



Volume 39, Issue 1

January 2017

**Port Orange
United Church of Christ**
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INTERIM PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Joel 2:28 *"...I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions."*

No more appropriate words can be spoken to us at Port Orange UCC, as we enter into a new year, than those of Joel. We have had three major workshops this past year where we explored who we are, defining our core values, and vision God's leading for the future. Through our dreams and visioning we have formulated four specific strategies that we will be working on over the next few months that fall into two areas (intentionally strengthening relationships in our community and intentionally develop a broader base of discipleship and spiritual growth).

As the New Year starts, we put away the past and look with a clean slate to the coming year. Dreaming dreams and seeing visions are essential to the well being of our faith community as a whole, as well as individually. As we take action through intentional spiritual growth, in deepening our community connections, and working toward a sustainable ministry, we will need to be open to new voices bringing new dreams and new visions; willing as leaders to mentor our future leadership.

2017 will continue to be a year of change and challenges. The appointment of a search committee charged with selecting the next settled pastor, is but one of these challenges. Learning how to pass the torch of responsibility to the next generation without losing our institutional memory is also a challenge. Working toward a sustainable ministry not for just this year, but for future generations is of vital focus for us.

These may seem overwhelming when you think about the challenges of the future. In some ways they are great, but when we approach these goals apiece at a time, these challenges are less daunting and we will be able to look back in the near future and see how far we have moved forward. I would encourage you to take the opportunity to attend the special workshop that is planned this month on Stewardship. It is in learning that we expand our abilities to envision new horizons and dream new dreams.

When we think about all the achievements that we accomplished in 2016, it may seem overwhelming (the 162 angel gifts that represented helping 46 families this Christmas, the Palmetto mission, the food bank, multiple projects with Spruce Creek Elementary to name just a few), but we achieved a tremendous amount of ministry, one step at a time. This is how we live life, on step at a time. When we plan our paths, it makes the journey more achievable and enjoyable, giving purpose to the struggles that come along with getting where we want to be.

As a faith community, who shares, we are a part of God's hands in our world. We continue to be his hands as God pours out his spirit onto us. Let us all dream greater dreams and see greater visions as we move into the New Year! Peace,

Pastor Steven

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Interim Pastor:
Rev. Steven 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 WORKSHOPS



“I so look forward to these workshops.” Bonnie Morriset greeted friends after the service on Sunday, December 4th, echoing the enthusiasm of many of those participating in Crossroads workshops.

Workshop #3 was designed to begin planning POUCC’s path forward. First, participants were asked what they thought it might be like if all the planning was complete and the fruits of their labors were accomplished. Excitedly, they envisioned what we would look like, what we would hear, and how they might feel about that.

After selecting which of four of the elements that constitute POUCC they wanted to work on, people rearranged themselves into four groups, with some shifting around. Each table was covered with Kraft paper on which to write. In a center circle teams placed one of these four elements:

- Meaningful and Uplifting Choices of Worship
- Space for Spiritual Growth
- Loving Acceptance of all God’s children
- We Serve Our Community Using Our Members

Each group decided which of the elements other than their own might have to be considered in order to accomplish their own element’s work. These were placed in circles around the center. (See why it’s called “Bubble Charting?”)

Keeping in mind the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats identified in the first workshop, teams drew lines between and among their bubbles. The results looked a bit like a spider web with big drops of dew. This visual demonstrated interconnections, helping teams decide which tasks to pursue first.

Strategic statements that would ultimately lead to the successful implementation of the main element were noted on their chart along or under the relevant lines connecting their bubbles. Each group was asked to identify their number one strategy to accomplish in the next three months. Their next task was to determine action steps, and who among our populace could do them.

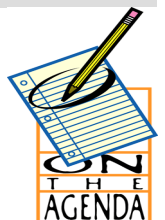
They wrote their action steps on paper, posting it on a timeline on the Sticky Wall. The teams’ work will be charted to ready us for the next workshop, scheduled for February 5th, when everyone will come together to see what has been accomplished and what help is needed.

As Bob Russell pointed out, “We’re talking about *being* a church, not just a facility.”

Kay Russell & Tom Besaw

ANNUAL MEETING

On **Sunday, January 29, 2017** we will have our Annual Meeting after a **Combined Service** beginning at **9:45 AM**. Topics to be presented are the 2017 Budget as well as nomination and election of officers for the year. A list of nominees are posted on the Sanctuary bulletin board. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting. Annual Reports are due by **Friday, January 6th and will be available on Sunday, January 22nd for your review**. Please type your report in Microsoft Word for easy compilation and e-mail it to the Church Office ASAP.



OPERATIONS TEAM



The Operations Team met on December 12th and there was no major actions to report. The Team continues development of the 2017 Budget for presentation at the Annual Meeting on January 29th. The next Operations Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 9th at 6:30 PM.** *Sher Buller, Secretary of Operations*

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE

December was a busy and profitable month for the Store. Our vast Christmas inventory, which was beautifully displayed by our talented volunteers, attracted customers old and new looking for that special gift. In fact, we exceeded our approved budget numbers for this year with sales totaling \$25,000. We were also able to provide 23 bags of clothes to the homeless. Many thanks to the hardworking volunteers, our valued customers, and all who continue to donate items to the Store. We look forward to a great 2017! *Bob Gaither, Manager*



Financial Update Operational Budget as of 11/2016

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	<u>Jan.-Nov. 2016</u>	<u>Jan.-Nov. 2016</u>
Income	\$ 151,263	\$ 152,991
Expenses	<u>163,654</u>	<u>152,751</u>
Net	\$ - 12,391	\$ 240

We are still in the red through the month of November due to some unexpected costs this year. I'm hopeful next year will be better! Thank you to everyone for your continued support and love. *Respectfully Submitted by Susie Greiff, Treasurer*

YOUTH CORNER

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY: A great time was had by all at the youth Christmas party. Of course there was food & fun. What more could you ask for? We played the candy cane game, trying to pick up candy canes using one candy cane as the hook in your mouth, and putting the picked up candy canes in the bowl. It was a hoot watching the different tactics everyone came up with. There is some video of this that was put on our Facebook page as well. Check it out! Pin the ornaments on the Christmas tree was also a big hit. Our version of pin the tail on the donkey. We also made Christmas ornaments by melting plastic beads in cookie cutter shapes. Decorating our Ugly Christmas Sweater sugar cookies was also a big hit. Thanks to all who came and a special thanks to Sue Turner for all she does for our Terrific Tuesday gang. After our holiday break, the Terrific Tuesday gang will begin meeting again on **January 10th at 6:00 PM.** Plan to attend!



SAVE THE DATE! January 27th-29th: The Florida Conference Walk on Water Youth Retreat is scheduled for **January 27th-29th** at

Union Congregational Church/West Palm Beach. The weekend will include: campfires, an ice breaker led by Mike Neuroth to engage with youth on what it means to be "just peace", beach time and worship with Rev. Drew Willard (UCC at The Villages) and Mike Neuroth, Youth Town Hall and a Talent Show and much more. Cost is \$50 @ person. For more information, contact Sher Buller, 846-1239.

CHRISTMAS 2016

What a beautiful holiday season at POUCC! We began with the lighting of our first Advent Candle on November 27th and continued through Advent with extraordinary Worship Services that prepared us all for the Christmas Services to welcome the birth of our Savior.



“Christmas Memories” Presented by the Youth December 11, 2016. The youth did a wonderful job writing and participating in this intergenerational service and sharing their special Christmas memories. Thank you to all who participated: Youth: Aydan, Blake, Elijah & Thomas Buller, Skylar Davis, James Garcia, Colten & Delana Pack, Rowan Schafer-Ramoutar, and Trey & Van Thompson. Adults: Pastor Beverly, Pastor Steven, Paul Allen, Sher Buller, Milissa Davis, Saira Ramoutar, Pamela Schafer, and Sue Turner. Thank you to Kay Schweitzer who was the inspiration for the service with her song “A Christmas Memory.”

We are one of a growing number of congregations across the country trying to reach those who feel little comfort and joy amid the Christmas season with our Blue Christmas Service which took place on December 13th. Thanks to Pastor Steven, Assistant Pastor Beverly Schafer, Sher Buller and Paul Allen, the service provided those suffering loss of any kind in their lives to find solace and peace.



On December 18th our Choir led by Dr. Tom presented our annual “*Lessons and Carols*” Program which was so moving. The hymns and carols were beautifully performed by the Choir and thanks to Rev. Larry Deitch for serving as the Liturgist. We are so blessed to have such a talented group and are so grateful to Dr. Tom for his leadership and continued commitment to enhancing our Worship Services.

The “Night of Miracles” Candlelight Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services were amazing. The Sanctuary was packed. The music, message and spirit of everyone was a fitting celebration to mark the birth of Christ. Thanks to all who participated in making it a most memorable event.



NEWS & NOTES



Saturday, January 21st 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. All present and incoming Committee Members are expected to attend and all general congregation members are strongly encouraged to attend. Workshop is to be led by Rev. Patrick Rogers of the First Congregational UCC of Fort Lauderdale. Rev. Rogers will discuss Stewardship Responsibility, Stewardship as a Lifestyle, Connection between Stewardship and Mission, Effective Stewardship and much more.

REMINDER: Yearly Conference Dues are \$15 per participating member and the check should be made out to POUCC with Conference Dues in the memo line. **The total amount due is paid to the Conference up front each year by the Congregation and your contribution towards this reimburses the Church for that mandatory fee.**



The 2017 Edition will be available at the Annual Meeting. If you have any address or contact changes, please notify the Church Office as soon as possible.

STAFF APPRECIATION: Donation envelopes for staff appreciation are located on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. This special donation will provide for staff appreciation gifts to be presented during the January 29th Annual Meeting.

MISSION NOTES



Our Angel Tree Project was a huge success! The tree was decorated with 162 angels listing the gender, ages and sizes of the children. Within a week, the angels disappeared and the wrapped gifts of warm clothing began to pile up under the tree. On December 13th, the packages were delivered to the school. School officials were overwhelmed by the generosity and most appreciative of our continued commitment to those in need.

Your generosity to the Mission Boxes has raised to date \$250 which benefits Sophie's Circle the local food pet pantry and rescue. Thanks for remembering all of God's creatures.



Thanks to Louise Eagan for delivering afghans and bears to Boggy Creek Camp for children with serious illnesses and their families to enjoy. Also, thanks to Gail Besaw, Louise Eagan, Peggy Wiggins and Sharon Williamson who assisted in stuffing the 90 bags for the Palmetto House Residents.



Beginning this month we will again raise funds in support of "Holy Joe's Cafe" a coffee house ministry for UCC Chaplains and Troops in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait. Chaplains invite U.S. Service Members into a safe and informal "coffee house" where they can receive spiritual care and good coffee. The project came into being in 2006 and it is responding to 172 Military Chaplains who have requested supplies from Holy Joe's Cafe. Please support this vital and worthwhile cause by placing your monetary donations in the coffee can in the front of the Sanctuary.

The Mission Team thanks you for your continued generosity. *Jackie Gaither, Chair of the Missions Team*



THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING "GOD'S LOVE COLORS EVERYTHING":

This offering for Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a way in which we, as members of the UCC enabled the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance aid individuals and families in need and say thank you for your service. **To date we have collected \$270.** Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

We continue to collect food items to help the hungry. **Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. Our next collection will take place on January 1st.** Over 25 bags and nine boxes of food were collected last month for Grace Episcopal Food Pantry. Please be generous and make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates clearly marked On all cans, boxes, and containers.



SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER



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

Make your plans to come to the next dinner Thursday, January 12th.

It's a "Pot Luck."

Sign-up on Sanctuary Bulletin Board.

Making Gifts While Providing for Inheritances

Did you know there is a way to make special charitable gifts to UCBMA using funds that will be returned to you or your loved ones at a future time of your choosing?

Known as a charitable lead trust, this increasingly popular plan can be used to achieve what might otherwise seem to be conflicting goals, while you also enjoy significant tax savings and other financial benefits.

[See Example](#)

Consider the benefits of a charitable lead trust:

You arrange for a regular source of charitable gifts that will begin immediately and continue for as long as you decide. The amount of the charitable gifts can be fixed or vary over time. You or your advisors can continue to manage the funds in the trust, if desired. Such a gift can serve to reduce or eliminate income, estate, and gift taxes now - and in future years as well. You may be able to provide younger heirs with a larger inheritance than would otherwise be possible at a time when it is more appropriate that it be received.

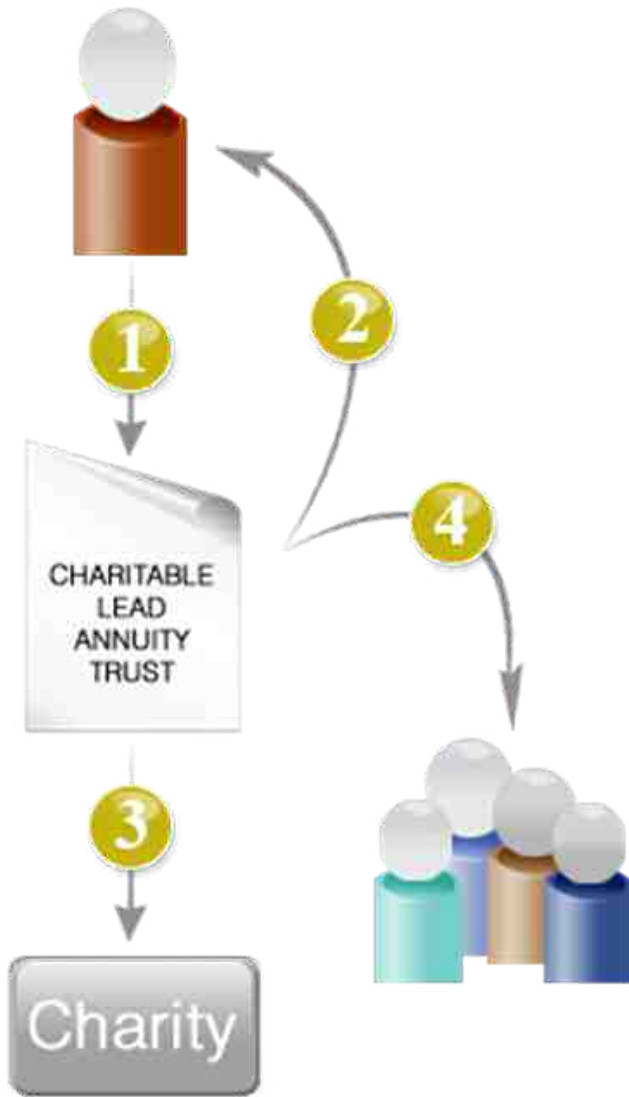
You may be familiar with charitable gift planning tools that feature annual income for you or others you choose. Under these plans, when income ceases, any remaining funds are transferred to the charity. Under the terms of a charitable lead trust, however, your charitable interests immediately begin to receive gifts in the form of payments from the trust and the gifts continue for the period of time you determine. At the end of that time period, assets remaining in the trust are returned to you or other loved ones you designate. Gift and estate taxes can be due on amounts over a certain amount given to others during your lifetime or through your estate. Because of the front-end gifts to charity over time from a charitable lead trust, however, you are allowed to reduce the amounts that would otherwise be taxable by the value of those gifts to charity.

Depending on the amount of the payments, how long they last, and other factors, it can be possible to greatly reduce, or even entirely eliminate, gift and estate tax on unlimited amounts ultimately passing to heirs. In addition, at the termination of the trust your heirs can benefit from any growth in trust assets, free of additional gift and estate taxes, during the time the trust is in existence.

As you can see, the charitable lead trust can be an especially attractive way to meet multiple personal and charitable planning goals.

(Continued on Next Page)

Example (Close Instructions)

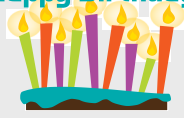


1. Mr. and Mrs. Walker will transfer assets valued at \$1,000,000 to the trust.
2. The contribution to the trust will result in a gift tax deduction of \$1,000,000.
3. The trust will distribute income to The United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, Inc. for 20 years based on an annuity rate of 6%. The income will be \$60,000 per year for a total of \$1,200,000.
4. When the trust terminates, the value of the trust, based on the \$1,000,000 transferred, plus any growth or less any loss in trust value, will be transferred to the heirs. Based on an assumed net earnings rate of 7%, the heirs will receive an inheritance of approximately \$1,409,955.

For more information on legacy gifting go to:

<http://pbucc.givingplan.net/pp/charitable-trusts-can-help-reach-many-goals/3144>

Happy Birthday!



PRAYER REQUESTS*

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS*

Margaret Procter	1/2
Blake Buller	
Aydan Buller	
Natalie Wheeler	1/3
Richard Devins, Jr.	1/4
Don Schweitzer	1/7
Shirley Harper	1/9
Jack Hilgenberg	1/10
Erika Wheeler	1/13
Dee Dardeen	1/15
Peter Marshall	
Garrett Zinke	1/18
Mary McDonald	1/20
Warren Feilbach	1/24
Kay Schweitzer	1/26
John Shaw	1/27
Luke Moss	
Bob Russell	1/28
Kaitlyn Wheeler	1/29
Deb Pack	
Rev. Dr. Raymond Hargrove	1/31

Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
Karen Donahue	Member of the Kransi Family
Drew & Linda Cochran	Friends of Sheila Fisher
Jack & Pat Hilgenberg	Members of POUCC
Louise & Bob Johnson	Member & Friend of POUCC
Moira & Sheila LeClerc	Friends of POUCC
Harry Manchester	Friend of the Fisher Family
Liz Mills	Friend of POUCC
Leree Nicholls	Member of POUCC
Deb Pack	Friend of POUCC
F/F of Gayle Spillman	Wheeler Family Member
Jim Turner	Husband of Sue Turner
F/F of Tom Van Camp	Member of POUCC
Eric Walter	Friend of the Buller Family

In Care Facilities:

Jeanette Campbell	Member of POUCC (Care Center in MA)
June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Center in PA)
Bob Fisher	Member of POUCC (Gold Choice Center in Ormond Beach)
Blanche Northcutt	Former Member of POUCC (Life Care Center in Collegedale, TN)
Eloise Wottke	Former Member of POUCC (Onalaska Care Center in Onalaska, WI)

Special Needs

All of Our Military, First Responders & Their Families

Broader Concerns

Victims of Terrorism Worldwide
Pray for Peace in our World

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

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES*



Harold & Sandy Kransi	1/1/1982
Tracy & Milissa Davis	1/16/2000



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

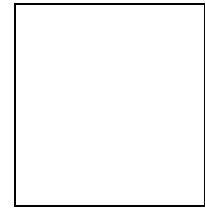
POUCC January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 8:45 am Combined Service 9:45 am	2	3	4 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	5 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	6	7
8 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	9 Council Mtg . 5:30pm Operations Mtg. 6:30 pm Compassionate Friends 7:00 pm	10 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	11 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	12 POMA 3:45 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	13	14
15 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	16	17 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	18 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	19 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	20	21 Stewardship Workshop 9:00 am
22 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	23	24 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	25 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	26 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	27 Walk on Water Retreat	28 Walk on Water Retreat
29 Combined Service 9:45 am Annual Meeting 11:00 am	30	31 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm				

*Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 3 pm, Sat. 9:00-Noon
Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm*

*Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments Each Sunday Between Services
Fellowship for January: Missions*

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Youth Leader: 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—Noon
Saturday

Sunday Worship

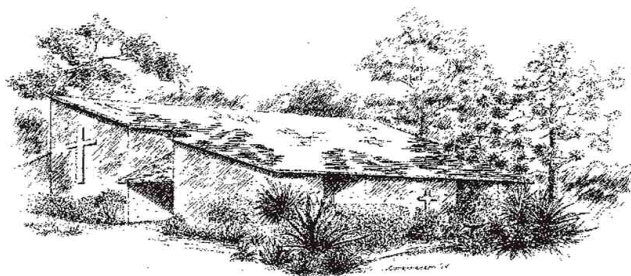
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM



Phone (386) 788-0920
Email: uccpo@bellsouth.net Website: portorangeucc.org