

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 2014

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

“Living Tigger Lives In An Eeyore World”

In 1926, English author, A. A. Milne published the first in a series of children’s novels about a stuffed, round-bellied bear named Winnie the Pooh. In those novels there were other characters that that made up a circle of Pooh’s “forest friends.”

Two of the characters were an old gray donkey named, Eeyore, and a tigerish character named Tigger. Eeyore carried an attitude of negativity with him into every situation. His daily dialogue reflected his outlook on just about everything in life.

"Good morning, Pooh Bear," said Eeyore gloomily. "If it is a good morning, which I doubt,"

Tigger, on the other hand, is a spring-tailed ball of enthusiasm that is always bouncing about and throwing him into life with gusto.

There are Christians that go about their lives as spiritual Eeyores. The unfortunate thing for people, who are habitually negative, is they miss out on the opportunity to bless and lift up the lives of others.

As Christ followers we have received the gift of a Savior! That means that we have an eternal reason to be positive before anything else about life day to day is factored in. John shares Jesus’ vision for His disciples when he wrote, *“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”* (John 15:11)

Friends, if we think that allowing Eeyore to live inside of us will inspire others to embrace eternal life we are not being realistic.

People want to live joyful and fulfilling lives. People want to hang out with Tigger. If they see it in us, they might want to experience it with us. In His earthly ministry Jesus attracted crowds everywhere that He went. It wasn’t just what He said, it was who He was. There was something about Him that people wanted.

Got joy?

Beyond the love of Jesus, we have been sharing Christ’s love in some measurable ways this summer.

* Thanks for the POSITIVE of our weekly satellite worship services. Each week we send our certified Lay Speakers to lead worship at 8 different facilities around Charlotte County. We may be the only Jesus these people come face to face with each week.

*Thanks for the POSITIVE you offered through Vacation Bible School this year. With almost 100 servants, you gave a couple hundred kids the chance to experience and incredible week.

*Thanks for the POSITIVE you offered to our Port Children and Youth Ministries. The donations that made our Camp Scholarships and our Mission Trip possible made a wonderful experience possible.

*Thanks for the POSITIVE you offered by providing lunches through the Children’s Summer Feeding Program. Hundreds of students all through Charlotte County received your gift of food each week.

What a great opportunity you have accepted and lived out over the summer months! Keep going and never quit!

Grace, Pastor Brian

Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship at 8 & 11
Contemporary 9:30am

Wednesday Nights

Children’s Ministry: 5-7:30pm
Youth: 6-8:15pm
Adult Studies: 6:30 - 7:30pm

Sunday, August 10

Servant Sign-up Fair
9am - 12pm, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 13/20

Membership Classes
5pm, Conference Room
Call to register 625-4356

Monday, August 18

First Day of School!

Thursday, August 21

Lunch & Learn
11:30am - 1pm, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 27

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
5-7pm, Fellowship Hall

continued on next page...

Loving
Memory

Grace Mackey
Gladys Weibley



Extravagant Generosity

Y-T-D 6/30/14

Income: \$409,453.88 Expenses: \$450,971.08
Gas Vouchers: 43, Utilities: 6, Other: 1

Letters

Thank you for your prayers and visits while I was in the hospital. Thanks also for those member of PCUMC who visited, sent cards and letters, made phone calls and brought flowers. Above all else, thank you for prayers which were answered. I also take this medium to express my deep appreciation for the many 80th Birthday wishes I received.

Grace, Mercy and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, be always with you!

Rev. Marlene Young

I would like to thank everyone who prayed for me as I moved my dad from Pennsylvania to Florida. It was a very hard week, but your prayers worked because everything went smoothly, and I could tell God was at play through the whole week. So, thank you!

Also thank you to Joe Wilcek and the United Methodist Men. Joe helped with furniture and his truck. Thank you to Pastor Brian who took Dad to lunch and welcomed him to Florida. You have all made a very difficult time bearable.

THANK YOU!
Barbara Hald

Thank you for your generous donation to the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition on July 3, 2014 of sack lunches and toiletries. Your contribution has provided us with the ability to better serve the clients and residents at the Homeless Coalition. Your commitment in helping the homeless in our community is appreciated by those who benefit from our services.

Thanks to donors like you, the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition has provided meals for over 68,700 people in the last year and more than 2,950 households have received food from our pantry. Our shelter continues to provide shelter for over 12 families every day (a total of 52 people) and case management services help the residents move on to permanent housing.

Thank you again,
Tina Figliulolo



Children's Ministry *Barbara Hald*

Wow, summer is going by fast! First, I want to thank everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School possible. The children had a great time and it was a great week of learning bible stories and fellowship. Our Kiwanis "Shoes for Kids" Mission project went great -- as always this church rose to the occasion for children. We collected 69 pairs of shoes and raised \$500.

There will be no "Dinner and a Movie" in August, but we will have a double feature in September.

August brings "Family Fun" on Wednesday nights -- we will have "Fully Alive" events for everyone to join in.

Where? At The Port
When? 5 to 7:30 pm

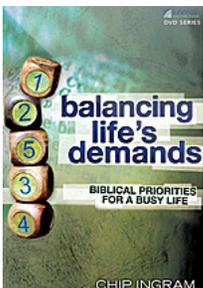
- Aug 6** – Pizza & "Minute to Win It" Games (Children's Clothes swap for back to school)
- Aug 13** – Cookout, bring a covered dish to share
- Aug 20** – Tacos and Back to School Water Fun!
- Aug 27** – To be announced

Please sign up with Barbara or Elizabeth. This is a family time and children must be accompanied by an adult.

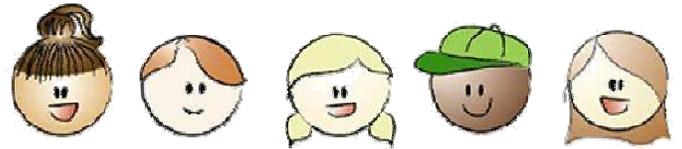
Coming in September for Wednesday PBNJ's: We will be going around the world to learn some important lessons while having a great time.



FOR PARENTS:



Our Wednesday night "Life Together" Group will Start in September and will be studying "Balancing Life's Demands" by Chip Ingram. What a great series as we get back in the hustle and bustle of the school year.



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

AAaaahhhh August! The teachers and I are excited to start another year in your awesome ministry!

To every teacher and parent, August means back to school and, of course, that means school supplies. We are blessed to be starting our 9th preschool year and our 22nd afterschool year. This year is no different in that we will have families that just can't afford the school supplies. There are many congregation members that ask how they can help. Please mark your monetary donation with CWM in the memo. Below is the list we ask parents to provide in case you run across a great deal. Picking up just one item will help.

We appreciate your support and prayers as we begin to minister to 100+ families this year.



If you wish to sponsor a preschool family, the cost for all supplies needed is approximately \$45.

Thank you for joining us in blessing the teachers and students as they start the new school year.



- Avery 1" Durable View Binder
- Baby Wipes - Refill Packs
- Clorox Anywhere Spray
- Clorox Wipes
- Crayola Colored Pencils
- Crayola Washable Crayons
- Crayola Washable Markers
- Crayola Watercolors (8 colors)
- Cups (3oz)
- Cups (5oz)
- Elmer's School Glue
- Hand Sanitizer
- Paper Towels
- 3-Prong Pocket Folders

Youth Ministry

Paul Kisner, Youth Director



Sr. High Retreat Lake Junaluska, NC

Our Senior High youth went to Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in Western North Carolina for youth week during the month of June. Before we left on this trip, the group engaged in two mission opportunities at our own church. On June 6, we delivered lunches for the summer lunch program and on July 12, we packed lunches. These service opportunities were required for this trip in order to prepare our hearts for what God was going to do on our retreat.

A total of 11 people arrived at the church on the morning of June 20 and loaded up a 12 passenger van and a truck for our trip. We spent the first night near Atlanta and left on Saturday morning for the Ocoee River in Tennessee. After an exciting afternoon of whitewater rafting, we spent the night in Sweetwater, TN. On Sunday, we arrived in Lake Junaluska, NC ready for an awesome week of spiritual renewal with youth groups from all over the Southeast US.

Our time at Lake Junaluska featured mission opportunities as we packed meals and raised money for Stop Hunger Now. The week also featured workshops and small groups for our youth to grow in their faith. We even made the semi-finals of the Lake Junaluska volleyball tournament. We were blessed with amazing morning and evening worship sessions with Andy Lambert as our speaker and Second Hand City as our praise band. The highlight of the week was the walk to the cross. This was a blessed time of personal reflection and testimonies about God working in the lives of these young people.

On Thursday, we loaded up the vehicles for the long journey home. We were sad to leave, but blessed by the experience of growing closer to God and to each other. On Thursday night, our youth gathered together at our hotel for a time of sharing. God moved in the lives of our youth as they reflected on this awesome experience. On Friday, we arrived safely at home, physically weary but spiritual recharged.



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

August 20

Back to School Kickoff, 6-8:15 PM

Wacky Game Night

Join us for a night of fun and wacky games as the school year gets into full swing

Save the Date: September 6-7

Rock the Universe and Wet n' Wild Trip

Cost: \$125

Registration deadline: August 27

See Paul for More Details



SERVANT SIGN-UP FAIR
Sunday, August 10th
9:00am - Noon, Fellowship Hall

Plan to stay after (or before) services to learn of the many opportunities available and pray about where God might be leading you to serve.



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Wednesday, August 27
 5-7pm, Fellowship Hall

Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: Why do the colors of the altar cloths and the hangings from the pulpit and lectern change from time to time, or even week to week?

Answer: The custom goes back to the early church. Like the Jews, Christians observed a yearly cycle of holidays (holy days) and holy seasons. They also related different colors to the different days and seasons. In those days, particularly with the mass conversions after Christianity became the official Roman religion, most people in the church couldn't read or write. The cycle of days and seasons and their colors became a tool for teaching them the Gospel. Purple, signifying repentance and royalty, is used during *Advent* and *Lent*. Some churches use blue (hope) during Advent. White or gold (joy and celebration) mark the *Christmas* and *Easter* seasons and other special Sundays. We also use white at Communion services. Red (the Holy Spirit) is used on *Pentecost*. Green (growth) is often used on the Sundays between *Epiphany* and *Ash Wednesday* and between *Pentecost* and the start of *Advent*. Roman Catholics call these periods *Ordinary Time*. Some UMs call the season after Pentecost *Kingdomtide*. Others call this period *the Pentecost season* and use red continuously until *Advent*.

Some think deviating from these customs is inappropriate, but it's not wrong. *The Book of Worship of The United Methodist Church* says: "Creativity with colors and other signs for days and seasons is encouraged" (p. 226). In my church in Chicago, our choir robes had three reversible stoles colored red, green, purple, white, blue, and gold. We celebrated "Patriotic Sunday" on the second Sunday of June (it's being near Flag Day), and choir members alternated wearing red, white, and blue stoles.

Question: Why do some people clap following a choir anthem or solo? Isn't that irreverent? The Bible says, "... the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him." — Hab. 1:20 NRSV

Answer: David, when scolded for dancing before the Ark, answered, "It was before the LORD." — 2 Sam. 6:21). Worship is not only reverence, but also a celebration of God's goodness. The Bible also says, "Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy." — Ps. 47:1 NRSV. In *Our Methodist Heritage*, (Wilmore, KY: Good News Books, 1984, orig. pub. 1973), Charles W. Keysor quotes John Wesley, saying, "Sour Christianity is the devil's religion" (p. 92).

Question: In the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus (Mt. 17:1-8, Mk. 9:2-8, and Lk. 9:28-36), it says Peter, James, and John saw Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah. How did they know they were Moses and Elijah?

Answer: The Bible doesn't say and, while we can speculate, we dare not insist that any of our theories are correct. Four possibilities suggest themselves: (1) The Holy Spirit told them; (2) Jesus told them; (3) They overheard Jesus addressing Moses and Elijah by name; or (4) Moses and Elijah were wearing or holding things closely associated with them. In paintings of the Transfiguration, the artists often show Moses holding the two stone tablets with the Ten Commandments.

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

Dear Annual Conference Members,

I am writing to thank you for your faithful living as disciples of Jesus Christ by giving 100 percent of your apportionments for 2013.

Apportionments are your church's share of the funding of the

budgets of The United Methodist Church around the world, the Florida Conference, and your District.

These budgets are developed and approved by our elected representatives, either as members of the Annual Conference or delegates to the General Conference.



When every congregation contributes 100 percent of its apportionments, the whole church is able to meet its many responsibilities to mission and ministry. In short, lives are changed because of your stewardship.

- Children are fed at feeding programs;
- Young men and women receive financial assistance towards their education at Bethune-Cookman University or Florida Southern College;
- Retreat and camp settings help grow and make disciples of Jesus by offering invitations to go further in understanding of being a Christian;
- New churches are planted;
- Existing churches are transformed to better meet the needs of the community.

Even though the economy is still in distress, 2013 was proof that in God's economy, God's servants still put into practice the stewardship teachings of Christ. In 2013, conference churches contributed \$14,967,197 to the overall apportionment total of \$17,617,560. This represents a 84.96 percent level of giving. This was not done without sacrifice.

Over the years, I have learned that a sign of a healthy congregation is full support of the rest of the connection. You are the ones who have a joy in God's gifts, given in abundance, and who are practicing a spirit of generosity that points to a larger vision of the Church as a communion of congregations in common mission and ministry to the world. I hope you will pause in one of your worship services in an upcoming Sunday and share this letter with the people who made this 100 percent level possible. It truly is a sign of the living God at work in your midst.

As a further sign of my appreciation and to acknowledge your generosity publicly, I've arranged for all AC members from your church to receive a ribbon noting your church as one who met 100 percent of their apportionments. The ribbons are available at the Financial Services Booth in the Expo center. Our staff wants to thank you personally, and we hope you will proudly display your ribbon for all to see.



May the Spirit of God continue to illumine, guide, and empower you to be God's own people.
Bishop Kenneth Carter

LOOKING AHEAD... ANNUAL NOVEMBER UMM YARD SALE

Summer is a great time to clear out some clutter and help the mission of our United Methodist Men. We have pick-up and storage available for many items. Call Joe Wilcek 564-6225. Your donations help the UMM with outreach programs for the church. Thank you!



The Open Book *Paul Chapdelaine*

**Wednesday, August 13th
from 3-4pm, New Room**

We will be discussing
"The Woods" by Harlan
Coben. Pick up and sign out
a copy at the Welcome
Center and join us!



**BOOK
DISCUSSION
GROUP**



A big Thank You to all the South West District Churches that collected jewelry for the Jewelry Re-Sale for Young Adult Missions. The three-day sale held at Annual Conference in Lakeland was a huge success thanks to wonderful donations from churches throughout our conference and eager buyers at Annual Conference.

Pam Carter is thrilled to announce that we had sales totaling \$19,300. And... due to the large response and volume of donations, we will be able to make the jewelry sale available at other conference events. Our hope is to have jewelry available at the Women's Retreats in Leesburg and again at AC 2015 to be held at Bethune Cookman University next June.

The proceeds from our sale will be used to provide scholarships to young adults who want to be a part of our conference-sponsored global mission opportunities. In 2015 we hope to be able to sponsor young adults' mission trips to Haiti and Cuba, two of our covenant partners. Applications will be available on-line in the coming months and information available through conference and district communications channels.

We are deeply grateful to each and every person who made personal donations to this effort.

Blessings,

Sandy

Sandy J. Voigt
Administrative Assistant
South West District

August Birthdays

01 Jean Williams	20 Robert Burr
01 Mary Cox	20 Deidra Setser
01 Kyle Cox	21 Cecil Ward
02 Thelma Lachapelle	21 Inez Jones
03 Robert Gruennert	21 Florence Nevins
03 Marci Middaugh	21 Jacob Kern
04 Phyllis Tolman	23 Clyde Sell
04 Sue Edmiston	23 David Pennington
04 Jordan Foster	23 Pat Douglas
05 Nelda Hildebrand	23 Barbara Hepler
05 Libby Weller	23 Candice Chardon
06 Bettie Curtis	24 Jack Bennett
06 H.L. Clemmons	24 Gail Gonzalez
06 Wendy McCarthy	24 Kathie Abbott
07 Laura Slike	24 Jo Jo Cekuta-Bolyard
07 Cindy Waterbury	25 Jack Mallay
08 Thomas Wenck	25 Edna Lather
09 Daphene Novak	25 Dorothy Adams
09 Carl Freiberg	25 Chris Bowers
09 Anne Bonsky	26 Bob Statton
10 Vernie Robertson	26 Leo Jones
10 Leah Setser	26 Mary Meyer
11 Jason Hughes	26 Elijah James
12 Elizabeth Jones	27 Cecil Neill
12 Dorothy Mann	27 Deidre Parkinson
12 Alyssa Walton	28 Beverly Gomez
14 Ericka Brown	28 Alexander DePaul
16 Bob Croft	29 Mary Lou Stocker
16 Stella Best	29 Sydney Hays
16 Anthony LaRosa	31 Dottie White
17 Carol McCullough	31 Susan West
19 Kelsey James	31 Amanda Kucewicz
20 Fanny DeMallie	31 Barbara Pascale



August Anniversaries

02 Nicholas & Anne Bonsky	20 Stephen & Faye Perkins
08 Don & Florence Nevins	24 Gerald & Karen Shaw
08 Durvent & Delphena Lyons	29 Allan & Mary Lou Stocker
09 Bob & Sue Statton	29 Samir & Renee Petro
14 Arthur & Ruth Miller	30 Delma & Maxine Giles
16 Roger & Marjorie Anderson	



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

Г

Г

L

J

alzheimer's association™

August 21st from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
***Behavioral Issues Associated with
Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias***

Presentation will discuss typical behavior changes associated with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias. Presentation will also discuss how to process, evaluate, and interpret such behavior. Information on how to better understand and respond to behavior will be discussed. Medications are also discussed.

Lunch & Learn!

Thursday, August 21
11:30am - 1pm, Fellowship Hall
"New Medicare Rules & Regulations for 2014"

Come and listen to an informative seminar by Dr. Thomas Noone, chief medical officer for Bayfront Health Systems, which can save you thousands of dollars on your next hospital bill. Complimentary lunch provided by Nurse on Call & Direct Access Home Health. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.



SAVE THE DATE: September 27th, 1-3pm, Fellowship Hall

The Secret Sisters of PCUMC will be having a "Tea" to benefit our GEMS Club (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior). The Secret Sisters will be serving finger sandwiches, pastries and tea. There will be entertainment and surprises. Ladies, please plan to come and bring your friends! Tickets are \$12 and will be on sale in the lobby after September 1st.