

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 2017

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

www.pcumc.info

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

THE JOY OF SERVING JESUS AND HIS CHURCH

A joy that can be often overlooked is the joy of serving within a local congregation. Most church ministries rely on volunteers to help support, assist, and run various aspects of the life of the church, from children's ministry, to greeters, and mercy ministries. In order for a ministry to function, individuals are needed to make it happen. Often times in churches there is tension because people would like a certain ministry (children's or youth for example), but no one steps forward and then expects the ministry to function by the sheer will of the staff. Some faithfully volunteer and support the ministry of the church but they are few. Jesus tells us in Matthew 9 that "*The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.*" This can leave a void that needs to be filled. In every church, I am willing to bet that there is critical need for volunteers. If you have not gotten plugged into serving within your church, let me encourage you to seek after the joy of serving.

The saying goes that church is not a "spectator sport" whereby we come, watch, grab our fill, and then leave. **We *Are the Church*** and are called to be an active part in the life of the church. When we become members of our congregation, we commit to serve one another, as we serve our God. This is not done out of a sense of obligation, but from a love that seeks to serve God and build up others. God has given each of us gifts and talents and we are called to use those gifts to serve others. Whether your gift is teaching, preaching, hospitality, administration, creativity, musical, etc., God has uniquely made us to serve our brothers and sisters. There is joy when we are able to utilize the gifts in which God has given us.

Serving is essentially loving our neighbor. It not only edifies our brothers and sisters, but it witnesses to those who do not know Christ. It is putting others first before ourselves and seeking their good over our own. It is a tangible display of God's love for them. Christ saw serving through love as an indicator of one's discipleship, "*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*" (John 13:35) When we serve, we are witnessing to the goodness of Christ. We are giving a visible, real, and tangible display of God's love. As the saying goes, "preach the Gospel always, and if necessary, use words." There is joy when we are able to utilize the gifts that God has given us to witness and share his love with those who may not know him.

Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship 8 & 11am

Contemporary 9:30am

Wednesday Nights

Children 6-8:00pm

Youth 6-8:00pm

Choir 6:15pm

Dates to Remember:

Saturday, October 7

Pancake Breakfast, 7-10:30am

Tuesday, October 10

Membership Class, 5:30pm

Saturday, October 28

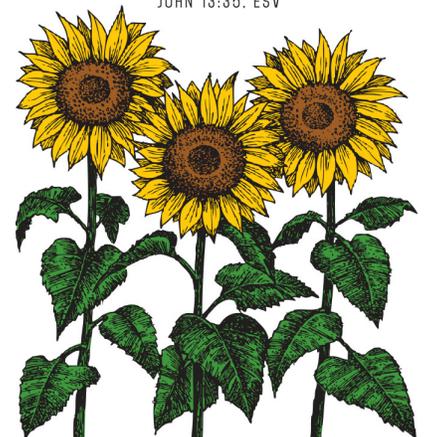
Fall Extravaganza
Charlotte Co. Fairgrounds
10am - 5pm

Sunday, October 22

Charge Conference, 3pm

*"By this all people will know
that you are my disciples, if you
have love for one another."*

JOHN 13:35. ESV



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Ray Wiseman
 Durvent Lyons
 Jack Abbott
 June Richards
 Alvin Williams
 Harold Wilder
 Cecil Ward
 Bill Cassell

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Ultimately, we serve not for our glory, but to honor our Lord. “Each of us have received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever.” (1 Peter 4:10-11) As stewards, we honor God by utilizing the gifts he has given us. The parable of the talents in Luke 19:11-28 comes to mind. God has uniquely created us with gifts to be shared, not withheld. Through the gifts that God has given we glorify and honor him. Serving is not about ourselves, though there is joy for us as we serve, it is not about others, though there is joy for them as we serve, it is about honoring God and glorifying him. If you are not yet plugged in, let this be a gentle nudge to consider the gifts God has given and where best they can be utilized.

God’s Blessings,
Pastor Craig




OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Roger Boyer | 17 Joanna Beynon |
| 4 Jeanne Alsene | 18 Geneva Griswold |
| 4 Bill Even | 18 Jake Mensik |
| 4 Celene Kipfinger | 18 Pam Sikora |
| 5 Jason Ayers | 19 Penny Bryan |
| 5 Pat Butler | 19 Pat Taylor |
| 5 Mike Sniecinski | 20 Jackie Carter |
| 6 Taya McAdoo | 22 Hope McFarlane |
| 7 Joel Payne | 25 Rodney Carter |
| 8 Ben Hanscel | 25 Claire Crenshaw |
| 8 Mary Etta Stedje | 26 Durfee Marshall |
| 10 Jim Bennett | 26 Sandy Mensik |
| 10 Samantha Kipfinger | 27 Christine Burr |
| 10 Rachel Kipfinger | 27 Bill Hansen |
| 10 Jenna Kipfinger | 27 Rainford Jackson |
| 11 Kayla Chardon | 29 James Eugenius |
| 12 Rick McCullough | 29 Pierre Fisher |
| 13 Dionis Alvarez | 29 Marie Newbury |
| 13 Jeanne Marquez | 29 Jeanne Spica |
| 14 Alex Brown | 30 Alissandra Eugenius |
| 16 Maxine Kaen | |



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 03 Glenn and Sherry White
- 08 Dick and Ginny Gwinn
- 16 David and Rose Glassburn
- 21 Mike and Barbara Hald
- 22 Art and Dorothy deSilva



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FALL EXTRAVAGANZA

SATURDAY
OCT. 28 10AM - 5PM

Charlotte County Fairgrounds

Hayrides • Food
Vendors • Games
Music • Inflatables
Homemade
Goodies & More!



A fun family day featuring Non-profit agencies and services, food, games, pumpkins, vendors, homemade items, crafts and more! There will be food available for purchase, and an activity wristband is available for \$10 which includes all games, with no time limit... stay and play all day!! This year we are excited to announce Mote Marine will be bringing their "Mote Mobile Exhibit" to the Extravaganza.... you won't want to miss it!!

FREE ADMISSION

PARKING \$5/CAR

SPONSORED BY: PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WWW.PCUMC.INFO • (941) 625-4356



Join us on
October 28th
at the
Charlotte County
Fairgrounds
for our all-church
community
outreach!

Be sure to invite
your friends and
neighbors to
attend. Flyers
are available in
the church office
to post around
the community.

Let's get the
word out!!





Methodist Men's Pancake Breakfast

Port Charlotte United Methodist Church
21075 Quesada Avenue
Fellowship Hall

Saturday October 7, 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!



Extravagant Generosity

Month Ending 8/31/17
Income \$53,644.27
Expenses \$61,161.76

YTD Ending 8/31/17
Income \$494,686.81
Expenses \$503,205.11

Community Assistance:
Utilities - 2

More About Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*

Grief is a natural response to losing someone or something that's important to you. You may feel a variety of emotions, like sadness or loneliness, helplessness, even anger and resentment. The triggers for grief are, as the first sentence tells us, are the loss of someone or something that is important to us. For example: Those we love, job loss, loss of health or physical ability, loss of a friend, a pet, financial security, independence as when you lose your driver license, to name but a few.

Grief can be debilitating. It can consume our thoughts and action. It can in some cases cause lasting damage to our health. The emotions we feel when we are grieving are a necessary part of the healing process. Even though it is painful to deal with, the process of grief is necessary to cope with your loss. There is no time limit or schedule for grief. Sometimes grief last for years before until it abates enough to allow us to function. We never forget, but learn to go on without whoever, or whatever we lost.

When we are grieving, those around us try to comfort us. They too have experienced grief and they know how painful the process can be. Sometimes they say the right thing. Sometimes they say the wrong thing and even intensify your grief. Usually, a sympathetic ear rather than advice is far more helpful.

Dr. Haugk, the designer of Stephen Ministry is both a Psychologist and a Lutheran Minister. He saw and treated grief as a doctor and thought with the proper training lay people could comfort those grieving and help them accept GOD'S HEALING GRACE. Since Stephen Ministry is a Christ based ministry he employed prayer as a major part of the ministry. Each Stephen Minister prays before each visit with their care receiver. They ask God for guidance and wisdom. Just as a psychologist listens to his patients so does the Stephen Minister. The psychologist sees his patient on a regular basis for about an hour. So does the Stephen Minister. This is not to say that the 50 hours of training that the Stephen Minister receives make them a psychologist. But, it does give them some similar tools, coupled with prayer, to help their care receiver accept GOD'S HEALING GRACE.

Stephen Ministers are members of the congregation that have decided to serve those suffering with grief. They give of their time selflessly to those suffering. They are examples of one neighbor loving another as God commands us to do. Listening, reflective listening, body language, encouragement, sometimes challenge, but always prayer, are just some of the techniques they employ.

We need more Stephen Minister to serve our congregation. If you have the heart and the commitment necessary to receive free of cost, 50 hours of training over a period of 20 weeks, and if you are ready to then be commissioned by our congregation for at least 2 years, and if you are willing to attend twice monthly meetings for Continuing Education and Peer Supervision. Then simply contact the office and they will contact me. Or call me directly, 941-661-8825 Dean Winston, your Stephen Minister Leader.



Student Ministries *Barbara Hald*

So disappointed we had to cancel "The Universe," but I am so THANKFUL that God is faithful and we are all recovering after the storms life throws our way!

October 1st starts a new series in Sunday school:

What? Lesson on Self Worth!

Where? Youth Room.

When? Sundays @ 9:30

For who? ages 6th grade thru high school.

*Every other week we will have Bible trivia games!



October 25th Wednesday Night Costume Party for the Youth 6th - 12th grades, Food, Fun, Games and Prizes for best costumes.

October 28th is our Fall Extravaganza at the Fair Grounds. If you need community service hours for school or if you are going to Camp this summer and want to apply for a scholarship you must serve at the outreach.

CONFIRMATION starts January 7th. Please contact Barbara Hald if your youth wants to be confirmed, you need to sign up.

Always check out our information board in the lobby for other Student Ministry upcoming events.



I want to thank everyone who donated to UMCOR we sent 55 hygiene kits and \$200.00

A Pumpkin Parable

Sometimes I feel like I'm a pumpkin.
Please don't think it's odd.
I'm growing in a pumpkin patch
That's planted there by God

God picked me from the pumpkin patch
And washes off the dirt;
Scoops out the seeds of sin and hate
And anger, greed and hurt.

And then to show how much I'm loved,
God marks me with a sign
And opens up my eyes and mouth:
All part of God's design.

Then, filled with love, God sets me out
For everyone to see,
So all the pumpkin in the patch
Can see God's light through me.

"You are the light of the world."
Matthew 5:14

Inviting all kindergarten through 12th grade girls!

DOVES
Girls Group

(Defining Our Values Elevating Self-esteem)

Fridays from 6-8pm beginning Friday, November 3, 2017

Thank you again for supporting our Vacation Bible School mission this year: Shoes for Kids



Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: In September, you included *humanists*, professed atheists, among the varieties of theological liberals in the church. How can people who don't believe in God hold positions of trust in the church?

Answer: Jesus explained it in the Parable of the Weeds (Mt. 13:24-30). Counterfeit Christians can mimic true Christians so well that we need divine intelligence to tell them apart. The early 1950s saw much distress over rumors of secret Communists in government and the churches. The 1952 Methodist General Conference strongly debated this issue. Ralph Lloyd Roy, National Council of Churches researcher and later professor, wrote two books on the issue, *Apostles of Discord* (Beacon Press, 1953) and *Communism and the Churches* (Harcourt, Brace, & Co., 1960), concluding: few churchmen were Communists, but some wielded vast influence. Some liberals misread him, thinking *few* meant *no*.

Question: On July 30, Pastor Craig preached on Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's being delivered from the fiery furnace after refusing to worship the image Nebuchadnezzar set up (Dan. 3:1-20). Why wasn't Daniel thrown in the furnace with them? Daniel's worshipping the image is unthinkable.

Answer: I wondered the same thing that day. The Bible doesn't say, so we can only guess. People have been guessing for 350 years or more. My best guess is that the furnace wasn't big enough to hold four who wouldn't bow, but no guess has the authority of Bible teaching.

American Methodist bishop Thomas Coke (1747-1814) and Matthew Henry (1662-1714) both suggest: either Daniel was out of town (on the king's business?) when the event occurred, or he was too powerful to accuse. Matthew Henry adds that Daniel may have had royal permission not to bow down. — Coke, *Commentary*, reflections on Dan. 3; and Matthew Henry, *Commentary on the Whole Bible*, notes on Dan. 3:8-18. Twenty years before Matthew Henry, Matthew Poole (1624-1679), also made the "prestige" guess: "Because the king had a greater favour for [Daniel], and he was popular, and beloved for his great wisdom and unblamable carriage; they would not meddle with him now, lest by his knowledge and interest in the king he might chance to spoil their plot." — *Commentary on the Holy Bible*, notes on Dan. 3:13. All three commentaries are available on-line at www.studylight.org.

Question: How can I make sense of a Scripture passage that makes no sense to me?

Answer: Comparing the verse(s) in different Bible translations sometimes helps. Classic commentators such as John Wesley, Thomas Coke, Matthew Henry, and Matthew Poole may also help. (My problem with commentators is, so often they don't address the issues where I have questions.) John Wesley made one more suggestion in a letter to the Rev. Samuel Furlong (May 10, 1735):

"The general rule of interpreting Scripture is this: the literal sense of every text is to be taken, if it is not contrary to some other texts; but in that case the obscure text is to be interpreted by those which speak more plainly." — Quoted in *The Message of the Wesleys: A Reader of Instruction and Devotion*, comp. Philip S. Watson (London: Epworth Press, 1965), p. 162; citing *The Letters of John Wesley, A.M.*, ed. John Telford, 8 vols. (London: Epworth Press, 1931), 3:129.

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





Health Ministry *Jane Flanders*

Our next Lunch and Learn will be held on Thursday, November 16 at 11:30 AM. We are excited to present Dr. Geoffrey Roelant, General Surgeon from Bayfront Health Medical Group, will give a presentation on GERD and Acid Reflux - causes, symptoms and treatment options. Lunch and the presentation begins at 11:30 AM. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan on attending. Thank you, Jim Eugenius for preparing our delicious lunches for our presentations.

We will not offer a Lunch and Learn in October as we are planning and excited about attending the Fall Extravaganza on Saturday, October 28 at the Charlotte County Fairgrounds. Hope all will attend this fun-filled family day. No Lunch and Learn in December as we are all busy with the Christmas holiday. January 2018 we welcome Coastal Chiropractic.

There are three foods that are beneficial to your health and well being and...could save your life.

1. Walnuts - these nuts are rich in polyunsaturated fat which can help reduce your bad cholesterol levels. Polyunsaturated fat may also lower your risk of heart disease and stroke.
2. Oatmeal - Great way to start your day! Oatmeal has a greater proportion of soluble fiber than any other grain. This fiber absorbs water during digestion, it swells forming a gummy substance that helps slow down digestion and absorption. You will feel full and will even keep your blood sugar at the proper levels. Guess what? Oatmeal can and may help to lower LDL cholesterol.
3. Flaxseed - These tiny seeds offer high fiber and omega-3 fatty acids. The seeds are also rich in lignans and can contain up to 800 times more lignans than any other food. These lignans can lower cholesterol. Add flaxseed to your morning oatmeal! Heart healthy!

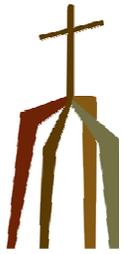
Total cholesterol: Less than 200 is desirable, 200 is borderline and 240 or higher is high risk.

HDL cholesterol: Greater than 40 for men and greater than 50 for women is desirable, between 40 for men and 50 for women is borderline and less than 40 is high risk. **LDL cholesterol:** Less than 100 with heart disease and less than 130 without heart disease is desirable, 100-159 with heart disease and 130-159 without heart disease is borderline, 160 or higher is high risk. **Triglycerides:** Less than 150 is desirable, 150-199 is borderline, 200 or higher is high risk.

Senior Care and Share Feeding Program: Harry Chapin offers a monthly senior food program for low income seniors in Lee, Collier and Charlotte Counties. Foods offered are nutritious, easy to prepare and include fruits, vegetables, protein, grains and cereal. Please see Jane Trammell or Jane Flanders for further information.

Caregiver Support Group for ALL caregivers every Wednesday at 1PM in the Conference Room. This is NOT just for Alzheimer's Disease caregivers. Please contact Jane Trammell for more information: 743-7336.

Alert Charlotte: This is a time sensitive program offered to you by Charlotte County and is FREE. You will be sent critical notifications about emergencies, severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods. These messages will be placed on your home or cell phone, email address and more. YOU pick where and how. I have taken advantage of this program and it was so very beneficial during Hurricane Irma. If you require further information please call Jerry S. Mallet, Emergency Management Coordinator at 941- 833-4000 or go to www.AlertCharlotte.com on your computer.



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Meet your New Facilities Manager: Christopher Corridino Aka, “DINO”

Even though he is not a stranger to Port Charlotte UMC, especially if you attend our 9:30 Contemporary service, this is a new position for Christopher Corridino and we are excited to bring him on as the New Facilities Manager. He has actually been a part of PCUMC for 3 years as a member of the Praise Band and he has stepped up as leader in the last year.

He was born in Norwich, Connecticut and raised in a Military family living on bases in Memphis TN, Brunswick GA, and Cherry Point Air Base in Havelock, NC. After Graduation he joined the Air Force and spent 3 ½ years in Germany. He received an Honorable discharge and went on to pursue a career in Music, his first love. In Missouri, his big heart found him working with physically and mentally challenged children. While touring with his band, Carnival of Soul, he has held many positions in construction and maintenance, which brought him to Florida. This is where he has raised his family, which includes 5 sons, between the ages of 27 to his 2 month old, Samuel. He also has 3 stepchildren, (2 girls and one boy, 22 – 17.)

After years of performing, recording and touring he found himself at PCUMC and is convinced that ***this is where God has called him to be!***

