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April 2013

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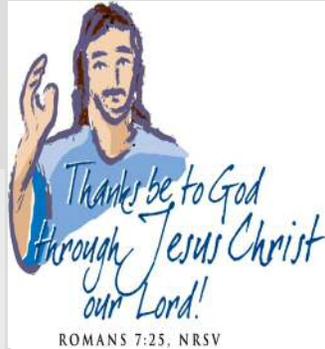
Senior Pastor's Message

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Staff

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Dr. Bill Wassner
Assistant Pastor:
Beverly Schafer
Pastor Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. C. William Ebbert
Office Manager:
Kathy Shaffner
Minister of Music:
Dr. Tom Naus
Praise Team Leader:
Terri Zinke
Dancing Angels Leader:
Bonnie Morisset
Media Communications:
Bob Brewster



Dear Friends,

Like many of you, I watched all five episodes of The Bible on the History Channel. I struggled with it strongly at times both because it was not always true to the testimony of scripture and because it seemed to focus and accentuate the sex and violence in the biblical stories (not surprising considering the producer was Mark Burnett – who first brought us the reality series *Survivor*). Lisa got tired of me pointing out verbally when the script was not accurate to the Bible and some of the series' numerous embellishments. I even disagreed with friends and family – who thought the shows were wonderful. Their contention was that at least people are being reached by the message of the Gospel. My concern was and remains that perhaps they were reached and touched, but their minds are now imprinted with a rendition of accounts that do not always represent the exact sequence and nature of events as they are portrayed in the Bible. That may cause issues when they later read the Bible for themselves, hear a sermon, etc. – which may contradict with what they saw on TV (because if it was on TV, it has to be true and accurate, right?). Still, I have to be honest and admit that the Bible, as a collection of sacred books, contradicts itself at times and there are conflicting versions of the sequence and nature of events in our scriptures as well. Not everything in the Bible can be understood and applied literally either. As I watched the final episode Sunday night with Lisa and my parents, I realized that despite creative scripting, etc. the series has done a remarkable job of making people think about Jesus and who he was and is to them. We celebrated a glorious Easter on the beach and in our sanctuary. We had record attendance, glorious music, celebrated the sacraments, and felt the presence of the Lord in powerful ways. Now, in the aftermath of Easter and the series on the History Channel, we all have to answer a basic question. C. S. Lewis is credited with first raising the question, "Do you believe Jesus was a liar, a lunatic, or The Lord?" He raised the issue as a way of sharpening the question: "Who is Jesus?" So, what do we believe about Jesus? Was he a liar when he said and did all of those things? Or was he a deranged lunatic who was mistaken in his teachings and proclamations? Or, was Jesus telling the truth, which means he is the Christ, the Messiah, and The Lord? Consider what it means to allow Jesus to be Lord of your life before you answer. I know my answer. It is summed up in the earliest of all Christian affirmations: **Jesus is Lord.**

Hallelujah! He is Risen!

Pastor Bill

Assistant Pastor



Day by Day, Day by day,
Oh, dear Lord, three things I pray.
To see thee more clearly,
Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly,
Day by day, by day, by day.

Several of us went to see Godspell presented by a local church a few Sundays ago and, I must admit, I left the performance a bit underwhelmed. It wasn't until I sat down to write my monthly newsletter article a few minutes ago that I experienced one of those treasured God-Thing Moments we talk about in our Spiritual Life Team groups. Let me explain how that came about.

As you know, our Youth Group went to the Florida Conference UCC Annual Peace River Camping and Canoeing Retreat the first weekend in March, and a good time was had by all -- everyone, that is, except for Trey and Van Thompson who were at home dealing with a very different side of Life's spectrum -- that of bereavement over the loss of their beloved Grandmother, Shelby Thompson. Both boys showed amazing strength throughout this experience which surely brought them to a deeper level of spiritual awareness, and which helped lead them to showing no evidence whatsoever of feeling "cheated" in any way over not being able to go camping. I have to say that **their** God Moment of understanding priorities and what is "right" became a real God Moment for me. Thank you, Trey and Van.

Then there's Tracy -- life-long friend of Joey, and who loved Shelby like a second Mom. He was torn between not going on the campout so he could be by Joey's side as he laid his Mom to rest, or going on the campout so the remaining boys looking forward to going on that trip would not have to drop out. At least three people came to Tracy's rescue on this dilemma by saying to him that Shelby would want for him to go on the campout -- that Tracy's ministry is working with the Youth. I can whole-heartedly vouch for that, and I thank God for the blessing of Tracy and his joyful ministry to the Youth of POUCC.

Through adversity, I have no doubt that Trey, Van and Tracy learned to see, love and follow our Risen Savior more clearly, dearly and nearly day by day this past month. ALLELUIA! Christ is Risen, and He lives in us all and through us all in our day-by-day lives! HAPPY EASTER!

Faithfully,

Pastor Beverly



Financial Update

Operational Budget as of 1/26/13

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	<u>Jan.-Feb 2013</u>	<u>Jan.-Feb 2013</u>
Income	\$32,614	\$30,550
Expenses	<u>\$30,814</u>	<u>\$29,703</u>
Net	\$ 1,800	\$ 847

We are doing better than what was budgeted through February this year. To date, we have received 44 pledge forms for the Stewardship Campaign totaling \$88,014. Thanks to everyone for their support. I'm confident that this will be another great year for our church. *Respectfully submitted, Susie Greiff, Treasurer*

OPERATIONS TEAM



The Operations Team made no major decisions this month, a good sign that nothing major required action. Several current projects were monitored, as well as plans to facilitate the Easter Sunrise equipment setup for what continues to be a growing gift to the community. Information will be forthcoming on plans for Shredding Day, as we have boxes of old records that will need to be shredded, and for a the low, low price, you will be able to bring in your boxes of old paper to have shredded. The next Operations Meeting will be held on **Monday, April 8th at 6:30 PM.**

Tim Holby, Operations Chairperson

COUNCIL UPDATE



It was unanimously recommended at the March Council Meeting that Pastor Beverly's license be renewed by the Florida Conference. Thanks Beverly for your continued service to the congregation.

WORSHIP SURVEY



At present, we are exploring the focus and direction for the Contemporary Worship Service. On **Sunday April 7th and 14th**, we will distribute a confidential survey in the early service so that you can help us determine what is best for the congregation. We ask that you complete and return it to the church office by **Monday, April 15th.** With all your input, and of course God's direction, our service will continue to be an inspiring worship celebration. Please note there are **NO** plans to discontinue the early service. We'll keep you updated!

Our new sound system has enhanced our worship services with better things to come. We will be integrating song lyrics and video on a regular weekly basis for the Contemporary Worship Service by the end of the summer.



DEACON'S CORNER



Hello All and Happy Easter to All,

This is a time to reflect on Christ and the sacrifice he made for all of us. Hopefully you were able to attend the Easter Sunrise Service or the Traditional Service as both filled you uniquely in its own way. We were blessed to have the opportunity to offer visitors to each service the beauty of Easter from POUCC. Take a moment to make a connection, see someone visiting and welcome them to the service. From the Deacons, please allow me to thank you in advance for your support and love.

**The Ministry
of Deacons**

Joe Thompson, Chair of Deacons

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



GIFT AND THRIFT STORE TIDBITS

As most of you know, one of the missions of our thrift store is the transport of items to the Farm Workers Association Office in Pierson (40 miles from here on route 17). Trips are made several times a month with a carload of clothing and other useful items for the farm workers. The last day of February the trip included warm clothing, blankets/comforters, dishes, shoes and other items. These are items that are a little too tired for our store but still have plenty of life in them.

A phone call is made to Marcos Crisanto, the man in charge, and a day and time for delivery is scheduled. He, or volunteer Pedro, gives a welcome hug and then everyone gets busy and unloads the car. The trip up and back is less than two hours. Usually Thursday around noon is the selected day and distribution begins that afternoon and on Friday afternoons each week.

This past Christmas, 250 children received a gift from donations received from our store. Jackie Gaither had crocheted and knitted scarves and hats. Stuffed animals that had tears and/or were soiled were repaired and washed for the children. Dolls with unruly hair and undressed were dressed and hair tamed for the girls. Toy cars and horses were sent for the boys. Books and games for older children were also sent. Jewelry that didn't sell after many months in the store was also taken up to be used as gifts.

As mentioned previously, keep your donations coming. Also remember that all items (except electronics, TV's, and large furniture) are welcome including jewelry—don't forget to include lone earrings and broken pieces or those missing stones. Some of these are repairable or can be matched with another lone earring or made into a necklace.

It is very helpful to the volunteers if clothing is laundered and folded neatly in boxes or on hangers. Linens should be laundered as well and folded neatly. Kitchen items should also be washed before coming to the store. The volunteers give you a big thank you for that.

Year to date sales (up to 3/4/13) total \$5,297 which converts into average of us serving 110 customers a week. Respectfully submitted by *Harriet F. Rogers*.

“SPRING FLING”: We need donations! When your spring cleaning is complete, please remember to “fling” your unwanted articles (household items, clothes, jewelry, etc.) our way. With your help, we can continue to help others and the church. *Thanks for all your donations...keep them coming!*



MISSION NOTES



A meeting of the Mission Team was held and after much discussion it was determined that our outreach for this year will include the following:

Used Glasses - Given to those in need

Palmetto House - Once a month a team prepares and serves the residents an evening meal

First Sunday Food Collection - HUM for distribution

Palm Terrace School Christmas Gifts - Jackets & books

Mended Little Hearts Christmas - Gifts as needed

Socks Box - Star Center

Pregnancy Crisis Center - Clothes, diapers, food, etc.

Election Day Bake Sale - Raise funds for missions

Card Ministry - Birthdays, anniversaries, get well, etc.

(Donations for this ministry are welcome, including stamps.)

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Given to those who need comforting
(We need volunteers to knit the shawls...we provide the yarn!)

Boggy Creek - Afghans

Pierson Migrant Workers - Clothes sent from Thrift Store

CROP Walk - Walkers and Donation of Peanut Butter



Sophie's Circle

A new project was selected and we will be using the money placed in the Mission Boxes to supply food for pets of those who find it difficult to provide it and must give up their pets. During and up to this fall when we plan a Pet Blessing Service we hope to have an ample amount of funds for this mission. Keep the coins coming and of course paper is good too!

We will continue to be a 5 for 5 Church with donations to OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing), OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission), Neighbors in Need, Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church.



2013 CAMPAIGN: SHARING BRINGS JOY: Thanks to all who contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing collection. **To date we have collected \$734.** Your generosity will aid those who are in the greatest need throughout the world.

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

We continue to collect food items to donate to the Episcopal Help Center. **Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday.** Over 20 bags of food were donated on the first Sunday last month. If we all bring a food donation, we will fill the basket each month. Please be generous and make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates (clearly marked on all cans, boxes, and containers). There is a specific need for rice and peanut butter...PLEASE donate ONLY 1 pound bags of rice and 1 pound jars of peanut butter so they can be given to individual families. **April 7th is our next collection!**



YOUTH NEWS



PEACE RIVER YOUTH EVENT WE MADE IT...BRAVED THE COLD...CAMPED IN 30 DEGREE TEMPS...AND DID A 9 MILE CANOE TRIP...NOT FOR THE WEAK AT HEART!

We had 3 adults (Sue Turner, Tracy Davis and Sher Buller) and 6 youth (Lauren Scalf, Kaylei Wierzbicki, Peyton Bryan, Dallas Davis, Thomas Buller and Elijah Buller) that braved the cold for the Peace River camping retreat held the first weekend in March. There were 198 participants representing UCC Youth throughout Florida.

The big event of the weekend was a 9 mile canoe trip (and kayak) down Peace River. This was an incredible experience for us all. Despite the cold we were able to enjoy the four hour trip. Some kids even swam...CRAZY! Our group had more sense. There was a sign on one of the trees as we went down the river, "The river is a gift from God." What a wonderful reminder of our Holy Creator and all that has been given to us to care for and enjoy.

Peace River is also known for its fossils. We ran into some fossil hunters during our canoe trip and were given the opportunity to search for fossils. Elijah was even able to bring some home.

At our closing worship service on Sunday morning, there were two youth that came forward asking for prayers and support. One young man's dad has been diagnosed with cancer and he is going through treatments. He asked for help to accept his dad's illness and whatever may unfold. Another young man came forward sharing that he suffers from depression and thoughts of suicide. There was not a dry eye in the place. It just goes to show you that the youth today have serious issues they deal with on an everyday basis. What an amazing opportunity to see the outpouring of love and support for these two young men.

It is such pleasure a to see our young people join in with others of faith. The best part is to see the kids faces light up every time they reunited with friends made on previous retreats. We have an amazing group of youth at the POUCC.

Thank you to the entire POUCC for your support of the youth group and their fund raisers. Due to the congregation's response, the monies earned were used to pay for the entire trip...YEA!



Terrific Tuesdays

UPDATE: Beginning *Tuesday, April 2nd*, we will continue to meet at **6:00 PM** for Fellowship and a meal. Then we will move to the Sanctuary for a brief Worship Service for all. Our youth will be contributing their talents to the service, which I'm sure, will make it a great experience. Mark your calendars and plan to attend every week!

REMINDER: The youth group would like to remind everyone to save their pop cans and tabs as this is an ongoing fundraiser for the group. *Thanks to all who have contributed!*

SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER



Every Second Thursday at 6:00 pm, POUCC has a wonderful Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed room. If you have attended, you already know that we EAT, TALK, LAUGH, SING and ENJOY each other's company.

*Make your plans to come to the next dinner Thursday April 11th .
Sign-up on Sanctuary Bulletin Board.*

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Schedule for the Fellowship Hour is as follows:

April - Thrift Shop

May - Fellowship

June - Missions



LADIES LUNCHEONS



Meets once a month to share a bite and fellowship. Join us on **Thursday, April 25th at Noon** at the Olive Garden. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary or contact Jeanette Campbell (788-4959). **All are welcome!**

NOTES OF THANKS



I wish to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and well wishes I received for my birthday last month. You are all so thoughtful. *Pastor Bill*

I wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and concern during my recent illness. Your thoughtfulness is a great comfort to me. *Mary Ann Stewart*

I would to thank you all for the thoughtful cards, calls and visits I received during my recent surgery and recuperation. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. *Pat Hilgenberg*

We recently received a note from the Pregnancy Crisis Center thanking us for the car seat, changing table pad, baby blankets, wipes, infant clothing and toys that were recently delivered. Your continued support of this worthy cause is greatly appreciated.

Pastor Bill Collins from the Heart of Worship Church in NSB picked up 23 chairs along with the Roland Keyboard and was most appreciative of our donation to his new congregation.

NEWS & Notes



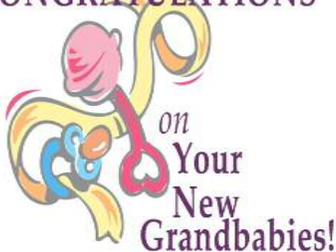
CONGRATULATIONS TO COLTEN PACK: He received his Religious Emblem award and was recognized by the congregation at Worship Services on March 3rd. Also, as a graduate of the John Casablancas' School of Modeling and Acting in Orlando, he was one of 17 asked to be interviewed for a possible spot in an upcoming expo in Dallas, TX, **June 19th-23rd**. During his time in Dallas, he will meet one on one with company representatives, attend classes and audition.

The total cost for the trip is about \$4,000. He has already earned a \$500 scholarship and is available (with Deb & Cindy's supervision) to do odd jobs to help earn his way to Dallas. Letters have been sent out that include a secure link to an account set up specially for this trip for sponsorship or you may contact the church office for more information. **Way to go Colten!**

CONGRATULATIONS: To Sher Buller who was selected as Laywoman of the Year for the St. John's Region of the Florida UCC Conference. She was recognized at the recent women's assembly in Cocoa Beach on March 9th. **Sher we're very proud of you!**



CONGRATULATIONS



Bob & Jackie Gaither have a new great-grandson, #14. Tucker D. Snyder was born on March 11th and weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 oz. Tucker and his parents Jennifer and Luke live in Cambridge, OH.

Pastor Bill & Lisa are the proud grandparents of Aubrey Lynn Wassner who was born on March 23rd at 12:38 PM. Aubrey weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz. and was 19" long. Aubrey and her parents Jonathan and Kelly live in Indianapolis, IN. **Congratulations to all!**



Last but not least, Levi Zinke was voted Mr. Congeniality by his classmates at Mainland High School!



RESIGNATION OF CONFERENCE MINISTER: We recently received notification that Kent Siladi has resigned and will be reassigned upon approval of the Board of Directors as the Conference Minister of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC beginning in June. The move will allow Kent and his wife to be closer to his children and extended family. Over the past six years, Kent has set a course for the future of this conference that is shaped by our vision to "love God and love neighbor." He has done a great job and will be missed.

EASTER 2013

What glorious celebrations to the risen Lord! We had over 850 people at the Easter Sunrise Service on the Beach and it was just beautiful to watch the sun rise and join in prayer and praise. In addition to Terri Zinke and our Praise Team, an added highlight to this year's service was the baptism of Emily Grace Ransdell, who cooperated beautifully. Emily and her parents, Brandon & Whitney, live in New Smyrna Beach.



Our Sanctuary Service had a large crowd as well, over 190. Our Sanctuary Choir, under the direction of Dr. Tom, provided beautiful hymns of celebration, especially the Hallelujah Chorus in praise of our Lord's Resurrection.



Thanks to all who helped to make our Easter Services such moving celebrations. Our Music Ministry, and Deacons, set-up and tear-down team, bulletin folders, office help, flower dedications and the entire congregation helped to celebrate our Risen Lord. As in other years, a special thanks to Lt. Max Binz of the Ponce Inlet Police Department for his officers' hard work and professionalism.

WEST PROPERTY UPDATE



The response to our drive to complete Phase I of the project has been great. To date, we have received \$4,225. We are blessed to have such generous heroes in our congregation. We are hopeful that by the end of the summer, Phase I of the building can be completed - which will be a 24 foot square concrete pad and a steel roof to create a Pavilion for use in worship, picnics, and other special events such as concerts and blessings for bikes and pets. Thanks to all who have contributed! We will keep you informed on our progress and how you all can help with this worthwhile project. We want to reach our financial goal of \$10,000 by the end of May!

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

DISASTER MANAGEMENT



TROPICAL STORM DEBBIE RECOVERY: Though nine months have passed since Tropical Storm Debbie caused severe flooding damage along the Northwestern part of Florida, the recovery work is only now ready to begin.

In January of this year, World Renew, one of our ecumenical partners in disaster ministry, visited the homes of those in Suwannee and Columbia Counties who might need help. They reported the following:

- 211 households in Columbia County need the help of volunteer workers and the estimated cost of the materials which will be needed in the recovery amount to \$4,695,296.
- 158 households in Suwannee County need help and the estimated material cost is \$4,190,978.

The Long Term Recovery Committees in both counties have received grants which have made it possible for them to employ construction supervisors to work with groups of volunteers. Florida Conference churches are encouraged to consider organizing a group of volunteers to assist one of these families. The recovery work in these two counties will continue for many months. Contact Pastor Bill if interested.

Happy Birthday!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS*

Sheila Fisher	4/1
Kay Russell	4/3
Alice Lynn Feldman	4/4
Saira Ramoutar	4/5
Helen McGuffie	4/6
Jaden Wilson	4/7
Margaret Yaeger	4/14
Jim Hopkins	4/15
Louise Johnson	4/18
Athena Wilson	4/23



APRIL

ANNIVERSARIES*

Mac & Mary McDonald	4/23/1983
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Note: *Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your birthday or anniversary.



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Linda Carey	Friend of Milissa Davis
Dee Carroll	Mother of Sher Buller
Thea Cloutier	Member of POUCC
Anna Czeckoski	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Dan Dale	Friend of Pastor Bill
John DeBuel	Son of Linda Debuel
Karen Donahue	Sister of Harold Kransi
Amelia Dyer	Friend of Shelia & Bob Fisher
F/F of David Fry	Brother of Deanna Wealand
Tyler Graf	Grandson of John & Anne Shaw
Susie Greiff	Member of POUCC
Sue Gordon	Family of Shelia & Bob Fisher
Cheryl Harper	Daughter of JoEllen Hopkins
Tim & David Hartman	Relatives of Jack Rogers
Pat Hilgenberg	Member of POUCC
Nancy Hosford	Bill Wheeler's Sister
Robert Houghman	Friend of the Greiff's
Bob Horn	Friend of Sue Batturs
Gentile Ivey	Friend of Milissa Davis
Cecilia Kearney	Friend of Jeanette Campbell
Gloria Kirlin	Mother-in-Law of Diane & Scott Kirlin
Helen McGuffie	Member of POUCC
Robert McLaughlin	Member of POUCC
Art McPhearson	Friend of the Gaither's
Bobbi Mitchell	Friend of Milissa Davis
Melodie Moore	Friend of Pastor Bill
Calvin Poole	Friend of Pastor Bill
Harry Scharadin	Member of POUCC
Steve Sharp	Friend of the Grieff's
Shane Snodgrass	Son of Carol Strickland
Tucker Snyder	Great-Grandson of the Gaithers
Vicki Solar	Aunt of Jackie Clough
Mary Ann Stewart	Member of POUCC
Larry Strickland	Husband of Carol Strickland
Walker Family	Sister of Doreen Wheeler
Beverly Woodacre	Grandmother of Shannan Wierzbicki
Jean Wishart	Friend of Jeanette Campbell

In Care Facilities:

Rosemary Smith	Member (Sterling House)
Carol Rogers	Member (Carlton Shores)

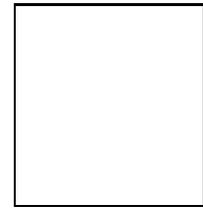
POUCC April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	5 CPT 6:30 — 9 pm	6
7 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	8 Operations 6:30 pm	9 Terrific Tuesdays 6:00 pm	10 Chime Choir 6:15-7:15 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	11 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	12 CPT 6:30 — 9 pm	13
14 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	15 POMA Parent's Meeting 6:30 pm Council 7:00 pm	16 Terrific Tuesdays 6:00 pm	17 Palmetto House 5:30 pm Chime Choir 6:15-7:15 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	18 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	19 CPT 6:30 — 9 pm	20
21 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	22	23 Terrific Tuesdays 6:00 pm	24 Chime Choir 6:15-7:15 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	25 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	26 CPT 6:30 — 9 pm	27
28 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	29	30 Terrific Tuesdays 6:00 pm				

Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 3 pm Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm

Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments Each Sunday Between Services

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



Church Staff

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Bill Wassner
Assistant Pastor : Beverly Schafer
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. C. William Ebbert
Office Manager: Kathy Shaffner
Minister of Music: Dr. Tom Naus
Praise Team Leader: Terri Zinke
Dancing Angels Leader: Bonnie Morisset
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9:00 AM—1:00 PM

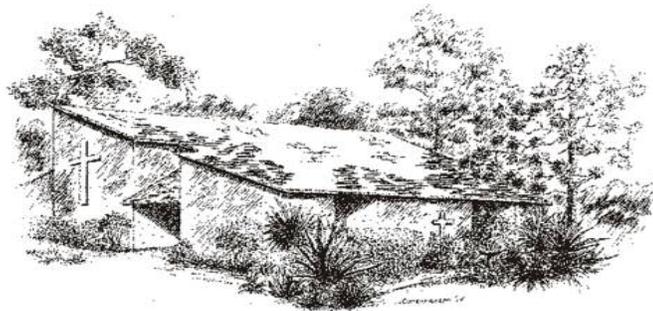
Monday—Friday

Sunday Services

8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM



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