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



Advent greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Here we are again at the beginning of a new Christian Church calendar year. The first season of the new year is Advent which began on Sunday, November 29. This wonderful season of Advent will end on Christmas Eve at sundown. During this reflective season, I pray we all find some time to reflect on everything we have been given by our most glorious God. Take a moment to give God your thanks.

I know most of us get all caught up in the upcoming Christmas rush with all the shopping, eating, parties, wrapping presents, etc. The month of December seems to rush by without much time or thought given to the Second Coming of Jesus.

During much of our Christian history the topic during the season of Advent was the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Somehow during the past seventy years or so, we have changed that to the anticipation of the Nativity as well. In most churches, the Bible readings and sermons during Advent include prophecies of the birth of Christ, but primarily concern the Second Coming, judgment, and eternal rewards for obedient Christians.

This is our time to prepare for the upcoming celebration of the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. I know it's hard to do in our society, but try to separate this preparation season of Advent from the more festive season of Christmas.

Along with the season of Advent, the month of December also holds the beginning of the Christmas season. The season of Christmas begins on December 24 at sundown and last for twelve days, ending at sundown on January 5. This means we have two Sundays of celebration during the Christmas season; December 27 and January 3.

Yes, Christmas is more than waking up on Friday morning, opening presents and enjoying the afternoon while stuffing ourselves. Please try to work in some time to remember we are celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. Celebrate the Incarnation!

With much anticipation, I look forward to reflecting, celebrating and worshipping with you during these two beautiful seasons of the Christian church.

The Peace of Christ be with you all,

Pastor Glenn

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Staff

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Glenn Rice
Pastor Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. William Ebbert
Minister of Music:
Dr. Tom Naus
Office Manager:
Kathy Shaffner
Custodian
Ronnie Servant
Thrift Store Manager:
Bob Gaither
Media Communications:
Bob Brewster & Trey & Van Thompson



MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



Hello Brothers and Sisters,

This is our December edition of the newsletter and I hope it finds you well. We have traveled many a new mile this year. We have done things differently because of a virus. We have gone from open and normal to closed and limited; opening for services and open for business. We have had limited resources and limited funding yes and we have come a long way from last year. But you know what hasn't changed; our Lord and Savior who's the very reason we all get together to praise Him and be thankful for Him. Oh yes, we haven't had anything that got in the way of us being thankful that He gives us eternal life, and guess what, that lasts a lot longer than any pandemic or event anywhere on earth. Here's to you and yours having a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and a great Advent season and a wonderful Christmas season. God bless, *Joe Thompson, Moderator*

OPERATION'S & FINANCE

First & most importantly...the Operations & Finance Team wants to thank everyone who contributed to our church this year. 2020 will go down as one, if not the most challenging year in our country's history. Plus, at no time in our country's history has religious freedom been challenged more than this year with churches being forced to suspend services and events that have been traditions for decades, if not centuries. Our church has been no exception to the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We missed having our beach side Easter Sunrise Service for the first time in some 37 years and it looks like we will miss it again in 2021 (Tentative plans are to hold Easter Sunrise Services on our church grounds in 2021). Our Thrift Store was closed for over two months. Our church services were held over the telephone and rebroadcast over the Internet. We had to endure not seeing friends, other members and meeting other people live. We had to address the loss of income and how we could continue keeping our church open. We also had to address the fixed expenses of maintaining our church buildings and grounds even when they were not being used. All this and much more made this a very challenging year. Again, it was YOU, who helped POUCC contend with all these challenges. Your financial giving, your time volunteering, your prayers and your participation have all made this very challenging year also a very special year. The spiritual renewal and sharing of our mutual personal challenges and losses are the major reason we are here as a church body. As we have seen around the world, it is easy for this shared spiritual experience to be lost leaving individuals feeling alone and forgotten. By keeping our church open where so many have closed; by restarting live worship services where so many still do not have them; by carefully managing our finances and intelligently seeking help when offered; by working together as a church body, we have endured and have laid a firm foundation for moving forward into the future. Thank you to our church staff - Pastor Glenn Rice for coming up with idea to make church service broadcasts when we could not meet and for his continued leadership role in making adjustments as required; thank you to Kathy Shaffner in our church office who has been our key contact to the world for keeping our church functioning and to Ronnie Servant for keeping our church clean; thank you to Dr Tom Naus for his so very important inspirational music leadership. Thank you volunteers for all you do from pulling weeds that you see to fixing something out of place. A very Special thanks to all our Thrift Store Volunteers who see what they do as a mission, not only to help our church but to help others who are in need. We must all be very thankful for Bob Gaither who manages our Thrift Store and his unwavering dedication to keeping it open and viable. Bob is a true jewel to our church. Lastly, thank you to all of you who will continue your support into the next year. 2021 will be another challenging year but like we have already experienced, no matter what is thrown at us, together we will survive not only as a church body but also as individuals in our personal faith and spiritualness .



May your holidays be safe & healthy!

Bob Brewster Chair Operations & Finance Team (Art Horton, Trey Thompson & Harold Kransi)



Financial Update—Operational Budget as 10/31/20

	<u>OCTOBER ACTUAL</u>	<u>YTD ACTUAL</u>	<u>YTD BUDGET</u>	<u>YTD DIFFERENCE</u>
Income	\$ 10,321.40	\$ 123,499.68	\$ 101,655.64	\$ 21,844.04
Expenses	\$ 12,941.18	\$ 136,663.49	\$ 133,255.05	\$ 3,408.44
Balance	\$ (2,619.78)	\$ (13,163.81)	\$ (31,599.41)	\$ 18,435.60

Our Thrift Store continues to bring in amazing income every month. Even after being closed for a period they have exceeded their budget for the ten month period. Great job team Thrift Shop! That being said we are still operating at a loss each month for a total loss of \$13,163.81 year to date, BUT, much better that we anticipated thanks to all our members! Thank you for your continued generosity and support. With God's blessing, Respectfully Submitted, Barbara

MISSIONS NOTES

SPRUCE CREEK ELEMENTARY'S Thanksgiving Food Collection was a success. Thank you for all your food and monetary donations.



The **Neighbors in Need Offering** collected \$252. Thanks for your generosity! **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 20th**. Look for the purple envelope in the bulletin and on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary. As always, Sophie's Circle, The Sock Box, Eyeglass Collection Basket and Aluminum Can Tab Jug Collections continue year-round. Respectively, *Your Missions Team*

THE GIFT & THRIFT STORE



The Store continues to do well and sales to date have reached \$32,000. Not bad for being closed for over two months plus all the heat and rain that have kept people at home. Donations are coming in daily and we thank all who donate. A big thank you to all our loyal volunteers and customer who make the Store a huge success.
Bob Gaither, Manager

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. Last month's collection of 20 bags benefited Halifax Urban Ministry's Food Pantry. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart for delivering the food. **As a reminder, December 6TH is our next collection.** Please 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.

Our next Fellowship dinner is December 10th. It's our "Christmas Fellowship Dinner". Ham with be provided you bring the sides. See Sign-up Sheet circulated during Worship Services.



Christmas Dinner



Poinsettias

We will be decorating our Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Service. Please deliver your poinsettia with your name on them by **Sunday, December 20th** (place in Jim Reed Room). Poinsettias may be taken home or donated after the Christmas Eve Service. Sign-up sheet will be circulated at Worship Services.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS*

Ted Batturs	12/4
Chuck Henderson	12/5
Grayson Osteen	12/6
Chuck Konopsky	12/10
Art Horton	12/11
Darlene Thomas	12/14
Susie Greiff	12/16
Erika Hobson	12/17
Joe Thompson	12/19

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES*

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



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Harriet Barton	Friend of POUCC
Charlie Baskin	Member of POUCC
Brad Boon	Member of POUCC
Beth & Chris Brown	Family of Sheila Fisher
Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
Linda Cochrane	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Karen Coffey	Family of Sandy Kransi
Mike Conti	Friend of the Kransi's
Pvt. Jack & Lisa Hearten	Family of Kay Schweitzer
Erika & George Hobson	Member & Friend of POUCC
Susan Jones	Family of Bonnie Morisset
Grace Kern	Member of POUCC
Sophie Kirtley	Friend of POUCC
Roger Kobert	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Harold Kransi	Member of POUCC
Teresa Leib	Family of Erika Hobson
Linda & Vaughn Long	Friends of Sheila Fisher
Jim Manchester	Family of Sheila Fisher
Lorraine Miklos	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Liz Mills	Friend of the Brewster's
Leslie Neese	Friend of the Stewart's
Bill Nicholls	Member of POUCC
Archie & David Pickels	Family of Bonnie Morisset
Gayle Reid	Sister of Kathy Cratin
Bruce Roberts	Brother of Sandy Kransi
Carol Rogers	Member of POUCC
Beverly Schafer	Friend of POUCC
John Sedgewick	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Peggy Sharlow	Friend of Sheila Fisher
John Somerville	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Oakley & Michele Solms	Friends of POUCC
Dale Speakman	Cousin of Faith Coppolo
Shirley Steiner	Friend of Sharon Williamson
TJ	Friend of Kathryn Manning
Joe Vogel	Friend of the Kransi Family
Caroline Wallace	Family of Sheila Fisher
Stephanie Whitman	Friend of POUCC
Lowin Willoughby	Friend of Sharon Williamson
Joe & Lynn Wintermeyer	Friends of Sheila Fisher
Rita Wren	Friend of POUCC
Bill Wheeler	Member of POUCC

In Care Facilities




June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Center in PA)
Margie Hoebing	Friend of POUCC (Care Center in PO)
Marge Monat	Member of POUCC (Care Center in DB)
Eloise Wottke	Friend of POUCC (Care Center in WI)
Beverly Woodacre	Member of POUCC (Care Center in NY)

Special Needs

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

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

POUCC December 2020

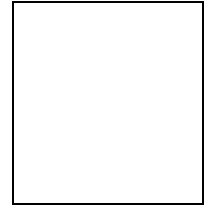
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Communion Sunday 8:45 & 10:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 AM	7	8	Palmetto House 5:30 pm	Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	11	12
13 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	14	15	16	17	18	Council Meeting 10:00 AM
20 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	21  Blue Christmas Service 6:00 pm	22	23	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm	25  Merry Christmas	26
27 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	28	29	30	31 		

ADVENT SCHEDULE: This year we will maintain our weekly Worship Schedule. Please plan to join us as we await and celebrate the birth of our Savior.

November 29th - HOPE December 6th - PREPARATION
December 13th - JOY December 20th - LOVE
December 21 - BLUE CHRISTMAS Service - 6:00 PM
December 24th - 6:00 PM CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP



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& Van Thompson

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



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