



Volume 38, Issue 10

October 2016

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



It has been a month now, since I have joined you all here in Port Orange. What a great welcome you have extended to Paul and me. We feel the warmth and love of our new family of faith! I have been busy all month with becoming familiar with new names, new faces, new surroundings, new plants, and new weather patterns. Did I say “new?” I can now say I have experienced my first hurricane that hit the state, even if it was to the west of us. I experienced my first tropical storm the following week. I have never been around so many differing types of palm trees in one setting, not to mention a number of new berries that seem to grow wild in the parks and along walking trails.

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So much is new to me on a daily basis, yet there is also the familiar. Although we did not directly get hit by hurricane Hermine, we did have a tornado warning, (Gee, just like home Toto). The hot and humid weather reminds me of August weather in Kansas. But more pointedly is the familiarity and the comfort that I find in the people of Port Orange UCC. It is a familiarity that can be felt in almost any faith community, when that community is focused on the basic message of faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is LOVE!

In his book, *Church: A Generous Community Amplified for the Future*, Bishop Andrew Doyle challenges us to exercise our faith, hope, and love in fresh new ways. In the story of the transfiguration of Jesus, while upon the mountain with Peter, John and James, Jesus is visited by Moses and Elijah. Peter so overcome by the spiritual experience sees that spot as a holy place and immediately wants to pitch three tents, one for Moses, one for Elijah, and one for Jesus, thereby providing a sanctuary where people would have a place to come and experience the wonder of the living God. This is where we find ourselves in today’s world. We have created space for people to come and experience the living God.

Yet we find that fewer and fewer people are coming through our doors, why? We have been told by almost every visitor who does come to worship with us, what a warm and loving group of people we are, yet our membership doesn’t reflect that love and acceptance. We are no different that the majority of mainline denominations. People just don’t seem to want to come to “church” like they did in the 1950’s. We can observe how life styles have changed dramatically from when many of us who are grandparents were raising our own children. We can name almost every competing event that now interferes with what was traditionally church night (Wednesday in many communities) and now church day, Sundays. Even those who do come to church on Sundays have a short amount of time allotted for worship and fellowship, we plan other events for much of the day.

Jesus’ response to Peter’s desire to build a house of worship for the people on that mountain top was not well received by Jesus. Jesus makes it clear that their business is to leave the mountain top and go back to the world preaching, teaching, and healing. And this is the message to the church today, we are to be out among the people working, not keeping the preaching, teaching, and healing in our sanctuary. It is now our job over the next few months to start looking through new lenses how we as a faith community will “work” in our community. We possess the basic characteristics that speak about what God wishes for his people; we have faith, hope, and love; now we just need to see where we can best share those gifts out in the market place. And the greatest of these is LOVE! Peace,

Staff

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
Gift & Thrift Store:
Bob Gaither
Youth Leader:
Sher Buller

Pastor Steven

CROSSROADS —A MEMBER'S MESSAGE

Have you already attended the first workshop, “What Is This All About?” Please share your perceptions with those who were unable to attend. If you are reading this before the workshop, please take a few more moments to think about that upcoming SWOT analysis: **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, and **T**hreats.

Since “analysis” sounds so serious, I’m sure everyone is curious to see how we’ll make it fun. October 2nd, all will be revealed! We know what resources we have to work with; we’ll identify our SWOT and be ready to step out in faith. We must not think for a second that we don’t “know enough” to engage.

When we implore all to attend these workshops, we do mean everyone. To that end, a letter has gone out to the Snowbirds, giving them a simple way to participate in the SWOT workshop. Responses, both in-person and via e-mail, will provide us with the next piece of concrete information. Our forward movement will be based on facts, not fanciful ideals.

Looking at ways to engage the entire population, we haven’t neglected the participation of our young people. Singer/Songwriter and year-round resident, Kay Schweitzer (who calls herself Kay of the Cloud) reminds us, “What a goldmine we have.” She’s already sharing ideas to “stimulate their creativity.” Their participation in the workshops will provide a depth that just would not exist without them.

It is my fervent hope that by the end of these workshops we’ll not only have a sense of our direction and the steps to take, but we will have generated an enthusiastic commitment from our congregation to take those steps. Remembering that this is a spiritual as well as a practical endeavor, I also hope that our activities enable us to learn to listen to the voice of God, to become a thriving church that does the will of God.

I hope the joy engendered by the camaraderie of the workshops will carry over into the whole community. The early Christians were known for their love; let us go and do likewise. As Kay of the Cloud says, “I intend to stick around and see what can happen.”

Blessings,

Kay Russell

Our first of four monthly gatherings will take place after a Combined Service beginning at 9:45 AM on October 2nd with a fellowship luncheon to follow.



AT THE CROSSROADS ADULT STUDY GROUP

The Study Group meets Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 PM in the Sanctuary and will continue through December. Facilitated by Pastor Steven the study is based on the book “Church: A Generous Community Amplified for the Future,” by C Andrew Doyle. This book can be purchased in paperback for as little as \$13.74 on Amazon or in Kindle form for \$9.99.

DEACONS CORNER



No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care". This can be said of POUCC and especially for us, your Deacons. Over the next few months our church will be working to identify better what our church needs to be doing in a rapidly changing world. Everyone, members and friends, are being asked to participate with thoughts, ideas and yes, critical comments on what we could be doing better or more of. As Deacons, we are trying to become more visible so you know who we are. During Sunday church services, we are participating more with the Welcome and Announcements. We are also asking different members to participate in each service with the Offering Call by sharing some brief thoughts as to why they joined POUCC. More participation in our services by both Deacons and lay people is something that Pastor Steven has suggested as a way for the service to be more meaningful to other members and guests in order to help us to get to know each other better. We are not a big church but we have two services. This often times has us passing like "ships in the night" as one service ends and another service begins. This is why we decided to make more permanent the single service at 9:45 AM on the first Sunday (Communion Sunday) of each month. Having one combined service a month gives us a chance to worship together and to get to know each other better. Likewise, we would like people outside our church to get to know us better, too. If you have an opportunity to promote our services, special events, fellowship dinners, missions, etc., please don't hesitate. Our church is more than a building, it is people. It is you! *Bob Brewster, Chair of Deacons*

YOUTH CORNER

Thanks to Dallas Davis for being our special guest for the fall start of Terrific Tuesday. We enjoyed your music as always. Thanks for bringing Emily along as well. We love you guys! Terrific Tuesday is open to middle and high school youth and the evening begins with a meal at 6:00 PM in the Jim Reed Room followed by a youth program at 6:30 PM.



Thank you to all who attended the Afternoon of Comedy featuring Tim Hawkins "Insanitized" We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did! We will be hosting another Afternoon at the Movies on Saturday, **October 22nd at 4:00 PM**. This month's movie will be "War Room." This is a Christian movie revealing the power of prayer. Hope to see you all there. *Sher Buller, Youth Leader*

SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Every Second Thursday at **6:00 PM**, POUCC has a wonderful Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed Room. **Our next fellowship dinner is October 13th. It's a "Soup & Bread Supper."** It is imperative that you sign-up (sheet on Sanctuary bulletin board) and be specific on what soup and bread/crackers you will provide so not to have too many duplications.



NEWS & NOTES

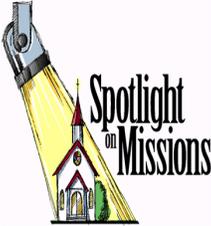


ANNUAL PET BLESSING: Mark your calendars and gather up your cherished family pets (big and small) and attend the Combined Service and Blessing on **Sunday, October 16th, beginning at 9:45 AM.**

COME 'CONNECT' WITH US AT THE 2016 FALL GATHERING: "Connections" is the theme, and Connecticut Conference Associate Conference Minister for Leadership and Vitality Rev. Da Vita "Day" McCallister will be the keynote speaker at the Florida Conference 2016 Fall Gathering in Sarasota **October 21-22**. For more information and registration visit the Conference webpage www.UCCfla.org.



MISSION NOTES



Again this year, we will be collecting food and monetary donations throughout the month of November so that families of students at Spruce Creek Elementary School may enjoy a holiday meal. **Checks are to be made out to POUCC with SCES Food Drive in the Memo Line.** More information on our annual Christmas Angel Tree Project will be forthcoming in November's Newsletter.

ATTENTION ALL BAKERS: We need your talents for the **Election Day Bake Sale on Tuesday, November 8th.** Baked goods must be at the Church by **Monday November 7th between 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM.** Cash donations are welcome. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary.



Also in November, we will again participate in the **CROP Walk, on Sunday, November 13th,** by collecting 1 lb. jars of peanut butter. Your donations may be placed on the table in the front of the Sanctuary.

Please keep in mind that we need to continue to collect items for the Palmetto House Christmas Bags. Items we are in need of include toothbrushes, toothpaste, cosmetic bags (new or gently used) holding a soap case & bar of soap and bath sponges for the residents. Donations may be dropped off in the church office.



Thanks for your donations in the two Mission Boxes which benefits Sophie's Circle the local pet pantry. Afghans for Boggy Creek campers is an ongoing project and our supply is low and we need your help. Prayer shawls are available for any one in need. Also, remember the Pregnancy Crisis Center, Sock's Box, can tabs and eyeglasses. With your help, we continue to make a difference in the lives of others.
Jackie Gaither, Chair of Missions

THE GIFT & THRIFT STORE

Thanks to all who have visited and patronized our store. To date, our sales exceed \$17,100. We recently received a number of pieces of furniture which were big sellers. With the holidays fast approaching, we are in need of donations-especially jewelry. We also need volunteers and if you can help, please call me at 290-2726. Your donations and support helps the church and the community. *Bob Gaither, Manager*



NEIGHBORS IN NEED "No Child Should go to Bed Hungry": This special mission offering of the UCC supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States including the Council for American Indian Ministries. This offering will be received on **October 2nd.** Please be generous.



YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, **October 2nd is our next collection day and will again benefit Grace Episcopal Food Pantry.** Over 26 bags of food were collected last month for the pantry. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky for delivering the food each month. Please be generous and make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates (clearly marked on all cans, boxes, and containers).



OPERATIONS TEAM



Your Operations Team met on September 12th and the following is a summary of the topics discussed at the meeting.

Old Business

- On-going projects sprucing up Sunday school rooms, painting exterior doors, and parking lot car bumper titles.
- Funds for the AED have reached \$1,200. We will research a unit to purchase.
- Benevolent Fund: Charlie Baskin, Ted Batturs, Tom Buller, and Susie Greiff met in July 2016. Tom Buller & Susie Greiff provided an update: Per Susie, \$10,000 has been left in the checking account for the Benevolent Fund. A two year CD for \$75,000 with 1% interest was taken out.

New Business:

- Reviewed Calendar schedule for operations responsibilities for the year.
- All Church Workday scheduled for **Saturday, November 19th at 9:00 AM.**
- Permission granted to Youth Group to have food and drink in Sanctuary during movie nights. Youth will be fully responsible for cleanup.
- Discussed 2017 Budget preparation and delegated staff reviews and Stewardship Drive to the Deacons.

Other Business:

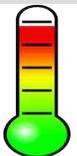
- Addressed additional maintenance items: Jim Reed Room-repaint, repair popcorn ceiling, clean carpet; Youth Room address possible mold, clean carpet. Thanks to Gail Besaw & Linda Rodgers for cleaning out the Sunday School Rooms.
- Approved payment to Pastor Steven for his moving expenses (\$3,000).
- **Prayer Garden Clean Up: We will begin clean-up of the prayer garden in October. If there are any plants or other items in the prayer garden that you wish to stay please notify the office by October 15th.**

The next Operations Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, October 10th at 6:30 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by *Sher Buller, Operations Secretary*

AC FUNDRAISER

Great News! Thanks to your generous response, we are only \$915 dollars from reaching our goal of \$5,230 which covers the cost paid for replacement of the AC unit for the Charlie Mix Building. We are still accepting donations, so let's get this job done!



	Financial Update - Operational Budget as 8/30/2016	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	<u>Jan.-August 2016</u>	<u>Jan.-August, 2016</u>
Income	\$ 113,055	\$ 111,685
Expenses	\$ 120,442	\$ 110,857
Net Income	\$- 7,387	\$ 828

We are still in the red with building maintenance issues being the biggest culprit. Unfortunately we still have issues that will need to be dealt with in this category but hopefully we can reduce our deficit by year's end. Thanks to everyone for your continued support. Respectively submitted by Susie Greiff,



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS*

Sara Bryan	10/1
Tom Summers	10/4
Cindi Harper	10/5
Levi Zinke	10/8
Ron Zinke	10/13
Roger Harper	10/17
Doreen Nicholls	10/18
Payton Bryan	10/19
Maurice Claunch	10/27
Leonard Lussier	10/28
Jackie Gaither	
Mary Ann Summers	10/29
Aidan Bryan	10/30

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES*

Bill & Leree Nicholls	10/11/1958
Tom & Judy Van Camp	10/27/1979
Todd & Alice Lynn Feldman	10/27/1985



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



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
Carole Crippen	Member of POUCC
Karen Donahue	Member of the Kransi Family
Rev. Dr. Bill Ebbert	Member of POUCC
Lewis Fanin	Member of the Thompson Family
Juan Faria, Sr.	Friend of the Thompson Family
Erika Henderson	Friend of POUCC
Jack Hilgenberg	Member of POUCC
Louise Johnson	Member of POUCC
Moira & Sheila LeClerc	Friends of POUCC
Liz Mills	Member of POUCC
Sharon Milukas	Friend of POUCC
Susan Patterson	Sister-in-Law of Kathy Cratin
Elyse Phillips	Friend of the Thompson Family
Rosemary Sansevero	Sister of Tom Buller
Jim Turner	Husband of Sue Turner
Eric Walter	Friend of the Bullers
Beverly Woodacre	Member of POUCC

In Care Facilities

June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Center in PA)
Bob Fisher	Member of POUCC (Halifax Hospital)

Special Needs

All of Our Military, First Responders & Their Families

Broader Concerns

Victims of Flooding Across the Nation
Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide

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



Jeanette Campbell is settling in her new home up north and we will certainly miss her. For those who would like to drop her a note, her new address is:

Jeanette Campbell
Decatur House
176 Main Street, Room #203,
Sandwich, MA 02563

POUCC October 2016

Sun		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Combined Service & Crossroad Workshop 9:45 am	3 POMA 3:45 pm Compassionate Friends 7:00 pm	4 Adult Study 1:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	7 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	6 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	7	8
9 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	10 POMA 3:00 pm Operations 6:30 pm	11 Adult Study 1:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	12 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	13 POMA 3:45 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	14	15
16 Combined Service & Pet Blessing 9:45 am	17 POMA 3:00 pm Council 7:00 pm	18 Adult Study 1:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm	19 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	20 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	21 UCC Fall Gathering—Sarasota	22 UCC Fall Gathering—Sarasota Afternoon at the Movies 4:00 pm
23 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	24 POMA 3:00 pm	25 Adult Study 1:30 pm Terrific Tuesday 6:00 PM	26 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	27 POMA 3:45 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm	28	29

30
Contemporary
8:45 am
Sunday School
9:45 am
Traditional
10:45 am

31

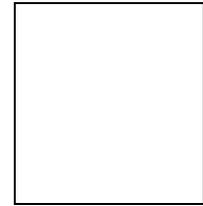


*Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 3 pm, Sat. 9 am – noon
Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm*

*Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments
Each Sunday Between Services*

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE: OCT.– THRIFT STORE, NOV. – MISSIONS

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Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Steven Mitchell
Assistant Pastor: Beverly Schafer
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. C. William Ebbert
Office Manager: Kathy Shaffner
Minister of Music: Dr. Tom Naus
Media Communications: Bob Brewster
Custodian: Deb Viola
Gift & Thrift Store: Bob Gaither
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 AM—12:00 Noon
Saturday

Sunday Worship

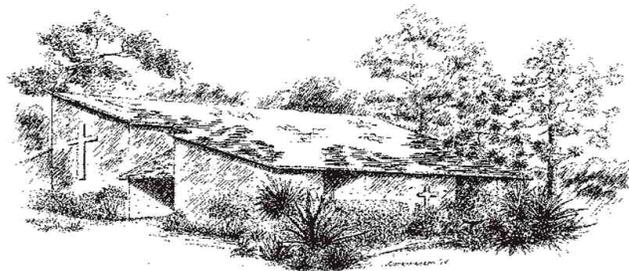
8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Sunday School

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesdays

6:00 PM



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