

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VOLUME 43 - ISSUE 5

May 2012

Sunday Worship: 8:00am - 11:00am - 6:00pm

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The Church: Never Changing and Always Changing

Wow! Port Charlotte United Methodist Church has had a winter season filled with so many exciting things. Since Thanksgiving we have built homes w/ Habitat and other churches of various denominations, partnered in ministry with Trinity UMC, grown our worship attendance at each of our morning services, and transitioned to a new style at our Church@Six evening service. Made decisions with regards to property that our Trustees are called to oversee (such as the Parsonage and New Beginnings Park). In just a few weeks our Confirmation Class for this year will be joining PCUMC as many of us have through the years.

One of the things I believe is powerful about the Church of Jesus Christ is how it is called to continually find new and creative ways to make itself relevant to the people of this world; while also called to hold onto things that should never change to make itself relevant to people of this world. In a world where everything seems to be up-for-grabs, and up-for-debate, the church is called to have some “non-negotiables.”

Non-negotiables are fixed elements we build upon that keep us from changing course for the wrong reasons. We need to remember and remind each other what we will not and cannot change. Non-negotiables are vital because the church is always located in the midst of the world. What kind of church should we build to reach today's people while remaining authentic to the gospel? Today's church is called to challenging times. We are called to reach a generation whose thinking and reasoning that has little root system.

Here are three PCUMC Non-negotiables:

1. Our church must have a biblical PURPOSE for ministry. (KNOW)

Our purpose for ministry determines what are the ministries we are called to and the ministries that we are not. Our purpose is non-negotiable. It serves to guide all the choices and decisions in our church's ministry.

2. Our church must have a principled MISSION of ministry. (GROW)

A principled mission for ministry determines the structure we hope to build that will not allow contradictions or inconsistencies. To build that kind of structure, you have to construct an impenetrable base on which all our ministries can rest.

3. Our church must communicate a consistent VISION for ministry. (GO)

Creative ways to communicate our vision are important, but we must always continue to hold our vision of “why we do what we do” in front of our church family. Our vision serves as a frame within which we can all serve and work.

“O God, may PCUMC is committed to our non-negotiables, those things which help us to KNOW, GROW, and GO as Your people. Amen.”

Grace, Pastor Brian

May 13

Blood Drive

8am—1:30pm

May 23

Preschool Graduation

6pm - Sanctuary

May 25

Family Dinner & a Movie

6pm - Fellowship Hall
Featuring: “Despicable Me”

May 28

Church Offices Closed

Memorial Day

Loving Memory

Anna Johnson 4-2-2012
Hugh Young 4-10-2012



Neighbor to Neighbor Mission *Mike Hald*

The Neighbor to Neighbor mission is in need of volunteers to help unload the food truck on Thursdays from 11am—12pm and serve / distribute food on Fridays 10am—1pm.

If you would be willing to serve, please fill out a volunteer form on the Neighbor to Neighbor bulletin board or contact Mike Hald 625-7212.

UPDATE ON CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our District Superintendent Rev. Rini Hernandez presided over the Church Conference held 4/16.

Following a presentation by the Trustees and discussion by those present, the congregation overwhelmingly approved the sale of the parsonage with a vote of 70 to 2. The Board of Trustees will now move forward with a realty firm who will handle the sale.

Letters

Pastor Brian:

I wanted to take just a moment to express my sincere appreciation to you, the staff and congregation of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, for the use of your facilities over the past five weeks as we completed training a class of 28 CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) members. Having first joined that church (now a member of Englewood UMC) nearly 45 years ago and being there for six years as an MYF member until leaving for college, it always brings back pleasant memories of that period in my life when I visit the Church.

I know that there is always something going on somewhere on campus and that necessitated moving our class around from room to room. Trust me, we didn't mind for a minute. The community spirit shown by PCUMC in hosting this vital public safety training shows what an important part your church plays in the overall fabric of Port Charlotte and its residents. Our students came from across the county and represented many different faiths, but I know they always felt the warmth and welcoming spirit of what will always be my "home church."

Thank you again for working with us in this effort. We now have 28 more citizens ready to assist neighbors in times of need should a disaster (big or small) impact them. Your willingness to participate has gone a long way in making that possible. If I can in any way be of service to you or the PCUMC congregation, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Wayne

Wayne P. Sallade', FPEM
Director
Office of Emergency Management
Charlotte County Government

Extravagant Generosity

(as of 3/31/12)

YTD Income \$229,167.95
YTD Expenses \$229,838.25
A/C Fund \$16,707.00
HELP
Utilities—1
Miscellaneous—4

Pastoral Care Training Event - May 22

ATTENTION All Pastoral Care team members AND all who would wish to become members [or people who care/people of faith]. A training event will be conducted at Charlotte Regional Hospital by Rev. Larry Pope - Corporate Chaplain of Health Management Associates, Inc. on May 22nd from 10 am until 2 pm. This will be an excellent opportunity to expand your God-given gift of caring and I urge you to attend. Lunch will be provided. Contact Kamela, phone: 941-637-3128 or at kamela.robbins@hma.com For more information contact Terry Hixson 235-3556.

Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: Are United Methodists born-again Christians?

Answer: Some are. John and Charles Wesley, Francis Asbury, Thomas Coke, Philip Otterbein, Martin Boehm, and Jacob Albright, and other UMC pioneers had the “born-again” experience. Our Confession of Faith (art. vii), quotes Jesus on the question: “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). But today some have become church members without having been born again. Retired UMC pastor Ira Gallaway had been a church member for years before he was born again. Soon afterward he was called to preach. What do we do with these folk? What Gallaway’s people did for him. We love them, witness to them, pray for them, and let the Holy Spirit do the rest.

Question: We used to have Heritage Sunday in April. Now the calendar places it on May 20. What’s going on?

Answer: Before the Methodist-Evangelical United Brethren union in 1968 that formed The United Methodist Church, the Methodists celebrated Aldersgate Sunday, the Sunday on or just before May 24. May 24, 1738, was the day John Wesley was born again. Traditionally, that day marks the beginning of the Wesleyan revival (often called “Methodism”). EUB’s observed Pioneer Day in January, but made little of it. The 1976 General Conference authorized the first Heritage Sunday in May on what used to be Aldersgate Sunday. But the next General Conference moved it to the Sunday on or right after April 23, the anniversary of the 1968 union. Because the union intended to create a new church out of the former Methodist and EUB churches, they decided that May date betrayed of the ideals of the union. But the April date never worked. It came too soon after Easter and congregations were exhausted. Moreover, other special Sundays often fell on the same day and took priority. Repeatedly, the General Commission on Archives and History petitioned to return to the May date, while others (I, for one) recommended the third Sunday in June (Father’s Day). (Wesley, Otterbein and other UMC pioneers were born in June.) The 2004 General Conference voted to restore the May date.

Question: What Bible version do United Methodists prefer?

Answer: That depends on which United Methodist you ask. German UMs prefer a German version. Those in the Côte d’Ivoire or the Congo want a translation in French or one of the African languages. When I took the *Disciple Bible* study, many participants carried well-worn copies of *The Living Bible Paraphrased*. Many of our people today prefer the *New Living Translation* or the *New International Version*. Dick Fields, our former Lay Leader, called the *Good News Bible* his favorite. The United Methodist Publishing House (also known as Abingdon Press) has long told would-be authors that they prefer the National Council of Churches’ *New Revised Standard Version*, but Abingdon’s now the exclusive publisher of the new *Common English Bible* which came out last fall. David deSilva, Art and Dottie’s son, was one of its translators.

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

Children's Ministry

Barbara Hald

The Children's Ministry will be going strong through the summer! Vacation Bible School is June 25-29. We are doing "Pandamania" and would love to have you join us. Registration begins Sunday, May 6th for our church and opens to the public Monday May 7th at 9am. Look for volunteer sign-up sheets to in lobby.

P, B n J's are still meeting in The Port on Wednesdays through the summer. We are starting "Bible Journey" — exploring the who, when and where of the Bible. "Bible Journey" will consist of a bible lesson, fellowship and games from 6-7:30pm at the Port.

Note: There will be no "P, B n J's" on May 23rd due to Preschool graduation.

On the 5th Sunday of each month, children will be greeters at the 11:00 service. Sue and Jeff West will gather children at 10:30 in the lobby by the children's area.

Church@6 new series – "Kingdom Tales, Helping Children Form a Godly Character."



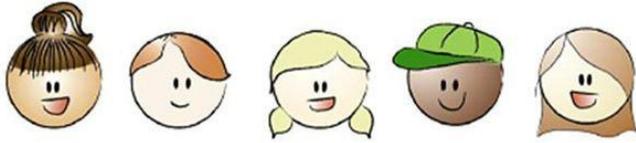
Family Dinner and a Movie

May 25th 6 – 8pm
Featuring:
"Despicable Me"

FREE!

Children's Weekday Ministry

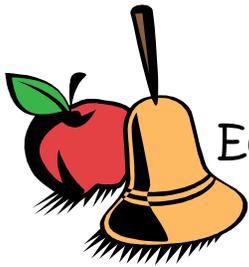
Ericka Brown



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

CWM Graduation
Wednesday, May 23
6pm in the Sanctuary
 * * *

All are invited to come
 celebrate our CWM
 VPK graduates!



Our Annual Education Celebration

is being planned for
 Sunday, May 20th
 at the 8am and 11am services.
 Our youth will be confirmed and teachers
 will be recognized and celebrated.
Join us!

Youth Ministry *Paul Kisner*



School's Out Celebration
Putt Putt and
Ice Cream Social
 Wednesday, May 23
 6:00 – 8:30 pm
 Cost: \$7



Summer Kickoff
Messy Game Night
 Games, Pizza, Drinks,
 and slip and slide
 Wednesday, May 30
 6:00 - 8:30 pm
FREE

May Birthdays

01 Irwin Schinkel	16 Bea Bower
01 Anna Croft	16 Lynda Freas
01 Lisa Dixon	18 Jean Elekes
02 Renee Coccaro	18 Barbara Hald
03 Annette Emerich	19 Mae Herzstock
03 Suzanne Dowling	20 Jennifer Lamanna
03 Alexis Hald	21 Roger Anderson
04 June Butler	21 Evelyn Welsh
04 Cole Mandrick	21 Eudoris McDonald
05 Jennie Poteat	21 Elizabeth Hone
05 Blake Royer	21 Terry Hixson
07 Muriel Marshall	21 Scott Mathias
08 Loren Allen	22 Marjorie Force
08 Burelle Curtis	24 Vivian Bennett
09 Vicki Timper	24 Sidney White
09 Dorothy Bagley	24 Pete Coccaro
10 Ruth Mullen	25 Pat Thompson
10 Janet Vargo	25 Jan Brotherton
10 Jim Marshall	25 Verlin Green, Jr
11 Rose Yienger	25 Misty Royer
12 Bill Wyld	25 Corry Cox
12 Rex White	26 Sara Richter
12 Joey Petro	28 Tyler Setser
12 Adrianna Radil	30 Odie Coker
13 Dorothy Lonneville	30 Karen Wenck
13 Dorothy Bayuk	31 Herbert Schwartz
14 Ron Royer	31 Carolyn Sanders
14 Bradley Baker	31 Janet LaFond
15 Linda Anderson	31 Dwaine Yanni

May Anniversaries

May 02 Pete and Beth Coccaro
 May 08 Glenn and Sue Edmiston
 May 28 Calvin and Joann Gress
 May 30 Merle and Eudoris McDonald



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Southwest District Training Event for Church Leaders

Cultivating More & Better Leaders

Calling all leaders in the church. This is an event that we need to participate in. We owe it to each other and to the members of our church.

The event will be led by two of the most knowledgeable people in the Florida UMC Conference, Dr. Jeff Stiggins and Dr. Phil Maynard, both from the office of Congregational Development. The first session is on May 11th and will cover Cultivating Vital Personal Foundations; Helping Disciples Discern their Calling; Multiplying Congregational Leaders. The event will occur at Christ UMC, Venice, FL. You will need to register online at www.flumc.org. Select "Districts" on the left side of the home page. Select "South West". Select the event described above.

For more information contact Terry Hixson
235-3556.

New Bible Study on the Book of John

Wednesday Night (6pm) &
Friday Morning (10am) in the New Room

The Gospel of John – “The Gospel That Is Different”

The Gospel of John is one of the most popular writings of the New Testament. It is unique in many aspects of its style and outlook. We will spend time together looking at...

- (1) The uniqueness of the Gospel of John as a literary work.
- (2) The use of thought and symbolism in the Gospel of John.
- (3) The contributions of the gospel as a whole to the life and thought of the early Christian movement.
- (4) The impact of the book on each person in their personal faith.