

# 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](http://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.

## Church@6

We have recently completed our first three Church @ 6 services. It has been exciting and exhausting to put together these services. But as I reflect on the past three weeks, I am drawn to the book of Isaiah. In the sixth chapter, Isaiah has a vision of awe-inspiring worship. He sees the Lord seated on His throne and angels standing above Him crying out "Holy, Holy, Holy". Isaiah is moved to respond. Isaiah's response is two-fold. First, he restores his

relationship with God by repenting and receiving forgiveness. Second, he answers the call of the Lord by saying "Here I am. Send me!" No matter what style of worship you prefer, true worship leads us to respond to God. Worship is meant to glorify God, but when we experience worship we strengthen our relationship with God through repentance and a deeper commitment. We also respond by answering the God's call and using our gifts to serve Him.

There is another response we are all guilty of committing. We can respond to worship with a critique, good or bad. We can focus on the sound of the choir / praise band, the song selection, the quality of the sermon, or the order of the service. It can become about what we like or what we dislike about the worship. If worship doesn't lead us to respond to God, then something is wrong, either with the service or with us.

I know that PCUMC puts forth a great effort to provide quality worship experiences, whether traditional or contemporary. It's important to give our best to God, but we must always focus on God and our response to Him. I can honestly say the best worship experiences I have had didn't involve an energetic praise band or a dynamic choir. The times of worship that changed my life involved just an acoustic guitar or no instruments at all. I remember going on my last youth retreat, sitting in a small church in Kentucky singing praise songs to God with my youth group and feeling a call by God to go into the ministry. I can also remember a few years later, when I was an intern for my old youth group, sitting around a campfire in Mexico singing praises to God with the Mexican families we had been working with all week. We could barely communicate with each other, but everyone could sing "Amazing Grace" together. At the same time, I also remember seeing the tears in the eyes of my friend Matt, who came from a broken home, when he finally realized that he had a church family. We only had one guitar and the songs were probably a little off key, but we experienced true worship, the kind of worship that changes lives. So as our church moves forward with our Traditional services and Church @ 6, we need to focus on God and our response to Him. I would like to encourage you to get involved in making our worship services a place where people encounter our amazing God.

In His Service,  
Paul Kisner



## Church@6 Worship Arts Team

We are looking for creative individuals who are passionate about worship to join our Church@6 Worship Arts Team. This team will be responsible for planning our services around a specific theme. We will focus on adding artistic elements, stage décor, video selection, and prayer station themes.

**Please call Paul Kisner if interested: 625-4356.**





## 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 1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 17<sup>th</sup>  
 at 6:00pm.

