

# KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## February 2016

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

[www.pcumc.info](http://www.pcumc.info)

941-625-4356 ph / 941-625-0144 fax

### “CHURCH - Loving What Jesus Loves”

I once heard an interview with an aging billionaire. He was asked questions about his passions, his possessions, and people - his loves. But, he seemed startled when the question was asked, "Who loves you?" He thought for a moment and said, "I don't if someone as wealthy as I am can ever really know if they are loved. How can I be sure?"

We use the word love so often. We have only one word for *love* in the English language, but it is the single longest entry in Webster's dictionary. We say, "I love my job" to "I love my car" to "I love my dog" to "I love my wife." In contrast to English, the Greek language uses many words for *love*. We find some of them used in the Bible, including the words *erōs*, *phileō*, *storgē*, and *agapē*. *Erōs*, from which we get our English word *erotic*, is primarily love on the physical level. *Phileō*, from which the name *Philadelphia* originates, means "brotherly love." It is the love that two friends have, a friendship love. Then there is *storgē*, which refers to family love, such as the love of a child for a parent or a parent for a child. One word that is used often in the Bible is *agapē*. This is God's love, a supernatural love that also can be known and practiced by a group of people that I love, the CHURCH!

In the course of Jesus' ministry, he only spoke about starting one organization, the CHURCH. Jesus said, *“Upon this rock I will build my church and all the powers of hell will not conquer it”* (Matt. 16:18). Jesus loves church! So I love church!

One of the reasons people give for choosing not to love the church is the presence of hypocrites. When people talk to me about hypocrites in the life of the church, my answer is, "Yes." Just like there were hypocrites that gathered around Jesus. Some of those hypocrites were handpicked by Him.

I believe there will be three surprises when we get to heaven:

- A lot of the people we thought would be there, won't be.
- A lot of the people we never thought would be there, will be.
- We will be there!

This is meant to be a joke. We receive heaven as a gift of God's loving grace, but you get the point.

Jesus told a parable about tares and wheat that grow side by side (Matt. 13:19). A farmer planted his crop of wheat, but his enemy came at night and planted weeds among the wheat. These weeds, or tares (what is known as the "darnel seed"), look exactly like wheat for most of the growing...

#### 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**  
**Choir: 6:15pm**  
**Adult Studies: 6:30-7:30pm**

#### **Saturday, Feb. 6**

Pancake Breakfast 7-11am

#### **Tuesday, Feb. 9**

Membership Class 6-8pm

#### **Wednesday, Feb. 10**

Ash Wednesday Worship  
6:30pm

#### **Friday, Feb. 12**

UMM Valentine Dinner 5:30pm

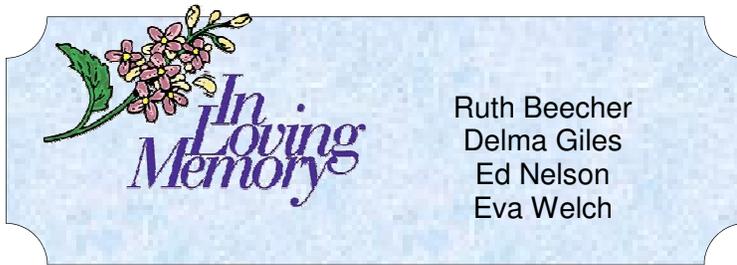
#### **Monday, February 15**

**President's Day**  
Church Closed

#### **Thursday, Feb. 18**

Lunch & Learn 11:30am

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process until the end, when they literally uproot the wheat.

What is the definition of the word "hypocrite," as used in Scripture? It is an actor, someone who pretends to be something they really are not. Friends, all of us have our hypocritical moments.

We have all pretended to be more spiritual at times than we really are. I know I have. This is not an excuse for hypocrisy, just an explanation. Wherever there is the genuine, there will be the counterfeit. Satan loves it when the discovery of a counterfeit causes someone to choose to forfeit the genuine.

It really comes down to LOVE. Jesus loved and loves the Church, and we should be too! There is no love in this world like the kind of love offered by God's church. The Church may have many critics, but no rivals! And I'm proud to be a lover of what Christ loves, the Church. I love you! Happy Valentine's Day!

Keep going and never quit!

Grace, Pastor Brian

 **Letters**

Mrs. Branco called to thank the church for her Christmas dinner. She was a shut-in and said it was "so delicious and appreciated."

To the good chefs - good recipes and excellent presentation by the members of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church - I must speak for a real gift to the community of good spirit and sharing. All church members young and old were helpful and caring. The best yet!  
- Nancy Mitchel

**Extravagant Generosity**

Y-T-D thru 12/31/15  
Income \$854,718.32  
Expenses \$840,659.68  
Assistance: Utilities 6, Rent 2, Other 1



Dinner served Wednesdays from 5-6:30pm  
Suggested Donation: \$5

Children and Youth Activities 6:00 - 8:15pm  
Bible Studies & Small Groups: from 6:30 - 7:30pm

Shuttle transportation is available.  
Call 625-4356 by noon on Wednesday.



**Special WNO Presentation**

Jamie Walton of the Wayne Foundation will offer a program on "Explaining the Reality of Human Trafficking in the United States" following WNO on Feb. 17 at 6:30PM. Did you know that Human Trafficking is a 9.5 billion dollar industry? It is a "hidden" crime that is money motivated. The average age of sex trafficking victims is 13-14 years old. Florida is 3rd in the nation for reported cases of sex trafficking. Come discover where our children are being exploited and the computer is just one place. Detective Bill White of the Port Charlotte Sheriff's Dept. will also be present. If you see any trafficking, call 911. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center is available 24 hours a day and the phone number is 818-373-7888. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's phone number is 800-843-5678. Bring your notebook and pen to this valuable and informative presentation.  
**You won't want to miss it!**



**(Girls Everywhere Meeting The Savior)**  
A Girls' Club For Ages Pre-K - 12th Grade

- \*Get to know Jesus
- \*Enjoy dynamic singing & creative movement
- \*Study the Bible
- \*Make lasting friendships
- \*Do service projects
- \*Play games
- \*Do fun crafts for others

**Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:30pm**  
**February - October**  
Contact Elizabeth  
Ziegelbauer for more  
information: 625-4356.

## Music Notes *David deSilva*

### Why didn't we sing more Christmas Carols during Advent?

Perhaps this could be called a "frequently heard question," though I'll handle it myself rather than pass it along to Jonathan C. I'm not sure how frequently this was heard around the church, but it did arise in at least one Sunday School class and it's certainly worth addressing.

First, let me say up front that I love Christmas music. I was listening to Christmas music in early December and I was listening to Christmas music as late as last night (January 10th) on a long drive. But I also want for us as a worshipping community to think about how to honor the liturgical seasons of the Christian Year and how to experience the contribution of each one rather than be swept away by the cultural idea promoted in our malls that the Christmas Season falls between Thanksgiving and December 25.

The season of Christmas runs from December 25 through January 6. Its observance in the Christian calendar starts with Christmas Eve and concludes with Epiphany on January 6, traditionally linked with the visit of the Magi. You all know the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"? This Christian tradition is its background. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve lies the season of Advent with its focus on preparing to meet Christ. While this season looks forward to Christmas, you have no doubt noticed from the lessons and Pastor Brian's sermons that it also looks forward to Christ's Return. It is partially about preparing our hearts for Christmas as we hear read the Old Testament prophecies of the One who was to come, but it is also about preparing our hearts to meet Him when he comes again to judge the world and to usher in his Kingdom in all its fullness. Many of the Old Testament readings apply as much to this still-to-come event, when Christ's reign of righteousness and peace is consummated, as to the long-past event, when Jesus was born as the One who would in time fulfill those hopes. Several readings from the Gospel during this season focus squarely on Jesus' coming again or on the proclamation of John the Baptist, calling people to make themselves ready for Jesus' coming as he began his public, adult ministry, still calling us to make ourselves ready to meet Jesus as he walks among his churches and as he comes again in final victory.

The message of Advent is critically important to us as followers of Jesus who long for his appearing, but who also need to hear the call of the Scriptures to make ourselves ready for that day "when we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us might receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (2 Cor 5:10). I want for every part of the service to support Advent's call to us in the Scriptures and the sermons, and thus the music chosen for Advent is, well, "Adventy" rather than "Christmasy" -- and we get to enjoy the latter in our common worship for three services on Christmas Eve, two Sundays, and, from time to time, services on January 6. I wonder if there are more subtle, spiritual reasons that the world around us promotes Christmas (who doesn't like the nostalgic feel and a little baby?) and sweeps Advent to the side (who wants to admit such a level of accountability to Jesus?).

Having said that, I remember that, during my first year among you, we had hymn sings before the traditional services specifically to enjoy Christmas carols throughout December without detracting from what Advent offers us. This past December, I have to confess, I simply and completely forgot. Somehow the challenges of preparing the choir in and for the new space from week to week drove from my mind any thought of a pre-service Christmas Carol sing. And, for that, I simply must apologize to those of you who felt its absence. Next Advent, please help me remember so that both those who want to do some carol singing and those who want to make of Advent all that it can be find fulfillment.

Kind regards, David deSilva

## Health Ministry *Jane Flanders*

Lunch and Learns: Thursday, February 18 - Dr. Daniel Kretchman, Psychologist and his staff from Comprehensive Med Psych Systems will present a wonderful program and Power Point on "Sleep, Lullaby Sessions." Presentation begins at 11:30AM with a complimentary lunch. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Thursday, March 17 "Alzheimer's Disease and Updates" with Linda Howard, Director of Public Policy from the Alzheimer's Association and Dr. Ramon Gil, Neurologist who has been studying research on Alzheimer's Disease. Presentation begins at 11:30AM with a complimentary lunch. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Many thanks to Shirley Antrobus and Jim Eugenius for making the delicious fruit salad and coleslaw for our Lunch and Learns.

Couldn't donate blood on January 20th? Well, your next opportunity is Wednesday, March 16 from 4:00PM - 7:30PM. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center so you can come at a time that is convenient for you. Please donate!

Did you know that if you can afford health insurance coverage in 2016 and don't sign up, you may have to pay a penalty in regards to your income tax return? The penalty is \$695 per adult, \$347.50 per child, up to \$2,085 a family or 2.5% of the family income, whichever is higher. And please remember that if you do not have insurance, you will be financially responsible for all your medical costs.

Do you travel with your pets? Here are some interesting facts concerning safe travel. If you travel over the state line you need a health certificate which should be obtained ten days before your travel date. Call your veterinarian so he can examine your pet to be sure he or she has no infections and has had the proper immunizations. This health certificate cannot be legally issued without a veterinary exam. Make sure your pet has the proper identification in case he or she becomes lost. A collar with an ID tag is the best but be sure it has the correct information. Microchips offer permanent information and identification and will make it easier for your pet to be returned to you. Please restrain your pet in a carrier or properly fitted harness. No pets should be allowed to hang their heads out the car window or sit in your laps! We want you and your pet to arrive at your destination safely.

Need your blood pressure taken? Now that WNO has started again, the nurses are taking blood pressures that evening beginning at 4:00PM. Need your blood pressure taken during the Men's Breakfast which is the first Saturday of the month? No problem. We are there at 7:00AM until 11:00AM and will gladly take your blood pressure. The nurses are there to assist you at any time while you are at church. Find a nurse and simply ask. Have questions? We'll try and answer them and if we don't know the answer, we'll do our best to get the answer for you.

We encourage you to attend the "special WNO presentation" on February 17 starting at 6:30PM. Come and enjoy a delicious dinner with friends and be informed about a very serious subject - Human Trafficking. If you have not heard of this phrase, have children or grandchildren, you need to come and learn this evening. Your state - Florida - is 3rd in the nation for reported cases of sex trafficking! It is happening right under our noses and the average age of our delicate children being exploited is 13 and 14. Give you the chills? Listen to statistics and what is being done right here in Port Charlotte to protect our children with Jamie Walton of the Wayne Foundation and Detective Bill White of the Port Charlotte Sheriff's Dept. Everyone should be at this presentation!

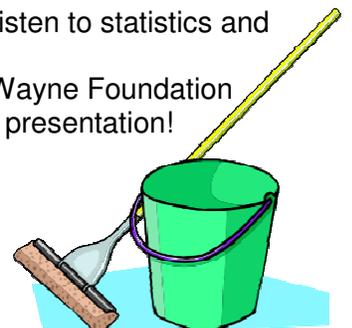
Need to clean your "dirty" grout on your tiled floors? Give this a try. Mix 7 cups of water, 1/2 cup baking soda, 1/3 cup lemon juice, 1/4 cup of vinegar. Place all ingredients into a spray bottle and spray onto your tiles. Let solution sit for 1 to 2 minutes and scrub. Voila! Clean floors.

**Lunch & Learn** Free!

- COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH PROVIDED -

Thursday, February 18  
11:30am - 1:00pm

**"Sleep, Lullaby Sessions"**  
Dr. Daniel Kretchman



## More About Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*



It has been two years since we began to rejuvenate Stephen Ministry in our church. We have had some success, but we still have a long way to go to serve our congregation in the way the Ministry was designed. Stephen Ministry is based on the second most important commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself," as is written in Matthew 22:39. What better way to show a neighbor you love them, than to share their burden?

If we are lucky, in our life time we may have two or three real friends. The kind of friend you can count on no matter what. The kind of friend you can tell anything to and trust they will keep it confidential. The kind of friend who will listen to you, and care about how you are feeling, and offer encouragement when you need it, and insights when you ask. The kind of friend who demonstrates their love for you with their listening ear, and a soothing touch.

Stephen Ministers are members of the congregation who have received 50 hours of training over a period of 20 weeks, to become very much like the definition of a "Good Friend." They are trained and then commissioned by the congregation to care for their care receivers. Those in the congregation or community that are experiencing grief, illness, loss of job, loss of faith or any other struggle that life may give them are given a Stephen Minister upon request. Men are assigned to men. Women are assigned to women. Their relationship is confidential. No one knows who has been assigned to who except the Stephen Ministry Coordinator, and they are bound by a confidential covenant, as are the Stephen Ministers.

The relationship begins by both setting aside about an hour a week that they can meet. The Stephen Minister prays for their care receiver before they meet. They listen non-judgmentally to the care receiver as he or she shares their feelings and their struggles. They listen, like that good friend. They keep things confidential, like that good friend. They are constant in their meetings, like that good friend. They offer encouragement and insights or advice when asked, like a good friend. They demonstrate their love, like that good friend. Over time a level of trust builds. The care receiver feels that love, the love from their neighbor, their Stephen Minister. The care receiver accepts GOD'S HEALING GRACE. They find peace. Once the care receiver no longer needs their Stephen Minister to help carry their burdens, they are assigned to someone else. However, they will likely remain friends for life because of all they have shared, and the level of trust developed.

If you would like a Stephen Minister, call Pastor Brian at 625-4356 or Dean Winston at 661-8825. We have 17 active Stephen Ministers. To be part of this vital ministry, call Dean Winston 661-8825

### UNITED METHODIST MEN **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Saturday, February 6th 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!**

**Save the Date**



**PCUMC**



## **Valentine's Dinner**

Sponsored by the United Methodist Men

Friday February 12, 2016

5:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

**Reservations Required**

Get your tickets early

**\$25 per couple, \$15 per single**

**Special Entertainment by David deSilva & Friends**

Tickets will be available from members of Methodist Men or in the foyer before and after services.

## Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

**Question:** I thought the word *parochialism* had to do with Catholics (parochial schools, for example), but I heard someone applying the word to us. What's going on?

**Answer:** *Parochialism* at its root means "of or in a parish or parishes" (*Webster's New World College Dictionary*, 4th ed., 2000). It refers to a viewpoint that only knows and grasps the thinking and customs of the local church or community. I knew a UM pastor whose whole United Methodist experience was in Chicago city and suburban churches after 1970. Assigned to a country church far from the city, she found its members' thinking and customs so unlike her own that she begged to go back to the city. There she went to a church that didn't "do ashes" on Ash Wednesday. "All United Methodist churches receive ashes," she insisted. But that was only true in her local, post-1970 (parochial) experience.

We find parochialism in church members who insist on using no hymns except traditional hymns as well as in those who will sing no songs written before 1999. Those who cling to one particular Bible translation, rejecting all others, are parochial. Jesus said, "I have other sheep that do belong to this fold" (John 10:16 NRSV). Parochialism says, "All Christians should think and act like us!" Our United Methodist church law sides with Jesus: Articles of Religion, art. xxii; Confession of Faith, art. xiii.

The early New Testament churches were both locally focused and distant-focused (see, for example, Acts 13:1-3, 2 Cor. 8-9, Phil. 4:10-20). Jesus, shortly before His crucifixion, rebuked the scribes and Pharisees for being so

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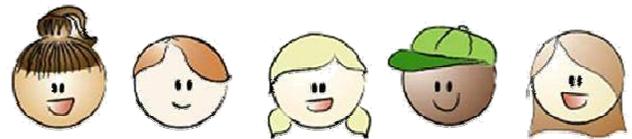
## Student Ministries *Barbara Hald*

The Student Ministry has been very busy and very excited about the new year. We pray that you all had a great Christmas and are off to a promising new year.

If you attended the Epiphany Service, you may have seen all the Youth in the back of the Sanctuary serving hot cocoa. And, during the service Pastor Brian asked us what we were going to give to God this year. If you could pray, if you are being sent by God to help with Youth, I need help! It is as simple as showing up once a month on Wednesday nights, and maybe lead a small group at the end and the small group questions are already written down. That's it. The way I'm looking at it, it's a simple way to serve and get to know a great group of kids. Please pray about this!

The Youth are holding a fundraiser "Super Bowl Subs" Please buy a sub and help us with Camp and Mission trip expenses. Just fill out a form as to what kind of sandwich you want, order and pay for it and pick it up Sunday, February 7th after service. And, even if you go out to lunch after service, bring a cold pack and save for later as you are relaxing and watching the Super bowl (or the commercials as I do.)

We are planning a Confirmation Retreat in February. If your child is in Middle School or older and has never been confirmed, please contact me for more information.



### PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

**Director: Paula Mann**

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

#### February Bible Verse:

Ecclesiastes 4:10 "If one falls down, his friend can help him up."

#### February Prayer:

Lord, thank you for our happy hearts,  
for rain and sunny weather.  
Thank you for the food we eat  
and that we're all together. Amen



NO SCHOOL: February 15-16  
Human Trafficking Presentation: February 17  
Walk in Day: Feb 29

Sneak Peek:  
March 4 Dr. Seuss day... dress crazy!

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focused on determining the proper tithing of food seasonings that they “neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.” — Mt. 23:23-24 NRSV

**Question:** In Genesis 6:1-4, it talks about “the sons of God” marrying “the daughters of men” (NIV). Who are these “sons of God”? Are they angels?

**Answer:** Not according to Jesus. He told the Sadducees during Holy Week that, like angels, people who rise from the dead “will neither marry nor be given in marriage” (Mt. 22:30, Mk. 12:25, Lk. 20:35 NIV). Gleason L. Archer, in his *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* (Zondervan, 1982), reports that over the centuries, some rabbis have speculated that these “sons of God” were angels. But Archer dismisses the idea as unsupported by Scripture, “a curious intrusion of pagan superstition” (p. 79). The NIV translates the Hebrew phrase, rendered “sons of God” in Gen. 6, as “angels” in Job 1:6 and 2:1. The 1982 Jewish translation, *Tankakh*, and the *Common English Bible* call the “sons of God” in Gen. 6 “divine beings.” *The Living Bible* calls them “beings from the spirit world.”

But John Wesley says the passage refers to people, not spirit beings (cf. Mt. 5:9), to the intermarriage of the godly descendants of Seth with the “profane,” unbelieving descendants of Cain (*Explanatory Notes Upon the Old Testament*, notes on Gen. 6:2). In this, he agrees with countless Christian scholars through the centuries including commentator Matthew Henry and Wesley’s contemporary, Roman Catholic bishop Richard Challoner, who revised the *Douai-Rheims Version*.

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](mailto: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

## February Birthdays

01 Pat Winston	09 Robert Stevens	19 Sylvia Brooks	26 Mary Clemmons
01 Christopher Bode	09 Chelsea Machado	19 Layla Taj	26 Carol J. McCullough
01 Kyle Dunda	10 Eloise Ness	19 Yvette McIntosh	26 Skyla Cekuta-Bolyard
02 David Glassburn	10 Joan Mackey	19 Tom Williams	27 Patty Royer
02 Othniel Robinson	10 Marsha Normoyle	20 Evelyn Sturgis	27 Diane DePaul
02 Susan Putman	11 Hannelore Edgington	21 Deborah Valler	28 Addison Cates
02 Adalynn LoTiempo	12 William Bryan	22 Veronica Campbell	28 Ron Dobson
03 Tiffany Roberts	12 Gayle Behnke	22 Nina Petro	28 Susan Ross
04 Gene Middaugh	12 Logan Voigt	23 Robin Hart	
05 Thomas Volkmann	14 Patrick Slike	23 Ryan Gianni	
05 Sonjia Back	15 Pat Robinette	24 Jean Pearl	
08 Robin Ettinger	15 David Cox, Jr.	24 "D" Fletcher	
08 Al Hilbert	16 Madilyn Ashley	25 Phyllis Collis	
09 Fredrick Carlsen	17 Lorraine Vida	25 Jerri Boyd	
09 Olga Sabo	18 Sheila Armour	25 Savannah Welton	

## February Anniversaries

03 Mike and Joan Sniecinski
13 Bill and Ellen Even
14 Terry and Doris Hixson
14 Tom and Marcie Marshall
15 Bertum and Veronica Campbell
19 Bruce and Nikki Foster





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[facebook.com/portcharlotteumc](https://www.facebook.com/portcharlotteumc)

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## United Methodist Women *Sandy Segur (941) 249-8726*

### What's Your Plan? Reading, of Course!

#### Four Reading Program Plans – 5 Categories

Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth

PLAN I – 5 Books Per Year, One book from each category

PLAN II – 10 Books Per Year, Two from each category

PLAN III – 15 Books Per Year, Two from each category plus five additional books from any category

PLAN IV – 20 Books Per Year, Two from each category plus 10 additional books from any category

Plan I is to include regular reading of **response** magazine. Plans II, III and IV are to include regular reading of **response** and *New World Outlook* magazines.

All Plan selections can be from the 2011-2016 reading lists if not included in previous reports, including Youth titles.

There are 20 (as listed in the August Newsletter) of the 2016 Reading Program books, plus November and December issues of **response** and “*New World Outlook*” magazines in our library in the New Room on the desk.

The Gifts of Wisdom – “...for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.”  
Proverbs 8:11



United Methodist Women meetings are the first Monday of the month, 10am in the Fellowship Hall of Trinity United Methodist Church – 23084 Seneca Avenue, Port Charlotte – All women invited!