

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VOLUME 43 - ISSUE 10

October 2012

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

“All Dressed Up, With Someplace To Go”

The discussion on talk radio this morning centered on the appropriate way for people to celebrate Halloween. There were three guests, each of whom came from a different and distinct perspective. A professor was talking about the negative history and therefore the negative impact that participation can have; another panelist was a pastor whose church had encouraged its members to get out into the community and “show their spirit” rather than being shut down in the face of the argument. Finally, there was a Wiccan (white witch), who encouraged people to celebrate. Halloween is a real, sacred day for those who follow Wicca. In fact, it is one of two high and holy days for them. The Celtic belief of spirits being released is current, along with the worship of Samhain (the lord of death) – both are promoted as something for them to embrace on that day.

My passenger asked me what my church was doing about Halloween. I stopped for a moment, not to think about what we were doing for Halloween (I had the calendar well in my mind), my pause was to think about “why” we are doing what we are doing? You will find in this October Newsletter, all kinds of activities this month that circle around the event of Halloween. We have big plans for the Halloween season. WHY?

Not Settling For What It Is, Celebrating For What It Can Be

We are doing what we are doing, not to help people consider the roots of Halloween, or to move in a different direction than those celebrating Halloween, **we are going to where people are, to announce that we love them and that God has a plan for their life that we want to be a part of.** The truth is that God created every day and ever season. Since they all belong to Him, then why should Halloween be any different!? 1 John 4:4 tells us, *“greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”*

Many people know our church as “The Pumpkin Church”. People who rarely think of coming on the property for a service, will come and spend time here as a family and walk through our pumpkins. With every pumpkin we sell in the Pumpkin Patch, with every story we read in the Pumpkin Patch, with every game played, hot dog eaten, or treat given, we have the opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ in unmistakable ways.

Halloween provides us with a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's a message the world desperately needs to hear. What better time of the year is there to share such a message than Halloween? **I hope that every one of our church family is going to find some way to be involved in the ministries we have planned for this month!**

It probably isn't realistic for us to think that every visitor that experiences something during the Halloween season will leave as a believer in Jesus Christ. It is possible for us to reach out and welcome them in such a way that every one leaves the property, “believing that we believe in Jesus Christ!” Happy Halloween!!!!!!!

Grace, Pastor Brian

October 6

Pancake Breakfast
-plus- Flu Shot Clinic
7-11am

October 19

Family Dinner & a Movie
6-8pm
Fellowship Hall

October 27

“Eats and Treats”
6-8pm
Parking Lots / Fellowship Hall



*Loving
IN
Memory*

Rose Bartman-Yienger Sept 3
 Rosemae Brown Sept 4
 Ruth Goertz-Reiselt Sept 18
 Margaret Gue Sept 21

Letters

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your many prayers and emails of concern for us here in the Dominican Republic. Isaac took a dip south and further west on Thursday evening which pushed it a bit further from us than originally expected. I am very thankful for that as the winds were strong enough for me as it was! A few tin roofs were removed in La Hoya but other than that mostly just water mop-up as water comes in the windows, under doors and filters through many of the concrete walls. I spent many hours mopping up water and thinking how safe I was being on the second floor. Finally cover the leaky windows with towels and funneled them into plastic buckets which saved a lot of mopping. I am not complaining as I know many had it worse. The hardest part is no electricity for three days! I do pray that we will get some today. All the inverters (stores power in car batteries so you can use that power when there is none) have gone dead as well. The next village over, Habanero, flooded from a dry river that did not even flood during Noel and even swept two houses away. A bridge is down towards Batey 6 and that is a concern as that is what caused our flooding in Noel.

Love, Connie DiLeo

Extravagant Generosity

Y-T-D Income as of 8/31/12—\$568,081.00
 Y-T-D Expenses as of 7/31/12—\$596,895.00

Assistance August: 4 - Utilities 4 - Rent 4 - Other
 Gas Vouchers: 33

Youth Ministry *Paul Kisner*

Current Series:

“Questions about God”

- October 3: Why Serve?
- October 10: Submitted Questions
- October 17: Who Would Jesus Vote For?
- October 24: Youth Halloween Party
- October 31: No Youth Group – Happy Halloween!

Youth Halloween Party

Wednesday, October 24
 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
 Join us for food, fun and fellowship!

**The Pumpkin Patch
 Starts October 15!**

October 14:
 Truck Unloading
 at 12:30 pm



**Operation Christmas Child
 October 28 – November 11**

Look for our display in the lobby starting October 28th
 Decorative “GO” Boxes will be available

Youth Ministry
-New Sunday Morning Teen Study-
 9:30-10:30am Youth Room 6th -12th Graders

Led by Ericka Brown and Dawn Kisner

GROW
 PROCLAIM • SERVE!
 Grow your faith by leaps and bounds

Children's Ministry

Barbara Hald

Pumpkin Patch ~ October 15-31

A fundraiser for our Children, Youth and Family Ministries

The pumpkins for this year's Pumpkin Patch are scheduled to arrive Sunday, October 14th at 12:30pm (the time is subject to change). We need lots of helping hands to unload the pumpkins, arrange them and get our Pumpkin Patch ready to open to the public on Monday, October 15. Our Family Ministry will be serving hotdogs and lemonade for those helping unload!

We have many places to serve in our Pumpkin Patch this year—pick a spot or two that interest you and sign up in the lobby or email me and I'll help you find just the right area: children@pcumc.info.

We need volunteers to:

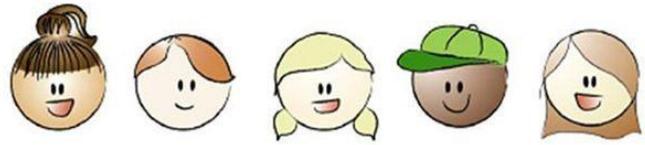
- Sell Pumpkins
- Be a Story Reader for the Pumpkin Patch
- Bake for our Bake Sale
- Help with our "Eats & Treats" Outreach Oct. 27th 6-8 pm



A Candy bin is in the Lobby if anyone would like to donate candy for Eats & Treats.

Children's Weekday Ministry

Ericka Brown



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

In September we were visited by the fire truck, a mail truck, Johnny Appleseed and we even got to have a tea party! What a fun month. In October we are looking forward to our field trip to the pumpkin patch. One of our previous preschool parents is going to come tell the kids about pizza and bring us some samples. Yum, yum! We just love "P" week.

Sometimes, I'm asked about the way we teach our children about Jesus. We are SO very blessed to have a staff who lifts up the name of Jesus each chance they get. We pray together daily in the classrooms, we learn a scripture each month in sign language, we learn a new grace at snack time, we have chapel twice a month (thanks to Mrs. Pennington), we make prayer journals and a bible lesson each week. We do all that and learn our ABC's and 123's, our shapes, colors and so much more!



Ms. Paula's class with special guest "Johnny Appleseed"

Thank you for your continued prayers.

Praising God,
Ericka
Love ♥ Play ♥ Learn



Family Dinner & a Movie

Friday, October 19
Fellowship Hall 6-8pm

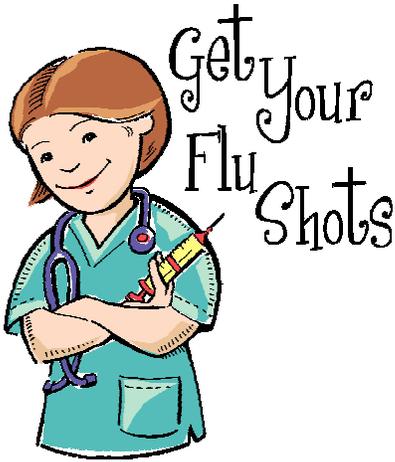


FREE!

-PLUS-
Kid's
CRAFT!



Port Charlotte UMC, 21075 Quesada Avenue (941) 625-4356 www.pcumc.info

**Saturday, October 6**

During our UMM Pancake Breakfast
7:30am—11am

Wednesday, October 17

New Room
4-7pm

Tuesday, October 30

Choir Room
4-7pm

Seasonal Flu\$25
Ages 9 and up
Covered by Medicare Part B

Preservative Free Flu\$30
Covered by Medicare Part B

High Dose Flu\$50
Ages 65 and over
Covered by Medicare Part B

Pneumonia\$65
Ages 19 and up
Covered by Medicare Part B

Ask about the Shingles vaccine!!

Important billing info: They will bill Medicare directly if you have BOTH your Medicare card and your insurance card. Social security numbers sometimes differ from Medicare numbers so these must be provided also. Please contact Jane Trammel with any questions regarding our Flu Shot clinics 625-4356.

Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: Why do we observe Halloween, a pagan celebration of magic, death, witchcraft, and evil?

Answer: Most of our secular unchurched neighbors aren't aware of the day's pagan origins. For them, it's a time of candy, parties, dress-up, and make-believe. Many churches have participated on those terms and used the day for outreach. When we pass out candy, we distribute announcements of up-coming church events. In past years, we've given out gospel tracts. Other churches "Trick or Treat for UNICEF." Still others have devised "Halloween alternative" events to attract children away from the day's darker traditions. (One Chicago church built a maze in their parking lot to draw the neighborhood kids.) Some years ago, folks at the Moody Bible Institute radio station discussed the question. I phoned in to say that my church didn't celebrate Halloween. We celebrated Reformation Day. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his *95 Theses*, beginning the Protestant Reformation.

Question: Recently we were studying the book of Esther. Why would a book that never explicitly mentions God be included in the Bible?

Answer: If you asked a diligent Roman Catholic Bible reader that question, he or she might say, "Huh? What planet did you just fly in from?" Esther, in their Bibles (the *New American Bible*, the *New Jerusalem Bible*, and Ronald Knox's translation) contains 107 more verses than we find in Protestant Bibles. Those verses talk about God with great reverence. The *New American Bible's* introduction to Esther says it came to us "in two forms: a short Hebrew form and a longer Greek version." We don't know which one is original. Protestant and Jewish Bibles use the shorter version. The Septuagint, the Greek version of the Old Testament used by the early church, had the longer version. When St. Jerome translated the Septuagint into Latin, he put those books and parts of books not found in Jewish Bibles into an appendix (the "Apocrypha"). But Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox authorities overruled him, declaring these books to be inspired. Later Roman Catholic authorities backtracked and excluded certain books. Most Protestants followed Jerome, excluding them or separating them as an appendix.

Question: Why don't Protestant Bibles include the books of the Apocrypha?

Answer: There's no simple answer. Luther and the Church of England called them uninspired, but "useful and good to read." Puritans held them to be no more inspired (actually *less* inspired) than other human writings. Josh McDowell, in *The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict* (Thomas Nelson, 1999, pp. 31-32) lists 10 reasons to exclude them. But I think the real reason was that in the Reformation Catholics quoted them to prove certain doctrines. (The books they rejected questioned their doctrines.)

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



Greetings from Connie

August 2012

*Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana
Apartado 42 Barahona, Dominican Republic*

Vacation Bible School

We held our first vacation Bible school this summer. The youth and young adults of the church did all the work as leaders and I was very proud of them. We had no prepackaged VBS supplies so we had to develop our own program. We have been blessed though and we used the felt board material given by New Covenant UMC, The Villages, Florida and large puppets donated by Aldersgate UMC Preschool, Seminole, FL.



You can see how the children loved their time in VBS and how they all wanted to participate. We worked with younger children in the morning and older children in the afternoon. If any churches have 'craft kits' from their VBS that they didn't use, we would love to receive them for next year. Any reading material would have to be in Spanish, but we could use the craft supplies.



Youth Scavenger Hunt

Scavenger hunts are always so much fun here in the Dominican Republic! I'd like to see some of our US youth find and bring to church a goat, a chicken, a dog (ok that wouldn't be that hard). Lots of laughs! The rural churches are all so serious they seem to forget about the JOY of the Lord. Maybe that is why so few youth can be found in the churches (Bombita is an exception). Since our church is mostly youth and young adults, we integrate a lot of fun in our Christian lives, showing them that you can have fun IN the church and you don't have to look to the WORLD to provide your entertainment. This week we are going to play Bible Baseball so they are all studying up to get in shape for their big game!



Men's Choir

We have been praying for more men to step forward and commit to Christ and little by little this is happening. This is not only our men's choir, but the sum total of our men minus one! It is a good foundation, though, and one that God will build on. Now if we can just teach them more than one song!



Prayer Requests:

For Rosalba's mother as she recuperates after blood clots in her brain. She is still on a respirator (in New York)

For Nairobi's sister as she recuperates from a stroke right after giving birth.

For Riko, COPA's health advisor, as she recuperates from dengue fever.

For spiritual growth of our church members.

For continued good health and wisdom as I work with this new young congregation.

Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana (IED)

Rev. Connie Di Leo, Advance Special # 014169

connie_copa@yahoo.com 1-809-399-3096

Family Ministry *Allie Motherway | amotherway@aol.com*

Hello church family!

I would love to take this time to introduce ourselves. We are Pete and Allie Motherway, the newest facilitators of the Family Ministry of PCUMC. We have been living in North Port for the past 4 years, together for over 9 and the proud parents to July (7) and Jackson (4). Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions, comments, suggestions or even a friendly chat. My home number is 941-257-8750, cell phone is 941-320-4563 and email: amotherway@aol.com.



We currently have 2 small groups for couples or single parents that meet on Wednesday nights from 6-7pm, "Fireproof" and "Single and Parenting." Please call me if you are interested in either of these small groups.

In the Family Ministry at Port Charlotte United Methodist Church you are never alone. Everyone is invited to be a part of our family — single parents, empty nesters, grandparents, newly-weds... Bring your friends or come make some new ones. We'll make memories together through fellowship, prayer, Bible study and fun field trips. Come and be a part of our Family Ministry!

OCTOBER 14

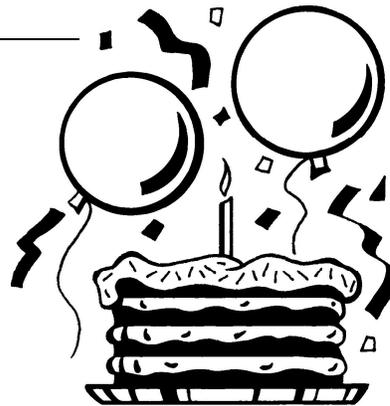
Please stay after the 11am service and join us for hot dogs and lemonade while we wait for our pumpkin delivery to arrive. We would love to have your help unloading the pumpkins and getting the patch arranged and ready for opening day on Oct.15.

OCTOBER 27

The Family Ministry will have a table set up at "Eats and Treats" — please stop by and enjoy a craft, meet some new friends and get information on our upcoming events.

October Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 01 Irene Franko | 10 Dee Bishop |
| 01 Beth Whitkopf | 10 Jenna Kipfinger |
| 02 Ronald Ness | 10 Rachel Kipfinger |
| 02 Ruthann Allen | 10 Samantha Kipfinger |
| 02 Roger Boyer | 11 Doris Culver |
| 02 Meghan Olby | 11 Kayla Chardon |
| 03 Don Butler | 12 Rick McCullough |
| 04 Jeanne Alsene | 13 Jeanne Marquez |
| 04 Bill Even | 13 Dionis Alvarez |
| 04 Celene Kipfinger | 14 Janine Cahoo |
| 05 Pat Butler | 14 Alex Brown |
| 05 Elsie Grant | 16 Maxine Kaen |
| 05 Mike Sniecinski | 18 Geneva Griswold |
| 05 Jason Ayers | 18 Hannah White |
| 05 Emily Friend | 19 Penny Bryan |
| 07 Royce Wallace | 20 Wilbur Miller |
| 07 Elinor Eggert | 20 Jackie Carter |
| 08 Mary Etta Stedge | 20 Andrew Putman |
| 08 Jack Abbott | 25 Claire Crenshaw |
| 09 Bill Cassell | 25 Rodney Carter |



Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!

Anniversaries

- 01 Doug and Roberta Bode
- 01 Scott and Jessica Mathias
- 12 Buddy and Cecil Neill
- 16 Charles and Jean Arnold
- 16 Mark and Marsha Mikus
- 21 Mike and Barbara Hald
- 22 Dorothy and Art DeSilva

- 26 Durfee Marshall
- 26 Christopher Bonsky
- 27 Rainford Jackson
- 27 Christine Burr
- 28 Craig Brown
- 29 Pierre Fisher
- 29 Marie Newbury
- 29 Kyrae Dewitt
- 30 Alissandra Eugenius
- 30 Austin Ayers

