

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 2013

Sunday Worship: 8am - 11am - 6pm

www.pcumc.info

941-625-4356 ph / 941-625-0144 fax

"WHAT WAS, WHAT IS, AND WHAT SHALL BE!"

Sunday, March 17th was a wonderful day at Port Charlotte United Methodist Church! It was welcome, and worship, renewed relationship and new opportunities, it was what "has been" coming together with the belief that "what will be" is awesome.

It was so good to have Rev. Jim Kuse back to preach from God's Word, and to have Kathleen Barber share her musical gifts with us in a single, wonderful worship service that our Worship Committee and Chancel Choir helped create... to be able to fellowship with them with all the wonderful refreshments that our Hospitality Ministry prepared for us. Then to be able to gather with our sister church, St. James Episcopal Church, and to rededicate the beautiful Stations of the Cross in New Beginnings Park, that were made possible through memorial gifts and that Trustees from our combined churches installed. What a joy!

I hope we recognize that our celebrations on that Sunday were far deeper than just good friends getting together for a single day of celebration. It is an example of life as God intended His people to live it. Let me explain what I mean.

After God's people finally reached the Promised Land, God told them to form a monument to be a continual reminder of His guidance and blessing in crossing the Jordan River. *"When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, 'Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight'"* (Joshua 4:1-3). Joshua carried out the Lord's commands and explained to the men that this would "serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord.... These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever" (Joshua 4:6,7).

God wants to see His people living lives that are filled with genuine praise and thanksgiving for what He has done in the past. He wants our hearts to be filled with awe and gratitude for His blessings. He wants us to create memories and reminders in our heads and in our hearts testifying to all that He has blessed us with. He also wants our lives to reflect that we believe He will be the source of all our blessings in the future.

continued on next page...

**Join us for dinner every
Wednesday Night!**
WNO Dinner 5-6:30pm
Fellowship Hall
Followed by Children/Youth
at the Port & Adult Bible Studies

Monday, April 1
Church offices & CWM
will be closed

Saturday, April 6
Pancake Breakfast
Fellowship Hall 7-11am
Boy Scouts Yard Sale
Back Parking Lot 8am-1pm



Saturday, April 13
Church Potluck Picnic
Outside & Fellowship Hall
11am—2pm

Friday, April 19
Family Dinner & a Movie
6-8pm Fellowship Hall

continued from cover...

We do not fully honor God when we are only willing to believe that we are a people that "were" blessed, or when we look at a bright future and fail to recognize how God guided us to this place from where we once were. God answers our prayers to strengthen our faith in Him, to help us trust in His Word, to glorify Himself, and to express His love for us.

When we face difficult times, we often become blinded by our problems and forget how God has always provided the solutions to our past troubles. God wants to see that His past aid did not go unnoticed or unappreciated, and that we are still trusting Him for our glorious future. After we have spent time in praise and thanksgiving, we can then ask Him to again help us so that our blessings can glorify Him.

As the days of Holy Week and Easter come and go, I know that you join me in thanking God for all that Port Charlotte United Methodist Church has been, is now, and will be. Let's continue to praise God for who He is and thank Him for the many blessings He has given and continues to give to us.

Remember the words of the psalmist, *"I love the Lord, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy. Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live."* (Psalm 116:1,2)

Keep going and never quit!

Grace,

Pastor Brian



The 3M Sunday School class is offering college scholarships to 2013 graduating seniors. See Paul Kizner, our Youth Director for application forms and information. Deadline is May 19, 2013

Loving
Memory

Burke Robinette 3-21-13

Letters

Greetings from Bethlehem Bible College!

We extend to you belated wishes for a Happy New Year! We pray that as you continue through the year, God's blessings will be multiplied and that you will be enriched in every way to serve our Lord and Savior!

Thank you for your recent donation to our ministry. Your gift was directed to the Shepherd Society in order to support a family in need. In this family, their 12-year-old daughter was diagnosed with Leukemia. She is now taking chemotherapy in preparation for a bone-marrow transplant. We value your prayers for the situation of this family who are poor already and now are struggling with this challenge.

We value your prayers for this New Year as we fulfill the call to make disciples of all nations and we welcome your continued involvement with BBC ministries!

Warm regards,

Brenda Awad
Development Liason
Bethlehem Bible College

Extravagant Generosity

Y-T-D Income \$137,531

Y-T-D Expenses \$170,017

Assistance:

Rent—2 Other—2 Gas Vouchers—20

Family Ministry *Allison Motherway*

This had been a very busy season and I hope everyone is happy and healthy. I wanted to take a moment and thank some wonderful people that have been a blessing to my life that made the SUNSHINE BOXES a reality this season. Hopefully, they brought a bright smile to many faces.

We have some fun and exciting events coming up. Please remember to always check the lobby bulletin board for sign-up sheets, current information, and handouts. Please feel free to take information that is posted for you. Currently I have posted the latest information on the Port Charlotte Historical Society Memberships to get you the best prices for museums and other fantastic rates at exciting places. Upcoming trips will be geared to these places so that the prices are reasonable for families.

Mark your calendars! "Faith Night" at the Stone Crabs baseball field is back with fireworks. Your ticket will include a drink and hot dog. Information and sign-up sheet is in the lobby. No transportation is being provided and tickets are being ordered in advance at a special discount. If you want to participate, you must sign up and pay by the specified date on the sign-up sheet.

I hope you all are able to come visit the church at some of the various activities set up and we get to know each other. Have a wonderful month full of many blessings. If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at amotherway@aol.com or call me, Allie at 941-257-8750.

Children's Ministry *Barbara Hald*

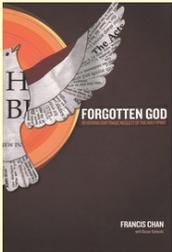
I want to thank everyone who made our Easter Fest a huge success. 90 people from our church came to serve at the event, plus those who donated candy and helped stuff over 7000 eggs. This was truly a church-wide event. The red shirts were out and it was truly an awesome start to Holy Week.

Easter week is always my favorite week at our church. The care and effort put into celebrating our Lord and Savior is so moving. I am in awe! Thank you to all who make it happen.

The Acts of Faith will be going to Sterling House with Ms. "D" for worship. I need help with this mission. Every month the team hopes to get out in the community, but that takes more than just me. So please come talk to me. You will be amazed at the feeling you get when you see the faces of joy the children bring.

Easter Fest
2013



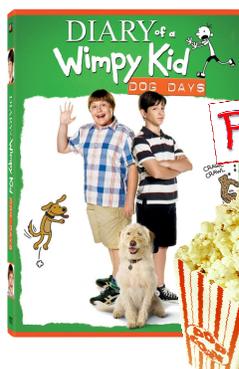


Family Ministry
Sunday Morning Study Group

New Study
Forgotten God:
*Reversing Our Tragic Neglect
of the Holy Spirit*

Pastor Francis Chan offers a compelling invitation to understand, embrace, and follow the Holy Spirit's direction in our lives.

DVD study begins April 21 at 9:30am.
Join us in the conference room for discussion and reflection.



Family Dinner & a Movie

Friday, April 19
6-8pm in Fellowship Hall
Featuring:

"Diary of a Wimpy Kid - Dog Days"
Menu: Pizza & Ice Cream



Children's Weekday Ministry

Ericka Brown

Dates to Remember:

April 1: No School (There will be NO CTJ this week)

April 30: Walk in Day

April Prayer:

(Tune: Little Bunny Foo Foo)

Thank you, thank you, Jesus

Thank you, thank you, Jesus

Thank you, thank you, Jesus

for our food today

Bible Verse:

Pray at all times

Romans 12:12

In March we celebrated Dr. Seuss. We read his books, played Seuss games, and even tried green eggs and ham. The kids each got to take a picture with "The Cat in the Hat" and the teachers were feeling a little left out... so he posed with us too! We had a wonderful spring break and came back eager to learn. We especially liked when Ms. Pennington came to teach us all about Easter using the "Resurrection Eggs". Each of the twelve eggs has a symbol representing the Easter story. It's a fun way to teach the kids about this spectacular holiday.

April is full of letter and number review as we start preparing for Graduation in May. We also get to explore two of our favorite children's authors, Eric Carle and Laura Numeroff. We will be doing our own "Book It" program. Domino's has offered us pizza certificates for all of the CWM children. Our scripture focus is Romans 12:12 Pray at all times.

Please continue to lift the children and families of the program in prayer.

Praising God,
Ericka
Love ♥ Play ♥ Learn

Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: Why do we have so many different denominations? Don't they signify a lack of love between Christians?

Answer: Sometimes they do. But separate church organizations may exist for other reasons. The Canadian branches of the Evangelical Church of North America (formerly the Northwest Canada Conference of The Evangelical United Brethren Church) and the Indianapolis-based Missionary Church found they operated more effectively under Canadian law as Canada-only churches. So in 1993 they peacefully left their parent churches and merged as the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada. In *Youth Asks, Why Bother About God?* (Thomas Nelson, 1967), Alvin Rogness likens denominations to regiments in an army. Each has their regimental songs, traditions, and loyalties, but over and above them is a higher loyalty to the one common Commander-in-Chief! In *The Power of Vision* (Regal, 1992), George Barna says that God places different churches in a community to attract different segments of the unchurched: "God is not redundant, nor does He need to assign the same task to a number of different congregations ... He allows so many churches to reside in an area because He has a unique plan for each one ..." (p. 55).

Question: Who is this George Barna you just quoted? Why should we listen to him?

Answer: George Barna (1955-) is a Christian market researcher, the founder of the Barna Group (formerly, the Barna Research Group), a market research firm, based in Ventura, California. They specialize in helping churches and other nonprofit organizations understand social trends, clarify their mission understandings, and operate more effectively in the world today. Some UM general agencies have hired them to research various issues. Barna has written more than 40 books based on his firm's research. Besides *The Power of Vision*, these books include *Marketing the Church* (Regal, 1988), *User Friendly Churches* (Regal, 1991), and *The Frog in the Kettle* (Regal, 1990), which described the challenges American churches would face in the 21st century.

Question: Among the furnishings in Solomon's Temple is a "large round tank, 15 feet across from rim to rim; ... 7½ feet deep, and about 45 feet in circumference" (1 Kings 7:23 *New Living Translation* — NLT). Aren't these dimensions impossible under geometry's law of π (π)?

Answer: Unbelievers love this verse because it proves, they claim, that Scripture contains mistakes, so it can't be the error-free Word of God. But, in *The Battle for the Bible* (Zondervan, 1976), Harold Lindsell points to verse 26, which gives the vessel's thickness as a "handbreadth" (KJV) or "four inches" in the *New Century Version*. The NLT says, "three inches," but that would be an awfully small hand. Lindsell estimates it at 4 inches, making the internal diameter 14⅓ feet. When you multiply 14.33 by π (3.14159), the internal circumference is about a quarter inch more than 45 feet. That's close for an age that didn't even know about *zero*, let alone *decimals*!

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 Warden at the church office and I'll try to answer as many as I can.



Greetings from Connie

February 2013

Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana
Apartado 42 Barahona, Dominican Republic

New Ladies' Group

We are very proud of all the youth we have integrated in our church, but at the same time, we realize how important it is to reach all age groups. Happily we now have six women who have accepted Christ and have joined our church. We have begun meeting on Wednesday afternoon for Bible study and fellowship. Since few if any of them bake, I decided to do a little baking with them. They have learned to make no-bake cookies and oatmeal cookies. What fun they had! Life for women in the rural villages is a lot of work and it is wonderful to see them having a little fun. Many are raising their grandchildren and seldom do anything for themselves. It is important that the church serve as a loving support for these women, some who are widows and very lonely.



Paved Roads in Bombita?

Yes, it is true. The main road through Bombita has been paved. This includes the entire entranceway to the COPA school and clinic. It will help so much to cut down on the dust that is tremendous around the COPA property.



Special Services

We have found that it is very important to have special 'themed' services to attract new people to the church. In this way, we encourage people to 'come and see.' In February we had a "Bring a Friend Service." We had lots of fun activities as it was the Saturday evening youth service and many came. Not all the visitors stayed for the picture so it was actually more than you see here. We are trying to improve our 'follow-up' ministry so more will return for other services.



We also had a special service for Day of Love and Friendship which is also known as Valentine's Day. Again we filled the youth service with lots of fun activities, but we also had a special message of love from God!



[MISSIONARY UPDATE: CONNIE DI LEO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC]

Baptism at Quimeito Beach

Baptisms are always very special times in the life of our church. After months of preparation we went to the beach and three youth and one adult was baptized. While the Evangelical Church does believe and teaches infant baptism, practice has not yet accepted in in many areas. We dedicated another baby in our Sunday service and we are happy that these new mothers are bringing their babies to be dedicated. It gives us a good opportunity to speak to them about their responsibility to raise the child in the way he/she should go and that means leading by example. We hope the mothers will continue to attend the church and hopefully make their commitment to Christ.



Leadership Development

Much of my work here is leadership development. With a church made up of youth and young adults and adults with no church experience, much time is spent in training. The General Board of the United Methodist Church has sent various groups to hold training workshops which have helped a lot. Pictured here is Nairobi who attended a workshop on working with adolescents. She was so excited about what she learned, she returned and held a four week Bible study to pass on what she learned. She has taken on the responsibility of working with the adolescents in our church and has shown a tremendous growth.



House Services

We continue to have 'house services' which take place in front of the house so as to be a presence in the neighborhood. We try to invite neighbors to participate with us. In this way we at least get the Word of God to more people who maybe have not yet braved coming to church. If they won't come to church, we'll take church to them! My young folks do such a wonderful job bringing a message of evangelization to each of these services. Wouldn't that be fun to do this in your neighborhood?????



Prayer Requests:

- For health of everyone here due to increase of dengue fever.**
- For fruits of our evangelism efforts.**
- Prayers for all the teams that have visited us.**
- For the eyesight of Dr. Mike**

**Rev. Connie Di Leo, Advance Special # 014169
connie_copa@yahoo.com 1-809-399-3096**

General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church

April Birthdays

01 Paul Ward
 01 Jerry Swanson
 01 Paul Bencivengo
 02 Frederick Paulsen
 02 Joann Gress
 04 Louise Patchen
 04 John Minehan
 04 Caleb Cox
 05 Viris Brown
 06 Darcy Wright
 07 Delma Giles
 08 Ella Ashley
 09 Helen Ross
 10 Linda Layman
 11 Linda Lawson
 12 LaVonne Goodell
 13 Maxine Giles
 13 Marilyn Morrison
 14 Shannon Roberts
 15 Barbara Pennington
 15 Guy Emerich
 17 Onie Fuller
 17 Betty Rankin
 19 Ruth Miller
 19 Veronica Vieux
 20 Andy Anderson
 21 Charlton Christman
 21 Jim McGuire



21 Ray Rowley
 22 Nicholas Cocco
 23 Mary Huggins
 23 Weltha Carr
 24 David Stout
 24 Carrie Weller
 24 Jessica Dunda
 26 Calvin Gress
 26 Charlene Ball
 26 Cynthia Friend
 26 Julie Motherway
 27 Hilda Ramer
 27 Eva Welch
 27 Fran Rowley
 28 Sid Scott
 29 Esther Schaumleffel
 29 Marilyn Siebenburgen
 30 Marilyn Thompson

April Anniversaries

02 Irwin and Jan Schinkel
 04 David and Mary Cox
 14 Phil and Judy Western
 14 Cecil and Violet Ward
 15 Don and Flora Bunger
 21 Leo and Inez Jones
 29 Paul and Dawn Kisner



Have you been joining us on Wednesday nights? It is a great time to come enjoy dinner, fellowship and stay for one of our Bible studies or activities.

There is something for everyone!

Dinner begins at 5, with a program from 6-6:30. Small groups and activities follow dinner.

Come join us!

APRIL WNO MENU:

- April 3: Chicken Alfredo, California Veggie Blend, Garlic Bread, Soup by Frank
- April 10: Meatloaf, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Soup by Frank
- April 17: Roasted Chicken, Yellow Rice, Beets, Soup by Frank
- April 24: Pot Roast, Roasted Potatoes, Carrots, Soup by Frank

CHILDREN Kindergarten – 5th Grade

PBnJ's (Port Believers in Jesus)
 6-7:30pm at the Port

PB& J's includes a scripture lesson, small groups, crafts and games

YOUTH 6th – 12th Graders

6-8:15pm in the Youth Room

CHOIR

Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm in the Choir Room

ADULT STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Pastor's Study
 6:30pm, New Room

Parents' Study Group
 6:30pm, Conference Room

"Direction and Hope" Bible Study
 7:15, Education Office

Nursery care is available during all small groups.



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Website: www.pcumc.info
Facebook: facebook.com/portcharlotteumc

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Boy Scouts *Tom Koontz, Scoutmaster Troop #37*

This summer from June 26 through July 7, your Boy Scout troop (37) is visiting the nation's capital. We will be taking 26 scouts and 6 leaders to see the Capitol Building, Smithsonian museums and a tour of Arlington cemetery and staying at a few other United Methodist churches along the way. To help out with the rising cost of fuel, we will be having a multi-family yard sale in the church parking lot and inside Fellowship Hall on April 6th from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM. If you have any items you wish to donate, please call Tom Koontz (941) 276-1796 for pickup and please stop by and do some shopping at the yard sale. Thanks for all you do for us, we are so blessed to have a home here at Port Charlotte United Methodist Church.



Yard Sale
Saturday, April 6
8am—1pm
(During our UMM
Pancake Breakfast)

Youth Ministry *Paul Kisner*

April Wednesday Night Series:

“Soul Detox:

Clean Living in a Contaminated World”

- April 3: Lethal Language
- April 10: Scare Pollution
- April 17: Radioactive Relationships
- April 24: Outdoor Game Night
- May 1: Septic Thoughts
- May 8: Germ Warfare



Outdoor Game Night
April 24 6:00-8:15pm

Join us for a fun night of games in the park, including a water balloon launching competition!