



Volume 43 Issue 12

December 2021

### SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

**Port Orange  
United Church of Christ**  
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Advent and Christmas season greetings everyone,  
Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'Coming.' The season of Advent begins the new church calendar year starting four Sundays prior to Christmas day. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation since the sixth century. Advent is a time for preparing for Christ's second coming, even as we remember and celebrate his first coming at Christmas. The color blue is used representing forgiveness and repentance.

Traditions vary from church to church, but usually one week, either the third or fourth week during Advent, is set aside as more celebratory than others. Rose is the color of this week rather than blue, which is why a rose colored candle is used. This year we will celebrate this week on the fourth Sunday of Advent, when we remember Mary, the mother of Jesus to whom is attributed the great song of joy, the Magnificat; from Luke 1:46-55

#### Mary's Song

46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord  
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48 for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is His name.  
50 His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation.  
51 He has performed mighty deeds with His arm;  
He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.  
53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.  
54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful  
55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as He promised our ancestors."

I pray you find your spirit rejoicing in God during this season of Advent and the upcoming season of Christmas.

His humble servant,

*Pastor Glenn*



# DEACON'S CORNER

This GIVING BUTTON is for YOU!  
Thank you in advance for your generous Time, Donation or Gift. What you give will help this church continue its ministry and mission work.



I am reminding everyone how important it is this year to get your **Stewardship Pledge for 2022** in now. We are urging everyone to complete the Pledge Card in this newsletter or one from the table inside the church entrance now, if you have not already done so. Also, starting this year, we have added a **GIVING BUTTON TO OUR CHURCH WEBSITE**. This **GIVING BUTTON** can be accessed on the first page. It is bright **RED**. You can give one time or setup automatic giving for any amount you choose. The gifts from this **GIVING BUTTON** go directly to the church and are accounted for by the church Treasurer under your name. This is a great tool for anyone - members or friends located anywhere in the world.

Normally, we can wait until year end or even into January but this year our 2022 budget planning must be done earlier, especially in preparation of our church's annual meeting in January. As you all know, the Covid pandemic has caused major disruptions in every organization throughout the world where people normally gather together in one place. In the entire country a great number of churches have already closed permanently. Even when taking into account new church startups, the total number of churches that closed this past year exceeded 8,000. Now, before you think we as a church are closing let me clearly state that POUCC is NOT closing. However, we cannot ignore reality if our income from all sources drops below our ability to continue to operate. Let me clearly state again, we are NOT closing and we do not want to be facing that tough decision in 2023 or 2024. Fortunately, we are not at that point....yet! To assure our continuation as a viable church body there are two things that must happen. We must grow both in membership and in financial giving. That is a fact. Even though Covid has affected us, we are very fortunate to have a strong core of loyal members and friends who continue to support our church in wondrous ways. This giving support of both time and financial resources has allowed us to fight off what has caused many churches to close. Your ability to pledge financial support, to continue contributing in church when the offering plate is passed, to make special donations when an immediate need arises, to volunteer at our church Thrift Store that contributes so much to our church and the community in untold ways and finally where possible to make a donation from an estate settlement, a Retirement Account Minimum Withdrawal or if you had a special year financially to share a portion of what you received with our church. All these together - your time, your talents, your financial contributions are what keeps POUCC open to serve the spiritual needs of those seeking it. The church council believes, and we hope you also believe, that POUCC has a real place in our surrounding community and that our mission is to serve those in spiritual need who are in their later years of life. Whether someone is retired to this area from somewhere else, is an empty-nester, has lost a spouse or is just coming to grips with the fact that 2/3 or 3/4 of one's life has past may all become the motivation for focusing more attention on one's spiritual needs. We believe that is where POUCC can help. Please tear off the Giving Card in this newsletter, fill out your information and send it back to our church Treasurer, Barbara Horton or place it in the offering plate at one of the Sunday services. May God Bless you and your families with both good health and great happiness.  
Respectfully, *Bob Brewster, Deacon's Team Chair*

## 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:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly_____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yearly _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## ASSISTANT MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

Assistant  
Moderator's  
Message



Children of God, Disciples of Christ and Blessed Members and Friends, I welcome you to December, I welcome you to Advent. I welcome your heart, body and soul to the miracle of Christ birth celebrated. Can you imagine the word around town, Jesus the Christ has been born! Can you imagine there were people who doubted this unbelievable event. There were people who called them crazy, dreamers even delusional. But they did what they believed and that is the sole attribute; the one thing that makes the church what it is today; enough faith to believe. Powerful, powerful is Faith. But don't forget Hope, for hope springs eternal if you let it. And there is Love, the most powerful, scripture says the greatest of these is love. You probably will have an opportunity to share this miracle season of worship with a friend or neighbor and it would be a good thing. But my prayer is that we CONTINUE to believe in Christ that he will see us through many a trial or tribulation. Yes we will stumble, yes we may even fall but He will always be there to pick us up. US all of US, always, that resonates with me that no matter what happens He is with us. Please accept these blessings and so many more from our Father with grace and mercy and love. Amen!

*Joe Thompson, Moderator*

## OPERATION'S & FINANCE TEAM

### Welcome to the Holiday Season:

As I stated in Last month's article, my job as Chairman of the Operations & Finance Team, I see it, is to inform the church membership about the financial health as well as the condition of our assets (church building and property). **This month I will address the church property.**



### Irrigation System:

Our irrigation deep well failed two years ago, we re-invented the old existing shallow well on the back of the church property, connected the existing irrigation system and hobbled along the best we could until recently the shallow well failed. We were fortunate to have sufficient rain fall to make up for the inoperative system. Now that we have entered the dry season it has become important to address the issue. We've spent dollars and had a huge donation from Tuff Turf to design and install new landscaping at the front of the church. That all needs irrigation to survive. The Church council agreed we need to install a new irrigation well and system. The cost is \$6,380.00. We have close to \$ 3,000.00 in the "Spring into Life" campaign and we have a donor who has agreed to give \$1,000.00 toward the new well. That leaves us shore \$2,400.00 to pay the bill. If you have a giving feeling, now is the time to help us get the funds to pay the invoice when the work is completed.

### Mix Building Roof Supports:

The Mix Building (Thrift Store) roof (walkway) steel supports in the front and rear have rusted and are in need of hiring a welder to remove the corrosion, asses the extent of the problem, provide, install additional structural bracing as necessary. This will ensure the roof in the front and rear of the building is supported properly that should withstand Hurricane winds. We have yet to find a welder and/or structural steel firm to provide a cost estimate to complete this necessary work.

### Church Property Exteriors:

The Church proper, Reed and Mix Buildings are starting to look "shabby", all are in need of power washing and assessment by a building maintenance/painting company for painting. A firm has not as yet been sought for cost estimates. First, we will hire a company to power wash all the building exterior.

(Continued on next page)

## Florida Power and Light:

November 1 to March 31, is the “Winter Peak Demand” cycle. Peak Demand is from 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM 10:00 PM Monday to Friday. We pay a huge premium on the FPL bill if we operate the A/C and/or Heat as well as any other heavy electric load during those time periods. Late in 2019 we installed programmable thermostats on all the HVAC units in the church property. Prior to that time, we were experiencing \$800.00 to \$1,000.00 monthly FPL bills because the A/C and/or heat was being utilized during the “Peak Demand” periods. Once the programmable thermostats were installed, they were set to lock off during the “Peak Demand” periods. The FPL monthly bills dropped significantly to \$350.00 to \$450.00 a month. Our HVAC contractor is scheduled on November 1 and April 1 of each year to set all the thermostats to lock off during the “Peak Demand” periods. As you can see locking them off has had a significant impact on controlling our Power bill. Please be understanding, if the temperature in the buildings is not exactly what you may desire during those periods.

## Keep Your Eyes Open:

We have experienced a few issues with Thrift Store items being stolen (removed) from the back porch and recently someone broke the lock on the dumpster to gain access, not sure why, to the inside of the dumpster. Kids sitting in the Veterans Chapel have left behind trash, thus vigilance is in order when you are in and/or around the church property. If you see something odd or out of place, give the Port Orange Police a call. Thanksgiving is upon us; Barb and I hope you all have a wonderful Holiday.

## Christmas:

In closing for this month, I would like to stress, let’s all keep Christ in Christmas.

Until we meet again in the Newsletter: *Art Horton, Chairman.*

## Financial Update—Operational Budget as 10/31/21



	<u>OCTOBER ACTUAL</u>	<u>YTD ACTUAL</u>	<u>YTD BUDGET</u>	<u>YTD DIFFERENCE</u>
<b>Income</b>	\$ 14,962.00	\$ 121,781.93	\$ 112,178.64	\$ 9,603.29
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 10,657.37	\$ 133,694.41	\$ 138,640.48	\$ 4,946.07
<b>Balance</b>	\$ 4,304.63	\$ (11,912.48)	\$ (26,461.84)	\$ 14,549.36

Well, October certainly was not a normal month with a \$4,000.00 profit. Our offerings were higher than normal due to an extra week of giving and due to several members sending in their offering for November early which got posted to October. We also received a one-time donation of \$1,000.00 and the Thrift Store had another great month Thanks to all for the continued support and prayers. With God’s blessings, Respectfully Submitted, *Barbara Horton, Treasurer.*



On **Sunday, January 30, 2022 following the 10:45 AM Service**, we will have our Annual Meeting. Topics to be presented are the 2022 Budget as well as nomination and election of officers for the year. A list of nominees will be posted prior to the meeting on the Sanctuary bulletin board. Annual Reports are due by **Friday, January 7th**. Please type your report in Microsoft Word for easy compilation and e-mail it to the Church Office. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.





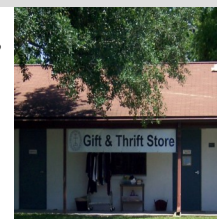
## MISSIONS NOTES



The **Neighbors in Need Offering** collected \$193. 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 19th**. Look for the envelope 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

I am writing this on Veteran's Day. God Bless all of our Veterans. At 10:50 this morning, we reached \$43,000 in sales to date. This is like a dream we had no idea we could reach! And with three weeks left in the month and our **BIG BLACK FRIDAY SALE** (50% off the entire Store) we could reach \$50,000. So keep us in your prayers. Thanks to our terrific volunteers, patrons and the community. *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 5TH 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 9th. It's our "Christmas Fellowship Dinner". Ham with be provided you bring the sides. See Sign-up Sheet circulated during Worship Services.*



Christmas Dinner

## CELEBRATING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



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 28th - HOPE      December 5th - PEACE**  
**December 12th - JOY      December 19th - LOVE**  
**December 24th - 6:00 PM CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP**

**CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS:** The Sanctuary tree is up and lit. All it needs are your ornaments



Poinsettias

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** 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 19th** (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.

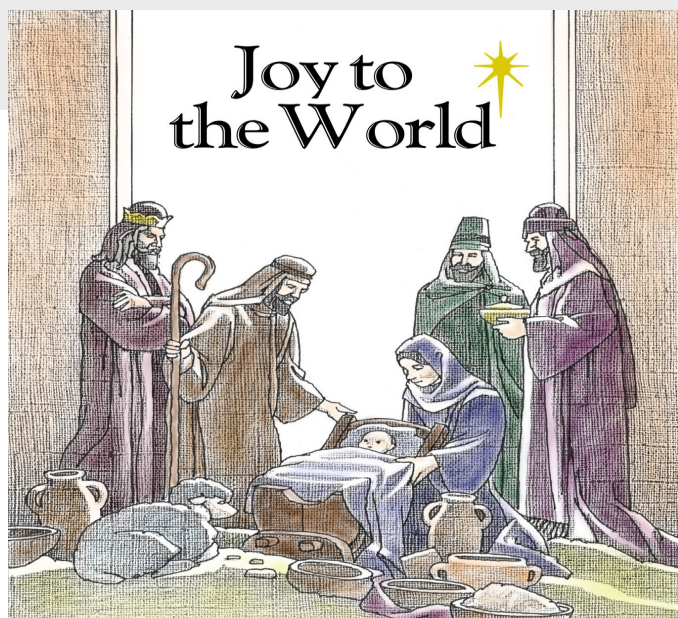


## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS\*

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



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

## PRAYER REQUESTS\*

Corinne & Jim Anderson	Friends of Sheila Fisher
Jordan Armbruster	Friend of POUCC
Charlie & Molly Baskin	Members of POUCC
Jesse Calmer	Friend of the Thompson Family
Beth & Chris Brown	Family of Sheila Fisher
Betty & Hank Clausen	Friends of POUCC
Karen Coffey	Family of Sandy Kransi
Mike Conti	Friend of the Kransi's
Vince Doherty	Friend of Sharon Williamson
Adele Echenique	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Alice Lynn Feldman	Member of POUCC
George Franklin	Friend of the Gaither Family
Susan Grillo	Niece of the Zinke's
Gary Haines	Cousin of Bob Gaither
John Hamer	Friend of the Horton's
Brand Hanson	Friend of POUCC
Shawn Hansen	Friend of POUCC
Pvt. Jack & Lisa Hearten	Family of Kay Schweitzer
Erika Henderson	Friend of POUCC
Elmer Hodges	Friend of POUCC
Susan Jones	Sister-in-Law of Bonnie Morisset
Scott Kirlin	Husband of Diane Kirlin
Roger Kobert	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Emily McCleary	Friend of POUCC
Harry & Jim Manchester	Family of Sheila Fisher
Tonya Montisano & Family	Friends of POUCC
Leslie Neese	Friend of the Stewart Family
Archie & David Pickels	Brothers of Bonnie Morisset
Bruce Roberts	Brother of Sandy Kransi
Kay Schweitzer	Member of POUCC
John Sedgwick	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Bill & Sharon Tinney	Friends of POUCC
Grant Tobin	Friend of POUCC
Joe Vogel	Friend of the Kransi Family
Caroline Wallace	Family member of Sheila Fisher
Betty Weaver	Friend of POUCC
Lowin Willoughby	Friend of Sharon Williamson


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

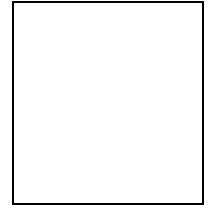
# POUCC December 2021

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

*Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 3 pm, Sat. 9 am – Noon*  
*Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm*



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



**Church Staff**

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Glenn Rice  
**(610) 704-2799** [gs.rice@icloud.com](mailto:gs.rice@icloud.com)  
**Office Manager:** Kathy Shaffner  
**Custodian:** Ronnie Servant  
**Thrift Store Manager:** Bob Gaither  
**Media Communications:** Bob Brewster & Trey Thompson

**Office Hours**

9:00 AM—1:00 PM  
Monday—Friday

**Thrift Store Hours**

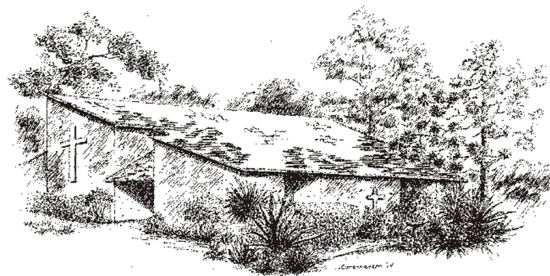
9:00 AM—3:00 PM  
Monday—Friday  
9:00 AM—Noon  
Saturday

**Sunday Worship**

8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

**Adult Discussion**

9:45 AM



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