

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 2014

Sunday Worship: 8am - 9:30am - 11am www.pcumc.info 941-625-4356 ph / 941-625-0144 fax

“EASTER 365”

If you look at the calendar, you can see that Easter, Resurrection Sunday, is not too far away. We have taken the spiritual journey of Lent. We will walk the passionate steps of Holy Week. We will come together with brothers and sisters all across the globe to celebrate a risen Christ who died for our sins and won victory over death. We proclaim this, not only as our hope, but also our future.



So why will so many individuals and so many churches fail to live like we know and believe in Easter with our whole hearts the other 364 days a year?! I think it begins with what we choose to have as our focus in our daily lives. Do we wake up every single morning and thank God that He has paid our debt in full? Our slate is wiped clean. Our sins are forgiven.

A resurrection mindset isn't always the first thing we think of, coffee..., toast..., praise God my sins are forgiven...! But my forgetfulness and distraction are not excuses for my lack of devotion to the one who died and rose for me!

Having a Easter 365 heart is like recovering from an accident when I was a kid. In order for any wound to heal some specific things had to happen. My Mom had to put that red medicine on whatever cut, scratch, or scrape I had created. Then came the struggle of trying to keep the bandage in place long enough for the hurt to heal. And if keeping the bandage on wasn't the problem, then there was the pain of having to have someone pull it off. That step often set you back because it took the scab of protection that had formed over that open wound.

To live for Christ, because of all He has done us, we have to allow God access for resurrection to be possible. The Holy Spirit has to be up-close-and-personal and working in our daily lives. His presence brings both healing and hurting at the same time, so that we will never forget to live differently from now on for Christ.

So how does that happen? What makes that happen? Well, Paul guides us on this daily journey with these words:

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm.
Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,
because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:56-58)*

Here are some ways to get started ...

Remember Who God Is (and who we are). He is God. You and I are not. Our day-to-day decisions as people and as a church need to flow under the wisdom of His will, rather than our opinions. How often do you consult our

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heavenly Father? Is it just a formality at weekly study groups, monthly meetings, or corporate prayers in worship? Is it when we find ourselves “in a jam” and we fire off a request for some heavenly help? What would daily life look like if we submitted everything to Him every day?

- **Thanks Be to God!** We should begin each day with thanksgiving. As sinners, we need to begin each day giving thanks for who God is and for what God has done. Do you count your blessings daily? When the daily grumbles and complaints of life start to pop up, do you push them back by focusing on all that is blessing? We can choose to count ill or choose to count *everything joy* because God is God!
- **He Gives Us the Victory!** Do you have debts that you owe? A car payment? A mortgage? Student loan? If someone paid off your biggest debts all at once, what would that feel like? Jesus Christ has paid the biggest debt of all—your spiritual debt. You and I can never pay for it ourselves. What we can give Jesus is our worship, adoration and praise daily. He died in our place, and His blood has covered our sins.
- **Let Nothing Move You!** What gets you off course in your life? Are there relationships that are toxic? Do you make bad entertainment choices? Are you caught up in bad habits? Whatever obstacles knock you off course have to be rejected daily. Remember that in Christ, you are a new creation. Leave the past behind, throw off whatever hinders you and live for Christ!
- **Give Yourself Fully to the Work of the Lord!** When God gave the gift of Jesus, he was putting us first. He gave us His best and He gave it before we asked. So what are your first fruits to God? What are you giving to Him as a sign that your life belongs to Him? Do your priorities, your calendar, and your checkbook reflect your desire to put Him first in your life? Do they show that He is Lord of your life 365 days a year?

*'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.
The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God,
for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!'
(Galatians 2:20-21)*

We have the opportunity as Easter people to show the world what it looks like to live resurrected and transformed lives. It should be reflected in the way we care for everything God has placed in our care. We should reflect resurrection from the streets to the seats, from the seat next to us, to the ends of the earth, from the way we reach to the way we teach. He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

And that's the truth! Grace, Pastor Brian

Letters

Youth Work Day – An Act of Service

On behalf of the congregation and staff, I would like to personally thank our youth group for the great work they did on the church grounds during their recent work day. Under the direction of youth director Paul Kisner, the youth weeded and mulched several beds along the east driveway, cleaned and disinfected all the tables and chairs in Fellowship Hall, and painted the sign on the corner of the property. A number of other smaller projects were completed as well.

What a great way to serve your church and witness to others! Thank you for a job well done.

May the Lord richly bless each one of you,
Carol Hansen, Church Administrator

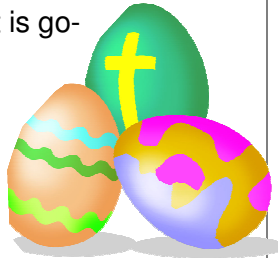


the PORT

Where Children and Youth are Anchored in Christ

Children's Ministry *Barbara Hald*

April is a very exciting month and a lot is going on, so I am going to make a list to make it easier for both of us!



Please don't forget to come to the "Un-Egg Hunt" on April 12th at 10 am. This will not be your traditional Egg Hunt. You will go station to station to collect eggs. We can always use extra help. This is a church-wide event and we would love to see our red shirts greeting our community. If you need a PCUMC red shirt, please contact me.

Join us for Kids' Worship on Sundays at 11:00. We are having so much fun with "CSI: Jerusalem" our Easter series, don't miss the fun!

Registration for Vacation Bible School has started. Please sign up NOW! VBS Dates are June 9 -13th, 9 to noon. Come share the truth with Paul, as we follow him on a dangerous journey through Athens.

Remember - no... "Dinner and a Movie" this month. Join us on Good Friday in Fellowship Hall for a lesson and participate in making "Empty Tomb" cookies.

Sunday, April 13th at Kids' Worship we will have an Egg Hunt in New Beginnings Park. Please bring your baskets!



G.E.M.S Club News

G.E.M.S girls are working on badges and preparing for Mothers' Day/ G.E.M.S Sunday. They are in need of small personal items for their Birthday Bash - nail polish, lotion, body spray, & hand sanitizers that smell good. If you can help with these items, please bring donations to the Children's Ministry.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Director of Children's Ministry,
Barbara Hald



April 13 is
Confirmation Sunday

Paul Kisner, Youth Director



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

Ericka Brown, Director



We had a very special guest come to visit us to celebrate his birthday...

Dr. Seuss!!!
We love it when he comes to spend the day with us!



Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: The *United Methodist Hymnal* says that H. Ernest Nichol wrote the words and music for “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations” (#569). What can you tell me about him?

Answer: Donald P. Hustad’s *Dictionary Handbook to “Hymns for the Living Church”* (Hope Pub. Co., 1976); Carlton R. Young’s *Companion to the Hymnal: A Handbook to the 1964 “Methodist Hymnal”* (Abingdon 1970), and his *Companion to “The United Methodist Hymnal”* (Abingdon, 1993) all say that England’s Henry Ernest Nichol (1862-1926), an aspiring civil engineer, abandoned that career in 1885 to study music. He received a Bachelor of Music degree from Oxford in 1888 and specialized in writing Sunday School anniversary service music. The 1935 *Methodist Hymnal*, *The Church Hymnal* (United Brethren 1935), and other older hymnals say that “Colin Sterne” wrote the words of “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations.” That was Nichol’s pen name, an anagram of “Ernest Nichol” (minus the *h*).

Question: The Bible says Jesus died shortly after 3 p.m. on Good Friday (Mt. 27:46-51 NLT) and the angel opened the tomb at dawn on Sunday morning Mt. 28:1-2 NLT). That’s only about 39 hours. But Jesus said, “... as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so I, the Son of Man, will be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights” (Mt. 12:40 NLT). That’s about 72 hours. How can this be?

Answer: According to Harold W. Hoehner in *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* (Zondervan, 1977), some have tried to resolve the seeming discrepancy by saying that the crucifixion occurred on Wednesday or Thursday (pp. 65-74). But Hoehner agrees with John W. Haley, in *Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible* (orig. pub. 1874; reprinted, Baker Books, 1977). Haley says, “... that the Orientals reckon any part of a day as a whole day” (p. 413). Thus, Jesus died on Friday and rose on Sunday. “Three days and three nights” is an idiomatic expression, not a literal 72-hour period. John Wesley in his *Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament*, note on Mt. 12:40, and Gleason L. Archer, in his *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* (Zondervan, 1982), pp. 327-329, also agree. Haley cites a modern parallel: “five days of quarantine” actually runs three full days, plus parts of Days 1 and 5.

Question: How can you believe that the Bible contains no mistakes, when they’re so many and so obvious as to defy imagination?

Answer: John Wesley wrote in his *Journal*, (July 24, 1776), “... if there be any mistakes in the Bible, there may as well be a thousand. If there be one falsehood in that book, it did not come from the God of truth.” Where Jesus said, “[S]cripture cannot be broken,” Wesley said this means, “nothing which is written therein can be censured and rejected” (*Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament*, note on John 10:35). Solomon Gamertsfelder, the EUBs’ premier theologian, and classics scholar Henry Alford held that these “contradictions” would vanish if we knew “the attendant circumstances” (Gamertsfelder, *Systematic Theology*, rev. ed., 1921, p. 122). Haley’s *Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible* and Archer’s *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* (both cited above) resolve hundreds of these so-called “mistakes.”

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



Saturday, April 5
Pancake Breakfast
7-11am

Don’t miss our last United Methodist Men breakfast until the fall!

Lunch & Learn

- COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH PROVIDED -

Guest Speaker:
Barbara Carley
“Arthritis”

How to manage Arthritis through exercise, medications, doctors visits and stress.

Thursday, April 24
11:30am - 1:00pm

SPONSORED BY:
Nurse On Call

Space is limited, so sign up at our Welcome Center.

Rules & Trusts
- AND -
Elder Law & Taxes
with Guy Emerich



Thursday, April 24
10:00am - 12:00pm
In the New Room



April Birthdays

01 Paul Ward	18 Carl Schleich
01 Jerry Swanson	19 Ruth Miller
01 Paul Bencivengo	19 JC Bihl
01 Genie Baltimore	19 Veronica Vieux
02 Frederick Paulsen	20 Andy Anderson
02 Joann Gress	21 Charlton Christman
04 Louise Patchen	21 Jim McGuire
04 John Minehan	21 Ray Rowley
04 Caleb Cox	22 Nicholas Coccaro
06 Darcy Wright	23 Mary Huggins
07 Delma Giles	23 Weltha Carr
08 Ella Ashley	24 David Stout
09 Helen Ross	24 Carrie Weller
10 Linda Layman	24 Jessica Dunda
10 Dorothy Pemberton	25 Donald Lawton
10 Lindsey Bryan	26 Calvin Gress
11 Linda Lawson	26 Charlene Ball
12 LaVonne Goodell	26 Cynthia Friend
13 Maxine Giles	26 Tammy Eugenius
13 Marilyn Morrison	27 Hilda Ramer
13 Jacob Hite	27 Eva Welch
14 Joyce Bonnett	27 Fran Rowley
14 Shannon Roberts	28 Sid Scott
15 Barbara Pennington	29 Marilyn Siebenburgen
15 Guy Emerich	30 Marilyn Thompson
17 Betty Rankin	30 Linda Bailey
17 Tracy Barbarena	

April Anniversaries

02 Irwin and Jan Schinkel	15 Don and Flora Bunger
02 Don and Gayle Behnke	21 Leo and Inez Jones
04 David and Mary Cox	24 Samuel & Jackie Carter
14 Phil and Judy Western	29 Paul and Dawn Kisner
14 Cecil and Violet Ward	

The Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 12th 10am-1pm

Bring your basket for a different kind of egg hunt!

Live Entertainment • Pony Rides • Bounce Houses
Face Painting • Food • Games • Prizes

THE WIDOWS' MIGHT GROUP

First Meeting: Thursday, April 10
11:30am- 2:00pm in the New Room

The Widows' Might is a new group for widows in our community who are experiencing loneliness, a loss of purpose, or lack of social connection.

The purpose of **The Widows' Might** group will be to comfort and support each other as "Mighty" women by making social connections and networking to solve problems unique to our group. Meetings will be on the second Thursday each month. Our first meeting will be in the New Room with lunch provided. Please come and join us and invite anyone who might also benefit. Let us bring fun and joy back into your life.

Please call Jo Ann Carter by April 7 at (941) 391-6136 for your reservation or sign up at the Welcome Center.



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship at 8 & 11
Contemporary 9:30am

Wednesday Nights

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

Saturday, April 5

Pancake Breakfast 7-11am
 with the Easter Bunny!

Monday, April 7

Book Fair Week begins
 At the Port, Monday - Saturday

Saturday, April 12

Un-Egg Hunt 10am- 1pm

Thursday, April 24

Rules & Trust/ Elder Law & Taxes
 10am - 12pm, New Room

Lunch & Learn "Arthritis"

11:30am - 1pm, Fellowship Hall



HOLY WEEK

Wednesday, April 16

"Christ in the Passover"

A "Jews for Jesus" presentation,
 Sanctuary 6:30pm

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday Service

Sanctuary 6:30pm
 Children's activity:
 "All Around Easter"

Friday, April 18

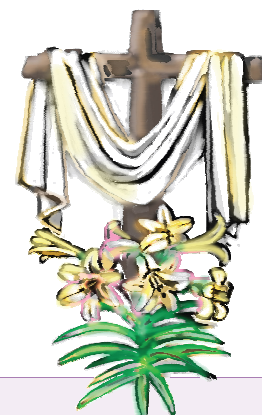
Good Friday Service

Sanctuary 6:30pm
 Children's activity:
 "Empty Tomb Cookies"

Saturday, April 19

Prayer Vigil

New Beginnings Park
 10am – Noon



Join us on Easter!

Sunday, April 20

Sunrise Breakfast:
 6am - 8am, Fellowship Hall

Sunrise Worship:
 7am, New Beginnings Park

Worship:
 8am, 9:30am, 11am

