



Volume 39, Issue 4

April 2017

**Port Orange
United Church of Christ**

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INTERIM PASTOR'S MESSAGE



John 9:25, "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

What better description of the meaning of Easter, than what the blind man who had been healed by Jesus says to the religious community, "Once I was blind, but now I can see!" Easter is a time of "new beginnings!" It is a story of dying and overcoming death in a new form. Like the phoenix rising anew out of the ashes of its older self, we can find transformation of our life through the power of God.

How do we explain Easter to others? How do we explain an empty tomb? How do we explain a resurrected Savior? These are all mysteries; events that cannot be explained.

That's about Christ! How about what goes on in our personal lives? How do we explain a transformative experience in our life? Quoting from Anna Carter Florence, Professor of Theology, Columbia Seminary, "So let description of the before and after be the thing. Once I saw the world like this; now I see it like this. Once I believed this; now I believe this. Once I lived in a place that I now see was blind to certain things. Now my eyes are opened, and here is what I see and know! Confess Jesus; do not explain him. In the end, all we can say is that we believe Jesus has changed us. We cannot tell how or why, or offer any proof that will be convincing. All we can say is, "before Jesus, my life was like this; since Jesus, my life is like this!"

With each new dawn, we have the opportunity to see a new way, to experience life differently than the day before. We as a faith community are being challenged to join in a transformative time in the life of this church. We did the work of Cross-Roads, looking at who we are, what gifts we possess, and how we are going to reach out into the larger community. This is in a sense a part of the Lenten walk. We are at a critical point in our journey – that of staying committed to our future. Like the disciples hiding in a room, discussing "what do we do now", I would encourage the four workshop committees to gather and assess where we are in achieving our goals.

Finding our sight means nothing unless we are willing to take action. This action cannot be done by just a few, but must be unified by all joining hands and working together. Think about what might have happened had not all the disciples seen Jesus after his resurrection? It is only when we act upon our encounter, our new vision, that the transformation is complete and useful.

What will the Easter story hold for Port Orange United Church of Christ this year?

Peace,

Pastor Steven

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Staff

Interim Pastor:

Rev. Steven Mitchell

Assistant Pastor:

Beverly Schafer

Pastor Emeritus:

Rev. Dr. Bill Ebbert

Office Manager:

Kathy Shaffner

Minister of Music:

Dr. Tom Naus

Media Communications:

Bob Brewster

Custodian:

Deb Viola

Thrift Store Manager:

Bob Gaither

Youth Leader:

Sher Buller

OPERATIONS TEAM



Your Operations Team met on March 13th and the following topics were discussed:

- **All Church Manual:** The Committee continues to work on this this project.
- **Exterior Doors, Down Spouts and Jim Reed Room Building Leaks:** Thanks to the gifts of time and resources by Billy and Peggy Wiggins ALL the exterior doors of the church have been painted, the roof leaks in the Jim Reed Building have been addressed, and a strategy for the ceiling repairs in the Jim Reed Building has been set in place. Painting of the Jim Reed Room will have to wait until ceiling is repaired.
- **Kitchen Sink Grout & Valve on Gas Stove:** Project to be addressed and completed in near future.
- **Secure Finance Area/Divide Room:** It was decided to construct a 8 foot room divider not a wall to allow return air flow for heat/air thus not requiring any permit from the city. Estimates for construction of the divider were obtained. Bob Brewster has made a generous offer to pay for the materials and Joey, Trey, and Van Thompson and Hal Francis have offered to help construct the wall.
- **Chancel Railing:** Estimates to install a single rail behind the Pastor's chair and along the organ has been obtained.
- **AT&T Cell Tower:** Talks between AT&T and Tom Besaw continue.
- **Easter Sunrise Service:** Lt. Max Binz of the Ponce Inlet Police Department has agreed to provide a traffic detail to direct traffic and parking. Permission has been secured from the Volusia County Beach Safety Division to allow an officer to tow our equipment trailer from the entrance ramp to the beach at the North Turn Restaurant to the service site at Winter Haven Park, allow us to keep it there during the service and return it to beach entrance at the conclusion of the service.
- **Parking Bumpers:** Estimate will be obtained to repair the broken bumper.

Next Operations meeting scheduled for **Monday, April 10, 2017 at 6:30 PM.**

Jim Eagan, Chair of Operations

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



We've had a busy March in the Gift & Thrift Shop with sales to date of \$8,000. Thanks to all who have donated, our valued customers and our wonderful and talented volunteers. Please keep the donations coming so that we can continue to help the church and the community. *Bob Gaither, Manager of the Thrift Store*

Financial Update - Operational Budget as 2/28/2017



	ACTUAL	YTD	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
	<u>Feb. 2017</u>	<u>Feb. 2017</u>	<u>Feb. 2017</u>	<u>Feb. 2017</u>
Income	\$13,005	\$29,690	\$23,245	\$ 6,445
Expenses	<u>13,941</u>	<u>28,128</u>	<u>27,562</u>	566
Net	\$ -936	\$ 1,562	\$- 4,317	

The finances look good so far and we should celebrate that. Keep up the good work. Please be forewarned that March has extra quarterly expenses for insurance and pension that total \$4,500.

Respectfully, Hal Francis, Treasurer

MISSION NOTES



A big 'Thank You' to those who have and continue to donate to our two focus Missions in February and March – Sophie's Circle (pet pantry) and the Women's Pregnancy Crisis Center. One trip was made in February to the WPCC and another one made at the end of April with many wonderful donations. Thank You notes from the WPCC are always sent and are posted on the bulletin board.

Our Sophie's Circle box in front of the Sanctuary is getting filled up, and it along with checks coming in, will be given to them at the end of this month. Please continue with your donations to these two wonderful Missions.

Seventeen beautifully handcrafted Afghans and 100 yarn Tumbleweed necklaces were delivered in February and March to Boggy Creek. Their supply of Afghans is low and we need your knitting and crocheting skills. Many thanks to Molly Baskin and her 'Knit Wits' group for their beautiful work. With theirs and your talents we can make a difference in these children's and families lives. Letters of appreciation for all these donations are posted on the bulletin board. (Pictures below)

Our focus Mission for April and May will be **The Council on Aging**. This is a new Mission for POUCC and we hope that we can make a generous donation to them with the following items: Depends for Women and Men (not diapers), and Boost and Ensure Nutritional drinks (vanilla and chocolate only). Also needed are new bed sheet sets (any size), towels, shampoos, conditioners, and cleaning supplies.



Sophie's Circle, the Sock Box, and Eyeglass collections continue year-round.

Thank you for your continued support of **all** our Mission Projects that benefit our local community.

Respectfully, *Peggy Wiggins, Chair of Missions*



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2016 CAMPAIGN: This offering reaches victims of disasters near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress around the world. Thanks for your generosity to date we have collected \$105 .

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, April 2nd is our next collection day and will benefit the Halifax urban Ministers. Over 19 bags of food were collected last month which benefited the Pantry. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky for loading and delivering the food. If we all bring a food donation, we will fill the basket each month. Please be generous and make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates.



YOUTH CORNER



Terrific Tuesdays Open to Middle and High School Youth Tuesday 6pm for dinner (\$3 each) - Activities 6:30-8pm



We have been having a lot of fun at Terrific Tuesday for the past several weeks as we gear up for the Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt & Brunch. Decorations have been put up in the Jim Reed Room and we are continuing to fill 400 eggs with candy. More activities for this event are planned for Terrific Tuesday over the coming week(s).

Saturday April 8th, we will be meeting to do folding of Palm Crosses (10am-12pm).

Sunday, April 9th, Palm Sunday, we will be meeting at 8am to help with the Easter Egg Hunt & Brunch.

Our youth are awesome!

NEWS & NOTES



As new members of the Chamber of Commerce, the organization will sponsor a ribbon cutting here this **Tuesday, April 4th 9:30 AM**. Refreshments will be served and all are invited to attend.

GROWING IN GRACE THROUGH GRIEF: Pastor Beverly is offering small-group opportunities for a compassionate journey through grief, whether your loss of a loved one is recent or from the distant past. Meeting times will be determined by the group and will begin after Easter. Sign-up sheet is in the Jim Reed Building.



HAPPENINGS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL UCC



UCC sends assistance to South Sudan and other African countries

The United Church of Christ is sending an initial \$85,000 in aid to South Sudan and three other African countries to help people combating a crisis fueled by war, severe drought and massive food shortages, with famine declared in some areas.

"Famine is not a word that is used lightly or that simply means a shortage of food. This crisis, this emergency demands our immediate attention and response," said Zach Wolgemuth, executive director, UCC Disaster Ministries. "The One Great Hour of Sharing funds that we've received from our generous donors allowed us to respond quickly and undoubtedly save lives." According to the United Nations, famine, which has been designated in parts of South Sudan, can be declared only when certain measures of mortality, malnutrition and hunger are present. At least 20 percent of households face extreme food shortages with a limited ability to cope; acute malnutrition rates exceed 30 percent; and the death rate exceeds two people a day among 10,000.

The UCC is responding to the crisis, along with other members of the global ecumenical community, coordinating their assistance through the ACT Alliance, which issued an appeal March 23 for nearly \$9.2 million. Partners will supply food, clean water, sanitation and hand washing equipment, non-food items, emergency health, protection and psychosocial support, seeds and tools.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Easter is fast approaching! As you can see, we have many worship opportunities available. Mark your calendars and plan to attend all of them.



April 9th - We will have our regular Sunday Schedule with members of the Port Orange Music Academy and their families joining in our 8:45 AM Worship Service and fellowship. Between services we be serving breakfast followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the POMA youth 5th grade and younger with our youth in charge of hiding the eggs. (Flyer on next page.)



April 13th, 6:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Fellowship Dinner

Since this falls on the second Thursday of month Fellowship Dinner, our service will include a Passover Meal connecting our Jewish heritage with our Christian practice using the Jewish Haggadah and concluding with communion. The meal will be covered dish as usual with one special addition of matzo ball soup.



April 14th, 7:00 PM - Good Friday

During the afternoon we are invited to attend the Good Friday Ecumenical Service at Grace Episcopal Church from noon to 3:00 PM and as a church we have a service beginning at 7:00 PM with the focus on the Stations of the Cross. We will be blessed by a special number by the Choir as well.



April 16th - 6:45 AM 37th Annual Sunrise Service - Winter Haven Park, Ponce Inlet and the **10:45 AM Sanctuary Service** with choral and instrumental music.



EASTER FLOWERS: See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary. Please note if your flower donation is "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" Loved One(s), purchase the flower(s), put your name on the bottom and deliver your flower(s) to the Jim Reed Room no later than **Friday, April 14th** so that they may be arranged for the 10:45 AM Easter Sunday Service. Please sign-up by **Sunday, April 9th**.

CANDY NEEDED: We are in need of bags of individually wrapped candy to fill the plastic eggs for the **Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt, April 9th**. Please drop off donations in the church office.



Sunrise Service
Volunteers Needed

On Thursday, April 13th at 10:00 AM to help fold the Easter Sunrise Service Bulletin. Also, volunteers needed for Easter Sunrise Service set-up on both **Saturday April 15th, 1:00 PM - Church** and **Sunday, April 16th 4:30 AM-Beach**. Sign-up sheet on Sanctuary bulletin board.



Brunch / Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday

APRIL 9th



**Come celebrate Easter early
as our guests!!**

Special Events:

Early Worship 8:45 a.m.

Special Music by:

PO Music Academy

Brunch @ 9:45 a.m.

Egg Hunt @ 10:15 a.m.

(for 5th grade and younger)

Later Worship 10:45 a.m.

**Port Orange UCC
651 Taylor Rd
Port Orange, FL 32127**

RSVP @ 386-788-0920



FELLOWSHIP



A big 'Thank You' to everyone that helped with the Celebration of Life for Bob Fisher. Upcoming events include:

Tuesday, April 4th, 9:30 AM — Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting

Sunday, April 9th, Between Service — Palm Sunday Breakfast

Breakfast Casseroles and Pastries to serve approximately 150

Maundy Thursday, April 13th — 6:00 PM — Seder Covered Dish Dinner with Matzo Ball Soup.

Don't forget to signup for the Sunday and Thursday Fellowship (Sheets in Jim Reed Room).

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE RECIPES

We all have our favorite recipes and we welcome the variety. For those that need a recipe, may we suggest the following:



Sausage Hash Brown Breakfast Casserole

- 2 pounds hot pork sausage,
- 1 (30 ounces package frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- 3 teaspoons salt, divided
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 cups milk
- 6 large eggs, beaten

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9 x 13 baking dish. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir sausage in the hot skillet until browned and crumbly, 5-7 minutes; drain and discard grease. Stir hash browns, cooked sausage, Cheddar cheese, 1 teaspoon salt, and black pepper together in a large bowl. Whisk milk, eggs, and remaining salt together in another bowl. Pour hash brown mixture into prepared baking dish, pour egg mixture evenly over hash brown mixture. Bake in preheated oven until bubbling and golden, about 45 minutes. Serves 10-12

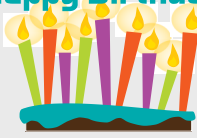
Easy Cheese and Broccoli Breakfast Casserole

- 12 medium eggs
- 1/4 cup 2% milk
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 12 oz. bag broccoli florets chopped and sautéed
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese



Preheat oven to 325°F. Whisk eggs well, stir in all ingredients carefully until well combined. Pour ingredients into a 9 x 13 baking dish or a casserole dish coated with cooking spray. Bake for 40 minutes or until set. Cut and Serve warm. Serves 10-12.

Happy Birthday!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS*

Shelia Fisher	4/1
Kay Russell	4/3
Alice Lynn Feldman	4/4
Saira Ramoutar	4/5
Patricia Kirkley	4/8
Diana Mulley	4/13
Louise Johnson	4/18
Paul Neiss	4/19
Paul Allen	4/29



Pastor Steven and Beverly Woodacre celebrating the 55th Anniversary of Bishop Glen on Tuesday, March 28th!



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Natalie Blasiman	Friend of Members
Sherry Bonnell	Sister of Gail Besaw
Eva Brewster	Friend of POUCC
Karen Donahue	Member of the Kransi Family
Shirley Harper	Member of POUCC
Jack & Pat Hilgenberg	Members of POUCC
Jimmy Hill	Brother of Val Hill
John Holbrook	Brother of Ruth Brewster
Scott Kirlin	Husband of Diane Kirlin
Roger Kransi	Brother of Harold Kransi
Carol Lewis	Friend of the Deitch Family
Sandy Morris	Sister of Pastor Steven
Elsie Neal	Aunt of Pastor Steven in Hospice
David Pickels	Brother of Bonnie Morisset
Margaret Procter	Friend of POUCC
John Shell	Son of Sue Barhite
Michelle Stewart	Friend of the Wiggins Family
Carol Strickland	Former Member of POUCC
Jim Turner	Husband of Sue Turner
Eric Walter	Friend of the Buller

In Care Facilities

Jeanette Campbell	Member of POUCC (Care Center in MA)
June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Center in PA)
Blanche Northcutt	Former Member of POUCC (Life Care Center in Collegedale, TN)
Eloise Wottke	Former Member of POUCC (Onalaska Care Center in Onalaska, WI)

Special Note

We recently received word that Margaret Procter suffered a stroke and is currently in a rehab center. Well wishes may be sent to her home address: 12904 Springdale Village, Creve Cover, MO 63146

Special Needs

All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families

Broader Concerns

- Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide
- First Responders Everywhere
- Victims of Recent Storms Throughout the Country

**Please contact the Church Office (788-0920) with*

Note: *Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your special date .

POUCC APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	3 POMA 3:45 pm Compassionate Friends 6:00 pm	4 Lenten Study 1:30 & 6:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	5 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	6 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	7	8
9 Contemporary 8:45 am Breakfast & Egg Hunt Traditional 10:45 am	10 Operations Meeting 6:30 pm	11 Lenten Study 1:30 & 6:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	12 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	13  Fellowship Dinner/Service 6:00 pm	14 Eccumenical Service Noon-3:00 pm  7:00 pm	15
16 Easter Sunrise Service 6:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	17 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	18 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	19 CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	20 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	21	22
23 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	24	25 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	26 POMA 4:00 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	27 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	28	29

30 Contemporary
8:45 am
Sunday School
9:45 am
Traditional
10:45 am

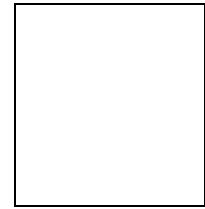
Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 3 pm, Sat. 9 am – Noon

Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm

Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments Each Sunday Between Services

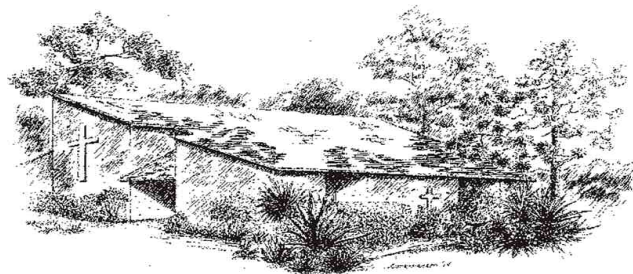
COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE: APRIL—THRIFT STORE, MAY—FELLOWSHIP

Port Orange
United Church of Christ
651 Taylor Road
Port Orange, FL 32127



Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Steven Mitchell
Assistant Pastor: Beverly Schafer
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. C. William Ebbert
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Office Hours

9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Thrift Store Hours

9:00 AM—3:00 PM
Monday—Friday
9:00 AM—Noon
Saturday

Sunday Worship

8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM