

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2017

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

www.pcumc.info

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

THE ARMY OF GOD

A friend of mine, Colonel Lin Williams USMC gave a speech at the Rotary Club. The topic of this speech was "Why the Armed Forces of the United States Are the Best in the World." Colonel Williams gave five reasons. 1. They have a sense of purpose. The purpose of the armed forces of the United States is to defend the country and defeat the enemy. 2. They are committed to what they believe in. 3. They are willing to sacrifice. They are willing to pay any price needed to win and get the job done. 4. Teamwork: everyone works together and does their share. 5. Loyalty: they have a strong allegiance to country and each other.

When I heard this lecture several years ago, I could not help but wonder what the people who follow Christ could accomplish if they had the same commitment to excellence as the U.S. Military. Most Christians fail to see that according to scripture we are in a battle here on earth against the enemy of God. The word "Satan" means adversary. Ephesians 6:12 clearly states that "our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against rulers, against the authorities, against cosmic powers of this present darkness, against spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places." The word "struggle" in this verse means a fight to the death. Also, if one reads on in Ephesians 6, you will notice that Paul describes the believer as a warrior when he instructs us to "put on the whole armor of God." The "whole armor" prepares a soldier for battle with both offensive weapons and defensive protection.

Most of us have never really viewed the church or ourselves as part of the "Army of God." Most of us have been led to view the church as a fellowship club that eats together and enjoys one another's company. The church is seen as a place that offers comfort and support to each member of the body. These things are all true, but the mission of the people of God is to participate in the ongoing war between God and His enemy. He has called us to continue the work His Son started that is recorded in the Gospels. The church is to confront the enemy in the world and bring freedom to those under the darkness of Satan. If you look at the early historic church in the book of Acts you will see the followers of Jesus carrying on the work Jesus started.

Going back to the beginning of this article, I wonder what the church of the Lord Jesus Christ would be like if His followers had the same commitment to His purpose and work as the U.S. Military has to its. The enemy would be on the run and many of his captives would be set free, saved and delivered from their sin. God is recruiting and calling believers to His service, let's all join!

Your Friend, *Pastor Craig Moore*

Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship 8 & 11am
Contemporary 9:30am

Wednesday Nights

"Wonderful Wednesdays"

Dinner 5-6:00pm
Bible Study 5:45-6:15pm
Children 6-7:30pm
Youth 6-8:00pm
Choir 6:25pm

Wednesday, March 1

Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm

Saturday, March 4

Pancake Breakfast 7:30-10:30am

Wednesday, March 8

Bloodmobile 4-7pm

Friday/Saturday, March 10/11

UMM Yard Sale

Thursday, March 16

Lunch & Learn 11:30am-1pm

Tues/Wed March 21/22

Memory Mobile Testing



Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, March 4
7:30-10:30am



Sunday, March 5 at 3:15pm
PMK Trio: R. Paul Urbanick, violin; Mary Seal, piano; and Kevin Bellosa, cello

Works will include Brahms's Piano Trio, opus 8 and Piazzola's Becha



 **Letters**

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who helped to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season. The work that all of you did helped to enhance the worship experience for all who attended our church. I know that each of you gave up some of your free time to help and that only shows how much you love the Lord and your church. I also want to say thank you to those that helped to un-decorate when the holiday season was over. Sometimes the un-decorating is more difficult to do. A special thank you goes out to Ron Dobson for his work at making our "stable" for the altar crèche scene usable without fear that it was going to fall apart. I hope that I can count on all of you to help again when the need arises.

Your sister in Christ,
 "D" Fletcher (chair of Passionate Worship)

A new year has begun! We the Salvation Army would like to wish you and your family health, love and prosperity. We appreciate all the support you have given us last year and we look forward in working together this year. Thank you for being an "angel" to the children and those in need,

Sincerely,
 Gilda Prieto, Captain and
 Migdalia Hernandez, Angel Tree Coordinator

Extravagant Generosity

As of 1-31-17
 Income \$67,985.93 Expenses \$68,233.10

Community Assistance: Housing: 3, Utilities: 2

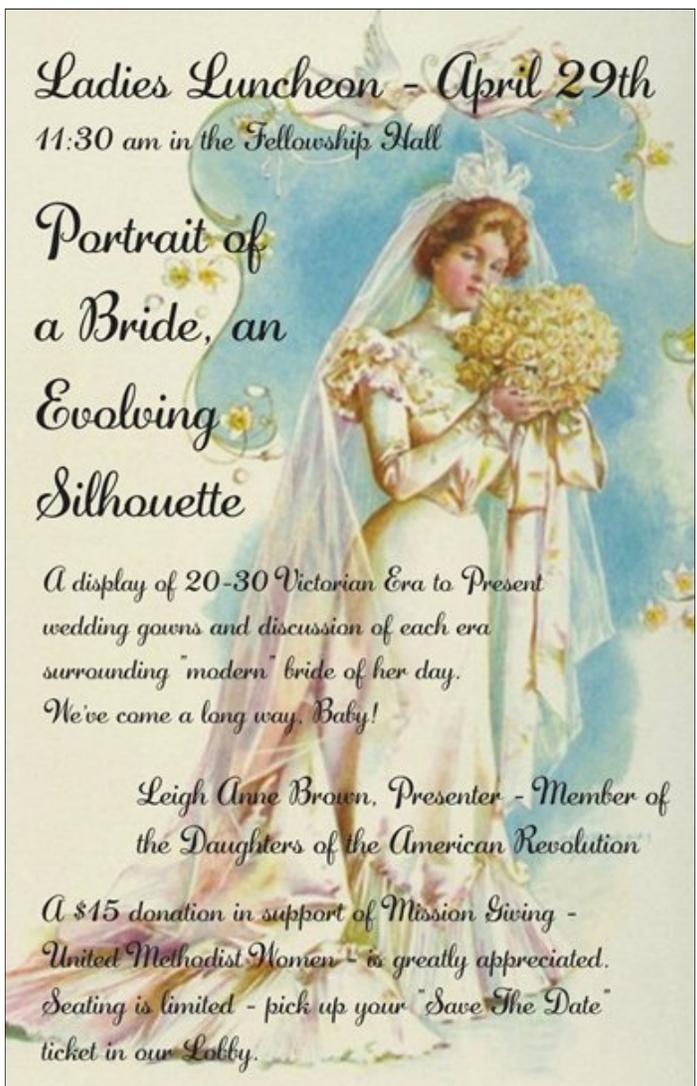
Ladies Luncheon - April 29th
 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

Portrait of a Bride, an Evolving Silhouette

A display of 20-30 Victorian Era to Present wedding gowns and discussion of each era surrounding "modern" bride of her day. We've come a long way, Baby!

Leigh Anne Brown, Presenter - Member of the Daughters of the American Revolution

A \$45 donation in support of Mission Giving - United Methodist Women - is greatly appreciated. Seating is limited - pick up your "Save The Date" ticket in our Lobby.





Friday, March 10
8am – 2pm
Saturday, March 11
8am - Noon



**HOSPITALITY
COMMITTEE**

**Volunteers are needed
to serve coffee on
Sunday mornings.**

**Please see Sid and
Dottie White
or call Deb Valler
941-391-6588**

Stewardship *Dean Winston, Stewardship Chair, Generosity Team*

The church... A place where two or more gather to worship God, share fellowship, and facilitate the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations. Our mission/vision statement of, "Know, Grow, Go" exemplifies this.

The members of the church are the stewards of the church and are charged with the responsibility of maintaining the buildings, grounds, staff, and the mission/vision of the church.

How do we finance our mission/vision? We could establish a budget and then divide that amount by the number of members. But, would that really be equitable? Wouldn't that cause some with modest means, to pay a greater percentage of their income? We could just ask the members to give whatever they could afford. Would that be equitable? Wouldn't some give a greater or lesser percentage than someone else? How about using the method that God recommends, tithing? Ten percent of our income is ten percent no matter how much income we have. The ratio is the same for everyone. This is truly an equitable method of giving. It is a reflection of one's relationship with God. It demonstrates commitment, discipline and love and by giving God our first fruits we put HIM first in our lives.

One of the ways our unified goal of making disciples is with missions, sending missionaries out to deliver the Good News, the Gospel to those unknowing. Corporate worship, bible studies, Children's Weekday Ministries, Wonderful Wednesday Nights, live radio sermons, other ministries and missions, are all ways to reach others, evangelize and make disciples.

If you read Rick Warren's "Purpose Driven Church" or Stanley Ott's "How to Grow Your Church", you will find a common theme. Rick Warren advocates the use of small groups to grow the church and make it stronger. A bible study group would be an example of a small group. Similarly, Stanley Ott advocates using ministries to grow the church. He believes in the "with me" principle. The same principle that Jesus used in making his disciples when he said to them, "Come with me". He sees every ministry as a doorway to the church. He says by using the "with me" principle in asking others outside the church to help you in your ministry inside the church, we can grow in numbers daily as written in Acts 16:5.

As you can see the mission/vision of the church is too important to expect one man, the pastor, the shepherd of his flock, to be entirely responsible for success in its mission. The responsibility must be borne by us all. It is really quite simple, 1+1=2. Bring the people in to be" with you "as you help make disciples by worshiping, studying the bible, or participating in your ministry, and the church will grow and we will be fulfilling our GOD GIVEN MISSION. In doing this, not only will our church grow, it will be blessed.





United Methodist Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Saturday, March 11, 2017
11am in the New Room

Program:

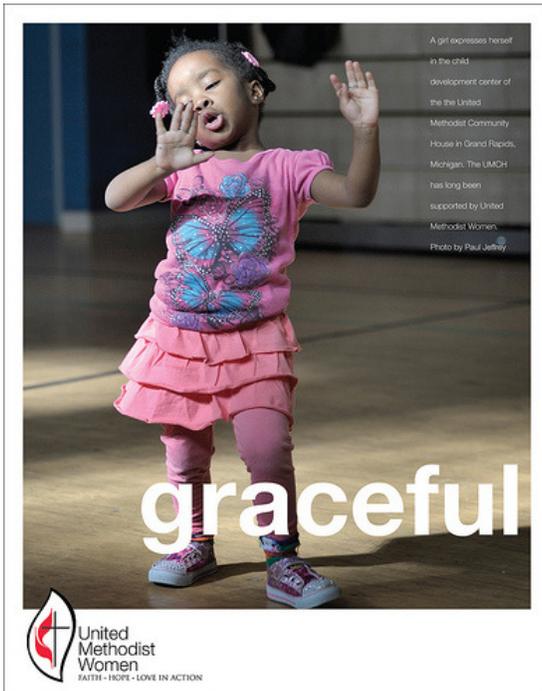
Called To Service Communities Around the World:
Regional Missionaries

Objective:

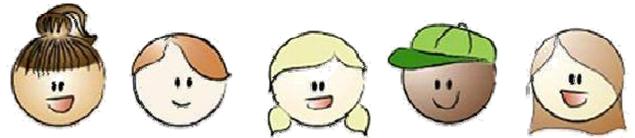
To explore the call that the Prophet Anna received and lived out in biblical times and to understand how United Methodist Women regional missionaries are responding to God's call today, continuing the legacy of our foremothers around the world.

**All women 18 and older are Welcome
Bring a Friend!**

**12 PM – Group Discussion:
“COMPLAINING IS DRAINING”
BRING A LUNCH**



A girl expresses herself in the child development center of the the United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The UMCW has long been supported by United Methodist Women. Photo by Paul Jeffrey



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

Director: Paula Mann

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

Bible Verse: Psalm 150:6

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord

Prayer:

God we thank you for our food
for rest and home and all things good
for wind and rain and sun above
but most of all for those we love. Amen

- March 3: Dr Seuss Day ... DRESS UP CRAZY
- March 13 - 17: Spring Break
- March 20: Back to school
(Charlotte County has off but we are in session)
- March 31: Walk in Day

Heads Up... April 3-7 is our annual Book Fair!



the
PORT
**Where Children and Youth
are Anchored in Christ**

Student Ministries *Barbara Hald*

Easter Fest, our church-wide outreach, is fast approaching. Please make sure you have signed up to serve.

Warren Willis Camp is in July. Scholarship forms are due on Sunday March 12th .

The youth Lock-In will be on Wednesday, March 15th, grades 6th – 12th. Make sure we have a permission slip and a medical release form on file.

Contact Barbara Hald, Student Ministry Director for further information .



March Birthdays

01 Elbert Chinn	10 Rachel Weishuhn	18 Jamie Shirley	26 Durvent Lyons
01 Kent McCarthy	10 Gerald Brown	19 Albert Hassell	27 Ann Marshall
01 Vicki Do	11 Mildred Rochester	19 Joanne Salk	28 Nancy Wyld
02 Mary Louise Young	11 Betty Hansen	20 Donna Lageveen	28 Dorothy Golding
02 Gerald Shaw	11 Susan Sennholz	21 Eleanor Gibbens	28 Edna Brown
03 Lynne Miller	11 Pam Shaner	21 Pat Simpson	28 Bonnie Bennett
04 Gaye Shields	14 Joan Couch	21 Ned Timmerman	28 Glen Tschetter
04 Barbara Wilder	15 Clay Conway	22 Dorette Cowan	28 Juliet Cox
05 Tom Brown	16 Fred Hall	23 Jordan Bowers	29 Hollie Donisi
07 Sarah Bailey	17 Trish Chrzanowski	24 Shirley Bishop	30 Terri Smith
08 Thora Hope	17 Aniyah Shirley	24 Sylvia Mallay	30 Lyman Welton
08 Nancy Kaufman	18 Mackenzie Mueller	24 Doris Hixson	31 Nancy Jacobson
08 Jennifer Jones	18 Larry Littlefield	25 Jonathan Carlsen	31 Rita Anglin
09 Karen Wiseman	18 Lisa Ayers	26 Don Bunger	31 Charlene Starzonek

March Anniversaries

03 Nancy and Robert Kaufman	21 David Jr. and Corry Cox
04 Rita and Barry Anglin	21 Gary and Pat Johnston
04 Jack and Nancy Coheeney	26 Paul and Marjorie Ward
09 Mike and Erin Hall	26 Al and Gladys Hilbert
09 James and Mary Etta Stedge	31 Suzanne and Matthew Dowling
14 Oran and LaVonne Goodell	
16 Pierre and Carol Fisher	
16 J. Patrick and Laura Slike	



More About Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*

What does it mean to the congregation to have 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. A call can be made, or by 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.

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

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

Memory Mobile Testing



March 21 & 22
10AM - 3:30PM

See the nurses
in the fishbowl
to sign up!



LUNCH & LEARN

Thursday,
March 16
11:30am – 1pm

Presenter: Dr. Ramon Gil
Latest Alzheimer's Research Update

Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: Why do we observe seasons like Advent or Lent when they're never mentioned in the Bible?

Answer: This question was put to me years ago in Chicago by a member of an independent congregation loosely affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. I could have said we do this because of centuries-old traditions, but that answer would not have satisfied him. Instead, I told him that it's a matter of practical church scheduling. In the weeks before Christmas, the pastor and worship team will be planning and conducting services that help worshipers get ready for Christmas. In the weeks before Easter, they'll be doing the same thing to get ready for Easter. When they do this, you'll be observing Advent or Lent whether you call these periods by those names or not.

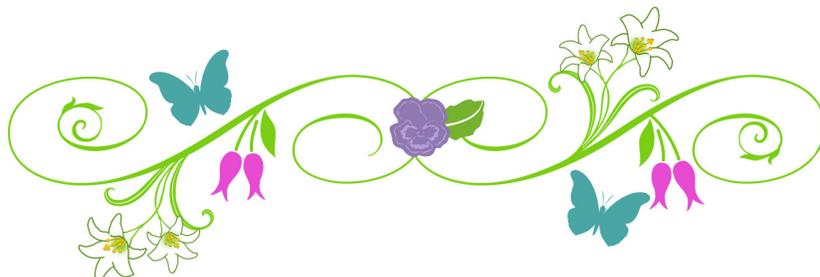
Question: Why did you say, in February, that we United Methodists have the conviction that the Bible is the Word of God, when the Bible says, in John 1, that the Word is Jesus? Article ii of our *Articles of Religion* concurs and article iv of our *Confession of Faith* says the Bible "reveals the Word of God," not *is* the Word of God. (Part 1)

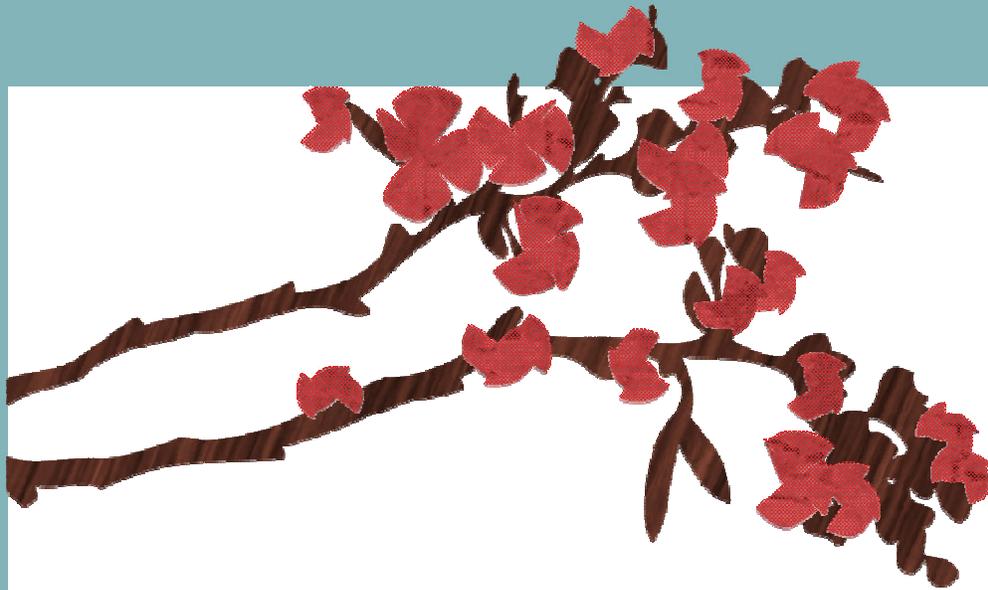
Answer: Both Jesus and the Bible are "the Word of God" in different senses. UMC Bishop Paul W. Milhouse wrote an official interpretation of the *Confession of Faith's* art. iv: "We often speak of the Bible as the Word of God. Such use of 'Word' focuses attention upon the message communicated through the 'words' of the Bible. This book conveys God's message to man. It contains God's message. It is, therefore, God's Word to man. ... When we say the Bible 'reveals the Word of God,' we are speaking of more than a written message. We are referring to Christ as the personified expression of God's will for man. In Christ's life, words and deeds, we get a picture of what God wants man to be. Jesus Christ, the Word of God, is the focal point of the Bible. Upon its pages, we confront Jesus, and when we meet him, we discover that we meet God" — *This We Believe: A Commentary on The Confession of Faith of The Evangelical United Brethren Church*, authorized by the Boards of Christian Education and Evangelism of The United Brethren Church (Dayton, OH: EUB Board of Publication, 1964), ch. 4, "The Holy Bible," pp. 28-34 at 30-31. More about this in Part 2.

Question: How do Jesus' words in Luke 14:26 about hating our closest relatives square with His commands to love our neighbors and one another?

Answer: *Hate* is used in a different sense than we usually understand it. We understand *hate* to mean *dislike, dislike very strongly, detest, abhor, loathe, or despise* (*Thorndike-Barnhart Comprehensive Desk Dictionary*, 1955 ed.), but Jesus uses the word to mean to love these others less than we love Him. John Wesley explains the verse, "Comparatively to Christ; yea, so as to actually renounce his field, oxen, wife, all things, and act as if he hated them, when they stand in competition with Him." — *New Testament Notes*, note on Lk. 14:26.

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





SOUTH WEST DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
SPIRITUAL GROWTH
“LIVING A LIFE OF JOY”

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017

REGISTRATION: 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

PROGRAM: 10:00 AM

LUNCH \$8.00

SARASOTA TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4150 SOUTH SHADE AVENUE, SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34321

“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace:”
Isaiah 55:12a

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE – REGISTRATION DUE BEFORE MARCH 20TH.

Health Ministry *Jane Flanders*

Don't miss our March 16 (Thurs) Lunch and Learn. We are excited and pleased to have Dr. Ramon Gil, Neurologist, offer a presentation on Alzheimer's and Updates on the Disease. Dr. Gil has recently been pursuing research on the disease and the topic is of interest to all. Please register at the Welcome Center as we offer a complimentary lunch prepared by Shirley Antrobus and Jim Eugenius. Presentation begins at 11:30am.

The Memory Mobile Unit will be present in the church parking lot on Tuesday, March 21 and Wednesday, March 22 from 10:00am - 3:00pm. This 15 minute memory test is offered by the Alzheimer's Association of Port Charlotte directed by Reba Revill. The nurses will have sign-up sheets in the Fish Bowl if you would like to be tested.

May 18 (Thurs) at 11:30am Linda Howard from Bayfront Hospital will present a Physical Therapist, offering a presentation on "Better Balance." Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan on attending. Invite your neighbors! Complimentary lunch is offered.

Bloodmobile: March 8 during Wednesday Night Out from 4:00pm - 7:00pm. Look for the Big Red Bus in the church parking lot! Thank you for saving a life!

Parkinson's Disease Support Group: 4th Friday of the month 10:00am - 11:30am - PGI Civic Association 2001 Shreve St. Contact Kelly Gaylord at 941 637-6418. Murdock Baptist Church, Student Building 18375 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte - Second Tuesdays 1:30PM - 3:00PM. For other support groups in the area please check with the nurses as they have a list of all support groups for Parkinson's Disease.

Have questions regarding Parkinson's Disease? Feel free to call Carisa Campanella, Care Advisor South Sarasota and Charlotte County's Neuro Challenge Foundation for Parkinson's, at 941 928-5886 anytime. "Victory Summit Symposium for Parkinson's" Friday, March 3 at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda - FREE! All day event with break-out sessions offered by the Davis Phinney Foundation. Mr. Phinney and Tim Hague, Sr., Canada's Amazing Race Winner will both be present. Complimentary box lunches, tea and coffee offered throughout the morning. To register and/or ask questions please call 888-364-6415.

Fraud: Each year people lose money to con artists through mail fraud and other scams which include phone calls. Your money is taken but these criminals also steal your self-esteem! Anyone can be a victim! Let's get educated! Never, ever give personal information over the telephone. Never, ever give your credit card numbers, phone numbers, social security number or your bank information. Never, ever call a 900 number to claim a prize! YOU will pay for the call and be responsible for all charges! Con artists are aggressive and know just what to say to you. Sounds like a good deal or offer? Ask your family, friends and always get a second opinion. Just say NO! Person on the other end of the phone makes you suspicious? Hang up! Be aware of your emails as they can be one of the most enticing way for a con artist to scam you. Having repair work done on your home? Beware! The repair person may give you a low ball offer but then produce poor work, cheap materials or have helpers who are untrained. You give them a deposit and may never see them again. Never pay the full amount in advance. Always check references. If someone drives to your home and offers to do work never accept their offers. Reliable workers will give you references and offer to return later. REMEMBER: The elderly are favorite targets of Con Artists!

Mental Health Support Groups: Wednesdays 1:30pm - 3:00pm at the Port Charlotte Library, 2280 Aaron St. If you are living with a person with mental illness this group is for you. The second Tuesday of the month: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church, 1532 Forrest Nelson Dr., Port Charlotte. Caregivers, family members living with someone with mental illness. Open discussion. Adult Day Care Respite Program: Friendships Unlimited located at the New Hope Fellowship Christ Community Church, 27000 Sunnybrook Rd., Punta Gorda every Tuesday from 10:00am - 2:00pm. For further information please call Arlene Brown at 941 629-9837 or Irma McNeil at 941 743-6758.

❖ Created For More ❖ Women's Conference

Featuring Jennie Allen

International speaker and author of three Bible Studies: *Chase, Restless & Stuck* and two books: *Anything & Nothing to Prove*.

She is the founder of the IF: Gathering, a live stream event that has reached more than a million women in 50 countries.

Saturday, April 1, 2017

9 am to 3 pm

First Alliance Church

20444 Midway Blvd.

Port Charlotte



Contact Sue Edmiston
if you are interested in
going: 941-629-4082

Jennie is a Bible teacher marked by personal authenticity and vulnerability. She encourages women to go to these same places as they study scripture, wrestle with truth, and more fully live out their short time on this planet.

Tickets \$35 | \$30 for groups of 9+

Available at itickets.com or at FAC



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 Website: www.pcumc.info
 facebook.com/portcharlotteumc

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Boy Scouts *Tom Koontz, Scoutmaster Troop 37*

Many of you know that the PCUMC United Methodist Men sponsor Boy Scout Troop 3 that meets here at the church every Tuesday evening. What you may not know is that the group has 25 active boys and since they have been meeting here, they have produced 24 Eagle Scouts. The leadership runs year round program and collect aluminum cans to help fund the program. They collect them throughout the year and then take them to a local recycle center and turn them in for cash. Last year they were able to take 20 scouts to a week long summer camp in northern Florida. This summer the troop is taking on a much bigger adventure. They are planning to take the boys to Virginia for 10 days and are looking for our help. If anyone can spare their aluminum cans please bring them to the shed behind Fellowship Hall and place them inside one of the trash cans there, or if you have bagged them just leave them near the shed. This helps fund the troop and will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all you do and God Bless.



HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday

April 13th at 6:30pm

Good Friday

April 14th at 6:30pm

Easter Sunday, April 16

Sunrise Breakfast 6-8am

Sunrise Worship 7am, New Beginnings Park
 Worship at 8, 9:30 and 11am