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February 2018

**Port Orange
United Church of Christ**

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Staff

Interim Pastor:

Rev. Steven 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 & Gift Store:

Bob Gaither

Media Communications:

Bob Brewster &
Stephanie Whitman



INTERIM PASTOR'S MESSAGE

As this is my last "letter to the congregation", I have this past week, been agonizing over what specific scripture I could use to lay the foundation for my final thoughts of encouragement, then it came to me: There is no one scripture that can be found! It is the whole of scripture that covers what I wish to say in closing.

As any good Interim Pastor, I strive to leave one last thought with you that will be so profound that it will carry over as you and your new settled pastor grow together. I am not so sure about how profound my closing thoughts will be, but I believe what I am about to share will help clarify what I have been teaching over this past year and a half.

This past Fall, a group of us embarked on a journey to studying the book of Genesis. The study guide which we used approached this study in a non-traditional manor that challenged even me as the facilitator to approach scripture in a way that wasn't comfortable for me, at least not at first. As we are nearing the end of these amazing stories, one of the major lessons that I personally have learned is how God has changed in the ways of interacting with humanity. In those early stories we find where God is directly present with humanity, then over time God starts to speak to humanity through dreams and visions but still in a way that God's plan is carried on by specific individuals. As we close our study, we now see through the story of Joseph, that it takes the co-operation and planning of many people in order for God's will to be carried on. I use the word "on" as God's story continues – it is always in process.

My job as interim pastor was not to baby-sit until you found your next settled pastor, but to help you come together, regaining a common goal in which you and your new settled pastor will be able to build upon. That vehicle was the "Cross-Roads"! This was not a program developed as a short-term goal, but rather a long-term vision of who we wish to become as a people of God. This requires of course, an ongoing commitment to that vision, with accountability through the workshop committees to oversee our four goals. As a member of one of those four committees, when was the last time you came together to evaluate and tweak your specific goal that is needed to continue the success of the overall vision?

Continued on next page

There are two aspects in which we understand our relationship to God: that of a personal interaction with God; the second is how God works through organizations, one which we call churches. I have often spoken about how we as Christians do not always understand or believe just how powerful God is, and just how powerful and the depth of impact the church has through God. Back in my early twenties, I became the chair person of a taskforce designed to help resettle refugees from Southeast Asia. Over a three-year period, there were over 200 refugees that our committee (thus the church) helped in one way or another. As I look back at that experience and a few others that I have had the privilege to be involved with since, I have come to see just how powerful God truly is in our world and in our communities, when the local church is following God's mission. That mission is "reconciliation". It's an old term that is often misused, but means, "to re-connect that which is broken apart."

My prayer for you as a community of faith, is that you boldly embrace the power of God! Amen

Peace, *Pastor Steven*

FAREWELL SERVICE & CELEBRATION: On **Sunday, February 11th at 9:45 AM**, we will have Combined Service as we say goodbye to Pastor Steven and Paul. Following the service in the Jim Reed Room there will be a Farewell Celebration to wish them well as they embark on their new ministry in Nebraska. A Memory box will be available for cards and notes of well wishes. Please plan to attend.



ASSISTANT PASTOR'S MESSAGE



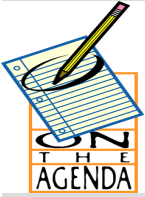
As I was typing my 2017 Annual Report, I couldn't help but fondly remember and appreciate the many new experiences we shared through the spiritually creative leadership of Pastor Steven. For instance, when Palm Sunday came alive for us through the "news coverage" of Jerusalem Today, helping us to see, feel and better understand how those who were involved with or witnessed that event might have been effected. And then, how blessed were we to have heard Pastor Steven sing "The Holy City," an Easter tenor solo I remember being sung in the church of my youth -- but never so beautifully as Pastor Steven presented. Moved me to tears! Pentecost certainly was seen in a different light -- pun intended -- and our image of "Rudolph" at Christmas is forever changed! But I think the introduction of a "Blue Christmas" service is my favorite gift received from Pastor Steven, and I hope we will offer this very important service annually to those who have suffered loss and who are in need of the healing power of this moving service, particularly at Christmas when we are surrounded by happiness.

Cross Roads -- the brain child of Pastor Steven, Tom Besaw and Kay Russell -- successfully opened our eyes to the church we want to become, and already is moving us forward to new goals. Thank you, Pastor Steven, for that introspective, energizing, spiritually-filled jump start into the future of POUCC. You have been a true blessing! Grand Island, Nebraska, we hate to give him up; but here's a word of advice -- FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS!

In Christian Love,

Pastor Beverly

2017 ANNUAL MEETING



On Sunday, January 28th, 56 congregation members gathered for the Annual Meeting. The 2018 Budget, 2018 Slate of Officers were presented, voted on, and unanimously accepted. A big thank you to Tom Besaw outgoing Moderator for a job well done over the past two years.

Copies of the 2018 Annual Report and Directory are available in the church office.

OPERATION'S TEAM

The Operation's Team met on January 8th and the following topics were addressed.

Old Business:

- **Storm Mission** – Council has tasked Operations to come up with a plan to prevent damage to our church property (recent flooding on the east side of the building, Jim Reed Room and Kitchen from Hurricane Irma). Quick Dam Flood Barriers will be purchased.
- **Jim Reed Room Hallway** – Thanks to Tom Besaw and Chuck Henderson the hallway has been painted.
- **Jim Reed Room Bathroom Floors** – Need to have the floor retiled. Billy Wiggins is arranging to have done.
- **Sound Booth** – Board mounted to prevent the sheet rock from being damaged by the chairs rubbing the wall.



New Business:

- **Easter Sunday** – Beach permit was approved on January 16th. Volusia County Beach Patrol will be contacted to get approval to pull the trailer on the beach as last year.
- **Violent Emergency Review** – Officer Doyle from the Port Orange Police Department met with Church Staff and Leaders on January 10th to discuss our preparedness. A report will be presented to Council.
- **Computer Update** – Hard drive in Pastor's Office computer replaced and printers in all offices have been linked.
- **Heat in Kitchen** – A discussion was held about the possibility of heating the kitchen. The current air conditioning unit only produces cold air. Further research to be done.

Next Operations Meeting Monday; February 12th at 5:30 PM.

Jim Eagan, Chair of Operations



Financial Update—Operational Budget January-December 2017

| | <u>December</u> | <u>YTD</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Income | \$ 18,059 | \$ 161,648 | \$ 139,475 | \$ 22,173 |
| Expenses | \$ 19,655 | \$ 174,667 | \$ 165,372 | \$ 9,295 |
| Balance | \$ (1,596) | \$ (13,019) | \$ (25,897) | |

Does not include Missions \$480 Income and \$2,036 in Expenses. Thank you for your generous contributions in 2017. Hal Francis, Treasurer

MISSIONS NOTES

The Mission's Team wants to **"THANK"** everyone for their overwhelming support this past year in all missions we undertook. Your continued generosity in 2018 will continue to let our community know that we are, indeed, **"A CHURCH THAT CARES AND SHARES"**.

TO DATE, WE HAVE COLLECTED \$329 IN FUNDS FOR OUR January Mission of **Holy Joe's Café**, a coffee house ministry for UCC chaplains and troops in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait.



As was done last year, we will have two mission projects in February and March. The **Women's Pregnancy Crisis Center** provides mothers "in need" with "Welcome Home Baby Packages". The following are their **"Wish List" Items: Diapers (size 1), Wipes, Bath Items, Bottles, Sleepers, Onesies, Blankets, Infant Clothing up to 12 months, 0-3 & 3-6 Months Clothing. New and gently used Cribs, Car Seats, Strollers, Pack-n-Plays, and Maternity Clothes as well as monetary donations** are always needed for operating expenses. There will be a box in the Sanctuary for the smaller items. Any larger items can be taken to the Thrift Store where Bob will keep it for Missions to take to **WPCC**.

Sophie's Circle is a non-profit organization that rescues and rehabilitates dogs and adopts them out to "fur-ever" loving homes. There will be a box in the Sanctuary for canned and dry food donations. Cat food donations are always welcome, as well. Checks can be made out to POUCC for either of the above missions, but please make sure to specify in the memo line which mission you are giving to.



As always, the Sock Box and eyeglass collections continue year-round.

Peggy Wiggins, Chair of Missions

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



We started the new year off on a positive note with sales totaling \$2,100. Thanks to all our patrons, volunteers and those who support us with their donations. We need donations especially household items, knick-knacks, and small furniture. Volunteers are always welcome. If interested, please call Bob Gaither, 290-2726. *Bob Gaither, Manager*

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as **"Fill the Food Basket" Sunday**. As a reminder, **February 4th is our next collection day**. Over 26 bags of food were collected last month which benefited Halifax Urban Ministries. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart for delivering the food, Please be generous and 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.

Make your plans to come to the next dinner Thursday, February 8th, 6:00 PM. It's "Pot Luck." Sign-up sheet will be circulated at Sunday Services.

YOUTH CORNER

The youth group continues to grow as a true community outreach. The format has been changed to include Bible study and discussion as our primary focus with food and fun in the mix. I thought the change would result in fewer youth, but the opposite has happened. We had our biggest group so far last week, 16 teenagers! Only 4 of those 16 attend our church. They are thirsty for God and finding their place in the world. With the group growing we are looking for 2 additional adults that would be willing to help out on Tuesday evenings (6:00-8:00 PM). If you are interested in being a part of this growing ministry please contact Sher Buller 386-846-1239

Sher Buller, Youth Leader



NEWS & NOTES



Service of Recognition and Installation of the 2018 Slate of Leaders will be held on **Sunday, February 4th at both Services**. Please plan to attend to show your thanks and support.

ATTENTION DEACONS: There will be a Deacon's Meeting on **Monday, February 5th at 6:30 PM** in the Sunday School Room.



LADIES LUNCHEON: Monday, Feb. 12th, 11:30 AM at Applebee's. All are welcome to attend.



On **Ash Wednesday, February 14th, beginning at 6:00 PM** you are invited to join Seabreeze UCC in a combined service beginning with a simple Soup Dinner and concluding with worship and imposition of ashes led by Rev. Joseph Prichard and Pastor Beverly. Contact office for car pooling

SPECIAL NOTE: As we look forward to Pastor Glenn and Sue officially joining us at both Services on March 1st, we are grateful to Rev. Dave Whitman who will conduct Services on February 18th and Rev. Larry Deitch who will conduct Services on February 25th.



Pastor Steven, Dr. Tom, Kathy and Debbie wish to thank all for your recognition and kindness. Your generosity shown through the staff appreciation gifting is greatly appreciated.

DIRECTORY CORRECTION: Pastor Glenn's cell phone number is 610-704-2799 and Sue's email is rnsmrice@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS*

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Thea Cloutier | 2/5 |
| Kathryn Manning | 2/10 |
| Valerie Hill | 2/12 |
| Carole Neiss | 2/26 |



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES*

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Valerie & Cindy Hill | 2/12/2017 |
| Bob & Ruth Brewster | 2/14/1971 |
| Jim & Sharon Williamson | 2/24/1967 |

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

Valentines Recipe

4 small kisses
6 giant hugs
1 cup of kindness
3 cups of love
5 tsp of happiness
2+ caring hearts

©artsymomma.com

Mix together and
spread the love

PRAYER REQUESTS*

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cecilia Airaldi | Friend of the Schafer-Ramoutar Family |
| April Bastile | Family Member of Sheila Fisher |
| Lisa Pratt-Benson | Friend of Pamela Schafer |
| Bob Brewster | Member of POUCC |
| Beth Brown | Daughter of Sheila Fisher |
| Tom Buller | Member of POUCC |
| Clyde Bussard | Member of POUCC |
| Gene Clark | Friend of the Wiggins Family |
| Amy Dyer | Friend of Sheila Fisher |
| Goss Family | Friend of the Batturs Family |
| Jack & Pat Hilgenberg | Members of POUCC |
| Dale Hill | Sister-in-Law of Valerie Hill |
| F/F of Harriet Hill | Friend of the Stewart family |
| Jimmy Hill | Brother of Val Hill |
| Shelly Hill | Daughter of Mary Ann Stewart |
| John Holbrook | Brother of Ruth Brewster |
| Carol Jarvis | Friend of Carol Rogers |
| Scott Kirlin | Husband of Diane Kirlin |
| Roger Kransi | Brother of Harold Kransi |
| Joe Magsamen | Friend of Sher Buller |
| Sandie McClellan | Friend of the Deitch Family |
| Jeff McCormack | Husband of Terry McCormack |
| Tommy McDonough | Stepbrother of Joe Thompson |
| Leslie Neese | Friend of the Stewart Family |
| Pamela Schafer | Friend of POUCC |
| 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 |
| Donna Weber | Niece of Dorothy Manser |
| James Wood | Friend of Sher Buller |

In Care Facilities

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Jeanette Campbell | Member of POUCC (Care Center in MA) |
| June Ferreri | Member of POUCC (Care Center in PA) |
| Marge Monat | Member of POUCC (Care Center in Daytona Beach) |
| 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

Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide

First Responders Everywhere

**Please contact the Church office (788-0920)*

POUCC February 2018

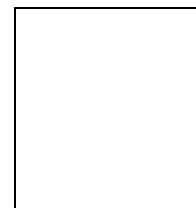
| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|---|-----|-----|
| | | | | 1 POMA 4:30 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am | 5 POMA 4:30 pm Compassionate Friends 6:00 pm Deacon's Meeting 6:30 pm | 6 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm Genesis Bible Study 6:30 pm | 7 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm | 8 POMA 4:30 pm Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Adult Discussion 8:45 am Combined Ser. of Farewell for Pastor Steven & Paul 9:45 am | 12 Ladies Luncheon 11:30 am POMA 4:30 pm Operation's Meeting 6:30 pm | 13 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm | 14 Palmetto House 5:30 pm Ash Wed. Service Seabreeze UCC 6:00 pm | 15 POMA 4:30 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am | 19 POMA 4:30 pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm | 20 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm | 21 POMA 4:30 pm CPT 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm | 22 POMA 4:30 pm Line Dancing 6:00 pm | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Contemporary 8:45 am Adult Discussion 9:45 am Traditional 10:45 am | 26 POMA 4:30 pm | 27 Terrific Tuesday 6:00 pm | 28 | | | |

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

Join us for Fellowship & Refreshments Each Sunday Between Services

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY-DEACONS, MARCH-TEACHING.

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Church Staff

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Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. C. William Ebbert
Minister of Music: Dr. Tom Naus
Youth Leader: Sher Buller
Office Manager: Kathy Shaffner
Custodian: Deb Viola
Thrift Store Manager: Bob Gaither
Media Communications: Bob Brewster & Stephanie Whitman

Office Hours

9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Thrift Store Hours

9:00 AM—3:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Sunday Worship

8:45 AM & 10:45 AM
Children's Sunday School
8:45 AM

**Adult Discussion &
Middle School Sunday
School**

9:45 AM

Terrific Tuesday

6:00 PM



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