

KNOW GROW GO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
PORT CHARLOTTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 2015

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

EVERYONE AROUND YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE TOMB IS EMPTY!

"This is awesome!" That was the cute little girl's explanation to her mom, dad, and the whole family about the sea of colored eggs laid out on the lawn of the church. It was a sight to behold. In fact, to her, it was a sight so amazing that she couldn't keep from talking about it.

How about you?

To the world, Easter is just another day, or just another holiday, but to those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, it is the single most important day in human history.

After He had been crucified and buried, Jesus came back from the dead. He rose to full life, just like He promised He would. The women who arrived at His tomb early that morning discovered it was empty. And they went and told. When Peter got word, he, along with John, raced to the tomb to see if it was true. Jesus was not there. He was/is alive! We all know that Peter and John spent the rest of their lives telling everyone about it.

Lots of us get really excited and emotional when we participate in the big events at our church around the celebration of Easter, the parties, the special services, and the powerful music that we build into our time together. But Jesus' resurrection is much more than a great story, talked about at great events. **Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the heart of what we live out in a Christian faith. Without the resurrection, Christianity would just be one of many philosophies of life, or one of any number of religions.**

Here is what the apostle Paul wrote about the significance of the resurrection:

"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith" (1 Corinthians 15:14).

The truth of Christ's message and our confidence in life eternal rests on this single event.

Jesus couldn't say it any clearer:

"Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19).

Too many Christians live as if our salvation was given only for the forgiveness of our sins. They say, "Christ died to forgive my sins," and then they stop talking.

Knowing our sins have been forgiven once and for all is amazing news. But the heart and soul of the Gospel message is the life it offers to us today!

This is what Paul felt about salvation:

continued on next page...

Join us on Sundays

Traditional Worship at 8 & 11
Contemporary 9:30am

Wednesday Nights

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

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday Service
6:30pm

Friday, April 3

Good Friday Service, 6:30pm

Saturday, April 4

Pancake Breakfast 7-11am
Saturday Vigil 10am - Noon
New Beginnings Park



Sunday, April 5

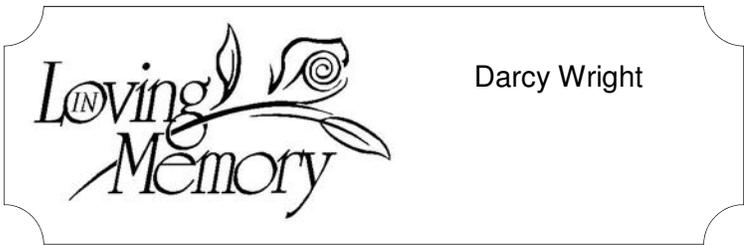
Easter Sunday, He is Risen!
Breakfast 6-8am, Fellowship Hall
Sunrise Service
7am, New Beginnings Park
Worship at 8, 9:30 & 11

Monday, April 6

Church Office Closed

Friday, April 17

Family Dinner & a Movie
6-8pm, "God's Not Dead"



continued from front...

"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross." (Colossians 2:13, 14)

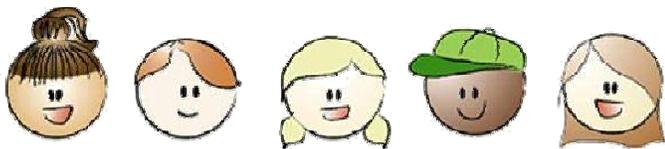
When someone is dead, they need life. That is what Christ offers to us all. God makes us alive together with Christ. The same power it took to raise Jesus from the dead, God directs towards you and me. We are raised spiritually to walk in the newness of life.

The apostles turned the world upside down by proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This message continues to change hearts and lives wherever there are people who are willing to tell it.

Because of the empty tomb, Peter's words are our words too: *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!"* (1 Peter 1:3).

Keep going and never quit!

Grace,
Pastor Brian



PCUMC Children's Weekday Ministry

A Ministry of Port Charlotte United Methodist Church

We had a very successful Book Fair! Thank you to all of our families and volunteers who participated.



April Birthdays

01 Paul Ward	19 Veronica Vieux
01 Paul Bencivengo	19 J C Bihl
02 Frederick Paulsen	20 Andy Anderson
04 Louise Patchen	21 Charlton Christman
04 John Minehan	21 Jim McGuire
04 Caleb Cox	21 Ray Rowley
06 Ashley LaRosa	22 Nicholas Coccaro
07 Delma Giles	23 Mary Huggins
08 Ella Ashley	23 Weltha Carr
09 Helen Ross	23 Martin Wilson
10 Dorothy Pemberton	24 Arthur Tolman
10 Linda Layman	24 Roger Willmeth
10 Ronald Uhler	24 Carrie Weller
10 Lindsey Bryan	24 Jessica Dunda
12 LaVonne Goodell	25 Don Lawton
13 Maxine Giles	26 Charlene Ball
13 Marilyn Morrison	26 Thomas Beynon
13 Jacob Hite	26 Tammy Eugenius
14 Joyce Bonett	27 Eva Welch
14 Shannon Roberts	27 Fran Rowley
15 Guy Emerich	28 Sid Scott
17 Betty Rankin	29 Marilyn Siebenburgen
17 Tracy Barbarena	30 Marilyn Thompson
19 Ruth Miller	30 Linda Bailey

April Anniversaries

02 Irwin and Jan Schinkel
02 Don and Gayle Behnke
04 David and Mary Cox
05 Lloyd and Edna Brown
14 Cecil and Violet Ward
14 Roger and Janice Willmeth
15 Don and Flora Bungler
21 Leo and Inez Jones
24 Samuel and Jackie Carter
29 Jason and Jennifer Hughes
29 Paul and Dawn Kisner

More about Stephen Ministry *Dean Winston*



Stephen Ministry is a Christ-based confidential ministry. The fact that it is a confidential ministry presents a problem when it comes to promoting the ministry. Stephen Ministry is currently serving several members of our congregation and the community, and yet the care-receivers and the Stephen Ministers providing this care are unknown to the congregation, precisely because of this confidentiality. Last year we had ten members of our congregation receive care from our team of Stephen Ministers. The class of seven that is currently receiving 50 hours of training over 20 weeks will be commissioned and ready to serve in May.

The following is an example of a caring relationship between a care-receiver and their Stephen Minister. Their names have been changed and any identifying details not given:

Jack and Jill retired at age 55 and moved to Punta Gorda. They were very active with tennis, boating, golf, socializing with friends, traveling, etc. They had the resources to do anything they wanted. Jill began having severe headaches and thought that they might be migraines. Then her vision became blurred so she went to the eye doctor. After an examination he suggested a neurologist. She went to the neurologist, had a series of tests and it was determined she had a massive brain tumor. The doctor told her that the tumor was inoperable and they would try radiation therapy to treat it.

Jill's world came crashing down. She was afraid. One of her friends, in trying to comfort her, suggested that she have a Stephen Minister. Jill had never heard of them and her friend explained who they were and what they did. Jill's friend contacted her church and requested a Stephen Minister for Jill. A Stephen Minister Leader contacted Jill and, after interviewing her and explaining the ministry thoroughly, assigned Mary to be Jill's Stephen Minister.

Mary met with Jill every week for about an hour. She was meeting with Jill the week that the doctor told Jill to get her affairs in order. The radiation therapy didn't seem to be doing anything. The doctor told Jill she may have six months left. Jill was devastated. She was also experiencing language loss and developed tics. Mary and Jill continued to meet. They prayed together. They cried together. Mary was steadfast in her encouragement and spiritual guidance. Jill began to lose some of her anger that she felt. She began to be less afraid of death. Some questions of life she had always had were beginning to become clear to her. Jack watching helplessly as his beautiful wife struggled with her illness. He saw that Mary had a calming effect on Jill and he saw Jill become less afraid as the meetings went on. He always went out when Mary came to meet Jill. This was requested by Mary, but he wondered what Mary was doing to bring such peace to Jill. When he asked Jill what Mary said to her she replied, we talk about life and the blessings we have and how important faith is. Jill died seven months after her diagnosis. Mary attended Jill's funeral and spoke of Jill's courage and faith and the peace that she had found. Jack asked the friend that had suggested a Stephen Minister for Jill if he could have one to help with his grief. She made the call to the church.

Secret Sisters *Ellen Even*

Our Secret Sisters Ministry was a success these past two years under the leadership of Lynda Freas and we thank her for her dedication and the great work she has done. We were able to contribute funds to the GEMS group by our first "Tea Party" and we hope to do more in the future.

This coming October, we will start signing people up to be a "Secret Sister" for 2016. By the end of the year, everyone should have the name of their secret sister along with their pertinent information allowing you to send them a card, a gift, or a note on special days (like their birthday) and on holidays.

Sharon Bencivengo has graciously volunteered to lead us this coming year and would welcome any suggestions, comments or assistance you can offer. She may be reached at 743-5075.

Please consider joining us in this fun and exciting ministry and make a new friend at the same time!



Renovation Update *Mike Sniecinski*

The renovation has begun. The air conditioners have been moved from the back of the church and should be fully functional by the end of March. Fellowship Hall painting has been completed. Most of the new chairs have arrived and are spread around the campus rooms. A presentation was made to District and they have OK'd and blessed our phase one plans.



DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF “FRIENDLY”?

Have you ever been sitting in a lobby with lots of people walking past you who didn't acknowledge your presence, speak to you or even look at you? If that happened to you, then I would guess you would not call those people friendly. Certainly makes you wonder how they could miss seeing you and treat you as if you don't exist.

One way to avoid that is for YOU to speak to the people with a smile. I would bet that they would then recognize you and return the greeting.

Webster's Dictionary defines “friendly” as a person who manifests kindness; shows interest, good-will and kindness; recognizes the existence of another person; is welcoming, sympathetic, not hostile, not ignoring, and causes feelings of well-being and good-will.

How much effort does it take to smile, nod your head or say hello? Not much. It seems that a lot of us have slipped into that “silent mode” where we just don't want to put forth the effort to be “friendly.”

Most people who are new in the area and are visiting churches are looking for a great pastor and an active church. However great the pastor and active the church, the final decision on whether they will become members of the church rests on the question of how friendly the greeters, ushers and congregation are.

Fortunately, we here at PCUMC are pretty good at being friendly. However, we can improve a lot. As we come and go, be friendly with the people you meet. Friendly people don't just speak to their friends, they speak to everyone. As you meet people at the church functions, be friendly with the people you meet. And especially be friendly to first-time visitors and people you don't know. Don't be afraid to ask them if they are members or visitors. They will most likely appreciate the fact that you recognized their existence and cared enough to cause them to feel good with that smile and hello. We never want to have a visitor leave here without receiving a friendly greeting. Believe it or not, that does happen in some churches.

If you greet others in a way in which you may consider yourself friendly according to Webster, our church will grow because we offer the friendship to others that God offers to us.

Your Friend,
Pastor Earl Parker, Connection Ministry



Welcome New Members!

Please welcome Erin E. Hall, Michael G. Hall, and Emma Kvatum who joined our church last week. Their pictures are on the bulletin board in the lobby. Our next membership class will be held April 9th from 6:30-8pm. Please call the church office 625-4356 to register.

Widows' Might *Deb Valler*

Widows' Might monthly meeting speakers will be a Master Gardener from the Extension Service talking about Florida Flowering plant care and Amie Conti from Better Solutions. Join us on April 9th 11:30-1:30.

Health Ministry *Jane Flanders*

Looking for a solution to your transportation problem? Here are two solutions for you. Call the Cultural Center at 941-625-4175, Ext. 230 and tell them where you need to go. The cost? Just a donation!
Solution #2: The Sunshine Ride. Call 941-575-4000 and select Option "1." The nice gentleman will give you all the information you need to secure a ride. The charge is \$3 each way and an additional \$1 if you need to go over the bridge into Punta Gorda.

Looking for FREE Medications? Well, Publix has them for you! If you are taking Lisinopril, Amlodipine, Metformin, Keflex, Cipro, Amoxicillin, Penicillin or Bactrim, simply take your prescription bottle to the pharmacy at any Publix Supermarket and the pharmacist will handle the rest and give you your FREE prescription. Publix wants to "give back" to the community. Thank you, Publix Supermarkets!

There will not be a "Lunch and Learn" in April but on Thursday, May 21 from 11:30am - 1:00pm, Peter Cleppe, hearing specialist from Best Hearing Solutions, will present a program on diseases of the ear and other hearing issues. If you would like to attend, please sign up at the Welcome Center so you can receive a free lunch along with the presentation. No "Lunch and Learn" in June but in July we hope to offer a program on "Stroke."

We have had to postpone the "Stress-Busting for Family Caregivers" 9-week seminar that was scheduled to begin April 7. We are working on securing another date, so please check the newsletter but we will be sure to keep you updated. Thanks so much for your patience and understanding.

On May 18 during WNO, the bloodmobile will be in the parking lot from 4:00PM until 7:30PM. If you think you are unable to donate, ask Jane Trammell, parish nurse -- she is a wealth of information. To donate, one must be at least 16 years of age, in good health and must weight at least 110 pounds. You may donate every 56 days and great news for Diabetics - you can donate! If you have had cancer and have been cleared by your physician, you also can donate. Jane has a list of all deferred medications in the "Fish Bowl" if you have questions. Please donate! Next bloodmobile dates are: Wednesday, September 23 and Wednesday, November 18 both during WNO. If you plan on donating blood, please remember to drink lots of water that day! Actually, drink plenty of water EVERY day!

Attention Veterans! Veteran Services has moved to their new facility located at 1050 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte. It is the same phone number: 941-764-5579. Fax #: 941-833-6565. Need to know where other FDVA offices and claim sites are? See Jane in the Fish Bowl.



Now that our temperatures are getting warmer we need to avoid heat exhaustion in the higher temps. This pertains to all athletes who play outside and do not drink enough fluids. **Signs of heat exhaustion are:**

- ◆ Cool, moist skin with goose bumps when in the heat
- ◆ Heavy sweating
- ◆ Faintness
- ◆ Dizziness
- ◆ Fatigue
- ◆ Weak, rapid pulse
- ◆ Low blood pressure upon standing
- ◆ Muscle cramps
- ◆ Nausea
- ◆ Headache

STOP all activity if you experience any of these symptoms. Move to a cooler place and drink cool water or a sports drink. If your body temperature reaches 104 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, seek immediate medical attention! To avoid heat exhaustion, wear loose-fitting clothing, avoid sunburn, drink plenty of fluids and get into a cooler or shady place.

Need your blood pressure taken? Both Jane's (#1 and #2) will be very happy to check your blood pressure anytime you feel the need. Just ask! Also, if you feel your home blood pressure cuff may be "off" the correct numbers, bring it to the Fish Bowl and we will check it against our blood pressure machine. Lots of good things happen in the Fish Bowl so come on in, take a look around as there is a wealth of information there. Can't find what you are looking for? Just ask and we will be glad to help.

Children's Ministry *Barbara Hald*

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the "Un-Egg Hunt" outreach. We can reach the community one person at a time. I hope the connections you made with the people of Port Charlotte made a lasting impression! Thank you for all your hard work.

Family Dinner and a Movie on April 17th from 6-8pm will feature "God's Not Dead."

Youth Ministry *Paul Kisner*

Outdoor Game Night

April 22nd 6:00-8:15pm

Join us for a fun night of games in the park, including a water balloon launching competition!



On May 2nd, the children and youth will be having a car wash at the UMM Pancake Breakfast to raise money for our ministries. The men are donating all proceeds from their breakfast to the children and youth of this church, so please come out and support us!

Frequently Heard Questions *Jonathan Carlsen*

Question: Why are we replacing the pews with these red upholstered stacking chairs?

Answer: Primarily, to be faithful stewards of God's gifts (see 1 Cor. 4:1-2). Some pews are broken and irreparable. There were 40 pews on the ground floor and 14 in the balcony. Since thirteen red chairs fill the same space as one pew, 702 chairs would replace the 54 pews. Mike Sniecinski, chair of the Trustees, reports that new pews would cost \$78,000. That's over \$1,400 per pew. The chairs cost \$30,000, less than \$50 per chair. There's a bonus. The chairs are movable, letting us use them elsewhere as needed, or reconfigure them for different sanctuary gatherings.

Question: On March 8, Pastor Brian preached on Jesus' cleansing of the Temple early in His ministry in John 2:13-22. Matthew, Mark, and Luke say this event occurred during Holy week (Mt. 21:12-13, Mk. 11:15-17, and Lk. 19:45-46). Does this mean that the Gospel accounts are unreliable?

Answer: No. It shows that each Gospel is incomplete without the others. Wesley, in his introduction to Matthew in his *Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament*, says Mark, writing after Matthew, supplies details that Matthew left out; Luke adds more details; and John, still more details. Wesley's *Notes*, at Mt. 21:12, say, Jesus cleansed the Temple twice: first as told by John, and again during Holy Week. The first time, He scolds the Temple leaders for doing business in the Temple precincts (Jn. 2:16). Three years later, finding them unrepentant, Wesley says, "he uses sharper words." Only John quotes Jesus, saying, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (Jn. 2:19 NRSV). But Matthew and Mark show His words twisted into an accusation at His trial (Mt. 26:61 and Mk. 14:58). At Mk. 14:58, Wesley comments, "It is observable, that the words which they thus misrepresented were spoken by Christ at least three years before." These were two separate events; the second, echoing the first.

Question: On Palm Sunday, in Matthew 21:5 (NRSV), Jesus is pictured "mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." In verse 7, it says, "they [the disciples] brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them." How could Jesus ride two animals at the same time?

Answer: Adam Clarke (1760?-1832), an early British Methodist preacher and Bible interpreter, calls the picture of Jesus' riding both at the same time *absurd*. He calls another suggestion, that Jesus rode both animals, but alternated between them, *childish* (*Commentary on the Bible*, note on Mt. 5:7). The word *and* in verse 5 is the problem. The *New International Version* omits it. The *Holman Christian Standard Bible* substitutes *even*, and the *English Standard Version* lists *even* as a substitute for *and* in a footnote. All of this indicates that the *donkey* and *colt* in verse 5 were the same animal. Verse 5 is a quotation from Zechariah 9:9, and the 1985 Jewish translation, *Tanakh*, supports this understanding. As for the second *them* in verse 7, Wesley says it means that Jesus sat on the the disciples' cloaks, not the two donkeys (*Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament*, note on Mt. 5:7).

Salty Service *Chris Burr*

Salty Service is one of the five Missional Vital Signs. The name Salty Service comes from Matthew 5:13. "You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness?" The United Methodist Conference states that Salty Service is the practice of fruitful congregations in mission and service. It includes the projects, the efforts, and the work people do to make a positive difference in the lives of others for the purposes of Christ, whether or not they will ever be part of the community of faith.

Our church through the Salty Service budget, along with other United Methodist churches, together support the following missionaries across the world:

Alex and Brenda Awad in Palestine

Delbert and Sandy Groves in Zambia

Connie DiLeo in the Dominican Republic. 2015 will be the first youth/adult mission trip to the Dominican Republic. While there, students will run a Vacation Bible School in the morning and help build a 2-piece bathroom for the school. Applications are available for those interested.

Daniel Sweet in Nepal. Daniel is the son of Sue and Jeff West and Grandson of Bill and Fern West.

Through the Echo Organization, we are able to reach further with agriculture in 3rd world countries.

The United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission has worked closely with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) by providing teams to assist in the recovery from natural disasters and violent conflicts.

The United Methodist Children's Home: Our 5th Sunday offering, as well as the basket that is passed during the Wednesday Night Out dinners, help provide for the day to day needs of the children and youth in our care.

Salty Service also oversees the following PCUMC Ministries:

Community Christmas Dinner: Volunteers are needed in all areas to make the dinner a success.

Wednesday Night Out: Guests are asked for a donation to cover the dinner costs. However, no one is turned away because of lack of ability to pay. Wednesday Night Out is more than just a dinner as you will note by checking the Events calendar on the back of the bulletin.

Trinity United Methodist Church: Also known as our sister church. We provide food every other week for their Wednesday assistance program. There is also a donation cart next to the welcome center to assist with their program. Volunteers are always needed on Wednesday and other times picking up food donations.

Kairos: As congregation members, you help provide lunch for prison inmates twice a year during a week-end of evangelism meetings for the inmates. Salty Service needs a gentleman to be a liaison between Kairos and the Salty Service team.

Health Ministry: The Health Ministry brings us Lunch and Learn, the Bloodmobile, blood pressure checks, flu shots, and many home health visits by our parish nurses. Volunteers with and without a nursing background are needed.

Financial Aid: Your donations via our first Sunday Communion Fund offering allow us to help those in need in our church and community to meet gas and electric bills and other needs. One doesn't realize how many folks actually sleep in their car, until you hear their stories on Thursday afternoons. A gas voucher given to someone to look for a job could help them become a contributing member of the community again. Volunteers are needed to administer the program as well as simply talk to the folks who come for help.

Bread Ministry: We pick up bread at the end of the day or early in the morning from supermarkets and take them to the Homeless Coalition or Trinity United Methodist Church for their assistance program. Volunteers are needed to help with a rotating schedule as well as those who could "sub" occasionally.

"Children's Summer Lunch Program" provided approximately 200 meals per week during the school summer vacation to children staying at the Homeless Coalition, Boys and Girls Club summer school program, Trinity assistance, and in schools holding summer school. Volunteers are needed to use the coupons at Wendy's, write letters to help raise funds as well as prepare the lunches and deliver them.

As additional concerns and needs arise, Salty Service is ready to step up to assist as we can. If you are not certain where you would like to fit in, please join us on the 3rd Monday of each month to listen and become informed of what it means to be a Salty Servant. We meet in the New Room at 7:00 PM, Questions: Call Chris Burr, 764-1866.



Port Charlotte United Methodist Church
21075 Quesada Avenue
Port Charlotte, FL 33952-2546

Phone: (941) 625-4356
E-mail: info@pcumc.info
Website: www.pcumc.info
facebook.com/portcharlotteumc

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Γ

⌈

L

⌋

Visit the (Safe) Lands of the Bible *(Sept. 9-19, 2015)*

Join with other Christian travelers in an exploration of Italy and Greece this September.

Walk the streets of ancient Corinth, the location of a major hub of Paul's mission.

Stand before the proconsul's judgment seat as Paul did, as he was acquitted and released to continue his work.

Explore the Acropolis and agora of ancient Athens, the sites of the many temples that convinced Paul of the Athenians' religious scruples, and stand with him on the Areopagus as he defends his message before the Athenian body entrusted with preserving the religious purity of the city. Walk the streets of ancient Pompeii and experience a Roman city in a state of preservation that only twenty feet of volcanic ash could provide for posterity.

See the harbors and Roman-era ruins of Rhodes, an island that served Paul as a "rest stop" on the way to Jerusalem.

The Celebrity Constellation, with its ample staterooms, elegant dining, and world-class entertainment will be your home for the duration of your trip, with excursions planned for you at every port (except Santorini, which is best explored on one's own anyway). On days at sea, you will be invited to attend a lecture series given by David deSilva, exclusively for the Education Opportunities tour groups.

The cost is \$3,298 for inside staterooms, \$3,498 for ocean view staterooms, and \$4,098 for balcony staterooms. Prices include airfare from JFK (New York) and, for members of PCUMC, domestic airfare to JFK as well. A Rome pre-tour is available for \$598 and a "Churches of Revelation" post-tour extension for \$1,198. The latter is a five-day land tour that would allow you to visit Ephesus, Smyrna (Izmir), Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea (five of the seven churches addressed by Revelation); Hierapolis and Pisidian Antioch, homes to two other first-century Christian churches connected with Paul's mission; the region of Cappadocia; and the major sites of Istanbul (the Archaeological Museum is a good complement to site visits).

For more information, visit the EO web site (<http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/ps15-with-guest-speaker-desilva#eotours>) or contact David deSilva (ddeSilva@ashland.edu or 941-764-6047). Brochures are also available in the PCUMC lobby.

