

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2016

Sunday Worship: 8am - 9:30am - 11am

www.pcumc.info

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Giving to the Next Generation

Oxford University's New College was founded in 1379. The architectural style included huge oak beams, roughly two feet square and forty feet long, which supported the roof and the dining hall. These beautiful beams stood the test of time for more than Five centuries. That is until the 19th century when an Oxford student climbed into the attic and found the beams were infested with beetles.

The trustees of the college were justifiably dismayed, and concerned that finding oak trunks that could match the size of the 500 year old beams, would be impossible. A member of the board suggested that they talk to the college forester. Oxford University owns huge tracts of woodlands, and the college forester manages those parcels. However, no one had seen nor spoken to the forester in recent memory.

When the forester presented himself before the board, they described the situation to him. Fully expecting him to tell them that it would be impossible to replace the enormous timbers, he surprised them by replying, "well, sires, we were wondering when you would be asking!"

When the college was built, a grove of Oak trees had been planted, specifically for replacing the beams, whenever that day would come. For 500 years, each Oxford forester had told his replacement, "you don't cut the Oaks; they are for the college hall."

This story is a reminder to think about the needs of those who will follow us. What kind of church (PCUMC) will we leave to the future generations? Today we worship in buildings that others built and share a faith passed down through generations of faithful believers.

Now, it is our turn to think about what legacy we will pass down to the future generations. How will we be remembered? Will those who follow consider us faithful?

Faithfully,

Pastor Craig Moore

Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship 8 & 11am
Contemporary 9:30am

Wednesday Nights

"Wonderful Wednesdays"

Dinner 5-6:00pm

Bible Study 5:45-6:15pm

Children 6-7:30pm

Youth 6-8:00pm

Choir 6:25pm

Saturday, December 3

Pancake Breakfast, 7-10:30am

Wednesday, December 14

Congregation Appreciation

Dinner, 5pm



Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Services at: 6pm, 8pm & 11pm

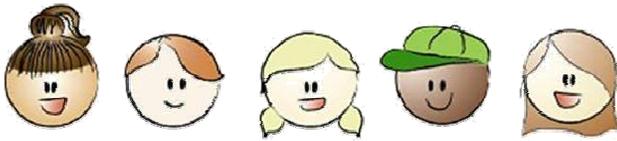
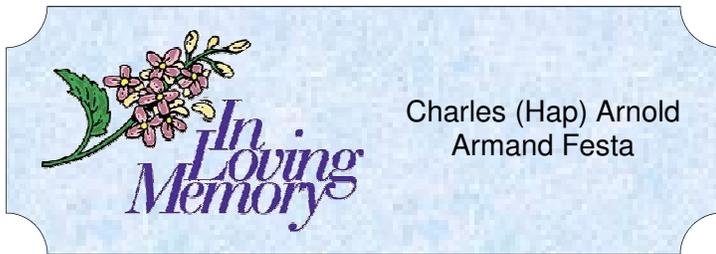
Sunday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Worship at 10:00am

Community Christmas Dinner

11:30am - 2:30pm



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

Director: Paula Mann

- Dec 3rd: Christmas parade
- Dec 7th: VPK Donuts w/ Dad
- Dec 21st: 10 am VPK Christmas Program followed by Happy Birthday, Jesus party
- Dec 22 - Jan 3 Christmas Break
- January 4: Back to school

December Prayer

Lord we thank you for this day
 Bless all we do and all we say
 May we each enjoy Thy blessings great
 As Jesus' birth we celebrate
 And may the love that we share here
 Remain throughout the coming year. Amen

December Bible Verse

Luke 1:31
 You will name him Jesus.



Thank you for supporting our Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser!



Student Ministries *Barbara Hald*

Student ministries would like to wish everyone a blessed holiday. This has been a great year filled with many changes, but God is good through all of them.



Thank you for supporting Operation Christmas Child!

Thank you for all of your support:

- We filled 90 shoe boxes for Samaritans purse.
- We raised money for the Haiti trip and collected over 100 bars of soap, 150 pairs of shoes and 50 jars of peanut butter. We will also be taking some clothes and Vacation Bible school supplies for 200 children.
- Please pray for a great mission trip and for our team, that we may spread the love of Christ this Christmas season.

Wishing you all a great Christmas!

In His Name,
 Barbara Hald, Student Ministry Director



Our youth band and their amazing mentors. A great big "thank you" to Dino, Daniel, Dustin and Christina, Jeff and Sean.

More About Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*



One of the greatest tributes to a ministry is when the benefactor of that ministry wants to become a member of that ministry. Many care receivers have gone on to become Stephen Ministers. Because of their unique perspective and the training they receive they are very effective helping their care receivers accept God's Healing Grace. This has happened many times in the decade or so that I have been a Stephen Ministry Leader and Coordinator. It warms my heart to see those that have received God's Healing Grace, want to help someone suffering to receive that same healing grace for themselves.

The difficult part of promoting Stephen Ministry is that it is based on confidentiality. For example, the congregation is unaware that in the last two years 23 members of our congregation and two members of the community have received this grace with the help of their Stephen Minister. The Stephen Minister prayed before each weekly visit. They listened, non-judgmentally. They encouraged the care receiver and used reflective listening to help draw out their feelings and express them freely and in confidence. Knowing that whatever was said would stay between the Stephen Minister and the care receiver. The Stephen Minister demonstrated their love for their care receiver with their constancy and compassion and they stayed with that care receiver until they were no longer needed. One receiver at a time.

To become a Stephen Minister, all that is necessary is a caring heart, and the desire to help others. The 50 hours of training are free, and the books necessary are provided by the previous class as a way to pay forward the blessing they have received.

After the training you will be commissioned by the congregation to serve as a Stephen Minister and attend Continuing Education and Peer Supervision Classes for a period of at least two years. You may continue to serve as long as you like. You will always be a Stephen Minister once trained and commissioned. This is a big commitment, but if you were to ask any Stephen Minister they will tell you they benefit from the relationships as much as their care receivers.

As of now we have 4 candidates. In order to have a class it is necessary to have at least 6 in a class because of role playing and interaction between candidates. I urge anyone that wants to serve, to pray about serving God in this way. You will gain skills you can use your whole life and help those, our neighbors who are struggling with their burdens, accept God's Healing Grace. You can call Pastor Craig at the church or call me, Dean Winston 941-661-8825 and I will provide an application for you. Be part of a vital ministry.

Extravagant Generosity

Y-T-D 10/31/16
 Income: \$668,365.64
 Expenses: \$655,010.91
 Community Assistance: Utilities: 3



CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2016

Checks or cash for 2016 contributions must be delivered to the church by December 31st in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for this year on your tax return. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2017 will not qualify for a 2016 deduction even if the check is dated in 2016 or was actually written in 2016. However, checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2016 will be deductible in 2016 even though they may not be received by the church until 2017.

Fall Extravaganza *Nancy Bosserdet*

And we have the 2nd Annual Charlotte County Non-Profit Extravaganza under our belts. My only word for it is "WOW". It was totally amazing – so many cars and so many people. There was over double the cars this year vs last year and so the attendance had to follow suit with more than double. What a blessing in so many ways. Hearing folks asking questions about our church brings such joy in a special way. And we were so blessed to be able to break even this year. We had no budget line item or any allocated funds this year. We took in over \$10,000 but we also spent over \$10,000, but it was all good.

We had a great turnout from the non-profit organizations in this area. Most all of them from last year repeated and there were several new ones. We did not have as many for profit businesses as last year as we were up against several other events. We had 3 vendors show up Saturday morning that had figured out a way to send us money on line even after we closed the registration. And of course, we made room for them even without any advance knowledge. The social media network was our best friend and I hope we can continue to use it to our advantage. It is FREE!

We still had space left over to add more for next year. Still would love to have a petting zoo of some sort. The barn area had nothing this year as we moved all the children's activities to the rear of the property. If anyone has any connections with a 4H group, please make the inquiries for us.

It is never too early to begin to ask vendors to join us next year. Since October is the beginning of the return of the northern folks, the vendors have many choices for events. It is up to us to seek out the ones that fit our particular profile and sign them up early. All of us like to get out and about and see what the local folks have for sale and how they are involved in their community. So just take it a step farther and ask them to join us next year. Or pick up their business card so we can add them to our email list and send them information.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Port Charlotte United Methodist Women meet at 6:30 pm the second Thursday of each month in the New Room.

December 8th Program:
A SEASON TO OFFER COMMUNITY TO ALL

Objective:

To remember the challenging circumstances of Jesus' birth, and find opportunities as United Methodist Women members to offer community to persons who are facing difficulties creating a home during the Christmas season.

All women over the age of 18 are invited - come and join us - bring a friend!



Our 3rd Annual Charlotte County Non-Profit Extravaganza will be on Saturday, October 28, 2017 and it would be perfectly fine if you would begin your prayers for that event now. It truly is a lot of work but to see so many people and children enjoying their time together – it truly warms the heart with God's blessings.

Thanks to each and every one that had any part at all in making this event the success that it was. It takes all of us in our own way pulling together to make this event happen each year! And again, I cannot say THANK YOU enough for all the support and the love generated from all of you!

Blessings,
Nancy



Chancel Choir Presents:
Lessons and Carols
 December 18th 8am and 11am

Christmas
 Joy

Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: Years ago, I heard that Jesus' ancestor lists in Matthew and Luke are different (Mt. 1:1-17 and Lk. 3:23-38) because Matthew was recording Joseph's genealogy and Luke was reporting Mary's. Now I hear someone insisting there's no evidence supporting the theory, and the theory's flat-out wrong. Is it wrong or not?

Answer: The objector is half-right. We don't have sound, persuasive proof, especially trustworthy proof from first-century sources, to verify the theory. But it's a mistake, just because the proof is lacking, to insist that it didn't happen. The argument from silence cuts both ways. Consider: a youngster steals a DVD from a store, but (1) no one saw it, (2) the security cameras didn't record it, (3) no alarm sounded, and (4) an earlier inventory mistake (e.g., an earlier product return went unrecorded) caused no shortage in the books to appear. Did a theft occur? We can say that the theft and the Matthew-Luke theory are *unverified*, but to insist that they didn't happen goes beyond the proof or lack of it.

A few years ago, I penned a story-poem, "Twas the Day After Christmas," built on the premise that, as soon as he could, Joseph brought Mary and the Baby Jesus out of the stable and into the home of one of his Bethlehem relatives. Bethlehem was his hometown. That would explain Matthew's report that the Wise Men found them in a house (Mt. 2:11), despite the near-total lack of corroborating evidence. I would maintain that that's what probably happened. But I'd never *insist* that it happened that way.

Question: Why do our manger scenes show the Wise Men and the shepherds at the stable together, when the Bible portrays them as two separate incidents at two separate locations?

Answer: My best guess is that it's poetic license to blend the two stories into one and make them more teachable. But in "Twas the Day After Christmas," I set out a different theory: the Holy Family and the shepherds returned to the stable to celebrate Jesus' first birthday when the Wise Men showed up.

Question: What does the phrase, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," in the Christmas carol with that name really mean?

Answer: Much misinformation accompanies this, one of my favorite carols. Time and again, when I requested it at family carol sings, Dad would object. The opening words said to him that this was a sub-Christian wassail (drinking) song, and not sacred music. Then, I'd have to show him the words that celebrated Jesus' birth and said nothing about liquid festivities.

Ace Collins, in *Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas* (Zondervan, 2001), says part of our difficulty in understanding the song is a mistake in punctuation. We perceive "ye merry gentlemen" as one phrase, but actually there's a comma between "merry" and "gentlemen." Besides this, the meaning of the words has changed since the carol was first sung centuries ago. "God rest ye merry, gentlemen," translated into today's English would read, "Gentlemen, God make you mighty!" (Collins, pp. 53-57). A *Mighty Christmas!* to all!

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

Health Ministry *Jane Flanders*

Remember that Publix offers FREE medications to the community. The drugs that are offered are: Ampicillin, Ciproflaxacin, Lisinopril, Amlodipine, Metformin, Amoxicillin, Bactrim and Penicillin. Simply take your prescription or your empty bottle to your nearest Publix and they will take care of the rest.

Mid-County Regional Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte offers a FREE- SAFE KID SATURDAYS program. These programs keep our children safe from injury and injury related deaths. At these programs you will receive the proper education, awareness and planning. Light refreshments are served. Upcoming programs:

- Dec. 10 - Friends and Family CPR
- Jan. 14, 2017 - Medication Safety
- Feb. 11, 2017 - Charlotte County Aquatics Program - Water Safety
- March 11- BABY SAFETY- Hidden Hazards in your Home
- April 8, 2017 - Strengthening Families- Skills and Family Relationships

Programs are held from 3:30PM - 4:30PM. Please call 941 613-3170, Ext. 3172 to register for any program.

Upcoming Bloodmobile Dates: January 4, 2017 during "Wonderful Wednesdays" from 4:00PM - 7:00PM
 March 8, 2017 during "Wonderful Wednesdays" from 4:00PM - 7:00PM
 May 10, 2017 during "Wonderful Wednesdays" from 4:00PM - 7:00PM

Please DO NOT self-defer. There is a current medication list in the Fish Bowl or see a blood collection specialist on the bus for questions. You may be able to donate if you presently are taking medications for the treatment of non-infectious diseases such as arthritis, chronic pain, gout, etc. If your blood pressure is under control you may still be able to donate while you are taking your medication. Most likely you will be able to donate if you have Diabetes and it is under control but please let your doctor know. Skin cancers (most) are not a reason to be deferred but there are many types of cancer. The technicians will ask questions regarding your diagnosis and the blood center medical director will make the final determination. Most often, people who are free of relapse a year after completing cancer treatments are able to donate. You are welcome to donate blood age 16 and older. If you are age 16 you will need a signed permission form from a parent. You are NEVER too old to donate as donors over the age of 80 give blood. Not only are you saving lives when you donate but you receive a FREE wellness checkup including a blood pressure check, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening. It is a win - win situation!

We are on our way to getting a "Caregiver's Support Group." The Area Agency on Aging has been offered an opportunity to partner with Florida State University's Department of Geriatrics and Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida through a grant. This grant program will train people to lead caregiver support groups. There presently are NONE in this area. This support group is so greatly needed. There are Alzheimer's Support Groups but there are many friends and families who are taking care of people who do not have dementia or Alzheimer's. Please consider this training program and if interested call Sherry Young at 239-652-6900, Ext. 58240. This is a FREE leader training program.

Looking for a Geriatrician? Start with the internet at: healthinaging.org/find-a-geriatrics-healthcare-professional. Information about the geriatric field can be found at americangeriatrics.org. Local geriatric physicians can be found at doctor.webmd.com/find-a-doctor/specialty/internal-medicine-geriatrics. You can also call Fawcett or Bayfront Hospitals to ask if they have geriatricians on staff.

January 19, 2017 Lunch and Learn: Coastal Chiropractic's Dr's Corey Girdwood and Matthew DeFillipis will once again be with us. What a great way to start a new year! Lunch begins at 11:30AM and be sure to sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan on attending.

Merry Christmas to you and your families. Enjoy a blessed day.



December Birthdays

1 Stacey Kern	16 Izaiyah Shirley
1 Brenda Ryan	17 Judy Brown
2 Carol Fisher	17 Paul Campbell
4 Gary Mason	18 Richard Mallard
5 Sharon Bencivengo	19 Shari McNemar
6 Cheryl Terry	20 Gary Reeves
6 Chantel Young	22 Marsha Mikus
7 Jessica Wilcek	23 Jacob Bowers
9 Charles Polk	23 Serena LoTempio
10 Laura Donham	24 Janice Brown
11 Seanna Marie Bailey	26 Gay Kemp
11 Merle McDonald	27 Dorothy deSilva
11 Julie Scott	28 Sandra Walter
11 Fern West	29 Joyce Gooden
13 Gina Brancheau	30 Maxine Bolitho
13 Lucy Leavitt	30 Bob Cates
13 Justin Szatmary	30 Bart McFarlane
15 Sam Force	30 Arthur Miller
16 Elfreda Bryan	



December Anniversaries

01 Warren and Alice Heidenis
10 J. C. and Margaret Spann
12 Jessica and Kristian Dunda
18 Ron and Patty Royer
19 G.Walford and Marlene Young
21 Charles and Paige Polk
23 Steve and Phyllis Cox
26 Paul and Norma Campbell
26 Don and Esther Keirnan
27 John and Josephine Keating
28 John and Gay Kemp
29 Fred Wagner and Linda Layman

2016 PCUMC COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Do you believe we will be serving Christmas Dinner at Port Charlotte United Methodist Church for the 31st time?? YES, years do pass quickly! Dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall on Christmas Day from 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM. Dinner includes turkey, ham, mashed potatoes/gravy, stuffing, sweet potato casserole, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls, desert and beverage. There is no charge for the meal and is open to all church and community families or anyone who might find themselves alone on Christmas.

The church will provide transportation for those with special needs who are unable to drive to the church. Please call the church office during the daytime, M-F before 3:30 PM, to request this service. (941-625-4356) If you prefer to have a meal delivered to your home, please call (941-769-3835). We will need your name, number of meals, phone number, address, zip code, and any special instructions (gated community, apartment number, etc.) Reservations for both transportation and shut-in's home delivery must be made by Wednesday, December 21st. We work with Meals on Wheels staff and need to allow them processing time.

Christmas this year falls on a Sunday. There will be ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 am. Our Christmas dinner will follow at 11:30 AM. Some of our volunteers will be working through the morning to get the dinner ready at 11:30 am.

The dinner is prepared and served by our church members and community volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please call Chris Burr (941-204-9974). If you attend Sunday services, please look for the detailed volunteer form in the Sunday bulletins following Thanksgiving.

Our Pastor, Dr. Craig and Mrs. Kathy Moore and the 2016 dinner coordinators look forward to you being a part of our 31st anniversary dinner's "love gift" to Port Charlotte.



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Did You Know? *Dean Winston*

For the past thirty years Joanne Salk has led an exercise class at PCUMC. They are held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:00 am in the sanctuary. Joanne leads the group of twenty five or so women in both standing and floor exercises. Some use weights and mats, setting their own pace and length of workout. All of those involved are over sixty, some as old as ninety, and are led by Joanne who is seventy nine. The benefits for this group are both physical and social. They are active in their lives and have developed friendships and good caring relationships. The friendships developed even extend beyond the classes where together they occasionally get together for social activities. In appreciation of the church allowing them the use of the sanctuary, each donates a dollar each visit. If you would like to join this group, simply show up and enjoy the workout and the fellowship. Some even become members of our church through this relationship.

The Bulletin Team has the motto, "Many hands make light work." The next time you are handed a bulletin, think about how much work goes into the creation, printing, folding, inserting, distribution, and retrieval of each one. All of this work to give us, the congregation, necessary information for that Sunday's worship and the week following. Katherine Warden our Communication Coordinator, does the creating, printing and folding. The Bulletin Team, consists of Dorothy Adams, Bill Bishop, Bob Hankins and Hannah, Pauline Harris, Ruth Herzberger, Esther Kiernan, Marlene Marecek, Olga Sabo, and Nancy Wyld. Some in this group have been doing this for over twenty five years. So, the next time you are handed a bulletin think about the people and the work involved to communicate, in just this one way.

If your ministry or group would like to be highlighted in the "Newsletter", please contact Katherine in the office or Dean Winston at 941-661-8825 and we would be delighted to facilitate that.



Bulletins