

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Sunday Worship: 8:00am - 11:00am - 6:00pm

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Blessed To Be a Blessing!

*"Surely you have granted him unending blessings
and made him glad with the joy of your presence."
Psalm 21:6 (NIV)*

David expresses with unwavering clarity: "It is God that makes us to be blessed!" More succinctly David said in Psalm 21:6, that God makes you to be blessed. God prepares you to receive His blessings. When we take the time to think about it, all that is going on in our life right now, whether it is struggle or success, tragedy or triumph, God is preparing you for His blessings.

We are like a storehouse that God seeks to prepare to pour His blessings into. If we have a one bedroom condo mentality, God is asking us expand to receive a blessing. We can't have a "just me and no more" mentality and expect God to bless us more and more. If we are looking at our personal life or the life of our church and are saying, "This is as good as it's going to get," or even worse, "It used to be better," then our thinking doesn't enable us to hold all the blessings God has planned for us.

Think of all those people in the scriptures who were blessed by God: David, Joseph, Abraham.... They had to expand. Each of these people of faith was blessed by God, but each one was blessed in a different way. They had to love and serve God in order to be prepared for the blessings. Their storehouse had to be prepared so they would properly manage blessings when they were poured out.

We are always blessed by God so we can keep the blessings flowing and be a blessing to others. If you are blessed by God, as Joseph was blessed, it means you must learn how to govern the blessing and release it to God's people at the appointed time. Blessings from God are a signal that God has entrusted us with an opportunity, and He asks us to be a good steward and properly maintain the blessing. **The blessing is His, and the opportunity is ours!**

Over this past year we have seen our church abundantly blessed. We have seen our numbers growing in worship attendance over past years. We have seen families come to us through our Port Student Ministries (Children's Weekday, Children's, and Youth Ministries). We have witnessed the life-changing power of Jesus through this year's Vacation Bible School. We have experienced the generosity of God's people flowing in funding our church's Operating Budget and the Salty Service Ministries. We have seen the blessing of multiple bequests entrusted to us from \$1000 to \$500,000. And the list of God's entrusted blessings for PCUMC could go on and on.

When God abundantly blesses, He is investing in a storehouse on earth where God can entrust His blessings. He doesn't bless us just so we will pile up the blessings and say, "look at us." He blesses us so He can use us to pour out blessings to others. In Psalm 21:6 we are told that our faithfulness in what we've received can bring God joy. **We are blessed to be a blessing!**

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over,
will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
Luke 6:38 (NIV)*

Keep going and never quit!

Grace, Pastor Brian

August 1

CPR / First Aid Class
6-9pm

August 7

CWM First Day of School!

August 8

WNT Dinner 5-6pm
Fellowship Hall

August 20

Clap, Tap & Jingle begins
9:15-10am (Mon & Wed)

August 24

6pm Fellowship Hall
Dinner and a Movie



Harriet Weaver 6-27-2012

Letters

Dear Pastor James,

I have been a member of the Methodist church for well over 50 years. Frequently we hear that United Methodists are a connectional denomination, especially when discussing apportionments. I must tell you your vision for Port Charlotte United Methodist Church to covenant with Trinity to sustain the Friday Food Ministry is the first time I have seen it in action between two local United Methodist Churches. This leap of faith has now caused many of us to see the value in joint functions rather than as a threat to our autonomy. We are better and more effective together! Thank you for that. This cooperative effort between disciples to be His hands and feet is surely an example of what Jesus would have expected from us.

May God bless you and your ministry,

Bill Schaff

July 2, 2012

We want to thank Pastor Brian (just a wonderful guy), the staff and all you dear folks for the phone calls, the visits, the beautiful cards and most of all the prayers during Don's illness. We are so grateful.

God bless all of you.

Don and Esther Keirnan & Reebok too

Extravagant Generosity

Y-T-D Income as of 6/30/12—\$431,325.48
Y-T-D Expenses as of 6/30/12—\$459,863.97

Assistance May: 2 - Utilities 2 - Rent 2 - Other
Assistance June: 2 - Utilities

Florida Annual Conference Lay Summary *Darcy Wright*

The theme of Annual Conference was:
TRANSFORMING THE WORLD BY BEING UNITED
IN CHRIST- in our own lives, in our church and in our
communities; the emphasis was on UNITY.

Living Together in Unity

Bishop Whitaker, who has served in that position for 11 years, stated in his opening remarks, "The Holy Spirit has been moving to bring back together Christians who have been separated, and the church is the new community created by the Spirit of God to show the world the way to live together in unity."

Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, retired clergyman of the Disciples of Christ church, retired secretary of the National Council of Churches, educator and ecumenical leader, was the keynote speaker.

"Christian. The church is called to be a demonstration project of what God intends for all of creation," he stressed. From other denominations, Bishop John White of the African Methodist Episcopal Church preached at the Service of Holy Communion; Bishop Ed Benoway of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America preached at the Service of Ordination, licensing and commissioning of approximately 50 individuals; Rev. Russell Meyer, executive director of the FL Council of Churches, also spoke at the Conference.

Being United in Purpose and Vision

The Strategic Leadership Team made recommendations to the Conference for the alignment of resources and structures around our purpose and vision. Missional outcomes, with supporting action steps, focus on 4 areas---disciples who are becoming more like Jesus, congregations where all are welcome, local and global communities being blessed by kingdom impact, and conference structures centered on fulfilling our mission. The report was approved by the delegates.

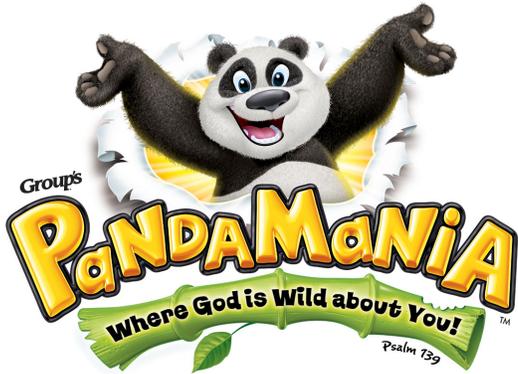
Being United in Appreciation of Bishop Timothy and Melba Whitaker

The Conference expressed gratitude to Bishop Timothy Whitaker and his wife Melba during the Saturday morning session. It was mentioned how much his leadership has inspired the Florida Conference to reach out in ways to unite people. The farewell tribute to the couple was lighthearted, and it was evident they will be missed.

Children's Ministry

Barbara Hald

What a great summer Children's Ministry has had... I cannot believe it is time to start school again.



I want to thank everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School. We had 175 children and 40 some volunteers. We collected a lot of food for Trinity UMC and had a great week in the word of God. Our church is known throughout the community for many of the things we do well, and one is VBS. It is my goal to make it a rewarding week for all who are here and will continue to alter and shape the program so we can have the best VBS we possibly can.

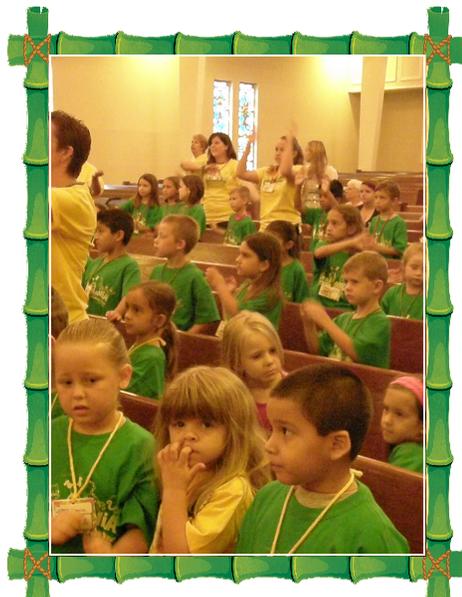
I would like to invite everyone to join us on Wednesday nights. We are moving "Acts of Faith" from Sundays to Wednesdays. Children will learn Flags, Puppets, and the arts to present to our Lord in worship. We will be using video and live performances to share with our congregation and residents at assisted living facilities. We need help!!! Adults, youth and children are all welcome to be involved.

We would like to have a talent show for Christmas. All are invited to join us. What a better way to thank the Lord, then to present the gifts He has given us!

Please be in prayer as to how you can help Children's Ministry with your talents.

In His Love,

Barbara Hald





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Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

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

Question: Is The United Methodist Church a liberal denomination?

Answer: In 1980, J. Gordon Melton, a UM minister and founder of the Institute for the Study of American Religion, described the UMC as “liberal in its leadership and conservative at the grassroots.” But a better answer might be: It depends what you mean by “liberal.” Liberal in politics or church teaching? Many UM leaders would proudly claim to be liberal in both arenas. But in 1955, William Hordern, in *A Layman’s Guide to Protestant Theology*, identified four distinct varieties of theological liberalism, while journalists and historians have recognized four separate varieties of political liberalism in the U.S. flourishing at different times. But since 1 in 3 United Methodists lives outside the U.S., these categories lose some relevance. Perhaps more important is the fact that 70% of United Methodists worldwide believe that the Bible is infallible or inerrant, fully inspired by God, and without error.

Question: Why do some of our people raise their hands at various times during worship?

Answer: I’m one of those people. In the summer of 1981, I noticed the lifting of hands in worship at the *Good News* gathering in Grove City, Pennsylvania. Then I thought it was something Pentecostals did (along with speaking in tongues) to show they’re Pentecostals. But that fall, my last quarter in seminary, the school enrolled three new students - a father, a mother, and their grown daughter who were former UM missionaries in Brazil. In their apartment, they organized a weekly Bible study focusing on the Holy Spirit. There they pointed out that the practice of lifting hands was biblical (see Ps. 28:2, 134:2, 141:2; 1 Tim. 2:8). After studying these verses, I said, “Okay,” and started raising my hands, too.

Question: Recently during Sunday School, I was reading aloud from the Bible and somebody asked what version I was using. I answered, “*The Life Application Bible*,” but that didn’t satisfy them. What’s going on?

Answer: *The Life Application Bible*, *The Scofield Reference Bible*, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, and similar Bibles are not Bible translations or versions. They are *trademarks* for various sets of study notes that are published alongside the Scripture texts of various versions. *The Life Application Bible* from Tyndale House was originally published with Tyndale’s *Living Bible Paraphrased*. It now appears with the *New Living Translation* (NLT), the *King James Version* (KJV), the *New King James Version* (NKJV), the *New International Version* (NIV), and the *New American Standard Bible* (NASB). The others similarly accompany multiple translations: *Scofield* (from Oxford Univ. Press; KJV, NIV, NASB); *MacArthur* (from Thomas Nelson; NASB, NKJV, ESV*); *Ryrie* (from Moody Press; KJV, NASB, NIV, ESV*).

*ESV = *English Standard Version*.