



Port Orange
United Church of Christ
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 Port Orange, FL 32127
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April 2025

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



POLITICS VS RELIGION

For years, Port Orange United Church of Christ (POUCC) has had a policy of not speaking political topics in formal church events. This is also a policy in many civic groups. I belong to the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). All these fine organizations do much in their communities and in the country not just for veterans but also for the general citizenry. Politics is avoided in formal meetings because it is a distraction from getting things done within the organization. (Outside the organization discussions can be wide open as they should be.) Politics causes people to take sides and once that happens it also causes them to be less than helpful when it comes to decision making or taking actions. There is something about politics that causes the brain to “freeze up” when discussing differences in opinions. Today's’ world is especially toxic for political discussions. For good reason our church council here at POUCC has maintained this “no political” discussions in Sunday services or formal church gatherings. This was done to keep the real message from being blocked out or distorted. The real message of Jesus Christ and his teachings to us does not require political interpretation or for that matter taking sides. It is very clear. Outside our church in news reports there are stories of many churches and religious leaders who have tried tying politics to the message of Christ only to learn that they have turned off one side or the other and have lost listeners in the process. Today, there are religious organizations in this world that are totally political in nature. We see this in the United States also. Churches have been split and many more are splitting because one side or the other has taken a strong political view that paints the opposing opinion as no longer relevant. Some sides actually put their fingers in their ears and say out loud “Nah...Nah..Nah...” to block hearing the other side speak. We do not need this in our church or for that matter in any Christian church. Fortunately, here at POUCC we do not have this problem. The teachings of Jesus as shared through the Bible speak loud and clear. We are on this earth to become the best person possible and to use all our talents, skills and knowledge to benefit others as we also benefit ourselves. We are here to work, not to be lazy. We are here to learn, not to be ignorant.

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Staff

Moderator
 Bob Brewster
Office Manager:
 Kathy Shaffner
Custodian:
 Ronnie Servant
Missions:
 Jackie Gaither
Thrift Store Manager:
 Emily McLean
Media Communications:
 Bob Brewster



We are here to be successful, not a failure. We are here to experience mistakes and failures as steps to becoming a better person for ourselves, our families, our friends and those who we may meet. Here I will interject that religion without politics from the outside world can still be affected by politics within the religious world. On its own religious discussions can still be disruptive when comparing religious beliefs or traditions. Disagreements between church beliefs are normal but politics interjected from the secular (non-religious) world add another dimension that can be full of deceit, lies, and ingenuous behavior due to underlying hidden agendas to get someone or a group to believe something else. Churches are easy targets for secular focus because we gather in one place and whole groups can be targeted at one time. There is nothing deceitful or untrue in what Christ brought to us or in his sacrifice to die for us. There can be no clearer message. Believe in him, follow his teachings and travel on the path to a life everlasting with him. He wants us to live life to the fullest. Life here in the physical world is both a gift and a challenge. The test for us all in life is how we handle both the good and the bad parts. Either way, we are never alone!
Respectfully submitted, *Bob Brewster, Moderator*

THE GIFT & THRIFT STORE



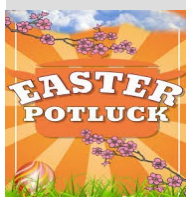
We are always in need of good quality clean clothes, lady's accessories, men's clothing, household items, children's things and smaller furniture pieces that are easy to carry. The good news is we are holding our own weekly as to the money being spent due to our many faithful supporters. We are looking to finish up all the painting in the Thrift Store and hope to get much needed updated pictures on the Web Page. We have a second new pick-up with American Vets that have come on board to lighten that load of what we cannot sell. As always, we are grateful to the wonderful volunteers that work to make us the best we can be! *Emily McLean, Manager*

FOOD BASKET SUNDAY

Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Bags” Sundays. Over 15 bags of food were collected last month which benefited Halifax Urban Ministries. As a reminder **April 6th** is our next collection date. Thanks to 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 10th. It's an Easter themed Pot Luck! Ham will be provided. See the sign-up sheet circulated at Worship Service.

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 6th, Presidents day and next year's 250 anniversary of America

spotlights what makes a great leader. Who God chose as his leaders.

April 20th, National archives needs volunteers to translate Cursive writings of historical documents. Leads to gospel discussion of what biblical translations help us understand the Bible.



EASTER FLOWERS: See the sign-up sheet circulated at Worship Service. Please note if your flower donation is “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of” Loved One(s), put your name on the bottom and deliver your flower(s) to the Jim Reed Room no later **Wednesday, April 16th.**

OPERATION AND FINANCE TEAM REPORT



As we welcome warmer temperatures, the church property is looking great thanks to Steve Burton and his crew who continue to do a great job. Recently Premier Renovations sealed the artwork and Bible verses in the Sanctuary so we can now proceed with cleaning and sealing of the floors. The Thrift Store got a fresh coat of paint and is looking clean and fresh. Yours in the faith. *Art Horton, Andy Stebenne*

Operating Budget to Actual as of 2/28/2025

	<u>February Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Difference</u>
Income	12,418.00	30,684.58	35,551.68	(4,867.10)
Expensed	<u>17,614.84</u>	<u>29,532.08</u>	<u>26,821.76</u>	2,710.32
Profit/(Loss)	(5,196.84)	1,152.50	8,729.92	(7,577.42)

Other Income/Expenses as of 2/28/2025

YTD Interest
Income:

MM & CD
accounts 413.15

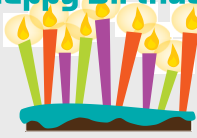


Combined Profit/(Loss) 1,565.65

We had a loss of \$5,196.84 for the month of February primarily due to lower than anticipated Offerings and lower than anticipated thrift Store income due to having to close the Store for a few days due to illness. Our expenses were also higher than normal due to the cost of having the Sanctuary walls painted. We did have a profit of \$1,152.50 for the two month period which include the interest income of \$413.15. As always our thanks go out to all our wonderful volunteers and to all who support our Church.

Respectfully Submitted, Barbara Horton, Treasurer

Happy Birthday!



**APRIL
BIRTHDAYS***

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



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Sue Batturs	Member of POUCC
Bob Gaither	Member of POUCC
Erica Henderson	Friend of POUCC
Chuck Konopsky	Member of POUCC
Liz Mills	Former Member of POUCC
Paul Shaffner	Friend of POUCC

In Care Facilities

Margie Hoebing Friend of POUCC (Care Center, PO)

Special

All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families
Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide
Those recovering from the California wildfires.




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

*Easter is a time of love,
A time of grief and pain undone,
So we may know the power of
The love that lives in everyone.
Each love we feel, each love we
know, Redeems what would to
darkness go.*



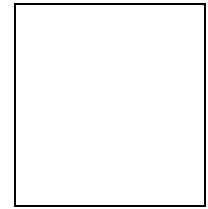
POUCC APRIL 2025



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

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

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Church Staff

Moderator: Bob Brewster
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

**Sunday Worship
Service**

9:30 am



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