

# KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## November 2017

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

[www.pcumc.info](http://www.pcumc.info)

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

### “Come and See”

It will be my pleasure to serve this congregation as interim pastor for the remainder of the 2017-2018 appointment year. It is my prayer that this will not be a period merely of maintaining, but one of significant growth for us in several directions – “down,” in our rootedness in the Scriptures and the theological tradition of United Methodism; “up,” in our encounters with the living God and the transforming power of God’s Spirit; “out,” in our extending God’s reach to those around us, wherever we are at any given time.

It has been my experience of this congregation that, while we are committed to being *welcoming* in many wonderful ways, we are not so committed to being *invitational*. I’m not talking about inviting people to come have dinner on Wednesday evening or to attend a special event like our Fall Extravaganza. I’m talking about inviting people to come for the experience of worshipping God, engaging God’s Word, and having the transforming work of the Spirit begun or advanced in them. We have failed in our mission as God’s Church if we *only* get people into our fellowship hall or under our tents. We need to get people into our sanctuary, our Sunday School classes, our discipleship groups. The period between Thanksgiving and Christmas, by the way, is a *really* great time to do this, offering us so many more natural opportunities in our conversations and interactions out there to bring others into the mysterious, spiritual radiance of this season.

We don’t really have to depend on *luring* people into the church with food or social service networking opportunities or games and bounce houses. Thousands of people right here in Charlotte County are hungry for what we are, what we experience, what we offer *at our core*. So let’s keep doing the former, because I’m all for luring people to the kingdom (as long as we take them all the way to the kingdom!), but let’s also be less embarrassed about inviting people to our core activities. We have here the cure for the human condition, and there’s no shortage of people among your family, neighbors, and associates who suffer from that!

What do you genuinely value about this congregation and its life together? What about us is a really important part of your life, especially your life with God, your deepening relationship with God and discernment of God’s word to you? What is particularly meaningful and impactful about our life together for you?

If you do *not* come up with anything, let people in leadership know so that we can rethink “Church”! If you *do* come up with a list of things, let people outside the congregation know, because if it’s good for you, it might well be just what they’re looking for as well! The Church doesn’t necessarily need you to be a salesperson or to walk strangers through pre-fabricated steps to accepting Christ, but it *does* need you to do what those who first met Jesus did – to tell people back in their villages, “Come and see.”

*The Rev. Dr. David deSilva*



### Join us on Sundays

**Traditional Worship** 8 & 11am  
**Contemporary** 9:30am

### Wednesday Night Together

Dinner 5-6:00pm  
Bible Study 5:45pm  
Children/Youth 6-8:00pm  
Choir 6:15pm  
Nursery available 6-8pm

### **Saturday, November 4**

Pancake Breakfast 7-10:30am

### **Thursday, November 16**

Lunch & Learn, 11:30am - 1pm

### **Wednesday, November 22**

Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7pm



The logo for the ACTIVATE CONFERENCE features a stylized 'A' above a globe, with a hand reaching up behind it. The text 'EXPANDING MISSIONAL OUTREACH' is above the word 'ACTIVATE', and 'CONFERENCE' is below it.

**ACTIVATE**  
 CONFERENCE  
**November 11, 2017**

Please join us for an Activate Conference at Edgewater UMC in Port Charlotte on November 11, 2017. Receive a clear vision and understanding of God's call to missions, as well as training focused on developing an action plan for our church.

The conference begins with check-in and a continental breakfast at 8:30am, includes lunch and concludes at 2:00pm. Come catch the vision for expanding mission outreach in your church.  
 \*Childcare available.

Register at: [www.tms-global.org/activate](http://www.tms-global.org/activate)

**Extravagant Generosity**

Total income (thru 9/30/17):  
 \$548,034.15  
Total expenses:  
 \$560,766.85

Community Assistance: 2 (utilities)



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|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Marilyn Buckingham | 14 Virginia Halter   |
| 1 Sharon Chinn       | 15 Olive Weaver      |
| 1 Carol Leonard      | 16 Gary Graham       |
| 1 Lynn Littlefield   | 17 Josephine Keating |
| 1 Fred Wagner        | 18 Lauren Cain       |
| 1 Brenda Reeves      | 18 Roselyn Warren    |
| 2 Jennifer Kramer    | 18 Marianne Volkmann |
| 2 Russell McManamy   | 19 Sue Harris        |
| 3 Rosemarie Arnold   | 21 Frances Alverson  |
| 3 Mary Sue Clemons   | 21 Nancy Conheeney   |
| 3 Jessica McNally    | 21 Lois Tschetter    |
| 5 Federica Caruso    | 22 Emilie Badali     |
| 5 Edrel Coleman      | 22 Emily Cox         |
| 5 Kenneth Roberson   | 23 Beth Cocco        |
| 6 Mary Lou Peck      | 24 Barry Anglin      |
| 8 Paul Kisner        | 24 Allan Stocker     |
| 8 Roselyn Warren     | 25 Joan Sniecinski   |
| 8 Bill Weller        | 26 Joanne Criscuolo  |
| 8 Brett Yanni        | 26 Arthur Marquez    |
| 9 Ethan Hall         | 27 Phyllis Cox       |
| 10 Ella Brown        | 27 Megan Keating     |
| 10 Gary McCullough   | 27 Glenn White       |
| 11 Joseph Gomez      | 28 Karen Shaw        |
| 12 Art Grimes        | 29 Kim Crews         |
| 12 Clarice Hald      | 29 Kay Price         |
| 12 Esmelda Williams  | 29 Cherie Thomas     |
| 13 Pat Johnston      | 30 Esther Keirnan    |
| 14 Jo Ann Carter     |                      |



- 03 Frederick and Harriet Paulsen
- 05 Jake and Sandy Mensik
- 09 Tom and Gina Brancheau
- 23 Tom and Judy Brown

# New Adult Class



**Class Name:** "Mission Impossible"  
 (I wonder what that name has to do with the Church??)

**Taught by:** Glenn White

**Time:** Sundays, 10:45 - 11:45 am

**Start:** November 12, 2017

**First Course:** "Unshared Love: The Journey to Biblical Intimacy"  
 (From "The Agape Road" by Bob Mumford)  
 14 week Series

# MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

This is an in-depth look at Love for the Father, and how love has been distorted by sin. This study explains that Jesus came to earth to re-introduce us to God as a Father whom we can know and love in an intimate relationship. Join us in a life changing journey!

*Thanksgiving*  
**FOOD DRIVE**  
 For Trinity UMC

**Oct. 29 - Nov. 19**

Gravy, Sweet Potatoes, Cornbread Mix, Corn, Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce, etc.

Bring your food donations to the lobby beginning Oct. 29



The church offices will be closed Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24.

**Pancake Breakfast**

**Saturday, November 4**  
**7-10:30am**

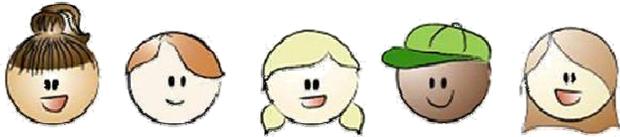
**United Methodist Men's Pancake Breakfast**  
 Saturday November 4, 2017  
 7:00 am to 10:30 am

All the pancakes you can eat, plus scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage links orange juice, coffee and tea... only \$5.00!

Kids under 6 and adults over 90 eat free. Come and let the men serve you!

For the **LORD your God** is bringing you into a **good land...** of **wheat** and **barley**, of **vines** and **fig trees** and **pomegranates**, ...of **olive trees** and **honey**...  
 ... eat your fill and **bless the LORD your God...**

DEUTERONOMY 8:7-10



## PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

**Director: Paula Mann**

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

### Dates to Remember:

November 3: VPK Muffins with Mom

November 17: Family Service Project Day

November 20 & 21: VPK Hurricane Make Up days

November 22-24: Thanksgiving Break

### Bible Verse:

God fills my life with good things.

### 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



## More About Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*

Samuel Clemens the great American author better known as Mark Twain said, "The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why."

The above quote gives us pause to really reflect on our lives. What is our purpose? Why were we born? What should we do with our lives? Each of us in examining this question may have a different answer, or if we read, research, meditate or pray, the same answer may come to us all. I believe the answer lies in the writings of Luke when he writes in chapter 10 verse 27 NIV, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself."

So in my opinion, there is the answer. We were born to Love God. We show our love to him by following his commandments, by praying to him, by worshiping him, by listening to him as we follow his will and by demonstrating that we really get his reasoning, by loving our neighbor as ourselves. We share our faith with those searching. We share our food with those hungry, we share our clothing with those that need clothes, we comfort those in pain, we help the helpless, we grieve with the grief stricken, we share burdens too heavy for one, we pray for others as well as ourselves for God's mercy, forgiveness, and grace.

Stephen Ministry exemplifies loving your neighbor as yourself. Our neighbors in need, our care receivers are the recipients of our love as we pray for them before our meetings. Listen to them reflectively and encourage them to accept God's Healing Grace to bring peace to them, meeting with them for as long as we are needed.

If you have found the reason you were born to be the same as the reason I found, I suggest using the Great Commandment to fulfill your life's purpose. Stephen Ministry is one way, there are many others, but as I wrote in October's Newsletter, all of us have suffered or are suffering from grief. As it is also written, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few."

To receive free Stephen Minister training and become commissioned after completing 50 hours of training over a 20 week period, all that is necessary is that an application be filled out and given to me our church's Stephen Minister Coordinator before December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. If we have at least 6 candidates we will have a class. Currently we have 8 active commissioned Stephen Minister to serve a congregation of 528.

For applications or questions, please call Dean Winston at 941-661-8825. Let us demonstrate our love for our neighbor together as God commands us to do.



## Student Ministries *Barbara Hald*

**November 25th 6:30 – 9:30pm**

Laser Tag, Black light Mini Golf and Go Carts at the Flea Market. Call Barbara for details.

Lots of volunteer hours coming up. So, If you are planning on going to camp this year, come and get the dates and info.

The Youth Group is always doing something! Come on Wednesday nights 6-8pm or Sunday 9:30 -10:30am to be a part of something awesome!

*Let us come  
before him with  
thanksgiving.*

*Psalm 95:2, NIV*



## Children's Ministries *Marie Bailey*

Here at PCUMC, in Children's ministry we love to climb right in to the Bible and have fun doing it as you can see from the picture above. The children have a great time playing life size versions of classic games such as tic-tac-toe. Lots of giggles are heard from Twister when the kiddos are trying to stretch out and reach just the right spot.

The most exciting thing is hearing the children this past Sunday morning be able to retell their parents all about our bible lessons we've had the past three Sunday mornings as they utilize their own mobile bulletin board as a tool to help them. The parents actually clapped.

**Come join us for Sunday School at 9:30, Children's church at 11:00, Wednesday night's 6-8pm or DOVES Girls Fridays 6-8pm.**

A graphic for 'The Singing Christmas Tree for Kids'. It features a green Christmas tree with a yellow star on top. The text 'The Singing Christmas Tree' is written in a red, serif font, and 'FOR KIDS' is written in a white, sans-serif font on a yellow banner below it. The graphic is framed by a decorative border of green holly leaves and red berries.

**Christmas Eve Family Service**  
**Dec. 24th 6-7pm**

\*Attention Parents and Grandparents\*

**Children K - 8th grade**  
Sign up to be part of our special candle-light service featuring your child singing on a Christmas tree on stage. See Ms. Marie for sign up by Wednesday, 11-1-17.

**Practice, fun and games will be on Wednesday nights 6-8pm:**  
Nov. 8, 15, 22, 29 & Dec. 6, 13, 20

## Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen email: theexhorter fla@yahoo.com*

**Question:** For several years, you've been distributing a monthly prayer calendar prepared by Open Doors USA. Who are these people?

**Answer:** Open Doors USA is the U.S. affiliate of Open Doors, the organization that grew up to support the work of Dutch-born missionary Andrew van der Bijl, better known as Brother Andrew. Half a century ago, my mother thrilled to read his adventures in *God's Smuggler* (London: Hodder & Stroughton, 1968): smuggling Bibles to the underground church in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Later his focus and groups' expanded to serve persecuted Christians worldwide. They bring Bibles and other Christian literature to persecuted Christians, provide other necessities when disasters or attackers have left remote Christians destitute, conduct training in evangelism and other Christian skills, publicize acts of persecution, and publish a yearly World Watch List of the 50 worst persecuting countries.

**Question:** Why is Mexico on the Open Doors' World Watch List? Mexico is a Christian country.

**Answer:** In July Open Doors USA explained in an on-line article: not all Mexicans are well-informed practicing Christians. In remote states, some Catholic officials have mistreated indigenous Protestants and Protestant missionaries. Moreover, criminal gangs have sometimes viewed Christians as prey to be plundered, while drug criminals have reacted violently when Christians witness against drug abuse. For more information, see: [https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/mexico-watch-list-persecuted-christians/?utm\\_source=nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=August](https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/mexico-watch-list-persecuted-christians/?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=August)

**Question:** On August 13, when Pastor Craig preached on intercessory prayer, instead of hymns from the hymnal, we had two hymns with no posted authors on a bulletin insert. Did you write them?

**Answer:** I wish! But no. I've written or adapted more than 30 hymns, but not these two. If I had written the closing hymn, "Teach Me to Pray, Lord," I'd have used the tune, Adelaide ("Have Thine Own Way, Lord"), for the verses and "Blessed Assurance" only for the refrain. This is an old hymn, found in many hymnals, including *Hymns for the Living Church* (1973, #438) and the Baptist Hymnal (1975, #399). The writer, Albert Simpson Reitz (1879-1966), wrote it and the original melody in 1925. He did YMCA work, served as an evangelist's soloist, and was a Baptist preacher. He wrote more than 100 hymns.

The other hymn is much newer, "We Lay Our Broken World," by hymnwriter Anna Briggs, found in her collection, *This is the Day* (Wild Goose Publications, 2005). It's gotten into few hymnals so far.

**Question:** At the Oct. 2 United Methodist Men's Breakfast at Perkins, you quoted a verse that started, "Once it was my working." Where did it come from?

**Answer:** The devotion from *Strength for Service To God and Country* didn't say, but it's verse 4 of "Once It was the Blessing," a hymn by Christian and Missionary Alliance founder Albert B. Simpson.



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Port Charlotte United Methodist Women meet at 6:30 pm the second Thursday of each month in The New Room.

All women over the age of 18 are invited - come and join us - bring a friend!

## Staff Parrish Update *Gary Graham*

Your Staff Parrish Relations Committee (Sue Edmiston, P. J. Fisher, Mike Sniecinski, Joe Geiss, Roger Wilmeth) has begun a process to create a profile of the skills and characteristics we desire in our next pastor, to be presented to our District Superintendent in January.

We will be working diligently in the hope that we will be blessed with a Pastor that will foster the religious and personal traits that Port Charlotte United Methodist Church needs to continue in its mission to "Know, Grow and Go."

We appreciate all of your prayers as we continue with this extremely important process.

God bless you all,  
Gary Graham, SPRC Chairman

## Health Ministry *Jane Flanders*

We hope to see everyone at the Lunch and Learn on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 11:30AM. Dr. Geoffrey Roelant, General Surgeon from Bayfront Medical Group will present a power point presentation on GERD and Acid Reflux. Come learn the causes, symptoms and treatment options. A complimentary lunch is served. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Many thanks to Publix Supermarkets for offering and providing free prescriptions and/or re-fills on the following medications. Amoxicillin, Penicillin, Cipro, Ampicillin, Bactrim DS, Norvasc, Metformin, Lisinopril and Singular (generic: Montelukast). If you need a re-fill simply take your medicine bottle to Publix and they will handle the rest. How convenient!

If you have heard about "Hands Only CPR" and were not able to attend our instructional class there is a DVD for you to watch. Our own Dr. P.J. Fisher produced this DVD video which takes approximately ten minutes to watch. One does not need to perform mouth-to-mouth breathing. Please take the ten minutes to watch this video. It could save a loved ones life! See Jane Flanders for the video.

Are you getting enough of these vitamins? Vitamin C: Your body does not store any excess as vitamin C is water soluble. This vitamin acts as an antioxidant. It also assists the body in producing collagen which helps to make skin, cartilage, tendons, ligaments and blood vessels. It also helps support the immune system. Get your vitamin C in fruits and vegetables such as citrus fruits, broccoli, brussels sprouts and fresh strawberries.

Vitamin D: We manufacture most of this vitamin in our bodies as the ultraviolet rays from the sun penetrate our skin. Vitamin D will absorb calcium in the gut. We need vitamin D for movement. Our immune system also uses vitamin D. Our dermatologists tell us to stay out of the sun and plaster on the sunscreen. We are not getting the vitamin D we need unfortunately. It is recommended that up to age 70 we need at least 600IU of vitamin D. Age 71 or older we need 800IU each day. Unfortunately vitamin D is not found in many whole foods.

Vitamin E: This vitamin is also fat soluble and acts like an antioxidant and maintains a normal immune system. It is recommended you have 15mg of vitamin E daily. However, you can get vitamin E from vegetable oils, wheat germ, sunflower, safflower and olive oil. Nuts are another great source!

Get more energy by taking a walk this fall. It's easy and can prevent heart disease. Your mood will be better, you will be happier and you can add 5 minutes to your walks every week. Start with a ten minute walk. Eat a better and healthier snack. No reaching for a high-carb, high-sugar snack please! Your blood sugar will rise and then crash! Your snack should include a mix of carbs, protein and fat. Eat an apple with almond butter, carrots with hummus or a trail mix with nuts and berries. Eat something light every three to four hours to keep your blood sugar from dropping. Laugh and laugh more! Your heart rate will increase which will move oxygen throughout your body.

Caregiver Support Group: Invites ALL caregivers every Wednesday at 1:00PM in the conference room. This is a group for any caregiver...not just an Alzheimer's caregiver. If you need further information, please contact Jane Trammell at 941 743-7336.

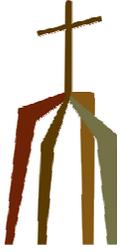
Senior Care and Share Feeding Program: Offered by Harry Chapin monthly for low income seniors in Lee, Collier and Charlotte Counties. Foods are nutritious and easy to prepare. Foods that are offered are fruits, vegetables, proteins, grains and cereal to name a few. Please see Jane Trammell or Jane Flanders for further information.

We wish you and your families a very blessed and Happy Thanksgiving! A glorious time of the year! We will see you January 11th, 2018 at our next Lunch and Learn when we welcome Coastal Chiropractic.



**Presenter: Dr. Geoffrey Roelant**

"GERD and Acid Reflux: Causes, Symptoms and Treatment Options"



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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*Sounds  
of the  
Season*

**Upcoming Musical Events**  
at Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

**Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm**  
**Nada Loutfi, piano**  
A program of music by Johannes Brahms  
[www.pianistnada.com](http://www.pianistnada.com)

**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm**  
**Eirinn Abu, saxophone**  
A program of Christmas music  
[www.eirinnabu.net](http://www.eirinnabu.net)

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**  
**ChoRUSS – the Russian Choral Ensemble**  
A program of Russian sacred, folk,  
and Christmas music

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 8 am and 11 am**  
**Songs of the Nativity**  
The Story of Jesus' Birth in Scripture and Song  
The Chancel Choir of Port Charlotte UMC

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All events are held in the main sanctuary. Admission is free; voluntary offerings are received for the guest artists.