

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 2016

Sunday Worship: 8am - 9:30am - 11am www.pcumc.info 941-625-4356 ph / 941-625-0144 fax

“THE PLOT TWIST IN THE EASTER STORY”

If you read a book, or see a movie, you often find that sometimes the critical message of the story develops through an obvious progression, while at other times it is revealed through a surprise ending or a plot twist. The Easter story is a vivid example that things aren't always as they seem. Easter offers us the greatest plot twist in human history!

It's easy to miss the true message of the Easter Story. Some of us have heard it so many times, while others think hearing it once is more than enough. Whether once or once again, it's important to hear it new each time. The disciples, the ones who lived through the story, experienced it far differently than us. Their moments living the story were ones that seemed like they would follow an obvious script for Jesus and for them: arrest, trial, crucifixion for one, and fear for all the others. The story of Easter reveals a plot by the religious leaders of Jesus' day to take down a rebel once and for all. As Jesus is handed over to the authorities, the picture that's painted is that Caesar is king, his kingdom rules and the Roman cross would have the last say. What happened next stands the story on its head. That is why the story has to be experienced fresh each time. The power of Easter is in the plot twist at the end!

Easter dares to turn the tables and tell us that a man convicted is not really guilty, that a brutal instrument of torture and death is really a symbol of hope and grace, and an empty tomb is what we should have expected to find all along.

The path to the cross was a willing conviction accepted by God in the most subversive act on Earth — a conspiracy to take on the sin of the world and launch a counter-kingdom that would overthrow every worldly empire. Not by violence or brute force, but by love and sacrifice — through Christ.

Easter reminds us that even though we live in a world with places of horrible brutality, and rampant injustice, we still know God is working His will, and that His love is greater. Resurrection is just as powerful and just as real.

At a time when the Caesars of our day still claim to rule and injustice seems commonplace, the revolutionary hope of new life springs up in our hearts. We embrace the promise of Christ and experience the call of an extreme God to believe and belong.

continued on next page...

Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship at 8 & 11
Contemporary 9:30am



Wednesday Nights

WNO Dinner: 5-6:30pm
Children's Ministry: 6-7:30pm
Youth: 6-8:15pm
Adult Studies: 6:30-7:30pm

Saturday, April 2

Pancake Breakfast 7-11am

Sunday, April 3

Motorcycle Blessing 10:30am



Visit us online for
audio sermons,
upcoming events
and more:
www.pcumc.info



continued from previous page...

This new way, this subversive hope, is a call to live counter to the tendencies of darkness and selfishness and to embrace the resurrection life. In this, we not only celebrate the story of Easter, but we are transformed by Christ through the twist in the story. New life is delivered in the AHA moment that is too good not to be true!

Christ calls His church to continue to live out the resurrection life in every generation. We are Easter people, carrying on and carrying out the subversive plot that God began in Christ.

Church family, I hope that you will continue to relive the surprise ending of Easter resurrection. Relive over and over, the story with a fresh and renewed passion. Relive the reality of a risen Lord and new life!

Keep going and never quit!

Grace,
Pastor Brian

Extravagant Generosity

Y-T-D February 2016
Income \$136,873.12 Expenses \$121,051.94
Community Assistance:
Utilities: 8 Housing: 3 Other: 3



Welcome Gayla! *Our New Church Administrator*

My name is Gayla Pressner, a single mom of 2 grown kids. My son Nicholas has his Doctorate in Pharmacology and my daughter Trisha has her Bachelor of Science in Nursing; both are Purdue Alumni. They are still residing in Indiana. The loves of my life are my 4 beautiful grandchildren: Noah who will be 9 in August, Ben 7, Gabby 7, and Amelia who will be 3 in July.

My background includes a Certificate in Religious Studies from Calumet College of St Joseph, Architecture/ Construction Technology from Purdue and BFA of Interior Design from Ray College of Design. My work experience varies as an Interior Designer for Marshall Fields in Chicago, to retail management and College Admissions.

A native Hoosier, I was an active member of the Ogden Dunes Beach Community in NW Indiana. I was a member of the Women's club, Book Club and other social activities. I have always enjoyed my days at the beach, reading and relaxing with my neighbors. So, wanting more and longer summers prepared me for my recent move to Florida.

I love to cook and especially bake, which is my passion and a great way to relieve stress. My co-workers loved my "stress samples" so much that they convinced me to start my own home-based business. Thus, gayladeddesserts was started and I stayed active baking, not just for family and friends, but friends of friends, etc. I have a Facebook page and have just recently started work on a webpage, gayladeddesserts.wix.com/baking.

I love being outdoors and really look forward to getting back to running/walking and biking. Also, I want to pick up golf again, which will require not only dusting off my clubs but getting some much needed lessons.

I know I have a lot to learn but with time and the help of Carol and everyone, I am sure we can make the transition as seamless as possible. I look forward to meeting all of you, learning your names, and of course, being your Church Administrator.





TEAM MEETING
April 3rd
12:30pm
New Room

ALL ARE WELCOME – JOIN US!



Monday, April 18th 5:30 pm

Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: In March, you talked about The United Methodist Church's being divided, or *in schism*, according to John Wesley's definition, "mainly over Biblical authority." How so?

Answer: Books have been written on small aspects of this question. It involves 150-250 years of our history. We have many groups holding diverse views about the Bible's authority. Worldwide, most UMs believe with John Wesley, "if there be any mistakes in the Bible, there may as well be a thousand. If there be one falsehood in that book, it did not come from the God of truth" (Wesley, *Journal*, July 24, 1776). But from Wesley's time, many skeptics have rejected this view, His contemporary, Scottish philosopher David Hume, argued that miracles were impossible and the Bible's miracles (including Jesus' resurrection) were either misinterpretations of the facts or made-up tales. Others misinterpreted archeological finds or used theories of literary development to call the Bible unreliable, a purely human creation. In the late 1800s, these skeptics got allies in the church, when some seminary teachers and preachers adopted their views. Then, having rejected the Bible's customary teaching, they tried to refashion the church into one better matching their ideals. They're still around. Others have believed in God's grace through Jesus' resurrection, yet have held that the Bible contains mistakes. I was one of them. Another group rejects anything in the Old Testament that isn't verified in the New. Others want to focus on Jesus' teachings alone, seeing the rest of the Bible as hardly mattering — *even Jesus' resurrection!* Still others, even when they believe with the majority, try to keep peace and church unity by keeping silent or "papering over" our differences. Today the refashioner-skeptics and the Wesley-following majority are much at odds. So we need to pray, believe, follow God's truth, and be kind.

Question: Soon I'll be going out of state. How can I find a United Methodist Church to attend where I'm going?

Answer: The simplest way is with the Internet. Go to www.umc.org, click on the "Find a Church" button, and follow the instructions, inputting the community where you expect to be. Warning: If you misspell the community name, you may draw a blank. I did that once and that's what happened.

Question: I grew up hearing the name of the home city of the Thessalonians pronounced, "Theh-suh-LAH-nih-kuh." Now I hear some people pronouncing it, "Theh-suh-lo-NYE-kuh." Which is correct?

Answer: *Webster's New World™ College Dictionary* (4th ed., 2000) says both pronunciations are acceptable.

Question: Why are we wasting space here on a trivial issue like how to pronounce *Thessalonica*?

Answer: I believe that there are no trivial questions if the one asking sincerely wants to know. By addressing these questions, we might keep arguments about pronunciation from distracting us from more urgent things. We can remind the overconfident, who think, *The way I learned it is the way it is*, that they, too, can be wrong, and we can encourage the less confident not to be bullied. Moreover, unbelievers might rethink why they don't believe. Finally, it's kinder than telling the inquirer, "Your question's too trivial to bother with."



MOTORCYCLE BLESSING

Sunday,
April 3rd
10:30am



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Our meetings are the first Monday of the month,
10 am in the Fellowship Hall of
Trinity United Methodist Church,
23084 Seneca Avenue, Port Charlotte.
We hope to see you there April 4th!

Health Ministry *Jane Flanders*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Shirley Antrobus and Jim Eugenius for the delicious lunches they have been providing for our Lunch and Learns. They surely are a blessing to our church. If you would like to try one of their mouth-watering meals, our next Lunch and Learn is scheduled for Thursday, May 19. At this time Brock Hileman of Caring Transitions will present a program on helping us minimize stress and maximize results as our lives change. You or a loved one may need to downsize or relocate to a smaller home or retirement community due to health-related challenges, the loss of a loved one or economical reasons. Caring Transitions offers a streamlined support system so you can concentrate on what's really important-caring for your family. A complimentary lunch and the program begins at 11:30AM. Please sign up at the Welcome Center. There are NO Lunch and Learns in April or June.

SNAP-eligible participants can receive FREE resources. What is SNAP? It is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program which provides nutrition assistance to people with low income. The program educates Floridians on eating healthier and choosing an active lifestyle on a limited budget. The program serves children and their parents as well as older adults. They are located in 48 counties throughout Florida in certain locations such as: schools, Head Start Programs, health service centers, community centers, childcare centers, adult education and job training sites, and elder service centers. The program offers group classes, food demonstrations and tastings, hands-on cooking lessons using Florida-grown foods, assistance with planning and implementing school and community gardens, grocery store tours, focusing on saving money, small giveaways and incentives with positive messages about nutrition and newsletters and other educational handouts. To find out more about this program, call 1-866-762-2237 or visit <http://UFFNP.org>. Click on About FNP.

Looking for a Fibromyalgia Support Group? Every third Saturday a group meets at 2:00PM at Wellness Essentials Massage and Spa, 3718 Tamiami Trail Unit B, Port Charlotte. For more information call 941-585-1230.

If you are looking for a Caregiver Support Group we are working with Southport Square to hopefully start a group. If you know of a Caregiver Support Group, please let Jane Flanders know where it is. There are many Alzheimer's Support Groups (including our church) but no "caretaker support groups." We will keep you up dated.

Hearth Healthy Foods: Raisins; whole grains (oatmeal, rye, barley and brown rice); salmon (rich in Omega-3 fatty acids); albacore tuna, herring and lake trout, tomatoes which contain lycopene.

Do you have Dry Eye Syndrome? Symptoms: Watery, itchy, burning eyes? Well, you may have dry eye syndrome. This condition cannot be cured but one can manage the symptoms. Drink lots of water to stay well hydrated, eliminate smoking and caffeine as these two habits can lead to a lower production of tears, use over-the-counter lubricating drops. You do not want to purchase the lubricants that say "get the red out." Apply 4-5 times a day; keep your eyelids clean (use baby shampoo diluted) and keep your hands away from your eyes. And remember: Wash your hands again and again and again!

More About Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*



There are three major components to our Stephen Ministry. The first is a congregation and community that recognizes and trusts that a Stephen Minister can help them accept GOD'S HEALING GRACE.

The second is a group of lay members that have received 50 hours of training and have been commissioned by the congregation to serve that congregation and community. They must be committed enough to attend twice monthly meetings for Peer Supervision and Continuing Education in addition to weekly one hour meetings with their care receiver.

The third major component for a successful Stephen Ministry is the desire by members of the congregation to serve GOD by loving their neighbor with the sacrifice of a major commitment of time and energy.

Fortunately, in our congregation we have people that are willing to step forward and help their neighbors in their time of need. They are not reluctant to commit to the 50 hours of training in some 20 weeks, nor are they reluctant to commit to the required meetings with their peers or care receivers.

As of this writing, we have four candidates for a Stephen Ministry Class. In order to properly train the candidates, we need at least six to have a class because of interaction and role playing needed in the training. We have a tentative start date for classes of Jan. 8th, 2017. There is no cost to the candidate. The cost of the books necessary is picked up by the previous class of Stephen Ministers as a way of paying forward what they have been given.

If you are a trained Stephen Minister and would like to become active, or If you are a member of the congregation and would like to become a Stephen Minister, or If you are in the congregation or community and would like a Stephen Minister assigned to you in your time of need, please call Dean Winston at 661-8825.

I invite you to join in a very rewarding ministry. If you ask any of our active Stephen Ministers about this ministry, they will tell you that they are blessed by their relationships with their care receivers. They will also tell you that the training is invaluable in dealing with everyday life situations. I pray to hear from you soon.

In the front row left to right are:
Doris Forsythe, Veronica Campbell, Doris Hixson,
Pat Winston, Betty Hansen, Fran Rowley,
Terri Smith, Sue Edmiston, June Richards.

In the back row left to right are:
Dean Winston, Terry Hixson, Sid White,
Frank Hansen, Ray Rowley, Mary Meyer,
Sandy Segur, Barbara Hepler.



Student Ministries *Barbara Hald*



Confirmation



What a great season of Lent this has been. The Student Ministry is growing! Praise God, let the children come. We had 10 of our youth confirmed on Palm Sunday.

The youth are working hard on the Ga Ga Pit and starting a Youth Band. Anyone who would like to help with these projects, please contact me.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the "Family Fun Day." It was a great day to open our doors and meet our neighbors.

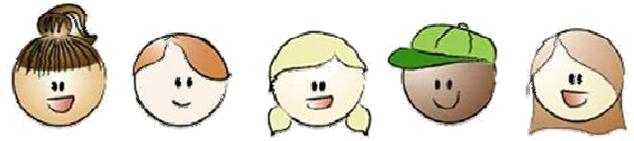
Those participating in the Mission Trip to Haiti will be doing fundraisers. The first is selling laundry detergent. Everyone uses it! Please help support them by purchasing one. Also they will be offering child care every first Saturday of the month. Call for details.

In His Love,
Barbara Hald

Ga Ga Pit Construction



Family Fun Day



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

Director: Paula Mann

625-4356 phone / email: pcumcschool@gmail.com

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. Amen.

Romans 12:12

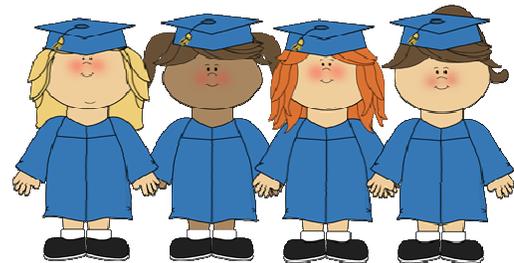
Pray at all times.

The month of April is full of Reading fun!

April 1-29: Book it!

April 4-8: Book Fair and Literacy & Lunch

April 29: Walkin day



Mark your calendars now...
May 25 is **GRADUATION DAY!**

April Birthdays

01 Paul Ward	13 Jacob Hite	23 Martin Wilson
01 Paul Bencivengo	14 Joyce Bonett	24 Arthur Tolman
02 Frederick Paulsen	14 Shannon Roberts	24 Roger Willmeth
04 John Minehan	15 Guy Emerich	24 Carrie Mitchell
04 Caleb Cox	17 Betty Rankin	24 Jessica Dunda
06 Ashley LaRosa	17 Tracey Barbarena	25 Don Lawton
07 Betty Albertsen	19 Ruth Miller	26 Charlene Ball
08 Ella Ashley	19 Veronica Vieux	26 Thomas Beynon
09 Helen Ross	19 J C Bihl	26 Cynthia Friend
10 Dorothy Pemberton	20 Andy Anderson	26 Tammy Eugenius
10 Linda Layman	21 Charlton Christman	27 Fran Rowley
10 Ronald Uhler	21 Jim McGuire	28 Sid Scott
10 Lindsey Bryan	21 Ray Rowley	29 Marilyn Siebenburgen
12 LaVonne Goodell	22 Nicholas Coccaro	30 Marilyn Thompson
13 Maxine Giles	23 Mary Huggins	30 Linda Bailey
13 Marilyn Morrison	23 Weltha Kelly	



April Anniversaries

02 Irwin and Jan Schinkel	21 Leo and Inez Jones
02 Don and Gayle Behnke	24 Samuel and Jackie Carter
04 David and Mary Cox	28 Karen and Jason Wiseman
05 Lloyd and Edna Brown	29 Jason and Jennifer Hughes
14 Cecil and Violet Ward	29 Paul and Dawn Kisner
14 Roger and Janice Willmeth	
14 Gary and Gay Graham	
15 Don and Flora Bunger	
17 David and Kathleen Mulinix	

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY
Thursdays 2:30-5pm

If you are interested
 in joining us, please contact
Marlene Young: 627-4783

Bookstore
"The Word"

Open Between Services Sunday Mornings
 Visit "The Word" to find study materials,
 T-shirts, the Upper Room,
 PCUMC Coasters and more!



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

Phone: (941) 625-4356
 E-mail: info@pcumc.info
 Website: www.pcumc.info
 facebook.com/portcharlotteumc

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

┌

┐

└

┘

UNITED METHODIST MEN

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 2nd 7am-11am

All the pancakes you can eat, as well as scrambled eggs, sausage links, orange juice, coffee & tea... only \$5.

Kids under 6 and adults over 90 eat free!



Come and let the men serve you!

COUPLES' GROUP TO BEGIN!

Sundays at Noon, beginning April 3rd

Join us for a potluck and study.



RSVP to Jim and Sharon Kavanaugh (248) 797-8061



Sunday, April 3 at 3:15 pm

The PDK Trio: Mendelssohn's Piano Trio in c-minor

R. Paul Urbanick, violin; Dolores Smith, piano; Kevin Bellosa, cello

Sunday, May 1 at 3:15 pm

From Advent to Ascension:
 A Worshipful Tour of the Church Year

David deSilva, organ

