



Volume 40, Issue 4

April 2018

**Port Orange
United Church of Christ**
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SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I sit in my study writing this article, I realize that spring officially begins this week. I needed to look at a calendar because looking outside, I'd never believe it. I'm still not use to spring being like summer. Spring here in Florida kind of sneaks up on me. I have noticed the grass is growing faster and the sunlight last longer every day. I'm sure glad I have faith in the calendar that states spring is officially coming soon.

Having faith that spring will really come and new growth will occur is based on the history of our planet. Spring has always come, bringing the new birth of firmly planted seeds.

Our Christian faith is similar. We have faith our God is always there for us and we celebrate God giving us His son during this season. Jesus Christ was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday, giving us the promise of new life beyond what we can ever imagine here in our earthly bodies.

I believe we take all of this in stride and sometimes take it all for granted. It's true, spring always comes and Jesus is always there to forgive our sins; ho-hum. NO! We cannot take the ho-hum attitude. Even though the promise of how Jesus Christ will forgive us and take away our sins is true, we must always be celebrating the risen Christ. **Live everyday as an Easter day.** The Lord has risen, He is risen indeed!

By the time you read this, Easter Day may have come and gone but the season of Easter has just begun. I'm praying everyone will continue to come and worship every week.

Go out and tell it to your neighbors, friends, relatives, co-workers, and anyone else within earshot. God has truly blessed all of us. Go out and share His many blessings with all who come in contact with you.

The Love of God be with you,

Pastor Glenn



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Staff

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Glenn S. Rice

Assistant Pastor:
Beverly Schafer

Pastor Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. Bill Ebbert

Minister of Music:
Dr. Tom Naus

Youth Leader:
Sher Buller

Office Manager:
Kathy Shaffner

Custodian:
Deb Viola

Thrift Store Manager:
Bob Gaither

Media Communications:
Bob Brewster &
Stephanie Whitman

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS



- Our congregation is a small part of the greater Christian church and all the vast history which goes with it. There are so many symbols used in churches and worship. Examples would be: **Bread - the body of Christ; Wine - the blood of Christ; Water - we are cleansed in Christ**
The Alter candles; The Epistle (on the right) - represents the New Testament Letters
The Gospel (on the left) - represents the Good News.

Candles always remind us of Jesus, the light of the world, and of those dangerous days when Christians had to hide in secret to worship and share the Holy Communion. Speaking of the alter candles, the light of Christ is carried in by an acolyte to light the alter candles. This represents Christ (the light) being present with us during the worship of our God. At the end of worship, I would like the acolyte to carry the light of Christ back out of the sanctuary into world for us to follow (follow Christ, to be his hands in this world).

- I'd like to share a brief history of a Paschal Candle in the Christian church.
Currently, the large candle by the communion table is being called the Christ candle. The Christ candle is the candle used during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. It is the large, white candle in the center of the Advent wreath. This candle is lit on Christmas Eve (the beginning of the Christmas season) and lit during the following Sunday(s) during the Christmas season.
The paschal candle is an ancient symbol of the risen Jesus and commonly used during the Great Fifty Days of Easter. The Paschal Candle is the first light of Easter that leads the faithful into the darkened church. It is a very large white candle, the largest and tallest of all sanctuary candles. The Paschal Candle remains lit for all the season of Easter, through Ascension Thursday to Pentecost. After that, it is removed from its place next to the Gospel side of the altar and placed near the baptismal font. During the rest of the year, it is lighted at baptisms to remind Christians how in baptism we are crucified and raised with Jesus (Romans 6:3-5). The paschal candle is lighted at Christian funerals as a reminder that those who die in Christ are raised up with Him. This candle is also lit each time a new member is brought into the church.
- Please inform Kathy Shaffner or Pastor Glenn of anyone who will be graduating (high school, college, grad school) this spring.

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

As I write this, we are getting ready to celebrate our 38th Easter Sunrise service at the beach. I want to thank everyone who is working to get this celebration ready for April 1st. We are all hoping the tides and the weather all cooperate. I talked about the Pastor's Discretionary Fund several weeks ago. This is a fund that is used if a church member has unexpected financial problem. This fund has been depleted, we need help in putting money back into it. Thank you for your consideration. It is good to have Pastor Glenn here and we look forward to all the work he we will be doing with us!



Respectfully, *Kathy Cratin, Moderator*

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES



March 29th –7:00 PM – The Upper Room Supper and The Tenebrae Service of Shadows and Darkness.

March 30th, Noon to 3:00 PM - During the afternoon we are invited to attend the Good Friday Ecumenical Service “The Seven Last Words of Christ” at Grace Episcopal Church. on Ridge-wood Avenue.



April 1st – 6:45 AM 38th Annual Sunrise Service – Winter Haven Park, Ponce Inlet and the **10:45 AM Sanctuary Service** with choral and instrumental music.



ASSISTANT PASTOR'S MESSAGE



How are you doing with filling your soul with spiritual nourishment through Lent? Depending upon when you are reading this, Easter is either just around the corner or you have already experienced the ultimate opportunity for enriching your sin-sick soul. I'm an early riser who thrives on communing with God as I take that first sip of coffee in the wee small hours of the morning when even the birds are still fast asleep. The cardinals are the first to break the peaceful silence as they introduce the next chapter of my morning which is soon filled with the sound of squirrels scurrying through the treetops. Next come the squawking blue jays demanding their morning portion of peanuts before the squirrels or my awesome Holly and precious Porsche gobble up the remaining treats. The sun now breaks through the horizon, announcing the dawning of a new day.

This routine of mine has become a daily reminder of that first Easter morning when the three women hurried to the tomb in darkness to properly prepare the body of Jesus for burial. Sadness, shock, disappointment, anger, fear, skepticism was soon replaced with surprise, relief, belief and jubilation! Mary was bursting with so much joy and energy that she ran all the way back to tell the Disciples that Jesus had arisen from the dead. This is the first time I have ever had this thought, but just imagine your reaction to your most dearly departed loved one suddenly coming back to life! Would you be shocked and filled with skepticism and fear? For sure you'd be surprised, relieved, and filled with joy! As Christians, we believe that our Risen Lord on that first Easter morning is God's promise to us that one day we will be reunited with our loved ones, and it is that reassuring promise from God that fills our hearts with joy as we greet one another with the words, HAPPY EASTER!

Joyfully,

Pastor Beverly

DEACON'S CORNER

The Deacons urge everyone to display their name tags during services and various Church functions. The name tags will help Pastor Rice more quickly put names and faces together. We are also experiencing a growth of new people joining us in worship and Church functions. This will help them getting to know each of us better.



At the March Deacons meeting, after a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the hanging "decorations" would be displayed during the Easter season, Pentecost, reformation Sunday, Christmas eve and the following two Sundays. The hangings may also be displayed on other special occasions. The discussion has been centered around the "decorations" hanging above the congregation, not the banners behind the altar. To some, they were purely decorations, to others they represented liturgical colors.

The use of colors to differentiate liturgical seasons became a common practice in the Western church in about the fourth century. The Lutheran and Anglican churches that emerged from the reformation retained the traditional colors but they gradually disappeared entirely from the worship of the Reformed churches. During the 20th century, the ecumenical Liturgical Movement prompted the rediscovery of the old Christian ritual – including the traditional colors of the Western churches. The Season and corresponding colors are Advent-Blue, Christmas-White, Epiphany-Green, Lent-Purple, Easter-White, Pentecost-Red, Season after Pentecost-Green.

Briefly, the colors express emotions and ideas that are associated with each season or holiday. Congregations in the United Church of Christ have the freedom to use any combination of colors or no particular color at all. We, at Port Orange United Church of Christ, will be utilizing the colors for special occasions. Respectfully, *Charlie Baskin, Deacon's Secretary*

OPERATIONS TEAM



Your Operations Team met on March 12th and the following topics were discussed:

Old Business

- **Storm Mission** - Two Quick Dam Flood Barriers have been purchased.

New Business

- **Security System Purchase** - To be forward to the Council for review.
- **Sanctuary Lighting** - Two fixtures above choir loft need repaired and cylinder lighting fixtures need to be changed to soft white LED bulbs.
- **Chamber of Commerce Membership** - Will be extended another year.
- **Sanctuary Camera** - Discussion on permanently mounting the camera (donated by friends) used to record sermons.

Next Operations meeting scheduled for **Monday, April 9, 2018 at 6:30 PM.**

Billy Wiggins, Sr., Chair of Operations

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE

We've had a busy March in the Gift & Thrift Shop with sales to date of \$7,000. Thanks to all who have donated, our valued customers and our wonderful and talented volunteers. We need more volunteers; if you're interested contact me at 290-2726 or stop in the shop. 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 2/28/2018

	ACTUAL	YTD	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
	<u>Feb. 2018</u>	<u>Feb. 2018</u>	<u>Feb. 2018</u>	<u>Feb. 2018</u>
Income	\$ 13,948	\$ 28,290	\$ 24,230	\$ 4,060
Expenses	<u>\$ 11,912</u>	<u>\$ 24,838</u>	<u>\$ 28,287</u>	(\$3,449)
Balance	\$ 2,036	\$ 3,452	(\$ 4,057)	

The income is better than expected because of annual pledges being paid in a single payment in January and February. However, March will not be kind to our budget. Thanks for your continuing generosity. Respectfully, *Hal Francis, Treasurer*

YOUTH CORNER



Our youth group is thriving! Over the past three months we have had anywhere from 8 to 16 youth attend each week. We are studying Scripture during our time together. As we explore scripture together, God is truly in the midst. The youth take turns reading Scripture. The ensuring conversations help to explore and see how we connect these sacred stories with our current day lives. Of course there is always time for fun as well. This past week, after our meal, we enjoyed dying Easter eggs, and then moved into our study on the Passion of Christ. A truly moving experience.

Our request for additional adults has been met by Dave Whitman, Cyndy Carrig, Deb Pack, Tom Buller, Sue Turner, and Pastor Glenn as they attend when they are able. THANK YOU!

It is amazing to see the youth respond to Scripture exploration. Our spiritual journey is a lifetime journey. It is an awesome and humbling experience to be a part of our youth's spiritual journey.

In Faith, *Sher Buller, Youth Leader*

MISSION NOTES



I am amazed at the outpouring of support you have all given our two missions these past two months— **The Women's Pregnancy Crisis Center** and **Sophie's Circle**. We have collected many beautiful and useful baby items, as well as \$60, as of 3/18 in donations for the **WPCC** and \$350, as of 3/18 for **Sophie's Circle** and we are filling up the display box in the Sanctuary with dog and cat food. Thank You!

April 3rd we are excited to bring back **Spruce Creek Elementary's** "KASH FOR KIDS" Mission and this will last through July. If anyone is interested in doing a "Matching Fund" in Any Amount, please see a committee member. Our Mission's Team will match the first \$200 we receive. Ms. Tina Howard, SCES Guidance Counselor, has agreed to speak again to the congregation on **Sunday, April 15th**. Ms. Howard will talk about how our funds have been used in the past year and how they will be used in the future.

A trip was made to **Boggy Creek** by Jackie Gaither and myself on February 22nd with 16 afghans from Molly's Knit Wits and two afghans and 20 men's ties from Bob and the Thrift Store. Thank you both! As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, if anyone is interested in a tour of Boggy Creek, please see me or another committee member.

I spoke to the contact person for **Holy Joe's Café** on March 1st, Tom Jastermasky, and the he thanked POUCC for their donations and said our checks would go for coffee to Florida's Eglin Air Force Base located in Okaloosa County. Specifically, the funds would be for the Hulbert Field's Special Forces, an installation base of Eglin.



Sophie Circle, Eyeglass Donations, The Sock Box, Aluminum Can Tabs and Newspaper Collections Continue Year Round. Thank You! *Peggy Wiggins, Chair of Missions*



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2018 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 \$286.

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. Since Food Basket Sunday is on Easter Sunday April 1st and the early service will be at the beach, donations may be brought in through Sunday, April 8th. Over 23 bags of food were collected last month which benefits the **Halifax Urban Ministries Pantry**. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart 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.



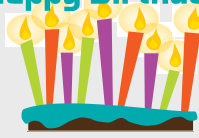
SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER



Every Second Thursday at 6:00 PM, POUCC has a wonderful Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed Room. March's dinner was well attended with a great variety of food and super entertainment.

Make your plans to come to the next dinner Thursday, April 12th. It's "Pot Luck". Sign-up Sheet will be circulated at Services.

Happy Birthday!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS*

Shelia Fisher	4/1
Kay Russell	4/3
Alice Lynn Feldman	4/4
Saira Ramoutar	4/5
Kurt Rice	4/6
Patricia Kirkley	4/8
Diana Mulley	4/13
Louise Johnson	4/18
Paul Neiss	4/19
Paul Allen	4/29

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

SPECIAL MENTIONS



LADIES LUNCHEON: For April will be held at **Bob Evans on Dunlawton Ave. in Port Orange on Wednesday, April 11th at Noon.** See you there!

We wish to thank all for the cards, prayers and calls on the passing of my brother John. It was of great comfort to us.
Ruth and Bob Brewster



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Cecilia Airaldi	Friend of the Schafer-Ramoutar Family
April Bastile	Family Member of Sheila Fisher
Lisa Pratt-Benson	Friend of Pamela Schafer
Bob Brewster	Member of POUCC
Beth Brown	Daughter of Sheila Fisher
Tom Buller	Member of POUCC
F/F of Clyde Bussard	Member of POUCC
Amy Dyer	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Lionel Gervais	Friend of the Wiggins Family
Jack & Pat Hilgenberg	Members of POUCC
Dale Hill	Sister-in-Law of Valerie Hill
Jimmy Hill	Brother of Val Hill
Shelly Hill	Daughter of Mary Ann Stewart
F/F of John Holbrook	Brother of Ruth Brewster
Carol Jarvis	Friend of Carol Rogers
Scott Kirlin	Husband of Diane Kirlin
Roger Kransi	Brother of Harold Kransi
Joe Magsamen	Friend of Sher Buller
Sandie McClellan	Friend of the Deitch Family
Tommy McDonough	Stepbrother of Joe Thompson
Leslie Neese	Friend of the Stewart Family
John Shell	Son of Sue Barhite
Michelle Stewart	Friend of the Wiggins Family
Carol Strickland	Friend of POUCC
Bill Tinney	Friend of POUCC
Eric Walter	Friend of the Buller Family
Donna Weber	Niece of Dorothy Manser
James Wood	Friend of Sher Buller

In Care Facilities

Jeanette Campbell	Member of POUCC (Care Center in MA)
June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Center in PA)
Marge Monat	Member of POUCC (Care Center in Daytona Beach)
Blanche Northcutt	Former Member of POUCC (Care Center in TN)
Eloise Wottke	Former Member of POUCC (Care Center in WI)
Beverly Woodacre	Member of POUCC (Care Center in NY)

Special Needs

All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families

Broader Concerns

Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide
First Responders Everywhere

***Please contact the Church Office (788-0920) with your prayer requests.**

POUCC APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter Sunrise Service 6:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	2 POMA 4:30 pm Compassionate Friends 6:00 pm Deacon;s Mtg. 6:30 pm	3 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	4 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	5 POMA 4:30 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	6	7
8 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	9 POMA 4:30 pm Operations Meeting 6:30 pm	10 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	11 Ladies Lunch Noon Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	12 POMA 4:30 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	13	14
15 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	16 POMA 4:30 pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm	17 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	18 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	19 POMA 4:30 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	20	21 Clyde Bussard Memorial Service 11:00 am
8 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	23 POMA 4:30 pm	24 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	25 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	26 POMA 4:30 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	27	28
29 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	30 POMA 4:30 pm					

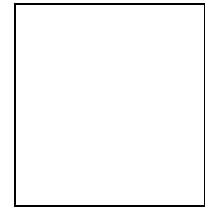
Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 3 pm, Sat. 9 am – Noon

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

Senior Pastor: Rev. Glenn S. Rice
Assistant Pastor: Beverly Schafer
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. C. William Ebbert
Minister of Music: Dr. Tom Naus
Youth Leader: Sher Buller
Office Manager: Kathy Shaffner
Custodian: Deb Viola
Thrift & Gift Store Manager: Bob Gaither
Media Communications: Bob Brewster & Stephanie Whitman



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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

Children's Sunday School

8:45 AM

Adult Discussion & Middle School Sunday

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM