

FRESH Start

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT CHARLOTTE SDA CHURCH



IT'S A NEW DAY AT PC SDA!

"The Lord's loyal kindness never ceases; his compassions never end. They are fresh every morning; your faithfulness is abundant!" Lamentations 3:22, 23 *NET*

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

February is known as the month of love, making it the perfect time to remember Jesus' command: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34, 35 *NIV*



QUICK LINKS

[We'd Love Your Input about **Unmet Needs**](#)

[**in Our Town:**](#)

[Click Here](#)

[Click Here for](#)

[**SERMONS**](#)

[Click Here for](#)

[**SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS**](#)

[Click Here to **GIVE**](#)

The Pastor's Pages

by Dustin Hall, Senior Pastor

"Indecision is a choice to choose against action. Indecision is a choice to refuse what God is doing in your life." -Billy Graham

Christianity is such a profound religion because it is based on inaction (we can't do anything to be saved, it is a gift); but it is also a religion of action (once we know Jesus, we act). Our faith is the perfect tension between action and inaction. While there are some direct actions that God desires from us on His behalf like worship, prayer, and praise, the majority of Christian living is in how we treat fellow humans.

In a world filled with so much turmoil, conflict, and debate being kind and caring is the exception. It can be a difficult thing to be positive when we are surrounded by so much negativity. It is easier to just shrink back within oneself to avoid being affected by the negativity. This is where the quote above gives us pause. As Christians we are called to work against the darkness not to just survive within it, but to shine. To not shine is to choose to allow the darkness to exist. It is also a choice to avoid allowing God's presence in our lives to be visible.

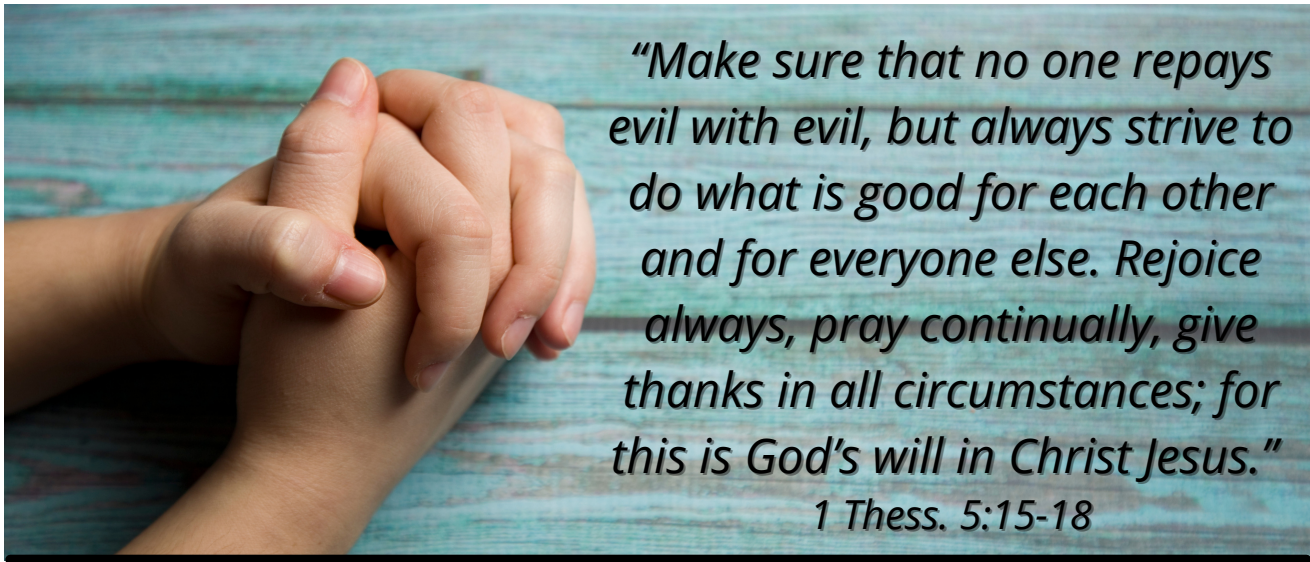
When it comes to the church collectively, we can shine brighter together. We cannot allow the darkness that rubs off on us all week to drag down our unified experiences and worship. The things we do together can have even more power

than what we can do on our own. Every one of us needs to realize that the things we do together as a church must be used as a time to recharge our lights and to shrug off all the messiness that has brought us down in our daily lives.

As we unite together in worship, service, and evangelism we are making a conscious decision to be love in action, light in practice, and unified in heart. Each day when we spend time with the Lord we need to ask Him to chip away the effects of darkness that has built up its residue on us. As we prepare to come to church and other activities, we need to do the same. Heart preparation is a choice to be a better friend, neighbor, church member and disciple of Jesus. Indecision must not be a part of the life of a disciple. Action starts between us and the Lord and being a positive influence flows from that heart preparation.

Courage!





Sabbath Morning Schedule

9:30-10:30 1st Church Service

10:40- 11:20 Sabbath School (kids classes will end at 11:30)

11:35 will be 2nd church service

Members are asked to please exit the sanctuary after SS for cleaning.
We suggest that our older and more vulnerable members attend
1st service as it will be a safer environment.

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

Newsletter Team:

Laura Dancek - Editor, Photographer & Writer

Barb Goffin - Photographer & Writer

Kathy Trumper - Writer and Copy Editor

Contact us at:
pcsdacommunication@gmail.com



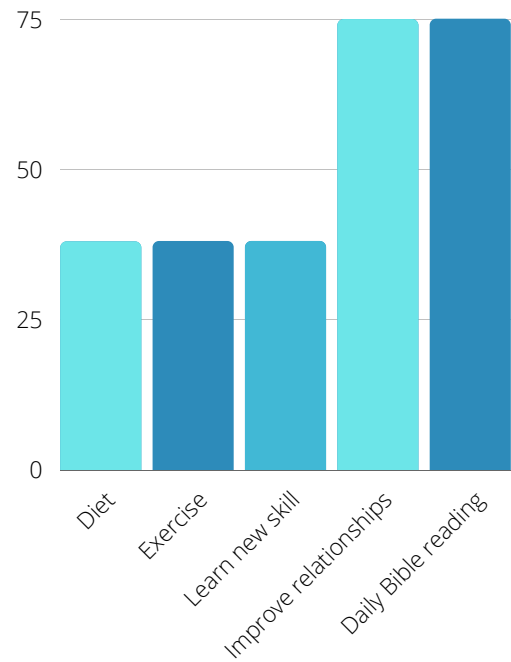
The Survey Says

**In January we asked you about your new year resolutions.
Here is what you told us:**

The percent of responders who set new year resolutions:



The percent of resolution makers who have these goals for 2021:



55% say they are good at keeping their resolutions!



Sadly, 63% usually break their resolutions - before the end of January!



January Mystery Member Kaitlyn Penno

Here are some interesting tidbits about our teacher at PCAS:



30% guessed correctly!

Kaitlyn never learned to ride a bike.

She took ballet classes throughout her childhood.

Her favorite color is pink, has a Siamese cat, and loves to read.

Her favorite books include *Pride and Prejudice* and *Little Women*.

She loves Disney and goes to the theme parks as often as she can.

She broke her wrist in 5th grade after a friend pushed her off a hill.

She is a fast typist and could have tested out of her high school keyboarding class if she had wanted to, and has been known to look and talk to someone while still accurately typing.

When she was 14, she walked away from a serious car accident without a scratch.

She once was asked to join her local swim team, but couldn't because of practices that fell on Sabbath.



Let's Love - Unconditionally

Editorial, by Laura Dancek

This is the third issue of FRESH Start and our first editorial. It never occurred to me to write an editorial until I thought about the theme for this month's newsletter - love. Love is not only the theme for this newsletter, it's the overarching theme of Pastor Dustin's sermons. More than that, love is the theme of our lives - or at least it should be. Most of us think of ourselves as being loving people. But does our love waiver when people disappoint us, disagree with us, or are difficult?

"Love" in its truest sense, is always

unconditional love. For if it is not unconditional, it really isn't love. God loves you regardless of who you are, what you do or how much you love Him.

He loves you purely because that is who He is, and He wants us to love each other that way, too. Real love is never contingent on anyone else's behavior.

Unconditional love for others is never about who the other person is, it's about who you are.

Unconditional love is the main ingredient for thriving, and thriving is what God wants for our church. He created each of





us with different gifts, abilities, and personalities and He wants us to flourish as we use them for Him.

Because we are all uniquely made, it can often be challenging to understand and accept others – unconditionally.

However, to thrive we must know, without the shadow of a doubt, that we are safe with each other. Safe from being judged, ridiculed, or criticized. We need to build an environment that magnifies each other's strengths and minimizes weaknesses, rather than one that is critical and negative. We need to be a church family that allows others to mess up, to learn and grow within an atmosphere of love, grace, and encouragement. We need to cheer each other on because we're all struggling

together in this journey to our heavenly home.

As we allow God to help us become the most loving group of people in Florida, let's not leave out those who serve our church as leaders. I especially encourage you to include our pastors and their families as you create your circle of unconditional love. They often receive more negative comments than support and affirmation, and become the targets of fault finding. We should remember that they, too, are on this journey - just like the rest of us. Let's do all we can to extend tender mercy and kindness to build our pastors up. They will be blessed and our church will thrive!

“So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient. Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. And over all these good things put on love. Love holds them all together perfectly as if they were one.”

Colossians 3:12-14 NIRV

School Days, Good Old Golden Rule Days

by Kathy Trumper

If you attend the Port Charlotte Adventist Church, you know that before the days of Covid, the children of the church would go through the congregation collecting dollars that the adults were holding up. The money collected every Sabbath goes to make sure that every child who wants to attend PCAS has the opportunity. Since our way of giving has changed to online giving or mailing checks, I hope you are still designating a little portion for the school. Each month in the newsletter, we will give you a peek into some of the many wonderful things that are happening in our school.

This morning, ten 4 & 5 year old Pre-Kindergarten children and six 5 & 6 year



old Kindergartners burst into their classroom excited about what awaits them! Their teacher, Kelly Hall, and assistant Marcie Barron stand ready to greet all the smiling faces, helping with backpacks, putting away lunches and preparing to get started with the fun business of learning. On one side of the room, a painted train going down the tracks (painted by Pastor Dustin) signals the S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math) section of the classroom. In the cubbies are blocks,



Kelly Hall teaches her kindergarten class

animals, magnets, microscopes, and animal X-rays on a lighted table, all designed to spark the imagination and provide hands-on, experiential learning. Another area of the room holds their passports for Social Studies. For two weeks, they focus on a country learning about its animals and their habitats, the topography and

geography, and even some of their language. Say "Hello, friend!" to one of them and you might get a response back like "G-day mate!" or "Jambo Rafiki!".

The Character Club is one of the favorite times of the day, singing Bible songs and listening to stories about building Christ-like character. Reading time is also a favorite and some days are extra special because 6th grader Ainsley Hall and one of her friends will come down to read to them. They always pick the best stories!

Friday is Funday in Ms. Kelly's classroom! Learning is creative: building bridges, finding out what kinds of substances best dissolve candy canes, art projects like making the Eiffel Tower from straws after one of their stories, and lots more activities that make learning fun.

Kelly Hall has recently taken over as the full-time teacher in this classroom. She has homeschooled her own children much of their lives, so putting together creative learning such as this is not new to her. Marcie Barron is an aid in her classroom and she often works with the preschoolers while Mrs. Hall focuses on the Kindergarteners. Together, they make an incredible team and each child gets the attention he/she needs to blossom and succeed.

Thank you Ms. Kelly and Ms. Marcie for teaching the little ones in our school family with such creativity.



Please join us in the
50 YEAR CELEBRATION OF PCAS
on March 6, 2021.

This will be a live/virtual event. A Live Sabbath School and Church Service will occur in the morning with virtual breakout sessions in the afternoon. We are looking for good quality photos and your memories as we prepare for this event. Memories might include:

1. Life lessons you learned at PCAS that have impacted your life.
2. How did your favorite teacher bring creativity into daily learning and what personal characteristics makes you remember them?
3. Projects and school sponsored outings that were meaningful to you, i.e. bike-a-thon, music festival, outdoor education, etc.
4. And of course, those "remember when" events.

PLEASE EMAIL PHOTOS AND MEMORIES
TO:
www.pcadventistschool.com

Welcome to the Family

by Barb Goffin



Pat and Sherman Cross

Lori Cross

Sherman and Pat Cross are certainly not strangers to our PCAC family. They were delightful members here back in 2000. They left when the opportunity came to move back to Ellisville, Mississippi to live and work on the old homestead farm of Sherman's childhood. Since that time they have lived in Zephyrhills, Florida, Aspen, Colorado and Fort Myers, Florida. They now reside with their daughter Lori in nearby Arcadia. Pat says moving is nothing new to her and her husband of 70 years. They have moved a total of 35 times!

Pat states that they love living in the country and being close to family. They love to garden and have planted many fruit trees. She says that she is tickled to be back at the Port Charlotte church where there are people they know and who still remember them. Yes, Pat and Sherman, we do remember you and are thrilled you came back!

You have probably already been blessed by the musical gifts of their daughter and new member Lori Cross as she has already been sharing her music on the platform. Besides the guitar she also plays piano, harmonica and is now learning the ukulele. Her passion for playing and singing has been completely dedicated to the Lord. He has even given her words to compose new songs. Lori has also committed to head the welcome committee for our church. This will be a slight challenge as Lori will be splitting her time between here in Florida and Alabama. A nurse by trade, Lori has felt the Lord leading her to minister as a PRN staff volunteer at Uchee Pines Institute. After living in Aspen Colorado for 32 years, this outdoor enthusiast who loves skiing, scuba diving, sailing, hiking, biking, horseback riding and the beach, will enjoy life wherever she is.

Church Business Meeting Rescheduled

by Diane Sedgwick

Did you know that our church members are the ultimate local authority in the ministry and direction of our church?

Every church member has the opportunity to hear and be heard at the called Business Meeting at **10:00 a.m. on February 7**. When you come, expect lively discussions and lots of information. Come with questions, too! We need your input and vote on several areas that we know will be of interest.

Our treasurer, Candy Bedford, will provide you with a look at the financial health of our campus and give you strategic and budgetary insights into what our departments are planning for later this year. Principal Al Cruz is always eager to share news about the school and this time will be no exception. You will hear about music, art, science, (and maybe even math!) Al will also share his enthusiasm for the staff, the parents and, of course, our students.

You will hear from a newly formed group on our campus, the Property Management Team, headed by Duane Morauske. He will tell us about projects and repairs that have already been completed as well as the ones he and the team are planning and prioritizing with the Administrative Board's direction.

An area of great interest to many of us is

Important
Meeting:
Sunday
February 7



planning for the future of our Community Service Center. Over the past 40 years, the Center has helped literally thousands of people with food, clothing and resource assistance. We are now at a place in time to take a new look at current community needs and to plan ministries that would dovetail with those needs and possibly with the activities of other service organizations as well. The Pastoral Staff will lead this very important discussion.

So come! Be an active part of the business of Jesus' Kingdom-building church. You'll be glad you did!

Upcoming Events

February 1, 6:30 pm:
Administrative Board will meet.
(No Ministry Council meeting
this month.)

February 7, 10:00 am:
Church Business Meeting
All church members
encouraged to attend.

March 6:
PCAS 50th Anniversary
Celebration
9:30 Sermon by Pastor Dustin
10:40 and 11:35 Sabbath
School and worship service
presented by PCAS and guest
speaker, Frank Runnels from
the FL Conference.

*"A good man out of the
good treasure of his heart
brings forth good; and an
evil man out of the evil
treasure of his heart brings
forth evil. For out of the
abundance of the heart his
mouth speaks."
Luke 6:45 NKJV*

Mystery Member



Every month a different
Mystery Member will be
featured. **CLICK HERE** to
read the clues and try to
guess who the member is.
On February 6, during the
announcement period in
church, we will reveal his or
her identity!

Contact the
Port Charlotte SDA
Church at:



941-629-1333

2036 Loveland Blvd.
Pt. Charlotte, FL 33952

www.pcsda.net

**Follow us on
Facebook**



**Watch our
YouTube Channel**



Sermon Schedule



Presented by
Pastor Dustin Hall

January 30
February 6
February 13
February 20
February 28