

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 2017

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

www.pcumc.info

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

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

Every organization, business and institution has a mission and/or purpose statement. Without a mission statement, there would be no sense of direction or accountability and it would be unclear why institution exists or if the goals were being accomplished. Jesus himself had a purpose statement recorded in **1 John 3: 8** *"The Son of God was revealed for this PURPOSE, to destroy the works of the devil."* That purpose guided the motivation and actions for his entire ministry on earth, as recorded in the Gospels. What is the stated purpose of the **Port Charlotte United Methodist Church**?

Three words, **KNOW, GROW, GO** can be seen on the front of our red shirts or on the wall at the front of our Welcome Center, etc., but what do they state about us as a church of Christians? True, they are easy to remember, but what is the meaning behind these 3 words? How can these words guide our actions and mission as a congregation? How can we use these words as a benchmark for our ministries?

The extended and stated purpose of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church is: **Know Christ, Grow to Love Christ, and Go to Serve Christ!**

First, to **KNOW CHRIST** is the call to fulfill the **Great Commission** given to us by Jesus in **Mathew 28:19-20**. Our purpose as the Church is to bring people to Jesus, so that they may know him as their Lord and Savior. We are called to bring the Good News of the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus as their Savior and make disciples.

Second, our mission as a church is to enable people to **GROW to Love Christ**, in their faith and spiritual walk. We are all called to make disciples. A disciple is a mature, active and contributing member of the Body of Christ. Ministries that help Christians grow in their personal faith journey are essential, not only for PCUMC but the universal Church.

GO to Serve Christ is third and our purpose to bring our congregation to the place where ALL are actively involved in serving God and his cause. Serving in the church or going out into the world to share the love of God, is the goal of discipleship. God has given all of us different Spiritual gifts, talents and time. Part of being Jesus' disciple is using our gifts to serve Him and those for whom He died. That call is meant for everyone vs. the 80/20 principle where 20% of the people do 80% of the work of the ministry.

As your Pastor, my hope is that everyone can catch the vision and be guided by **Know, Grow, Go** and become the kind of church that Jesus had in mind!

Sincerely, *Pastor Craig*

Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship 8 & 11am

Contemporary 9:30am

Wednesday Nights

Children 6-7:30pm

Youth 6-8:00pm

Choir 6:25pm

Saturday, May 11

United Methodist Women, 11am

Sunday, May 14

Bloodmobile, 9am

Eirinn Abu Concert, 3:15pm

Thursday, May 18

Lunch & Learn, 11:30am - 1pm



Wednesday, May 24

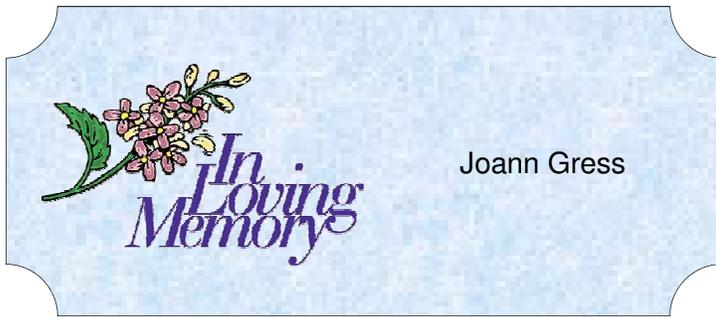
Preschool Graduation, 6pm

Monday, May 29

MEMORIAL DAY

Church Office Closed





May Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 01 Irwin Schinkel | 16 Bea Bower |
| 02 Renee Coccaro | 16 Lynda Freas |
| 03 Annette Emerich | 18 Jean Elekes |
| 03 Suzanne Dowling | 18 Barbara Hald |
| 03 Alexis Hald | 20 Sean Bryan |
| 04 June Butler | 21 Roger Anderson |
| 04 Christian Rodriguez | 21 Eudoris McDonald |
| 04 Cole Mandrick | 21 Elizabeth Hone |
| 05 Blake Royer | 21 Terry Hixson |
| 07 Lois Cammarata | 21 Scott Mathias |
| 08 Stella Birchfield | 23 Evelyn Welsh |
| 08 Barb Bagiardi | 24 Vivian Bennett |
| 09 Vicki Timper | 24 Sidney White |
| 09 Dorothy Bagley | 24 Pete Coccaro |
| 09 Mary Witt | 25 Jan Brotherton |
| 10 Janet Vargo | 25 Misty Royer-Griffiths, |
| 10 Jim Marshall | 25 Corry Cox |
| 10 Ben Leskanic | 26 Sara Richter |
| 11 Ann Harber | 28 Tyler Setser |
| 11 Sherry White | 30 Odie Coker |
| 12 Bill Wyld | 30 Karen Wenck |
| 13 Dorothy Bayuk | 31 Herbert Schwartz |
| 13 Ginny Gwinn | 31 Janet LaFond |
| 14 Bernie Ackerman | 31 Dwaine Yanni |
| 14 Ron Royer | |
| 14 Dorothy Brooks | |
| 15 Linda Anderson | |

May Anniversaries

- 02 Pete and Beth Coccaro
- 03 Tony and Carol Leonard
- 08 Glenn and Sue Edmiston
- 09 Ray and Shari McNemar
- 15 Tom and Sandy Segur
- 17 Paul and Terri Smith
- 18 Joe and Pam Sikora
- 20 Al and Rita Pachasa
- 22 Mike and Ann Harber
- 25 Ross and Suzy Scheidecker
- 30 Merle and Eudoris McDonald
- 31 Dustin and Christina Harvick



I am reaching out to our church family of Passionate Worshipers. We are in need of smiling faces to welcome all that enter our church on Sunday mornings for all services. Please see or call Deborah Valler (941) 391-6588 or email: dav1353@comcast.net.

Extravagant Generosity

(as of 3/31/17)

Income: \$199,797.39 Expenses \$207,515.18
Assistance with Utilities: 7



United Methodist Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



**Saturday, May 13th at 11am
New Room**

Group Discussion "No Hurry - No Worry"
12 Noon (Bring a Lunch)

Program - MOTHERS IN ACTION:

To celebrate the role of mothers in the Bible who save children's lives, and to discover United Methodist Women's priority to improve the health of mothers and their children around the world.

More About Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*

I have written articles about Stephen Ministry each month for the last couple of years. I have done this to help promote the ministry; however, a ministry based on confidentiality is difficult to promote. The Stephen Ministers that have or have had care receivers are bound by confidentiality about their care receiver to those outside their Peer Supervision Group, a group that is also bound by confidentiality.

The fifty hours of training over a period of twenty weeks, the two year commitment after being commissioned by the congregation, and the two meetings a month for Continuing Education and Peer Supervision are a big commitment. This also involves the once a week meeting with their care receiver for an indefinite period of time, sometimes a couple of years, until their care receiver accepts GOD'S HEALING GRACE.

Why do I continue to write articles, hold Continuing Education Classes, facilitate Peer Supervision Meetings and ask for more candidates to take the fifty hour class? I have seen this ministry work. I have seen a man going blind, newly widowed, estranged from his son, receive GOD'S HEALING GRACE with the help of his Stephen Minister. I have seen a woman diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor and given six months to live who was un-churched and afraid, accept GOD'S HEALING GRACE with the help of her Stephen Minister, and faced death knowing she was not alone and was at peace. Her husband, after her death, asked for a Stephen Minister himself after seeing how the relationship had helped his wife. I have seen the grieving widow mourn the loss of her husband of sixty three years, as she realizes that all their financial information was lost to her on his computer. The Stephen Minister assigned to this woman helped her care receiver accept GOD'S HEALING GRACE as she assisted her and advised her, having been through a similar situation herself. The care receiver designed and distributed information to help others prevent a similar situation from happening to them.

Is a Stephen Minister needed to receive GOD'S HEALING GRACE? The answer is no. GOD'S HEALING GRACE is always available to us. All we need to do is accept it. What a Stephen Minister does is act as a conduit, a funnel so to speak, who helps the person in need accept GOD'S HEALING GRACE. They do this with love. They do this with sacrifice. They do this with faith. A Stephen Minister is assigned only one care receiver at a time so they can focus only on their needs. They use tools like listening, encouragement, confidentiality, compassion, being non-judgmental, available resources, and of course prayer.

I have seen all of those hurting benefit from having a Stephen Minister. I have seen all those Stephen Ministers assigned benefit from having a care receiver. I have seen both care receiver and Stephen Minister grow in their faith after their experience.



To get involved as a care receiver or a Stephen Minister, call Dean Winston at 941-661-8825 or Pastor Craig at 625-4356.

SAVE THE DATE!



FALL EXTRAVAGANZA

FOOD - GAMES - PUMPKINS - MUSIC - VENDORS
HAY RIDES - CRAFTS

**We are excited to announce that Mote Marie
will be bringing their Mobile Aquarium to the
2017 Extravaganza!!**



Children's Summer Lunch Program *Linda Bailey*



School will soon be out, and the Children's Summer Lunch Program is slated to begin on Tuesday, May 30th, at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

The cost of these lunches is approximately \$350.00 per week. These bag lunches are distributed to the Homeless Coalition, The Boy's and Girl's Club, and Trinity United Methodist Church. It is hard to believe that there were over 500 students during the 2016 – 2017 school year, who were considered homeless by the Charlotte County School System. In addition, the U. S. Census Bureau estimated that 4000 of the 21,210 Charlotte County children live below the poverty line. The lunches prepared by volunteers at PCUMC give these hungry children another source of nourishment. This lunch also demonstrates the love of the Lord and our church for each of them. These bags are labeled with the name of the church and a verse of scripture, so that they know people in the community do care about them. Any amount you are able to contribute will be appreciated. Remember that all contributions are tax deductible. The Wendy's Coupon Program has ended, but the Wendy's Corporation will be helping us in other ways to make this program possible. Thank you for taking part in the Wendy's Coupon program for the last few years. Thank you for your help with this very special Salty Service Mission.



Easter Fest 2017
A Huge Success - Thank you!!



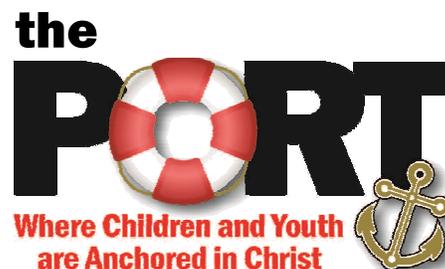
Student Ministries *Barbara Hald*

School is almost over and the 5th graders are so excited about moving up into Youth Group and so am I. We also will be celebrating our graduates and wishing them well as they move on to the next chapter of their lives. Things are always changing and I am so grateful God has me here with the young people of this church.

If you are thinking of getting involved, help is needed in the Youth Group on Wednesday nights. It's fun and gratifying to be a mentor in young peoples lives. Please pray about it.

Speaking of gratitude, I want to thank everyone who helped with the Easter Fest! It was a huge opportunity to invite our neighbors to our Easter Services. Our church-wide outreaches need everyone to take a part in helping us reach our community. Remember our Fall Extravaganza, while it is off campus, is our largest outreach and we need everyone to help make it a success.

God is good, and we are blessed!



Children moving from Children's to Youth ministry

Martin Wilson
Leah Setser
Audrey Harvick

High School Graduates 2017

Ethan Hall
Matt Wiley
Austin deSilva

Did You Know? *Barbara Hald*

Did you know that our church does three major outreach events every year? Did you know that Student Ministry was in charge of all three until we started our Non-Profit Extravaganza in place of our Pumpkin Patch and Halloween outreach? These outreaches are Vacation Bible School, Easter Fest and our Non-Profit Extravaganza at the Charlotte County Fairgrounds. (Save the Date! October 28, 2017) Our three outreaches have anywhere from 200 - 2000 people from our community attending.

This Easter Fest was the first event that was church-wide.

- Every staff member shared in the outreach.
- Over 60 Volunteers gave their day.
- And 20 of our Youth helped out!
- Many people donated funds and candy!



We need to continue the church-wide effort. It was an awesome day of music, fellowship and reaching out to our community. In my 20 years as a member of this church, I don't remember such a great response of church effort as this year. Thank you to EVERYONE who helped up be a presence to our neighbors and inviting them to share Easter with us.

Barbara Hald, *Student Ministry Director*



Summer 2017
Vacation Bible School
June 12-16, 2017
Time: 9am - Noon
Grades VPK 4 - 5th Grade

Register today!
 Join us as we go on a journey through the Bible learning God's word and having fun.
Cost: \$10, includes t-shirt, crafts and snacks.



CONTACT:
Barbara Hald
 Student Ministry
 email: pcyouth@pcumc.info
 Phone: (941) 625-4356
www.pcumc.info

Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: Why are conservative United Methodists and other conservative Christians so judgmental when Jesus said, "Judge not, so that you may not be judged" (Matthew 7:1 NRSV)?

Answer: Yes, Jesus said this, plus "Beware of false prophets," and "... you will recognize them by their fruits" (Mt. 5:15, 20). Other Scriptures also challenge Mt. 7:1 — Mt. 7:2-5, Jn. 7:24, Gal. 6:1, and Ezek. 3:16-21. John W. Haley wrote, "The text in Matthew [7:1] forbids *harsh, censorious* judgment, but does not preclude the giving of judicial decisions nor the expressions of our opinions in a proper manner." — *Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible* (Baker, 1977; reprinted from the 1874 ed.), p. 284. Commenting on Mt. 5:20, a Church of the Nazarene evangelist said, "Just because I'm not supposed to judge doesn't mean I shouldn't be a fruit inspector." By the way, liberals, too, can be judgmental.

Question: In April, why did you carry on about whether *Hell* should be capitalized when the more important question is, *How could a loving God send anyone to Hell?*

Answer: The short answer about the capitalization issue is, *Because somebody asked*. On the larger question: although the Bible often pictures God as a judge and Jesus talks about a *judgment* (e.g. Mt. 5:21ff., 25:31-46), we may justifiably claim that *God doesn't send people to Hell; instead, people willfully choose Hell by willful sin*. As missionary/evangelist E. Stanley Jones put it: "The laws of the Kingdom are self-acting" — *Abundant Living* (Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1942), p. 13). Our sins beget consequences. But here poet and college professor Chad Walsh shaped my thinking:

"No one has to go to hell. Hell is God's last act of love to people who will accept nothing else at his hands. He leaves them one corner of the universe which they can call their own, and in which they can continue through all eternity to live as though he did not exist." — *Campus Gods on Trial* (New York: Macmillan, 1953), p. 85.

Question: Why do some recent Bible translations describe the affliction affecting the men in the story of Jesus' healing the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19) as "a skin disease" rather than leprosy?

Answer: The *English Standard Version*, which calls them "lepers," explains in a footnote at v. 12 that "*Leprosy* was a term for several skin diseases." This fact presents the translators with a dilemma: Do they call them "lepers" (or the Hebrew equivalent) as 1st century Jews would have done, or do they defer to 21st century medical science and use the more general and more scientifically accurate phrase, "skin diseases"? It's no easy choice. Some translators have favored the one rendering; others, the other. Choosing "skin diseases," has three downsides. First, it introduces a scientific precision and an uncertainty that was unknown to the ancient Jews. They saw these folk as lepers, plain and simple. Second, the gospel story doesn't tell us whether they suffered from a single disease or from different diseases. If they all had the same disease, then "skin diseases" is inaccurate. Third, the phrase, "skin diseases," to our ears, seems to trivialize the severity of the disease. For this reason, when I preached on this passage last year, I almost titled the sermon, "Ten Men with Terminal Acne."

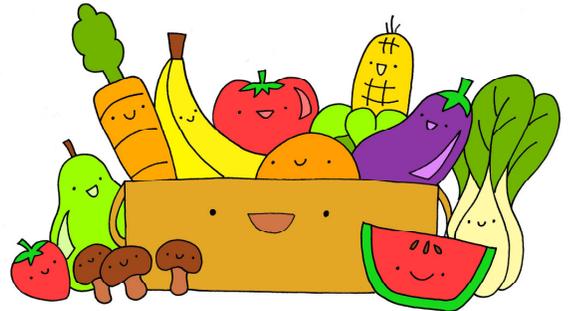
Do you have a question about the Bible or United Methodist belief, organization, or practice? E-mail them to me at the exhorter_fl@yahoo.com or leave them with Katherine Warden at the church office and I'll try to answer as many as I can. — JAC

Health Ministry *Jane Flanders*

Our next Lunch and Learn will be Thursday, May 18. The topic will be "Finding Balance: A Fall Prevention Talk." Jim Abromaitis, Bayfront Health North Port will help us learn the components of balance; the visual, vestibular and somatosensory systems and how they work together to help you maintain balance. The importance of preventing a fall and what to do if you do fall will also be discussed. Linda Howard will join Mr. Abromaitis in this presentation. A complimentary lunch is provided. Please sign up at the Welcome Center. Lunch and the presentation begins at 11:30AM.

Wondering where your cholesterol level is? Wonder no more. Winn Dixie on King's Highway offers a FREE cholesterol check and Diabetes check on Tuesday, May 2 from 1:00PM - 6:00PM. Your numbers will be more accurate if you try and fast prior to your test.

Stressed out? Here are a few hints: When you rise in the morning, throw open those shades and let the sun in! Sunlight helps the production of serotonin (brain chemical). Eat a high protein breakfast. Sunday night, whip up egg frittatas for the week. Whip together mushrooms, spinach, feta cheese and four eggs plus 12 extra egg whites in a bowl. Pour this mixture into a 12 count muffin tin which are lightly greased with olive oil. Bake at 350 about 20 minutes. Eat a big salad at lunch time. Add green leafy vegetables, carrots, colorful peppers and cucumbers. You can also add some fruit to take care of your sweet tooth. The more fruit and vegetables you eat, the calmer



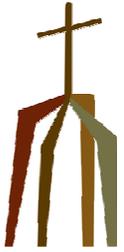
and happier you will be! Mid-afternoon many of us become anxious. If you are at work, stay away from the vending machine! If you opt for a candy bar, this gives you a sugar rush and will make you jittery. Yogurt is a better option. Just before dinner time, visit a far away land. Can't take a vacation? Visit one in your mind. Close your eyes and visualize yourself in your favorite place. Feel the sand in between your toes, listen to the crashing waves and smell that wonderful sea air. Remember..., your eyes are still closed. When you open your eyes you should feel more relaxed. At dinner time enjoy a cup of black tea. Around 8:00PM watch a comedy on TV or watch a funny movie. Laughter lowers the level of the stress hormone cortisol.

Hearing Impaired Persons is located on 21450 Gibraltar Dr., Suite 8, in Port Charlotte. Their phone number is 941-743-8347, Voice/Fax/TTY. They are staffed by volunteers and they are happy to answer any questions you might have about hearing or special telephones.

It's getting hotter by the day and please remember how important it is to drink your water. More than half your body weight is water. Things start to happen if you lose just 2% of water. Becoming dehydrated is not fun. Your major organs depend on water and can shut down. The experts are now saying we can count coffee and tea towards our daily goal. There are many flavored waters on the market and even adding lemon or a lime to your water can make a difference in the taste. Think of drinking water as a daily necessity and your body will thank you.

Did you know that 1.5 million people are diagnosed with cancer each year? The deaths from cancer total 700,000. Be good to your body... drink plenty of water, stop smoking, maintain a good body weight and body mass index, eat plenty of produce as well as a high fiber diet (oats, barley, beans, lentils, dark leafy greens, whole-wheat foods, seeds, nuts and legumes and exercise! Try to do two and a half hours of exercise weekly. Join the ladies in church every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:00AM in the sanctuary for a fun filled hour of exercise with Joanne Salk. Also, Revelation Fitness is held on Thursday evenings at 5:30PM in the Port.

Remember to have your blood pressure checked each Sunday from 9:00AM - 9:30AM by the nurses in the Fish Bowl. Forgot to have it checked? Ask a nurse anytime to check your blood pressure.



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Special Concert!

DAY



Eirinn Abu

"Mothers Day Concert"

Port Charlotte
United Methodist Church

SUNDAY MAY 14TH
3 PM

21075 QUESADA AVE PORT CHARLOTTE FL
www.eirinnabu.net



Lunch & Learn

- COMPLIMENTRY LUNCH PROVIDED -

Finding Balance: A Fall Prevention Talk Thursday, May 18th 11:30am - 1pm

Join us to learn the components of balance; the visual, vestibular, and somatosensory systems and how they work together to help you maintain balance. We will also discuss the importance of preventing a fall and what to do if you fall.