



Volume 38, Issue 11

November 2016

**Port Orange
United Church of Christ**

651 Taylor Road

Port Orange, FL 32127

Office 386-788-0920

Fax 386-788-8255

Email: uccpo@bellsouth.net

Website: portorangeucc.org

INTERIM PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Ecclesiastes 9: 11 ... the race is not always won by the swiftest, the battle is not always won by the strongest; prosperity does not always belong to those who are the wisest, wealth does not always belong to those who are the most discerning, nor does success always come to those with the most knowledge—for time and chance may overcome them all.

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With the 112th World Series starting off this week, I began thinking about how we pick our "favorite" baseball teams. When I was a young boy, one of the requirements to "belong" was to have a favorite baseball team. Picking one team meant the difference between acceptance and ridicule. Most of the other boys picked their teams based on statistics, such as: how many wins did the team have, who had the best hitters, or who coached. For some picking a specific team had to do more with family origins. I didn't have a clue about how to pick my favorite team, as baseball was not a favored sport in my home. So I picked my team based on their name and what inspired me. I picked the Oriole's to be my favored team. I had no clue as to who was on the team, how many wins they had, or whether they had the potential to get to the World Series. But what I did know was I liked the colors the Oriole bird sported, I was intrigued in the way they build their nests, hanging from a branch, a feature differing from most bird nests. I enjoyed the song of the Oriole. Were they a winning team; hardly. Did I find status with my classmates; no. Was I ridiculed; at times. But when I think about the team, I am reminded about the uniqueness and gift's their mascot provides for me.

As we prepare for the next CrossRoads workshop, I wish to ask you the question: How did you pick Port Orange UCC to be your home church; as either a fulltime or part-time resident? Why do you continue to come to this particular family of faith? What do you gain from being a part of this mission? Do you base your participation based on historical experiences such as denominational ties, or family origins. Or do you base your participation on personal experiences and feelings?

There is no right or wrong way in how one picks which church to affiliate with. But what is important, is how you view your relationship with your faith community. How you see Port Orange UCC determines who this church is and will become. One of the practices we are developing (and this works only with your participation) is having time during each worship to speak about how this faith family inter-connects in your life. Over the past 8 weeks we have been blessed with stories of what Port Orange UCC means in our lives from members of our congregation. It helps us to know how important each of us is in the fabric of this faith community. We all have precious gifts to offer one another and we each receive precious gifts through this community we call family.

We may feel like the Cubs or the Indians, not having hit a winning series in decades, but the value we receive is not in the winning, but rather through the persistence of the journey. Our growth is found in the race itself. Living and learning, laughing and crying – together as a specific family of faith, we call Port Orange UCC!

Peace,

Pastor Steven

Staff

Interim Pastor:

Rev. Stephen 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

CROSSROADS — MEMBERS' MESSAGE



Port Orange United Church of Christ is at a Crossroads

We all owe a big THANK YOU to the forty-three members and friends who participated in the first of four crossroads workshops on October 2nd. Additionally seven members and friends participated via the “Snowbird/Cruise table meaning they provided their input via email or mail prior to the workshop.

The one-hour workshop was **exciting with lots of laughter and** as it sought answers to the following question(s):

What are the internal Strengths and Weaknesses and the external Opportunities and Threats of The Port Orange United Church of Christ?

Workshop participants listed their individual answers to the question(s) and then in small group tables discussed their responses.

Each table then selected and wrote common responses that were placed on a sticky wall. 29 Strengths, 34 Weaknesses, 26 Opportunities, and 26 Threats were posted on the sticky wall.

Each participant “voted” for their top five Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats with colored sticky dots.

The workshop results are posted in the Jim Reed Building for all to see and contemplate. This information is a baseline for our future workshops.

The workshop ended with a terrific lunch.

The discussion was thought provoking, the workshop was fun, but our work has just begun. Our next workshop on **November 6th** will challenge us to reach consensus about who we (POUCC) are and what we want Port Orange UCC to be.

The good news is that fifty members and friends participated in the October 2nd workshop. The challenge is that **we NEED every member and friend to participate** and share their views and vision for the future of this church. **Please schedule the time and make the commitment to attend and participate in the consensus workshop on November 6th.** Pray for guidance as we work toward this consensus.

Tom Besaw and Kay Russell

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Our Church's Pastoral Relations Committee will hold its next meeting on **Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 pm.** The Committee consists of Billy Wiggins, Terry McCormack, Sue Batturs and Charlie Baskin, along with ex-officio (non voting) members Interim Minister Steven Mitchell and Moderator Tom Besaw. The purpose of the committee is:



1. To mediate/resolve issues and/or concerns between the Senior Minister (or Interim Minister) and a Church Member and 2. to act as a sounding board for general concerns that at the present time do not need resolution or mediation but may need addressing.

If a member or friend has a concern about our Pastor, it would be advisable to first schedule a meeting with the Pastor to discuss the issue. If a person feels uncomfortable with that approach or it does not present a solution, then the person should approach the Pastoral Relations Committee with their concerns. You may bring your concern to any Committee member who will bring your views to a Committee meeting or if you so desire, you may attend a Committee meeting. As the Committee meetings are usually closed door due to the nature of our responsibilities, coordination with the Committee beforehand is recommended.

The relationship between a Pastor and individuals within the congregation is vital for the success of God's mission for our Church. Let's work together.

DEACONS CORNER



As we transition through this period of seeking a new permanent called Senior Pastor, we are very fortunate to have the able guidance of Interim Pastor Steven Mitchell working with us. Part of this transition is changing the ways we do some things. You have perhaps noticed some very subtle changes in the worship services where we have Deacons handling announcements and lay people making the Invitations for Giving. Our church is made up of wonderful giving people and we like to see more participation from both members and friends. Right now, we have many people filling multiple roles whether on two or three teams, volunteering at the Thrift Store and helping with activities as they come or working to support multiple missions in which our church participates. And, when Mother Nature throws a curve ball at us, like Hurricane Matthew, the need for more active members & friends participation grows even bigger as we work to keep everything going while adding cleanup and recovery to the list. In summary, the Deacons are asking all of you to not wait to be asked to do something, just jump in. Let us know that you want to participate in something and we will work to offer you an opportunity that could make a big difference to both you and our church. Call Kathy at the church office, talk with Pastor Steven or let one of your Deacons know. *Faithfully yours, Bob Brewster, Chair of Deacons*

OPERATIONS

The Operations Team met on October 10th and the following topics were discussed.



Old Business

- Mold problem in the Youth Room had been addressed by O₂ Mold & Odor at the cost of \$50.
- The AED Defibrillator was purchased from DXE Medical, Inc for \$1,195 and delivered on October 23rd.
- Removal of plants in the Prayer Garden is underway in preparation for the **Church Workday on Saturday, November 19th.**
- Estimates for repair of the roof and ceiling in the Jim Reed Room Hallway are being obtained.
- In preparation for painting of the Jim Reed Room, color samples were posted on the walls for members' comments. This project will move forward when a consensus on color is reached.

Next Operations Meeting is November 14, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

In Faith, Tom Buller, Operations Chair



Financial Update

Operational Budget as 9/30/16

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	<u>Jan.-Sept. 2016</u>	<u>Jan.-Sept. 2016</u>
Income	\$ 125,220	\$125,454
Expenses	\$ 137,055	\$125,125
Net Income Actual	\$ -11,835	\$ 329

Our expenses are still more than our income. Tithes and offerings are more than \$21,000 less than what was budgeted through September. We will need to watch expenses closely and only spend what is absolutely necessary through the end of the year. Respectfully, Susie Greiff, Treasurer

MISSION NOTES

Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$431 for the Neighbors in Need Offering. Your continued support of this important mission is greatly appreciated. As you can see from the Mission Projects listed below, November and December are a very busy time with special needs.



Tuesday, November 8th. Baked goods must be at the Church by **Monday November 7th between 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM.** Cash donations are welcome. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary.

As we have in the past years, we will participate in the **CROP Walk, Sunday, November 13th,** by collecting 1 lb jars of peanut butter. Place donations on the table in the front of the Sanctuary.



Again this year we will be collecting food and monetary donations so that families of students at Spruce Creek Elementary may enjoy a holiday meal. Dates for the collection are **November 6th and November 13th.** **Checks are to be made out to POUCC with SCES Food Drive in the Memo Line.** Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Our annual Angel Tree Project School in support of students at Spruce Creek Elementary begins on **Sunday, November 27th**. The tree decorated with angels listing the names, sizes, and ages of the children will be in the Sanctuary. Please purchase a piece of warm clothing (slacks, sweater, hooded sweatshirt or jacket) for the child listed on the ornament. The wrapped gifts, with the name tag attached outside, should be placed under the tree by **Sunday, December 11th** so that they can be delivered prior to Christmas vacation. Your labor of love at the holiday season puts big smiles on the faces of those in need.



As a result of Hurricanes Hermine on the West Coast and Matthew on the East Coast Disaster Ministries of the UCC in Florida needs to replenish their Hygiene Kits, Emergency Clean-up Buckets, School and Baby Care Kits. Items needed for each kit's assembly are listed on the Sanctuary bulletin board and donations may be dropped off at the church office.

Jackie Gaither, Chair of Missions

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE

Besides selling clothes and other items the Thrift Store is a mission. We donate two bags a month to the homeless, and one bag to Christ Team. Donations of toys, a crib, diapers, and other child care items have been delivered to Pregnancy Crisis Center. We provide proper attire for those in need who are interviewing for jobs, and bikes to children whose families can't afford to purchase them. Through our partnership with neighboring Spruce Creek Elementary School, we have clothed students and their families in need as well as any other child in need. No one is ever turned away. That's why your donations are so important and please keep them coming! Thanks to your support sales to date have reached \$18,500. *Bob Gaither, Store Manager*



YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS



Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, November 1st is our next collection date. Over 20 bags of food were collected last month for Grace Episcopal Food Pantry. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky for delivering the food. This month's collection will benefit families at Spruce Creek Elementary School. Please be generous.

YOUTH CORNER

Terrific Tuesday Halloween Party



The youth had a great time at the Halloween party. Food, Fun, Music, Games, and Friends. It doesn't get any better than that! A big thank you to Sue Turner for preparing our meal which consisted of Blood Juice (complete with smoking mist), brain sandwiches, monster fruit cups, band-aide wafers, and even pumpkin poop (cheese balls). We were happy to have Pastor Steven arrive as Gomez Adams, Erica and Chuck Henderson as the Nurse and Doctor, and Kaylei Wierzbicki-Talverdi as a Hogwarts Wizard.



The youth, as well as adults, are invited to participate in the CROP Walk, **Sunday, November 13th**. The walk begins at the Drive In Church on A1A. Registration is at 12:30 PM with the walk beginning at 1:00 PM. The 1lb jars of peanut butter being collected will be delivered on the day of the walk. Monetary donations are also welcome. Please notify Sher Buller if you are interested in walking as a POUCC Team.

SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER



Every Second Thursday at 6:00 pm, POUCC has a wonderful Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed Room. Program will be presented by Leslie G. Neice about Human Trafficking.

***Our next fellowship dinner is November 10th.
It's a "Thanksgiving Feast" -- Turkey & Gravy Provided.
Sign-up on Sanctuary Bulletin Board (please be specific).***

SPECIAL MENTION



A BIG THANK YOU TO Tom and Gail Besaw, Cindy Deitch and Peggy Wiggins for their hard work in weeding, trimming and removing unwanted bushes and plants in the Prayer Garden and the front of the Church. As you can well imagine, it was not an easy task but as you can see the results are beautiful and the grounds look great.

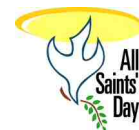


NEWS & NOTES



On Sunday, October 16th, 72 members of the congregation along with 6 dogs, 4 cats and 20 photos of member's dogs, cats and a horse participated in a special Pet Blessing Worship Service. All God's critters were on their best behavior as we celebrated and blessed these very important family members.

ALL SAINTS DAY COMBINED SERVICE: Sunday, **November 6th**, beginning at 9:45 AM. Please bring a photo of a loved one who has passed on so that we may honor them during worship. Unframed photos will be pinned on a board and framed photos placed up front prior to worship.



PHOTOS WANTED Within the next week, we are in need of members and friends sending in photos (digital or print) copies of any church event. You can send them by email or drop them off in the church office.

ALL CHURCH WORKDAY: **Saturday, November 19th, 9:00 AM.** We will be working outside on the grounds with a special focus on the Prayer Garden. We will also be cleaning inside to get ready for the holiday season. Please bring tools, gloves, and cleaning materials. Sign-up sheet on Sanctuary bulletin board.



POMA COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE: Plan to attend this year's Port Orange Ministerial Association's Community Thanksgiving Service which will take place on **Tuesday, November 22nd at 7:00 PM at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 4675 S. Clyde Morris Ave.** Food and monetary donations will be accepted in support of Grace Episcopal Food Pantry.

COOKIE DOUGH SALE: Beginning in November, Delana Pack will be selling cookie dough to benefit Silver Sands Middle School. If interested see a member of the Pack family between services.



Please remember to deposit your newspapers, catalogs and any unwanted shredded papers in the recycling bin on the West Property. This service benefits you as well as the church!

SPECIAL THANKS



We received a letter from Tina Howard, School Counselor at Spruce Creek Elementary thanking us for our overwhelming generous donations that help dozens of students with their basic needs of shoes, socks and uniform clothing. As she states in her note which is posted on the Sanctuary bulletin board, "These items may seem trivial to some, but they are paramount to a student's self-esteem"

We recently received a note from Jeanette Campbell thanking us for remembering her. She is doing well in her new home and is very happy to be close to family and sees them frequently. She noted POUCC was a "very special congregation."



We recently received a note from the Pregnancy Crisis Center thanking us for our recent donation of two baby tubs, Bumbo seat, portable high chair, 2 crib bumpers and a baby carrier. They are most appreciative of our continued support.

The Port Orange Halifax Urban Ministries expressed their appreciation of our gift of food in support of their organization. Each month HUM feeds an average of 540 adults and children. In addition, the food that is provided frees up funds for rent and or utilities so that these same people can remain in their home.





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS*

Peggy Fodor	11/2
Vivien Devins	11/5
Jack Barrick	11/9
Bob Brewster	11/12
Brady Yaeger	11/15
Betty Heffner	11/16
Hunter Bryan	11/20
Ted Yaeger, Jr.	11/22
Sue Turner	11/24
Richard Thole	11/26
Keith Wheeler	

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES*

Diane & Scott Kirlin	11/2/1996
Sue & Jim Turner	11/7/1997
Bill & Diana Mulley	11/28/1959



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
Karen Donahue	Member of the Kransi Family
Rev. Dr. Bill Ebbert	Member of POUCC
Lewis Fanin	Member of the Thompson Family
Juan Faria, Sr.	Friend of the Thompson Family
Pat & Jack Hilgenberg	Member of POUCC
Louise & Bob Johnson	Member of POUCC
Moira & Sheila LeClerc	Friends of POUCC
Liz Mills	Member of POUCC
Sharon Milukas	Friend of POUCC
Susan Patterson	Sister-in-Law of Kathy Cratin
Elyse Phillips	Friend of the Thompson Family
Rosemary Sansevero	Sister of Tom Buller
Jim Turner	Husband of Sue Turner
Eric Walter	Friend of the Bullers
Beverly Woodacre	Member of POUCC

In Care Facilities

Jeanette Campbell	Member of POUCC (Care Facility in MA)
June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Facility in PA)
Bob Fisher	Member of POUCC (Bridgewater rehab in Ormond Beach)

Special Needs



All of Our Military, First Responders & Their Families

Broader Concerns

Victims of Hurricane Matthew
Victims of the Earthquake in Italy

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

POUCC November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Study Group 1:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	2 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	3 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	4	5 Committee on Church Ministries 9:30 am 
6 Combined Service & Crossroads Workshop 9:45 am	7 POMA 3:45 pm	8 Election Polls Open 7:00 am Study Group 1:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	9 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	10 POMA 3:45 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	11	12
13 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:55 am Traditional 10:45 am	14 POMA 3:45 pm Operations 6:30 pm	15 Study Group 1:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	16 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	17 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	18	19 Church Workday 9:00 am
20 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	21 POMA 3:45 pm Council 6:30 pm	22 Study Group 1:30 pm POMA Thanksgiving Service 7:00 PM	23	24  Office & Thrift Store Closed	25 Office Closed	26
27 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am Advent Starts	28 POMA 3:45 pm	29 Study Group 1:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	30 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm			

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

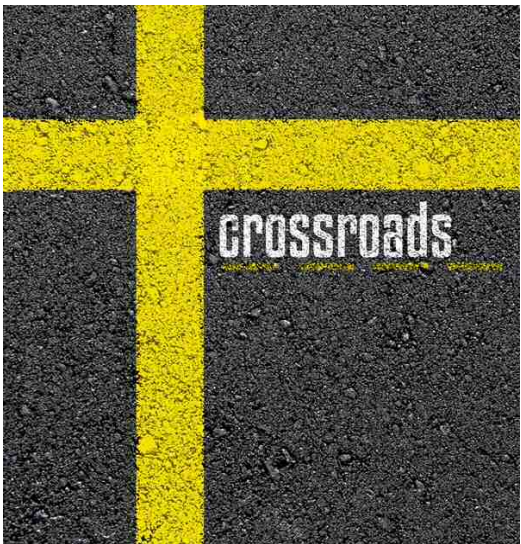
Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm

Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments Each Sunday Between Services
COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE: NOV. – MISSIONS , NOV. – FELLOWSHIP.



Remember We Fall Back An Hour Sunday, November 6TH.

2017 Faith Promise Commitment



Stewardship presumes blessing and abundance. It is not about overcoming scarcity, or guarding against it, or getting something we don't have—or being prudent. It is not about giving to people in need. It is about recognizing all that we already have, helping both ourselves and others know and enjoy the abundance in which all can share, right now.

“O God, By your grace we are created and sustained. By your grace we are reconciled and redeemed. By your grace we are enlisted and employed in your mission to humanity. Empower us to live graciously. Quicken us to work effectively. Prompt us to give gratefully. Engage us in the spirit of generosity. Till Christ shall dwell in human hearts, Help us to live, work and give . Amen

A FAITH—PROMISE 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:

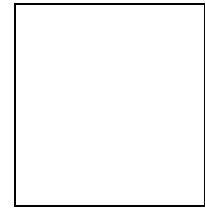
- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Port Orange
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Church Staff

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Media Communications: Bob Brewster
Custodian: Deb Viola
Gift & Thrift Store Manager: Bob Gaither
Youth Leaders: Sher Buller

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

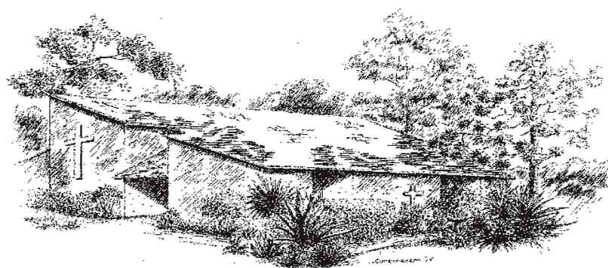
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM



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Email: uccpo@bellsouth.net Website: portorangeucc.org