

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

AUTUMN FRESHNESS

For those lucky enough to grow up in the north, fall is a special time of year. It brings memories of cool, crisp mornings, the beauty of color, the sound of rustling leaves, and the scent of apples. There is a unique freshness that comes with autumn.

May you bask in the sense that God wants to do something fresh in your life today, and feel deep joy remembering that His mercies are fresh every morning. Each day is a gift. Each day is a fresh start.

QUICK LINKS

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The Pastor's Pages

Nurture Each Other

by Dustin Hall, Senior Pastor



There are so many theories about what is happening in our world out there right now. People from all different persuasions have convictions about what is happening behind the scenes and how this should affect us and our choices. It can be pretty confusing and even scary.

As we look to the Bible, we find that it is actually relatively vague about specific details in the last days. There are only a handful of things that God comes right out and addresses in great detail. He tells us about the general trends of the world, but when it comes to exact dates and events, He remains silent. One of those issues that God

does address directly involves a part of prophecy that we seldom discuss.

Matthew 25 includes some of the most basic and specific words that Jesus uses in the entire Bible about who are His true followers. "For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me..." verses 35, 36. Then He finishes this whole passage by saying, "Truly I say to you, as you did it to the least of these my brothers you did it unto me," verse 40. Jesus



makes it very clear that people who are engaged in this kind of work are His special people. This is some of the most direct language about Christian behavior in the last days. While people are arguing about vaccinations and masks this is the work we are supposed to be focused on. This is the conduct that Jesus says is of utmost importance.

Normally the groups of people that we believe this passage to be speaking of is the less fortunate, maybe people who are poor or underserved. While this remains obviously true, we must recognize that we are all hurting right now. Currently our staff has a prayer list that is more than three columns long. Our own members have suffered accidents, are suffering from disease, have had family members pass away, and others are in very troubling situations. The temptation for us is to hunker down in our homes and protect what is ours in times like this, but Jesus asks us to do much more.



**"Nurturing of
the church
has to come from
the church itself."**

Dustin Hall

Not only does our community need ministry in this time, our church does as well. We need to be regularly checking in on each other, praying together, visiting one another. Scripture tells us that in the New Covenant every single believer is a minister. The best, healthiest churches are churches that pastor one another. They are quick to take care of each other's spiritual, and physical needs, and check in with each other regularly. Last month we talked about erosion in our church. Perhaps another area of erosion that the pandemic has introduced is in the area of ministering to our own. In these last days let's be known as a church full of people who hear the call of Jesus to minister to those in need. There are people in our community and people in our own church who need us. At some point we will all eventually be on that prayer and needs list, too. Perhaps the greatest thing you can do for your church right now is to check on your friends.

Courage!
Pastor Dustin

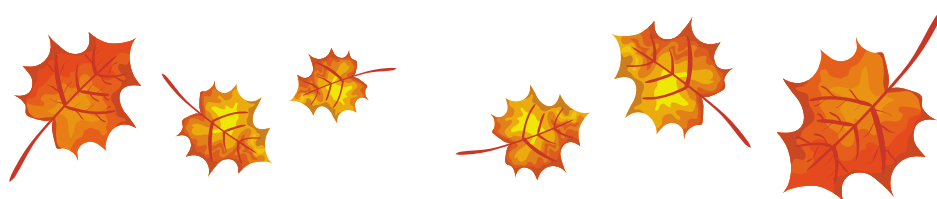
Welcome Back to the Family



Photo credit: Laura Dancek

On September 18, Aubri Dancek was voted into our church family, once again. She attended our church since she was born in 1999, and was voted into membership here the first time when she was baptized in 2010, but transferred her membership to the Georgia-Cumberland Academy church when she moved in 2011.

Aubri will graduate in December from Southern Adventist University with a Bachelor of Science degree in mass communication. You may have just read her article in the September issue of *Southern Tidings* featuring our church. Welcome back, Aubri!



Name Correction: **Jesse Waite-Richards**

She never complained to us about it, but after sending the last issue of *FRESH Start*, we noticed we incorrectly spelled Jesse's entire name. Our apologies! Welcome, Jesse!





Church News

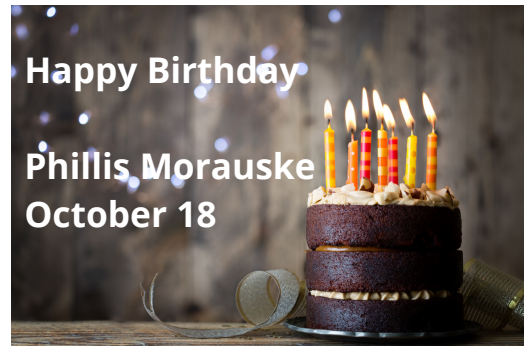
It's Time to Refocus



Photo credit: Wave Williams

Has God been speaking to your heart about your need to refocus your life? On September 18 & 25, Elder Orlando Lopez from the Florida conference inspired us to reprioritize our lives, and to get back to the basics of our faith. It's time for us to reassess our relationship with Jesus. If you missed these powerful sermons, you missed a great blessing, but you can **watch them by clicking here.**

Are you celebrating a significant life event? Send your graduation, wedding, birth, **milestone** birthday or anniversary to churchoffice@pcsdanet.net.



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JOIN OUR TEAM

Interested in writing or taking photos for the newsletter? We'd love to hear from you. Contact us at:
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School News

School is So Much Fun!

by Kelly Hall

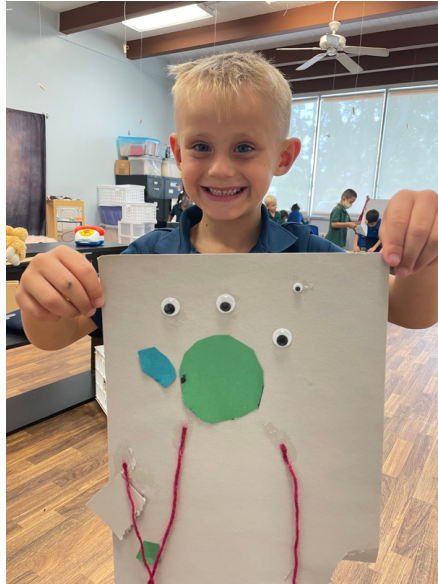


Over the summer, church volunteers worked diligently to clean out two classrooms in the old Rainbow's End wing of the school. They had previously been used for storage, but it was important that these rooms be kept in the spirit of the mission of Rainbow's End. These rooms are once again a place where our youngest students can learn and grow through imaginative play, creativity and the love of books. This is a space where they learn to work together, solve problems, use their imaginations, and experiment in the world that God lovingly made for them.



Photo credits: Kelly Hall

School News



Upcoming Events

Spanish Church Dedication Service

October 2

You are welcome to stop by room #115 on October 2 to see the new location for the Spanish congregation, led by Pastor Art Grayman.

At 10:00 a.m., Pastor Dustin Hall will be speaking for this special dedication service.

Pastor Appreciation

October 16

Pastor Appreciation Month is a special time, typically in October, that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastoral families for their sacrificial dedication. If you would like to show your thanks, designate on your tithe envelope or online giving.

Potluck

October 23

Perhaps you feel like you never know when we will have a potluck. Because of Covid, eating together has been one of the things we've waited longer to do, than to worship together. But this summer, the church staff planned a potluck for every month. Strategically planned on the same Sabbaths as education Sabbaths, to give us the opportunity to get to know families from our school, potlucks also give us the opportunity to socialize with each other - something we all need and have been missing. Bring enough good food to feed your own family, and enough to share, so that everyone has plenty of delicious food to enjoy. Bon Appetit!



Upcoming Events



Celebrating different cultures from around the world is a special event at our church. On Sabbath, November 13, programming will all be around this festive theme.

Sunday, the 14th, the festivities move across the campus to the school. Mouth watering food from a variety of countries will be sold. Everyone loves to eat great food - what a perfect opportunity to invite your friends!

Watch your email for more details.

*Save
the
Date*



Service Projects



Family Resource Center

While the design team is working to create a center to make community families feel valued and know they have a special place in the world, a place where they are loved, we are waiting to get a permit so the demolition can begin.

Do you like shopping or sewing? Our design includes a small stage for young children to play dress up and pretend. This is the best time of year to obtain costumes, especially ones on sale. We are looking for good quality, washable, durable costumes that are appropriate. Please avoid anything suggestive, or evil looking. Or, if you enjoy sewing, maybe you would like to make costumes yourself. We also need seamstresses to make child-size, washable aprons for the arts and crafts area of the center. **If you would like to help with this part of the project** call or text Laura Dancek at 941-456-9056, or send an email to pcsdacommunication@gmail.com.



Look for more updates and photos as we get rolling!

Book Drive for Babies

We are collecting new, and like new, books to give to families in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Bayfront Hospital.





Service Projects

Nutrition Classes

Instructors from the Charlotte County Health Department taught nutrition classes for young mothers in the Grand Hall of our church in August and September. They requested that our church provide spiritual support by having an opening devotional talk and prayer.

Pictured on the left: La Donna accepts the health department's gift of thanks on behalf of the church.



Photo submitted by: La Donna Blom-Antonio



Are you grateful for the blessings you've received? Thanksgiving is next month, and soon we get to put our gratitude in action and share our blessings. On October 23, we will begin collecting food and monetary donations for Thanksgiving baskets to be distributed to those in need in our community.



Help Wanted - Part One

by Laura Dancek

Have you ever thought about adopting a pet who is featured on the local news? Have you considered donating to organizations fighting pet abuse when you watch commercials with videos of animals with a Sarah McLachlan song playing in the background? I sure have.



People are motivated to adopt a pet or donate to a humane foundation when they are able to see the pets who are in need more than if they just read an article stating that "there are pets in need." Visuals that elicit emotions can be strong motivators to take action. Most of us have a strong desire to alleviate suffering of any kind.

What we need are visuals of the people in our own church family who need our help. If we saw photos of people living out their days alone and secluded from the world, or saw them writhe in pain we would be right there trying to help. But we can't show photos of their sad, hopeless faces. Therefore, we aren't as likely to feel an emotion that drives us to action. We have to depend on love, which is an emotion, but it's also a value and decision and something we do, even when we don't feel the emotion.

So how do you know who needs you, and what it is they need? A good place to start is to pick up your phone, or hop in your car, and reach out to people you already have relationships with. And the next place to find out who needs you is by asking the church office. They have a list which the church staff prays over. Even though one of our goals for the newsletter is to help build up our church family, out of privacy concerns, we intentionally have made the decision not to publish a prayer list. However, one does exist in the church office, and they will share information with discretion.





Any one of the faces below could be one of the many in our church who need to feel our love and support right now.



Help Wanted - Part 2

by Laura Dancek

“Help wanted” is a common cry in the country right now. The number of job openings in the work force is at a record high. [1] The same can be said of the church. Most ministries within our church need more help. Why? Two reasons answer that question.

1. There are some positions which were never filled at the start of the service cycle, which began in July 2020.

2. There are some who accepted positions last summer but are not always fulfilling their commitments.

These vacancies cause ministry leaders to carry heavier loads than they expected. Loads which they cannot endlessly sustain without the support they need.

We have a considerably large force of volunteers who keep our church going. We are sincerely grateful for your dedication, your time and your sacrifice. Yet, volunteerism has been on the decline, and we find ourselves needing more people to help fulfill our potential as a church, as we serve each other and the community. This is a call to action for everyone to revive your sense of purpose and passion and carry out your role in the



church. Although God provides us with a season of rest at certain times in our lives, if you're not dead you're not done. As Katherine Wolf says, "If you have a pulse you have a purpose." Every ministry has an eternal purpose. No matter what role you play, you really are important to the success of the church.

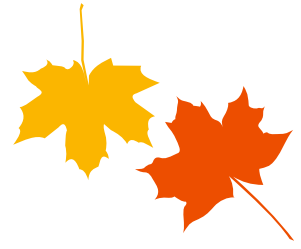
In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul states that God equipped each of us with unique abilities and spiritual gifts in order to serve Him in a specific way. To believe that you have nothing to offer is not true or biblical.

As we embark on a new, exciting mission with





*If you're not dead
you're not done.
If you have a pulse
you have a purpose.*



the family resource center, we will be looking for even more volunteers – many more. A project of this scope will utilize all spiritual gifts – which means it needs your spiritual gifts.

If you already have committed to church positions and are fulfilling them – thank you! You are appreciated! Hopefully someone tells you that personally and repeatedly. If you have been neglecting your ministries it's not too late to get going again. Or, if you are not currently serving in church, but are feeling God's call to ministry, contact the church office or pastors and let them know you are willing to serve.

“There are different kinds of gifts. But they are all given to believers by the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve. But they all come from the same Lord. There are different ways the Spirit works. But the same God is working in all these ways and in all people.”

The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 NIRV

[1] J.Pound, 'Job openings surge above 10 million for first time ever, Labor Department says', CNBC.com, 2021, (accessed 30 September 2021).



*Every ministry has an
eternal purpose.*



Sabbath Morning Schedule



10:00-10:45 Sabbath School
11:00 Worship Service



*All services in the sanctuary will be livestreamed on our [YouTube Channel](#)



Due to the increase in the spread of COVID, masks will be mandatory until further notice.



IF AT ANY TIME, YOU OR YOUR FAMILY EXHIBIT ANY SYMPTOMS OF POSSIBLE COVID-19, i.e sore throat, fever, runny nose, loss of taste/smell, OR if you have been around individuals who have been possibly exposed, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE CHURCH. You may return to church after you have tested negative for COVID-19.

We just made it easier for you!



We are making it easier for you to guess the name of mystery members. From now on, all you need to do is choose the correct name out of a few options - it's multiple choice!

[CLICK HERE to see the clues.](#)

THANK YOU for participating and trying to get to know our church family better.



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Sermon Schedule

October 2
Pastor Dustin

October 9
Pastor Jaime

October 16
Pastor Dustin

October 23
Pastor Dustin

October 30
Pastor Dustin