



Port Orange
United Church of Christ
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Volume 47, Issue 2

February 2025

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



February is the month of “Cleansing”. February comes from the Latin word *februa*, which means “to cleanse”. It is also the 3rd and last month of Winter in the Gregorian calendar and thus why we have the unusual tradition of “Ground Hog Day” to determine whether Winter will last 5 more weeks or end. Plus, February is also the month of “Love”, which is celebrated on February 14th, Valentine’s Day.

The Super Bowl, one of the top sporting events in the world is held this month. Abraham Lincoln was born February 12th. Susan B Anthony was born on February 15th. George Washington was born on February 22nd.

What does February mean for us as people? February is the best month to quit smoking, prune trees, preparing a garden, cut hair, lose weight and so much more. It is also a time to begin a diet for weight loss. A time to review our physical health for what we need to do as a prevention to keep our health good. This is also a time to review our *Spiritual* well-being.

Over the past five months, our church has been blessed each Sunday with messages from Pastor Javier Leó’n as he explains scriptures in the Bible as they relate to each one of us in our daily lives. These God driven messages are powerful because they are based on the Bible or in the words of Pastor Javier, it is the “Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth”. Our lives are truly “individual” where we alone have the power of decision making over how we want to live and how we want to think. Yes, arguments can be made that some people are controlled by others where they may NOT have the power of making their own decisions. That is true but in contrast no individual is controlled as to their Spiritual decision making when it comes to beliefs or how they treat other people. These choices for how we treat others or feel about others are specifically our own and it is these choices that we must focus upon, if we want our individual life to follow the Bible’s guide on how to live our lives.

February as a “Cleansing” month can be a month for getting rid of old feelings of anger, or feelings of jealousy, or feelings of hate toward others. This is the time to cast out self-doubt, feelings of inferiority or depression. This is the time to get rid of Mental or Physical “clutter” that may be blocking our path or causing us not to move in a direction that is better for us.

The Bible states that Prayer is the expression of our inner spiritual needs. That Prayer can overcome our Spirit’s weakness for doing the right thing or for taking action to cleanse our lives of the negative clutter holding us back. Attending church each Sunday and hearing how prayer applies to our day to day lives and how prayer keeps open the line of communications for each of us where we can ask God for guidance in making the right decisions.

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Staff

Moderator:

Bob Brewster

Office Manager:

Kathy Shaffner

Custodian:

Ronnie Servant

Missions:

Jackie Gaither

Thrift & Gift Store:

Emily McLean

Media Communications:

Bob Brewster

Let's make February the month of CLEANSING us Spiritually and CLEANSING us Physically, so that our lives each day may be the best possible for what God wants it to be. SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR CHURCH AND WHY WE BELIEVE THAT LIFE THROUGH PRAYER CAN LEAD TO A HAPPIER AND MORE FULFILLING LIFE.. Prayerfully Submitted, *Bob Brewster, Moderator*

OPERATION'S & FINANCE TEAM



Welcome to February and hopefully some warmer temperatures. For a full Operation's Report please see the Annual Report. At the January Meeting the Council approved Premier Renovations' estimate of \$5,700 to paint the Sanctuary which will begin in the very near future. Council also approved obtaining an estimate to clean and polish the Sanctuary floors after the painting is completed.

Yours in Faith, *Art Horton, Operations Chair and Andy Stebemne*

Operating Budget to Actual as of 12/31/2024

	<u>December</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Difference</u>
Income	15,982.84	183,545.00	212,070.00	(28,525.00)
Expensed	<u>11,744.64</u>	<u>144,224.86</u>	<u>175,334.25</u>	(31,109.39)
Profit/(Loss)	4,238.20	39,320.14	36,735.75	2,584.39

Other Income/Expenses as of 12/31/2024

YTD Capital Improvements:

Income 9,903.79

Expenses 50,557.50

Profit/(Loss) (40,653.71)

YTD Interest Income:

MM & CD
accounts 2,307.68

Combined Profit/(Loss) 974.11

We had an operating profit of \$4,238.20 for the month of December and a profit of \$ 39,320.14 for the twelve month period. We had a combined loss of \$ 974.11 for that period which includes the net Operating profit of \$ 39,320.14, the Capital Improvement loss of \$ 40,653.71 and the interest income of \$2,307.68. As always our thanks go out to all our wonderful volunteers and to all who support our Church.

Respectfully Submitted, Barbara Horton, Treasurer

NEWS & Notes

2024 ANNUAL MEETING WRAP-UP



On Sunday, January 26, 20 congregation members and friends gathered for the Annual Meeting. The 2025 Budget, 2025 Slate of Officers were presented, voted on, and unanimously accepted. Copies of the 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Directory are available in the Church Office.

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE

The Thrift Store is blessed to have a full crew of wonderful, hard working volunteers! We have a system in place now to limit the amount of unusable items being donated and it has been working great! We continue to grow our following in new shoppers that have found their way to us. And, we have kind comments of our friendly staff, great prices and well organized store. We are quickly being known for clothing bargains and this makes up a huge amount of our store business. We have new signs coming for the front area on Taylor Road and for our driveway areas about donation drop-off. We continue to follow God's plan for our direction as he is a great provider! *Emily McLean, Manager*



YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS



Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, **February 2nd is our next collection day.** Over 15 bags of food were collected last month which benefited Halifax Urban Ministries. Please be generous and make sure all donations have **NOT** passed their expiration dates.

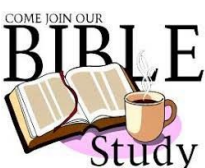
SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

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

***Our Next Dinner is Thursday, February 13th.
It's a "Pot Luck Supper."
See sign-up sheet at Worship Service.***



BIBLE STUDY



"Wired Word" Bible Study will always be held on the **1st and 3rd 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.

***February 02: What does God say about Marriage? What makes a good marriage?
February 16: How to deal with addictions Deuteronomy 30:19 "Choosing blessings or curses".***

Happy Birthday!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS*

Thea Cloutier 2/5
Kathryn Manning 2/10



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES*

Bob & Ruth Brewster 2/14/1971
Jim & Sharon Williamson 2/24/1967

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

Valentines Recipe

4 small kisses
6 giant hugs
1 cup of kindness
3 cups of love
5 tsp of happiness
2+ caring hearts

©artsymomma.com

Mix together and
spread the love

PRAYER REQUESTS*



Sue Batturs	Member of POUCC
Bob Gaither	Member of POUCC
Erica Henderson	Friend of POUCC
Chuck Konopsky	Member of POUCC
Liz Mills	Former Member of POUCC
Paul Shaffner	Friend of POUCC

In Care Facilities

Margie Hoebing Friend of POUCC (Care Center in PO)

Special Needs

Victims of the California wildfires.

All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families

Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide

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



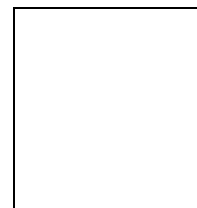


POUCC February 2025

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

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

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Missions: Jackie Gaither
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Office Hours

9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Monday—Friday

Thrift Store Hours

9:00 AM—2:00 PM

Monday—Friday

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM



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