

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 2017

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

One of Our Greatest Needs

One of our greatest needs as human beings is to be loved. We all need love. We need to know that we are important to somebody, that somebody truly cares about us, wants us, and accepts us unconditionally. When we doubt that we are loved, we may develop unacceptable behavior patterns to compensate for it.

One of the most amazing things about God's love is that it is extended to us when we do not deserve it, and continues steadfast and strong even when we do not respond to it. In other words, His love is unconditional. That certainly is different from our love. We have a tendency to show more love to the people who obviously love us and less love to the ones who do not. We express our love to our spouses and our children when they perform to our expectations and we withhold it from them when they displease us .

God is not like that. The best-loved verse in the Bible says, "For God so loved the world," that is, the whole world. That does not refer to the materials out of which our planet is constructed, but to the world of people. It does not mean the whole mass of humanity generally; it refers to each individual sinful person. The Bible categorizes all of them as God's enemies, people who have willfully set themselves against Him (cf. Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:21). God even loves His enemies—all of them.

There is not one good thing in any of us that merits God's love. He does not love us because we are so lovable or because we can somehow make ourselves worthy of His love. We are totally unworthy, yet He prizes us highly and showers His very best on us. It is His love for us that gives us our worth. God finds great delight and receives great glory when we respond to His love, enter His fellowship, and do His will. In fact, He made us for that purpose. But whether or not we ever return His love, He keeps on extending it to us. There is nothing we can do to make Him love us anymore, and nothing we ever do will cause Him to love us any less. He loves us perfectly and completely regardless of how we perform. His love is unconditional.

So many of us are performance oriented. We have felt approved and accepted when we have performed to someone else's satisfaction, and disapproved and rejected when we have failed to live up to their standards. Consequently, we treat others the same way. If they please us, we treat them kindly and considerately. If they displease us, we feel justified in treating them unkindly and unlovingly. Knowing God intimately will help us express love to others when they do not perform to our expectations.

There is a great Biblical illustration of God's unconditional love in His relationship with the nation Israel.
"The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the

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Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship 8 & 11am

Contemporary 9:30am

Wednesday Nights

Children 6-7:30pm

Youth 6-8:00pm

Dates to Remember:

Sunday, August 6

CWM Open House 2:00pm

Tuesday, August 8

Membership Class 5:30pm

Thursday, August 10

First Day of School!

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peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt" (Deuteronomy 7:7-8). Can we see what He is implying? There is no human reason for His love for Israel. They were a rebellious, stiff-necked people. But He loved them simply because He loved them.

That is how it is with you and me. He loves us just because He loves us. Nothing we ever did made Him love us, so nothing we ever do will make Him stop loving us. He loves us when we're grouchy just as much as when we're glad. He loves us when we sin just as much as when we don't. He loves us when we open our mouths and say things we know we shouldn't have said. He loves us when our wives or husbands or parents or children are not treating us as though they love us. He loves us when we're feeling as though nobody in the whole world loves us. He loves us even when we don't like ourselves. He never stops loving us.

Your Friend, *Pastor Craig*

Stewardship *Dean Winston, Stewardship Chair, Generosity Team*

Stewardship responsibilities extend to the Mission/Vision of the church. Since the Mission/Vision of the church, is the same as all other Christian Churches, as Jesus said; "Go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them obey what I have taught you, and I will be with you to the end of the age." Therefore, we are given the responsibility of spreading the "Good News" to those unknowing, unaware, ignorant of the blessings that accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior give us.

Let us first look at the many Saints we have in this church. We have many dedicated members that work tirelessly in many areas and ministries of this church, not for their glory, but for their work and efforts to bring glory to God. They are dedicated souls who have accepted the responsibility of spreading the Good NEWS in all they do.

Next let us look at our facilities. We have a beautiful sanctuary for worship, hearing the Word, and listening to the beautiful music our choir and musicians provide to all those in attendance. We have a Fellowship Hall that feeds hundreds at a modest cost to the community and serves as a gathering place for a number of community related activities, garage sales, scout meetings, AA meetings, Health and Safety seminars, financial information, and a number of other social, economic and informative presentations including entertainment such as Friday Night at the Movies, or the square dancers or special dinners like the free Christmas dinner for the community or the Valentine Dinner. There are many uses for our Fellowship Hall with even more to be determined.

The Children's Weekday Ministries is another great asset we have to use to help achieve our Mission/Vision of Know, Grow, Go. The children in our school are in many cases, being introduced to Christ for the first time. Their parents know and actually seek out our school for this very reason. Some of the parents attend churches other than ours but some are not affiliated with any church. It is those parents we want to cultivate a relationship with. They already know we care and that we have the best interest of the child as our common goal.

The pastor and staff are also important assets of our church. We have dedicated staff, that do their best each day to do their job in a way that honors God and helps this church achieve its Mission/Vision. We have a pastor that is the spiritual leader of our church, charged with tending to his flock in time of need and helping us all become better disciples of Jesus and crafting messages that resonate in the hearts of the listener to help them discover their own need for spiritual food. As Jesus said, "Feed my Sheep!"

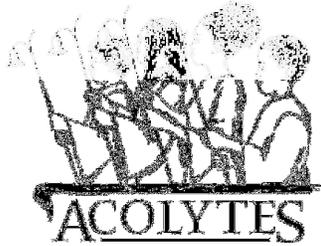
May next year see us make more effective use of our assets to achieve our Mission/Vision.
"Ask, and it shall be given. Amen

Letters



Thank you to our "Acolyte Angel"

An anonymous member graciously created and installed a "wax catcher" on one of our candle lighters. We would love have those created for all of our candle lighters, but don't know who to ask... If that was you, please contact "D" Fletcher at 623-0642. And....**thank you!!!!**



Extravagant Generosity

(As of 6/30/17)

Income: \$399,220 Expenses: 395,260

Assistance: 5/1/17-6/30/17

Utilities: 11 Rent: 1 Other: 1

August Birthdays

01 Mary Cox	18 Betty Pyott	25 Edna Lather
01 Kyle Cox	20 Fanny DeMallie	25 Dorothy Adams
02 Thelma Lachapelle	20 Robert Burr	25 Chris Bowers
03 Marci Middaugh	20 Herb Grommeck	26 Leo Jones
04 Sue Edmiston	20 Deidra Setser	26 Mary Meyer
05 Nelda Hildebrand	21 Cecil Ward	27 Deidre Parkinson
05 Libby Weller	21 Florence Nevins	28 Beverly Gomez
06 Bettie Curtis	21 Joseph Scott	28 Alexander DePaul
06 Wendy McCarthy	21 John Do	29 Mary Lou Stocker
06 Jean Wyckoff	22 Christina Harvick	29 Sydney Hays
07 Laura Slike	23 Clyde Sell	29 Pauline Paquin
07 Cindy Waterbury	23 Pat Douglas	31 Dottie White
08 Thomas Wenck	23 Barbara Hepler	31 Susan West
08 David Mulinix	23 Candice Chardon	31 Amanda Kucewicz
08 Stephanie Sennholz	Zampella	
10 Leah Setser	24 Jack Bennett	
11 Gay Graham	24 Asta Terwilliger	
12 Dorothy Mann	24 Gail Gonzalez	
16 Stella Best	24 Kathie Abbott	
17 Carol S. McCullough	24 Jo Jo Cekuta-Bolyard	

August Anniversaries

04 David and Donna Jean deSilva	24 Gerald and Karen Shaw
08 Don and Florence Nevins	29 Robert and Cherie Thomas
14 Arthur and Ruth Miller	29 Allan and Mary Lou Stocker
16 Roger and Marjorie Anderson	29 Samir and Renee Petro
16 Bart and Hope McFarlane	





Congratulations to our very own

Grace Chicken

who threw the first pitch for a Stone Crabs baseball game!!



More About Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*

In past issues of our Newsletter I have written about some actual case histories of care receivers and the Stephen Minister assigned to them. My purpose in doing so was to demonstrate just some of the circumstances that would prompt someone to want a Stephen Minister. I gave examples of those consumed with grief over the loss of a loved one, of terminal illness, of tremendous guilt and estrangement from loved ones, loss of eyesight and other physical impairments, loneliness, job loss, and many other reasons to have someone who has been trained to listen, to encourage, to validate your feelings to pray for you and with you, to walk with you on your journey to wholeness, all the while maintaining confidentiality, until they are no longer needed regardless of how long that may be.

Since you are reading this article now I am going to assume you have an interest in either having a Stephen Minister assigned to you because you are hurting in some way, or you are a caring compassionate person that wants to become a Stephen Minister and help others with their pain.

If you want a Stephen Minister all you have to do is contact Pastor Craig at the church number and he will contact me, Dean Winston your Stephen Minister Leader and Coordinator. Since the revitalization of Stephen Ministry in our church, over twenty church members and two outside the church but in the community have had Stephen Ministers assigned to them.

If you are a caring and compassionate person that realizes you have been blessed and want to give back and help those suffering contact Pastor Craig at the church number or call Dean Winston at 941-661-8825, or email deanwinston67@gmail.com and we will provide you with an application. Simply fill out the application, turn it in and when we have at least six candidates we will have a class that consist of 50 hours of training over a twenty week period. There is much role playing so classes must consist of at least six. Stephen Ministers are assigned to same gender care receivers. So we need both male and female candidates. After completing the course you will be commissioned by our church to serve its congregation and community as a Stephen Minister. You will serve for at least a period of two years and attend twice monthly meetings for continuing education and Peer Supervision in addition to spending one hour a week with your assigned care receiver.

The commitment period for the current Stephen Ministers was reached this last June. Therefore, in order for this church to have a viable Stephen Ministry more congregation members must step forward and accept this responsibility. We currently have eight active Stephen Ministers who are serving beyond their required commitment. They are faithful servants serving those in need.

Prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. It is a wonderful way to demonstrate love for one another as GOD commands us to do.

Student Ministries *Barbara Hald*

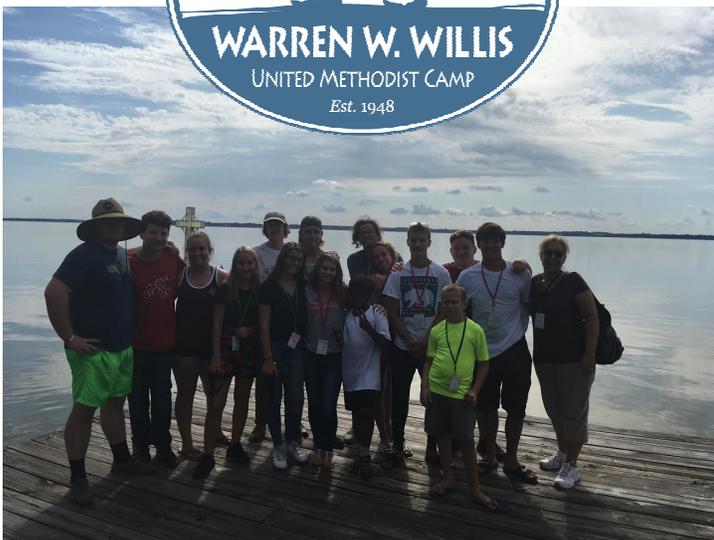
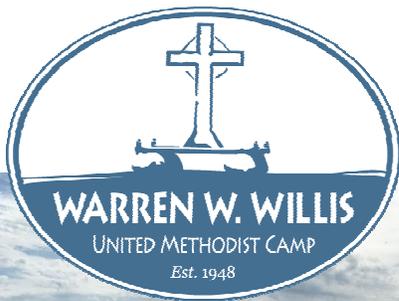
We have had such a great summer, it's hard to believe it is almost over! I want to thank everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School in June. It was so much fun learning about "God's Heroes."



Warren Willis Camp was a huge success!

We had 19 youth go this year and everyone had an awesome experience. I heard some of the kids say it was the best year yet!!! Thank you for sponsoring our Youth Group to go to camp, it is a life-changing week.

August is always hectic with going back to school. It is also our planning time for Student Ministry. Watch for upcoming events in our Sunday bulletins.



Our church should be very proud, our Vacation Bible School fundraiser collected 80 pairs of shoes for Charlotte County schools through the Kiwanis "Shoes for Kids" program. Thank you!



We still collect

Box Tops!

**You may leave your Box Tops
in the collection cart located
across from the New Room.**

Thank you!



Save  **Please!**

Every clip counts



Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: Who are these liberals you mentioned in May? (Part 2)

Answer: In Part 1 (June-July), I described four American political movements that have called themselves *Liberal*: classic or Jeffersonian Liberals who called for maximum freedom in thought, speech, and peaceful activity, Woodrow Wilson's New Liberalism, FDR's New Deal Liberalism, and a post-1970 variety. During roughly that same period, several movements arose in the churches who called themselves "liberal." Theologian William Hordern, in *A Layman's Guide to Protestant Theology* (Macmillan Co., 1957), described four groups of "theological liberals" who appeared in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (A 1968 expanded update of Hordern's book is in our church library.)

These groups sought ways to make the Christian faith acceptable to scientific-minded unbelievers who were skeptical about miracles and the Bible's inspiration and authority. Alas, instead of defending these points of faith with evidence, when skeptics cried, "I can't believe that!", many tended to, in the words of British missionary bishop Lesslie Newbigin, "hoist the white flag and say, 'Well, of course, we can't expect you to!'" (Newbigin interview, in *Betraying the Gospel: Modern Theologies and Christian Orthodoxy*, by Andrew Walker, Wilmore, KY: Bristol Books, The C. S. Lewis Centre Library, 1988, pp. 48-59 at 48). We'll look at the four groups in Part 3.

Question: On Pentecost (June 4), you gave some of our people a "Pentecost hymn," called "Another Pentecost," describing the first meeting during Pentecost, 1767, of United Brethren founders Philip Otterbein and Martin Boehm. Since a hymn is a song of praise to God, was it really a hymn or just a song?

Answer: Actually, I distributed three "Pentecost hymns": "Another Pentecost," and two based on Acts 2. Whether or not they are hymns depends on how you define *hymn*. A "song of praise to God" (or *gods*) is the first definition in three dictionaries: *Thorndike-Barnhart* (1955), *Webster's New Collegiate* (1975), and *Webster's New World College Dictionary* (2000). *Webster's New Collegiate* adds a second definition: "a musical composition adapted for singing in a religious service." These dictionaries also define *hymnal* as a book or collection of hymns. So, if it's in the *Hymnal*, it's a hymn. Or is it? What about "America the Beautiful" (#696)? We sing it in church, but is it a prayer or a song of praise?

But another group of hymns is not so God-focused. These hymns tell about saints and their deeds. Protestants, long suspicious of Roman Catholic devotion to the saints, have mostly ignored them, knowing only "Good King Wenceslas" by Anglican John Mason Neale. Ace Collins, in *Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas* (Zondervan, 2001, p. 68), says Neale wrote the hymn to teach children, presenting the king as a role model. It parallels the 1982 Episcopal *Hymnal's* "When Stephen, Full of Power" (#243), about his martyrdom. "Another Pentecost" fits closely with this group.

Hymnal editor Donald P. Hustad (1918-2013) called these songs "Sunday School hymns," instructional hymns that emerged in the 1840's (*Jubilate!: Church Music in the Evangelical Tradition*, Hope Pub. Co., 1981, p. 130). Soon afterward, in 1853, Neale wrote "Good King Wenceslas."

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. — JAC

Health Ministry *Jane Flanders*

Please join us for September's Lunch and Learn. "Understanding Parkinson's Disease" is the topic. The date is Thursday, September 21 at 11:30AM. Carisa Campanella, Care Advisor South Sarasota and Charlotte Counties Neuro Challenge Foundation for Parkinson's, will be the presenter. A complimentary lunch is provided. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Please be aware of the many "scam" telephone calls we are ALL receiving. It is suggested you do not answer your phone if you do not recognize the phone number. Never give out your social security or Medicare numbers. If you have lost money please notify the Sheriff's Office at 941 639-2101. Scam Hotline phone number: 1-866-966-7226. IRS reporting number: 800 366-4484. Never pay anyone with pre-paid gift or debit cards.

Warning Signs of a Heart Attack:

1. Chest discomfort. Most attacks involve the center of the chest and the discomfort lasts more than a few minutes. It also can go away and return. The discomfort can be a squeezing, feeling of fullness or pain in the chest.
2. May include discomfort in other areas of the upper body such as the arms, back, neck, jaw and stomach.
3. You may suffer shortness of breath. This can combine with chest discomfort or may not.
4. You may experience sweating, nausea or lightheadedness.
CALL 911 immediately!

Keeping our minds sharp as we age is important. Be sure to get exercise throughout the week such as walking. Invite a neighbor to walk with you. Stretch daily to loosen up those muscles. Do some strength and balancing exercises or take dance lessons! There are several places in Port Charlotte that offer all the above. Have fun!

Do you realize that elder abuse can include neglect, emotional and physical abuse, financial exploitation and in some cases sexual abuse according to the National Center on Elder Abuse? When looking into facilities or a provider to care for a loved one please ask questions and be smart! Ask to see the current license which should display an effective date, expiration date and whether it is an assisted living facility, adult family care home or an adult day care center. Please report any suspicious activity that involves an elderly person. If you suspect or see something report it!

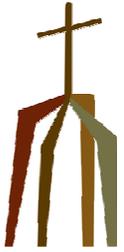
The Coffee News/Englewood, June 12 edition tells us that in London, England to be a cab driver one must spend three years studying 25,000 streets, roads, avenues, courts, lanes, crescents, places, hills, yards, and alleys. Then the new "cabbie" has to take the "Knowledge of London" test. The cabbie needs to know the fastest route from point A to point B. Guess what? Only 1 in 3 applicants pass this test! Wow!

A little humor from Sylvia Brooks in Layton, Utah. She sent this joke from a book titled "When I was Your Age." It's title, "Genius." A little boy was looking at his grandfather dozing in an easy chair. He turned to his grandmother and said: "Why does grandpa sleep so much?" The elderly woman looked down at her grandson and smiled. "The same reason you spend so much time playing outside." "Because it's fun?" the little boy asked. "No. To avoid doing chores." Thanks, Sylvia. We miss you!

Remember to drink your water every day - all day! Avoid dehydration and urinary tract infections.



The **Care & Share** Program offered by the Harry Chapin food bank is here in Port Charlotte! Please apply if you are over age 60. You will receive a box of food monthly which will include protein, milk, peanut butter, juice, soups, cheese, veggies and fruit. Healthy, simple ready-to-eat food items for you to supplement your weekly shopping. Boxes of food are picked up, by you or a friend or relative, on the third Thursday of the month, at the Trinity Church on Parmely St. Let Jane Trammell, Parish nurse, explain the program to you and help you fill out an application. The process is simple and a wonderful opportunity!



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Fall Extravaganza

Calling all Bakers! Our Fall Extravaganza is right around the corner!! We are also considering making a craft table this year. We are on the lookout for crafters of all types to donate an article of their ware.

Please contact Deborah Valler at 941-391-6588 regarding the bake sale or craft table. Thank you!



BAKE SALE

SAVE THE DATE!
October 28th
Charlotte County Fairgrounds

Please share our Vendor and Advertising application with a local business owner or individual! (Inside this newsletter!)