



Port Orange
United Church of Christ
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June 2023

SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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When I was sick, you visited me. (Matthew 25:36-40)

As we have moved from late spring into early summer, it's been sad to see our "snowbirds" head out for their places up north, but it has also been exciting to see a few new faces coming to worship on Sundays. We have added a "Message for All Ages" to the service to provide a little storytime for some children that have been attending. If you haven't attended worship in awhile, stop by any Sunday at 9:30 AM.

I just finished reading a book recommended by a colleague entitled: *Chasing Francis* by Ian Morgan Cron, an Episcopal priest. While the book is a novel, I found that it brings up many wonderful ideas for thoughtful consideration about ministry in the modern age.

Consider what happens when the pastor of a megachurch loses his faith? The book is about Pastor Chase Falson who has lost his faith in God, the Bible, evangelical Christianity, and his super-sized megachurch. When he falls apart, the church elders tell him to go away, basically, as far away as possible. So Chase embarks on his life-changing journey to Italy at the invitation and encouragement of his uncle, a Franciscan priest. With a curious group of Franciscan friars he struggles to resolve his crisis of faith by retracing the footsteps of Francis of Assisi, a saint whose simple way of loving Jesus changed the history of the world.

At the end of the book, the pastor returns to his megachurch to share with them what he has learned from his time away.

"I went on a pilgrimage – a spiritual journey – to find out what it meant to be a Christian, what it means to be the church, and to decide if I wanted to stay on that journey. In Italy, I found a mentor named Saint Francis of Assisi, who taught me that the church of the future needs to listen to the church of the past" (p. 196). "The kind of church I think can impact the world, and the type of church I want to lead, will be passionate about these ideals. This isn't a business plan, and it definitely won't be the next big trend in church growth....But if my journey taught me anything, it's that there aren't any simple formulas for being the church or following Christ – and anyone who tells you there are, may be well-meaning, but they're out of touch with reality" (p. 196). (Continued on next page)

Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Patricia Holcomb

Office Manager:

Kathy Shaffner

Custodian:

Ronnie Servant

Thrift Store Manager:

Bob Gaither

Media Communications:

Bob Brewster

Falson then shares his new Vision for the Church using five words to summarize that vision: transcendence, community, beauty, dignity, and meaning. All are interesting words and give us something to think about.

So let me ask: If you could stand in front of our church and speak from the heart about anything you wanted, related to its mission and ministry, what would you say? If you'd like to share your ideas, I'd be happy to hear your thoughts. While this book is a work of fiction, it offers us much to consider as we strive to "be church" in a post-modern world that challenges us in many ways.

As we move into early summer, know that your church is here and that people care. I am here if you have a pastoral need. Know, too, that I am always willing to visit you in your home, at the church, or meet you for coffee somewhere. Call my cell phone (802-770-4003) or the church office to reach me.

May you be a blessing to God each and every day.

Blessings,

Pastor Pat

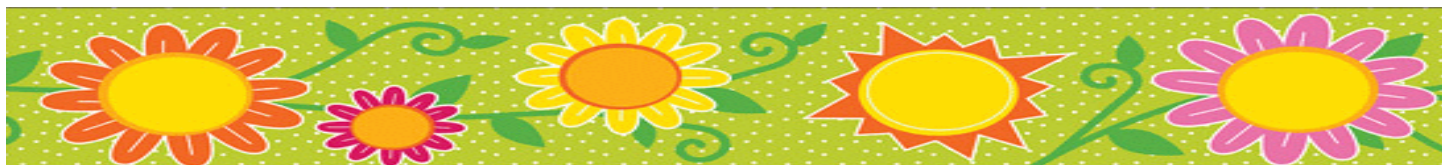
MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



As your Moderator, which is more of a legal position for someone with the responsibility to sign documents or speak on behalf of our church, I feel that I as a church member need to share a Special Thought with all of you. A thought that I believe is long overdue about our church and its future. Several years ago, just before and during the Covid-19 Pandemic, our church was confronting a number of challenges regarding membership, finances and whether we could continue as a viable church body. Today, we still face challenges for growing our membership but our finances have turned a corner thanks to the careful investing and

management of our funds, financial gifts we have received, the unprecedented effort of our Thrift Store volunteers to keep setting income records and the most recent change in how we conduct worship with the well-received vision and leadership from Pastor Pat Holcomb. The spiritual fulfillment mission of our church has always been there whether it is to provide a caring church family for those in need due to health problems, or for those who are in their senior years where there may be loneliness due to the loss of friends and loved ones, or for families and individuals who are in need due to a hardship that fell upon them. We as a church have always been there, even when some in our membership had deep doubts we could continue as a viable church. Today, there should be no doubt in anybody's mind that as long as we have members and friends willing to worship and work on behalf of our church in our various missions, we will remain a place for spiritual renewal and a place where the teachings of Jesus Christ will remain to be heard in our words, seen in our actions and felt in our hearts. Please pass this message along that the Port Orange United Church of Christ is "Open & Ready for Business"every day!

Bob Brewster, Moderator



OPERATION'S & FINANCE TEAM



For safety and ease of operation, we have decided to remove the sod area at the Thrift Store receiving area between the driveway and the concrete walkway and install pavers. We received a quote from NSB Pavers (the same crew that reworded the prayer walkway last year), NSB Quote \$3,000.00 with a \$1,600.00 in kind donation (total \$4,600.00) (he removed overhead, profit and labor at cost) Work will be completed by end of May.

Our pavement sealing company completed all the re-sealing and striping in the month of May. We appreciate their professional approach to the “issues” we experienced the first go around. It should be noted the contractor stood by his work and completed the re-sealing and striping at no additional cost to the church. The sidewalks are in need of power washing, do any of the members have a power wash machine they can provide to accomplish this mission?

Weight Watchers has commenced meetings on Tuesday, Thursday and twice on Saturday on the second week in May. The contract was signed by our Moderator and countersigned by Weight Watchers, we are very pleased to have them utilize our facility. It will add over \$14,000.00 per year to our church’s income. The first week went very well, the WW staff is donating duo fold towels and toilet paper left over from their last location. We are working with Christine to utilize the overflow parking area (grass) for their parking so we have open spaces for thrift store clients.

Due to the use by the Thrift Store staff, clients, Weight Watchers and Mountain of Life Church use of the facility we feel the ladies and men’s bathrooms need refurbishing. Malibu construction is working on a design and a quote for the work. Again, this is a capitol project so if you feel you would like to support this project please do so. Malibu stated they would have a proposal for review at the Saturday the 20th Council Meeting.

We have been experiencing difficulties with the irrigation system, so far, we have had sufficient rain to keep our lawns in great shape. Tuff Turf is investigating the issue and will repair as required. The sod near the side entrance to the Jim Reed building is in need of replacement. Tuff turf is providing a quote to remove and replace the area of dead turf.

If you know of an organization, group or individual that might be interested in a rental agreement for the Jim Reed building and/or the church proper please advise one of the Council members. Our church exterior is in great shape and with all your continued support we will work on projects that enhance our “curb appeal” as well as our missions.

I personally see the growth and enthusiasm in our church members and the area we serve outside the church every day at the Thrift Store.

Until we see each other again, God bless. *Art Horton, Chair*

Financial Update Operational Budget as 4/30/2023



	ACTUAL	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
	<u>April 2023</u>	<u>April 2023</u>	<u>April 2023</u>	<u>April 2023</u>
Income	\$ 13,677.75	\$ 52,170.90	\$ 45,578.61	\$ 6,593.29
Expenses	\$ 11,362.19	\$ 44,635.61	\$ 57,809.68	\$ 13,174.07
Profit/(Loss)	\$ 2,315.56	\$ 7,536.29	\$ (12,231.07)	\$ 19,767.36

My message this month is the same as last month, but that is a good thing because we made a profit again in April mostly due to the Thrift Store being over budget and also having no costly projects going on during that period. Of course, the income from the rental of the Jim Reed Room is extremely helpful. Our thanks go out to the Thrift Store team and all who support our Church. We are truly blessed! Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Horton, Treasurer

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



We continue to be blessed with great donations which gives our customers great items to purchase. Since the volume of donations has increased we are able to price our items lower which increases the number of items being sold, making us more money faster. We hear our customers' praise the way the items are displayed and the cleanliness of the store. They thank us for not over pricing things just because they are worth more. We are making it possible for those who have little to have what those who have much can easily get. I call that our mission. Our customer numbers continue to increase as well. Each day now

brings in as many as 80 buyers. If those of you who think higher prices make you more, you're wrong. The numbers tell the story. If the item stays on the shelf no money goes in the drawer. The store has new faces doing the work and they are doing a great job. Emily, Wendy, Barbara and Craig bring a whole new attitude to the jobs they do. If you haven't been in the store you are truly missing a great experience. You don't have to buy anything you are just showing appreciation for the volunteers' work that keeps the church doors open and the involvement in the community. Thanks to all, we couldn't do it without YOU!
Jackie & Bob Gaither, Manager

FOOD BASKET SUNDAY

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, June 4th is our next collection day. Over 35 bags of food were collected last month which benefited Halifax Urban Ministries. In a recent thank you note we received they wrote that our donations aided in serving **239 Households, 278 Food Bags, 504 People and 26 New People in the month of April.** Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Anne Stewart for loading and delivering the food. **Please be generous and make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates.**



SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP



Thanks to Sharon Williamson, Jean Trawinski and you the members and friends, for the great and varied dishes that were shared at the monthly Fellowship Dinners. Fellowship Dinners will be taking the summer off and returning in September.



Happy Father's Day!

**REMEMBER
DAD ON
JUNE 18th!**



JUNE BIRTHDAYS*

Diane Kirlin	6/1
Bob Gaither	6/2
Ruth Brewster	
Delana Pack	
Madison Hobson	6/8
Barbara Boon	
Pam Protko	6/13
Alan Holcomb	6/17
Carole Crippen	6/18
Susan Bussard	6/19
Bill Greiff	6/21
Charlie Baskin	
Jimmy Goodman	6/25
Sean Senko	6/29



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Charlie & Molly Baskin	Members of POUCC
Beth & Chris Brown	Daughter & Son-in-Law of Sheila Fisher
Rafael Castels	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Kathy Cratin	Member of POUCC
Lour Gilhooly	Friend of Sheila Fisher
F/F of Rev. Dr. Raymond Hargrove	Former Member of POUCC
Harry & Jim Manchester	Family of Sheilas Fisher
Luanne Mauldin	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)
Eloise Wottke	Friend of POUCC (Care Center, WI)

Special Needs

Victims and Families of the Texas School Shooting
 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

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES*



Dr. Ted & Cheri Yaeger, Jr.	6/07/1987
Bill & Doreen Wheeler	6/24/1972
Art & Barbara Horton	6/28/1975



Note: *Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your special date. or with your Prayer Concerns 788-0920.

POUCC June 2023

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

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

MAY THIS MONTH BRING WITH
IT..

WELCOME

ITS OWN SUNSHINE,
IT'S OWN BEAUTY..

June

TAKE TIME TO ENJOY THE
LITTLE THINGS THAT MAKE
LIFE SIMPLY GRAND. MAY THE
WARMTH OF THE SUN BRING A

NEW ENERGY, A NEW
STRENGTH AND NEW
BEGINNINGS TO YOU..

MAY PEACE, LOVE, HOPE &
HAPPINESS ALWAYS

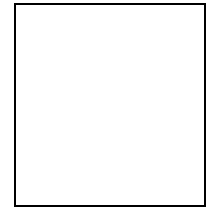
SURROUND YOU,

AND PURE LOVE &

LIGHT Shine WITHIN YOU..



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Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Patricia Holcomb
Office Manager: Kathy Shaffner
Custodian: Ronnie Servant
Thrift Store Manager: Jackie & Bob 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

Saturday

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM



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