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May 2018

Port Orange
United Church of Christ
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SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Easter greetings in the name of the Lord,

My first two months as your pastor have been great. The highlight so far has been Easter Day. Being a part of the Easter sunrise worship was one I won't forget. Yes, we didn't actually see the sun rise over the Atlantic Ocean but we knew it was there. Interestingly enough, we don't actually see God's son but we know he is always there.

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As we move through this season of Easter, the theme of Mission, helping others, continues to be a big part of our congregation. It certainly is good to know we are reaching out into our community and helping make it a better one.

This season of Easter continues until Sunday, May 20; Pentecost Sunday. A very important day during this season is the fortieth day, Ascension Day; the day Jesus ascended into heaven.

During my seminary years, I began to wonder why Ascension Day had all but stopped being observed in the Protestant church. It certainly is a scriptural event, the Protestant Reformation didn't reject it, and in some ways it is just as important as Good Friday and Easter Day; because without the Ascension, how could we be assured of Jesus' authority? It has been suggested Ascension Day is no longer enthusiastically celebrated because it doesn't fall on a Sunday and no one gives or receives any presents!

According to the Epistle reading in Acts 1, Jesus appeared to his disciples for forty days after his resurrection, then he was taken up before their eyes into heaven. So the church has historically celebrated the Ascension on the sixth Thursday after Easter, which equates to the fortieth day.

This year following our 6:00 pm monthly Fellowship Dinner, we will be having an Ascension Day worship service on Thursday, May 10 at 7:15 pm. Plan to be a part of this worship service as we remember how Christ's ascension means that in heaven there is one who, knowing firsthand the experience of suffering and temptation, prays for us and perfects our prayers.

Typically, we do not give or receive earthly presents on Ascension Day but we continually receive Christ's love; the best present of all. Every new day is a witness that Jesus is alive, and the hope that brings us, is as sure and certain as daylight itself.

Continued Easter Blessings,

Pastor Glenn

Staff

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Glenn Rice
Assistant Pastor:
Beverly Schafer
Pastor Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. Bill Ebbert
Minister of Music:
Dr. Tom Naus
Youth Leader:
Sher Buller
Office Manager:
Kathy Shaffner
Custodian:
Deb Viola
Thrift Store Manager:
Bob Gaither
Media Communications:
Bob Brewster & Stephanie Whitman

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS



Thank you to everyone who helped in making our annual Easter Sunrise Service a wonderful worship experience.

- Thank you to everyone involved with our Mission Team. They are a good, hardworking group making a difference here in Port Orange. My very first meeting here was with the Mission Team. I was impressed as the meeting was about to begin, they realized there were too many people to sit around one table and needed to quickly move to a larger table configuration to facilitate the meeting. That is good news!
- We are truly blessed to be a part of this congregation. I can't tell you enough how much good there is within all of you. The genuine love within our congregation can be felt by all who enter our doors. New faces continue to tell me how they feel at home during their time with us. This congregation is truly one of God's small miracles.
- Congratulations to Dr. Tom Naus on his retirement from teaching at Ocoee High School. I'm sure he will be missed by everyone.
- I'm beginning to understand a few quirks to ministering in Florida. The most interesting is seeing so many wonderful people flee north for a few months. Travel mercies to all of you. You are missed and I look forward to seeing you later this year.

DEACON'S CORNER

At the last Deacons meeting Tom Besaw presented a brief outline of the work done on the Crossroads Strategic Development Plan. Tom led us through the Plan and what needs to be done. Much work has been done to implement the Development Plan but there is much more needed to continue the forward progress. The Deacons Team discussed the role that they should play in the future implementation of the Plan.



At the start of Tom's presentation we saw an age breakdown of our congregation and how it should play a part in our worship and program development. Next came the discussion of the four basic elements of the Plan and how they fit into the responsibilities of the Deacons.

Element One: Loving acceptance of all God's children with the strategic goal of increased membership.

Element Two: We serve our community with continued website development, updating and enhancement of our outreach.

Element Three: Meaningful and uplifting choices of worship by meeting the needs of our membership and reaching out to our greater community by providing an awareness of POUCC.

Element Four: Space for spiritual growth through multidimensional worship that includes provoking thought, expectancy and experience.

Crossroads Strategic Development Plan is now being augmented into the life of the Church in several areas. More needs to be done to move it forward as we attempt to meet God's mission for our Church.

There is something more that each of us can do to help in God's mission for our Church. If you are not currently serving on a Church Team and wish to serve, please let Kathy Cratin, Moderator, or the Church office know. This applies to all, both members and friends. All are welcome!!!

Charlie Baskin, Deacons Team Secretary

ASSISTANT PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Yesterday, while sitting at the stoplight at Beville Road by Sam's Club, I watched as a mother with her baby in a stroller waited for the crosswalk signal to change in their favor. The instant she took one step forward after seeing that it was safe to cross the street, a speeding car raced towards the mother and child in order to make the turn into the parking area for Sam's Club. I gasped in horror in that split second, dreading what appeared to be inevitable. Even God must have gasped in that moment as He veered the car what had to have been barely an inch in order to prevent a tragic outcome. What a God Moment!

Recently, someone commented to me that they had never seen a church blessed with as many miracles as we at POUCC have experienced -- a true testimony to our active prayerful lives as is witnessed and spiritually experienced each and every Sunday when we lift our intercessory prayers both vocally and silently. Here are but a few examples of lives changed through the prayers of our church family:

Three very young children are now thriving after surviving the frightening odds of brain surgery.

A family member is now thriving after surviving many surgeries for injuries resulting from a motorcycle accident from which many feared he would not survive.

A family member who, within a three-year span, survived two major open-heart surgeries, two separate life-threatening internal bleeds, and emergency surgery for a hernia which also caused an obstructed bowel is finally doing well.

Some of you may not be aware of one of our church family members who actually "coded" during cardiac surgery. He was greeted "on the other side" by one of his family members who had previously passed who told him to choose life because his work on earth was not yet done. It doesn't get any more powerful than that!

We praise God for the many blessings of prayers answered in obvious ways for us to recognize as well as prayers answered in ways unknown to us. Your family at POUCC praises you, Lord, for giving us a powerful spiritual gift of prayer with which we glorify you!

Joyfully,

Pastor Beverly

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

April 1st, we had another Easter service on the beach. Unfortunately the sun did not show any rays, the winds blew and the tide kept creeping closer to those of us gathered. We did make it through, and again thank you to all that worked on Saturday morning, and on Sunday morning setting up. A big thank you needs to go to Kathy Shaffner for all the work she did to help us.

Our church has a Pastor Relations Committee, which consists of Louise Eagan, Gail Besaw, Charlie Baskin, Ted Batturs, the Moderator and of course Pastor Glenn. We just met and will meet quarterly. This group is to insure we have a vital, healthy relationship between the congregation and the pastor. If anyone has concerns please feel free to contact any member of this committee. *Kathy Cratin, Moderator*



OPERATIONS TEAM



Our Operations Team has been busy addressing issues around the property and listed below are the highlights of the April Meeting.

- **Work Day & Pancake Breakfast- May 5TH, 7:30 AM-Noon.** All able bodies are encouraged to attend for pancakes and the workday participation. A work day idea (things that need to be done) signup sheet is at the back of the sanctuary.
- The Thrift Store requires more dedicated storage so Operations is looking at converting the concrete walled storage shed for this purpose. The second shed will be reorganized to hold items removed from the first shed.
- Several church security systems augmenting the current system have been reviewed and will be presented to the church council.
- The church sanctuary lights are being looked at for replacement with softer light dimming LED bulbs.
- During the course of the year, all ideas and comments about the church property maintenance and condition are welcome. Please let Kathy in the church office know or drop a note in the church office door.
- New light fixtures were donated and installed outside of the Pastor's Office.
- The Operations Team discussed getting the Sanctuary floors cleaned professionally, Also discussed were new upgrades for the computers at a cost of (\$399).

Bob Brewster, Co-Chair of Operations

Church Work Day: The Operations Team has decided to have a church **Work Day Saturday May 5th 7:30 AM-Noon. The day will start with a Pancake Breakfast 7:30 AM-8:30 AM followed by work both inside and outside of the church.** All Church Teams should put together a list of items they would like to see done. This list can include anything from tree trimming to window washing; painting; removing; building; cleaning inside and outside areas, etc. The church youth are invited to help with the pancake breakfast, which will be organized by Bob Brewster. Anyone wanting to cook or serve only requires an apron and to be in the kitchen by **7:15 AM** followed by cleanup help at **8:30-9:00 AM**. For the Work Day itself bring rakes, shovels, hedge clippers, chain saws and any other assorted tools for specific work inside and outside. See the "Work Day Things to Do" signup list in back of sanctuary for anything you feel needs to be done Inside & Outside. We will work from this list on Work Day. **The Work Day will end at 12 Noon.**



THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



Thanks to the patrons, donations, and our wonderful volunteers who were recognized at an appreciation luncheon on April 29th. April was a great month for the Store with sales year to date totaling over \$9,500. Remember us when doing Spring cleaning of your closets, cabinets, and garages. New volunteers are always welcome. If interested, stop by the shop or give me a call 290-2726. By donating, volunteering, and shopping at the Store, we continue to help the Church and our community.

Bob Gaither, Manager



Financial Update — Operational Budget as 3/31/2018

	ACTUAL	YTD	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
	<u>Mar. 2018</u>	<u>Mar. 2018</u>	<u>Mar. 2018</u>	<u>Mar. 2018</u>
Income	\$ 16,880	\$ 45,170	\$ 36,345	\$ 8,825
Expenses	\$ 20,927	\$ 45,765	\$ 42,431	\$ 3,334
Net	\$ (4,047)	\$ (595)	\$ (6,086)	

MISSION NOTES



Spruce Creek Elementary became our Mission's Team focus on April 2nd. Again, this year our theme is "KASH FOR KIDS" - monetary donations rather than shopping for items. This way specific needed items can be bought by the school when a student is in need. We were blessed to have Tina Howard, our liaison with S.C.E. speak at both services on April 15th. Tina shared stories of children in need and their families, and many tears were seen in the eyes of our congregation hearing her stories. As was done last year, we are inviting members to "Match Funds" to any \$ (dollar) amount of their choice.

A trip was made to Sophie's Circle with many canned and dry dog and cat food and a check for \$380 was sent to them. A car load of beautiful and useful baby items was delivered to the Women's Pregnancy Crisis Center. A check for \$115 will be sent to them with the cash received designated for them. Thank you to all for your generosity!!

Trips were made to Boggy Creek on April 4th and 25th and provided 27 afghans thanks to Molly's 'Knit-Wits', Jackie, and un-named church members. Gail and I attended their 'Stuff a Bear' party that same day and over 400 bears were stuffed by all attending. As always, their supply of afghans is low and we need your crocheting and knitting skills!



Bob continues to give Spruce Creek High School liaison, Donna Wilkes, jeans, shoes, shirts and even prom gowns. Thanks you, Bob, for your compassion and BIG HEART!

Sophie's Circle, The Sock Box, Eyeglass Collection Basket and Aluminum Can Tab Jug Collections continues year round. *Peggy Wiggins, Chair of Missions*

Special Offering



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH—May 20th: The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, **May 6th is our next collection day and will benefit Halifax Urban Ministers.** Over 22 bags of food were collected last month which benefited the Pantry. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart for loading and delivering the food. 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. Please be generous and make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates.



FELLOWSHIP CORNER



Make your plans to come to the next dinner Thursday, May 10th, Ascension Thursday. It's "Pot Luck". Dessert will be provided you bring your entrées, sides and salad. Sign-up sheet will be circulated at Services and please make sure to sign-up. Following the dinner there will an Ascension Day Worship in the Sanctuary.



BE A BLESSING



Please help support our Youth Service Project with Blessing Bag Donations.

Blessing Bags are being put together by our youth. These are then being given out to church members, family, and friends to be distributed to the homeless. The idea is to keep a bag handy in your car to pass out when you come across someone who is in need. Donations should be small individually wrapped items. Most items may be purchased from the Dollar Store.

Necessities: hand sanitizer, Band-Aids, moist wipes, Kleenex, small bottles of water

Toiletries: toothpaste/brush, floss, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, comb, sunscreen, chapstick

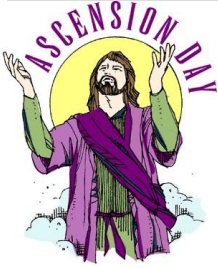
Personal Items: (new only) socks, underwear

Non-Perishable Foods: granola bar, energy bar, tuna/cracker packs, trail mix, raisins, peanut butter cheese crackers, cookies, Slim Jim

There is also a list of suggested items located in the Jim Reed Room.



NEWS & NOTES



Worship Service Thursday, May 10th, 7:15 PM. The Ascension is an important Christian holiday that attests to the reality of Jesus Christ, God and human, returning to the Father, to return again in the future second coming. The Ascension is the final component of the *paschal mystery*, which consists also of Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection. **The Service will follow the "Pot-Luck" Fellowship Dinner that begins at 6:00 PM. Dessert will be provided; you bring the entrée and sides/salads.**

On Sunday, May 20th, we celebrate Pentecost the birthday of the Church. Our Worship Services will include Communion. Please plan to attend and be sure to wear **RED**.



Thanks to all for you prayers, cards and remembrances on the passing of my father Clyde whose life we celebrated at a Memorial Service on April 21st. A special thank you to Jackie Gaither and the Fellowship Team for the delicious luncheon following the Service.
Susie Bussard

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY: Second of each month, Sunday, May 13th, Mother's Day is our next Sunday. Please plan to attend and bring a friend



SPECIAL MENTION



Congratulations to Delana & Colten Pack! Delana earned her Silver Award in Girl Scouts, and continues to be on the Honor Roll this year at Atlantic High School. Colten was in the Atlantic production of Sweeney Todd, earned his Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do, and continues to appear in some acting parts in a new You Tube series. *Way to go!*



A Mother's Prayer For You

~ Anon

I said a Mother's Day prayer for you to thank the Lord above for blessing me with a lifetime of your tenderhearted love. I thanked God for the caring you've shown me through the years, for the closeness we've enjoyed in time of laughter and of tears. And so, I thank you from the heart for all you've done for me and I bless the Lord for giving me the best mother there could be!

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
SUNDAY, MAY 13TH**



Happy Birthday!



MAY BIRTHDAYS*

Sonnie Zinke	5/5
Grace Kern	
Cindy Hill	
Sue Batturs	5/7
Billy Wiggins	
June Ferreri	5/9
Gary Zemba	
Cora Hargrove	5/13
Charla Manning	5/14
Beverly Woodacre	5/15
Pat Hilgenberg	5/17
Tom Buller	5/18
Pastor Glenn	
Dwight Sanborn	
Peggy Wiggins	5/20
Ann Shaw	
Mary Ann Stewart	5/27
Richard Devins, Sr.	
Judy Van Camp	5/30
Ingrid Claunch	5/31

MAY ANNIVERSARIES*



Cindy Johndrow & Deb Pack	5/06/2015
Jackie & Bob Gaither	5/08/1982
Kristin & Peter Marshall	5/16/2015
Sher & Tom Buller	5/22/1993
Suzette & Keith Wheeler	5/24/1997
Ann & John Shaw	5/27/2001

PRAYER REQUESTS*

Cecilia Airaldi	Friend of the Schafer-Ramoutar Family
April Bastile	Family Member of Sheila Fisher
Lisa Pratt-Benson	Friend of Pamela Schafer
Bob Brewster	Member of POUCC
Beth Brown	Daughter of Sheila Fisher
Tom Buller	Member of POUCC
Carol	Friend of the Buller Family
Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
Dr. Brenda Cunningham	Friend of Dr. Tom
Amy Dyer	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Pat Haldi	Friend of Carol Rogers
Erika Henderson	Friend of POUCC
Jack & Pat Hilgenberg	Members of POUCC
Dale Hill	Sister-in-Law of Valerie Hill
Jimmy Hill	Brother of Val Hill
Shelly Hill	Daughter of Mary Ann Stewart
Carol Jarvis	Friend of Carol Rogers
Scott Kirlin	Husband of Diane Kirlin
Roger Kransi	Brother of Harold Kransi
Joe Magsamen	Friend of Sher Buller
Sandie McClellan	Friend of the Deitch Family
Leslie Neese	Friend of the Stewart Family
Deb Pack	Friend of POUCC
Larry Patterson	Brother of Kathy Cratin
John Shell	Son of Sue Barhite
Michelle Stewart	Friend of the Wiggins Family
Carol Strickland	Friend of POUCC
Bill Tinney	Friend of POUCC
Tracey	Friend of Kathryn Manning
Eric Walter	Friend of the Buller Family
James Wood	Friend of Sher Buller

In Care Facilities

Jeanette Campbell	Member of POUCC (Care Center in MA)
June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Center in PA)
Marge Monat	Member of POUCC (Care Center in DB)
Blanche Northcutt	Former Member of POUCC (Care Center in TN)
Eloise Wottke	Former Member of POUCC (Care Center in WI)
Beverly Woodacre	Member of POUCC (Care Center in NY)

Special Needs


All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families

Broader Concerns

Victims of and Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide
First Responders Everywhere

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

POUCC May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	2 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	3 POMA 4:30 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	4	5 Pancake Breakfast & Church Work Day 7:30 am-Noon
6 Communion Sunday 8:45 & 10:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am	7 POMA 4:30 pm Compassionate Friends 6:00 pm Deacon's 6:30 pm	8 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	9 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	10 POMA 4:30 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm Ascension Day Worship 7:15 pm	11	12
13 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	14 POMA 4:30 pm Operations Meeting 6:30 pm	15 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	16 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	17 POMA 4:30 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	18	19
20 Pentecost with Communion 8:45 & 10:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am	21 POMA 4:30 pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm	22 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	23 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm	24 POMA 4:30 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	25	26
27 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	28 Office & Gift & Thrift Store Closed 	29 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	30 CPT 6:00 pm	31 Line Dancing 6:00 pm		

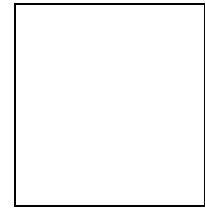
Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 3 pm, Sat. 9 am – Noon

Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm

Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments Each Sunday Between Services

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE: MAY—FELLOWSHIP, JUNE—MISSIONS

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Church Staff

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Assistant Pastor: Beverly Schafer
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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

Children's Sunday School

8:45 AM

**Adult Discussion & Middle
School Sunday School**

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM