



**Port Orange  
United Church of Christ**  
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**Volume 46, Issue 1**

**January 2024**

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**



Thought for the Month:  
*God helps us change.*

From the Pastor's Desk –

Happy New Year!

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So what's changed since last year? Anything new? Are you a new you? Or are you the same old, same old? Do you want to change anything? Did you make a New Year's resolution you won't keep? A few years ago right after New Year's Day, I went to get my hair cut. One of the first things I noticed was a new gold cross hanging around my hairdresser's neck. When I was seated in her chair, she asked me, "What's new?"

I told her I was trying to figure out what to write about for the next church newsletter. And for some reason, my mind had been circling around that scripture where Jesus talks about cutting off your hand if it causes you to offend God. It's not a passage I really wanted to write about but for some reason it had been hanging around in my head all day.

"That's funny, I was just reading that last night. It's in Matthew, isn't it?" I'm thinking "My nail tech's really reading the Bible? She's sweet, but I'd never figured her for having faith, or for needing God. She talked and acted so independent and worldly." So I asked, "You're reading the Bible?"

"Almost every night," she says.

"When did that start?" I asked.

"Eight months ago, when I joined a Bible study group. God's part of my life now. I've really changed. I have a ways to go yet, though. If only I'd known years ago that believing in God could make life so good."

By believing in God, and making changes, she's made sustainable, positive impacts in her life. She is living proof that believing makes a difference.

So what changes are you planning to make in 2024? Do they involve deepening your faith, reading the entire Bible in a year, attending our Wired Word Bible study sessions or changing your pattern of church attendance?

Whatever your plans are for changes in 2024, may you and your family have a healthy and blessed New Year!

Blessings and peace,

*Pastor Pat*

**STAFF**

**Pastor:**  
Rev. Patricia Holcomb  
**Office Manager:**  
Kathy Shaffner  
**Custodian:**  
Ronnie Servant  
**Missions:**  
Jackie Gaither  
**Thrift Store Manager:**  
Emily McLean  
**Media Communications:**  
Bob Brewster

## MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



This year as Moderator of Port Orange United Church of Christ (POUCC) and head of the Church Council, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all on the Council who have faithfully devoted their time to important decision making for Church's operations. I also want to thank all those in decision making positions affecting our church and to everyone who has contributed in some way to helping our church continue its mission of sharing the message of Jesus Christ to all who are willing to listen. Our church may be smaller in membership than in past years but we are no less powerful and energetic in our abilities to get things done. All of this requires a dedicated staff and volunteers. Pastor Pat's caring messages and actions through this year have renewed an important purpose of our Church to be there when someone is in need. Our office manager, Kathy Shaffner's dedication to detail in making sure that our church functions, both inside and outside, stay on track. Our Church custodian, Ronnie Servant who has to keep up with our various church users. There are many volunteers who do something every day for our church in one way or another and who also do not seek any recognition for what they do. Their dedication is what gets the little and big things done and why the future of POUCC in the coming years looks brighter now than it did a year ago. I wish I could go down the list and name everyone who makes our church better individually but you know who you are and our church family knows who you are and God knows who you are, too. As we look to the future 2024 year, I pray we keep doing what we are doing as a church, as a church family and that we overall continue to handle the challenges of being a beacon of hope & faith for those in need of spiritual and friendship renewal in a challenging and rapidly changing world.

God bless all of you to have a Healthy & Happy New Year 2024!  
Prayerfully submitted, *Bob Brewster*

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_



**If you haven't returned your Pledge Card, please do so. Thank you.**

## ANNUAL MEETING



**Sunday, January 28, 2024 following our 9:30 AM Worship Service.** Topics to be presented are the 2024 Budget as well as nomination and election of officers. Annual Reports are due by **Friday, January 5th and will be available on Sunday, January 21st for your review.** Please type your report in Microsoft Word for easy compilation and email it to the Church Office.

## PROPOSED 2024 LEADERSHIP

Moderator: Bob Brewster    Assistant Moderator: Open    Treasurer: Barbara Horton  
 Asst. Treasurer: Open    Church Clerk: Kathy Shaffner

### DEACONS TEAM

Jackie Gaither    2024  
 Barbara Horton    2024

### OPERATIONS & FINANCE TEAM

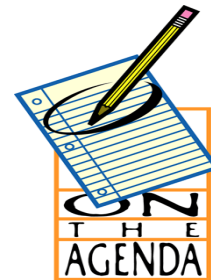
Art Horton    2024  
 \*Alan Holcomb    2024  
 Andy Stebenne    2024  
 Barbara Horton    2024

### FELLOWSHIP TEAM

Sharon Williamson    2024  
 Jackie Gaither    2024  
 Diane Kirlin    2024

### MISSIONS TEAM

Jackie Gaither    2024  
 Sheila Fisher    2024  
 Pam Protko    2024



### THRIFT STORE

Emily McLean, Craig Finney, Jackie Gaither, Barbara Boon, Sheila Fisher, Tony Sciuolo, Judy Turcotte, Susie Greiff, Ruth Brewster, Mary Ann Stewart, Louise Johnson, Diane Powell, Wendy Pride, Sharon Williamson Bill & Sharon Tinney, Barbara McLaughlin, Pastor Pat Holcomb, Alan Holcomb, Pam Protko, Joanne Anderau, Fran Cornejo.

1. \*Denotes being nominated at this Annual Meeting.
2. The year listed after a person's name indicates the term ends at the completion of that leadership year. 2024 term ends on 02/01/2025.

The Church Council consist of the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Church Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and representatives from the Deacons, Operations, Missions, Fellowship and Thrift Store . The Church Council welcomes new people to any of the teams shown above. You can join anytime. If you have a desire to participate on any team contact the church office or Bob Brewster.



The 2024 Edition of the Directory will be available at the Annual Meeting. If you have any address or contact changes, please notify the Church Office as soon as possible.



# OPERATIONS & FINANCE TEAM



The Operations Report will appear in the Annual Report which will be available on **January 21st.** *Art Horton, Operations Chair*

## Financial Update

### Operational Budget to Actual as of 11/30/2023

	<u>November Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Difference</u>
Income	14,923.95	158,385.51	100,836.11	57,549.40
Expenses	<u>10,315.05</u>	<u>125,585.40</u>	<u>129,445.55</u>	<u>(3,860.15)</u>
Profit/(Loss)	4,608.90	32,800.11	(28,609.44)	61,409.55

### Other Income/Expenses as of 11/30/2023

#### Capital Improvements

	<u>YTD Actual</u>
Income	9,940.00
Expenses	<u>76,171.88</u>
Profit/(Loss)	(66,231.88)
<hr/>	
Combined Profit/Loss)	(33,431.77)

We had an Operational profit of \$32,800.00 for the eleven month period ending November 30th which is all due to the income from our Thrift Store and our rentals. The income from the Thrift alone for that period is in excess of \$93,000.00. Our thanks go out to all our amazing volunteers and to all who support our Church.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

*Barbara Horton,  
Treasurer*

**REMINDER:** Yearly Conference Dues are \$15 per participating member and the check should be made out to POUCC with Conference Dues in the memo line. **The total amount due is paid to the Conference up front each year by the Congregation and your contribution towards this reimburses the Church for that obligatory fee.**





## THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE

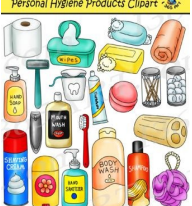


I am pleased to announce the Thrift Store has achieved the goal we set for ourselves this year which was to break \$100,000. To date we are at \$101,425.00. This is truly amazing since we sell items for \$.25 or \$.50. We are blessed to have increased our customers base and donations have tripled. We give all the praise for our success to our mighty God that is so very good to us. We will continue to strive and serve our Church, the community and be a wonderful example of Christian love. The #1 question we are asked is “Are you going out of business? because you are so empty. I have responded “No we are not going out of business”!  
*Emily McLean, Manager* **THE THRIFT STORE WILL BE CLOSED NEWYEAR’S DAY.**

## 2024 MISSIONS NOTES

**January 1st** begins our mission funding for Holy Joe’s Café an informal coffee house where soldiers can receive a good cup of coffee as well as spiritual care. Please remember these brave men and women who keep us safe. Please be generous! A coffee can will be up front in the Sanctuary for monetary donations as well as checks which should be made out to POUCC with Holy Joe’s in the memo line.



**Personal Hygiene Products Clipart**  
 As a part of our Mission Activity this year – we are going to collect items for hygiene kits for the homeless. The Salvation Army will distribute the items in kits during the annual “homeless” head count in Port Orange in March. **Items needed: toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, disposable razors, bars of soap, feminine hygiene items, wash cloths, combs, brushes and nail clippers. If you are unable to purchase items and prefer to contribute money- someone will do the shopping for you.**

*Jackie Gaither, Missions’ Chair*

## FOOD BASKET SUNDAY



**Communion Sundays** are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. **Our next collection date is January 7th.** Over 15 bags of food were collected last month for Halifax Urban Ministry’s Food Pantry. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart for delivering the food. We recently received a note thanking us for helping to provide food for **335 Households, 390 Bags of Food, 888 Total People and 51 New People.** Please be generous and make sure all donations have **NOT** passed their expiration dates.

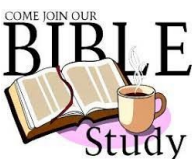
## SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Every Second Thursday at 6:00 pm, POUCC has a wonderful Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed Room.

***Our Next Dinner is Thursday, January 11th. It’s a Pot Luck!  
See the sign-up sheet circulated at Worship Services.***



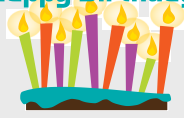
## BIBLE STUDY



**POUCC Bible Study:** POUCC “Wired Word” Bible Study will always be held on the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** of each month at **11:00 AM.** (right after church service (9:30 – 10:30 AM)). We hold the class at the church in the Sanctuary.

***January 7, 2024(1<sup>st</sup> Sunday) Spiritual New Year’s Resolutions for 2024.  
January 21, 2024 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) “As a Man Thinketh” how our brain works.***

Happy Birthday!



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS\*

Richard Devins, Jr.	1/4
Don Schweitzer	1/7
Bill Tinney	1/10
Kathy Cratin	1/16
Mary McDonald	1/20
Warren Feilbach	1/24
Kay Schweitzer	1/26



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES\*

# A NEW YEAR

- \* Renewed Hope
- \* New Opportunities
- \* New Adventures
- \* New Ways to Give and Love.

May this be your best year ever!

**\*Note: \*Please contact the church office with your prayer requests or to update our records if we missed your special date .**

## PRAYER REQUESTS\*



Charlie & Molly Baskin	Members of POUCC
Bob Brewster	Member of POUCC
Beth & Chris Brown	Daughter & Son-in-Law of Sheila Fisher
Rafael Castels	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Shelia Fisher	Member of POUCC
Stephanie James	Friend of Emily McLean
Harry & Jim Manchester	Family of Sheila Fisher
Frank & Carol Matos	Friends of Molly Baskin
Liz Mills	Former Member of POUCC
Howie Mumma	Friend of Sharon Williamson
F/F of Bill Nicholls	Members of POUCC
Jeremy Parker	Canadian friend of Sheila Fisher
Carmella Potenza	Granddaughter of Don & Denise Gates
Kathleen Price	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Kay & Don Schweitzer	Members of POUCC
John Sedgwick	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Renee Smith	Friend of Beth Brown & Sheila Fisher
Mary Ann Stewart	Member of POUCC
Seth Wanie	Family of Bill & Susie Greiff
Darlene Wolfson	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Ron Zinke	Member of POUCC

### In Care Facilities

Margie Hoebing	Friend of POUCC (Care Center in PO)
Marge Monat	Member of POUCC (Care Center in DB)

### Special Needs

All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families  
Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide



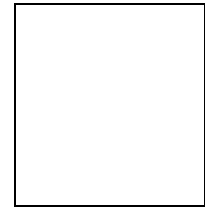


# POUCC January 2024

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

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

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



**Church Staff**

**Pastor:** Rev. Patricia Holcomb  
**Office Manager:** Kathy Shaffner  
**Custodian:** Ronnie Servant  
**Missions:** Jackie Gaither  
**Thrift Store Manager:** Emily McLean  
**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—Noon  
Saturday

**Sunday Worship**

9:30 AM



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