

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VOLUME 43 - ISSUE 11

November 2012

Sunday Worship: 8:00am - 11:00am - 6:00pm www.pcumc.info 941-625-4356 ph / 941-625-0144 fax

“Our True Gift of Thanks”

Here it comes again! I am talking about the month of November. Before we hit the season of Advent and the rush of Christmas that so often comes within it, we come to that set-aside time of Thanksgiving. In November it seems that many of us say, “Lord, we are so thankful for all that you have done for us.” There’s nothing at all wrong with that, because we are thankful for all God has shared with us. But thanksgiving is really more than just offering God our thanks. There are other gifts that God should receive from us as people who are truly thankful.

How do we do that? The writer of Psalm 107 offers us a good place to start: *“Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.”* (Psalm 107:21-22)

In God’s Word there are many ways to offer God your thanksgiving gifts, things that you can intentionally share with God every day for the rest of your life.

Let me offer you four:

The Gift of Person

Give yourself to the one who gave Himself for you. True thanksgiving to God begins by acknowledging Him as the Savior of your life. Then offer Him the opportunity to be Lord of your life. We need to make every area of our lives available for Him to have say and sway over.

The Gift of Praise

The psalmist wrote, “I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise will continually be in my mouth.” (Psalm 34:1) Our praise of God shouldn’t be confined to our times of public worship. A lifestyle of praising God doesn’t leave us much time or space for pessimistic complaints and petty criticisms. God’s praise should flow from us easily, so that God’s power can flow through us easily.

The Gift of Prayer

In the Old Testament, we are taught that smoke rising from the sacrifices of incense offered on the altar were a sweet smell to God. We are told in Psalm 141:2 that our prayers are the same to God. The deepest desires of our hearts and the simplest of everyday thoughts can be lifted up to God as a gift. The gift of being, not only considered, but consulted for counsel as you live your life is a gift that God deeply desires.

The Gift of Possessions

Hebrews 13:6 reminds us, “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Communicating thanksgiving is more than just speaking. It means surrendering to God our physical possessions, as we model His generous giving to us. Do the gifts we give show the true level of our thankfulness to God?

We are a blessed people because of the opportunities of our birth, our belongings, and our beliefs. That is especially true for the people that call themselves Port Charlotte United Methodist Church. Our Purpose, Mission, and Vision of **KNOWing**, **GROWing**, and **GOing** continue to show fruit through praise, people, and programs. I hope that this month of November will be a seized opportunity to share with God our true gifts of THANKS! Keep going and never quit!

Grace,
Pastor Brian



Doris Culver 10-7-12
 Carl Snethcamp 10-13-12

Letters

I thank those who contributed to the Rose Bartman-Yienger scholarship fund. She was very energetic in seeking scholarships for the youth of the church that she loved. She worked tirelessly to make sure no one was left out.

I will always remember my friends at PCUMC who prayed and gave their love and compassion on behalf of my beloved Rose.

I pray God will bless you all,
 Don Yienger

.....

This is a very special "thank you" for all my church family who took the time to visit me when I was in the hospital and rehab.

It was special to have a prayer at the end of the visits.

God bless all of you in love and friendship,

Gwendolyn Kasper and (niece) Mary Lynn Mason

Extravagant Generosity

As of 9/30/12
 Y-T-D Income \$643,690.42
 Y-T-D Expenses \$658,877.09
 Help for September
 33 gas vouchers, 9 utilities, 7 rent

Children's Ministry

Barbara Hald

Today I saw Christ in our Pumpkin Patch. Today we unloaded the pumpkins and as I saw all the people who showed up to help. I realized why they came. There were those who had gone to Sam's club to purchase hotdogs and supplies for the Patch, those who graciously helped my daughters do their science project, those in Family Ministry who cooked the hotdogs, those who were leading worship and Sunday school and choir... the tasks went on and on. But they showed up on Sunday for one reason—because they love the Lord and want to serve Him in this Church. As I watched I was in awe. In a world of many problems, loss, and disappointment God's people put themselves aside each and every day and I get to see the sacrifices made. I want to thank you all for your love and service and that I have the privilege to serve with you. Thank you!

In His Love, Barbara
 Director of Children's Ministry



Family Ministry

Allison Motherway

Hanging of the Greens / WNO

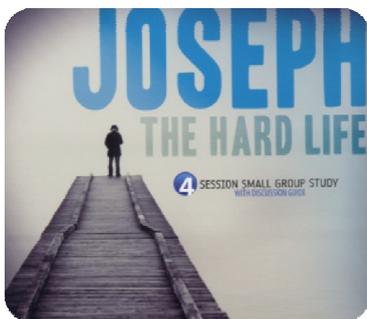
Family Ministries would love to invite you all to come join us for dinner (donations accepted) on Wednesday night, November 28th. It will be followed by Pastor Brian giving a brief Advent lesson I am sure we will all learn something from. He will be speaking at 6:00. After the lesson, we would love you to stay and help start the holiday decorating! This will give the adults and children a chance to participate in getting our church into the holiday spirit. We may even have some holiday carols to sing! Hope to see you all there.

After Thanksgiving Pot Luck—November 24

Please join us for some cool down time after the Thanksgiving rush in Fellowship Hall on Saturday November 24th from 4-6pm. Please bring a pot luck dish to share as well as your family and friends. We will have a game or crafts to keep everyone busy. This is a great way to spend a casual Saturday evening with great people to bring out our faith and new found friendships. This would also give us a chance to discuss future activities with Family Ministries and discuss our wonderful Angel Tree project.

Please contact Allie Motherway with any questions, if you would like to participate, or are in need of information: 941-257-8750 or amotherway@aol.com.

Family Ministry Sunday Morning Small Group



“Joseph:
The Hard Life”
Sunday Mornings
9:30 -10:30 am
in the Conference
room

This 4 week DVD series takes a look at how the choices Joseph made helped him overcome every obstacle life threw at him from betrayal, to slavery, to imprisonment.

Frequently Heard Questions

Jonathan Carlsen theexhorter_fl@yahoo.com

Question: Several years ago, a staff member downplayed the importance of Thanksgiving, suggesting that the Pilgrim story was a legend and that Abraham Lincoln actually started the holiday. What are the facts?

Answer: I remember the incident. That person wanted to emphasize the importance of Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the church year. It usually falls on Sunday before Thanksgiving, but we tend to overlook it while looking ahead to Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving actually dates back to Moses. The Hebrew Passover was their Thanksgiving. George Willison, in his landmark history of the Pilgrims, *Saints and Strangers* (Reynal & Hitchcock, 1945), records that the 1621 feast did occur, but that fact was largely forgotten until the 1800's. In times of national crisis, American leaders have proclaimed days of national thanksgiving. The Continental Congress did this during the Revolution and Lincoln, during the Civil War (Thanksgiving for victory and deliverance at Gettysburg). With Lincoln, plus the remembrance of the Pilgrims' story, the idea stuck and soon the day became a yearly observance.

Question: Why does the UMC official program calendar list November 11 as Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday and not the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church?

Answer: Observers at past General Conferences have reported that some UMC leaders oppose our taking part in the International Day of Prayer (IDOP). Some have even claimed that Christians provoke persecution with stunts like witnessing, church-planting, or September's anti-Muslim movie trailer. The General Conference in 2000 asked us to participate in the IDOP, but they did it with a resolution in *The Book of Resolutions*, not by making it a special Sunday (*Discipline*, ¶ 264). Instead, they designated the second Sunday in November as Organ and Tissue Donor (OTD) Sunday. In 2004 the General Council on Finance and Administration petitioned unsuccessfully to drop OTD Sunday as a special Sunday. When I did a Web search for OTD Sunday last year, I found no mention of it except on UMC Web sites. A suspicious mind might conclude that IDOP opponents in the UMC invented it to preempt our using the second Sunday in November to publicize the plight of persecuted Christians and to pray for them. In contrast, John Wesley defended persecuted Christians, calling them “the righteous,” “peace-makers” who are persecuted “for righteousness' sake,” but are still compelled by the Spirit to witness, to live peaceably, and to love and pray for their persecutors. — Third Discourse on the Sermon on the Mount.

Question: We read in Act 3 about a Temple gate called *Beautiful*. Where was it? How did it get its name? What was it used for?

Answer: “This gate was added by Herod the Great [*], between the court of the [G]entiles and that of Israel. It was thirty cubits high [†], fifteen broad, and made of Corinthian brass, more pompous in its workmanship and splendor than those that were covered with silver and gold.” — Wesley, *Notes Upon the New Testament*, note on Acts 3:2). *Herod the Great tried to kill Baby Jesus. †1 cubit = about 18”.

