

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 2015

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

www.pcumc.info

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"GOD, MY GOOD FRIEND"

As we enter the month of February, we often turn our attention to relationships. Statistics tell us that more romantic relationships are begun in the month of February than in any other month of the year. For many, that desperate search for relationship comes from a lack of real relationships in their life. People desperately want to find true relationship.

In Psalm 25:14 we are told, *"The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant."* If we were asked to make a list of our friends, most of us would fail to put God on our list. And if scripture tells me I should fear God, then what kind of friend could He be? The fear that the psalmist writes about is "awe", "wonder", "amazement;" that's exactly the way I want to feel about my "best" friends.

So we want our relationship with God to be built on a foundation of **reverence and awe**. But, the fruit of that relationship is an ongoing relationship grown up into a love relationship with God. God longs to be in relationship with us, but He longs to be much more than our cosmic buddy. The word **"friendship"** in this verse can be translated *secret* or *intimate*. This word in the Hebrew refers to the *confidential counsel* that you would get from a close friend. So, the secret, intimate, confidential counsel that comes from the friendship of the Lord *"is for those who are in awe of Him."* God shares His best stuff with the people who fear Him. This is the closeness of trusting God.

In the house I grew up in, "Wait till your father gets home," meant something. There was a strong sense of order and discipline in my house, but I never felt a lack of love from either of my parents. I could laugh with them, cry with them, gain counsel from them, but even as I grew older, I talked to them differently because they're my parents.

Even in our relationship with God, there's still that sense of "He's God; we're not." My Valentine's prayer for you, brothers and sisters, is that you will sense God's invitation to a rich and healthy friendship with God, that flows from a foundation of reverent awe. Happy Valentine's Day!

Keep going and never quit!

Grace, Pastor Brian

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
Adult Studies: 6:30-7:30pm

Saturday, February 7

Pancake Breakfast 7-11am
"Hearing God's Call for 2015"
9:30-12:30

Thursday, February 12

New Member Class 6-8pm

Friday, February 13

Valentine Dinner 5:30-9pm

Monday, February 16

President's Day
Church Closed

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday Service,
6:30pm

Friday, February 20

CWM Registration/Open House
Family Dinner & a Movie

Saturday, February 21

SW District THRIVE Conference
First UMC, Punta Gorda

Thursday, February 26

Lunch & Learn 11:30-1pm

February Birthdays

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



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

United Methodist Men's Valentine Dinner

Friday, February 13, 2015

Seating begins at 5pm

Dinner served at 5:30pm

Tickets:

\$25/couple \$15/Single

Attire: Formal to Smart Casual



Letters

January 7, 2015

Dear Rev. James and the Congregation of Port Charlotte UMC,

As your District Superintendent, I want to express my personal gratitude and appreciation for the leadership and dedication your church has shown in giving 100% to the Conference, District and Mission apportionments. I know this is not always easy, and I want to commend you for your faithfulness in fulfilling this responsibility. I am grateful to serve alongside you and deeply appreciate all you do to honor Christ and His Church.

In His Service,

Rinaldo D. Hernandez
South West District Superintendent



Join us for our Ash Wednesday worship service
Wednesday, February 18th at 6:30pm

Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: I once read that The United Methodist Church has no official teaching about the Devil. Is that true?

Answer: No. I remember the article. It first appeared in *The United Methodist Reporter* in 2008 and then *Good News* magazine reprinted it. A book by one of my former professors prompted the article. But the claim is not true. Those making it misunderstand what comprises “official United Methodist teaching.” They recognize as “official teaching” only statements voted on and approved by the General Conference. By this theory, the 1996 statement on baptism in *The Book of Resolutions, as amended* (the original text was ruled unconstitutional), was our first official baptism statement. But they ignore a separate, higher class of official teachings, our “established standards of doctrine”: the Methodists’ Articles of Religion and General Rules, the Evangelical United Brethren Confession of Faith, John Wesley’s *Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament* and his *Standard Sermons*. The Confession mentions the Devil (art. xi) and the *Notes* and *Sermons* discuss him and his cohorts in detail. All of these are official teachings, along with, to a lesser extent, our Sunday School lessons from Cokesbury.

Question: I saw a listing in a catalog for a Bible, *The King James Bible, 1611 Edition*. What’s the difference between this Bible and the *King James Bibles* that many of our members read and carry and revere?

Answer: *Difference* doesn’t apply here. The *differences* number in the thousands. I have a copy of this 1611 KJV. It’s a page-by-page-identical replica of the first edition. The typeface is the first difference you’d notice. The archaic type includes a small *s* that looks like an italic *f* (*f*). This makes for super-slow reading. Our KJV Bibles are actually a 1769 revision done by British scholar, Benjamin Blayney. New Testament translator Edgar Goodspeed estimates that Blayney’s edition differed “from that of 1611 in at least 75,000 details,” according to Sakae Kubo and Walter F. Specht (*So Many Versions?: 20th Century English Versions of the Bible*, rev. & enl. ed., Zondervan, 1983, p. 274). Many changes involve modernizing spelling: *more*, not *moe*; *Jerusalem*, not *Hierusalem*; etc.

Question: I was taught that pronouns representing God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit should be capitalized: *He, Him, His*. Why don’t our hymnals and pew Bibles follow this rule?

Answer: Rules for capitalizing nouns and pronouns relating to God vary with languages, group attitudes, and time-periods. *The Associated Press Stylebook* (1970 ed., sec. 1:22) says, “CAPITALIZE Deity and He, His, Him denoting Deity but not who, whose, whom. ... CAPITALIZE Satan and Hades but not devil and hell” (p. 6, emphasis orig.). The 2004 edition orders small letters for all the pronouns and *devil, heaven, and hell* (pp. 72, 112, 113, and 214). Christian publishers today mostly use small letters for the pronouns because (I’m guessing) that’s what the KJV did. Others try to avoid male pronouns, substituting *God* or *God’s*. I capitalize the pronouns including the *who*-forms and *Own* when it follows *His*. I also capitalize *Heaven* and *Hell*, following a movie mogul’s practice. He did it, he said, “Because they’re real places, like New York and Philadelphia.” That may not be an exact quote.

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 friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.
1 John 4:7



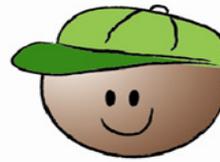
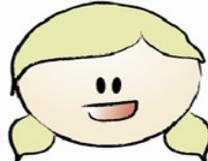
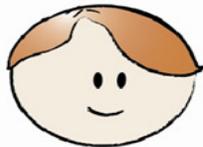
You're Invited!

HEARING GOD'S CALL FOR 2015

February 7, 2015

9:30am - 12:30pm

Join us for an all-church gathering the first Saturday in February. Come early for fellowship and breakfast at the United Methodist Men's Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall, then we will begin our time together with worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30am. All are encouraged to come for a morning of fellowship, prayer, worship & renewal.



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

Spread the word ...

it's time to **REGISTER!**

Friday, February 20, 2015 is going to be a **FUN NIGHT!**

Open House/Tours & Registration will be held from **5-7 pm. Come and register your child for**

Preschool:

3 yr old classes (must be 3 and potty trained by Sept 1) include:

2 day (TTH 9-12): \$125/month

3 day (MWF 9-12): \$175/month

VPK (must be 4 by Sept 1): FREE

5 day (9-12)

3 day (MWF 9-2)

After School:

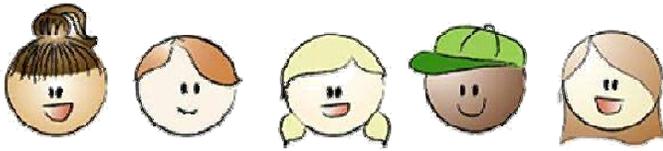
We pick up at area elementary schools. Our program is open from 3-6 pm, Monday through Friday, when Charlotte County Schools are in session.

Fees:

1st child = \$150/month

2nd child = \$125/month

There is a \$50 registration fee for 3 year olds and After School students only. This will be taken off your first month's tuition.



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

Weekday Ministry *Paula Mann*

Bible Verse:

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

Prayer:

Lord, we 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



Dates to Remember:

- February 2 Groundhog Day
- February 7 Teachers away at conference
- February 7 7-11 Pancake Breakfast
- February 14 Happy Valentine's Day
- February 16 NO SCHOOL (no CTJ this week)
- February 22 Kids are invited to come to the
11am service to sing
- February 27 Walk-in Day

Youth Ministry *Paul Kisner*



2015 Summer Camp

Now is the time to register for Warren Willis United Methodist Camp. The church will be providing transportation for Week 6: July 13-18

Please take a registration packet located on the slat wall outside the Port (children's wing) in the lobby for more information including registration deadline, required deposit and scholarship policy.



SW District Annual Training Event

Training Leaders to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the Transformation of the World

Saturday, February 21, 2015

8:30 am - 3:00pm
First UMC-Punta Gorda

A Training Opportunity for All Clergy
and Local Church Laity....

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend!

This district learning event is designed to inspire and equip laity, lay staff and clergy.

The cost of this event is \$5 at the door (cash or check payable to "South West District Office"). Participants can select to attend two sessions from various topics and leaders.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Ron Crandall
"Making Disciples Jesus' Way"

What is it Jesus really wants his disciples to know, to remember, and to do in order to "Thrive" and faithfully advance the Kingdom?

Register online today. Remember to register one person at a time: <http://www.flumc2.org>.

Children's Ministry *Barbara Hald*

Join us for Dinner and a Movie on Feb 20th, including a Clothes & Toy SWAP.

Join us for "Acts of Faith."
Puppets and Flags will be working hard for our Easter outreach.

G.E.M.S Girls Club "Girls Everywhere Meeting The Savior" will start back on Feb. 5th.





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Health Ministry *Jane Flanders*

Be sure to sign up at the Welcome Center for our next Lunch & Learn on Thursday, February 26 from 11:30AM to 1:00PM. Dr. Mark Asperilla will do a very informative presentation on "Infectious Diseases." We are all interested in diseases such as Ebola, Malaria and the ever-present Influenza. Come for a complimentary lunch, socialization and lots of interesting facts.



On Thursday, March 19 we welcome Linda Howard from the Alzheimer's Association for our Lunch & Learn. Linda packed the fellowship hall last year with her presentation and we'll see what's new in the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease. Linda will return on Tuesday, March 24 with the Alzheimer's Mobile unit to perform memory testing between the hours of 10:00AM and 3:00PM. Be sure to sign up for testing and the Lunch and Learn at the Welcome Center. Testing takes approximately fifteen minutes.

We are planning on having a very informative Lunch & Learn in April on fibromyalgia. Be sure to watch for updates in the church bulletin.

Please take advantage of our free blood pressure clinic every Wednesday night during the dinners and also during the Men's pancake breakfasts the first Saturday of each month. Jane Trammell is always available for you any time you feel the need to have your blood pressure checked.

Many brochures and flyers are available for you in the "fish bowl." Please take advantage of this free information in regard to many diseases, assisted living facilities and assistance in the community. Also check out important information on our Health Ministry bulletin board located next to the New Room/Library.

See you at Lunch & Learn or in the "fish bowl."