

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 2018

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

“And Through These Days of Penitence”

It seems too early to be thinking about the season of Lent. As I write this, it has been less than a *week* since we took down and stowed away the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary! Nevertheless, Lent will be upon us as of February 14th, the date on which Ash Wednesday falls this year.

Lent is the season *par excellence* for stepping up our attention to God, to growth in discipleship, to the sloughing off of the old person and the nurture of the new life in Christ. Lent lasts for forty days (technically, the six Sundays in Lent are not part of Lent – thus we speak of the “Third Sunday of Advent” but the “Third Sunday *in* Lent”) in commemoration of the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert, fasting and praying, preparing himself for the work that would follow. Lent calls us to join more intentionally with Christ in this work of sorting ourselves out, devoting ourselves more fully to our conversation with God and God’s with us, re-allocating our time and attention to advance Christ’s formation in and among us more forcefully.

I would invite you – in truth, I would *urge* you – to observe a holy Lent, to allow the goals that the Church Universal has traditionally set for this season to set your priorities from February 14 through March 30. In particular, I would urge you to give attention to:

1. Daily Prayer. There is no substitute, there is no compensation, for inviting God’s presence and conversation into your life day after day, preferably morning *and* night. And this prayer must become a time not only for *talking to* God, but for *listening for* God.
2. Reading of Scripture. The Word is a mirror wherein we see reflected our own shortcomings – where our fleshly impulses trump Spirit-led speech and action – *and* our fullest potential as disciples and as a community of faith, where we give ourselves over to the Spirit’s agenda and leading. Such reading is best done in the context of prayer and conversation with God, and particularly in Lent, with a view to self-examination and confession.
3. Attending to public worship. Please note that I wrote “attending *to*” and not simply “attendance *at*.” Commit yourself to come to all of our Lenten and Holy Week services; *prepare* yourself before coming to the building to meet God here, and to be open to and watchful for all that God would stir and work within you; *attend* not as a spectator – or as a critic – but as a disciple open to being formed in different ways through all that we offer together in each service.

continued on next page...

Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship 8 & 11am
Contemporary 9:30am

Wednesday Night Together

Dinner 5-6:00pm
Bible Study 5:45pm
Children/Youth 6-8:00pm
Choir 6:25pm
Nursery available 6-8pm

Mark Your Calendars:

Saturday, February 3

Pancake Breakfast, 7am

Friday, February 9

Valentine Dinner, 5:30pm



Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm

Thursday, February 15

Lunch & Learn
11:30am - 1:30pm
“Elder Abuse & Exploitation”

Saturday, February 17

“The Apocrypha and the Christian Church,” 9am - Noon

Monday, February 19

Presidents’ Day - Office Closed

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4. "Christian conferencing." This is historic Metho-jargon for getting together with other Christians particularly for the purpose of growth together in knowledge of the Scriptures and their vision for our lives, prayer for one another, honest reflection with and to one another about our temptations and hindrances to forward progress toward Christ-likeness.

5. Acts of love and service. Our commitment to inward holiness and our commitment to outward righteousness must keep pace one with the other. There are many venues for embodying love through our church and throughout our community; don't neglect some of the simplest, such as sitting and connecting with a shut-in, a homeless person, or anyone in need of the affirmation that another human's time and presence provide.

It is with good reason that the adjective chosen to describe "discipleship" in Methodist circles is "intentional." I urge you to join me, therefore, in clearing space in your mind, heart, and life for those practices that will impel you forward toward maturity in Christ.

Pastor David



Letters

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have been overwhelmed by all of you as we spent over 25 days in the Fawcett hospital, and another 25 days recovering at the Port Charlotte Rehabilitation Center. Your prayers for Cal and me every day that I was in one of the centers was unbelievable, as I slowly found my way out of the darkness. Prayer was definitely the true answer to my recovery. Only the Lord knew a reason for bringing me back. I am so thankful that for you loved ones, the Lord gave me new life to help others. I will do my best to keep others praying for those in need.

May the Lord guide and direct each of us to pray with sincere help in everything we do.

A sincere thank you for the visits, the cards, the notes, and your prayers.

In God's Love,
Lois and Cal Tschetter

Extravagant Generosity

2017 Year Helping Others:

\$13,421.00

End of the Year, 2017:

Income: \$784,016

Expenses: \$796,472

Discovering Your Testimony

On Saturday, January 6, twenty attendees spent an hour and a half recalling, reflecting upon, and sharing about the ways in which God had encountered them and intervened in their lives – the testimony written by God upon the pages of their own story as part of the ongoing story of God's movement among God's people. We were especially blessed to hear our own Michelle Berger share about some episodes in her life that both prepared her for the future challenges she would face and gave her deep confidence in the good future that Christ has prepared for all who love him. Thanks to her and to all who participated.

Pastor David

Staff Parish Update

You may know that members on your Staff Parish Relations Committee serve for a three year assignment term. One of the members who has served on this committee will be leaving this year ; Mike Sniecinski. Thanks for your service Mike! New members who have been nominated, approved and graciously accepted their three year term are P.J. Fisher, Rick McCullough and Glenn White. The other members are myself (Chair), Sue Edmiston, Joe Geiss, Roger Wilmeth and Jackie Wint.

This very important committee appreciates your prayers and support as we move so ever closer to determining our future Pastor.

God bless you all, Gary Graham

GREETERS NEEDED

Greeters are needed for all services. Locations to serve include the Welcome Center, each entry into the church and outside the sanctuary (weather permitting) If you are available, please contact Deb Valler, (941) 391-6588 or by email: dav1353@comcast.net.



Jennifer Faith Bedell

Jennifer Faith Bedell was born and raised in the suburbs of Monrovia, Bardnersville, in Liberia. She was an active member of the James Edward Marshall memorial United Methodist church. Jennifer attended the AME Zion university college where she studied business administration. She married her love and best friend, Mazoe Kamara, on July 24, 2015, and came to the United States to start a new life with him, working together now for Racetrac petroleum. They are expecting their first child by the end of January 2018! Please extend a heartfelt welcome and congratulations to Jennifer and Mazoe when you see them around the church.



United Methodist Men's Pancake Breakfast
 Saturday, February 3
 7:00 am to 10:30 am

All the pancakes you can eat, plus scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage links orange juice, coffee and tea... only \$5.00!

Kids under 6 and adults over 90 eat free.
 Come and let the men serve you!



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|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Christopher Bode | 19 Tom Williams |
| 1 Kyle Dunda | 21 Marie Simond |
| 1 Pat Winston | 21 Deborah Valler |
| 2 David Glassburn | 23 Robin Hart |
| 2 Adalynn LoTempio | 23 Ryan Yann |
| 2 Othneil Robinson | 24 "D" Fletcher |
| 2 Kaylee Ziegelbauer | 24 Jean Pearl |
| 3 Tiffany Roberts | 25 Jerri Boyd |
| 4 Brian Baker | 25 Phyllis Collis |
| 5 Sonjia Back | 25 Savannah Welton |
| 5 Tom Volkmann | 26 Skyla Cekuta-Bolyard |
| 8 Robin Ettinger | 26 Carol J. McCullough |
| 9 Olga Sabo | 27 Diane DePaul |
| 10 Joan Mackey | 27 Patty Royer |
| 11 Hannelore Edgington | 28 Addison Gates |
| 12 William Bryan | 28 Ron Dobson |
| 14 J. Patrick Slike | 28 Susan Ross |
| 15 David Cox, Jr. | |
| 17 Lorraine Vida | |
| 18 Sheila Armour | |



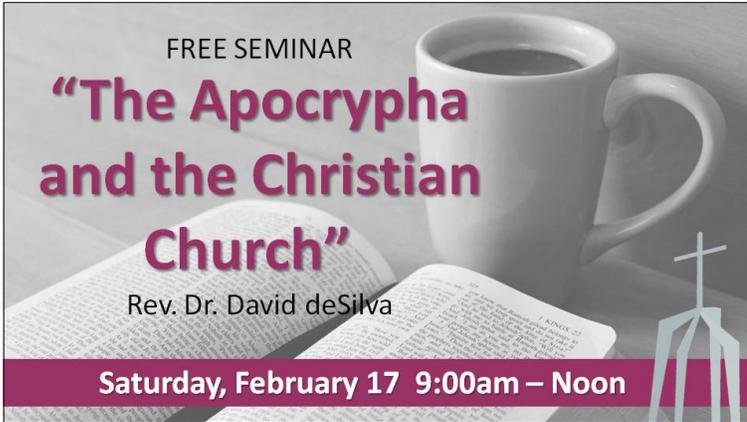
- | |
|---------------------------------|
| 3 Mike and Joan Sniecinski |
| 14 Terry and Doris Hixson |
| 14 Tom and Marcie Marshall |
| 14 Mark and Jean Wyckoff |
| 15 Bertum and Veronica Campbell |
| 17 Brian and Tania Baker |
| 21 Chris and Kimberly Corridino |

FREE SEMINAR

“The Apocrypha and the Christian Church”

Rev. Dr. David deSilva

Saturday, February 17 9:00am – Noon



The Apocrypha and the Christian Church **Saturday, February 17th 9am - Noon**

Curious about those books that stand in the Roman Catholic Old Testament but that the Protestant Reformers separated out as “Apocrypha”? Do these books still have value for us even if they are not in our canon? Or are they indeed dangerous and misleading, better kept “hidden” (the meaning of the Greek word *apocrypha*)? Join Pastor David on Saturday, February 17th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for an informative and exploratory session on the contents, value, and story of the Apocrypha.



Student Ministries *Barbara Hald*

March 4th we will have envelopes in the bulletins for Youth Summer Camp Sponsorship at Warren Willis Camp. Any amount helps to send a child to camp. The cost for the week is \$420 per Youth and that includes everything they would need to further their relationship with Christ.

March 10th from 6 to 9 pm we are hosting an “All Inclusive Dance” for any special needs Youth and their family who would like to attend. There will be a professional DJ, Hors d’oeuvres, desserts and drinks. This event is designed to provide a relaxing, fun night to these families and invite them to our church. If anyone can provide desserts and or fruit for this event please contact Barbara Hald at the church.

Our New Vision Statement *Pastor David*

As is well known throughout our congregation, we've had a mission statement formed around the three catchwords "Know, Grow, Go" for many years. A mission statement is an expression of a group's purpose. We are here as a congregation in order to "KNOW Christ, GROW more like Christ, and GO to serve Christ."

Organizations typically also have a vision statement, which tends to be an aspirational statement, a picture of where the organization is heading or what it will be like when it has hit its full stride. The Church Council approved a vision statement for our congregation, one whose relationship to our mission statement will be immediately obvious (and would have been even without the capitalization of the words!):

We will be a people who experience, and help others experience, a scriptural and relational KNOWledge of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; who are GROWing into the full measure of Christ's stature by the Holy Spirit's empowerment; who GO daily to serve and witness to Christ, making his rule visible in this world.

I pray that all that we do together will contribute to our becoming this kind of church, and that we will commit together to keeping this vision for ourselves before our eyes so that we are not distracted from our mission and not detoured from arriving at the goal that, indeed, God has set for us as for every congregation of Christ-followers.

KNOW GROW GO

Passion Play Bus Trip *Nancy Bosserdet*

We have received flyers and emails from The Story of Jesus in Wauchula informing us that this year will be the final performance of the production. The following dates are available for us to take buses to Wauchula leaving church around 6:30 or 7pm: March 24th, April 7th, April 14th, or April 21st. Tickets go on sale February 26th and I would like to purchase the tickets that week. If you would like to go, please get in touch with me just as soon as possible. Groups of 25 get a slight discount on ticket prices so get together with friends and neighbors and let's get a group going!

Blessings, Nancy



Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen email: theexhorter_fla@yahoo.com*

Question: Why are our United Methodist Men holding their Valentine dinner on February 9? Valentine's Day is February 14.

Answer: Two things are going on, both involving scheduling. First, the men have long held their dinner on the Friday before Valentine's Day, except when Valentine's Day falls on Friday, to avoid interfering with other weekday activities and to get the Fellowship Hall ready for Sunday. Second, this February 14 is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, and we have other Lent-related activities scheduled.

Question: On January 7, when Glenn White preached, he talked about a prophecy of Daniel (Daniel 9:25) being fulfilled on Palm Sunday, 33 A.D. How do we know this?

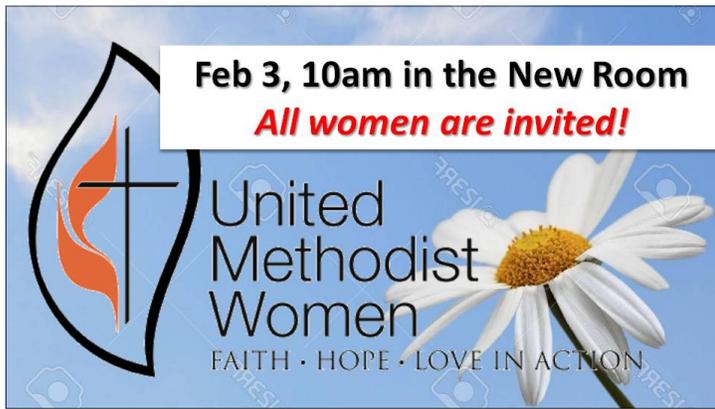
Answer: I talked about this here in March 2013, but I had written about it in a two-part article in the *Chicago Evangelical News Bulletin*, "Why I Believe in a Fully Authoritative Bible" (January and February 1995). The February installment told how I'd been taught that Daniel was written as Maccabean War propaganda about 150 B.C., centuries after the biblical Daniel. But Harold W. Hoehner, New Testament professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, showed step by step in his *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* (Zondervan, 1977), comparing the Jewish and other calendars with astronomical data, that the 69 weeks of years in Daniel 9:24-27 began in March or April 444 B.C. and ended on the first Palm Sunday, March 30, 33 A.D. I concluded that "No Maccabean forger could have predicted this. This had to be genuine prophecy." I noted also, in March 2013, that John Wesley had referred to this prophecy and its fulfillment in his *Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament* (note on John 11:49).

Question: In January you described hymnwriter and Christian novelist Henry Van Dyke, Jr., as a theologian. He was a preacher, but does that make him a theologian?

Answer: Many would disagree about who should be called a *theologian*. When I started my studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Duke Divinity School professor Paul A. Mickey had just published *Essentials of Wesleyan Theology: A Contemporary Affirmation* (Zondervan, 1980). I showed it to a professor of Christian Education, who questioned Mickey's qualifications, because he was not a professor of theology. Ironically, this man had just published his own book, *Working Out Your Own Beliefs: A Guide to Doing Your Own Theology* (Abingdon, 1980). I pointed this out and he protested that his focus was much narrower, fitting with his teaching specialty. Actually, so was Mickey's.

At the other extreme, liberal-turned-evangelical preacher David A. Redding, after a long journey from unbelief to faith, wrote, "[E]veryone is a theologian. We may not take it as powerfully as St. Paul nor as astutely as John Calvin, but we cannot avoid getting ideas about some kind of God or no God. That is theology. ... [E]very man, woman, and child is a theologian." — *The Faith of Our Fathers* (Eerdmans, 1971), p. 14. Van Dyke, besides his hymns and Christmas stories, also chaired the committee that compiled the 1905 Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* and wrote other books on faith: *The Reality of Religion* (1884) and *The Gospel for an Age of Doubt* (1896). I'd say that makes him a theologian.

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



More About Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*

What does it mean to the congregation to have a Stephen Ministry in their church? It means that the congregation has compassionate, loving, men and women that are willing to devote much of their time to giving comfort to those suffering. It means they are willing to spend 50 hours being trained over a period of twenty weeks. It means that they will serve for at least two years after being commissioned by the congregation. It means that after being commissioned they will continue to meet with their leaders twice a month for continuing education and Peer Supervision. They are waiting to serve while continually sharpening their skills in listening techniques, encouragement, constancy, maintaining confidentiality, and prayer for their care receiver.

One of the first lessons that is given to a Stephen Minister in training is called The Mud Hole. The Mud Hole represents a place that we all have been in at one time or another. The illustration shows a hole in the ground with a tree growing next to the hole. In the bottom of the hole is the care receiver. They are alone, feeling isolated and helpless to get out of the hole by themselves. Above the hole, in this illustration, is a figure representing Sympathy, someone who feels concern for the care receiver but does not want to get involved in his or her life. There is also a figure in the mud hole that represents Over Identification next to the care receiver. This figure feels the same pain and anguish and helplessness as the care receiver. Lastly we see a figure also in the hole next to the care receiver but with one hand on the root from the tree that grows next to the hole. This figure represents Empathy, a person who feels another's problems as if they were their own without actually taking them on themselves. The true identity of the tree: He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

Now the tricky part of this ministry is getting those suffering, those in the Mud Hole to simply ask the Pastor or Stephen Minister Coordinator to have a Stephen Minister assigned to them. A request can simply be put in the mail slot in the copy room and you will be contacted or a call can be made or a personal request. We have Stephen Ministers ready to help those in the Mud Hole get out. We have had over twenty care receivers in the last two years helped out of their Mud Holes but because of confidentiality nobody knows who they are except the care receivers, their assigned Stephen Minister and by necessity, the Stephen Minister Coordinator. The rest of the congregation is unaware.

There are three parts to a vital Stephen Ministry in any congregation:

- Members of the congregation who want to help those suffering and are willing to sacrifice their time and energy to become a Stephen Minister to help others.
- Members of the congregation who are suffering and have faith and trust that a Stephen Minister can help them.
- A Pastor and trained Stephen Minister Leaders committed to maintaining and growing a vital Stephen Ministry to serve the congregation, and ultimately the community.

This was originally printed in 2016. Over thirty have now been helped. Call Dean Winston 941-661-8825

Life APP's *Ross Scheidecker, Lay Leader*

Luke 17:11 = **Thankfulness**

Did you know that thankfulness is a decision? It is a life-changing decision that moves you closer to God.

The highlighted scripture, Luke 17:11, comes from the story of Jesus healing the ten leprous men while He was traveling between Samaria and Galilee on His way to Jerusalem. The ten men called out to Jesus saying, "Master, have mercy on us!"

And Jesus said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they were going, they were cleansed. Then one, seeing he had been healed, turned back, fell on his face and gave thanks to Jesus. Then Jesus said, "were there not ten cleansed? But the nine – where are they? Stand up and go; your faith has made you well." Certainly this man was healed physically, as were the other nine. But this one man alone was healed spiritually.

Are you a thankful person?
Are you choosing thankfulness?

To quote Dr. James MacDonald, "Gratitude is the attitude that sets the altitude for living."

Other verses related to thankfulness:

Psa 107:8: "Let them give thanks to the LORD for His loving kindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men!"

Psa 139:14: "I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works."

Phil 4:6: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

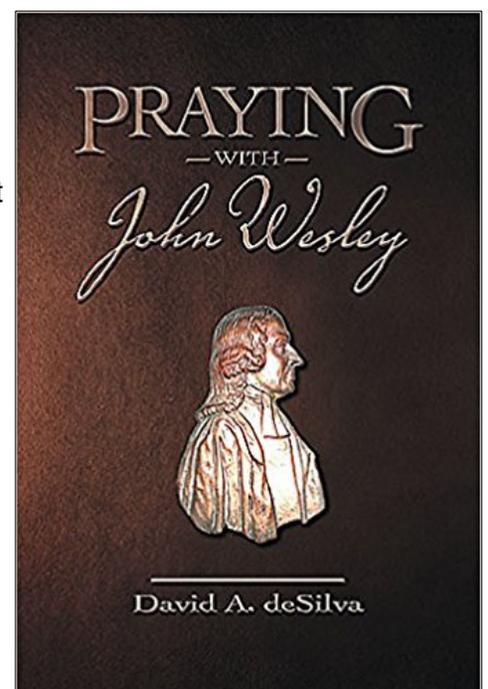


A Lenten Resource *Pastor David*

In 1733, John Wesley published a series of prayer cycles to assist "the people called Methodists" in their daily discipline and intentional growth. One of these, his "Prayers for Daily Use," is ideally suited to Lenten discipline – though he himself thought of them as spiritual exercises to engage for a far greater period of time than Lent. Wesley's strategy was to advance discipleship by helping the individual focus specifically on a different virtue assigned to each day of the week: Love for God (Sunday), Love for Neighbor (Monday), Humility (Tuesday), Self-Denial (Wednesday and Friday), Surrender (Thursday), and Gratitude (Saturday). Wesley provided questions for self-examination and a prayer for both morning and evening of each day. These are readily available in volume 11 of his *Works*, which can be downloaded at no cost here (the prayer cycle begins on p. 232):

https://truth4freedom.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/wes_ww11.pdf

I found these so valuable, having used them as the basis for spiritual formation groups in successive years during my earlier time at Ashland Seminary, that I created a modernized, abridged version of these prayers, together with introductory reflections on each virtue, recommended Scripture readings, and suggested hymns as additional devotional aids. This was published as *Praying With John Wesley* (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2001) and can be purchased from Cokesbury.com or Amazon.com.



Stewardship *Dean Winston, Stewardship Chair, Generosity Team*

A steward is a person responsible to use someone else's property in order to accomplish work for the owner. God owns the earth and everything on it (see Psalms 24:1-2). Our society teaches us that we are the owners of our resources, but the Scriptures teach us that we are stewards of God's resources. As members of this church, we are also stewards of this church and entrusted with its care and its mission. This is the message I gave when I first addressed the congregation in my then new role as chair of Stewardship. We know as members that God wants us to obey the commandments, use the church to bring the Good News of hope and salvation to the lost and hopeless, feed his hungry, and give to those in need.

Just as in the "Parable of the Talents," the Master entrusts us with his resources, which we are to use responsibly to look after the Master's interests and achieve his goals. We have a church that is full of faith-filled members that work tirelessly in a variety of ministries to meet the needs of its members and the community at large. So, I was quite surprised that out of 500 or so members we only received about 100 pledges. Even if I assume that each pledge card represented a household of two, that would still only be 40% of the members.

In trying to find a logical reason why the response was so low, I heard answers such as "What I give is between me and God," or "If I pledge or tithe, people will know how much I make," or "I don't want to commit because something may come up and I won't be able to get the money back."

What you give is between you and God. In fact, Paul tells us that "Each one should give according as he purposed in his heart" (2 Corinthians 9:7). We purpose first, then we give. Do not wait until the plate is passed and then give a part of what you have with you. The word "purposed" here means "planned," as in a commitment -- a pledge.

Nancy Bosserdet, our Financial Secretary, does a fantastic job of keeping private information private. She logs all the checks, counts all the cash, and gives statement to members to provide the government proof of giving (loose cash excepted).

If we all pledged, our Finance Chairman, Gary McCullough, could make a projected budget with greater confidence and accuracy. Currently, budgets are simply projected based on amounts actually given the previous year. Even though this is an educated guess regarding income for the coming year, it is still just a guess.

Pledge cards can be found on the KNOW, GROW, GO wall. If you haven't pledged, please prayerfully consider doing so. Deciding on an amount is between you and God; sharing that amount with Nancy will allow for more reliable budgeting.

**Wednesday Night
Kitchen Help
Needed!**

Looking for team members
to serve **one night/month**
Contact: Deb Valler 391-6588

© P.S. Doing dishes is FUN with your church family!! ☺

**Pancake
Breakfast**

**Saturday,
February 3
7-10:30am**

Valentine's Day Dinner

Friday, February 9, 2018

Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

Seating begins at 5pm, Dinner served at 5:30pm

Tickets:

\$25/couple \$12.50/Single

Attire: Formal to Smart Casual



MENU:

Green Salad

Stuffed Pork Loin -OR- Chicken Cordon Bleu

Vegetable Medley

Twice Baked Potatoes

Cherry Fudge Brownie

Coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade & Ice Water

Tickets are available in the church office and with members of the United Methodist Men. Ticket sales close Tuesday, February 6.

All adults are invited. (941) 625-4356 www.pcumc.info





Thrive

South West District Conference

LOCAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT

Saturday, February 10, 2018

9:00 am - 3:00pm

Edgewater UMC, 19190 Cochran Blvd,
Port Charlotte FL 33948

An opportunity for all local church laity looking to serve more effectively. Begin and end the day with worship and a message from District Superintendent Rini Hernandez.

Each participant will choose a morning and afternoon workshop session; selections include finance, church security, worship, student ministries, disaster recovery, local outreach, and Fresh Expressions (non-traditional ways of doing church).

Registration: <https://www.flumc.org/eventdetail/10549123>

Cost: \$10.00 cash or check payable to "South West District" at the door. Lunch and child care provided.

Workshop Descriptions:

School Church Partnerships - Rev. Lisa Degrenia, Trinity UMC - Sarasota

Transform the world beginning in your own backyard. Congregations of all sizes are partnering with their neighborhood schools to narrow the opportunity gap for vulnerable children. You can, too. Join us for an interactive discussion of first steps, best practices, and resources.

Dinner Church - Pastor Heather Evans, Director of Local Reach, Grace UMC – Trinity

Caught the bug for Fresh Expressions and ready to try dinner church in your community? Jump in for a deeper dive into the how-to's of getting a fruitful dinner church started and learn from the successes and growth opportunities of those who have been through the process.

FE 101: The Heart of Fresh Expressions (morning) - Matt Harrell, Fresh Expressions Coordinator for the Florida United Methodist Conference, and the Fresh Expressions Team. This workshop will be a great introduction for those who do not know anything or know very little about the Fresh Expressions initiative. We will define what Fresh Expressions is, learn about what is going on with Fresh Expressions around the conference, and take a look at the different roles of supporting a Fresh Expression of church.

FE 201: Fresh Expressions Incubator (afternoon) - Matt Harrell, Fresh Expressions Coordinator for the Florida United Methodist Conference, and the Fresh Expressions Team. This workshop is for those who attended Workshop I or have been to a past Fresh Expressions event. We will begin to look a little deeper at the Fresh Expressions initiative and then lead attendees through a time of dreaming and working through what a Fresh Expression in each leader's own context could look like, including next steps to get started.

Disaster Recovery - Pam Garrison, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator

What if Disaster Response is a way to transform the world for Jesus Christ? Hurricane Irma was the most destructive hurricane ever to make landfall in Florida. Irma broke all records with 2.6 million families registering for FEMA assistance, 48 counties declared and nearly 40% of our churches experiencing some kind of damage. Irma is the first time in history that a Category 4 storm made landfall twice on the continental US in one year – and in one state! It's going to take the Florida Conference millions of dollars in grants and donations, thousands of volunteers and a minimum of 3-5 years to help our churches and communities recover. A daunting task or a challenging opportunity? Come learn more about what we're doing and why we need you - wherever you are, whatever you can do, wherever God leads. Irma was a really big storm but with God, we are bigger!

Workshop Descriptions continued...

Finance - Tony Prestipino, Treasurer, Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
New and experienced finance team members will receive an overview of basic church finances. Learn the requirements for separation of duties to safeguard both the dollars donated and the people involved in finance. Understand the basics of budgeting, from estimates of income to building a budget that supports your missions. Learn how stewardship is more than a sermon a year at the end of a pledge drive, and find out what's new in finance for 2018.

Connecting With an Unchurched Culture - Rev. Daniel Jackson, Director, Vital Church Initiative, The Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
Learn simple strategies for identifying and connecting with the culture of a church's mission field. Included will be planning and researching ideas for how to identify the mission field culture, the church's culture, and how to bridge the chasm between them.

Reaching Out to Students (morning) - Pastor David Schutte, Edgewater UMC
Church growth is based around relationships. This is 10 times as true for student ministry. This workshop teaches you how to best leverage your student leaders and youth pastor to maximize their relationships in order to tighten the group of students and grow your program. It all revolves around what matters most: getting out into the community and building relationships! David Schutte has a degree in marketing experience and more than 10 years experience as a youth pastor, and will be leading Edgewater's new campus.

Leading a Student Ministry (afternoon)
Learning how to effectively lead a group of youth is among the more difficult challenges to master. This workshop will look at issues like understanding your church's culture, managing different types of students, and planning for disciple-making. Learn key concepts as helpful tools to lead your youth group well.

Church Security Workshop

Look at ways to develop and maintain a program of safety and security for your local church. Federal Officers Cesar Villafana (retired) and Oscar Negrón cover everything from dealing with daily minor security concerns to active shooting scenarios. Learn about common-sense approaches to doing the best we can in impossible situations.

-Cesar J. Villafana is a local pastor at Wesley Hispanic UMC in Coral Gables, Florida. Prior to retirement, he served as a member of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Safe Street Task Force and in deterring recruitment into radical groups. Oscar Negrón is a recruitment officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration, and has many years of experience as a field agent.

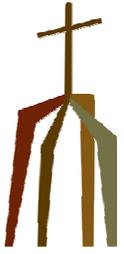
How to Share Your Faith - Rev. Melanie Fierbaugh, Lake Placid UMC

Does the idea of evangelism sound scary? This workshop will help you prepare to have a conversation about your faith with anyone, anywhere, at any time. Learn practical tips for sharing your story and connecting with others, even outside the church.

Worship Matters - Will Gann, Worship Pastor, Edgewater UMC

This workshop will help worship ministry leaders work out the many complex situations they face. We will share the cultural foundations that shape who we are and what we do as part of worship. And we will discuss topics such as confrontation, development, excellence, engagement, and togetherness. Join us to learn practical tips to grow and unify your team, run rehearsals, lead a congregation, and transition between songs. We will also have time for Q&A.

-Will Gann has served as the Worship Pastor of Edgewater Church since 2014 and has been in ministry for over 14 years. During this time, he has served in Tennessee, Washington, California, Florida, and internationally. He not only has a passion for worship, but also has a heart for teaching and equipping teams of people for the mission of the Church.



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



SAVE THE DATE!
United Methodist Men's Annual
YARD SALE

Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 16, 2018 8am to 2pm
Saturday, March 17, 2016 8 am 'til noon

Donations may be made anytime by calling:

Rick McCullough (941) 766-7509, or

Sid White (941) 625-8828, or

The Church Office (941) 625-4356

You may also bring them to the church on
Wednesday Mar. 14, 2018 or Thurs. morning,
Mar. 15, 2018

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a short time of Bible study after dinner on Wednesday evenings from 5:45-6:25 pm. Beginning in February, Pastor David will lead us through the Letter to the Hebrews, a call to disciples to understand the full value of what they have been granted in Christ so that they will persevere in grateful loyalty, in supporting one another's faith journey, and in bold witness to God's authority and rule.

 **ASH** February 14
6:30pm
Wednesday^{GLPI}
SERVICE