



**Port Orange
United Church of Christ**
651 Taylor Road
Port Orange, FL 32127
Office 386-788-0920
Fax 386-788-8255
Email: uccpo@bellsouth.net
Website: portorangeucc.org

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Staff

Interim Minister
Rev. Steven R. Mitchell
Assistant Pastor:
Beverly Schafer
Pastor Emeritus:
Rev. Dr. Bill Ebbert
Minister of Music:
Dr. Tom Naus
Youth Leader:
Sher Buller
Office Manager:
Kathy Shaffner
Custodian:
Deb Viola
Thrift Store:
Bob Gaither
Media Communications:
Bob Brewster



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INTERIM PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Jonah 4: 4 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³ Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

The month of July was quite a month for your Interim Pastor. I spent a week in Baltimore attending the 31st Synod meeting of the UCC. It was a week of renewal for me as I was able to see old friends from around the country, as well as networking, making new friends and learning about various areas of concern that as a denomination we have. There were many uplifting sermons and worship gatherings. But what I took away from all of the hustle and bustle of such a gathering was the renewed awareness that we at Port Orange UCC are not alone, but we have a huge family that loves to get together and share God's love and serve God's call to mission. One of the messages in particular that struck me was the idea that the, "church needs to catch up with what God has already done." **What is it that God has already done?** God has called us to be a transformative people.

The second outstanding moment of July was our VBS that was held on Saturday the 23rd of July. I first would like to thank all of the people who were instrumental in making this happen. We had 6 young folks attend. The VBS worship Sunday was also very meaningful and spirit filling for me. It was such a joy to be able to discuss with these young people the theological meaning that we should be taking away from the book of Jonah. For the story of Jonah is filled with transformation! Jonah had the opportunity to see God working in his life. The biggest examples are: how God follows Jonah when Jonah was running away. The other was the protection God provided to Jonah in the belly of the big fish. Transformation came to the people of Nineveh, as they responded to the message from God, through Jonah, and were spared harm and were given forgiveness and mercy. The final act of the story was Jonah being angry with God for showing mercy to the Ninevites, and at the end of the book, remained mad at God for His mercy toward people that Jonah felt should be shown no mercy.

Continued on next page

We see at the end of the book, Jonah even when blessed and protected by God, Jonah never experienced transformative living in his heart.

What I am about to bring forth as an observation as your Intentional Interim Pastor is crucial as the actual search for your next settled pastor has now begun. During my time with you, I have spoken much on the desire of God for Her people to live into transformative living. I see heads shaking in agreement when I am speaking about this from the pulpit. Yet, when grumblings from members of this faith family that reflect more of a Jonah than of Jesus, I realize that we as a community of faith have a long way to go in being a congregation that believes in transformative living. As the speaker at the Synod meeting says, “the church needs to catch up with what God has already done.” Speaking as your interim pastor, when comments that boil down to, “I will leave the church if...” I have to ask myself, “where does this attitude come from?” Is it from a lack of knowledge and understanding of God’s word or does it come from self-righteous attitudes. Jonah was plagued by self-righteous attitude and was mad at God for not being the God Jonah wanted God to be. It is my responsibility as interim pastor to point out to you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, that statements made as “threats” do not provide an atmosphere for open and honest discussion about issues that as a congregation need to be discussed collectively. “Threats” are nothing more than a Jonah attitude. I am sure this will be making some of you very upset and if it has, then ask yourself “Why.” “What is it about allowing God in my life in a way that challenges my preconceived ideas of justice and mercy, grace and acceptance that upsets me so?”

Transformative living is being open to hearing God’s call for mercy and justice, of examining our hearts by the words of Jesus, and seeing where we need to make personal and congregational adjustments, of tearing down boundaries. Transformative living requires not only a change of heart within us, but requires us to be actively working in the world to create what Jesus refers to as “the kingdom of God, here on earth.” The study of the Beatitudes has been an exercise in trying to understand what God’s kingdom looks like. We at Port Orange UCC do many wonderful things but as the call at Synod says, “we as the church need to catch up with what God has already done.”

Peace,

Pastor Steven

STUDY ON GENESIS

God's word is alive. God always has something new to say to us. From the first light of Creation to the launching of the Ark, the stories of Genesis are unforgettable. But they are more than stories. They are theological reflections of a high order, challenging us to grapple with fundamental questions about God and humankind. Why are we here? What does God want with us? What does it mean to be faithful in a world where God often seems hidden? To take Genesis seriously is to confront a God who demands our very lives - and is waiting to see what we will do.



Come join us starting on **Tuesday August 15th at 6:30 PM** at the church to study the book of Genesis led by Pastor Steven R Mitchell. Please RSVP by calling the church office at 386-788-0920 or e-mailing us at uccpo@bellsouth.net by **August 8th** so we can send you the first lesson study materials prior to our first meeting. We are looking forward to having you join us.

Searching
for a New
Pastor



The Settled Pastor’s Search Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregational Profile is completed and we have begun to receive Ministerial Profiles for consideration. Thanks to the Committee for all their hard work.

ASSISTANT PASTOR



If you didn't make it to church Sunday, July 23rd, you missed a really special service that was centered around our Vacation Bible School which took place the day before. "Say what? A weekend Vacation Bible School?! What's the point?!"

Here's the point: Pastor Steven reminded us that if one of our Cross Roads priorities was to attract younger families, offering Vacation Bible School should be a must! And so planning began, but under a shadow of doubt. If we offer VBS, will they come as there is so much competition out there? A week-long program will entail a great deal of time and effort (as I vividly recall from our last two VBS programs and a Tuesday after-school program about 25 years ago) -- particularly if no one enrolls! What if we try a weekend VBS just to "test the waters"?

Little Will was our first enrollee, and so our VBS Committee got down to business. Choosing dates is always difficult and no different in this case as, no matter which dates were considered, someone would be out of town. Graciously, even those on our planning committee who would not be available for the dates finally decided upon enthusiastically pitching in with their valuable time and talents to allow us to come up with a gloriously fun and meaningful VBS for seven kids ages 3 1/2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10 years of age (Will, Daniel from Epiphany, Linda's Grandson Tristan, Remy, Grayson, Linda's Granddaughter Amara, and Akira). Blessings from above to an incredible VBS team of adults Gail & Tom Besaw, Sher Buller, Cindy & Larry Deitch, Hal Francis, Sandy Kransi, Pastor Steven Mitchell, Sharon Ostrander, Linda Rodgers, Stephanie Whitman, Peggy Wiggins and teens Blake Buller and Madison Hobson for making our Weekend VBS a success!



Joyfully,

Pastor Beverly



MAINTENANCE FUNDRAISER



EMERGENCY PLEA: To help underwrite unexpected expenditures on building maintenance such as sky light break-in, broken water line, and sprinkler system of approximately \$6,700. To date, we have had donations towards this of \$4,400. We're hoping that you might find it possible within your budget to help us make up this deficit of \$2,300. Donations may be placed in Offertory with Maintenance Fund notation.



Financial Update

Operational Budget as 6/30/2017

	ACTUAL	YTD	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
	<u>Jan.- June 2017</u>		<u>Jan.- June 2017</u>	
Income	\$ 13,067*	\$ 85,027	\$ 69,738	\$ 15,290
Expenses	\$ 17,010	\$ 87,830	\$ 82,686	\$ 5,144
Net Income Actual	(\$ 3,943)	(\$ 2,803)	(\$ 12,949)	

*Included in June's income figure is \$1,995 in gifts given to the Special Maintenance Fund. Thanks for your generosity! Please note: June's figures do not include the \$1,737 given in donations to Mission Projects. *Hal Francis, Treasurer*

MISSION NOTES



Spruce Creek Elementary became our Mission's team focus on June 1st. Thank you to those who have so generously donated and we hope to continue with many more donations coming in August. We are still asking for 'matching funds' to a \$(dollar) amount of your choice. Ms. Tina Howard, SCE Guidance Counselor, will be speaking to the congregation again at the first service on **July 30th**. She will share more of her stories about the ways our church is helping children in need.

A trip to the **Women's Pregnancy Center** with items that Bob Gaither donated to us was made (thank you note on Sanctuary bulletin board), as well as, a trip to **Sophie's Circle** with cat food donated by our members.

A trip was made to **Boggy Creek** late July with 19 beautiful afghans 17 which were crocheted and knitted by Molly Baskin's 'Knit Wits', and another two from Sharon Williamson. We also delivered 18 men's ties donated from the Thrift Store. Thank You so much to all!

September 1st begins our Mission focus with **Spruce Creek High School**. We will be collecting money for the HUY (Homeless Unaccompanied Youth) SAT and ACT test fees, as well as, for Votran passes for these students to be able to attend classes.

Sophie's Circle, the Sock Box, and Eyeglass collections continue year-round.

Thank You again for your generosity with these Missions that extend out in our community and gives 'a helping hand' to those in need.

Peggy Wiggins, Chair of the Missions Team

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE

We've had another great month in sales and donations at the Thrift Store. Thanks to all our loyal and many new customers, as well as our "Christmas in July Sale". Sales to date have hit over \$16,000. We are most appreciative of all donations and are especially in need of household items and jewelry. We are always looking for volunteers. If interested, just give me a call 290-2726 or stop in the store. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Bob Gaither, Manager of the Thrift Store

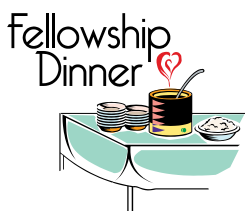


YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, **August 6th** is our next collection day and will benefit "Halifax Urban Ministries." Over 21 bags of food were collected last month for the pantry. If we all bring a food donation, we will fill the basket each month. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER



Every Second Thursday at 6:00 pm, POUCC has a wonderful Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed Room. Join us for an evening of delicious food and great fun!

After taking the Summer off, make your plans to come to the next dinner on Thursday, September 14th. Keep your eyes open for the Sign-up Sheet.

OPERATIONS TEAM



The Operations Team took the month of July off and will not meet formally again until **August 14th at 6:30 PM**. Operational concerns are being handled as they arise.

Jim Egan, Chair of Operations

YOUTH CORNER



Summer youth activities continued in July with a trip to the beach and Vacation Bible School (VBS). A great time was had at the Beach on July 8th. Lots of fun in the sun and a little football in the water.



VBS was a huge success July 22nd & 23rd. A Great Big Thank You to Akira Carrig, Madison Hobson, and Blake Buller for helping make VBS a huge success!



August Activities: Daytona Lagoon Saturday, August 5th 10:00 AM – 2:00PM

&

Go Kart City Saturday, August 19th 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Sher Buller, Youth Leader

SPECIAL REQUESTS



INTERESTED IN HELPING COLTEN PACK AND HIS PROJECT IN EAGLE SCOUTS—HERE'S HOW: The following list of items that he needs to collect for his plant stand for Easter Seals.

Spray Paint-\$40, Topsoil-\$56, PVC Material-\$127, Plant Food and Water-\$65, Rags-\$12, and an unlimited number of buckets.

Please talk to Colten this coming **Sunday, July 30th** to discuss how you may help his troop in this social service project for the Easter Seals.

Thanks you,
Pastor Steven

CHOIR PRACTICE: Will begin on **Wednesday, August 30th at 7:30 PM**. There are openings in the choir for new voices who wish to praise God. Please plan to join us.



As Kathy will be on vacation the week of August 7th, we are in need of volunteers to answer the phone between the hours of **9:00 AM & 1:00 PM**. If you can help, please call the church office.

Happy Birthday!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS*

Harold Kransi	8/1
Eva Brewster	8/5
Skylar Davis	8/7
Blanche Northcutt	8/8
Doreen Wheeler	
Sher Buller	
Janna Thompson	8/9
Clyde Bussard	8/10
Bill Nicholls	
Nancy Horn	8/11
Bobby Dotson	8/15
Joe Rogers	8/17
Joanne Flatt	8/19
Joellen Hopkins	8/22
George Milukas	8/24
Bill Mulley	
Dr. Tom Naus	8/29

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES*



Joe & Carol Rogers	8/05/1966
Joe & Janna Thompson	8/17/1990
Tom & Mary Ann Sumners	8/26/1989
Jim & Louise Eagan	8/26/1965

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

PRAYER REQUESTS*

Cecilia Airaldi	Friend of the Schafer-Ramoutar Family
Sherry Bonnell	Sister of Gail Besaw
Eva Brewster	Friend of POUCC
Jewel Carter	Daughter of Helen Holmes
Gene Clark	Friend of the Wiggins Family
Ingrid Claunch	Member of POUCC
Amy Dyer	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Trevor Heftmunsparger	Friend of POUCC
Jack & Pat Hilgenberg	Members of POUCC
Jimmy Hill	Brother of Val Hill
John Holbrook	Brother of Ruth Brewster
Karen Holland	Former Associate of Larry Deitch
Scott Kirlin	Husband of Diane Kirlin
Roger Kransi	Brother of Harold Kransi
Jim Lamb	Friend of the Wiggins Family
Joe Magsamen	Friend of Sher Buller
Mary Ann Miller	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Mary McDonald	Member of POUCC
Sandy Morris	Sister of Pastor Steven
Joyce Nead	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Margaret Procter	Friend of POUCC
Roberta	Friend of Sheila Fisher
John S.	Friend of Sher Buller
John Shell	Son of Sue Barhite
Michelle Stewart	Friend of the Wiggins Family
Carol Strickland	Friend of POUCC
Eric Walter	Friend of the Buller Family
Joseph Williamson	Son of Sharon Williamson
James Wood	Friend of Sher Buller
Trey Zinke	Member of POUCC

In Care Facilities

Jeanette Campbell	Member of POUCC (Care Center in MA)
June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Center in PA)
Blanche Northcutt	Former Member of POUCC (Life Care Center in Collegendale, TN)
Eloise Wottke	Former Member of POUCC (Onalaska Care Center in Onalaska, WI)

Special Needs

All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families

Broader Concerns

First Responders Everywhere

Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide

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

POUCC August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 CPT 6:00 pm	3 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	4	5 Youth Outing Daytona Lagoon 10:00 am
6 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	7 Compassionate Friends Meeting 6:00 pm	8	9 Palmetto House 5:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm	10 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	11	12
13 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	14 Operations Meeting 6:30 pm	15	16 CPT 6:00 pm	17 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	18	19 Youth Outing Go Cart City 10:00 am
20 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	21 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	22	23 CPT 6:00 pm	24 Line Dancing 6:00 pm	25	26
27 Contemporary 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am	28	29	30 CPT 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	31 Line Dancing 6:00 pm		

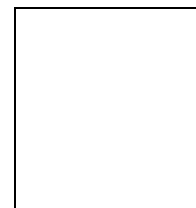
Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am - 3 pm, Sat. 9 am - Noon

Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm

Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments Each Sunday Between Services

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE:
AUGUST – OPERATIONS, SEPTEMBER – YOUTH

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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

Sunday Worship

8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

Children's Sunday School

8:45 AM

Adult Education

9:45 AM