

FRESH Start

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT CHARLOTTE SDA CHURCH



IT'S A NEW DAY AT PCSDA!

"The Lord's loyal kindness never ceases; his compassions never end. They are fresh every morning..." Lam. 3:22,23 NET

Making Friends

We attend church to worship together, but the opportunity to form and grow friendships occurs outside of the worship service. Optimally, our friendships in the church don't only bless us, but also provide a network for those outside of our church to want to get to know. These friendships have eternal results and are worth the risk and investment.

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FELLOWSHIP

BY DUSTIN HALL, SENIOR PASTOR

The Apostle Paul made it his life's mission to serve God with zeal. Before he opened his heart to Jesus that meant rigid, exact obedience to the law. After he met Jesus on the road to Damascus his zeal lost no passion, but it took a much different focus.

Koinonia is the Greek word for fellowship. Paul's Christian ministry was laser focused on making people understand that Jesus was the fulfillment of all their hopes and dreams, and that the whole world was a family in the Savior. He believed it was his



mission to create Koinonia in every member of the family of God.

Biblically, fellowship is best understood as mutual investment. To Paul, people should invest in one another to understand each other's cultures, backgrounds, perspectives, and life experiences. Of course, getting people to actually do this was hard work and it actually caused Paul to be imprisoned on a number of occasions. It remains no smaller task today. In this terrifying, and distracting world it is much easier for us to only invest in ourselves, our views, and our families. We must remember that the Christian call to fellowship

is vital to the success of the church and our own walk with Jesus. Fellowship can be one of the hardest tasks we have but according to Paul it is necessary.

Another interesting aspect of fellowship for Paul was financial investment. Paul stressed that in order for the church to be a family we also need to invest in each other financially. 2 Cor. 8:7 says, "But as you excel in everything in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and our love for you- see that you excel in this act of grace also". What was this "grace" he was talking about? Financial generosity. There were



Christians who were living in extreme poverty and he was challenging the Corinthian church to excel in the gracious act of giving generously to their brothers and sisters.

Paul's letters are full of instructions for the success of the body of Christ. He speaks to us about how to view government, pay our taxes, structure the church, and treat our bodies but there was no greater goal for Paul than Koinonia. This month's newsletter is all about friendship. We need to work on the difficult task of making friends inside and outside the church for Christ's sake. These acts of friendship take on many forms, including financial responsibility to the church and each other. So, what act of friendship have you performed today? Some ways come more naturally to us than others, but let's all work toward making friends for Jesus!



LIFE GROUPS

AN EXCELLENT PLACE TO MAKE FRIENDS

BY JAIME POMBO, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

In college I was introduced to many new Christian songs and hymns. One that stood out to me was "Friends" by Michael W. Smith. "And friends are friends forever, if the Lord's the Lord of them." It reminded me how friendships keep us going in this life.

Think back on your journey with Christ and ask yourself who was there during the joyful times, tumultuous times and neutral times. Maybe it was family, but most of you will probably think of that friend who stood by you in the good and the bad. What better place to find these friendships than in the life groups of our church? You can come and find common interests with like-minded people and build something that you've been waiting for.

God never meant for us to go through this life alone. While we know that He is always by our side, He also created friends to help us and guide us in this journey called life. Proverbs 17:17 says "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity." Things are not getting any easier in this world and we need that connection with people to help us on a day by day basis.

Come join one of our life groups and experience relationships with people who are like you. Here are some of the life groups currently happening:

Fellow Stitch is a life group led out by Andrea Williams and Debbie Francis. They meet every Monday at 1 pm at the Grand Hall and this life group is all about fellowship while learning sewing skills, crocheting, and other types of crafts.

The **Silver Sneakers** life group meets every Wednesday at 9:30 am at the Grand Hall. Come join Deta Lightbourn and Flora Ashley and start the day with some good exercise.

The **Prayer/ Bible study** life group led by John Peters and Art and Susan Brooks meets every Wednesday at 5:45 pm at the Grand Hall. Come join them if you want a more in-depth study of the Word.

Janice Swanson is leading a **Welcoming of the Sabbath** life group every Friday at 7 pm in different homes. Come join them for some good fellowship while bringing in the Sabbath.

The **Book club** led by Emmanuel St. Cloud meets every other Sabbath in various locations at 2 pm. Come join this life group if you would like a more in-depth study of self-awareness and just to simply enjoy some fellowship.

For the men, Joe Francis is leading out a life group called **The Wing and a Prayer Club**. It meets every other month at the All Star Sports grill. Come join them for some manly fellowship and good food. The first one is Sunday, June 26 at 1:30.

The **Women's breakfast** life group led by Sandee Lawrence and Susie Hilton at the Good Time Diner meets every Friday at 9:30 am. Come join these wonderful ladies for a delicious meal and for spiritual uplifting.

Prudence Grayman is leading a **Spanish Bible study** every Tuesday at 5 pm at the Spanish Church. For all of you Spanish speaking folks, come join Prudence for a study of the Word.



POTLUCKS GET A FRESH START:

AN ADVENTIST TRADITION REVITALIZED

BY LAURA DANCEK

Potlucks were totally revamped a few months ago when friends Andrea and Wave Williams and Debbie and Joe Francis volunteered to fill a large void in social opportunities for our church. Having been on several cruises together, they decided to

give potlucks a “cruise deck” experience.

With the help of their spouses, Joe and Wave, the ladies are pulling out all the stops to provide our church with great food you don’t have to sit and wait for. Now, upon entering

the Grand Hall, you can go directly to your choice of different food stations set up around the room. You can count on some of the most popular stations being there every month, such as the macaroni and cheese and hotdog station, where vegetarian and beef hotdog

options are available. The salad and dessert stations will always be available, also. Other stations vary from month to month, based on the theme for the month. For example, in May there was a hamburger station, with all the usual fixings.

Yes, potlucks now have themes! The theme influences the food stations, as well as the décor. The theme for May was Memorial Day with red, white and blue tablecloths, American flags, and tributes to our veterans. Much thought was put into making it a meaningful experience for the 100-150 people who attended.

Photo credits: Wave Williams and Laura Dancek



Potlucks are interchangeably referred to as “fellowship luncheons.” The purpose is to give you an opportunity to get to know others better. Rather than catching up with people after the worship service in the foyer, or outside in the heat, going to a potluck gives you the chance to feed your family while simultaneously making new friends, or building on current friendships.

The next potluck is on June 25. We will continue to have monthly potlucks, even throughout the summer season. If you would like to join in the fun, please sign up, at the welcome desk in the foyer, to bring a dish that is enough to feed your family and at least one other family. Entrees are always in need. If you have questions, contact our hospitality coordinators: Debbie 813-528-0255 and Andrea 941-916-8508.









PCAS Graduation

BY KAITLYN PENNO

On May 19, Port Charlotte Adventist School celebrated the graduating Class of 2022. It was a night to remember! Miss Kaitlyn Penno, the class's homeroom teacher for the last four years, shared personal memories of the class and each student's unique traits. Pastor Jaime Pombo spoke about the importance of relying on God to get through life's hardships. The ten graduates recognized all the love and support from their parents over the years with special "thank you" messages and flowers. Then, Principal Almibar Cruz honored each graduate for his/her achievements by conferring the diplomas. At the end of the ceremony, the 8th graders passed the torch to the 7th graders, the Class of 2023. PCAS is proud of each and every graduate and wishes them all the best as they begin high school in the fall.








HAPPY
Graduation





**Wishing all of the
dads in our church
a very Happy Father's Day!
We hope you feel the love,
admiration and appreciation
that you deserve on your
special day.**

HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY!

JULY | 18-22



Photo credit: Barb Goffin

Vacation Bible School

GET READY KIDS!

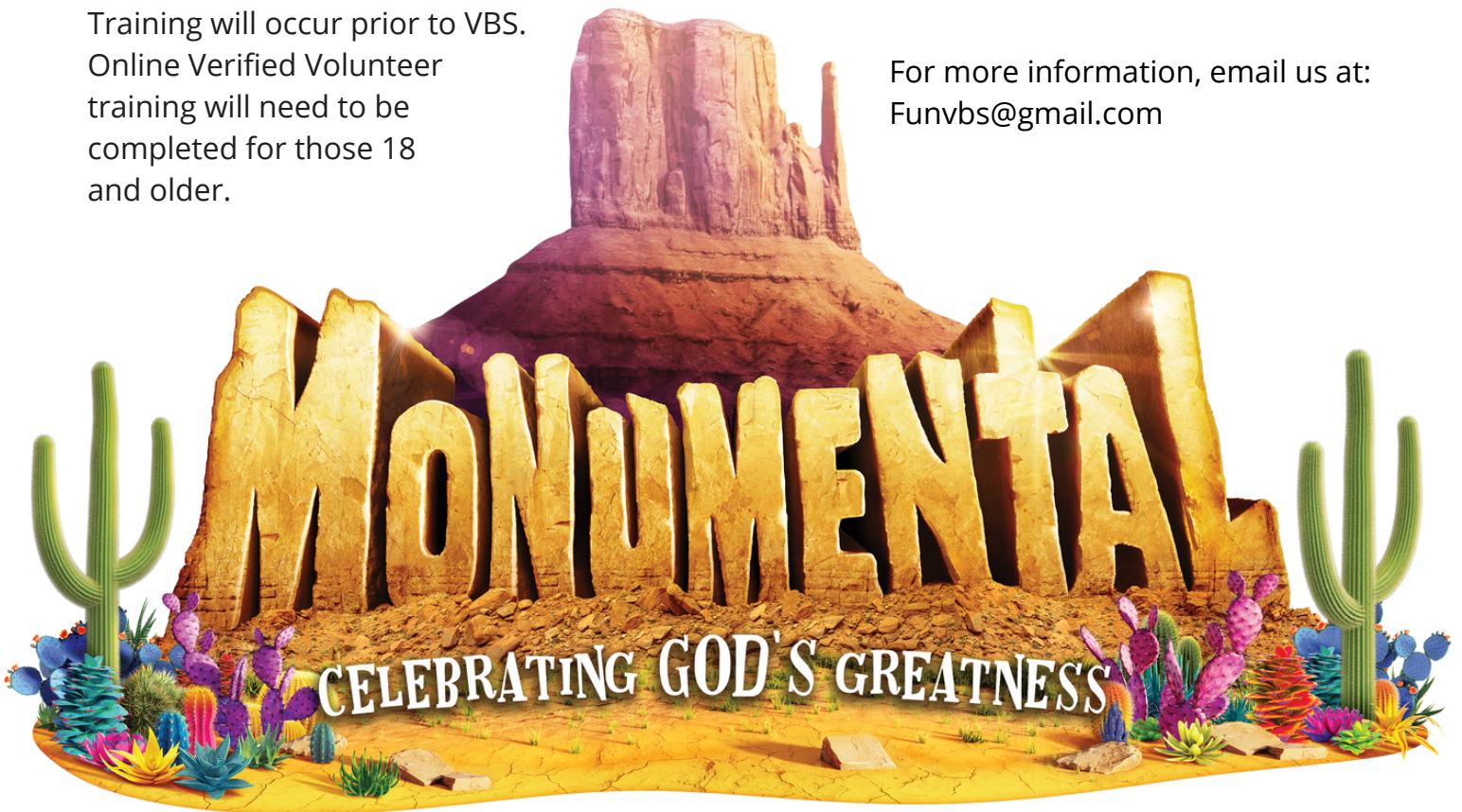
**Vacation Bible School will be held
on July 18-22 from 6-8:30 pm.**

Registration for participants and volunteers is already underway.

Elementary school children completing K through grade 5 this school year are invited to attend. Teens and youth who are completing grades 6-12 this school year are invited to be student assistants/volunteers. Adult volunteers for various positions.

Training will occur prior to VBS. Online Verified Volunteer training will need to be completed for those 18 and older.

For more information, email us at:
Funvbs@gmail.com



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

On April 30, Kaarina Prideaux officially became a member of our church. Baptized by Pastor Dustin, she became acquainted with our church through her neighbor Fran Wilson. Welcome Kaar

Photo credit: Resty Antonio



941-629-1333
2036 Loveland Blvd.
Pt. Charlotte, FL 33952
www.pcsda.net

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Editor:
Laura Dancek

Photographers:
Resty Antonio
Laura Dancek
Barb Goffin
Wave Williams

Contact us by
clicking on our email
address:
pcsdacommunication@gmail.com



The Family Resource Center has officially been named "Kids' World." We want your help to name our mascot (above). Please submit your ideas at the display in the church lobby.