



Port Orange
United Church of Christ
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August 2023

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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Thought for the Month: *Now we see things imperfectly as in a poor mirror but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. 1 Corinthians 13:12*

From the Pastor's Desk:

We certainly are in the midst of a Florida summer right now. The heat, humidity, and thunderstorms remind us daily of where we live. Hopefully, your air conditioning keeps working to keep you comfortable.

A few days ago, I read something that had me thinking of my family's annual summer trip to a nearby amusement park. Did you ever go into a Fun House at an amusement park or fair? When I was a child once a summer, we would go to Lincoln Park in a nearby town. It was a local amusement park that had a Fun House with dark hallways you had to walk through. I loved knowing we were near the end of the walk when we came to a room that had mirrors on each side. They were what you would call "magic mirrors" with concave and convex surfaces that portrayed our images as anything but normal.

The images would be contorted – sometimes short and stubby and others long and pencil-thin. As children, we would giggle as we twisted and turned, stretched and squatted in front of the mirrors. Our imperfect reflections really amused us.

Scripture says that, in life, we see our circumstances imperfectly as in a poor mirror. That reflection rarely evokes laughter and delight. It often appears unfair, harsh, or painful.

I experienced this when my grandmother died a while back. I was in Toronto at a conference and couldn't get back in time for her memorial service. I felt alone, disconnected from my family during the days following her death. I wondered why God, in all God's sovereignty allowed this timing. I even struggled with feeling as though serving God required too great a sacrifice.

A number of years have passed since that experience, and I still don't see God's purposes clearly. But I know this – someday Jesus will set it right. "We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us! (1 Corinthians 13:12 The Message).

(Continued on next page)

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Patricia Holcomb

Office Manager:

Kathy Shaffner

Custodian:

Ronnie Servant

Thrift Store:

Bob Gaither

Media Communications:

Bob Brewster

Maybe you, too, have experienced heartache or puzzling circumstances. Gazing into the mirror of your situation only yields a contorted image of what's really happening. Doubts arise. Questions abound. Hope struggles to survive.

Take heart. Jesus knows the end from the beginning. Trust him. Someday everything will become clear as the Fun House mirrors are removed.

Enjoy this summer season and may we all pray over the next few months that "hurricane season" in Florida looks kindly on us and passes us by without a storm.

Blessings,

Pastor Pat

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



Sometimes I just feel overwhelmed, not in a negative way but in a way that is still positive but where there just does not seem to be enough time or a way to get things done. How many of you have felt this feeling? On Sunday morning, in the opening of each church service, after announcements are made, our Pastor Pat always tells us to "relax, close your eyes, take a deep breath and enjoy the moment we are in". For me even a moment like this makes me feel good. That simple advice of taking a deep breath and relaxing is a welcome relief from the hustle bustle of regular life. In that moment, I realize how fortunate we all are to have a church that we can visit on Sundays to share a common spiritual time

with each other. In that single moment, as short as it is, I feel a release of the daily tension that comes the other six days of the week. How many of you feel that way? I hope everyone does in one manner or another because we all need it. Life can be incredibly challenging no matter how comfortable we may be or feel on a daily basis. If we are not worrying about ourselves, we are worrying about someone else. If we do not have a health concern for ourselves, we know someone who does. If we are financially well off, we know others who are not. If we are emotionally very calm, we know others who are in turmoil. None of us are islands, isolated from the world. We are connected to others whether we like it or not. In this NEW "Connected" world where a hand carried cell phone can bring the entire world to our eyes and ears, no matter where we live, work or play, the ability to take a moment to relax and take a deep breath seems to never come. This can be very frustrating for some. I would like everyone to try something. Using Pastor Pat's request of us on Sundays as an example, let us all try to do it a few more times during the week, perhaps once a day or even several times a day. I think the results could be very enlightening. Maybe even spiritually healing. What if in that brief but powerful moment of relaxing and taking a deep breath with our eyes closed, we also reinforce God's presence in each of our individual lives? What could that do? Think about the possibilities! Faithfully submitted, *Bob Brewster, POUCC Moderator*

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, August 6th is our next collection day and will benefit "Halifax Urban Ministries." Over 38 bags of food were collected last month for the pantry. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart for delivering the food to the pantry. Please make sure your donations have not exceeded their expiration date. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



OPERATION'S & FINANCE TEAM



As you all may have noticed, projects around the Church are ongoing and I will have a updated report in next month's Newsletter. *Art Horton, Chairman*

Financial Update Operational Budget as 6/30/203

	<u>JUNE ACTUAL</u>	<u>YTD ACTUAL</u>	<u>YTD BUDGET</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
Income	\$ 10,023.50	\$ 82,110.45	\$ 55,216.00	\$ 26,894.39
Expenses	\$ 8,478.00	\$ 66,744.10	\$ 71,955.10	\$ 5,11.00
Profit/(Loss)	\$ 1,545.50	\$ 15,366.35	\$ 16,739.04	\$ 32,105.39



Other Income/Expenses 6/31/2023

Capital Improvements

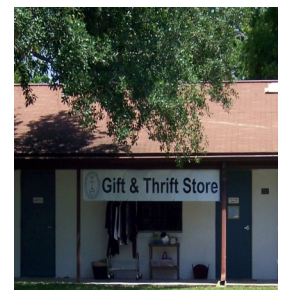
	<u>YTD ACTUAL</u>	<u>YTD BUDGET</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
Income	\$ 4,090.00	\$.00	\$ 4,090.00
Expenses	\$ 7,564.38	\$.00	\$ 7,564.38
Profit/Loss	\$(3,478.38)	\$.00	\$(3,474.38)

Combined Profit/(Loss) \$11,897.97 \$ 16,739.04 \$ 26,631.01

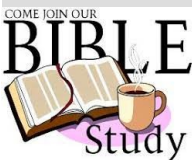
The Capital Improvements that are being done to our property have been separated out from our Operating Account to properly account for the increased value to our property. As noted above we had a profit of \$11,891.97 as of June 31st but we have not yet been billed for any of the improvements and when we do get those bills our profit will vanish, but, we will be left with much needed improvements. We are grateful for the rental income we have from Mountain of Life Church and Weight Watchers and, of course, our Thrift Store which enable us to make these changes. Thank you to our volunteers and all who support our special place. Respectfully Submitted, *Barbara Horton, Treasurer*

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE

The giveaway was a huge success We had a large number of people . The next time it will be in cooler weather and when the snowbirds are back. Donations continue to bless us. The volunteer team did a great job. This giveaway project was Emily's idea and she did a fantastic job. Christmas items are selling well and we have reduced the stored items. We removed the old carpet from the furniture area. This enables us to move items more easily and display more furniture. Thanks to all for your support. *Jackie & Bob Gaither Managers*



BIBLE STUDY



POUCC "Wired Word" Bible Study will always be held on the **1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary following Fellowship.** Topic lessons for August:

August 6, 2023: Conflict of churches on women pastors and what the Bible says about women in leadership, church discipline, biblical authority and the role women play in faith development.

August 20, 2023: Our personalities can change as we get older. Biblical characters that changed.

Happy Birthday!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS*

Doreen Wheeler	8/8
Bill Nicholls	8/10
Joe Rogers	8/17
Joanne Flatt	8/19
Betty Shepherd	8/22



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES*

Tom & Mary Ann Sumners	8/26/1989
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Note: *Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your special date.

PRAYER REQUESTS*

Charlie & Molly Baskin	Members of POUCC
Deb Blimkie	Canadian friend of Sheila Fisher
Bob Brewster	Member of POUCC
Beth & Chris Brown	Daughter & Son-in-Law of Sheila Fisher
Rafael Castels	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Lour Gillholy	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Harry & Jim Manchester	Family of Sheila Fisher
Luanne Mauldin	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Liz Mills	Former Member of POUCC
Hollie Morgan	Family friend of Sheila Fisher
Howie Mumma	Friend of Sharon Williamson
Jeremy Parker	Canadian friend of Sheila Fisher
Carmella Potenza	Granddaughter of Don & Denise Gates
Kay & Don Schweitzer	Members of POUCC
John Sedgwick	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Tammy & Danny	Friends of Ann Tobin
Seth Wanie	Family of Bill & Susie Greiff
Darlene Wolfson	Friend of Sheila Fisher

In Care Facilities

June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Center, PA)
Margie Hoebing	Friend of POUCC (Care Center, PO)
Marge Monat	Member of POUCC (Care Center, DB)

Special Needs

Victims of the Caronavirus and Those on the Front Line Fighting the Virus
All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families
Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide & First Responders Everywhere

**Please contact the Church office (788-0920) with your prayer request.*

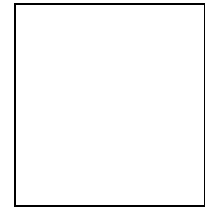


POUCC August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Mountain of Light Church		1 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	2	3 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	4	5 Weigh Watchers 7:30 am & 9:00 am
6 Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am MOL* Worship 5:00 pm	7 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	8 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	9	10 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	11	12 Weigh Watchers 7:30 am & 9:00 am
13 Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL Worship 5:00 pm	14 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	15 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	16	17 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	18	19 Weigh Watchers 7:30 am & 9:00 am Council Mtg. 10:00 am
20 Worship Service 9:30 10:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am MOL* Worship 5:00 pm	21 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	22 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	23	24 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	25	26 Weigh Watchers 7:30 am & 9:00 am
27 Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL Worship 5:00 pm	28 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	29 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	30	31 Weight Watchers 9:30 am		

*Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am - 2 pm, Sat. 9 am - Noon
Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm*

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Thrift Store: Bob & Jackie Gaither
Media Communications: Bob Brewster

Office Hours

9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Thrift Store Hours

9:00 AM—2:00 PM
Monday—Friday
9:00 AM—Noon

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM

Fellowship Hour

10:30 AM



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