

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 2015

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

2015 - Another Generous Year

One thing I have always known as the pastor of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church is that God has big things in mind for us in the year that is ahead. When it comes to worship, discipleship, hospitality, salty service, and generosity, God has blessed us to be a blessing. He has given us so many reasons to be grateful as we look to the year that is ahead. The truth is that when you are people richly blessed by God, then the appropriate response is to be a blessing to others.

Thankfully, God shares principles that we can use to build lives of joyous and generous giving. As a new year breaks out, it is the perfect time for us to consider what our Savior expects from us, because of what He wants for us, and some verses from the 6th chapter of Matthew are a wonderful guide: *"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."*² *So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full."*³ *But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,*⁴ *so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."*

1. Jesus expects us to give for the right reasons. *"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."* When we give, we must be careful to examine our motives. We ought to give for God's glory and the benefit of others. Our goal is to please an audience of one with our giving.

2. Jesus expects us to give. Jesus doesn't tell His disciples, *"if you give"*, but *"when you give"*. For Christians giving is not optional, it is essential. Since Jesus taught the followers around Him to be givers, doesn't He expect it of His followers today?

3. Jesus expects us to give generously. Jesus said *"When you give to the poor..."* (v. 3). Jesus spent time teaching about the giving of "alms" to those in need: assistance, charitable aid, or benevolent offerings for the needy bless us as we seek to bless others. When you give to God, you also shower your gifts on others.

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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, January 3
Pancake Breakfast 7-11am

Thursday, January 8
New Member Class 6-8pm

Thursday, January 15
Lunch & Learn 11:30am

Friday, January 16
Family Dinner & Movie 6-8pm

Wednesday, January 21
Bloodmobile 3:30-7:30pm

Saturday, January 31
Family Ministry Putt Putt Golf
1pm

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4. Jesus expects us to give to God. Jesus said, *“that your giving may be in secret.”* Jesus makes it clear that our giving is to God. When we give, we are not simply funding the Church budget, we are offering God a thank offering for all that He has blessed us with.

Not one of us will ever come close to matching what Jesus gave to each of us. What we can do is to match Him in our joy of giving. This will begin to happen when we commit ourselves this year and every year to faithful, loyal, generous, and godly giving. I look at the year ahead and I know that there are so many things on the horizon for this great congregation. Ministries, programs, building renovations, but none of that is worthy of our giving! Only God is worthy. The God who has given us the gift of a great new year. Keep going and never quit!

Grace, Pastor Brian

**NEW CONNECT GROUP
STARTING IN 2015
Sunday Mornings at 10:45**

Connect 45 is a new connect group that will begin on January 25 at 10:45 am on Sunday mornings in the New Room. The group will meet for 45 minutes for prayer and discussing matters of faith. Please consider joining us as we walk together on this journey of faith. Find more info below:



When: 10:45 am Sunday mornings
Where: The New Room
Topic: Three Simple Rules

We will be looking at the three basic principles of Christian living: Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God. These are based on John Wesley’s General Rules.

Extravagant Generosity

Y-T-D as of 11/30/14
Income \$686,707.89
Expenses \$804,681.83

Letters

We give thanks to the Lord for you, for you have truly blessed us. You reached out so willingly at a time that was so tough. It was a wonderful blessing and meant so very much. Thank you for the Angel gifts that you gave to us.

God bless you always,
Captains Josue & Gilda Prieto, Salvation Army

January Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 02 Arthur Davis | 20 Lanie James |
| 02 Leone Bihl | 21 Glenn Edmiston |
| 02 Franklin DePaul | 21 Don Nevins |
| 03 Jacqueline Wint | 24 Darlene Brown |
| 04 Thomas Parkinson | 24 Jessica Early |
| 04 Michael Ange | 25 Shirley Seyfried |
| 05 John Connell | 25 Cassita Campbell |
| 05 Landon Carter | 26 Paige Polk |
| 06 Jan Schinkel | 27 Arthur Lageveen |
| 07 Marion Corcoran | 27 Eileen Bailey |
| 07 Jane Trammell | 28 Ruth Hall |
| 07 Delphena Lyons | 28 Beverly Steiff |
| 08 Gwendolyn Kasper | 28 Jim Hepler |
| 09 David Yanni | 28 Dawn Kisner |
| 09 Jeffrey Yanni | 29 Roy Burkholder |
| 11 Esther Gandt | 29 Jean Ringham |
| 11 Dean Winston | 29 Fred Titus |
| 13 Lori Pardee | 29 Avis Hastings |
| 13 Yvonne Carter | 31 Martin Bayuk |
| 14 Ann Surrette | 31 G.Walford Young |
| 14 Stephen Pearl | 31 Sandi Hurl |
| 14 Lori Brown | 31 Herbert Isley |
| 16 Paul Coker | 31 Edward Robedee |
| 17 Doug Bode | 31 Teaken Robedee |
| 18 Delbert Walton | |
| 19 Jimmie Hetrick | |

January Anniversaries

- 02 Thomas and Joanna Beynon
- 18 Delbert Walton and Mary Louise Young
- 19 Thomas and Karen Wenck
- 28 Maxine and Al Tillman
- 30 Rodney and Yvonne Carter
- 31 Jim and Barbara Hepler

Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*

MORE ABOUT STEPHEN MINISTRY

The form on the back of this page is given to a Stephen Ministry Care-Receiver when they agree to have a Stephen Minister assigned to them. It explains what the Care-Receiver can expect from their Stephen Minister. The Stephen Minister Leader tries to choose a Stephen Minister they feel would be best suited for the issue that the care-receiver is struggling with. The care a Stephen Minister gives may seem simplistic, but remember our motto, "WE CARE, GOD CURES". With the encouragement, praying, providing confidential, dependable, trustworthy care, the Stephen Minister helps prepare the Care-Receiver to receive God's healing grace. I hope this clears up some misconceptions about what a Stephen Minister does.

In HIS service, Dean Winston

Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: Recently, when I stepped into the Fellowship Hall from outside, a lizard scurried past me. Does that indicate a problem with our pest control policy?

Answer: When I was night custodian, I considered these lizards to be a *key*, if unofficial, part of our pest control policy. They harm no one, but they eat many noxious insects, including cockroaches which destroy Bibles, hymnals, and other books. Proverbs 30:24 and 28 reads: "Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: ... the lizard can be grasped in the hand, yet it is found in kings' palaces" (NRSV). If they're found in kings' palaces, they're welcome in the House of God.

Question: In the December column, you mentioned something called the *Lectionary*. What is that?

Answer: I talked about the *Lectionary* (full name: *The Revised Common Lectionary*) in Jan. 2012. It is a table of recommended Scripture readings for every Sunday or holy day of the church year (e.g., Jan. 6 — Epiphany). Ancient and modern synagogues compiled and used similar tables. An interfaith committee built our *Lectionary* on a three-year cycle. Last Nov. 30, the first Sunday of Advent, began Year B in the cycle. For most days, the *Lectionary* specifies a Gospel reading and three more from the Old Testament, Psalms, and elsewhere in the New Testament. My preaching professors in seminary urged me and my classmates to preach on just one reading each Sunday. Many preachers do just that.

Question: The Scripture in *The Upper Room* devotion for Nov. 12 was John 4:1-5. Verse 2 in the *Revised Standard Version* and the *English Standard Version* reads, "although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples." Does this mean that Jesus baptized His disciples and no one else, or that His disciples baptized people, but Jesus didn't?

Answer: The wording in both these versions, as well as what appears in the *King James Version* and the Roman Catholic *New American Bible*, appears to be ambiguous to some and might be read either way. The *New Revised Standard Version*, the *New International Version*, and several other recent translations echo your second interpretation — the disciples baptized and Jesus didn't. But this raises a more fundamental question: Is this ambiguity an accident based on the translators' choice of words, or is it found also in the original Greek? I put the question to our resident Greek expert and professional Bible translator David deSilva.

He says, "The Greek is, in fact, unambiguous here." Like other Indo-European languages (e.g., French, German, and Russian), New Testament Greek is "inflected"; that is, nouns and pronouns change in form and pronunciation depending on whether they're used as the subjects, direct objects, or playing another role in the sentence. In John 4:2, "Both 'Jesus' and 'disciples' are marked as subjects of 'baptizing,' so the disciples cannot be the 'objects' here." He adds that the words *himself* and *only* in the RSV and ESV quotations were meant to show clearly that the disciples baptized and Jesus didn't.

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

▶ Agreement to Receive Care

Stephen Ministry® Form

Since you will be receiving Stephen Ministry, it is good for you to understand the basic facts about Stephen Ministers and the care they provide.

What Does a Stephen Minister Do?

A Stephen Minister gives one-to-one, lay Christian care.

One-to-one: Stephen Ministers meet privately with one care receiver of the same gender.

Lay: Stephen Ministers are trained and supervised lay volunteers, not professional counselors or therapists, pastors, or physicians.

Christian: Stephen Ministers are Christians who care in the name of Christ. They are willing to talk about spiritual issues but won't force them.

Care: Stephen Ministers care by listening, supporting and encouraging, praying, being dependable and trustworthy, and maintaining confidentiality in their caregiving.

Confidentiality

Stephen Ministers keep personal information confidential. Therefore, you can feel free to share with your Stephen Minister without worrying that everyone else will know about it.

There are rare occasions when Stephen Ministers must share confidential information in order to save a life. Those

occasions are suicide, homicide, or abuse.

Small Group Peer Supervision

Stephen Ministers meet twice a month in small groups to give and receive peer supervision, which is necessary to help them provide quality care and grow as caregivers. In supervision Stephen Ministers talk about their caring relationships and their own feelings about caregiving. They may share small amounts of information about their care receivers, but they never tell the care receiver's name and they do not share information that would reveal the care receiver's identity. Stephen Ministers may also receive individual supervision from a Stephen Leader or pastor, but the same rules apply.

Professional Consultation

On rare occasions a Stephen Minister, in consultation with a Stephen Leader or pastor, may decide that the best way to care for a care receiver is to consult with a mental health professional. In such cases confidentiality is strictly maintained.

Referral to a Professional

Some care receivers end up needing professional care. In such a case, a Stephen Minister or Stephen Leader will inform the care receiver and help him or her obtain the care he or she needs. That may mean that the caring relationship

(continued on the next page)

with the Stephen Minister will be interrupted or even have to end. When a care receiver needs professional care, the relationship with the Stephen Minister may only continue after the care receiver has met with the professional and the professional has given permission for the Stephen Ministry relationship to continue.

I, _____, understand the description of Stephen Ministry as explained in this agreement, and I desire to receive care from a Stephen Minister from [name of congregation or organization]. I further understand confidentiality in Stephen Ministry as explained in this agreement, and I give my permission to my Stephen Minister and to the Stephen Leaders and pastoral or professional staff of [name of congregation or organization] to give and receive supervision and to obtain consultation as described in this document.

Signed _____

Date _____



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MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Thursday, January 8, 6-8 pm

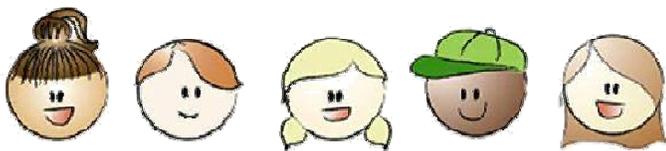
The United Methodist Men Invite You



Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, January 3rd 7-11am



Please pick your 2015 envelopes in the lobby. If you do not have a box, leave your name on the clipboard next to the envelopes. Thank you!



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

Weekday Ministry *Paula Mann*

Verse: Psalm 9:1
 "I will tell of the wonderful things God has done."

Prayer: (Tune: London Bridge is Falling Down)
 Thanks and praise we give to God
 Give to God, Give to God
 Thanks and praise we give to God
 for our snack time. Amen.

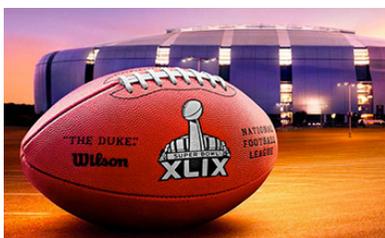
Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful, blessed Christmas and are looking forward to a fresh new year with anticipation of what God is going to do in 2015 and how He will use you.

Dates to Remember:

- January 5th: Back to School
- January 7th: Donuts with Dad
- January 16th: No School
- January 19th: No School (also no CTJ this week)
- January 30th: Walk in Day

We're so thankful for the support we had at the Parents' Night Out Fundraisers. We had a great time with your kids!

Youth Ministry *Paul Kisner*



Super Bowl Game Night

When: Wednesday, January 28
 Time: 6:00 pm – 8:15 pm
 Join us for football-inspired games
 Snacks and drinks provided

Children's Ministry *Barbara Hald*



We hope you all had a blessed Christmas season. We would like to thank everyone who helped with the Angel Tree this year. You made Christmas much brighter for 27 children.

The Children did a great job with their production of "Bed, Bethlehem and Beyond;" we are so proud of all the children at PCUMC !

January's "Dinner and a Movie" is on the 16th from 6 to 8pm, featuring "Frozen." All are invited.

Acts of Faith will be starting up soon. Look for dates in your bulletin.

Family Ministry News

We are relaunching the family ministry at PCUMC. Our goal is to provide opportunities for all different types of families to fellowship with each other through regular activities.



**Family Ministry
 Putt Putt Golf Outing**

When: January 31
 Time: Meet at the church at 1 pm
 Cost: \$5 per adult \$2 per child
 Children must be accompanied by an adult

Please RSVP by signing up at the welcome center by January 25



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 Port Charlotte, FL 33952-2546

Phone: (941) 625-4356
 E-mail: info@pcumc.info
 Website: www.pcumc.info
 facebook.com/portcharlotteumc

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Health Ministry *Jane Flanders*

Our next Lunch and Learn will be held on January 15 in the Fellowship Hall from 11:30am to 1:00pm. We will be welcoming Dr. Corey Girdwood and Dr. Matthew DePhillips from Coastal Chiropractic who will offer a presentation on "Why Do I Hurt?" Discover how pain can cause other symptoms in your body and how to alleviate pain through healthy nutrition, proper body alignment and exercise. A complimentary lunch will be provided by NurseOnCall and Direct Access Home Health. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Blood pressures will be taken during Wednesday Night Out and anytime you feel the need.

Please feel free to visit the nurse's office located in the "fish bowl" to browse the many pamphlets on health issues, assisted living facilities, home health and community services offered in the area. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Trammell, our parish nurse.

The next bloodmobile will be held on Wednesday, January 21 from 3:30pm until 7:30pm during Wednesday Night Out.



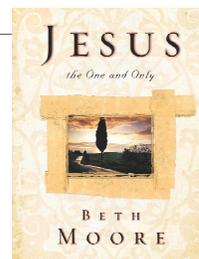
Thank you to all who have and will donate blood. It is greatly appreciated.



Friday, January 16 6-8PM

Fellowship Hall

Join us for a FREE dinner & movie,
 featuring : "Frozen"
 Fun for the whole family!



**Inviting
 all Women!**
 Beth Moore study
 to begin
 January 6th

9:30am, 1:30pm & 6:30pm
 Childcare is available during the 9:30
 session. Call "D" Fletcher
 to sign up: 623-0642