

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*

OUR NEED FOR COMMUNITY

Have you felt a wave of loneliness or the need for support and community over the past year?

It's time for a FRESH Start!
A time to gather, support one another,
and lead in love as a community.

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Hebrews 10: 24-25

QUICK LINKS

[Click Here for
SERMONS](#)

[Click Here for
SABBATH SCHOOL
LESSONS](#)

[Click Here to GIVE](#)

The Pastor's Pages

Don't Sit Back Down!

by Dustin Hall, Senior Pastor

Wow! What a blessing our Homecoming Sabbath was. It was good to see people we hadn't seen in quite some time due to Covid-19. We even had our first fellowship meal in almost two years. It was most certainly a high Sabbath!

However, we need a word of caution. Don't sit back down! The couch and our pajamas are really comfortable on Sabbath morning as we watch church, but the feeling, the ministry, the singing, the encouragement of what it's like to be with your church family cannot be created at home.

We are made to worship together. Throughout God's Word, we see examples of the people called to worship together and the blessings that were promised by doing so. After this cold, dark winter where we were isolated by a pandemic, we need to rediscover what it's like to be part of the Body of Christ again.

More than ever, it is important to be together to study, pray, and worship. We are living in unprecedented times. The confusion around us, the fear, the anger, and the danger is what Adventists have



expected for many years. We have known all along how important it will be to be together during these times. Now they are here and we need to respond with the counsel we have been given in God's word, "do not neglect meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:25.

The truth is, not only do we need it for ourselves, someone else needs us. It is no mistake that we are in this church at this time. God places us where we are not only because we need to be encouraged, but because He has designed us to be perfectly equipped to encourage someone else. So, if you are on your couch, you are depriving someone else of the encouragement that only you can give them!

Don't sit back down. Let's stay together for the mission of Jesus. Some exciting things are just ahead for this church. You will absolutely want to be a part of it. It's a new day at PCSDA! Let's go forward together!



"God places us where we are not only because we need to be encouraged, but because He has designed us to be perfectly equipped to encourage someone else."

Pastor Dustin Hall



Why Friends Are So Crucial to Our Happiness

GOOD FRIENDS, LONG LIFE

Friends help you live a long, happy life:



People with strong social ties are **50%** less likely to die early.

Research shows it's as good for you as quitting smoking. And even better for you than getting regular exercise and staying at a healthy weight!



The Best Is Yet To Come!

18-29



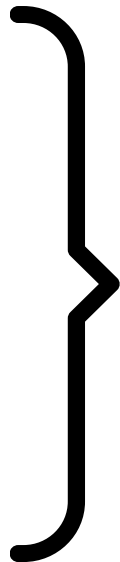
30-49



50-64



65+



For most of our lives, we average around

7-9

close friends.

The surprisingly good news is that, as we get into our later years, we tend to amass more friends: an average of **13**.

KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE BY

JUST BEING NEAR HELPS TO CHEER

25%

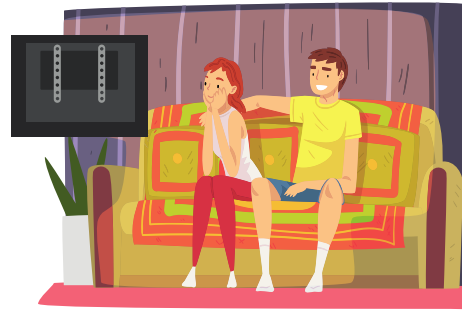
How much your happiness increases when a friend who lives less than a mile from you becomes happy.



The Effect is the Same if You:



Live near a happy sibling



Live with a joyous spouse



Have a next-door neighbor who is particularly happy

Happiness is contagious in the short-term, too.

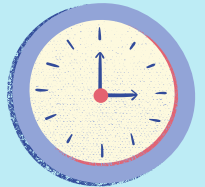
FEELING DOWN?



Call a friend for a quick chat or make plans to meet in person.



People are **12** times more likely to feel happy on days they spend **6-7** hours a day with family and friends.



KEEP IN TOUCH



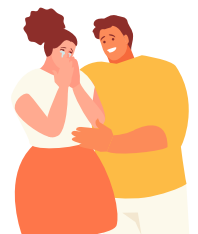
Send a postcard when you're traveling



Keep track of birthdays & reach out



Email an old pic of you & an out-of-touch friend



Show up for the good as well as the bad

Want to know more?
Click [here](#) for the full article & sources

WE ASKED:
"WHAT IS AN
ACTIVITY THAT
YOU LIKE TO DO
WITH OTHER
PEOPLE?"

Better Together

by Barbara Goffin

Debbie Francis- Ever since I was a child I loved singing in choirs and groups.

Lyam Agosto - Sitting down with friends and family to have a good meal.

Deta Lightbourn- I enjoy doing exercise classed with other people. But right now what I am missing is getting together with people on Wednesday mornings for prayer meetings.



Connie Hockman- I enjoy going to the beach with friends.

Ann Collins- I like to play games like Tiki, with my friends.

Art Grayman- I like to show off my special culinary gift by cooking and then eating with friends.



Wayne Goffin- I love the outdoors, so if I can hike or ride bike with others- I am having fun.

Sabbath School Updates

Beginning in August, some small Sabbath Schools will resume. The Sabbath School panel that takes place in the sanctuary will continue as normal. This class is most easily accessible to those who join us through live streaming and to new people. For transparency sake any requests to lead a Sabbath School are to be submitted to the church office.

New Mural

A new mural was recently completed by Pastor Dustin Hall and his daughter Adelle. You can find it on the Rainbow's End wall facing Loveland Blvd!



Upcoming Events

Ongoing basis - Book Drive

August 7 - Teacher Dedication & Potluck

September 17 & 18 - Orlando Lopez from Florida Conference will lead a revival and evangelism event called "Refocus" This event will take place over two weekends.

September 24 & 25 - "Refocus" with Orlando Lopez

September 25 - Church Potluck



Welcome Home: celebrating the reunion of community

by Aubri Dancek

A bright blue “Welcome Home” banner greeted members they entered on “Homecoming Sabbath”. This June 12th service, filled with music, food, and free giveaways, was an invitation for members to return to church for in-person services, as many have not been able to attend since COVID-19.

Pastor Dustin Hall who moved to Port Charlotte during the height of the pandemic while fewer members were attending in person, states that he used the time to prepare for the relaunch of the church. “We really put a lot of emphasis on preparing our hearts for when we would reopen and took care of things on the property that needed to be addressed,” said Hall.

LaDonna Blom-Antonio, chairman of the church board, shared that while most of the plans focused on celebration, it was decided that a special prayer be included in the program to acknowledge the loss that many felt during the pandemic.

“There are people who have lost families...people whose lives were stopped. In this year, [the church can be] a healing agent,” said Blom-Antonio.



“We must do something to recognize what all of us have gone through, whether it was loneliness, missing events, or losing loved ones.”

The prayer was led by Associate Pastor Jaime Pombo, who lost his father to COVID-19 in January.

Homecoming Sabbath ended with a potluck and open mic where people enjoyed the food but most of all were “hungry to be together,” according to Blom-Antonio. The event was a success as an additional 30-40 members, who have not been coming in person, joined in the festivities. Many have continued to attend weekly. The church hopes to have similar events throughout the year to encourage the message of the community.

[Click here](#) for link to Homecoming Service



May Mystery Member - Andrea Williams



She is a middle child and was a mastermind for trouble.

She played a violin, piano and clarinet.

She loves to sew, but never by hand.

She never visited Rockefeller Center, even though she lived in New York for 34 years.

She met her husband when she was 13 but started dating him at 18.

She can type correctly with her eyes closed.

She started work in the banking industry before her current position.

She works very well with young people.

She loves roller coaster rides.

She loves to sing, and Sandi Patty is her favorite artist.

100% guessed correctly! Thank you for participating!

Church is moving to **one** service

Children and Adult Bible Study
10:00-10:45 a.m.

Worship Service
11:00 a.m.

The Adult Sabbath School that takes place in the sanctuary will continue to be live-streamed.

Newsletter Team:

Aubri Dancek: Guest Editor & Writer
Barbara Goffin - Photographer & Writer

Contact us at:

pcsdacommunication@gmail.com

Welcome to the Family



Pastor Jaime Pombo baptizing Brandon Molina

by Barbara Goffin

We would like to introduce you to the youngest member of our Port Charlotte SDA church family. On March 20, 2021 eight-year-old Brandon Molina gave his heart to Jesus and publicly demonstrated his love by being baptized. Brandon and his family have been attending here for the past seven years.

Brandon describes himself as an outgoing young man. He plays guitar, loves eating pizza, and spends his time playing Lego video games. He starts every day with a hug from his younger brother. Brandon attended Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer and mentioned several things he enjoyed: snacks, gym class (especially "Capture the Bacon") crafts, and storytime. "I loved that my friends were there with me," Brandon said. He is excited about starting third grade next month.

When it came to talking about his baptism, Brandon could hardly contain his joy, "The best part was being dunked in the water!" He stated the reason for his decision was because "I wanted to be part of God's family." He also enjoyed the big celebration with all the food that took place later that day. I think heaven was celebrating too!

Vacation Bible School: "You Are Treasured"

Vacation Bible School (VBS) took place in the PCAS gym from July 12th - 16th. Donna Judy and her team of 45 volunteers captivated the children's imaginations through music, Bible lessons, and numerous other activities. The theme for this year was "Treasured" where children discovered God's greatest treasure isn't the diamonds, jewels, or gold, but it is them. Forty-six children from the community registered to attend VBS. "God is good, we were blessed," said director Donna Judy.



Book Drive: Beginning August



Books will be collected on an **ongoing basis**. These books will be donated to families of babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Bayfront Hospital in Port Charlotte.

The hospital has asked us to provide **new, or like new, cardboard or plastic books** for babies. They will be giving each family the opportunity to choose one book when discharged.

TEACHER DEDICATION & POTLUCK

AUGUST 7

A POTLUCK WILL FOLLOW AFTER THE SERVICE.
PLEASE BRING ENOUGH FOOD FOR YOUR FAMILY
& TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.

Welcome Baby!

The Pombo's welcomed their baby boy into the world on July 19, 2021 at 8:59 am.

Full Name: Jaime Caleb Pombo
(goes by "Caleb")

Weight: 9 lbs, 2 oz

Height: 21 inches





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

**Follow us on
Facebook**



**Watch our
YouTube Channel**



Listen to our Podcast



Sermon Schedule

July 31

Pastor Dustin

August 7

Pastor Dustin

August 14

Pastor Dustin

August 21

Pastor Dustin

August 28

Pastor Dustin

Sabbath Morning Schedule

10:00 am - 10:45 am: Sabbath School

11:00 am: Worship Service

*All services in the sanctuary will be live streamed on our
YouTube Channel

We have a brand new church website!

Our prayer is that this website will be a tool that helps us create
relationships with new people.

Click [here](#) to view

Mystery Member



We think that you will be able
to guess who this month's
mystery member is.

CLICK HERE to find the clues.
THANK YOU for participating.

On August 7, during church, we
will reveal their identity!