



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



From the Pastor's Desk -

When you read this, Holy Week and Easter Sunday will be in our rearview mirror and we will be heading forward into spring.

This year during Lent, a small group has met weekly to discuss Christ and the Chocolaterie. We began this short Bible study group by together viewing the 2000 Academy Award nominated film, *Chocolat* starring Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp. The film was based on the 1999 bestselling novel, *Chocolat* by Joanne Harris.

The film is based in France and shares life in a small town stubbornly rooted in old traditions. When the mysterious Vianne and her child arrive in town in the winter of 1959, no one could have imagined the impact that she and her spirited daughter would have on the community. She opens an unusual chocolate shop, across the square from the church. She has the ability to perceive her customers' desires and satisfy them with just the right chocolate confection, and slowly coaxes the villagers to abandon themselves to temptation - - just as Lent begins. The film is about the villagers journey during this time of Lent and as they encounter some unwanted travelers.

The film allowed us to explore some provocative questions on the challenges of Christian living in our post modern world while taking a look at the popular act and challenge of "giving up" something for Lent, like chocolate.

Each week we focused on one of five themes: 1) giving up something as a prelude to change in our lives; 2) giving out to others and the power of that as a gift to both the giver and receiver; 3) the possibility of change in getting wise about the things we do; 4) the idea of getting real as a power of true acceptance of all God's children; and 5) growing up in the process of change and the power of learning no matter our age. *(Continued on next page)*

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Staff

- Pastor:**
Rev. Patricia Holcomb
- Office Manager:**
Kathy Shaffner
- Custodian:**
Ronnie Servant
- Missions:**
Jackie Gaither
- Thrift Store Manager:**
Emily McLean
- Media Communications:**
Bob Brewster



The film is a good illustration of the very mission Jesus proclaimed God had given him to complete here on earth. The character, Vianne, was a catalyst in bringing some love and joy into a community that had somehow lost their joy by their rigid, long held, community traditions.

We enjoyed some social time by beginning our weekly sessions with simple soup and bread for supper. Our discussions were lively and informative. Hopefully, we can do another film-based Bible study in the future. Films and the “magic” of Hollywood can offer great opportunities to consider how our lives are progressing in our growth as a Christian.

If you missed this study, hopefully, you will find an opportunity to join us for another one in the future. I wish you all a blessed and happy spring season.

Easter blessings to you all!

Pastor Pat

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



The month of April always brings renewal around Easter time and the change in seasons to Spring. This year we have much to be thankful for both in our church and outside in our local community. As the world moves closer and closer to becoming more unstable, we may want to question our own role in what we can do or not do about what we are witnessing. There has always been unsettling news in world events but today it is more intense and coming from every direction. As a people here in the United States, we are being called upon to give more and more for an ever-growing list of causes. The requests are overwhelming whether by mail, text, email or on TV. The pleas in many cases are heart-breaking. What can we do? What can I do? That question really has only one answer. Pick something and do something. Our church has been very fortunate that we have people who not only attend church on Sundays but they also do something to help with church missions and day to day operations. Questions – “Is what we do here at POUCC changing the world?” “Is what we are doing with our missions really having an impact where needed most?” “Are we important in the overall big picture of what is needed to help others?” My answer is “YES”! It has often been said “How do you Eat an Elephant?” Answer –“One bite at a Time!” Here at POUCC we are one of the small bites. What we do is part of a collective effort worldwide to make a difference. The things we do here may seem small but when they are added to the tens of thousands or even millions of other churches and group efforts, what we do here is not small. **It is huge!** The spiritual feeding that our efforts accomplish every day throughout the year help both us as a church and help others as they are added to the greater efforts. So, what is the bottom line? The spirit of Jesus Christ is alive and well within us. ***Keep up the good work!***

Prayerfully submitted, *Bob Brewster, Moderator*



OPERATION AND FINANCE TEAM REPORT



- The Thrift Store Annex: Proposal for \$21,950.40 from Tuff Shed has been reviewed and approved, the 20% deposit has been provided. The Sales agreement (contract) was presented incorrectly; we are awaiting the revised agreement for review and signature. The site plan has been approved; Tuff Shed is completing the engineering and permitting process with the City of Port Orange. The process will take 60-90 days for completion and installation.
- Pastor's Office Floor: A Weight Watchers worker offered and provided \$800.00 to purchase and install new LVT flooring in the Pastor's office. The LVT has been purchased for +/- \$390.00. AJP completed the project on Monday March 18, 2024.
- Sanctuary Painting: Premier painting provided a quote to provide all materials and paint the entire sanctuary walls and trim in the amount of \$5,450.00. The project is on a temporary hold to further discuss timing.
- Thrift Store Painting: Patching and painting of the Thrift Store walls is moving along. Three rooms have been painted, 3 remain. Replacement of the painted ceiling tiles in the furniture store has also commenced.
- Andy: Our newest member of the committee has been volunteering at the Thrift Store three days a week assisting Craig. He has quickly become a big help to the program.
- Sod Replacement: Dead sod in the courtyard will be removed and replaced with new sod. Peaceful Palms will complete the work.
- Drainage Swale: Hardy Construction of Lake Helen will "box out:" the rear grass parking exit (muddy area) place stone and dig a swale to the rear swale. Hardy will donate the work to the church.
- Irrigation System: Our irrigation system is operating properly, although it requires constant maintenance.
- Lawn Maintenance: We renewed the yearly lawn maintenance contract with the existing contractor March 1, 2024.
- FPL Site Light: We still have not been able to get FPL to respond to the inoperative site light.
- Overall Review: The new maintenance shop we commandeered in the HVAC room of the Thrift Store is working well. Many of the donations we have received over the past months have included useful tools and equipment to assist with the ongoing maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

Yours in the faith.

Art Horton, Chairman, Alan Holcomb, Andy Stebenne



Financial Update February 28, 2024



Operating Budget to Actual 2/29/2024

	<u>February Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Difference</u>
Income	16,596.36	31,451.75	35,939.30	(4,487.55)
Expensed	<u>11,143.59</u>	<u>24,167.47</u>	<u>29,910.71</u>	(5,743.24)
Profit/(Loss)	5,452.77	7,284.28	6,028.59	1,255.69

Other Income/Expenses as of 2/29/2024

Capital Improvements

	<u>YTD Actual</u>
Income	10.00
Expenses	<u>18,842.11</u>
Profit/(Loss)	(18,832.11)
<hr/>	
Combined Profit/(Loss)	(11,547.83)

We did have an operating profit of \$5,452.77 for the month of February and a profit of \$7,284.28 for the two month period. We had a combined loss of \$11,547.83 for that period which includes the Capital Improvements projects of \$18,832.11 Our thanks go out to our wonderful volunteers and all who support our Church. Respectfully Submitted, *Barbara Horton, Treasurer*



THE GIFT & THRIFT STORE



Welcome April! The warm weather brings the shoppers out. We are excited with all our new volunteers who have joined our Thrift Family they are a perfect fit! We continue to grow with more and more donations each day and will be making some changes to the intake system, the layout of the store for additional clothing and household items for resale. We are undertaking a cleaning out project that started 3/11/24 to remove many of the stored bags in the trailer. A sale of all winter clothes will start this coming month to purge those items and add additional money. As the workload becomes harder with heavier furniture pieces it has been decided to be very selective as to the condition as many do not sell. We do not want to become a junk store and do want to offer quality items that will keep our shoppers coming back for more! Starting our day with prayer is something we all agree must be our first item of business each day. We continue to show record numbers in sales and give thanks and praise to God for His many blessings. *Emily McLean, Manager*

MISSION NOTES

Through the month of April we will continue our Mission Project which benefits the **Pregnancy Crisis Center**. Donations of **diapers, wipes, infant clothing size 0-18 months and monetary donations** are welcome. Your generosity will be so appreciated by both new mother's and their little loves.

Jackie Gaither, Mission's Chair



FOOD BASKET SUNDAY



Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Bags" Sundays. Thirty-eight bags of food were collected last month which benefited Halifax Urban Ministries. As a reminder **April 7th** is our next collection date. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart for delivering the food. **Please make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates.**

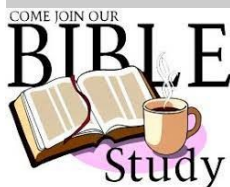
SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

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

*Our Next Dinner is Thursday, April 11th. It's a Pot Luck!
See the sign-up sheet circulated at Worship Services.*



BIBLE STUDY

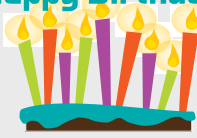


"Wired Word" Bible Study will always be held on the **1st and 3rd Sunday** of each month at **11:00 AM** (right after church service 9:30-10:30 AM.) We hold the class at the church in the Sanctuary

April 7, 2024 1st Sunday "Super Bowl Ads Stir Controversy over how to spread the Gospel"

April 21, 2024, 3rd Sunday "Developing our 'Spiritual GPS's"

Happy Birthday!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS*

Shelia Fisher	4/1
Alice Lynn Feldman	4/9
Louise Johnson	4/18
Emily McLean	4/20

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



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Charlie & Molly Baskin	Members of POUCC
Beth & Chris Brown	Daughter & Son-in-Law of Sheila Fisher
Rafael Castels	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Sheila Fisher	Member of POUCC
Bill Hooker	Member of POUCC
Stephanie James	Friend of Emily McLean
Delane Kirk	Friend of POUCC
Harry & Jim Manchester	Family of Sheila Fisher
F/F of Carol Matos	Friends of Molly Baskin
Liz Mills	Former Member of POUCC
Jeremy Parker	Canadian friend of Sheila Fisher
Carmella Potenza	Family of Don & Denise Gates
Kathleen Price	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Kay & Don Schweitzer	Members of POUCC
Sara Seachrist	Mother of Sara Sousa
John Sedgwick	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Renee Smith	Friend of Beth Brown & Sheila Fisher
Michael, Andrea & Cecily Sousa	Family of Sarah Sousa
Sarah Sousa	Friend of POUCC
Baby Shelah	Friend of Sharon Tinny
Susanne Van Seeters	Family of Sarah Sousa
Seth Wanie	Family of Bill & Susie Greiff
Cheyenne West	Friend of the Thrift Store
Darlene Wolfson	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Ron Zinke	Member of POUCC

In Care Facilities

Margie Hoebing	Friend of POUCC (Care Center, PO)
Marge Monat	Member of POUCC (Care Center, DB)
Mary Ann Stewart	Member of POUCC (Port Orange Rehab)

Special

All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families
Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide

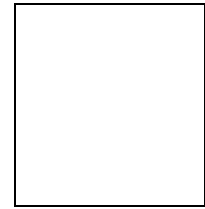


POUCC APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	2 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	3	4 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	5	6 Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am
7 Worship Service 9:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am MOL* Worship Service 5:00 pm	8 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	9 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	10	11 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	12	13 Weight Watcher 7:30 & 9:00 am
14 Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL* Worship Service 5:00 pm	15 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	16 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	17	18 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	19	20 Weight Watcher 7:30 & 9:00 am Council 10:00 am
21 Worship Service 9:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am MOL* Worship Service 5:00	22 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	23 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	24	25 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	26	27 Weight Watcher 7:30 & 9:00 am
28 Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL Worship Service 5:00 pm	29 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	30 Weight Watchers 9:30 am		*Mountain of Light Church		

*Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 2 pm, Sat. 9-Noon
Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm*

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Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Patricia Holcomb
Office Manager: Kathy Shaffner
Custodian: Ronnie Servant
Missions: Jackie Gaither
Thrift & Gift Store Manager: Emily McLean
Media Communications: Bob Brewster

Office Hours

9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Thrift Store Hours

9:00 AM—2:00 PM
Monday—Friday
9:00 AM—Noon
Saturday

Sunday Worship Service

9:30 am



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