



KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VOLUME 43 - ISSUE 3

March 2012

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

“Lent Leads Us To Our Neighbors”

Someone asked me the other day, “What is Ash Wednesday and Lent? We’re United Methodist, do we participate in those?” My answer as a United Methodist pastor is that we do participate and we should make them a meaningful event in our calendar for worship, discipleship, and service.

Ash Wednesday and the forty days of Lent are an opportunity to reconnect with what matters. For many people the season of Lent is a time for them to “give up” something... to make some sacrificial gesture that reminds them that God matters. I believe Lent is really about fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. It’s not about the promise we make to give up something; it is about the promise made by our Jesus, our Lord when he said, “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:54).

I am reminded of a quote from one of my favorite Christian theologians and writers Frederick Buechner:

“During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves. If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn’t, which side would get your money and why? When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore? If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less? Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember? Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for? If this were your last day of your life, what would you do with it? To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.”

I believe that our faith challenges us to ask ourselves as individuals and as a church, questions like these and to come up with real answers to those questions. As the pastor of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, I see lots and lots of things that God is doing through us that gives the world our answers. During this upcoming season of Lent, God is starting something through us right here in Port Charlotte that can make a difference. We are calling this ministry opportunity “**Neighbor to Neighbor**”. It is PCUMC’s opportunity to partner with another church to meet the needs of the hungry in Charlotte County. Our brothers and sisters at Trinity Charlotte Harbor United Methodist Church established a Food Pantry and Friday Hot Lunch ministry a couple of years ago.

**Join us for dinner every
Wednesday Night!**

WNT Dinner 5-6pm

Fellowship Hall

Followed by Children/Youth
at the Port & Adult Bible Studies

Saturday, March 3

Pancake Breakfast

Fellowship Hall

7-11am

Friday, March 23

Family Dinner & a Movie

DOUBLE FEATURE

“Passion” (animated version)

“Courageous” 6-8pm

PLUS - Children’s Clothes

and Toy SWAP!

Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 31

Easter Fest! 10am—Noon

continued...

Continued from cover...

Our church, through our Salty Service team, has worked to try and establish an ongoing food pantry and feeding ministry through SHARE and Angel Food Ministry (both of which have closed). When we became aware of what this faithful group of believers was doing, we asked if we could help. **“Neighbor to Neighbor”**

is the answer to that question! The site for this ministry continues to be at Trinity’s location, but PCUMC has committed to share in

- (1) Prayer for the life-transforming success of this ministry
- (2) Donation/Collection of food and supplies
- (3) Unloading of food and supplies
- (4) Financial Support
- (5) Cooking of Meals/Hospitality for feeding events



Trinity Charlotte Harbor UMC

On Sunday, February 26th, as a celebration of our new partnership, Pastor Marion Sortore, from Trinity Charlotte Harbor United Methodist Church will be preaching at all three of our Sunday worship services (8am, 11am, & 6pm). Then on Sunday, March 4th, I will have the privilege of bringing the morning message at Trinity Charlotte Harbor.

Please pray for a meaningful Lenten season and for the relationships that are forming **“Neighbor to Neighbor.”** Keep going and never quit!

Grace, Pastor Brian

In Loving Memory

Irwin Clark 2-4-2012

Sunshine Ministry

“But be doers of the Word and not hearers only.”
James 1:22

Do a good deed—just once or twice a month....
Call on a Shut-in!

The Shut-ins need a friendly face and you might be just that “up-lifter of the Spirit” the day you walk into their room.

We really need additional Sunshine Ministers. No special training needed! Just an over-flowing heart and a smiling face.

We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Conference Room from 9-10am. You will meet people with overflowing hearts wearing a smile.

Need more info? Call Doris Culver 743-5092

Letters

A note of thanks to all my church family. Your visits, cards, phone calls and prayers really made a difference during my stay in the hospital.

Thank you,

Linda Wyld

Extravagant Generosity

(as of 1/31/12)

YTD Income: \$79,496.04
YTD Expenses: \$63,971.60

Assistance:
6 Housing Assists, 7 Utility Assists





SOUTH WEST DISTRICT
THE FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Church

THE REV. DR. RINALDO D. HERNANDEZ, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
JULIE BULLERDICK, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
SANDY VOIGT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

February 2, 2012

Port Charlotte UMC
21075 Quesada Avenue
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Re: 100% Apportionment Giving in 2011

Dear Reverend James and the Congregation of Port Charlotte UMC:

As your District Superintendent, I want to express my personal gratitude and appreciation for the leadership and dedication your church as shown in giving 100% to the Conference, District and Mission apportionments. I know this is not always easy, and I want to commend you for your faithfulness in fulfilling this responsibility.

I especially want to commend you for your leadership in supporting our connectional mission in spite of the current economic times and all the many day to day issues you and your church had to face. I am grateful to serve alongside you and deeply appreciate all you do to honor Christ and His Church.

A Pastor cannot achieve this kind of record without great laity. Your lay leadership and church members are to be highly commended for your commitment to apportionment giving. I know that this faithful stewardship and commitment to the United Methodist church and beyond is a joint effort between you the Pastor and your church laity and I want you to know you have made a difference in people's lives. People's lives are being changed by your faithfulness.

I am very grateful and proud of the 100% record of your church and wish you continued Blessings in 2012.

In His Service,

Rinaldo D. Hernandez
South West District Superintendent

Office: 2049-B N. Honore Avenue, Sarasota FL 34235 • Tel: (941) 371-6511 • Fax: (941) 371-6997
Email: flumc-sw@flumc.org

Health Ministry *Jane Trammell*

For your health and well being, there are two new items that are available for the congregation.

RED DOTS are available in the office. This is a system that can be used as the “Vials of Life” are used to keep for the emergency medical community. If “911” is called, the information is readily available. A “red dot” is placed on the house and a copy of medical information is placed on the refrigerator and sent to the sheriff’s office. Please, feel free to ask any questions.



GET YOUR
RED DOT!

General information about health issues is going to be placed in the library / New Room. Similar subjects will be covered on the bulletin board in the hall beside the library. These displays will be changed in a timely manner. A critique of these items will be welcomed!

Frequently Heard Questions *No.3, Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: What is *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*?

Answer: *The Book of Discipline* is the organizational manual of The United Methodist Church. It contains the church constitution, basic doctrinal statements, and the details of church government from organizing a local church to ordaining clergy and consecrating bishops, to organizing and governing both the various conferences and church agencies, to conducting church trials for unruly clergy or laity. The former Methodist Church and its predecessors entitled their *Disciplines* “*The Doctrines and Discipline of ...*” Early preachers used to lend copies to prospective members for them to decide if they liked (or agreed with) the church’s doctrines enough to join.

Follow-up question: Why is the word *The* capitalized in *The United Methodist Church*?

Answer: The *The* is part of the church’s legal corporate name declared in opening of the church constitution. Many church leaders are sticklers about this detail (while others are not). From 1980 to 2004 *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church* (updated every four years after each General Conference) contained a resolution entitled, “Proper Use of the Name: The United Methodist Church,” which insisted on capitalizing *The*.

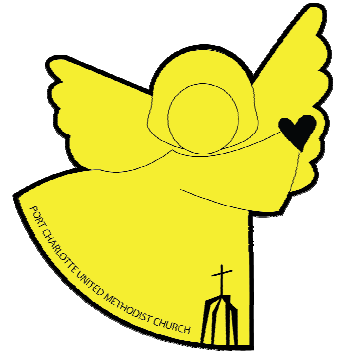
Question: If the best Bible translation is a reliable version that can readily be understood by its readers, what is “a reliable version”?

Answer: Sakae Kubo and Walter F. Specht, in their *So Many Versions?* (Zondervan, rev. 1983), list three criteria: (1) the textual basis, (2) accuracy of translation, and (3) the quality of English. Most Bible scholars prefer translations based on the oldest available Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. They assume the oldest will best reflect the originals. The science called *textual criticism*, which tries to determine the most likely wording of the originals, has reduced the quantity of doubtful text to less than half a page in a thousand and no doubtful phrase affects any commonly accepted Christian teaching. Literal translations may be considered inaccurate if they mislead the reader, so many translators strive to make their renderings follow the German principle, “As free as necessary, as true as possible.” Most prefer simple, direct, dignified wordings and disapprove of slang, colloquialisms, and regional idioms (though some think the criticisms in the *New English Bible* enhance its beauty). Some would dismiss versions coming from a single translator as inherently unreliable, but that’s not necessarily so. Solo translators, including English pastor J. B. Phillips, Jewish Christian David Stern, and Biblical counselor Jay E. Adams, have had fresh insights on what certain New Testament phrases mean that have escaped the notice of translators having other perspectives. Comparing different versions can clarify whether a rendering reflects the original’s true meaning or a translator’s flight of fancy.

Do you have a question about the Bible or United Methodist belief, organization, or practice? E-mail them to me at theexhorter_fl@yahoo.com or leave them with Katherine Arthington at the church office and I’ll try to answer as many as I can. — JAC

Salty Service *Mike Hald*

Salty Service has been very active this last month. On Feb 17, 2012 our church was able to participate in the home dedication ceremony, along with Habitat for Humanity, for the home we helped finance and build as part of the Apostle's Build program. Because the Apostle's Build program is Christ-centered and the response from our church was so wonderful last year, we have decided to participate again this year. We will raise the necessary funds by selling "Angels in the Attic" beginning the first Sunday in March and continuing throughout the month. I hope that you will again consider supporting this wonderful outreach. Please contact Amanda Kusewicz, Apostle's Build Coordinator with any questions or concerns.



Salty Service has also joined into partnership with Trinity Charlotte Harbor UMC. Together we will help support those in need in the Charlotte Harbor region. Our responsibilities to Trinity will be to aid them both financially and with volunteers. This new partnership will be known as "Neighbor to Neighbor Mission". We will be serving them by providing able-bodied persons on the first and third Thursdays of the month to help unload the Harry Chapin food truck at Trinity church's campus. Unloading begins at 11:00 am and usually lasts one hour. We also will begin collecting at our church necessary food and clothing items to be distributed at the Trinity church campus. A list of items needed can be found on the "Neighbor to Neighbor Mission" bulletin board near the Welcome Center. This list will be updated monthly to better serve their immediate needs. Lastly, we will be cooking meals every other week (Thursdays at PCUMC) to serve the less fortunate that gather at the Trinity campus on Friday mornings at 11:00 am. As you can tell, we are a very busy committee, however none of this can be accomplished without volunteers. If you feel the calling to serve, please fill out a volunteer form located on the "Neighbor to Neighbor Mission" bulletin board and put it in the Salty Service mailbox or give it to any staff member. You can also contact me if you would like to serve. Together, united by Christ, we can make a difference in our community.

Bus Trip - April 14

Looking for a really neat thing to do? How about joining a group that will be going to Wauchula to see "The Story of Noah" on Saturday, April 14, 2012? We plan on being in Wauchula by 6:30 pm to see the various pre-program activities. The program itself starts at 7:30 pm. But the best part is: this is being offered by the "Neighbor to Neighbor Mission" group. So both PCUMC and Trinity folks will be involved – what a great opportunity for all of us to get to know each other. There are only 42 seats available on our busses so sign up early for this amazing opportunity.

To sign up contact:

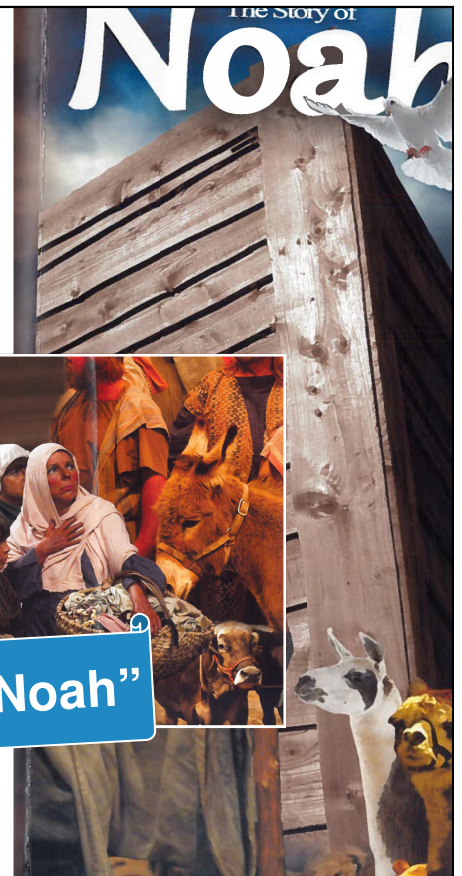
Nancy Bosserdet

625-4356

financialsec@pcumc.info



April 14th Bus Trip to "The Story of Noah"



Children's Weekday Ministry

Ericka Brown



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

Did you know that your preschool is a Gold Seal school?! That means we meet or exceed state standards. PCUMC is accredited by the United Methodist Association of Preschools (UMAP). Children's Weekday Ministry was able to take the entire staff to a weekend conference in Leesburg at the UM Warren Willis Camp last month. We would like to thank the United Methodist Men for their gift, to help make our weekend a fun filled memory maker!



The Children's Weekday Ministry is excited to be participating in the Relay for Life event, April 21st & 22nd. Relay for life helps to raise money for the American Cancer Society. It is an over night event filled with lots of fun activities. Our goal is to raise \$2,000.00. We will have some fund raisers to help us reach our goal. **We would love for you to join us.** If you can't come walk a lap or two, you can always support us by making a donation. Be on the look out for more information...

Praising God,

Ericka

Love ♥ Play ♥ Learn



January's CWM Snowball fight!

Children's Ministry

Barbara Hald

"Our PB n' Js" (Port Believers n' Jesus) are practicing on Wednesday nights from 6 to 7 for our Easter program "Until The Whole World Hears." The performance will follow WNT on April 4th at 6 pm in the sanctuary. I hope everyone will attend and support the children. "Acts of Faith" are also practicing Flags and Puppets on Sundays at 11:30.

Dinner and a Movie is Friday, March 23 in Fellowship Hall. The Movie is an animated version of "Passion of the Christ" and dinner is always a surprise, but good. We will also be showing "Courageous" in the sanctuary for adults.

EASTER FEST!

Saturday, March 31st 10 am to 12 noon

The United Methodist Men and Children's Ministry have partnered for the second annual Easter Fest. Easter Bunny, Egg Hunt, Food, Face Painting, Slides, Games, Music, Puppets and more! Please prayerfully consider helping us with this event — it is a huge outreach to our community and fun for the whole family. Contact Barbara Hald at 625-4356.

We will be collecting candy for the Easter Fest and there will be a donation basket near the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

God is so awesome and working hard in this ministry and this church. Thank you for your support and blessings.

Youth Ministry *Paul Kisner*



Youth Lock-in at First Naples UMC
March 10 -11, 2012

Cost: \$10

Deadline to Register is March 7

Leave the church at 9 am on Saturday
Return to the church at 1 pm on Sunday

March Birthdays

01 Chinn, Elbert	19 Hassell, Albert
02 Young, Mary Louise	19 Salk, Joanne
02 Shaw, Gerald	20 Lageveen, Donna
03 Mays, Marian	21 Gibbens, Eleanor
03 Miller, Lynne	21 Simpson, Pat
04 Shields, Gaye	21 Vincze, Miklos
04 Wilder, Barbara	22 Jeffers, Trudy
05 Sands, Nancy	22 Bunger, Flora
05 Laws, Judy	22 Cowan, Dorrette
05 Brown, Tom	22 Griner, Jacob
06 Steiff, Donald	23 Bowers, Jordan
06 Royer, Kayela	24 Bole, Mabel
07 Love, Emily	24 Mallay, Sylvia
07 Bailey, Sarah	24 Hixson, Doris
08 Hope, Thora	25 Carlsen, Jonathan
08 Kaufman, Nancy	26 Bunger, Don
09 Swanson, Gail	26 Lyons, Durvent
10 Weishuhn, Rachel	27 Marshall, Ann
10 Brown, Gerald	28 Gantner, Naomi
11 Rochester, Mildred	28 Diefenbach, Barry
11 Hansen, Betty	28 McCormick, Nancy
13 Gantzer, Floyd	28 Golding, Dorothy
14 Calhoun-Dadoly, Dorothy	28 Tschetter, Glen
14 Weaver, Harriet	28 Cox, Juliet
14 Couch, Joan	29 James, Hannah
15 Conway, Clay	30 Parson, Terri
16 Hall, Fred	31 Rankin, Henry
18 Littlefield, Larry	31 Anglin, Rita
18 Ayers, Lisa	
19 Nash, Joan	



March Anniversaries

March 02 Jack and Sylvia Mallay
 March 03 Bill and Dee Bishop
 March 03 David and Barbara Pennington
 March 04 Rita and Barry Anglin
 March 09 James and Mary Etta Stedge
 March 16 Pierre and Carol Fisher
 March 18 Martin and Dorothy Bayuk
 March 20 Russell and Barbara McManamy
 March 21 David Jr and Corry Cox
 March 22 Hugh and Jan Brotherton
 March 26 Paul and Marjorie Ward
 March 31 Suzanne and Matthew Dowling



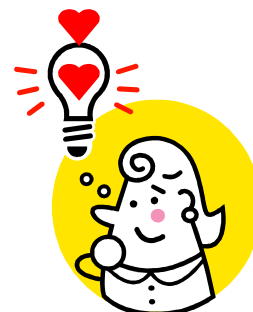
Pancake Breakfast

**Saturday,
March 3
7-11am**

Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by the
United Methodist Men

**Bring a friend, and come enjoy
the best breakfast in town!**



Bless someone by treating them to breakfast
to honor their Birthday or Anniversary!



Port Charlotte United Methodist Church
21075 Quesada Avenue
Port Charlotte, FL 33952-2546

Phone: 941-625-4356
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E-mail: info@pcumc.info
Website: www.pcumc.info

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

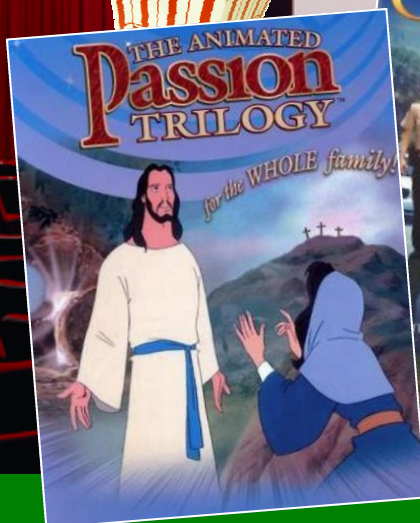
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March Movie Night Double-Feature: "The Passion" + "Courageous"



March 23

Join us for our FREE Family Dinner & a Movie
on **Friday, March 23rd at 6pm** in Fellowship Hall.

We will show the "Passion" for children in
Fellowship Hall after dinner and "Courageous" in
the Sanctuary for adults and parents after dinner.

Children's Toy & Clothes SWAP During Movie Night!