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**United Church of Christ**  
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**SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE**



**Thought for the month: And I heard the voice of the holy one saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me" Isaiah 6:8**

From the Pastor's Desk – How did we go from the pleasant days of "spring" in Florida to the hot, humid days of summer so quickly? My husband, Alan, and I have been grateful for the pool at the village where we live. We have certainly taken advantage of it in recent weeks.

If you ever have the chance to attend an ordination, it may be well worth doing. This past Sunday, Alan and I had the pleasure to represent the church at the ordination of Pastor Shawn Proctor from the New Smyrna Beach UCC. While Shawn's service was less formal than my own or the ones I attended in the Maine and Vermont Conferences of the United Church of Christ, it certainly brought back memories of the universal promises I made before God, family, friends, and the UCC church when I was ordained in Maine.

The promises include: -

- Are you persuaded that God has called you to be an ordained minister of the church of Jesus Christ, and are you ready with the help of God to enter this ministry and to serve faithfully in it?
- Do you with the church throughout the world, hear the word of God in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and do you accept the word of God as the rule of Christian faith and practice?
- Do you promise to be diligent in your private prayers and in reading the scriptures, as well as in the public duties of your office?
- Will you be zealous in maintaining both the truth of the gospel and the peace of the church speaking the truth in love?
- Will you seek to regard all people with equal love and concern and undertake to minister impartially to the needs of all?
- Do you accept the faith and order of the United Church of Christ; and will you, as an ordained minister in this communion, ecumenically reach out toward all who are in Christ and show Christian love to people of other faiths and people of no faith? *(Continued on next page)*

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**Staff**

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

**God Bless America**



The final commitment is the “laying on of hands” by clergy and for me it is always the most moving and meaningful part of the service. And as Alan says “it made my eyes sweat” (his favorite expression for bringing tears to your eyes) as I remembered my good friend and mentor, the Rev. Dick Nordgren as he laid his hands on my head and spoke his heartfelt prayer of ordination. Pastor Dick was my minister at the Standish Congregational UCC Church in Maine who supported me throughout my UCC Member-in-Discernment process for ordination during the four year process of seminary and the ecclesiastical council. Pastor Dick suffered with cancer for many years - in and out of remission - and I truly believe he willed himself to live in order to do my ordaining prayer at my Service of Ordination. He died a short time after that service. I continue to be grateful for the guidance of this kind man. Pastor Dick helped me understand so many things about ministry, especially how important relationships are to the role and ability to pastor a church. He truly influenced my ministry and I continue to hear his words as I prepare my services each and every week.

The other part of the service that always speaks to me is the promise of the congregation to support the pastor, to be a co-worker in the field of Christ’s ministry. I am so grateful that this church, the Port Orange UCC - it’s members and friends, truly understands that they have a role in ministering to and in the community as well as working together, collaboratively, with the pastor in this ministry.

May we all take the time to enjoy God’s creation here in Florida, while we continue to share the love of God with each and every person we meet.

May you always be a blessing to God.

*Pastor Pat*

## MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



While shopping in Wal-Mart one day, I stood behind a high shelf in the back of the store looking at something I wanted to buy. While there, I heard a very faint soft voice crying out “Help me, I am lost! I am lost!”. Being curious, I walked around to the other side of the shelf to see a very short man with a red & white stick probing out in front of him. He kept repeating... ”Where am I?” Help!” I went up to him and said “You are in the television section at the back of the store, can I help you?” I could see he was totally blind. He asked if I would help guide him

back to the store’s front and of course I did. He wanted me to put my hand on his shoulder, not hold his hand to guide him along the way. I did and while we walked, I assured him that we were going in the right direction by describing the aisle we were in as we passed the different product sections. Upon reaching the store front door, I asked if there was anything else I could do for him. He thanked me and said “No, I am fine now.”. I left him there and went back to my shelf and did my shopping. At another time early one morning, I had just left a workout at my local exercise club and was starting my vehicle when I saw a man slowly riding his bike along the sidewalk that I faced. For some reason, I watched him. He stopped at each garbage can and looked inside. First one, then two and at the third garbage can, he reached in and pulled out a large paper drink cup like one from McDonalds or Burger King. He shook it and then put it up to his mouth where he drank its remaining contents. I started my car engine and drove over beside him. I asked him if he needed anything and he said “No”. I held out a \$10 00 to him and told him to buy a good breakfast at the Dunkin Donuts across the street. He took the \$10 and said “Thank you”. These were two people who crossed my path in life. I am not asking for reward in helping them but would like to think that one day, if I were asking for help or needing a drink that someone watching would come over to me and ask if they could help. Why am I sharing these two stories here in this POUCC Newsletter?

*(Continued on next page)*

It is because we, as a church body, made up of members and friends, are crossing paths with people everyday both individually and as a church and I know we are doing the little things that matter. I think we are extremely fortunate in this life to have each other and to have a church where we can be together in worship and fellowship. Out there in the world that passes us by everyday there are a lot of people in need of both. My prayer is that we keep doing what we are doing and in the words of MaryAnn Stewart, one of our most beloved church members, ....”If you love this church, then you need to work for this church!

Prayerfully submitted, *Bob Brewster, Moderator*

## OPERATION'S & FIANANCE TEAM



Pavers at the receiving area for the Thrift Store have been completed, two coats for sealer were applied a week after paver installation. Fine sand needs to be installed in the joints over the next few months to ensure all joints are filled. More than likely in a month or two an additional sealer coat will be applied. Donations were received to cover all costs of the pavers and sealant.

Tuff Turf will be installing the new irrigation pump, testing the complete systems and making repairs as necessary. Cost when complete \$ 4,000.00

Coastline Fence provided and installed fence around the HVAC and Electrical Service this month at a cost of \$3,295.00. There is sufficient surface both concrete as well as stone areas within the fenced in areas to accommodate the new HVAC system when it becomes necessary to replace the existing HVAC system in the church sanctuary. The specified fence material provides sufficient air circulation for the existing and new systems.

Tyler Musgrave provided a quote to remove the excess dirt in the inside area of the new fence around the HVAC and Electrical service, place weed control fabric and install decorative rock. The Council approved the \$1,000.00 expenditure to move forth with the work. The work is expected to be completed by mid-July.

We also received a quote to remove the existing mulch in the beds around the church building, add weed control mat and install decorative rock. The Council moved to hold off and do this work at a later date.

The fan control module failed in the Reed room HVAC unit, Air Techs quoted \$500.00 to replace the module, work was completed the third week in June.

To continue with our building efficiency program, all thermostats have been checked and set properly for use primarily on “off-peak” summer utility company times except for the times Weight Watchers and Church of Light are occupying the Jim Reed building.

The Parking coordination during the Weight Watchers meeting times appears to be complete. Thrift store staff is parking on the upper (grass) parking area and from all appearances both the Weight Watchers staff and members as well as the Thrift store staff and clients are satisfied. Bob installed markers for the upper “grass” parking area and encouraged all who are able to park in that area. All kinks seem to be working out and everyone appear to be pleased with the parking areas.

Alan Holcomb (Pastor Pat’s husband) has volunteered and is working on power washing all the sidewalks around our buildings. Thanks a bunch Alan.

Reed bathrooms and hallway renovation: Barb & Art Horton met with Chris and Christine Minnich from Malibu Construction to review the complete project including timetable and paint colors . Construction should commence early July.

*(Continued on next page)*



Weight Watchers and Mountain of Light have been informed to use the sanctuary bathrooms, Thrift Store will utilize the bathroom in the large furniture room. An additional proposal was received to remove the existing tile and carpet in the area and replace with LVT (luxury vinyl tile) planking for \$6,880.00. This additional work was approved by the Council and the contractor was given the approval to proceed. Seeing that we have two organizations utilizing and paying for the use of the Jim Reed meeting space each week the Council felt it was wise to complete all work in this area at one time.

The areas above the sink in the kitchen below the window are a concern as it appears we have water intrusion. Our contractor will be requested to look into the issue and report back to the Council.

The gutters on the front and back of the Thrift Store, as well as the Jim Reed building, were filled with debris and not working properly during a recent rain storm. It was investigated and found the gutter guard was obstructed with debris. The debris was removed and the gutter guards repaired as necessary. It was observed that the oak trees in the courtyard area were creating most of the debris.

Don's tree service was contacted and we requested a price to trim and remove all overhanging limbs on the Thrift Store and Reed roofs as well as to trim both trees. They provided a quote of \$795.00 to complete the work. Work was approved by Council and will be completed within the next two weeks.

As you can see there are numerous ongoing projects both being completed by contractors as well as church member. If you have time to help with some on-going maintenance projects on both the inside as well as the outside, please give me a call. Or, if you wish to donate to any of the projects detailed in this report our Finance chairman Barb Horton will gladly receive your donation.

Veterans Chapel: We are having issues with "graffiti" on the steel beams, concrete deck and picnic table. Bob Brewster installed a cover over the graffiti on the picnic table and spray painted the steel beams. If the issue continues the Council may be forced to place no trespassing signs on the chapel and surrounding areas.

Weight Watchers members are now adding to the "clients" of the Thrift Store, the store continues to be one of our very strong missions to the community.

Our church buildings are at a point are in need of continual maintenance and upgrading. We are fortunate to be able to keep the buildings in tip top shape.

The income from the two organizations as well as support from our church membership and friends is allowing us to approve these projects set forth in this report and work on future projects.

Until next time,

*Art Horton, Chairman*



### Operational Budget as 5/31/2023

	MAY ACTUAL	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD DIFFERENCE
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 19,915.05</b>	<b>\$ 72,086.95</b>	<b>\$ 46,116.05</b>	<b>\$ 25,970.90</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$ 13,630.39</b>	<b>\$ 58,260.10</b>	<b>\$ 60,546.97</b>	<b>\$ 2,280.87</b>
<b>Profit/(Loss )</b>	<b>\$ 6,284.66</b>	<b>\$ 13,820.85</b>	<b>\$ 14,430.92</b>	<b>\$ 28,251.71</b>

We had a profit of over \$6,000.00 for the month of May and a profit of over \$13,000.00 for five month period January through May. This is all due to the fabulous job the Thrift Store volunteers are doing and the additional income from the rental of the Jim Reed Room. We received donations of \$3,090.00 to pay for the pavers that were installed behind the Thrift Store. Our thanks go out to the Thrift Store team and to all who support our Church. We are truly blessed! Respectfully Submitted, *Barbara Horton, Treasurer.*



## THE GIFT & THRIFT STORE



The Thrift Store continues to prosper. We see new shoppers each week. On Sunday June 25th at Worship we honored our longest serving volunteer Mary Ann Stewart. A plaque in her honor is displayed in the Store for all to see. Thanks to all our volunteers and those who donate and shop with us.

*Jackie & Bob Gaither, Managers*

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Thrift Store will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

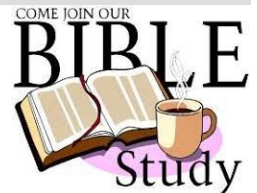
## YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS



Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. As a reminder, July 2nd is our next collection day and will benefit Halifax Urban Ministers. Over 17 bags of food were collected last month. Our donations aided in serving **254 Households, 287 Food Bags, 647 People and 25 New People in May.** Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart for loading and delivering the food. **Please be generous and make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates .**

## BIBLE STUDY

**POUCC Bible Study:** POUCC “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 in the Sanctuary following Fellowship.* *It will no longer be held at the Henderson home.* We hope this will make it easier for those who would like to attend.



*July 2, 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday lesson: “Disagreeing Respectfully.”*

*July 16, 2023 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday lesson: “Dealing with the loneliness epidemic.”*

## SPECIAL MENTION



**On Sunday, July 23rd** we welcome Rev. LaTrell Harrison, Associate Conference Minister for the Florida Conference . She will join us for worship and for a light luncheon following our 9:30 AM Service. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.



# Happy Birthday!



## JULY BIRTHDAYS\*

Kristin Marshall	7/7
Teddy Yaeger	7/11
Nicholas Yaeger	7/21
Erika Henderson	7/22
Bonnie Morisset	7/24
Leree Nicholls	7/26



## JULY ANNIVERSARIES\*

Don & Kay Schweitzer	7/7/2009
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## PRAYER REQUESTS\*

Charlie & Molly Baskin	Members of POUCC
Beth & Chris Brown	Family of Sheila Fisher
Rafael Castels	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Kathy Cratin	Member of POUCC
Lour Gilhooly	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Harry & Jim Manchester	Family of Sheilas Fisher
Luanne Mauldin	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Howie Mumma	Friend of Sharon Williamson
Carmella Potenza	Family of Don & Denise Gates
Kay & Don Schweitzer	Members of POUCC
John Sedgwick	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Tammy & Danny	Friends of Ann Tobin
Seth Wanie	Family of Bill & Susie Greiff
Darlene Wolfson	Friend of Sheila Fisher

### In Care Facilities

June Ferreri	Member of POUCC (Care Center, PA)
Margie Hoebing	Friend of POUCC (Care Center, PO)
Marge Monat	Member of POUCC (Care Center, DB)

### Special Needs

- Victims of the Caronavirus and Those Fighting the Virus
- All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families
- Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide
- First Responders Everywhere

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

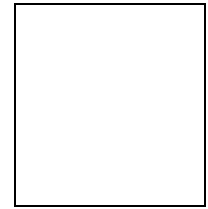


**Note: \*Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your special date.**

# POUCC July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Mountain of Light Church						1
2 <b>Worship Service</b> 9:30 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10:30 am <b>Bible Study</b> 11:00 am <b>MOL* Worship</b> 5:00	3 <b>MOL Bible Study</b> 7:00 pm	4  <b>Church Office &amp; Thrift Store Closed</b>	5	6 <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am	7	8 <b>Weigh Watchers</b> 7:30 am & 9:00 am
9 <b>Worship Service</b> 9:30 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10:30 am <b>MOL Worship</b> 5:00 pm	10 <b>MOL Bible Study</b> 7:00 pm	11 <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am	12	13 <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am	14	15 <b>Weigh Watchers</b> 7:30 am & 9:00 am- <b>Council Mtg.</b> 10:00 am
16 <b>Worship Service</b> 9:30 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10:30 am <b>Bible Study</b> 11:00 am <b>MOL* Worship</b> 5:00	17 <b>MOL Bible Study</b> 7:00 pm	18 <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am	19	20 <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am	21	22 <b>Weigh Watchers</b> 7:30 am & 9:00 am
23 <b>Worship Service</b> 9:30 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10:30 am <b>MOL Worship</b> 5:00 pm	24 <b>MOL Bible Study</b> 7:00 pm	25 <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am	26	27 <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am	28	29 <b>Weigh Watchers</b> 7:30 am & 9:00 am
30 <b>Worship Service</b> 9:30 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10:30 am <b>MOL Worship</b> 5:00 pm	31 <b>MOL Bible Study</b> 7:00 pm					

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**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  
Saturday

9:00 AM—Noon

**Sunday Worship**

9:30 AM



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