

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 2014

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

www.pcumc.info

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

Radiating God's Love to the World

What can we do with the life that God has given us? That is a question that people often ask once they discover the truth that everything we have really belongs to God. When we give of ourselves we are using for God what God has entrusted to us. This includes our intellect, skills, energy, time and imagination.

Each person is individually created and uniquely gifted. God has a purpose, place, and plan for each of us to uniquely fulfill. We possess our own personalities, passions, skills and experiences which offers us an opportunity to be used for God's purpose. 1 Peter 4:10 shares this insight: *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."*

As good Christian stewards—managers of the gifts God has given us—we are called to radiate God's love out into the world. We are called to love as Jesus loved, to serve as Jesus served. This means we have an opportunity and a responsibility to radiate God's love in our homes, our profession, our community, our country, and around the world.

In a world weakened by a lack of love, we are called to offer love to others. One of the greatest gifts we can give is the gift of self. Any day is a good day to offer ourselves as God's loving gift.

So how does a life of Christian stewardship radiate from PCUMC?

First, we offer ourselves for God's service. We don't do "work" at the church, we do service for our Savior!

Second, we invest in God's kingdom. We don't "give" to the church, with joy and generosity we offer our gifts to God!

Third, we do it all for God's glory. We don't "market" the church, we offer Jesus Christ!

PCUMC offers all kinds of ministries that radiate God's love to the world in a variety of ways and in a variety of places...

- ◆ Providing space for over 25 years to our brothers and sisters who are in recovery through the AA Program.
- ◆ Providing a no cost hot meal twice a week for hundreds of our Charlotte County community through our WNO (Wednesday Night Out) ministry, and our Trinity Hand to Hand.
- ◆ Providing financial help each week for those experiencing short-term difficulties through gas vouchers and bill assistance.
- ◆ Providing ministry for those who are experiencing grief or loss through our Griefshare ministry.

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Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship at 8 & 11
Contemporary 9:30am

Wednesday Nights

Children's Ministry: 5-7:30pm
Youth: 6-8:15pm
Adult Studies: 6:30 - 7:30pm

Saturday, November 1

Pancake Breakfast 7-11am
Fall Clean-up Day 8am

Fri & Sat, November 7/8

UMM Yard Sale
Fri: 8am-2pm, Sat: 8am - 1pm

Sunday, November 9

Charge Conference 3pm
Edgewater UMC

Wednesday, November 12

Widows' Might, 11:30am - 2pm
"Identity Theft"

Tuesday, November 18

Lunch & Learn, 11:30am - 1pm
"Veterans Benefits" and
"Medicare Open Enrollment"

Friday, November 21

Dinner and a Movie 6-8pm

Saturday, November 23

"Surviving the Holidays"
9am - Noon

Wednesday, November 26

Celebration of Thanksgiving
6:30pm, Sanctuary

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- ◆ Providing daily pastoral care and visitation for those hospitalized, convalescing, or homebound through the ministry of our Pastoral Care Team.

The month of November is often closely tied to the idea of giving thanks for the countless blessings of our everyday lives. Our PCUMC family is going to use the month of November to explore one of our church's Vital Signs-Extravagant Generosity. At each of our services we will talk about the essential reasons that Christians are called to live out a generous life. We are going to explore why God cares what we give. The generous life God's Word calls us to live. And finally, how the life of a good steward is the best life money can buy. Keep going and never quit!

Grace,

Pastor Brian James



Extravagant Generosity

Y-T-D Income \$560,357.94
 Y-T-D Expenses \$641,967.89
September Assistance:
 Utilities: 4 Gas Vouchers: 24 Other: 1

Letters

Dearest Pastor & Church Friends,

Thank you so very much for your many cards, visits and especially your prayers during my recent illness.

I am gaining strength each day and hope to see you again soon.

God bless us all,
 Odie & Paul Coker

Welcome New Members

Please join us in welcoming Bernie & Anneliese Ackerman, Stephanie Sennholtz, Evelyn Sturgis, Rändi & Ronald Uhler, and Sherry & Glenn White as new members.

Our next membership classes will be held November 12 and 19 from 6:30-8pm. Please call the church office 625-4356 to register.

Bread Ministry *Doris Hixson*

Christ calls us.

Jesus instructed his disciples to feed the hungry. As the disciples of Jesus, we still try to feed the hungry of our community. Since 2001, faithful members of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church have taken bread to the hungry. Monday through Friday every week we pick up bread from Publix on 776 and deliver it to those who need it.



Wouldn't you like to join in this ministry? Our volunteers pick up bread two or three times per month and deliver it to the Homeless Coalition. Recently, some of our faithful members have had to stop working in this ministry for various reasons. Now we need a few other disciples to join us in serving.

Feed the Hungry: Join Our Bread Ministry

If you can join in feeding the hungry of Charlotte County, call Doris at 941-235-3556 for information about how to get started.

Children's Ministry *Barbara Hald*

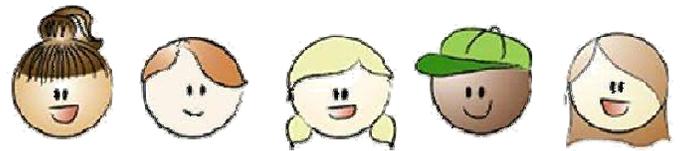
I want to thank everyone who helped with our Pumpkin Patch and Pumpkin Festival. It is so awesome to come together and serve our community.

We will be busy this month with the "Shoe Boxes" and the "Angel Tree" to help children all around the world this Christmas season. If anyone has some time to help with the "Angel Tree," I would appreciate the much needed help.

As always, pray for the children and families of this church and the ones who have not come to this church yet.

In His Name, Barbara Hald

Contact Barb to join the Angel Tree Team!



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

Weekday Ministry *Paula Mann*

Thank you for the wonderful response to our request for birthday treats for the after-school program. We are happy to report that all spots have been filled!

We are in need of booster seats. If you have one in your garage or know of one not being used, we would appreciate the donation to our ministry.



THANKSGIVING FEAST SERVERS NEEDED

Our annual Thanksgiving Feast with the preschoolers and their families is approaching. If you are interested in being a host or hostess Nov. 20/21, please call Paula 625-4356 or email pcumcschool@gmail.com.

Parents' Night Out

**Friday, November 21
6-9pm**

**Want some time alone? Date night?
Christmas shopping?**

Leave your kids with us for dinner, movie ("Free Birds") and fun times! They can wear their pajamas and bring a blanket and pillow. Weather permitting we will be having the movie outside! Registration forms can be found on our website: www.pcumc.info.

Cost:

First Child: \$5/hr, Second Child: \$3/hr
Additional kids: \$3/hr



Thank you to all who helped set up our Pumpkin Patch!



Friday, November 21, 6-8PM

Outside (weather permitting)

Join us for a FREE dinner & movie, featuring "Free Birds." Fun for the whole family!

Youth Ministry *Paul Kisner*

November 5: No Youth Group / UMM Yard Sale set-up

We will be looking for volunteers to help move yard sale items from their storage units to the church. Any youth interested in helping should contact Paul for more information.

November 12: Youth Group, 6-8:15 pm

November 19: Youth Group, 6- 8:15 pm Shoobox Packing Night

All youth are invited to join us this Wednesday to help get our shoeboxes ready for delivery. This is a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Christ.

November 26: No Youth Group / Thanksgiving Eve Service

All youth who do not have family plans are invited to join us for our Thanksgiving Eve Service in the Sanctuary at 6:30pm led by the Praise Band.



2014 Operation Christmas Child
Oct. 26 - Nov. 16, 2014

Start date: October 26 End date: November 16
Shooboxes are available in the lobby.
Please return your shoeboxes by November 16,
so the youth can prepare them for delivery.
Our goal is to collect over 200 shoeboxes this year!
Please consider helping our church make
this happen.

Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: Recently on the Internet, I found grotesque pictures of mangled bodies on a Christian website. Why did they post such ugliness? The Bible says to focus on the noble, pure, lovely, and admirable (Phil. 4:8).

Answer: Assuming that Christians and not the false prophets (Mt. 7:15) ran the website, they might have posted them to show the plight of persecuted Christians in Africa, the Middle East, and elsewhere. Still, your concern is proper. Frank Laubach warned, "EVERY evil thought not only contaminates the man himself, but makes the world worse, pushes it toward hell" (*Prayer: The Mightiest Force in the World*, New York: Fleming H. Revell, 1946, p. 70), but that isn't all-controlling. Phil. 4:8 also says to focus on what's true and right. Persecution, though ugly, is a fact. In Phil. 4:9, Paul urges Christians to do what he taught and his teaching could get ugly, too (e.g. Phil. 3:2). The Roman Catholics' abusive priests' scandals came from *not* focusing on the "evil in their midst" (compare Dt. 19:19, 21:21, 1 Cor. 5:13). Paul also urged, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (Rom. 12:15 NRSV) and, "If one member [of Christ's body] suffers, all suffer together ..." (1 Cor. 12:26 NRSV). For this reason, on November 16, we'll observe the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.

Question: Aren't the New Testament stories of demon possession (Mark 1:21-27, etc.) simply the first century's ignorant way of describing mental illness?

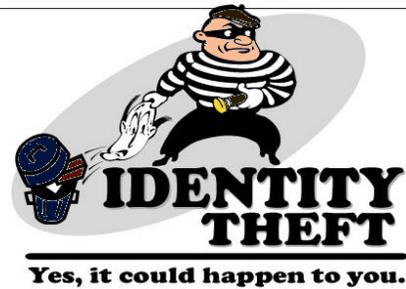
Answer: If so, then the Bible is wrong and cannot be our "true rule and guide for faith and practice" (Confession of Faith, art. iv). *Some* alleged "demonic activity" observed today could be mental illness, but not all. Foreign missionaries in Africa and Asia and centuries of Roman Catholics have observed many real demonic events. The Catholics have systematically described and given names to various demonic actions. Leon Cristiani, in his *Evidence of Satan in the Modern World* (TAN Publishing), recounts the Catholic observations in detail. Before the Catholic Church authorizes an exorcism, priests must first rule out all naturalistic or mental health causes. If a possessed person curses or blasphemes in a language they've never learned (some call this "the Satanic counterfeit of speaking in tongues"), this isn't mental illness. It's true demonic activity. (Note: In recent times, psychiatrists have also wrongly identified speaking in tongues by Pentecostals and PMS among women as forms of mental illness.)

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



CHARGE CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 9

Our PCUMC annual Charge Conference will be held November 9 at Edgewater UMC at 3pm. All members are invited to attend.



WIDOWS' MIGHT

"Identity Theft, and How to Prevent It"

Thursday, November 13, 12:30pm, New Room

The Widows' Might ministry is hosting an informational talk by Dale Phillips of the Charlotte County Sherriff's Office. She will be speaking on identity theft and how to prevent it. The meeting is open to all who would like to attend.

Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*

What is a Stephen Minister and what do they do?

A Stephen Minister is a congregation member who provides emotional and spiritual care to someone who is facing a life challenge or crisis. In order to be able to do this, the Stephen Minister must receive 50 hours of training. They listen to their care receivers, they pray, support and encourage – meeting faithfully for about an hour each week, providing effective, one-to-one confidential Christian care for as long as needed.

Why the name "Stephen"?

The name Stephen comes from St. Stephen, who was the first lay person commissioned by the apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need, as recorded in Acts, Chapter 6.

Who do Stephen Ministers care for?

Men care for men and women care for women. They might include those dealing with life's challenges such as:

- Grief
- Unemployment
- Those who are terminally ill
- Those relocating
- Single parents
- Disaster victims
- Loneliness
- Hospitalization
- Those homebound or in nursing homes
- New parents
- Empty nesters

The list goes on and on. All these situations can benefit from quality Christ-centered confidential care.

How many Stephen Ministers do we need?

If only 10% of our congregation suffered from any of the situations listed, we would need over 50 Stephen Ministers. We currently have ten active Stephen Ministers at this time.

What does it cost to become a Stephen Minister?

Financially – nothing. The necessary books and training are free. The only thing it will cost you is your time. The 50 hours of training takes 20 weeks to complete. For a period of two years after you are commissioned, you will also be required to attend twice monthly meetings for continuing education and peer supervision.

How do you become a Stephen Minister?

Simply fill out an application found in the mailbox marked Stephen Ministry in the office and return to that location. Or, contact Pastor Brian at the church or call Dean Winston 941-661-8825. We tentatively have a class beginning in January, 2015. We currently have 4 applicants. We need, because of role playing and interaction, at least 6 trainees. The training will benefit you for life. Ask any Stephen Minister about the benefits of the training and experience. Please, fill the need!

Bus Ministry *Nancy Bosserdet*

This is just a short note to let all of you know that our buses are ready to hit the road again for a few excursions. The first will be to MacGregor Baptist Church in Fort Myers for their annual Christmas Pageant. We will be going on Saturday, December 13, 2014 for the 3:00 pm performance. We will probably leave our church about 1:30 or 1:45. At present there are 23 tickets available. Just call if you would like your name attached to one of the available tickets.

Some of the concerts at First Assembly of God Church in Fort Myers could also be an option. Artists include: The Hoppers, Booth Brothers, Ralph Carmichael & the Big Band, Sandi Patty, Dino, Evie and Pelle Karlsson, Gordon Mote, Annie Moses Band, Collingsworth Family, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, and The Martins. If you are familiar with any of these names and would like to see a trip planned for their concert, please give me a call and let us know what you are interested in seeing.

There is a need for bus drivers to help with Wednesday night pickups for dinner as well as taking folks home after dinner and after the various activities. There is also some help needed with Sunday morning transportation. Just a regular Driver's License is needed. Any help at all would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks so much for supporting this ministry. There are folks that are exceedingly grateful this option is available to them. It gives them an opportunity to stay independent and to be a part of much needed fellowship.

Blessings to all.

Secret Sisters' Tea *Lynda Freas*

Thank you to all who attended the "Tea" on September 27. Thanks to the ladies that worked on the "Tea." Special thanks to Clay Conway and Edith Nelson for entertainment and to the men who also assisted. We have made a donation to the GEMS Girls' Club in the amount of \$500.00.



UMM Annual Yard Sale

Fri., Nov. 7th 8am-2pm
Sat., Nov. 8th 8am-1pm

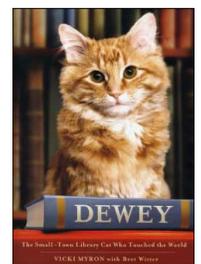


The United Methodist Men invite you to enjoy free coffee & lemonade as you browse antiques, jewelry, furniture, small appliances, kitchen ware, baked goods, plants, books, trash to treasure & more!

The Open Book *Paul Chapdelaine*

Wednesday, November 12th
3-4pm, New Room

We will be discussing
"Dewey: A Small-town Library Cat that Touched the World"
by Vicki Myron.



Music Ministry *David deSilva*

The Chancel Choir will present a "Festival of Lessons and Carols" at our traditional services on Sunday, December 14th as well as Wednesday evening, December 17th. If you are not a regular member of our choir but would like to join us to celebrate the Christmas season, you are welcome to come to our weekly practices beginning Wednesday, November 5, at 6:30 pm. Singers are not required to be able to read music, though the ability to match pitches and carry a tune is essential.



Do you play an instrument?

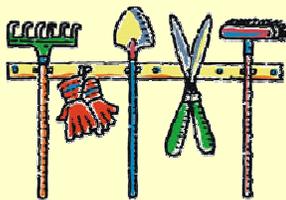
The music program needs your talents! Please contact David deSilva (ddesilva@ashland.edu) to make him aware of your gifts and availability.



Fall Clean-up Day
Saturday, November 1
 Pancake Breakfast 8am
 Work begins at 9am

Join our clean-up team and get a FREE breakfast!

A landscape team is needed to help with weeding, raking and yard beautification. The United Methodist Men will be serving their monthly pancake breakfast and all workers will eat for free. Breakfast will be served at 8am and work will begin at 9am.



If you have any questions, contact Deborah Valler (941) 391-6588 or Tim Smith (941) 426-9977.

November Birthdays

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

November Anniversaries

03 Frederick and Harriet Paulsen
05 Jake and Sandi Mensik
09 Tom and Gina Brancheau
17 Dorothy Brooks and Michael Ange
23 Tom and Judy Brown
27 Arthur and Donna Lageveen





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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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GriefShare **“Surviving the Holidays”**

Saturday, November 22

9am-Noon, Fellowship Hall

Breakfast Provided

Childcare provided by reservation

In past years the holiday season may have been a time of great anticipation and excitement. But this year the prospect of facing the holidays without your loved one may cause anxiety, dread and sadness. You are not alone. “Surviving the Holidays” is a seminar of hope that offers encouragement and advice to survive the holidays.

Please register at the Welcome Center.
For more information call Doris Hixson 941-235-3556
or Ann Van Hoose Oleson 941-456-0081.



“Veterans’ Benefit Forms” and **“Medicare Open Enrollment”**

Tuesday, November 18

11:30am - 1pm,

Fellowship Hall

David Casteriota, Senior Benefits Consultant from the Vets Support Center, will provide information on the correct procedure when filling out Veterans’ benefit forms. Forms can be difficult to complete so come and ask questions -- whether you are male or female. Benefits may apply to both genders.

Additionally, Marilyn Gregory, a volunteer with SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) will be presenting information on open enrollment with Medicare. Complimentary lunch provided. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.