

# KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## January 2018

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

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

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

### Why “Know, Grow Go”?

Our church has adopted a mission statement formed around three “imperatives.” In case you’ve forgotten your high-school grammar, “imperatives” are the command forms of verbs. They are mandates, actions that *must* be undertaken so as to arrive at good consequences and/or avoid harmful consequences. Our church – and not ours only, as this has become quite the popular mission statement for churches – hears these as *God’s* imperatives to us, both as individual disciples and as a community of disciples working and living out our faith together.

#### KNOW Christ.

The first mandate drives us toward a deeper knowledge of who Christ is and what Christ wants. Indeed, though it would make for a less catchy mission statement, we are really impelled to seek out a deeper knowledge of God in all *three* Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This “knowing” is shaped by *information*, by learning more *about* our Father God, his divine Son incarnate in Jesus, and his empowering and guiding Spirit, such as study of the Scriptures provides. But this “knowing” must also be shaped by *relationship*, by making room for regular, personal encounter with the God who encounters us. It was about the value of this informed, *relational* knowing of the Son that Paul wrote: “I have written everything else off as a loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord.” (Phil 3:8). Experiencing – *Knowing* – God together is the bedrock of Christian community.

#### GROW more like Christ.

The Christian life must be a journey of *change*. Paul was clear on this point throughout his writings: “Don’t continue to be *conformed* to this age, but keep on being *transformed*” (Rom 12:2). Our *knowing* fuels this *growing*, this change that God’s Holy Spirit works within us to make us more like Jesus, shaping us to embody *him* and *his* attitudes and values more and more: “I want to *know Christ* and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being *transformed into the likeness of his death*, so that I might somehow arrive at the resurrection from the dead” (Phil 3:11). Paul sees a direct correlation between spending time in Christ’s presence, relating to him face to face (as it were), and being transformed ourselves into Christ’s likeness as the Holy Spirit works within us (2 Cor 3:18). Our second mandate drives us forward along this trajectory, urging us on to the disciplined “stripping off of the old person” that we used to be apart from Christ and the “putting on of the new person who is being made new again, reflecting the image of the Creator” (Col 3:8-15). “Christ living in me” is the “new creation” that the Holy Spirit works to bring into being in each of our lives and in our relationships with one another.

#### 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, January 6**

Pancake Breakfast, 7am

Discover Your Testimony, 9:30am

##### **Tuesday, January 9**

Membership Class, 5:30pm

##### **Thursday, January 18**

Lunch & Learn, 11:30am

##### **Saturday, January 20**

Revelation Seminar, 9:30am

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**GO to serve and witness to Christ.**

The third mandate sends us out into the world to fulfill *Christ's* mandates to all who would follow him. Jesus calls his followers to extend God's love, care, and timely help to those in need. He calls his followers to invite and teach *others* to follow him, to call others into the process of knowing Christ, growing more like Christ, and going to serve and witness to Christ themselves, teaching them "to observe all thing whatsoever I have commanded" (Matt 28:18-19). *Going* out to serve and witness means submitting ourselves to Christ's lordship and making Christ's reign visible and real in this world, because it is visible and real in us, in our lives, in our life together. It does us no good to call Jesus "Lord" if we're not doing what he says (that is, *living* under his lordship; Luke 6:36). Just as the *growing* arises from the *knowing*, so the *going* emerges from the *growing*: as we become more like Christ – that is, as Christ comes more fully alive in us – Christ himself accomplished his purposes in this world through us, offering his love and issuing his call.

As we start this new calendar year, let's also make a commitment to one another and to God to devote ourselves more fully to moving further and deeper along these trajectories together – three trajectories that ultimately impel us in one direction, toward the reward of God's heavenward summons to us in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:14).

*Pastor David*

**Extravagant Generosity**

(Month ending 11/30/17)

Total YTD Income: \$681,549.85  
 Total YTD Expenses: \$698,653.61  
 Assistance - October/November 2017:  
 Utilities: 6 Gas Vouchers: 55



- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Leone Bihl           | 18 Delbert Walton        |
| 2 Arthur Davis         | 19 Jimmie Hetrick        |
| 2 Franklin DePaul      | 20 Grayson Cole-Johnston |
| 3 Jacqueline Wint      | 21 Glenn Edmiston        |
| 4 Thomas Parkinson Jr. | 21 Don Nevins            |
| 6 Jan Schinkel         | 24 Alexander deSilva     |
| 7 Marion Corcoran      | 25 Cassita Campbell      |
| 7 Delphena Lyons       | 25 Shirley Seyfried      |
| 7 Jane Trammell        | 26 Paige Polk            |
| 8 David Jones          | 27 Eileen Bailey         |
| 9 David Yanni          | 28 Ruth Hall             |
| 9 Jeffrey Yanni        | 28 Jim Hepler            |
| 11 Dean Winston        | 28 Dawn Kisner           |
| 13 Yvonne Carter       | 29 Jean Ringham          |
| 14 Lori Brown          | 31 Sandi Hurl            |
| 14 Stephen Pearl       | 31 G. Walford Young      |
| 14 Ann Surrette        |                          |
| 16 Paul Coker          |                          |
| 16 Al Pachasa          |                          |



- |   |
|---|
| 2 Thomas and Joanna Beynon              |
| 10 Bill and Shirley Bishop              |
| 12 Tim and Lynne Smalley                |
| 17 Bill and Nancy Wyld                  |
| 18 Delbert Walton and Mary Louise Young |
| 19 Thomas and Karen Wenck               |
| 23 Bill and Amy Murray                  |
| 28 Al Tillman and Maxine Kaen           |
| 30 Rodney and Yvonne Carter             |
| 31 Jim and Barbara Hepler               |



**United Methodist Men's Pancake Breakfast**  
 Saturday, January 6th  
 7:00 am to 10:30 am

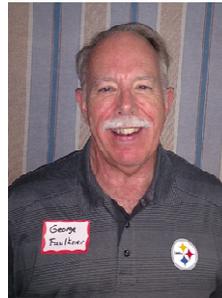
All the pancakes you can eat, plus scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage links orange juice, coffee and tea... only \$5.00!

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



**LUNCH & LEARN** Thursday, Jan. 18 11:30am – 1pm

**Presenter: Coastal Chiropractic**  
 "Aerobic and Anaerobic Exercise"



**George Faulkner**

George comes to us by letter of transfer from Ft. Ogden UMC. Originally from Franklin, PA, and after leaving the Army, he made Physical Therapy his career. He is currently employed by the U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs working with disabled veterans to enable them to remain in their homes as long as possible. George has one daughter and three grandchildren.



**Tim Smalley**

Tim is transferring to us from First Presbyterian Church, P.C. Tim was raised in Newark, New Jersey and, after his tour in the Army, worked for a short time with the Pennsylvania RR. After studying social work, he spent the rest of his career with the New Jersey Div. of Youth and Family Services. He and his wife Lynne have been extremely active in Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Tim has three children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.



**Lynne Smalley**

Lynne is transferring with her husband Tim from First Presbyterian. After growing up in the small town of Baxter Springs, KS and raising 2 daughters as a single parent, Lynne went to college where she obtained both her bachelors and masters degrees in sociology. Moving to New Jersey, met her husband, Tim, at work in an interesting manner.....quite a story to ask them about sometime. She shares 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren with Tim.

## More About Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*

What is a Stephen Minister, and what can they do for you? Stephen Ministers are well trained lay persons who meet, confidentially, with those facing a life crisis for about an hour a week. They are known as the “After” people, and are ready to come along side you, to provide comfort and support for as long “after” as they are needed. If you or someone you know, would like to have a Stephen Minister assigned to you, or become a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor David at the church number or Dean Winston at 941-661-8825.

Stephen Ministers are there;

...after you've washed and returned the last casserole dish.

...after the divorce papers have been served and the bottom falls out of your life.

...after the last child honks, waves, drives away, the house suddenly seems incredibly empty.

...after you arrive home following the funeral service and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.

...after the relationship has ended, the wounds are still bleeding and painful.

...after the doctors have said, “There is nothing more we can do.”

...after the phone call you'd always hoped you'd never get.

...after you realize the hands on the gold watch you received at your retirement party move more slowly than you'd ever imagined.

...after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says “Welcome to your new home.”

...after the baby has arrived, putting more demands on you than ever dreamed possible.

...after you find the pink slip inserted with what is now your final paycheck.

...after your family and friends, have heard the story one too many times but you still need to talk it out.

...after...

The Christmas season is one of joy and sorrow. Joy for the celebration of our savior's birth and the time we get to spend with those we love. Sorrow for the absence of those loved ones we once had joy with who have gone home to be with the Lord. If you could use a Stephen Minister to help with whatever crisis you may be experiencing, just call. If you want to be a member of this important ministry, just call. If you are a trained Stephen Minister and you want to become active, just call. Thank you for your support.



**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



**Small Group Ministry Starting**  
**at PCUMC!**

Beginning in January, we will inaugurate a new venue for intentional discipleship – small groups meeting in the homes of some of our members (generally members with larger living rooms). Groups of eight to ten persons will be invited to gather regularly in a home for a time of worship, study, prayer, and fellowship. This is a proven venue for building relationships, finding support, and nurturing our Christian faith and practice. Look for sign-up sheets in connection with our Sunday services, or e-mail Pastor David (ddesilva@ashland.edu) to indicate your interest.

## Life APP's *Ross Scheidecker, Lay Leader*

Mathew 6:34 = **Worry**

What does the Bible say about worry?...**DON'T!**

“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Simple, right? It's written in God's word. But yet, at some time or another we all try to take control and fret about tomorrow. Why? Because Satan is a master at using worry to come between us and God.

Now the Bible is not saying we should not be concerned or plan for tomorrow. Both concern and planning are good. Concern can help move us to action and planning can lead to making good choices that will positively affect the future.

As we feel worry start to grow, we have two choices. We can 1) choose to trust God and bring our worries to him or 2) push God aside and try to take control.

Next time worry starts to invade your day and steps between you and God, 1) take a deep breath, 2) close your eyes and 3) focus on God, offering a prayer such as: Lord, I am sorry for not trusting you. I give you this worry and ask for the Holy Spirit to help me focus to live one day at a time.

Other verses related to Worry:

LUK 12:22 :“For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on.”

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

1PET 5:7 : “...casting all your anxiety on Him, because he cares for you.”

“For  
**I KNOW**  
 the plans  
 I have for you,”  
 declares the LORD,  
 “... plans to give you  
**HOPE** and a  
**FUTURE.**”  
 Jeremiah 29:11, NIV




### Short Term Study on Methodism

Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm  
 (6 week study)  
 Begins January 11

Instructor:  
 Rev. Steven Brown

Have you ever wondered what beliefs are distinctive to United Methodist Christians? Andy and Sally Langford, two United Methodist pastors serving in North Carolina, have written a small paperback study book entitled *Living as a United Methodist Christian: Our Story, Our Beliefs, Our Lives*. We will be using this resource for a short-term adult class which will meet at PCUMC beginning on January 11, 2018 from 6:30-7:30 pm and running for six weeks.

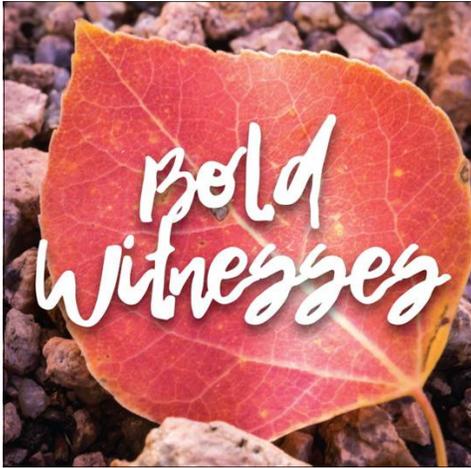
This class will be especially beneficial for those who are new to the United Methodist Church, and it can also provide a kind of “refresher course” for those who have been lifelong United Methodists. We will be led by Rev. Steven Brown, a retired minister from East Ohio, who worships at PCUMC from Oct until May. We will conclude in time for those who wish to join the Evening Prayer service at 7:30 pm.

## Evening Prayer Service Thursdays 7:30-8pm

Beginning January 11



Beginning on Thursday, January 11, we will hold a service of evening prayer in the sanctuary from 7:30 until about 8:00 pm. The service will include time for worship, prayer, reading of Scripture, and reflection in a reverent but relaxed atmosphere.



**Discover Your  
Testimony**  
Saturday, January 6  
9:30-11am  
with Pastor David

## Discover Your Testimony

God has been at work in your life, and the traces of his hand upon you become powerful testimonies to others concerning how God might intervene in their lives. You are warmly invited to a spiritual formation workshop to be held at our church on **Saturday, January 6**, from 9:30-11:00am. Pastor David will lead you in a time of reflection geared to help you discover and share your witness to the love and timely help of God.

## Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen email: [theexhorter\\_fla@yahoo.com](mailto:theexhorter_fla@yahoo.com)*

**Question:** How did the Wise Men know that the star they saw would lead them to the Christ Child?

**Answer:** We have many, many theories, but nothing definitive. The *Wikipedia* has an article, "Star of Bethlehem" ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star\\_of\\_Bethlehem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_of_Bethlehem)) that tries to pull everything that's known or suggested together, but it cannot speak definitively. As far as we know, we have no living eyewitnesses, but even if we did, unless they spoke to the Wise Men themselves or were expert in Jewish and others' prophecies, they, too, would be guessing.

First century Jewish historian Josephus shares with many Christians and Jews the belief that Balaam's prophecy (Numbers 24:17) about the "star [coming] out of Jesse," refers to the coming of the Messiah. Novelist, hymnwriter, and theologian Henry Van Dyke, Jr., in his *The Story of the Other Wise Men*, combines this prophecy with quotations from non-Jewish pagan writers to identify the star as the herald of the coming of the Messiah. I've no idea whether or not Van Dyke's quotations are genuine. David Swift, writer-director of Walt Disney's *Pollyanna*, says he made up the Lincoln quotation used there.

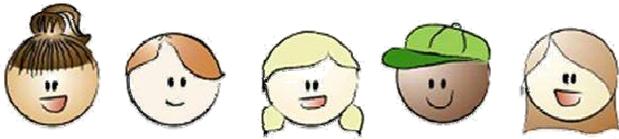
With our present store of knowledge and ignorance, as good a theory as any is that God or an angel told them. Angels spoke to Joseph, Mary, Zechariah, and the shepherds. Why not the Wise Men?

**Question:** Several weeks ago, when my Sunday School class was studying Romans, a class member read from Romans 4:7-8. My translation reads: "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." But instead of *Blessed*, my classmate read, *Happy*. *Blessing* is something God does for us. *Happy* is our emotional response to something good that happens or an emotion we choose to cling to despite our circumstances. How can both versions be correct?

**Answer:** You quoted the verses from the *King James Version*. Here Paul is quoting from Psalm 32:1-2. The *Revised Standard Version*, *New Revised Standard Version*, *English Standard Version*, and *New International Version* also say, "Blessed." "Happy" appears in the *New English Bible*, the *Good News Translation*, the *New Century Version*, and the *Common English Bible*. John Wesley, revising the *King James New Testament* to accompany his *Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament*, also used "Happy." So did the Jewish translations of Psalm 32 (1917 and 1970). The same Greek word (*makarios*) that is translated "Blessed" or "Happy" here also appears in the Beatitudes (Mt. 5:3-12).

Wesleyan scholar George Lyons opens his study notes on the Beatitudes, by saying that they "are named from the Latin word *beatus* meaning **blessed**. These are the blessings and responsibilities of discipleship. The Greek term means "happy, fortunate" (*The Wesley Bible, New King James Version*, Nelson, 1990, notes on Mt. 5:3-12, p. 1418). Jewish Christian David H. Stern adds that "*makarios* corresponds to Hebrew *asher* and means 'blessed,' 'happy,' and 'fortunate' all at once, so that no one English word is adequate" (*The Jewish New Testament Commentary*, notes on Mt. 5:3, p. 23).

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



### PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

**Director: Paula Mann**

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

**We had a great time at the Christmas Parade!**  
**Thank you to all who came to help!**

**Prayer:** (tune: London Bridge)  
Thanks and praise we give to God  
give to God, give to God  
Thanks and praise we give to God  
for our snack/lunch time. Amen

**Verse:**

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

**Important dates:**

- Jan 3: back to school
- Jan 15: MLK day ... 3 day VPK ONLY
- Jan 22-26: Literacy & Lunch
- Jan 26: Family Science Night
- January 31: Walk in Day



## CHRISTMAS PARADE



### Student Ministries *Barbara Hald*

**Happy New Year Everyone!**

We hope this New Year finds you happy and healthy.

The Confirmation Class will begin on January 7th at 9:30am. (Even if you have been confirmed we want you to join in for a refresher course.) Confirmation will on Pentecost Sunday, May 20th during the 11:00am service.

The youth will be selling "Subs for the Super bowl" as a fundraiser again this year. They will be taking orders January 21st and January 28th. The subs will be available for pick up at the church on Super bowl Sunday, February 4th.

January is always a time to evaluate and find new ways of doing things for the New Year.

God Bless you and all you do to support the Children's and Youth Ministries.

In His Love,  
Barbara

*Thank you everyone for the 95 shoeboxes and 30 Angel Tree gifts.*



**Exciting News... we have a new train on our preschool playground!**





Port Charlotte United Methodist Church  
21075 Quesada Avenue  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952-2546

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## **Saturday Scripture Seminars** *Pastor David*

Beginning on January 20th, Pastor David will be offering one-off seminars at PCUMC on the third Saturday of each month. The first will focus on “Rescuing Revelation’s Prophetic Word from ‘Prophecy Experts’.” The book that closes our New Testament canon is one of the most misunderstood and misused texts in the Bible. It is not a playbook for the end times. It is not a mysterious coded message that allows the “expert” to predict who will emerge as the Antichrist, what country will rise up as “Babylon the Great,” or when some “rapture” will occur. It was a message to seven real Christian congregations living under Roman rule at the end of the first century that, when read as such, also reveals its fundamental challenges to us in our contemporary settings. Pastor David will present a historically grounded way to take Revelation seriously as Scripture and to wrestle with its call to our churches to discover the path to faithful obedience and uncompromised witness to God’s reign in our contexts. The event will run from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., with lunch available on campus for \$6.

Future Saturday seminars will include "Between the Testaments: Why All Christians Need to Read the Apocrypha" (February 17, 2017, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) and "Grace, Faith, and Salvation: Listening to Paul over Protestant Theology" (March 17, 2017, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon).

