



Port Orange
United Church of Christ
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Volume 46, Issue 7

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SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Thought for the Month



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
 Matthew 6:21

From the Pastor's Desk –

An update: As you can probably guess, Alan and I haven't sold our home here in Port Orange yet. We have purchased one in Alabama and will be moving when our house sells or most likely, around the end of July. Until then, I will continue my pastoral duties here at POUCC.

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A few years ago, I took some vacation time and attended the 50th Annual Truck and Tractor Pulling Championships in Bowling Green, Ohio. I had competed there for some 18 years and hadn't been back since retiring from pulling in 2005. It was fun to see so many pulling friends and discover how much the technology in equipment has progressed in the years since I competed. There were over 500 competition vehicles on site and well over 1,000 truck and tractor entries at this event. Truly the largest event ever held.

Alan and I arrived a couple days before the event started and got to watch the rigs arrive and because we were parked along the road into the pit area. I couldn't help but notice the size and length of each hauler and trailer as it passed by us. Such an amazing amount of money in just the haulers and trailers, never mind the money that went into the trucks or tractors and their engines inside it. These aren't exactly the pulling tractors that you see at a local county fair. These are pieces of sophisticated machinery, finely tuned and tricked-out with the latest parts for Grand National competition.

This event has always been associated with the Make-a-Wish Organization of Ohio and they bring children and their families into the event for a fun day out. There's a tent placed near the finish line with a jar for donations from those attending the pulls. But the highlight of the Make-a-Wish tent is the auction that happens on Saturday to raise funds for children's wishes based on donated items from pullers. Pullers will donate a variety of items from team t-shirts, autographed photos, used fire shoes, hats, etc. Anything they may have in the trailer.

(Continued on next page)

God Bless America



Sometimes there are fun items such as broken parts picked up off the track after a competitor explodes a motor or a blower belt that broke during that day's competition.

When I was competing, I remember the auction raised \$30,000 - \$40,000, which really impressed us back then because it provided some 6-8 children with their wish. I was told that \$110,000 was raised the previous year.

As I watched this year's auction, I was impressed with what the items went for. A used but signed pulling team t-shirt from a retired puller went for \$275. A handmade pedal tractor designed like a pulling tractor went for \$22,000 and a painted and signed helmet went for \$14,000. Most items sold anywhere from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars – and over \$300,000 was raised to provide wishes for children in that auction. It was an incredible amount of money raised and certainly an excellent example of “where your treasure is, there lies your heart” (from Matthew 6). The pullers and fans really wanted to provide an opportunity for children with life-threatening illnesses and the generosity of their hearts and wallets showed it.

The generosity of those at the pulling event was overwhelming and got me thinking about something the President of Bangor Theological Seminary said to me when he was supervising the writing of my Ordination Paper a number of years ago. He told me that every now and then I should ask the congregation to take a good look at their checkbooks because it will tell them exactly where their heart is. This makes me wonder about the population in general. The following is not a political statement or push for anyone to vote one way or another but a thought that occurred to me as I was thinking about where our hearts are and how with some people, it's really hard to tell.

I've wondered during the past few election cycles why there is so little outcry about political candidates (presidential or others) who refuse to release their tax returns. Jesus said (paraphrased), “Where your treasure is proves where your heart really is.” A candidate's tax returns would tell us the truth about the person and their heart. It would show us what the candidate REALLY believes about taxes, equality, generosity, compassion, and greed. I don't know why candidates don't want us to see them, but I do know that what the person really does with their money would tell us the truth about who the candidate really is as a human being. Just like looking at each of our own checkbooks would tell the observer what we really value. This would be true about any political candidate, no matter what party they are affiliated with.

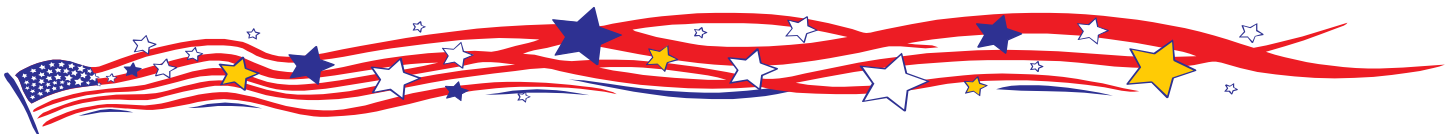
Where we give our treasure tells the truth about our hearts. How we spend our money, says a lot about what we value and care about.

Anyone can talk about what they believe, but where you spend or give your money tells the truth about you. So what would people learn about you if your giving became public information? Perhaps the reason people haven't insisted that all candidates release their financial information is that too many of us are ashamed of our own.....

Each of us can change that, by simply contributing to the church or increasing our pledge during the next stewardship drive. It's up to each of us to decide where our heart and treasure is.

Blessings,

Pastor Pat



MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



We are surrounded by people everywhere we go but feelings of Loneliness are felt by an ever growing portion of our population. The saying "Water water everywhere, but none to drink!" states how many people feel lonely even in a crowd.

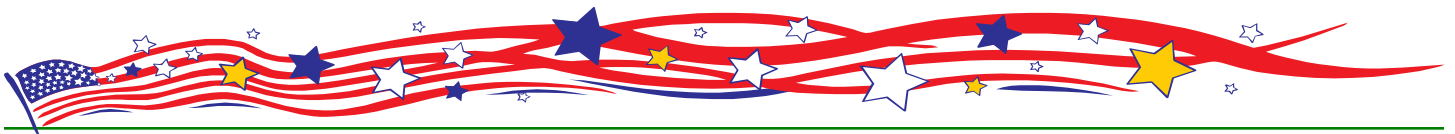
As Moderator of the POUCC Church Council, I am just one voice within a church council that as a group is prayerfully making decisions on behalf of our entire church body to guide it through very challenging times. On several occasions I have voiced the opinion that one of the missions of our church has to be combating **Loneliness**. We do this by opening our doors to those who are seeking a way to connect or reconnect with the spiritual side of life. In these actions of being a church family we are welcoming and opening our doors to individuals who are finding themselves *lonely* due to circumstances that come from life itself. New York's Weill Cornell Medicine states that... *There is not one single cause of loneliness. Loneliness can often be a result of life changes or circumstances that include living alone, changing your living arrangements, having financial problems, or death of a loved one.*

Surprisingly, loneliness is not just for "Old People" (Over age 65), it is affecting young people, too. The New York Times reports that... *Loneliness is experienced throughout a person's lifespan, and it can spiral as a result of trauma, illness and the effects of aging. It can also be exacerbated by technology taking the place of human interaction, which helps explain why young people report the highest rates of loneliness.*

I have learned that people do not wear the label "I AM LONELY!". Most people will not openly admit it and many are embarrassed about feeling lonely or simply feel it is a private matter and that their reasons for loneliness are not someone else's business. Feeling lonely in many ways is very personal and is not dissimilar to personal health challenges. But whereas a person can seek professional medical help or a advice from a wide range of educated and trained practitioners to help address a health challenge, where does a person go to address a loneliness challenge? The Bible tells us in Psalm 34:18 that *"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."* In Psalm 25:16-17, the writer gives us a prayer to God in a time of loneliness: *"I am lonely and afflicted, relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish."*

I believe our goal here at POUCC is to meet this Loneliness challenge with open arms and a big smile. We have already heard from many attending our church that they feel "Very Welcome" when attending our services or fellowship events. They share that they have a strong sense of "Love" within our church family. We need to tell others about this. It is no secret that our church membership has shrunk but our church is very much alive and giving. Every day we have something happen within our church family that is proof of this giving. We as a church body need to do a better job of sharing this "gift" we have been given and let others know that we have a spiritual home for them and that the "Loneliness of the Heart" need not be the "Loneliness of the Spirit". In other words, *"God is an ever-present God in life. And you can enjoy His companionship anytime that you like. The comfort of God's presence is a reality to believers. A reality that we are never really alone in spirit and when we are never really alone when we have a church family who cares about us.*

Prayerfully submitted, *Bob Brewster, Moderator*



OPERATION'S & FIANANCE TEAM



Welcome to July and the hot weather. We are moving forth on many Operations projects at this time. With regard to the Thrift Store Annex, the permitting process continues. The City of Port Orange denied our request to locate the Annex on any of the existing paved areas on the property. As a result, Don's Tree Service removed the brush and trimmed the trees in the alternate location of the shed. PO Engineering stated we could not place the shed on a pond or swale; the original site drawings did in fact detail that area to be a swale. Reviewing the exiting site it was noted that the site grade was at or above the existing parking paved areas adjacent to the proposed site for the shed. Once the brush was removed and tree trimming was complete it confirmed the area we wish to place the shed is not in a swale, nor a pond; actually it's higher than we thought. After reviewing the new information, PO has issued the permit and leveling the site will be completed by the end of June and the Annex will be installed by Tuff Shed soon after. Yours in faith, *Art Horton, Chairman, Alan Holcomb, Andy Stebenne*

OPERATIONAL BUDGET TO ACTUAL 5/31/2024

	<u>May Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Difference</u>
Income	13,200.77	83,683.79	88,708.01	(5,024.22)
Expensed	<u>12,655.12</u>	<u>60,846.09</u>	<u>73,537.40</u>	(12,691.31)
Profit/(Loss)	545.65	22,837.70	15,170.61	7,667.09

Other Income/Expenses as of 5/31/2024

Capital Improvements



	<u>YTD Actual</u>
Income	4,600.08
Expenses	<u>25,837.23</u>
Profit/(Loss)	(21,237.15)

Combined Profit/(Loss) 1,600.55

We had an operating profit of \$545.65 for the month of May and a profit of \$22,837.70 for the five month period. We had a combined profit of \$1,600.55 for that period which includes the Capital Improvement expenses of \$25,837.23. As always our thanks go out to all our wonderful volunteers and to all who support our Church.

*Respectfully Submitted, Barbara Horton,
Treasurer*

THE GIFT & THRIFT STORE



Things are slowing down a bit as the summer has begun. We continue to receive wonderful donations daily to keep the Thrift Store full and our shoppers buying. We are going to be adding some additional store items by the end of this month as another Thrift Store is closing and we were able to get first choice on any of their operating equipment. We know to be of service in today's economy we need to keep our prices fair as well as being a help to our Church, this community and God. I will be working on adding additional advertising in the coming months to drive new customers and interest to our Thrift Store for those that have never visited us. I can't thank the volunteers for all they do to make each day interesting and us running smoothly. We are blessed!! We have finally gone through all the many items stored in the trailer and we look forward to the new storage building and that additional space. *Emily McLean, Manager*

PLEASE NOTE: The Thrift Store will be closed on Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS



Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. As a reminder, July 7th is our next collection day and will benefit Halifax Urban Ministers. Over 15 bags of food were collected last month. Our donations aided in serving 294 Households, 335 Food Bags, 133 People and 31 New People in May. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky for loading and delivering the food. Please be generous and make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates .

BIBLE STUDY

POUCC Bible Study: POUCC “Wired Word” Bible Study will always be held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary following Fellowship. We hope this will make it easier for those who would like to attend.

July 7, 2024 1st Sunday “Are you Spiritual or ‘Religious’ or both?”

July 21, 2024, 3rd Sunday ‘Experts Decipher Oldest Manuscript of Jesus Childhood Gospel’



Happy Birthday!



JULY BIRTHDAYS*

Kristin Marshall	7/7
Teddy Yaeger	7/11
Nicholas Yaeger	7/21
Erika Henderson	7/22
Bonnie Morisset	7/24
Leree Nicholls	7/26



JULY ANNIVERSARIES*

Don & Kay Schweitzer	7/7/2009
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PRAYER REQUESTS*

Molly Baskin	Member of POUCC
Sue Batturs	Member of POUCC
Beth & Chris Brown	Family of Sheila Fisher
Rafael Castels	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Sheila Fisher	Member of POUCC
Bill Hooker	Member of POUCC
Stephanie James	Friend of Emily McLean
Delane Kirk	Friend of POUCC
Harry & Jim Manchester	Family of Sheilas Fisher
Caitlin Mauldin	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Liz Mills	Former Member of POUC
Jeremy Parker	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Carmella Potenza	Family of Don & Denise Gates
Kathleen Price	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Robin Robbins	Friend of Sara Sousa
Kay & Don Schweitzer	Members of POUCC
John Sedgwick	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Renee Smith	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Michael, Andrea & Cecily Sousa	Family of Sarah Sousa
Sarah Sousa	Friend of POUCC
Sara Sechrest	Mother of Sara Sousa
Baby Shelah	Friend of Sharon Tinny
F/F of Mary Ann Stewart	Member of POUCC
Susanne Van Seeters	Family of Sara Sousa
Tyler Wardick Family	Friends of Sara Sousa
Seth Wanie	Family of Bill & Susie Greiff
Cheyenne West	Friend of the Thrift Store
Darlene Wolfson	Friend of Sheila Fisher

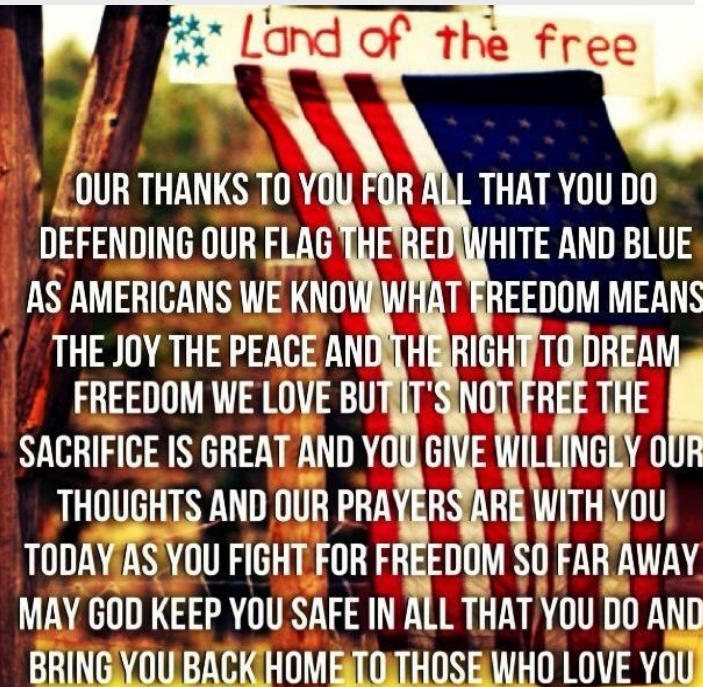
In Care Facilities

Charlie Baskin	Member of POUCC (Care Center, PO)
Margie Hoebing	Friend of POUCC (Care Center, PO)
Marge Monat	Member of POUCC (Care Center, DB)

Special Needs

All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families
 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 July 2024

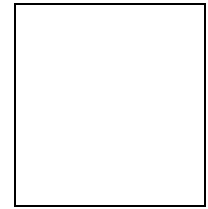
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Mountain of Light Church	1 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	2 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	3	4  Church Office & Thrift Store Closed	5	6 Weigh Watchers 7:30 am & 9:00 am
7 Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am MOL* Worship 5:00	8 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	9 Weigh Watchers 7:30 am & 9:00 am	120	11 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	12	13 Weigh Watchers 7:30 am & 9:00 am
14Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL Worship 5:00 pm	15 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	16 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	17	18 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	19	20Weigh Watchers 7:30 am & 9:00 am-Council Mtg. 10:00 am
11Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am MOL* Worship 5:00	12 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	13 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	24	25 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	26	27 Weigh Watchers 7:30 am & 9:00 am
28Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL Worship 5:00 pm	29 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	30 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	31			

Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 2 pm

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



Port Orange
United Church of Christ
651 Taylor Road
Port Orange, FL 32127



Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Patricia Holcomb
Office Manager: Kathy Shaffner
Custodian: Ronnie Servant
Missions: Jackie Gaither
Thrift Store Manager: Emily McLean
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

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM



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