



**Port Orange**  
**United Church of Christ**  
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**Volume 46, Issue 2**

**February 2024**

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**



Thought for the Month

*Love Lasts.*

From the Pastor's Desk: I was watching a woman the other day at the dentist's office. She was playing the game called "Peekaboo" with her baby. As I watched, she'd say, "Where's Mommy?" and hide her face behind her hands.

Then she would pull her hands away, saying, "Peekaboo, I see you," and the baby would laugh.

From the baby's point of view, when she hid her face, the woman vanished – out of sight, out of mind. Or so I used to believe. As it turns out babies are smarter than we thought. According to an article in the Atlantic Monthly a while back, babies understand that objects, or people, persist over time even if hidden. Show an object to a baby. Hide the object behind a screen. Wait a while. Remove the screen. If the object is missing, the baby will act surprised. I can imagine the baby's surprise if the mother wasn't there when she removed her hands while playing peekaboo.

My point is that we all appreciate that, even when we can't see those we love, when their faces are hidden from us or they are far away, our love for them persists. God has designed the human heart to love even when we can't see or be with the ones we love. Inside our hearts, they persist; in our hearts, we feel they are there.

The same is true for God's love for us. During this month of February when we tend to think of love and celebrate love on February 14th, a special day called "Valentine's Day" Let us remember that God is always with us and God's love is never ending. That is the one promise God has made that we can always count on. We will never be alone, God will always be with us. God's love is there for us even when we can't feel it

This month also begins the liturgical time of Lent. Check this newsletter for special Lenten offerings and services. Have a wonderful month! May God bless each of you with love; and may your love be patient and kind, and never rude or resentful.

Blessings and peace,

*Pastor Pat*



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**Staff**

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

## LENTEN AND EASTER ACTIVITIES/SERVICES

February 8 - Chocolate for Lent #1 - 5 pm

February 13 - A Traditional "Shrove Tuesday" Pancake Supper - 6 pm

February 14 - "Drive Thru" Ashes - 10 am-noon

February 15 - Chocolate for Lent #2 - 5 pm

February 22 - Chocolate for Lent #3 - 5 pm

February 29 - Chocolate for Lent #4 - 5 pm

March 7 - Chocolate for Lent #5 - 5 pm

March 14 - Chocolate for Lent #6 - 5 pm

March 21 - Chocolate for Lent #7 - 5 pm

March 24 - Palm Sunday Worship 9:30 am

March 28 - Maundy Thursday Soup/Bread Supper and Service - 6 pm

March 31 - Easter Sunday Sunrise Service - 7 am Easter Sunday Worship - 9:30 am



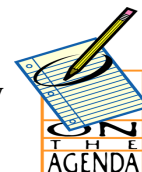
## LENTEN STUDY



Films can be great starting points for exploring profound issues about God, the world, and what it means to be human. With this study, we will view the 2000 Academy Award nominated film *Chocolat*, and use it to approach the season of lent by gaining insights into self-discipline, selfgiving, conversion, acceptance, and maturing in Christ. We will use the movie and a short weekly reading to discuss topics of scripture, social awareness, service, community, prayer, integrity, love and what it means to be a follower of Christ. The study will take 6-7 sessions. A simple soup supper will be provided for attendees. Each session will be approximately 1 1/2 - 2 hours each. We will view the whole movie at the first session. Pastor Pat will lead the sessions.

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING WRAP-UP

On Sunday, January 28h, 24 congregation members and friends gathered for the Annual Meeting. The 2024 Budget, 2024 Slate of Officers were presented, voted on, and unanimously accepted. Copies of the 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Directory are available in the Church Office.



## MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



**Even though it should be all year round, February is thought of as the month of LOVE!** Our church family is no exception in showing love for others. When a new person walks through any door in our church, I believe that there is a universal feeling of caring and belonging extended to them from everyone in our church family. There are many ways to present this caring love to others. Whether through helping someone out with a donation from our Thrift Store, inviting them to join us in church on Sunday mornings, or just having a friendly warm conversation at a fellowship dinner, we have many opportunities to share what we have here in POUCC. Perhaps the most powerful expression of our caring is our “Spiritual Love”, which is the ability to share our belief in the message of love and hope that was gifted to us by Jesus Christ. As testimony to these, we have written on our church walls the following...

***"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and faithfulness"*** (Galatians 5:22-23)

***"This I command you, to love one another"*** (John 15:17)

***"So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love,"*** (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Oftentimes in today's rapidly changing world these messages can be drowned out by the “noise of life” coming at us from every direction. In all of this, we must constantly remind ourselves that life is temporary and fleeting but how we live it can be eternal. How we treat others can be long lasting for both us as givers and receivers. If somehow, we can through our daily actions remember that giving love through our words and actions is a gift to others, our lives will become fuller and more satisfying. Plus, that same love will come back to us like a well thrown boomerang.

Here at POUCC, I urge everyone to make these messages written on our church wall come true in all your daily dealings. Just imagine, if through the year 2024, each one of us were able to invite, or through our actions, attract a new church member or church goer, what that would mean for you and us? In one-year we would double the number of people reading and putting into practice what each one of these messages is asking and urging us to do. Good things DO happen to good people!

Prayerfully submitted, *Bob Brewster, Moderator*

## OPERATION'S & FINANCE TEAM

For safety and ease of operation, we have decided to remove the sod area at the Thrift Store front area and add +/- 3 feet of pavers. Work should be completed by the time you read this article. Received a quote from NSB Pavers (the same crew that reworded the prayer walkway last year), they again gave us a \$600.00 discount.



The Reed room roof has been recently cleaned, the mold removed and all the concrete sidewalks pressure washed. We are requesting quotes to remove the carpet in the Jim Reed room and replace with LVT (luxury vinyl tile).

The renovation work in the Thrift Store office and adjoining sales rooms is moving forward. A permanent wall and shelves between the office and sales rooms has been installed, new shelving installed in the TS office, walls in all three rooms will be patched and painted.

The Council approved moving forth with painting the sanctuary walls and work should commence very soon.

*(Continued on next page)*

Tuff Turf again is stepping forth to provide new landscaping in the island at the front entrance of the church.

New door signs have been ordered and installed on the Thrift Store and Reed Building doors.

The Council approved moving forth with the Thrift Store storage building. The plan is to commence in two phases, first to pour the foundation and floor, second phase is to install the building. We would appreciate any and all donations for this project. Our Thrift Store is doing phenomenal business every day therefore we need the storage building as soon as possible.

The kitchen is being used more and more as it was designed (to prepare and cook food). Alan Holcomb has stepped up to be our master chef. The recent thank you breakfast for the Thrift Store volunteers was a rousing success, but it made us aware for the kitchen to function as it was designed, a few improvements were necessary Commercial knives, a hanging pot and pan rack were purchased, the rack was installed so Alan can have ready access to whatever he needs to make the kitchen work well.

Now that the unpaved parking area is being used on a regular basis for Weight Watchers as well as Thrift Store clients a muddy area has become evident at the rear exit/entrance at the juncture of the pavement and sod. Quotes are being sought to install a catch basin and drain piping to the swale.

Our church exterior is in great shape and with all your continued support we will continue to work on projects that enhance our “curb appeal” as well as our missions.

I personally see the growth and enthusiasm in our church members and the area we serve outside the church every day at the Thrift Store. Until we see each other again,  
God bless. *Art Horton, Chairman*

## Financial Update



### Operating Budget to Actual as of 12/31/2023

	<u>Dec. Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Difference</u>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 17,349.50</b>	<b>\$ 175,735.01</b>	<b>\$ 110,306.00</b>	<b>\$ 65,429.01</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ <u>17,092.85</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>142,678.32</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>141,520.00</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>1,158.32</u></b>
<b>Profit/Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 256.65</b>	<b>\$ 33,056.69</b>	<b>\$ 31,214.00</b>	<b>\$ 64,270.69</b>

### Other Income/Expenses 12/31/2023

#### Capital Improvements

	<u>YTD Actual</u>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 9,940.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ <u>(78,421.88)</u></b>
<b>Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ <u>(68,481.88)</u></b>
<b>Combined Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ <u>(35,425.19)</u></b>

By now most, if not all, have seen and reviewed the 2023 Annual Report and have seen these numbers in that report which reflect an Operating profit of \$31,214.00 for the year. This profit has provided us with the opportunity to make many capital improvements to our property which was also detailed in the Annual Report. We are hopeful and look forward to another great year in 2024. Our thanks go out to all our wonderful volunteers and to all who support our Church.

Respectfully Submitted, *Barbara Horton, Treasurer*

## MISSION NOTE

As a part of our Mission Activity this year – we are going to collect items for hygiene kits for the homeless. The Salvation Army will distribute the items in kits during the annual “homeless” head count in Port Orange in March. **Items needed: toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, disposable razors, bars of soap, feminine hygiene items, wash cloths, combs, brushes and nail clippers. If you are unable to purchase items and prefer to contribute money- someone will do the shopping for you.**

*Jackie Gaither, Missions' Chair*



## THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



The Thrift Store is excited to have a fresh new look. We are making some changes to our work room area, adding new shelves and making an update to the entrance area into the store from the back. We will be painting all the rooms and adding shelves in the kid's area. We know this will provide us with additional space for more products to be displayed as we continue to grow. I am meeting with two new people to help with the increasing need for cashiers. We are so very grateful to all our volunteers that work so hard and have done extra shifts during this time for whatever reason people have been out. You are so appreciated. God will direct us in our path, may we shine bright for his glory! *Emily McLean, Manager*

## YOUR FOOD BASKET & SOPHIE'S CIRCLE DONATIONS

**Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. As a reminder, February 4th is our next collection day.** Over 27 bags of food were collected last month which benefited Halifax Urban Ministries. In their recent thank-you note the Pantry I ncluded the following **Totals for December # of Households Served - 340, # of Bags - 389, Total People Served - 910, New People Served - 65.** 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.**



We also received a note from **Sophie's Circle Pet Pantry** thanking us for the **\$139.73** donation which will continue helping animals in need.

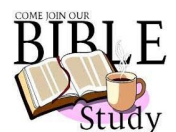
## SHROVE TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER



Our Fellowship Dinner this month will take place on **Shrove Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 PM** and will feature a traditional Pancake Dinner with Alan Holcomb as chef and Pastor Pat will be in charge of entertainment. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this fun filled evening Sign-up sheet will be available at Worship Service.

## BIBLE STUDY

“Wired Word” Bible Study will always be held on the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



**February 4<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month) “As a Man Thinketh” how our brain works.**

**February 18, (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) The Dangers of thinking the rules don't apply to us- How we rationalize.**

# Happy Birthday!



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS\*

Thea Cloutier	2/5
Kathryn Manning	2/10
Jeannie McDougal	2/23



## FEBRUARY

Bob & Ruth Brewster	2/14/1971
Jim & Sharon Williamson	2/24/1967
Pastor Pat & Alan Holcomb	2/28/2016

**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\*



Charlie & Molly Baskin	Members of POUCC
Beth & Chris Brown	Daughter & Son-in-Law of Sheila Fisher
Rafael Castels	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Shelia Fisher	Member of POUCC
Stephanie James	Friend of Emily McLean
Delane Kirk	Friend of POUCC
Harry & Jim Manchester	Family of Sheila Fisher
Frank & Carol Matos	Friends of Molly Baskin
Liz Mills	Former Member of POUCC
Howie Mumma	Friend of Sharon Williamson
F/F of Bill Nicholls	Members of POUCC
Jeremy Parker	Canadian friend of Sheila Fisher
Carmella Potenza	Granddaughter of Don & Denise Gates
Kathleen Price	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Kay & Don Schweitzer	Members of POUCC
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
Mary Ann Stewart	Member of POUCC
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 in PO)
Marge Monat	Member of POUCC (Care Center in DB)
Mary Ann Stewart	Member of POUCC ( Port Orange Rehab)

### Special Needs

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

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

## KEEPING IN TOUCH



We recently heard from Harriet Rogers that Jack had passed away and that she is now living in assisted living. Grace Kern has also recently moved to assisted living.

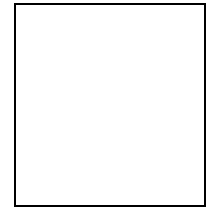


# POUCC February 2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	2	3 Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am
4 Worship Service 9:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am MOL* Worship Service 5:00 pm	5 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	6 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	7	8 Weight Watchers 9:30 am Chocolate for Lent #1 5:00 pm	9	10 Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am
11 Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL* Worship Service 5:00 pm	12 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	13 Weight Watchers 9:30 am Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	14  Ashes 10:00 am—Noon	15 Weight Watchers 9:30 am Chocolate for Lent #2 5:00 pm	16	17 Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am Council 10:00 am
18 Worship Service 9:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am MOL* Worship Service 5:00 pm	19 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	20 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	21	22 Weight Watchers 9:30 am Chocolate for Lent #3 5:00 pm	23	24 Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am
25 Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL* Worship Service 5:00 pm	26 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	27 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	28	29 Weight Watchers 9:30 am Chocolate for Lent #4 5:00 pm		*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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**United Church of Christ**  
651 Taylor Road  
Port Orange, FL 32127



**Church Staff**

**Pastor:** Rev. Patricia Holcomb  
**Office Manager:** Kathy Shaffner  
**Custodian:** Ronnie Servant  
**Missions:** Jackie Gaither  
**Thrift 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—Noon  
Saturday

**Sunday Worship**

9:30 AM



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