood donors for December 19, 2010. Thanks to all of you for participating.

The next blood drive will be March 13, 2011.

Extravagant Generosity

Year to Date Income (thru 12/31/10): \$843,852.75

Year to Date Expenses (thru 12/31/10): \$830,852.99

Community Outreach: Utility assistance—7 Rent—1

Sunshine Ministry

Make the most of every opportunity...
Ephesians 5:16

In a recent Sunday morning service, Pastor Brian talked about our Spiritual Gifts.

God has a plan for you to use your Spiritual Gifts and just possibly being a Sunshine Minister might be in His plan for you.

Your Spiritual Gift may be calling on shut-ins at home, or in Assisted Care Facilities to brighten up a shut-in's day!

Think about it...
Pray about it.

We meet every 2nd Wednesday at 9:00am in the Conference/Prayer room. You will always be welcomed.

February Birthdays

01	Christopher Bode	18	Lisa Friend
01	Kyle Dunda	19	Yvette McIntosh
02	Othniel Robinson	19	Jean Arnold
03	Tiffany Roberts	19	Tom Williams
04	Gene Middaugh	22	Veronica Campbell
05	Collin White	22	Nina Petro
07	Orval Gunderson	23	Ryan Yanni
07	Eugene Novak	24	Jean Pearl
08	Robin Ettinger	24	"D" Fletcher
09	Fredrick Carlsen	25	Jerri Boyd
09	Zena Burkholder	26	Eileen West
09	Olga Sabo	26	Nikki Watkins
09	Robert Stevens	27	Patty Royer
10	Nita Bruner	27	Diane DePaul
11	Hannelore Edgington	27	Addison Cates
12	Fern Grahovac		
12	Gary McNamara		
12	Hunter Reed		
12	Eric Bruner		
13	Charlotte Miller		
15	Pat Robinette		
15	David Cox, Jr.		
16	Gladys Weibley		
16	Damien Friend		
17	Betty Bruce		
18	Cynthia Witt		
18	Sheila Armour		

February Anniversaries

Mike and Joan Sniecinski	02/03/1962
Eugene and Daphne Novak	02/07/1948
Terry and Doris Hixson	02/14/1974
Tom and Marcie Marshall	02/14/1990

Naomi Circle - Begins Feb. 3

All women are welcome — come join us!!

Our mission: To assist all ministries in our church, and show our surrounding community Christian love, and have fellowship among the women in PCUMC.

Circle Leader: Leslie 941-764-0322 hm / 941-889-8537cell
email: pcumchurchlady@yahoo.com

Co-Leader: Jill Mandrick 941-661-3489 cell
email: unacceptable@aol.com

Circle Meeting Information: Every Thursday, 10am-12 noon in the PCUMC Conference Room. **
(see weekly topic focus below):

1st Thursday: Christianity

We will have a facilitator and an open discussion on a woman of the bible.

2nd Thursday: Crafts

We will make assorted crafts that can be used by different ministries throughout PCUMC and the community.

3rd Thursday: Cooking

We will work with all types of cooking including some instructional classes and field trips to professional kitchens.

4th Thursday: Community Service

We will be working outside of our church (for example Habitat for Humanity, Homeless Coalition etc.)

**Please note that child care will be available but you must sign up for it 7 days in advance for the following week (by phone, at circle meeting or UMW bulletin board). Please contact Leslie (764-0322) for details.

February Naomi Circle Calendar:

Thursday, February 3rd 10am—Noon : Christianity

Facilitator: Jill Mandrick (941-661-6489)

Topic: "Bad Girls of the Bible"

How God uses them and how we can relate to their stories.

Thursday, February 10th 10am—Noon : Crafts

Facilitator: "D" Fletcher (941-623-0642)

Topic: Crocheting - Learn to make lap blankets for the Sunshine Ministry and Prayer Shawls for PCUMC

Thursday, February 17th 10am—Noon : Cooking

Facilitator: Leslie (941-764-0322)

Topic: Top Chef... PC UMW Style

Thursday, February 25th 10am—Noon :

Community Service

Facilitator: Marie Bailey (769-0590)

Topic: Homeless Coalition

We will make "brown bag" lunches for the coalition.

Children's Ministry

We have been working hard to launch our Kid's Worship on Sundays during Church@6. This will be our third week and the children are having a great time worshipping at The Port. Please help us to spread the word. Take some brochures and tell a neighbor or a friend's child. Our mission is to anchor kids in Christ and we need you to help with our mission.



SUNDAY NIGHT:

Kids Worship (K - 5th Grades) at the Port 6-7pm
 Junior Worship (2yrs - 5yrs)
 in the Orange Room 6-7pm
 Small Groups / Snacks / Crafts for all children 7-8pm

SUNDAY MORNING:

We are starting a new group for children ages 2-5 - "Fun with God" in the Orange room. They will enjoy Bible stories, worship videos and music, crafts and more.

We are still in need of people to serve in Sunday School and Children's Church. Please pray and ask God if this is where you belong. We would love to serve with you!

In His Love,

Barbara Hald



ATTENTION ALL 1st thru 6th GRADE GIRLS!

Are you looking for a place to belong?
 Do you like making new friends?
 Are you looking for a fun way to learn more about our awesome God & His beautiful world?
 Do you enjoy playing games, singing and dancing?

If you answered yes to any of these questions then G.E.M.S is the club for you. G.E.M.S. stands for Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior and the goal of our club is to help each girl to grow in her faith while making new friends and having fun. Our first club meeting for 2011 will be on February 17th. We meet on Thursday evenings from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in Asbury Hall. Our club year runs from February thru October. We invite you to join us and see if G.E.M.S. is part of God's plan for your life. There are brochures and registration forms on the Ministry Board in the lobby. If you need any further information please contact Lisa Friend at 627-6995.

Hope to see you on
 Thursday,
 February 17th
 at 6:00pm.



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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CHURCH STAFF

Brian James, *Senior Pastor*

Ruthann Allen
Accompanist

Katherine Arthington
Communications Coordinator

Nancy Bosserdet
Finance Secretary

Ericka Brown
*Director of Children's
Weekday Ministries*

Ellen Even
Church Secretary

Barbara Hald
Director of Children's Ministry

Carol Hansen
Church Administrator

Paul Kisner
Youth Director

Mick Vincze
Church Sexton

Eileen West
Music Director & Organist

The Newsletter is published monthly.

Articles and submissions are due by the 15th of the prior month. Submissions are preferred via email. All articles are subject to editing for space and/or content.

Wills and Trusts Seminar

The Wills and Memorials committee will present a free Seminar discussing Wills and Trusts on February 16, in the New Room, from 6:30 - 8:30pm, after Wednesday Night together. Please plan to attend if you are interested.

Valentine Dinner
sponsored by the Port Charlotte United Methodist Men

**Friday, February 11, 2011
at 5:30pm**

Stop by the church office to purchase
your tickets!
For more information call:
Tom Marshall
235-1561