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Port Orange
United Church of Christ
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Staff

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

INTERIM PASTOR'S MESSAGE



A thought for the season of Lent

Hebrew scripture scholar Harrell Beck used to stir up people with the exclamation: "The Bible is not the Word of God – but the Word of God is in the Bible." Beck's point was to remind people that the Bible is not God.

For too many faith communities, the Bible serves as an object to be venerated. Instead of seeking the God of the Bible, they almost seem to worship the Bible itself, fearing any suggestion that it is anything other than holy and infallible. According to sociologist of religion Nancy Ammerman, it's a form of idolatry that in many traditions makes the Bible a "fourth member of the Trinity." Living the Questions by David M. Felten and Jeff Procter-Murphy pg 16

We are entering into the season of Lent. A time that historically has been assigned by our church father's to take time out (48 days approx.) for us to reflect upon the meaning of Christ's sacrifice upon the cross as it pertains to each of us and to the world at large. Questions like: *Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? Who is to blame for Jesus' death? What is my response to his dying for the 'sins of the world'? What is 'Salvation'?* These are just a few examples of the self-examination of our faith that Lent asks us to ponder upon.

Historically, as Protestants, we as a group have fallen short in participating in the importance of this season. We may attend a worship where we receive the sign of the cross on our forehead, may even attend Maundy-Thursdays during Holy Week, and then celebrate the Resurrection on Easter morning, but do we take the time or have the interest to actually walk the road that Christ walked those last days of his ministry? Do we take the time to understand the reasons why Jesus was seen as a threat to so many? Do we open our heart to feel the weight of oppression that Jesus dealt with?

This season there are going to be many opportunities to participate in what I would call, "the experience" of Jesus. One of the most challenging activities is being found in the book study, "*The Last Week*" by Marcus Borg and John Crossan, two noted Theologians of the Jesus Seminar group formed in the 1980's, to take a closer look at scripture in light of the newer discoveries of Jewish writings known as the Dead Sea Scrolls and other anthropological discoveries of the world in which Jesus lived. Those who are attending this study are truly brave souls as this book challenges some of the traditional thinking that most of us have been taught over our life time. As a part of your personal journey this Lenten season, I would challenge all of you to find a copy of this book and read it and ponder upon how another view of Jesus can strengthen your faith journey. You are welcome to join any of our sessions, but reading the book is a must to gain the most benefit of the discussions that are presented.

Pastor Steven

ASSISTANT PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Many thanks to all who brought friends to our first monthly, second-Sunday "Bring-A-Friend Sunday" on February 12th. Of the eight visitors who attended, four returned the following Sunday, which would not have happened without our newcomers having received a warm welcome from all! Keep up the good work -- both in invitation and warm welcoming -- and we will grow as a community of faith by sharing God's love.

BLUE WELCOME FOLDERS at the main entrance of our church contain information about POUCC in addition to a form for visitors to complete which will aid us in follow up. By the time March 12th rolls around, I will have received a shipment of "advertising" pens to give you all to share with those you meet throughout the week to make our community more aware of where we are, times of our services, and how to contact us. It's up to you to let people know WHO we are -- a church that shares with and cares about ALL God's children -- and your Church Family will do the rest. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19 NRSV)

Joyfully, *Pastor Beverly*

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

The members of the Port Orange United Church of Christ passed an "invest in the future" budget, otherwise known as a negative cash flow budget for 2017. The Church Council recommended the budget and as moderator **I asked the members at the annual meeting to vote yes on the budget only if they agreed to participate in the newly implemented strategies developed in the Crossroad Workshops.** The budget passed unanimously.



The strategies are meant to deliver a Return On Investment of our cash reserves, time, and talent in order for POUCC to grow its' mission in this community and to increase the number of individuals and families that attend our services and events in person and through the Internet.

Passing the budget was the easy part. Now each of us is being asked to do everything we can to encourage our friends, neighbors, and those we meet in the community to "try us out" and hear God's message through his United Church of Christ in Port Orange. This is and will be hard work but we must prayerfully remember that it is God's work. Thanks go to each and every friend and member of POUCC that is participating in these efforts. We need to continue our work, thank and encourage each other, and ultimately celebrate the sustainability of delivering Christ's message through this church.

The Settled Pastor's Selection Committee held its first meeting on February 22nd. The committee, chaired by Kathy Cratin, met with Raymond Hargrove, our area conference minister. Sue Barhite, Louise Eagan, Peggy Wiggins, and Ted Yaeger represent the committee from the first service and Ted Batturs, Susie Bussard, Kathy Cratin, and Joellen Hopkins are representatives from the second service. Aydan Buller is the youth representative on the committee. Please pray for the committee member's guidance and commitment to this work and thank them for their gift of time (lots of time).

A special note of thanks: Bob and Kay Russell headed back to their home in New York on February 24th. We have been blessed with many "snowbird" friends and members over the years and it saddens we "Floridians" when our snowbird friends "fly" home. Bob and Kay have been true friends of our church and have given their time and talent to many of our initiatives and those of the greater Daytona Beach Community. The Crossroads Workshops would have never gotten off the ground without Kay's initiative and planning. Many a "Habitat for Community" home in this region would not have been as successfully completed without Bob (and Kay's) commitment. Hurricane Matthew destroyed their Florida home and they "found" rentals to get them through this winter. They are not confident that they will be able to return next fall. We pray that they will be able to return and wish them the very best each and every day.

Tom Besaw, Moderator

DEACONS CORNER



The Ministry of Deacons

The Deacon's Team recently met with Pastor Steven to develop our Communion Schedule for the year as well as other ways in which to aid in the Sunday Services. Pastor Steven suggested that the group discuss and develop procedures accompanied with training for those who participate within worship.

The Deacons are hosting the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and I will serve as the MC of the Talent Show. Please plan to join in what I'm sure will be a fun filled evening. *Bob Brewster, Chair of Deacons*

OPERATIONS TEAM

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

Old Business

- **Church Manual Committee:** The manual will outline the facility and property of items that are regularly maintained, where things are located, and protocol for events that may arise. Suggested members include: Jim Eagan, Chair, Rich Thole, Co-Chair, Bob Gaither, Joe Rogers, Charlie Baskin, and Bill Greiff.



New Business

- **Facility Maintenance & Repairs:** The following topics were addressed by the Team and Moderator Tom Besaw:
 1. Eve Post along the front and back of the Charlie Mix building need to be reviewed again.
 2. Down spouts and extensions need to be repaired/replaced.
 3. Gas stove valve will be relocated so to make it easier to reach.
 4. Kitchen sink grout will be replaced and caulked.
 5. Jim Reed Room ceiling repair and roof repairs will be researched.
 6. Painting of the remaining doors will check with Sher Buller if youth will be involved in this task.
 7. Renovations to secure the Finance Office will be researched and discussed at the next meeting.

The next Operations Team Meeting is on Monday, March 13th at 6:30 PM.

Respectively Submitted by: *Jim Eagan, Operations Chair*



Financial Update

Operational Budget as 1/31/2017

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFF
	<u>Jan. 2017</u>	<u>Jan2017</u>	
Income	\$16,785	\$12,381	+4,404
Expenses	\$14,187	\$12,409	+1,778
Net	\$ 2,598	\$ -28	+2,626

Hal Francis, Treasurer

LENTEN & EASTER SERVICES & ACTIVITIES



Lent is fast approaching so mark your calendars and plan to attend the services and activities as we begin the journey, share in our Lord's Last Supper, follow his passion and crucifixion, and look forward to Easter Sunday and his Resurrection.



February 28th, 6:00 PM - Pancake Dinner and Talent Show

Join us for a delicious Pancake Dinner prepared by the Deacons followed by members showing off a variety of their talents. Sign-up sheet on Jim Reed Room bulletin board.



March 1st, 6:00 PM - Ash Wednesday

We will host Seabreeze UCC in a combined service beginning with a Soup and Bread Dinner and concluding with imposition of ashes. Sign-up sheet on Jim Reed Room bulletin board.

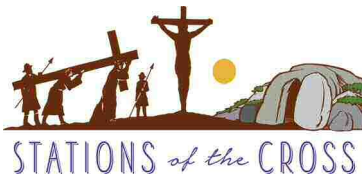


April 9th - We will have our regular Sunday Schedule with members of the Port Orange Music Academy and their families joining in our worship services and fellowship. Between services we be serving a light breakfast followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the POMA youth 5th grade and younger with our youth in charge of hiding the eggs.



April 13th, 6:00 PM - Maundy Thursday

Since this falls on the second Thursday of month Fellowship Dinner, our service will include a Passover Meal connecting our Jewish heritage with our Christian practice using the Jewish Haggadah and concluding with communion. The meal will be covered dish as usual with one special addition of matzo ball soup.



April 14th, 7:00 PM - Good Friday

During the afternoon we are invited to attend the Good Friday Ecumenical Service at Grace Episcopal Church from noon to 3:00 PM and as a church we have a service beginning at 7:00 PM with the focus on the Stations of the Cross.



April 16th - 6:45 AM 37th Annual Sunrise Service - Winter Haven Park, Ponce Inlet and the **10:45 AM Sanctuary Service** with choral and instrumental music.

MISSION NOTES



Mission projects continue doing well thanks to your loyal support. Sophie's Circle Mission Boxes are in both the Sanctuary and Jim Reed Room and the money collected benefits the local pet food pantry.

The Local Women's Pregnancy Crisis Center Donation Box is in the Sanctuary and accepts all newborn-one year old baby items (new or gently worn), as well as maternity clothes. Two car seats, a swing, pack & play with bumper pads and cover along with baby clothes, diapers and wipes were delivered this week. We are concentrating on these two Missions during the months of February and March but, of course donations can be made to them at any time of the year. Please make your checks out to the Church with a notation of the specific charity.



Looking ahead to April, our mission will aid the local Council of Aging by collecting Depends, men's and women's in all sizes, and Boost and Ensure nutritional drinks.

A Sock Box in the Sanctuary and Eyeglass Box in the Jim Reed room continue year-round for your donations. Thank you for your generosity with the Missions that benefit our local community and those that need "a helping hand".

Peggy Wiggins, Chair of Missions

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2016 CAMPAIGN, WALK THE EXTRA MILE MARCH 26TH—This offering enables the UCC to reach people and communities affected by disaster, displacement or poverty. Through OGHS, we provide assistance to families and communities around the world helping them to become stronger, healthier and better equipped to address hardships and catastrophes. Please be generous in support of this mission



THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



We started off the new year with robust sales totaling to date \$4,800. Our inventory is very low and we are in need of all varieties of donations. If you're doing some housecleaning, don't throw it away, donate it! We are also in need of volunteers and if you can spare three hours a week, please give me a call at 290-2726. It's a great way to help the Church, meet fellow church members, and it's fun! *Bob Gaither, Manager*

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, March 6th is our next collection day. Over 30 bags of food were collected last month which benefited Halifax Urban Ministries. If we all bring a food donation, we will fill the basket each month. There is a specific need for rice, tuna, pasta items and sauce, soups, canned meats and vegetables, breakfast cereal, condiments, and peanut butter. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please be generous and make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates (clearly marked on all cans, boxes, and containers).



TERRIFIC TUESDAYS



Terrific Tuesdays

The group gathered on February 14th and had a great Valentine's Day Party with delicious food thanks to Sue Turner and fun games. All enjoyed the celebration!

SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

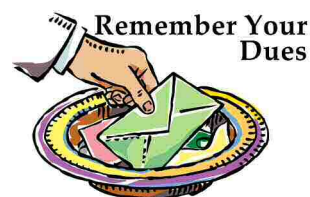


Every Second Thursday at 6:00 PM, POUCC has a wonderful Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed room.

*Make your plans to come to the next dinner Thursday, March 9h.
It's "Pot Luck with an Irish Flair!". Sign-up on Jim Reed Room Bulletin Board.*

NEWS & Notes

Just a reminder, yearly dues are \$15.00 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 is simply reimbursing the Church for that mandatory fee.**



We recently received a letter from the Superintendent of the Volusia County Schools acknowledging and thanking us for our donation of \$580 for students in need at neighboring Spruce Creek Elementary School. This donation was used to purchase sneakers so that children could participate in physical education classes.



DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD ON MARCH 12TH



NEWS FROM FLORIDA CONFERENCE UCC



February 12, 2017, was a day of celebrating new life in the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ. We joined together in Ft. Walton Beach to welcome the newest congregation in our conference when we officially greeted Eternal Hope United Church of Christ into the community of covenantal partners that is the Florida Conference.

Rev. Booth Iburg preached a sermon on the topic of covenant and reminded us that partners have both privileges and responsibilities that come with the blessing of such an important relationship as this. She asked us to consider the ways in which God transforms the hearts of individuals and the hearts of a community "from the inside out" as we discern together how best to be the hands of Jesus in the world today.

It's not enough to join a fellowship; we must also be the church in the world and extend ourselves to those who most need us in the very places where we live. The standing-room-only congregation is already on the lookout for more suitable worship space where they can expand their reach beyond the word-of-mouth gathering that currently fills their space on a regular basis. Conference Minister John Vertigan promised the gathered assembly that while they have joined the UCC on a spiritual journey, we have also made promises to journey with them despite the challenges of geography and distance.

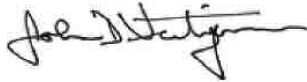


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Join us in welcoming these partners in ministry by sending a greeting to Eternal Hope United Church of Christ, 211 Hollywood Blvd N.E. Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. Like their Facebook page on social media, and pray for this emerging ministry that shows such promise for the sharing of progressive Christian values in the Panhandle.

Welcome, Eternal Hope!

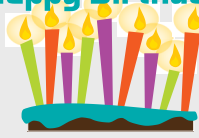
Be at peace, and be in touch, won't you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Vertigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Rev. John Vertigan

For further happenings go to www.ucc.fl.org.

Happy Birthday!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS*

Sharon Williamson	3/4
Ruth Gilbert	3/5
Faith Coppolo	3/6
Gail Besaw	3/12
Jim Eagan	3/15
Bill Wheeler, Sr.	3/16
Molly Baskin	3/24
Lauren Tromley	3/25



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES*

Charlie & Molly Baskin	3/03/1962
Richard & Vivien Devins	3/24/1984
Chuck & Erika Henderson	3/25/1972



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Natalie Blasiman	Friend of Members
Sherry Bonnell	Sister of Gail Besaw
Karen Donahue	Member of the Kransi Family
Ruth Gilbert	Member of POUCC
Jack & Pat Hilgenberg	Members of POUCC
Jimmy Hill	Brother of Val Hill
Scott Kirlin	Husband of Diane Kirlin
F/F of Rev. Philip Laucks	Friend of POUCC
Carol Lewis	Friend of the Deitch Family
Sandy Morris	Sister of Pastor Steven
Elsie Neal	Aunt of Pastor Steven in Hospice
David Pickels	Brother of Bonnie Morisset
Carol Strickland	Former Member of POUCC
Jim Turner	Husband of Sue Turner
Eric Walter	Friend of the Buller Family

In Care Facilities:

Eva Brewster	Friend of POUCC (Indigo Manor Rehab)
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 Collegedale, TN)
Eloise Wottke	Former Member of POUCC (Onalaska Care Center in Onalaska, WI)

Special Needs

All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families

Broader Concerns

Victims of Recent Flooding


Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide

First Responders Everywhere

**Please contact the Church Office (788-0920) with your prayer requests.*

Note: *Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your special date.

POUCC MARCH 2017

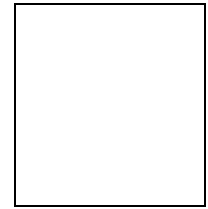
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 POMA 4:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	2 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	3	4
5 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	6 POMA 3:45 pm Compassionate Friends 6:00 pm	7 Lenten Study 1:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm Lenten Study 6:30 pm	8 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	9 POMA 3:45 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	10	11 Bob Fisher Memorial 1:00 pm
12 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	13 POMA 3:45 pm Operations Meeting 6:30 pm	14 Lenten Study 1:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm Lenten Study 6:30 pm	15 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	16 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	17  St. Patrick's Day	18
19 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	20 21 POMA 3:45 pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm	21 Lenten Study 1:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm Lenten Study 6:30 pm	22 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	23 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	24	25
26 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	27 POMA 3:45 pm	28 Lenten Study 1:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm Lenten Study 6:30 pm	29 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	30 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	31	

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

Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments Each Sunday Between Services

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE: MARCH—TEACHING, APRIL—OPERATIONS

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Gift & Thrift Store Manager: Bob Gaither
Youth Leader: Sher Buller

Office Hours

9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Thrift Store Hours

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

Sunday Worship

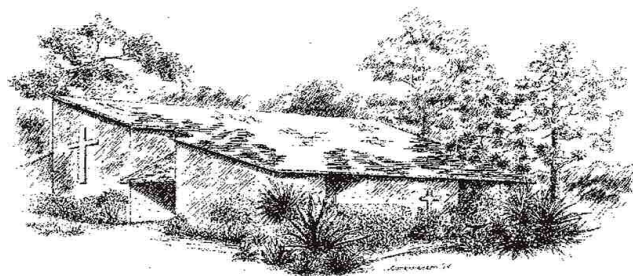
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM



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