KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 2015

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

THANKS-LIVING

Here comes Thanksgiving! It is an interesting time because it is many things to many people. For some it is a day, for others a season. For some it is an event, for others it is an attitude. As we come into this time of year and that single word - THANKSGIVING seems to be spoken more frequently than at any other, I want to encourage you to remember this verse:

"Through Jesus, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—
the fruit of lips that openly profess His name." (Hebrews 13:15)

God's idea of a thanksgiving feast is *"the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."* God deserves and delights in the praise and thanksgiving of His creation. As God's people when we "give thanks", it should also lead us to "live thanks." We must develop the purposeful habit of thanksgiving in order for it to become "thanks-living."

Thanks-living is a challenging way for us to live because our lives are so often filled with troubles, trials, and turmoil along the way. So why try? Why set out to do something that is so difficult? Because OF Jesus. When we fall short, the grace of Jesus will make up the difference.

Thanks-living is an OFFERING. . .

Did you notice how this verse from Hebrews begins: "*through Jesus let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-the fruit of lips that openly profess His name."* The grace that comes through Jesus enables us in every act of obedience. Thanks-living through the power of Jesus Christ is not a favor we do for God; it is a favor to us from God.

Thanks-living is a MIRACLE. . .

We see just how amazing the gift of gratitude is when we consider the unlikely circumstances and places in which we find people practicing it. It is truly miraculous.

Have you ever taken a moment to consider all of the odd and out of the way places that thanksgiving dinners happen in the Bible? Paul—on his way to be tried in court, in the middle of a storm at sea, and about to be shipwrecked—sits down to a simple meal and *"took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat"* (Acts 27:35).

In all three of the gospels where Jesus uses 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed 5,000 people, He gives thanks for what He has! He gives thanks for what God has provided! Amazing! Faced with overwhelming need, and a lack of resources, but His words and His actions are of thanks. He is giving thanks. Later John describes the site as *"the place where they did eat bread, after the Lord had given thanks"* (John 6:23).

And each time the Lord's Supper, is described, giving thanks occupies a crucial place. Even with knowing that this bread and wine symbolize His upcoming death, Jesus nonetheless thanks God for it.

Thanks-living is an OPPORTUNITY. . .

The smallest efforts that radiate from your thanks-living could make a world of a difference in the life of another. Helping a friend sharpen their resume so they can better provide for their family. Donating your used clothing so someone else can benefit from your blessing. Taking a friend for their follow-up appointment, because they are anxious about what their doctor might say may help move them from fear to faith.

When you choose to be content with your life and that contentment is expressed through thanks-living, you will be more of a blessing to the world around you. Your own joy is multiplied and sows seeds of thanks-living into the lives of others. Have a blessed THANKSGIVING!

Keep going and never quit! Grace, Pastor Brian

Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship at 8 & 11
Contemporary 9:30am

Wednesday Nights

Children's Ministry: 6-7:30pm
Youth: 6-8:15pm
Choir: 6:15pm
Adult Studies: 6:30-7:30pm

November 1
Bloodmobile 8:30am-1:30pm

November 15
Operation Christmas Child Boxes due

November 19
Lunch & Learn 11:30am-1pm
Presentation: "Stroke"

November 25
Thanksgiving Service 6:30pm

November 26/27
Happy Thanksgiving!
Church Offices Closed

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members to our church family! Our next Membership Class will be held Tuesday, December 8th from 6-8pm. Call the church office 625-4356 to sign up.

SHARON L. BAYSINGER

Sharon Baysinger

Sharon is originally from Taunton, Massachusetts. She attends our 11:00 service. She has 3 daughters, 2 step-daughters, 1 boy, 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She is active in our Grief Share ministry and the Widows' group. She decided to become a member because after her husband passed away 6 months ago, she was lost. Because our church, Grief Share, the girls in the Widows' group and the pastor have helped her so much, she felt led to join our church. The thing she likes most about our church is the friendly people and she just felt at home here. Her special interests are genealogy, writing her life story, volunteering at a thrift store and spending time with her great-grandson who loves to spend weekends with her. A suggestion she has to improve our church is: When her former church wanted to raise money, everyone donated $1.00 for every year they were alive. Also, her daughter works at Visani Comedy Club and she can donate tickets for us to sell and keep the proceeds. Thank you, Sharon!

DAVID GLASSBURN

David Glassburn

David Glassburn is originally from Kokomo, Indiana. He attends our 11:00 service. David is married to Evelyn and they have 8 children, 21 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. He is active at our church working on our church remodeling. He decided to become a member here because he was looking for a church and found us. His hobbies are fishing and golfing.

ALBERT WAYNE PACHASAS

Rita & Albert Pachasas

Albert is originally from Cleveland, Ohio and attends our 9:30 Service. He has 4 children and 6 grandchildren. He is interested in cooking for our ministries. The reason he decided to become a member of our church is he wanted a change. The things he likes best about our church are the pastor and the friendliness of our congregation. His special interests are food and rocks.

RITA PACHASAS

Rita is originally from Chillicothe, Ohio. She attends our 9:30 Service. She has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Her interests in our church are being a greeter and the womens' groups. She wanted to join our church because she likes the ambiance of it. What she likes most about our church are the people who talk to her. She enjoys reading and chasing Al around the house.

PAMELA SIKORA

Joe & Pamela Sikora

Pamela is originally from New Haven, Connecticut. She attends our 11:00 service. Pamela is married to Joe and they have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. She has become active in our Extravaganza planning and has an interest in volunteering for what is needed. She decided to become a member of our church to become affiliated with a church community again. The things she likes best about our church are the pastor and the very friendly parishioners. Her special interests are crafts, motorcycle riding, cooking and her grandchildren.

JOSEPH "JOE" SIKORA

Joe is originally from New Britain, Connecticut. He attends our 11:00 service with his wife Pamela. He has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and one on the way. He has become active at our church working on the Extravaganza that is coming up. In has an interest in charity work and has decided to join our church because his wife, Pam, is a Methodist and he wanted to go to church with her and become a church member. The things he likes best about our church are the friendliness of the people, the pastor, and the atmosphere. His special interests are motorcycle riding, charities, grandkids, hunting, games, the social internet and free masonry.

More About Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*

In 1974, fresh out of the seminary and graduate school in clinical psychology, Dr. Kenneth Haugk was assigned a large Lutheran Church in St. Louis as Head Pastor. He was immediately overwhelmed by the needs of his flock. There were just not enough hours in a day to allow him to care adequately for their needs. There were just too many suffering with grief, illness, job loss, marital problems, spiritual crises, etc., for him to care for. So, he gathered his lay leaders and designed a new ministry called the Stephen Ministry. He trained nine people in his first class, a teacher, an insurance agent, a secretary, a business woman, a student, an executive, a homemaker, a beautician, and a retiree - ordinary church people.

After he had assigned each of these to a care receiver, he was impressed with the care they provided and the joy they discovered as they saw Christ working through them to bring hope and healing to another person. Witnessing this success, two of his newly trained Stephen Ministers suggested to Dr. Haugk that this ministry was too valuable to keep to themselves. Dr. Haugk agreed, and along with some seminary students, began training congregations throughout the Midwest. This proved to be inefficient, so in 1978 the first Stephen Series Leader's Training Course (LTC) was held in St. Louis. He concentrated on training the trainers. It worked!

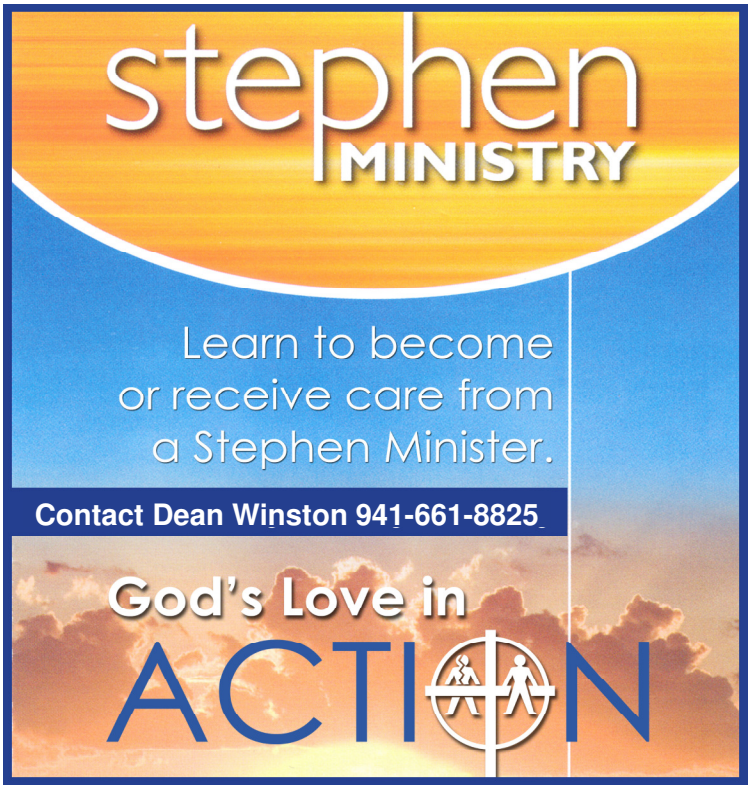
Today, more than 12,000 congregations and other organizations have enrolled in the Stephen Series. They represent 170 Christian denominations and come from all 50 United States, 10 Canadian provinces, and 27 other countries. More than 70,000 pastors, other staff, and lay leaders have been trained as Stephen Leaders. They in turn have trained over 600,000 laypersons as Stephen Ministers. These Stephen Ministers have provided one–to–one Christian care to over a million care receivers.The success of this ministry can be directly attributed to Dr. Haugk's design. I believe it was truly providential. This Christ-based, confidential, one-to-one ministry, exemplifies love for one another in the way that GOD directs.

In rejuvenating this ministry, it was necessary to ask already trained Stephen Ministers to commit to a two-year term of Peer Supervision and Continuing Education to provide care immediately to those in need as we found and trained new Stephen Ministers. Thanks to Sue Edmiston, Doris Forsythe, Betty and Frank Hansen, Barbara Hepler, Doris and Terry Hixson, June Richards, Mary Meyer and Sid White, we were able to care for 12 care receivers while we trained six new Stephen Ministers.

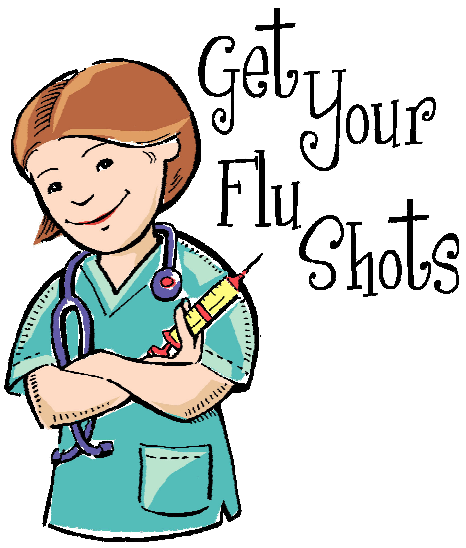
The new Stephen Ministers - Veronica Campbell, Diane Martin, Fran and Ray Rowley, Sandy Segur and Terri Smith - were commissioned this spring. Already, all except one has been assigned a care receiver. It is obvious that we already need more Stephen Ministers. As it is written in Matthew 9:37, "Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.'"

Trained Stephen Ministers can be reactivated simply by attending Peer Supervision and Continuing Education. Candidates to become Stephen Ministers need only to fill out an application found in the Stephen Ministry mailbox in the copy room. When we have six candidates, we will have a 20-week, 50-hour course.

To those hurting who need someone to be with them in their time of trouble and strife, we have a trained Stephen Minister for you for as long as needed. Simply call Pastor Brian 625-4356.



Health Ministry *Jane Flanders*



Please receive your flu shot this year from your own physician.
The Hope Visiting Nurses will NOT be administering the shots at church this year. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Our next “Lunch and Learn” is Thursday, November 19th from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Dr. Alex Kucewicz will offer an important presentation on "Stroke." We should all be aware of the signs and symptoms of a stroke and when to call 911. Please register at the Welcome Center as a "free" lunch is offered and the correct count is necessary to have the proper amount of food.

Our next Bloodmobile event will be held on Sunday, November 1 from 8:30am -1:30pm. Please visit the "Big Red Bus" in the church parking lot. You may save a precious life!

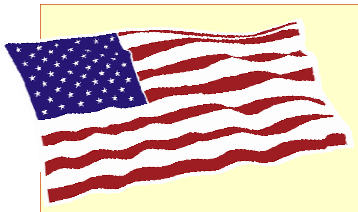
Are you receiving SNAP (food stamps)? There is presently an eligibility requirement for recipients. In 2009, because of a poor economy, Food and Nutrition Services allowed the work assignments to be set aside. If a person is an able-bodied adult between 18 and 50 without dependents and has no authenticated barriers to employment giving them an exemption, they will be required to register with career Source and participate in their programs. If they are volunteering or working 20 hours a week or collectively 80 hours a month minimum, they will meet an exemption. Almost all states have implemented ABAWD (Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents) work requirements again. Florida will implement ABAWD work requirements on January 1, 2016. The ABAWD must be physically or mentally fit for employment; does not live and eat with a child under age 18; is not pregnant; and is not exempt from food assistance general employment program work requirements. Also, through Career Source the person must show that they're actively seeking employment. For more information, please contact Marsha Bradley at Career Source by calling 941-235-5900 Ext. 13224.

Dislike apple cider vinegar? Well, here are a few ideas on how to use it and not drink it. Apple cider vinegar is a great detoxifier. Put one tablespoon and mix it into your shampoo. Apply to the ends of your hair and there's no need to apply it to your scalp. We use so many products in our hair now and to avoid build-up put 3 tablespoons of vinegar in a cup of water and voila - softer and silkier hair! Have a sore throat? Gargle with apple cider vinegar. Mix 1 teaspoon in a half glass of water and gargle 3 mouthfuls every hour. Then as your throat feels better, gargle every three hours. Apple cider vinegar can be used as a mouthwash, too! Add 1 teaspoon of vinegar to a glass of purified water. Gargle away! Also, if you have bad breath put some vinegar on your toothbrush and brush away. See? Now you just love apple cider vinegar, right?

Please remember to wash your hands, wash your hands and wash your hands. The flu season is here and germs are carried fluently via the hands. Keep a small bottle of hand sanitizer in your pocketbook or in your car, and use them! Shopping carts are loaded with germs. Use the wipes that our grocery stores supply. Cover your nose and mouth when sneezing please.

SHINE, through the Area Agency on Aging, is offering assistance on Medicare benefits on Friday, Oct. 30 from 10 - 3 at the First United Methodist Church in Punta Gorda; Wednesday, November 4 from 10:00 - 3:00 at the Mid County Library in Port Charlotte; Thursday, October 22 from 10:00 - 3:00 at the Northport Library; and Thursday, November 12 from 10:00 - 3:00 at the Northport Library. Please bring your Medicare ID card and a list of your medications with dosage information when you go.

We're starting to see our "snowbirds" returning. Welcome back! We have missed you. When you do return, please remember to stop by the "Fish Bowl" (anytime) and have your blood pressures checked. We have so much information for you on diseases, assisted living facilities, transportation, grocery shopping and much more. If you have a question and we are unable to answer it, we WILL get an answer for you ASAP.
We are there for you!



Attention Veterans! The 4th Annual Military Appreciation Day will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 9:00AM - 1:00PM at the First Christian Church, 2061 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL.

Activities that day include:

1. Brunch
2. Social Support Agencies
3. VA Burial Benefits
4. Mental Health Benefits
5. Eligibility and coordination of VA benefits.
6. Health Screenings
7. Hair Cuts.
8. Widow Benefits
9. Aid and Attendance for Assisted Living Benefits.
10. Shop at our "free" PX.
11. Dental information.

Day Care is provided by reservation. Please call 239-343-2045 so that your children can be attended while you take care of yourself. ***For more information please call 239-343-2045.***

Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: I keep hearing that we're in Year B for the Lectionary Bible passages. But the table in *The United Methodist Book of Worship* (p. 227) says 2015 is Year C. Is the table wrong?

Answer: The table is correct, but Lectionary years don't line up with our January-to-December common years. Just as the U.S. Government's fiscal year 2016 began on October 1, 2015, and runs to September 30, 2016, each Lectionary year (A, B, or C) runs from the first Sunday in Advent of the Advent calendar year till about Thanksgiving the next year. We are in Year B (2014), which started on November 30, 2014. Year C (2015) will start this November 29.

Question: I once heard that we shouldn't give credence to John Wesley as a moral teacher because he supported slavery. Is that true?

Answer: Such rumors circulate. When I attended the Northern Illinois Conference in 2003, someone objected that an anti-capital punishment petition conflicted with Wesley's *New Testament Notes*. The maker's official representative responded, in essence, "We know better than Wesley; for example, on slavery." She was lying or mistaken. Slavery had no greater opponent than Wesley. He expressly barred Methodist society members from owning or trafficking in slaves (General Rules).

Question: Last year, you talked about the *Common English Bible* reference to David as an "Ephraimite" in 1 Sam. 7:12. The verse makes no mention of this. What's going on?

Answer: This is a much-delayed correction. In the February/March 2014 issue, discussing a typo that changed "Ephrathite" to "Ephraimite," I made another typo. The verse should have been 1 Samuel 17:12. This was my mistake, not the office's. Strangely, I cited 1 Sam. 7:12 in the same issue, explaining the phrase, "raise mine Ebenezer," in the hymn, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing."

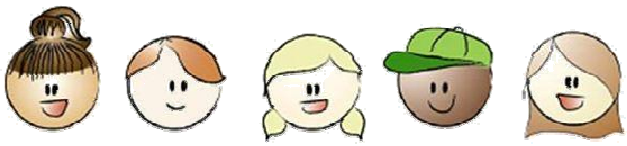
Question: In a Bible collection I saw a volume entitled, *The New Testament, English Version for the Deaf*. Deaf people speak English just like us. Why do they need their own version?

Answer: Just as a child isn't just a short adult, the translators, the Texas-based World Bible Translation Center, who gave us the *International Children's Bible* (also called the *New Century Version*), made this version because "Present English versions of the Scriptures — designed for hearing persons — do not meet the special needs of most deaf people." Those needs involve the American Sign Language (ASL).
ASL doesn't reproduce spoken or written English word-for-word in gesture. Some call it a separate language with its own grammar. Others see it as a dialect, with subdialects reflecting regional or ethnic dialects. It often converts complex sentences into simple sentences and replaces pronouns with the spelled-out names of the persons or objects they represent. The *English Version for the Deaf*, following these same patterns, can be easily expressed in ASL, so deaf people and their teachers don't have "to 'translate' existing English versions as they teach," read, or quote (adapted from the Preface).

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

FALL EXTRAVAGANZA!

A big THANK YOU to all who served on October 24th and those who helped support our first Fall Extravaganza in other ways. It was a fantastic day sharing God's love with our Charlotte County community.



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

Director: Paula Mann

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

November Dates to Remember:

Nov. 1: Set your clocks BACK
Nov. 5: VPK Muffins with Mom
Nov 20: 10 am Thanksgiving Feast (Fellowship Hall)
Nov. 23-27: No School Happy Thanksgiving
Nov: 30 Walk in Day
(Don't forget Dec 5 is the Christmas Parade)

November Prayer:

Thank you for the world so sweet
Thank you for the food we eat
Thank you for the streams that flow
Thank you for the buffalo

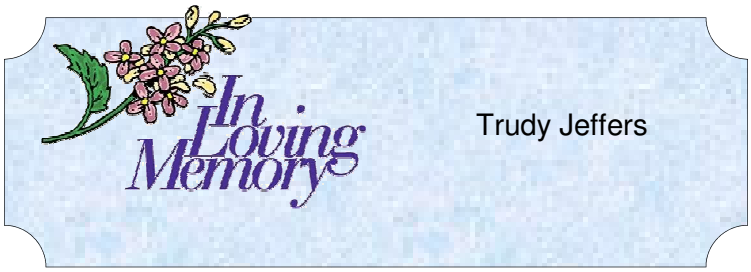
Thank you for the birds that fly
Thank you for the pumpkin pie
Thank you, Thank you this we sing
Thank you, Lord for everything.
Amen

Bible Verse:

"God fills my life with good things."
Psalm 105:6

November Birthdays

01 Fred Wagner
01 Marilyn Buckingham
01 Sharon Chinn
01 Lynn Littlefield
01 Carol Leonard
02 Russell McManamy
02 Jennifer Kramer
03 Rosemarie Arnoldt
03 Mary Sue Clemons
03 Jessica McNally
05 Edrel Coleman
05 Kenneth Roberson
05 Federica Caruso
06 Mary Lou Peck
07 Ruth McCleary
08 Roselyn Warren
08 Bill Weller
08 Paul Kisner
08 Brett Yanni
09 Ethan Hall
10 Ella Brown
10 Gary McCullough
10 Grace Leathers
11 Joseph Gomez
12 Esmelda Williams
12 Art Grimes
12 Clarice Hald
13 Pat Johnston
14 Linda Force
14 Virginia Halter
14 Jo Ann Carter
15 Erin Hall
15 Olive Weaver
15 Jasmine Carter
16 Gary Graham
17 Randi Uhler
17 Josephine Keating
18 Mary Franklin
18 Marianne Volkmann
18 Lauren Schwartz
18 Kaylynn Walton
19 Sue Harris
21 Frances Alverson
21 Lois Tschetter
22 Emily Cox
23 Beth Coccaro
24 Barry Anglin
24 Allan Stocker
25 Joan Sniecinski
26 Evelyn Robertson
26 Joanne Criscuolo
26 Arthur Marquez
27 Phyllis Cox
27 Glenn White
27 Megan Keating
28 Karen Shaw
29 Kay Price
29 Cherie Thomas
29 Kim Crews
30 Esther Keirnan



Trudy Jeffers

November Anniversaries

03 Frederick and Harriet Paulsen
05 Jake and Sandy Mensik
09 Tom and Gina Brancheau
23 Tom and Judy Brown
27 Arthur and Donna Lageveen

Student Ministries *Barbara Hald*

Wednesday night PBnJ's Children 4 yrs thru 5th grade are practicing for our Christmas Program on Wednesday December 16th at 6pm . We are working alongside our Preschool and Youth Group. Anyone interested in performing, please talk to Barbara Hald.

G.E.M.S. Girls' Club has wrapped up another year. They will start up in February 2016. Any girls wanting to join, keep a lookout for sign-up after the holidays.

Youth at the Port are involved in our mission Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" and Youth Sunday on November 29.

Watch for dates when school is out during Thanksgiving break for game nights, go carts /laser tag and other fun events.

Shoeboxes Due: November 15th!

Extravagant Generosity

September Y-T-D
Income: $600,031.20 Expenses: $600,003.81
Assistance: Utilities -1, Rent-1

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

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

COMPUTER "HELP" SCAM

If you receive a call from someone claiming to be from a reputable company and warning you that your computer is in danger of crashing or freezing up and offering to help you, please be aware that it is a malicious scam and hang up. In the process of the call, you would follow steps that would give the caller remote access to your computer, who will then effectively hold your computer for ransom. The scam would end either with your giving your credit card information to a stranger in a foreign country or with the scammer causing irreparable damage to your computer's files or operating system.

Lunch & Learn

Free!

- COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH PROVIDED -

Thursday, November 19
11:30am - 1:00pm

"Stroke"
with Dr. Alex Kucewicz

Thanksgiving Worship

Wednesday, November 25th
6:30pm
Fellowship Hall