



Volume 40, Issue 12

December 2018

Port Orange
United Church of Christ
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SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Advent and Christmas seasons greetings everyone,

I'm still finding it interesting to deal with the beautiful weather all around us and remembering it's the middle of November. I need to keep reminding myself of the upcoming seasons of Advent and Christmas. They are coming fast! You know what else is coming? Christ is coming again!

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." (John 14:1-4 (NIV))

This is the time of year when we should slow down and take stock in ourselves looking forward to Christ coming again. The season of Advent is a time to prepare for the second coming of Christ. We also take time to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth on earth. Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, not the celebration of it.

I understand our society, driven by the enormous retail-express, begins celebrating (and selling) Christmas in October. We see all the stores decorated for Christmas before the Halloween masks are put away. In fact I heard Christmas songs playing in a few stores before Reformation Sunday (October 28). The commercialization of Christmas is at the center of so many in today's culture. It seems everyone is caught up in the **retailers** season of Christmas and somehow miss the Christian church seasons of both Advent and Christmas.

Yes, in December we will be celebrating two church seasons. Advent begins on Sunday, December 2 and continues until sundown on Christmas Eve. During this season take some time to look at your life and pray you are prepared for the second coming of our Lord and Savior.

As the Advent season moves along, we also should be preparing for the celebration of the anniversary of the birth of Christ. The season of Christmas begins at sundown on Christmas Eve and continues until January 6 when the season of Epiphany begins. Yes, there are twelve days in the season of Christmas. Somehow so many people seem to believe they begin on December 13.

The season of Christmas doesn't end when the torn wrapping paper is thrown away and the turkey and ham leftovers are placed in the refrigerator. Please remember to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ throughout the entire Christmas season. Since almost all the radio stations end their Christmas music on Christmas day, please have a good selection of Christmas music recorded on your smart phones to listen to until January 6.

During this month of transition from autumn to winter we also transition from preparing for the second coming and the birth of Christ, to celebrating his birth. What a most wonderful time of the year.

Celebrating all of God's blessings,

Pastor Glenn

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Staff

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Glenn Rice
Pastor Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. William Ebbert
Minister of Music:
Dr. Tom Naus
Office Manager:
Kathy Shaffner
Custodian
Ronnie Servant
Youth Leader:
Sher Buller
Thrift Store Manager:
Bob Gaither
Media Communications:
Bob Brewster &
Stephanie Whitman

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS



- **Contacting the Pastor:** Home study - 386 872-7387;
Cell Phone - 610 704-2799;
Email - gs.rice@icloud.com

• Hospital Admission Policies

When being admitted to area health care facilities, please have a member of the family or a close friend contact the Pastor or church secretary of the admission. The United States Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for the HIPAA Rule which prevents health care facilities from contacting the church or pastor unless you specifically give them permission and ask them to do so.

• Thank you:

To this entire congregation with all of your help and well wishes of my official installation here at Port Orange UCC. It was a most glorious day!

To Dave and Stephanie Whitman for their leadership during my times of vacation.

To Jackie Gaither and her hospitality group for preparing the delicious Fellowship Thanksgiving dinner on November 8.

To our young people who make up our current confirmation class. They are: Akira Carrig, Colten Pack and Delana Pack. Please keep them in your prayers as they learn more about God, our church, denomination, and the Bible.

To Bob Brewster for removing the Palmetto tree east side of the building.

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

We just celebrated Thanksgiving, now we have Advent and Christmas upon us, where did the year go?

While in Memphis I received information on POUCC's Stewardship campaign. We have received 34 Goal Cards, totally \$68,498. So a big thank you to those of you that have pledged to the 2019 budget, unfortunately that is short for us to continue our many mission projects and the ordinary running of the programs at our church. If you have not turned in your Goal card, please do so. Again thank you to those who have completed their Goal cards.

Let us celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ who has given us plenty!

Sincerely, *Kathy Cratin, Moderator*



Financial Update—Operational Budget as 10/31/18

	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
Income	\$10,940	\$134,827	\$121,150	\$13,677
Expenses	\$12,265	\$142,653	\$141,437	\$ 1,216
Balance	(\$1.325)	(\$ 7,826)	(\$20,287)	

*Please note that income and expenses do not include Missions. October was a fairly typical month with only \$652 extra for building maintenance and a minor A/C repair. These normal expenses did put us in the red, however, because our income continues to be less than we need to have a balanced budget. **The Operating account has run out of money.** We are continuing to use the benevolent/emergency fund to pay some of the church's expenses through the end of the year. Thanks for your continuing generosity.*

Hal Francis, Treasurer



DEACON'S CORNER



As we start our entry into the Christmas Season, we bring our focus on the needs of others. There are several ways that we can help by offering and/or communicating the names of those in need of prayer support.

FROM THE DEACONS

POUCC Impressions, our monthly newsletter, provides a listing of prayer requests. This listing covers the person's name and their connection to our Church. Anyone may place a name on this list. As a courtesy to those you ask to be put on the list, it would be nice to mention to that person of your intention, so they may have the opportunity to express their desire for privacy. Please notify the Church office if you want to place a name or names on the prayer request list. If you placed a name on the list or you know of a change in the status of another mentioned person, please let the office know when the person no longer needs to be on the list.

Sunday Worship Bulletin provides a weekly update of the prayer requests. It follows the same guidelines as the newsletter. Just a reminder to keep the list current.

Sunday Worship Services provide opportunities during prayer times for individual members to speak the names of people that are in need of our prayers.

Prayer Chain is a small group of dedicated members who, upon request, offer daily prayers for individuals. Currently there is a need to expand the number of members on the prayer chain. Due to how this small committee works, requests are taken separately from other prayer requests.

Prayer Request Box is located in the island outside the front door to the Church. It was started several years ago. Its purpose was to provide anyone the opportunity to drive by and drop off the names of people in need of prayers. It received good coverage in the local newspaper and we were blessed we could reach out in prayer for some non-church members in need. Unfortunately, the use of the box has diminished and the program is currently being re-examined. *Charlie Baskin, Chair of Deacons*

OPERATION'S TEAM

The end of the year is upon us. Thankfully our church has not experienced any major storms or associated damage this year. However, we are concerned about the classroom building roof and possible replacement of the air conditioning system mounted on the kitchen roof. Both are showing signs of aging. The sanctuary is in good physical condition but is also in need of painting. This job must be professionally done and also must include preservation of our wonderful murals and bible messages. The Sanctuary mural is especially of concern since it is on a drywall base and subject to fading, cracking, moisture damage and general aging. During this stewardship season please think about the wide variety of church maintenance items inside and out and the expense associated with each as you determine your giving for 2019. Regards, *Bob Brewster, Co-Chair Operations.*



MISSIONS NOTES



SPRUCE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL'S Mission ended 10/31 and we presented them with a check for \$1,621.12 and many bags of personal care items. We recently received a touching note from Candace Roos, of SCHS thanking us for our generosity. It is posted on the Sanctuary bulletin board. Thanks to all of you.

Regarding the Countryside Halloween Extravaganza, many thanks to Jim Eagan, who was instrumental in working with Tommy Driggers and Nancy Prough's display and whose donation of \$527 given to POUCC for the less fortunate Spruce Creek Elementary students and their families, as needed. A thank you letter and certificate of appreciation were sent to Tommy and Nancy.

SPRUCE CREEK ELEMENTARY'S Thanksgiving Food Collection went exceedingly well. We provided twenty \$20 Publix Gift Cards for purchasing turkeys, as well as, 60 plus bags of accompaniments for a complete Thanksgiving dinner. Again Thanks to all of You!



Again, this year we are partnering with **SPRUCE CREEK ELEMENTARY** by having an "Angel Tree" Project. Each of these angel tags list the age, size and clothing "wished for" by these students. The new wrapped gifts, with the angel tag attached securely outside should be placed under the tree by **Sunday, December 9th**, in time for delivery before their Christmas break. Your support and love puts smiles and happiness on the faces of these children. Thank you for your Support!

The 11/06 **GENERAL ELECTION BAKE SALE** went exceedingly well. Many, many thanks to the bakers, standby volunteers and those who gave checks/cash to make this day so successful. We ended up with a little over \$750.

January 1st our Mission Focus will, again, by **HOLY JOE'S CAFÉ**, a coffee house ministry for UCC Chaplains and troops. Last year our funds went specifically to Florida's Tyndall Air Force Base. Tyndall was hit hard by Hurricane Michael in October of this year, so I'm sure our funds will be greatly appreciated.

The **NEIGHBOR'S IN NEED OFFERING** collected \$420. **"THE LIGHT IS SURELY COMING"** **The Veteran's of the Cross/Christmas Fund** is a way in which we as members of the UCC, enabled the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance Program to provide pension supplementation, health premium supplementations, emergency grants and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to individuals and families in need. The offering will be received on **December 23rd**. Look for the purple envelope in the bulletin and on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary.

As always, Sophie's Circle, The Sock Box, Eyeglass Collection Basket and Aluminum Can Tab Jug Collections continue year-round. The Mission Team thanks everyone for their unfailing support to our Church's various project. Your support of all our missions has far exceeded our expectations and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We wish you all a very Merry and Blessed Christmas.

Respectively submitted by Peggy Wiggins, Chair of Missions

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. Last month's collection of 26 bags benefited Halifax Urban Ministry's Food Pantry. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart for delivering the food. **As a reminder, December 2nd is our next collection date and will benefit the Pantry.** Please be generous and make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates.



YOUTH CORNER



The youth have a fun and busy November! They hosted 2 movie events featuring I Can Only Imagine & God's Not Dead 2. Both movies are highly recommended if you were unable to attend the showings. Work continued on our art projects and we were using our creative juices for this year's Youth Pageant "Angels Among Us." We hope to see you all there Sunday, December 23, 2018 9:45 a.m.

There will also be a Youth Lock In Saturday, December 29th .

As always, thank you for your continued support of our youth. This is a wonderful ministry of our church, for our own "church" kids and also reaching beyond our walls to the greater community.

Sher Buller, Youth Leader



Youth Pageant December 23, 2018 9:45 a.m.

The youth have worked hard to create the pageant this year.

We hope to see you all there!



Calendar: Youth Pageant Rehearsals:

Saturdays December 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd.

**We will meet from 10 - 11 a.m. on the 1st, 8th & 22nd
and from 11 a.m. - 12 noon on the 15th.**

THE GIFT & THRIFT STORE



The Thrift Store has really been blessed the last four weeks. It all started when a two year old angel accompanied by her grandmother came onto our store. Susie Bussard was talking with the grandmother and Susie told her she would pray for her and the little girl wanted to pray right then which we all did. Ever since then we have had been blessed; for weeks business has been great.

One of our customers came in with a van full of new toys and ask us to make sure they were given to children in need. I was trying to think of who we could donate them to when another one of our customers who is a retired fireman came in. He suggested Toys for Tots as they were starting their annual drive. That was a great idea and he called Battalion Chief Michael Harvey who came to the store and loaded up the toys. They posted a picture of the donation on Facebook!



The next thing you know, another one of our customers came in and asked if he would buy hams would we donate them to some families in need. He returned with six hams and all the sides needed for a nice meal and we were able to provide six families with a very special treat. So ever since our little angel came in the store, we have really been blessed.

We have received a number of big ticket donations that have helped increase sales. So, if sales continue as well as your prayers we may reach \$28,000 by the end of the year. A big thank you to our dedicated volunteers, customers and all who donate. Always beware that there is an angel out there watching you!

Bob Gaither, Manager

SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Soup, Salad

and bread
supper



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

Our next fellowship dinner is December 13th.

It's a "Soup, Salad & Bread Pot Luck".

Sign-up Sheet will be circulated during Worship.

NEWS & NOTES



Poinsettias

As is our tradition, we will be decorating our Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Service. Please deliver your poinsettia with your name on them by **Wednesday, December 19th** (place in Jim Reed Room). Poinsettias may be taken home or donated after the Christmas Eve Service. Sign-up sheet is on the Sanctuary bulletin board..

LADIES LUNCHEON: For December will be held at **Olive Garden on Thursday, December 13th at 11:30 AM.** Sign-up Sheet will be circulated at Services on Sunday. See you there!



On **Sunday, January 20, 2019 between Services, 9:45 AM,** we will have our Annual Meeting. Topics to be presented are the 2019 Budget as well as nomination and election of officers for the year. A list of nominees will be posted prior to the meeting on the Sanctuary bulletin board. Annual Reports are due by **Friday, January 4th.** Please type your report in Microsoft Word for easy compilation and e-mail it to the Church Office. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting.



ADVENT 2018: An Overview



Blue Christmas / Longest Night Worship Service

The upcoming season of Advent is a season of Hope and the season of Christmas is a season of joy. This is true for many but not everyone. Many do not feel like celebrating due to illness, the overall aging process, loneliness, grief or depression. These upcoming seasons can magnify our losses as the stress of preparations and high expectations surround us.

A Blue Christmas / Longest Night worship service will be offered to provide a time of solace during the last few days of Advent while preparing for Christmas. We will come together to seek healing and share our sadness and confusion of our emotions as they seem to be out of place during our holidays.

Here in Florida, December 21 is the longest night and also shortest daylight day of the year. It is the official first day of winter also known as the winter solstice. There is a tradition noting all of God's nature stop and hold their breathe waiting to see if the sun will come back; if the light of days will lengthen and warm the earth.

On this darkest day of the year, we will come together seeking the return of light and of hope. You are welcome to attend this service on **Friday, December 21 at 7:00 PM.**

Listed below is the Advent and Christmas schedule:



December 2nd - HOPE (Two Services 8:45 & 10:45 AM)



December 9th - PEACE (Two Services 8:45 & 10:45 AM)



**December 16th - LOVE - "Lessons and Carols" (Sanctuary Choir)
(Combined Service 9:45 AM)**



December 21st - Blue Christmas Service - 7:00 PM

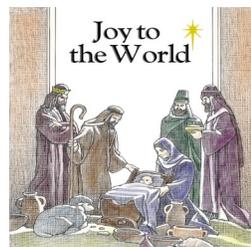


**December 23rd - JOY - Youth Pageant - "Angels Among Us"
(Combined Service 9:45 AM)**



December 24th - 7:00 PM Candlelight Worship Choir & Praise Team

Merry Christmas!





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS*

Ted Batturs	12/4
Chuck Henderson	12/5
Grayson Osteen	12/6
Beverly Schafer	12/7
John MacNeil	
Chuck Knopsky	12/10
Joshua Wheeler	
Art Horton	12/11
Selena Wheeler	12/13
Tracy Davis	
Susie Greiff	12/16
Erika Hobson	12/17
Joe Thompson	12/19
Suzette Wheeler	12/24
Milissa Davis	12/25

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES*

Bill & Susie Greiff	12/12/1970
Ron & Sonnie Zinke	12/23/1958
Bob & Louise Johnson	12/26/1955



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Connie & John Anderson	Friends of Sheila Fisher
Jeff Batturs	Son of Ted & Sue Batturs
Wendy Bumpas	Friend of the Buller Family
Elijah Buller	Member of POUCC
David Butters	Family of Joe Rogers
Carol	Friend of the Buller Family
Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
Karen Coffey	Family of Sandy Kransi
Amy Dyer	Friend of Sheila Fisher
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
Dave Holder	Friend of the Buller Family
James	Friend of Kathryn Manning
Carol Jarvis	Friend of Carol Rogers
Scott Kirlin	Husband of Diane Kirlin
The Lynch Family	Friends of POUCC
Scarlet Miller	Friend of POUCC
Shon Owezarsak	Grandson of Mary Ann Stewart
Beth Ann Martin	Daughter of Ted & Sue Batturs
Leslie Neese	Friend of the Stewart Family
Deb Pack	Friend of POUCC
Bruce Roberts	Brother of Sandy Kransi
Marilyn & Tom Root & Family	Friends of Bonnie Morisset
John Shell	Son of Sue Barhite
Michael St. Marie	Friend of Beth Harris
Rich Thole	Member of POUCC
Sierra Walsh	Member of the Zinke Family
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

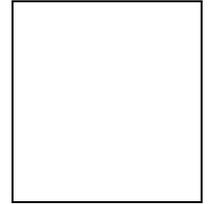
Victims of the Wild Fires in California
Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide

Note: *Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your special date or to add a Prayer Concern.

POUCC December 2018

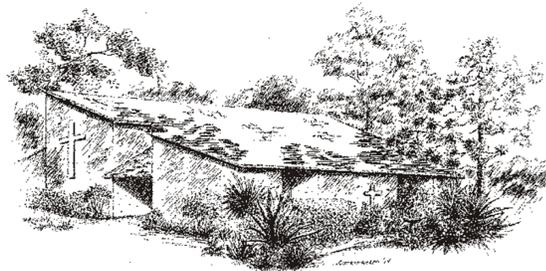
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Youth Pageant Practice 10:00 am
2 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	3 POMA 4:30 pm	4 Youth Meeting 6:00 pm	5 CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	6 Missions Meeting 10:00 am POMA 4:30 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	7 Book Discussion 6:00 pm	8 Youth Pageant Practice 10:00 am
9 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	10 POMA 4:30 pm Operations 6:30 pm	11 Youth Meeting 6:00 pm	12 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	13 Ladies Luncheon 11:30 am POMA 4:30 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	14 Book Discussion 6:00 pm	15 Choir 9:00 am Youth Pageant Practice 10:00 am
16 Combined Service Lessons & Carols 9:45 am	17 POMA 4:30 pm Council 6:30 pm	18 Youth Meeting 6:00 pm	19 POMA 4:30 pm	20 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	21 Book Discussion 6:00 pm Blue Christmas 7:00 pm	22 Youth Pageant Practice 10:00 am
23 Combined Service Youth Christmas Pageant 9:45 am	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	25  Merry Christmas	26	27 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	28	29 Youth Sleepover Lock-In 6:00 pm
30 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	31  New Year's Eve	<p><i>Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 3 pm, Sat 9 am – Noon, Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm</i></p> <p>Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments Each Sunday Between Services</p> 				

Port Orange
United Church of Christ
651 Taylor Road
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Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Glenn Rice
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. C. William Ebbert
Minister of Music: Dr. Tom Naus
Office Manager: Kathy Shaffner
Custodian: Ronnie Servant
Youth Leader: Sher Buller
Thrift Store Manager: Bob Gaither
Media Communications: Bob Brewster & Stephanie Whitman



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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

Adult Discussion

9:45 AM

Youth Meeting

Tuesday
6:00 PM