

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 2014

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

AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT

I have been praying much over these last several weeks about the vote that we are taking/have taken on the 27th of April. I want you to know that I wrote this article **before our vote was taken**. My reason for this timing is because the importance of what I am sharing with you will not be determined by the outcome of the vote.

We have discussed in multiple settings the belief that a renovation to our existing facilities will help our church to show in visible ways that we are a church committed to moving forward. As much as I believe there are strategies we employ and steps that we take to “move forward,” we will not move forward if something even more critical is not in place. That critical ingredient is **ATTITUDE**.

I once heard this riddle...

What am I...

My roots are inward but my fruit is outward.

I am your best friend or your worst enemy.

I am more honest and more consistent than the words you say.

I will either draw people to you or repel people from you.

I am the librarian of your past; but I am also the announcement of your present,

and the prophet of your future.

What am I?

I am your attitude!

So why do I believe that attitude is so important? The explanation for that is partially expressed in the working definition of the word.

ATTITUDE: A person's prevailing tendency to respond favorably or unfavorably to objects, people, or events.

Our attitudes can be expressed in many ways. They can be revealed through facial expressions, tone of voice, inflection of voice, actions, energy level in performing actions, or the interest level we take in what is placed before us.

The late General Douglas McArthur wrote these profound words on his 75th birthday: “In the central place of every heart there is a recording chamber; as long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, and courage, you are young. When the wires are all down and your heart is covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then, and then only, are you grown old.”

I heard about two boys who were having a conversation about wearing glasses. “Wouldn't you hate to wear glasses all the time?” asked one boy, of the other. “No-o-o,” the other boy answered slowly, “not if I had the kind my grandma wears. She sees how to fix a lot of things, see lots of nice things to do on rainy days, she sees when folks are tired and sad, and what will make them feel better, and she always sees what you meant to do even if you haven't got things just right. I asked her one day how she could see that way all the time, and she said it was the way she learned to look at things as she grew older. So it must be her glasses.”

continued on next page...

Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship at 8 & 11
Contemporary 9:30am

Wednesday Nights

Dinner: 5-6:30pm

Children's Ministry: 6-7:30pm

Youth: 6-8:15pm

Adult Studies: 6:30 - 7:30pm

Choir: 6:30pm

Wednesday, May 14

Bloodmobile 3:30 - 8pm

Friday, May 16

Family Dinner & a Movie

6-8pm, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, May 21

Preschool Graduation

6:00pm, Sanctuary

Thursday, May 22

Lunch & Learn “Active Aging”

11:30am - 1pm, Fellowship Hall

continued from front...

The power of attitude comes from the fact that it expresses what we believe, what we are, what we will do, what we are will to sacrifice, how hard we will work, and how much of ourselves we are willing to risk.

This is just as true in the life and ministry of the church as it is anywhere else. God's Word recognizes the importance of attitude. According to the scriptures, our attitude is either a source of commendation or condemnation.

Let me share with you some of the attitudes that will move PCUMC forward:

1. A positive attitude toward God. *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."* (Mark 12:30)

2. A positive attitude toward the church. *"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."* (1 John 3:16)

3. A positive attitude toward the ministries of the church. *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* (Hebrews 10:25)

4. A positive attitude about modeling godly behavior in the world. *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16)

5. A positive attitude about life. *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* (Romans 8:28)

CONCLUSION:

Body of Christ, Church, brothers and sisters, you can't keep an attitude a secret. However much you are for or against something, your attitude will show through to others.

If PCUMC is going to move forward into the future, and do all that God wants us to do, we have to be able to reflect more than an opinion about the renovation of our buildings.

We have to reflect an attitude that shows the renovation of our hearts!

And that's the truth!

Grace,
Pastor Brian

Extravagant Generosity

Y-T-D Expenses as of 3/31/14:

Income - \$223,141.02 Expenses - \$232,425.91

Also Apportionments are 30% paid for the 2014 year

At the Church Conference on April 27th, members of the congregation approved a resolution "to proceed with renovation of the church campus contingent upon approval of project design and payment plan by the District Committee on Church Location & Building, and final approval of design and cost by the church congregation. The actual cost of the project will be based on pledges and available church funds, and the scope of the renovations dependent on the funding available." The Board of Trustees will hold a series of meetings on upcoming Tuesdays at 7:00pm to discuss various aspects of the renovation and obtain input from the congregation. All members of the congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend Update
April 24-27, Desoto Correctional Institute**

PCUMC members gave \$1,200 toward the expense of feeding 36 inmates and 40 team members. 6 wholesome meals were provided. Through the Children's Ministry, 72 placemats were received. 72 individuals wrote personal notes on cards which the prisoners received.

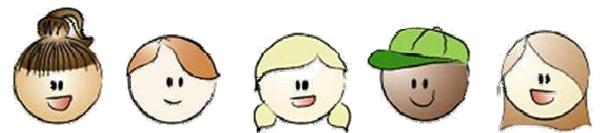
PCUMC is one of 10 ecumenical churches giving support prayerfully and financially toward this vitally important ministry. Thank you also for the clothing which prisoners being released are receiving. God's blessings are poured out through such generosity.



John Robertson



Kairos Representative and Committee member



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

Ericka Brown, Director

You're Invited!



VPK Graduation
Wednesday, May 21
6pm in the Sanctuary



Please join us!

the PORT

Where Children and Youth are Anchored in Christ

Children's Ministry *Barbara Hald*

I want to thank everyone who helped with "The Un-Egg Hunt" It was a awesome event and as a church we all came together and made this possible.

We still have a few openings for Vacation Bible School (June 9-13). We are now in the process of placing volunteers. If you would like to help with another awesome week, please sign up at the children's table.

Youth Ministry

Paul Kisner, Youth Director

May 7: **Outdoor Game Night**
6:00-8:15 pm

May 14: **No Youth Group**

May 28: **Summer Kickoff:**
Messy Game Night
6:00 – 8:30 pm



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The 3Ms Sunday School class is giving scholarships to graduating high school seniors and active college students. They will be a minimum of \$500. Applications will be available on Sunday May 4, 11 and 18 in the choir room at 9:30am. Applicants must be present to obtain application. Deadline to return application will be June 8th.



Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: Why does The United Methodist Church ordain women as ministers when the Bible says, "... women should be silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be subordinate as the law also says" (1 Cor. 14:34 NRSV)?

Answer: A woman classmate at my seminary suggested that Paul didn't write this as a general rule for all time, but to admonish one woman in Corinth who didn't know the proper "time to keep silence, and ... to speak" (Eccl. 3:7b). Jewish Christian scholar David Stern says the early Christians modeled their worship on the synagogue practice. There women and men not only sat on opposite sides of the gathering place (formerly, Methodists, Evangelicals and United Brethren also did this), but, apparently, a wall or curtain also separated the two groups. If a woman stood at this divide and yelled comments to her husband during worship, that would be disruptive. Stern recalls Paul had earlier written etiquette counsel for when a woman "prays or prophesies" (1 Cor. 11:5). *Prophesying* is the same as *preaching*, so he wasn't ordering all women to keep silent in church. — David H. Stern, *Jewish New Testament Commentary* (Clarksville, MD: Jewish New Testament Publications, 1992), pp. 483-484.

John Wesley, in his *Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament*, made an exception to this rule about women's keeping silence in 1 Corinthians 14:34 — "Unless they are under an extraordinary impulse of the Holy Spirit." During his ministry, Wesley had met many such women, starting with his mother. He appointed not a few them to serve as traveling lay preachers. As a priest in the Church of England, Wesley could not ordain anyone under Anglican law. But his women preachers were equal in status and responsibilities to his male lay preachers. American Methodists did not ordain women until 1956. The United Brethren started back in 1889. God has blessed their ministries, so let's not reproach them.

In Chicago, 110 years later (1999), I let slip to a friend that my new pastor was a woman. Coming from a *women-should-be-silent* denomination, he challenged me, "Name me one instance in Scripture where a woman exercised authority over a man." I said, "Deborah and Barak." (See Judges 4.) He protested, "That was a special case." I replied, "Anytime God calls someone, it's special."

Question: Why do you devote so much attention to explaining how supposed contradictions in Scripture can be harmonized when the proper approach is *God said it. I believe it. That settles it!* — ?

Answer: Actually, as one preacher said, *God said it. That settles it whether I believe it or not!* However, when Peter urged, "Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands an accounting for the hope that is in you ..." (1 Pt. 3:15b NRSV), I believe this means, not only to be ready with your own personal testimony, but also to defend, in a friendly, loving manner, the truth of the Bible that informs your faith. Over the years, I've identified four kinds of atheists or unbelievers. One group doesn't believe because they've accepted all the so-called "scientific" or philosophical arguments that faith and God are fairy tales. If all that stands between a person's believing or not is having some of these seeming contradictions explained, then we should equip ourselves to do this.

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

GriefShare New Room Wednesday, June 4 1-3pm

Jo Ann Carter
(941) 391-6136

Jeanne Spica
(941) 743-5058

As GriefShare concludes another successful 13-week session, a decision has been made to extend it to yearly status based on the expanding needs of our church and community. Our next 13-week session will begin June 4, 2014 in the New Room with facilitators Jo Ann Carter and Jeanne Spica.

GriefShare is a video seminar series that features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics as seen from a Biblical perspective. The video seminars are combined with support group discussion of the materials presented during the video. Small group discussion time allows group participants to talk about the content of the seminar and about how they are dealing with the death of their loved one.

If you, or someone you know, is grieving, please encourage them to join us on the "Journey from Mourning to Joy" offered through GriefShare participation.

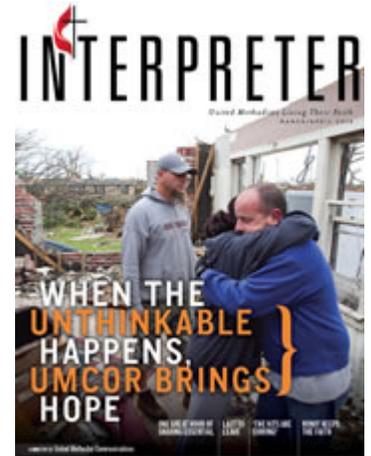
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When the unthinkable happens, UMCOR brings hope *Tom Gillem*

A lack of food irreversibly damaging the health of children and the elderly ... young adults virtually unable to contribute to their country's development ... a teenage girl seeking refuge from modern-day slavery.

These aren't the typhoons, earthquakes, tornadoes and other horrendous, headline-grabbing disasters that first come to mind when thinking about the worldwide relief efforts of The United Methodist Church. Instead, they are among the many other humanitarian crises the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) addresses each day, unthinkable events affecting entire countries – and individuals.

"UMCOR represents the best of our connectional system," said the Rev. Denise Honeycutt, deputy general secretary for UMCOR at the General Board of Global Ministries. "It's when we say we are about something bigger than just ourselves. And when we come together, we can do more together than we can do separately."



UMCOR's roots extend to the World War II era, when the 1940 General Conference formed the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief as a temporary body to respond to the needs of people in war-torn areas. By 1972, it became a permanent part of the Board of Global Ministries and was renamed the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Disaster response in the United States was added to its mission.

The list of people and places served by UMCOR over the years is extensive. It includes the survivors of earthquakes in Nicaragua, Haiti and Chile and floods in Pakistan; of floods, tornadoes and hurricanes in the United States; of famine in several parts of Africa; of civil strife in Liberia, Rwanda and Bosnia; and of Japan's 2011 tsunami, earthquake and nuclear threat, to name a few.

UMCOR now works in more than 80 countries providing humanitarian relief and health and development assistance to the most vulnerable people and communities affected by crisis or chronic need. Often working in cooperation with other aid organizations, UMCOR provides both temporary relief and long-term development, training and support without regard to beneficiaries' race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or age.

The purpose of UMCOR is "to join with God's mission of reconciliation and healing in the world," Honeycutt said.

Disasters are natural, human-caused



Fritz Michaliese and her son, Emmanuel, 6, received a goat from a breeding program funded by UMCOR working with the Methodist Church of Haiti in Vialet, Haiti. UMCOR's work responding to the massive 2010 earthquake continues with a variety of development projects.

When the unthinkable occurs somewhere in the world, it may be an event such as a famine, a major chemical spill, a massive fire, a tornado, a hurricane, a typhoon or an earthquake. The unthinkable may also be vulnerable adults or children caught in human trafficking, people living in dire poverty or without access to clean water or mothers, infants and toddlers dying for lack of access to basic medical care. Whatever the catastrophe, United Methodists respond.

"They are doing something about it through their local church (by) giving to UMCOR, which then uses that money – 100 percent of what is given – to directly respond to those situations," Honeycutt said.

The [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) offering and other undesignated gifts cover all of UMCOR's administrative expenses. UMCOR receives no support from World Service or other apportioned funds.

For disaster relief in the United States, UMCOR works with annual conferences, which coordinate the response to locally identified needs. "We do training for those disaster plans, so we're very actively involved in helping to prepare conferences," Honeycutt said.

"When there is a disaster around the world, we immediately contact the folks on the ground in that area. If we have a United Methodist presence, or a Methodist presence, we reach out to them," she said.

In addition to disaster relief, UMCOR also is involved in global development work, with specific programs addressing issues of global health, water and sanitation, poverty, sustainable agriculture, nutrition and food security.

As the church's "relief agency," Honeycutt said UMCOR adheres to standards of international organizations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

To analyze the needs, UMCOR also works with its field offices in Armenia, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia, Haiti, Sudan, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, and other partner organizations. Each field office was established after a major disaster to implement and assist with local development programs responding to ongoing needs. If another disaster occurs, they may respond, but their focus is long-term transitional development.

20 years in Armenia

One of UMCOR's nine field offices is located in the former communist-controlled country of Armenia, the world's oldest Christian nation. In the early fourth century, the then Kingdom of Armenia became the first state in the world to adopt Christianity as its religion. The origins of the Armenian Apostolic Church, the world's oldest national church, are traced back to the missions of the apostles Bartholomew and Thaddeus.

The Armenia field office, one of UMCOR's first, opened in 1994, three years after Armenia gained its independence from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which formally ceased to exist in 1991.

At the time, the nation was still reeling from the 6.8-magnitude Spitak earthquake in 1988 that killed 25,000 people, injured another 19,000 and left a half million Armenians homeless. When the Soviet Union ended, Armenia's industrial and financial system collapsed causing an even greater humanitarian catastrophe.

UMCOR first began working in Armenia and two other former Soviet-controlled states, Georgia and Azerbaijan, to provide free medicines and medical supplies from suppliers based in the United States. It also distributed hygiene kits, school kits and layette kits from UMCOR's relief supply network.

Today, the kit distribution continues and UMCOR has formed alliances with health institutions across Armenia to provide medicines to 150,000 vulnerable people annually. UMCOR's work in the Eurasian nation of 2.9 million people also includes projects in health and in agriculture, nutrition and food security, small reconstruction, microfinance, education and disaster risk reduction, in addition to efforts to prevent gender-selective abortion, HIV/AIDS and human trafficking.

In 2013, UMCOR Armenia targeted Ahnidzor village for its sustainable farming program. People live in desperate conditions in the village about 105 miles from Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

Prior to beginning the program, UMCOR staff learned the Ahnidzor families mainly barter the agricultural products they produce. They cope with food insecurity by eating cheaper food and fewer meals daily, which can cause irreversible damage to children and the elderly.

With funding from one of its partners, Food Resource Bank (FRB), UMCOR helped empower Ahnidzor villagers move toward becoming a more food-secure community. Shamil, 65, his wife and 12-year-old son received three sheep. All took part in UMCOR training on business plan development, daily farm management, healthy nutrition and other topics. Now Shamil's family is improving its food security by including cheese and yogurt in its daily meals. They made warm blankets from the sheep fleece. For this family and others, sustainable farming means improved nutrition and reduced poverty through improved livelihoods.

In a program funded by the U.S. Department of State, UMCOR provides cheese to orphanages and homes for the aged, improving the diet of the children and elderly. At some of the homes for the aged, UMCOR and FRB

have provided beehives and cows to establish a small beekeeping farm and a cattle farm – providing honey and fresh dairy products for meals.

For young people in Armenia from poor families, higher education is out of reach due to high tuition fees charged by the universities. In 2012, UMCOR Armenia launched a project to cover the university tuition fees for the children of socially vulnerable clients of Arenac Universal Credit Organization. Without higher education, it is extremely challenging for young Armenians to overcome poverty and contribute to their country's development.

Fighting trafficking

For the past decade, UMCOR has worked with the Armenian government and NGOs to raise awareness about human trafficking. The latest United Nations report said Armenia is a source country for men, women and children who are subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking, both inside and outside the country.

The efforts to fight trafficking include public service announcements in the media, a telephone hotline for survivors and training for police, judges and social workers about how to identify and help survivors.

UMCOR operates the only shelter in Armenia where survivors of trafficking can find a safe and comfortable place to seek help. In 2013, 29 survivors of trafficking were assisted in the shelter program, and the phone hotline fielded 330 calls, Jaeger said. The shelter also offers the only program in the country providing long-term, comprehensive services to assist women, children and men who have survived trafficking to reintegrate into society.

The efforts in Armenia demonstrate both the breadth of UMCOR's work and the value of partnerships.

Among the partners joining UMCOR in its work in Armenia and around the world are ecumenical and interfaith partners, specialized NGOs, United Nations agencies, local governments, the United States government, the European community and many others.

"As fallible as we are, the Holy Spirit uses the church to be about (reconciliation and) healing in the world." Honeycutt said. "In UMCOR, we are that instrument for The United Methodist Church."

Tom Gillem is a freelance writer and photojournalist based in Brentwood, Tenn. The reporting of **Anna Karapetyan** and **Anahit Gasparyan** from www.umcor.org contributed to this article.

May Birthdays

01 Irwin Schinkel
 01 Lisa Dixon
 02 Renee Coccaro
 03 Annette Emerich
 03 Suzanne Dowling
 03 Alexis Hald
 03 Alana Ange
 04 June Butler
 04 Cole Mandrick
 05 Jennie Poteat
 05 Blake Royer
 07 Muriel Marshall
 08 Loren Allen
 09 Vicki Timper
 09 Dorothy Bagley
 09 Nevaeh Pascal
 10 Ruth Mullen
 10 Janet Vargo
 10 Jim Marshall
 12 Bill Wyld
 12 Rex White
 12 Joey Petro
 12 Adrianna Radil
 13 Dorothy Bayuk
 14 Dorothy Brooks
 14 Ron Royer
 14 Bradley Baker
 15 Bea Bower
 15 Linda Anderson
 16 Lynda Freas
 18 Jean Elekes



18 Barbara Hald
 19 Mae Herzstock
 21 Roger Anderson
 21 Evelyn Welsh
 21 Eudoris McDonald
 21 Elizabeth Hone
 21 Terry Hixson
 21 Scott Mathias
 24 Vivian Bennett
 24 Sidney White
 24 Pete Coccaro
 25 Jan Brotherton
 25 Misty Royer
 25 Corry Cox
 26 Sara Richter
 28 Tyler Setser
 30 Odie Coker
 30 Karen Wenck
 31 Herbert Schwartz
 31 Janet LaFond
 31 Dwaine Yanni

May Anniversaries

02 Pete and Beth Coccaro
 08 Glenn and Sue Edmiston
 28 Calvin and Joann Gress
 29 Joe and Brenda Ryan
 30 Merle and Eudoris McDonald



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Bus Ministry *Nancy Bosserdet*

It has been a very busy season for our bus ministry. We now need to have two buses on the move Sunday mornings for the 11:00 am service. We are picking up several folks regularly for our WNO program. We also participate in the GriefShare program by providing transportation as needed. On occasion, we are asked to provide transportation to the United Methodist Men's pancake breakfast as well as the Lunch and Learn programs. Two of the buses are used each school day to pick up the children in our afterschool program. We try to support area churches with some enjoyable outings. We have done some things that stretch us a bit such as trips to The Holy Land Experience and the Noah play in Wauchula, Florida. Our buses are used annually by the Key Club from Port Charlotte High School to take teens to their convention in Orlando. Each summer our youth use the buses to get to Warren Willis Camp and back again. The Boy Scouts also use the buses each year to go on their major annual camping trip out of state. We are always looking to help in some way so if you might have a need or a suggestion, please feel free to share it! We love what we do and enjoy serving in any way possible. Blessings to all!



Lunch & Learn *Free!*
- COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH PROVIDED -

Guest Speaker:
Corey L. Girdwood
Coastal Chiropractic

"Active Aging"

Coastal Chiropractic will provide information on exercise and nutrition to help you age while having fun and eating well.

Thursday, May 22
11:30am - 1:00pm



Wear your sneakers!

Space is limited, so sign up at our Welcome Center.