



Volume 39, Issue 12

December 2017

INTERIM PASTOR'S MESSAGE

**Port Orange
United Church of Christ**
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Isaiah 9:6b “...and he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

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One of my grandmother’s favorite songs to hum as she worked around the house during the holidays was, “*It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas.*” The song talks about all the outward signs of what we see as representations of Christmas. Things like: the stores shimmering with decorations, toys displayed everywhere, holly hanging above doors, school vacation, Christmas trees lit up both in and out door, and the sound of Christmas music everywhere.

Then the song shifts from the external examples to the internal with the phrase, “*And the thing that will make them ring is the carol that you sing right within your heart.*” In this one line is the sole reason why Christmas is so special. It is the time of year where our hearts are opened up, magically almost, to the wonderful experience of love; a season where it is hard to escape the urge to share something with someone.

Maybe it is the warm glow of the multi-colored lights, the tinsel that hangs from the tree, the music that is being played in every store, or the smells of baking. But I think it goes deeper than all these external senses. I think it to be intuitive of the gift of love that we were given over two thousand years ago; in the person of one little boy whose name is Jesus.

The prophet Isaiah foretold the world about a special person who would be called *wonderful counselor* and *prince of peace*. It is through the life of this little baby boy who has given so many in the world hope in their darkest hours; peace within our hearts when called upon; and sound council when we seek it.

Although we celebrate the birth of Jesus with such warmth, it is his sacrifice for all that makes possible the celebration of Christmas. A time where we remember how special life itself is and how our actions can bring much needed joy and comfort into others lives. And when we open our hearts to this love, we discover how this love comes back to us in greater abundance. For God loved the world in this way – that none should be lonely, or lost, or forgotten, but that all should find peace, comfort, joy, and community through His presence. That presence exists in our heart. May this be a most warm and loving Christmas to you all!

Peace

Pastor Steven

Staff

Interim Pastor:
Rev. Steven Mitchell
Assistant Pastor:
Beverly Schafer
Pastor Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. Bill Ebbert
Minister of Music:
Dr. Tom Naus
Office Manager:
Kathy Shaffner
Youth Leader:
Sher Buller
Custodian
Deb Viola
Thrift Store Manager:
Bob Gaither
Media Communications:
Bob Brewster

ASSISTANT PASTOR REPORT



Six individuals responded to my plea to form an Emergency Response Team for creating a plan to put into place should disaster strike, and also for hurricane preparedness and follow-up assistance should any of our church family be in need of such services. Our planning team members include Charlie Baskin, Kathy Cratin, Jackie Gaither, Tim Schafer and myself. Bob Brewster and Sher Buller will also join our team, but were unable to attend the initial meeting.

VIOLENT SITUATIONS: Tim placed a call inviting Sheriff Chitwood to speak with either our team or congregation regarding what plans we are considering, and to make additional suggestions he and his department may deem necessary. (A News-Journal article stated that Flagler County's Sheriff Department is offering such a plan for houses of worship in Flagler County.)

NATURAL DISASTERS: We will contact everyone in our church family through our "One-Call" system, saying to please call or text Pastor Beverly (295-6838) ONLY IF STAYING IN THEIR HOME during the event so our disaster follow-up call team will know to check on them after danger has passed.

Many thanks to those of you who have already volunteered for follow-up specialty teams: Meals (Stephanie Whitman), Transportation to Medical Appointments and Food Shopping (Kathy Cratin and Janna Thompson), Follow-Up Call Team (Helen Holmes, Danean Zimba, Faith Coppolo, Mary Ann Stewart, and Jackie Gaither).

Additional specialty teams in need of volunteers: Hurricane Prep, Temporary Housing, Indoor Cleanup, Outside Cleanup, Minor Repairs.

Although the church building is not structurally approved as a hurricane shelter, it would be a comfortable escape from the heat in the event of loss of power for A/C.

KEEP IN MIND THAT PRAYERFULLY WE MAY NEVER NEED EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS, BUT THERE IS COMFORT IN BEING PREPARED.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Beverly

THE GIFT & THRIFT STORE

With five weeks left in the year, we have reached our goal of \$24,000. This was made possible with your donations and the hard work of our volunteers. We hope to reach \$26,000 by the end of the year.

Due to health issues, personal reasons and moves we say goodbye to volunteers Terry McCormack, Carol Rogers, Faith Coppolo and Roger Harper. Thank you for your dedication; you will be missed by customers and co-workers. If you are interested in this volunteer mission please contact me (Bob Gaither). May God bless all of you and have a Merry Christmas. *Bob Gaither, Manager*



2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN OUR CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION



When I became a part of the group who put this church together Stewardship was all about the money. That was so we could grow. As years have passed I began to see Stewardship as:

- S - SERVING OTHERS**
- T - TAKING TIME TO SHARE YOUR FAITH**
- E - EXTRA GIVING WHEN NEEDED**
- W - WILLINGNESS TO GIVE TIME & TALENT**
- A - ACTION SHOW WHO YOU ARE**
- R - REACTING WITH LOVE AND AFFIRMATION**
- D - DECIDING TO COMMIT TO GIVING REGULARLY**
- S - SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES OF GOD MOMENTS**
- H - HEEDING THE WORD**
- I - INSPIRING OTHERS TO PARTICIPATE AND GIVE**
- P - PRAYING CONTINUOUSLY**

Reminder: Pledge Sunday is December 3rd.

MY PERSONAL GOAL TO GOD AND TO PORT ORANGE UCC

Out of gratitude for God's gifts and trusting God's enabling power, I/we have made the following faith-promise:

\$125	\$50	\$25	\$10
\$100	\$35	\$20	Other _____
\$ 75	\$30	\$15	

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____



OPERATIONS TEAM



The Operations Team met on November 13th and the following topics were discussed.

Old Business

- Leak in kitchen has been repaired.
- Jim Reed room has been renovated including:

Room has been painted (all supplies and tools donated with the exception of paint); Ceiling has been stripped and painted; Hardware on sliders have been replaced HVAC vents have been replaced; Carpet steam cleaned over Thanksgiving weekend.

- Hallway between Jim Reed room and kitchen is next to be renovated
- Hardwired internet cable has been installed including:

Computer in sanctuary is hardwired and download speed has been increased 3 fold. Computers in finance office have been hardwired to the internet; Modem has been moved to finance office wall (removed from sanctuary); Switch will connect to finance office printer to a newly configured office and sanctuary network; Future discussion will take place as to networking the office computer and printer; All wiring and connectors were donated for this project

- Pilot light for kitchen stove/oven: Billy Wiggins will investigate options (if any) to provide a switch to turn on the pilot lights

New Business

- Disposal of the piano stored in the Jim Reed Room Hallway: Since the piano has no value to the church methods of disposal were discussed.
- 2018 Budget: Draft budget was approved. Budget will be presented to Council on November 27th.

The next Operations Meeting is scheduled for December 11th @ 6:30 PM.

Tom Besaw, Moderator



Financial Update

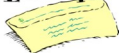
Operational Budget as 10/31/17

	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
Income	\$ 13,721	\$ 131,222	\$ 116,229	\$ 14,993
Expenses	\$ 12,481	\$ 142,844	\$ 137,810	\$ 5,034
Balance	\$ 1,240	(\$ 11,622)	(\$ 21,581)	

Income includes \$950 for Building Maintenance. Thanks for your ongoing support. Income does not include \$1,570 Missions Donations. Thanks for supporting our worthy Missions Campaigns.

Hal Francis, Treasurer

Offering Envelopes



FOR 2018 ARE AVAILABLE IN THE JIM REED ROOM.



MISSIONS NOTES



Spruce Creek Elementary Thanksgiving Food Collection went exceeding well. We provided twenty \$20 Publix gift cards for purchasing turkeys, as well as, 50+ bags/boxes of food..

Thank you to Jim Eagan who was instrumental with the Countryside Halloween display and whose funds of \$463 and many, many food items were donated to POUCC for SCE and SCHS as needs arise.

Spruce Creek High School's mission has ended, and we presented them with a check for \$1,725 and many bags of personal care items. The Thrift Store has been gathering jeans and shoes for these students, as well. Thank you to year round "Santa Bob" and all his elves!



A receipt of donations was received from the **Council of Aging** and is posted on the bulletin board.



Again, this year we are partnering with Spruce Creek Elementary with the Angel Tree project. Each angel lists the age, size and clothing requested by the students. The new wrapped gifts, with the angel attached outside, should be placed under the tree by **Sunday, December 10th** in time for delivery before their Christmas break. Your support and love puts so much happiness and smiles on the faces of these children.

January 1st our Mission Focus will, again, be **Holy Joe's Café**. A coffee house ministry for the UCC Chaplains and troops in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait.



The **Neighbor's in Need Offering** collected \$365.



The Veteran's of the Cross/Christmas Fund is a way in which we as members of the UCC, enabled the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance Program to provide pension supplementation, health premium supplementations, emergency grants and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to individuals and families in need. The offering will be received on **December 24th**. Look for the purple envelope in the bulletin and on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary.

Please remember the **Sock Box, Can Tabs and Eyeglass Collection boxes**.

The Mission Team thanks everyone for their continued support to our Church's various projects. Your support of all our missions has far exceeded our expectations and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We wish you all a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

Respectively submitted by Peggy Wiggins, Chair of Missions

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. Last month's collection of 40 bags benefited Halifax Urban Ministry's Food Pantry. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart for delivering the food. **As a reminder, December 3rd is our next collection date and will benefit HUM Food Pantry.** Please be generous and make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates clearly marked on all cans, boxes, and containers.



YOUTH CORNER

The youth were busy in November. They have been working for the past month creating Kindness Rocks to be given out and placed around town for others to find. Project which was presented to the congregation November 19th. The youth also attended the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service November 21st.

The Kindness Rocks Project: Take one if it means something to you. Share one with a friend who needs some Inspiration. OR...Create your own. It's all about Kindness and sharing.

Upcoming Youth Events -Port Orange United Church of Christ

December 5th, Tuesday 6:00 PM. Youth Group - Terrific Tuesday

December 10th, Sunday 9:45 AM - Youth Christmas Pageant

December 12th, Tuesday 6:00 PM - Youth Group – Terrific

December 14th, Thursday 6:00 PM - Fellowship Dinner, Open to All

Followed by “Blue Christmas” service, all are invited.

December 17th, Sunday 9:45 AM - Lessons & Carols Service

December 19th, Tuesday 6:00 PM - Youth Group – Terrific

December 24th, Sunday Services 8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

December 24th, Sunday Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM



December 25th, Monday Christmas Day

December 26th, Tuesday – NO YOUTH GROUP – TERRIFIC TUES.

January 1st, Monday New Year Day

January 2nd, Tuesday - NO YOUTH GROUP – TERRIFIC TUES.

January 9th, Tuesday 6 p.m. Youth Group – Terrific



Sher Buller, Youth Leader

SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Soup, Salad and bread supper Every Second Thursday at 6:00 pm, POUCC has a wonderful Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed room.



Our next fellowship dinner is December 14th.

It's a “Soup, Salad & Bread Pot Luck”. Sign-up Sheet will be circulated during Worship.

Following Dinner at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary we will have our Blue Christmas Service.

NEWS & NOTES



Poinsettias

As is our tradition, we will be decorating our Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas Services. Please deliver your poinsettia with your name on them by **Monday, December 18th** (place in Jim Reed Room). Poinsettias may be taken home or donated after the Christmas Eve Service. Sign-up sheet is on the Sanctuary bulletin board..

The 2018 Edition Phone Directory will be available at the **Annual Meeting on January 28th, 2018 at Noon** . If you have any address or contact changes, please notify the Church Office .



Interested in becoming a member? Join Pastor Steven **Sunday, December 17th at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary** for a New Members' Class.



Envelopes will adorn the Angel Tree beginning **Sunday, December 10th.**

December 14, 2017

@ 7:00 p.m.

Blue

Christmas

Helping Hurting People Cope
With the Holidays

... For anyone who has experienced a loss...
The loss of joy and meaning in life, the loss
of a family member, the loss of or a broken
relationship, the loss of a job, depression . .



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386-788-0920



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS*

Ted Batturs	12/4
Chuck Henderson	12/5
Grayson Osteen	12/6
Beverly Schafer	12/7
John MacNeil	
Chuck Knopsky	12/10
Joshua Wheeler	
Selena Wheeler	12/13
Tracy Davis	
Susie Greiff	12/16
Erika Hobson	12/17
Joe Thompson	12/19
Suzette Wheeler	12/24
Milissa Davis	12/25

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES*

Bill & Susie Greiff	12/12/1970
Ron & Sonnie Zinke	12/23/1958
Bob & Louise Johnson	12/26/1955



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Cecilia Airdi	Friend of the Schafer-Ramoutar Family
Gerry Baldwin	Friend of the Schafer Family
Bob Brewster	Member of POUCC
Brooke Bryan	Family Member of Pastor Beverly
Tom Buller	Member of POUCC
Gene Clark	Friend of the Wiggins Family
Dee Dardeen	Member of POUCC
Amy Dyer	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Goss Family	Friend of the Batturs Family
Jack & Pat Hilgenberg	Members of POUCC
Dale Hill	Sister-in-Law of Valerie Hill
Jimmy Hill	Brother of Val Hill
John Holbrook	Brother of Ruth Brewster
Scott Kirlin	Husband of Diane Kirlin
Roger Kransi	Brother of Harold Kransi
Lannie	Friend of the Batturs Family
Joe Maddern	Friend of Sue Batturs
Joe Magsamen	Friend of Sher Buller
Sandie McClellan	Friend of the Deitch Family
Tommy McDonough	Stepbrother of Joe Thompson
Marge Monat	Member of POUCC
Joyce Nead	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Lesile Neese	Friend of the Stewart Family
Roberta	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Keena Rosetti	Friend of the Wiggins Family
John Shell	Son of Sue Barhite
Stephanie & Eva	Friends of the Buller Family
Michelle Stewart	Friend of the Wiggins Family
Carol Strickland	Friend of POUCC
Pat Timesch	Aunt of Pastor Steven
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)
Blanche Northcutt	Former Member of POUCC (Life Care Center in Collegendale, TN)
Eloise Wottke	Former Member of POUCC (Onalaska Care Center in Onalaska, WI)

Special Needs

All of Our Military & Their Families
Pray for Peace in the World

Note: *Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your special date or to add a Prayer Concern.

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

POUCC December 2017

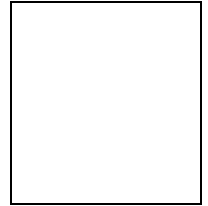
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	4 POMA 4:30 pm	5 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	6 POMA 4:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	7 POMA 4:30 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	8	9
10 Combined Service Youth Christmas Pageant 9:45 am	11 POMA 4:30 pm Operations 6:30 pm	12 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	13 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	14 POMA 4:30 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm Blue Christmas 7:00 pm	15	16 Choir 10:00 am
17 Combined Service Lessons & Carols 9:45 am New Members' Class 4:00 pm	18 POMA 4:30 pm Council 6:30 pm	19 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	20 POMA 4:30 pm	21 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	22 Office Closed	23
24 Contemporary 8:45 am Traditional 10:45 am Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	25 Office Closed 	26	27	28 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	29	30

31 Contemporary
8:45 am
Adult Discussion
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*

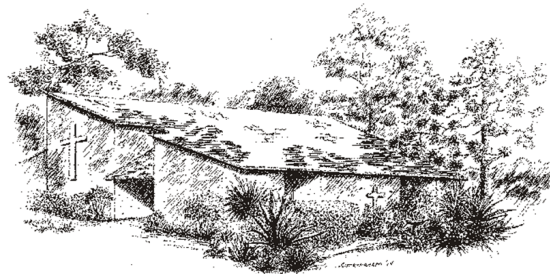


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United Church of Christ
651 Taylor Road
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Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Steven Mitchell
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 Store Manager: Bob Gaither
Media Communications: Bob Brewster



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

Adult Discussion

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM

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