



Port Orange
United Church of Christ
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Ronnie Servant

Thrift Store Manager

Bob & Jackie Gaither

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Bob Brewster



Volume 45, Issue 3

March 2023

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



Well, it is now March 2023 and we are in the Lenten Season that started February 22nd and will end April 8th. This is the Christian traditional time for Fasting, Praying and Almsgiving. Almsgiving? This is not a word you hear very much, if at all during the normal course of day-to-day life. Almsgiving is defined as “the practice of giving money or food to poor people”. It is considered “an act of virtue or charity” and is a widespread practice in different forms of religions worldwide. Keeping with the thought of “**Giving**”, what exactly is “Giving” vs. “Almsgiving”? Are donations a form of Almsgiving? We all make donations. Ruth and I often comment to each other about the many letters we receive almost daily asking for money. Giving to the Native American needy in New Mexico or Oregon, seems to open the door to giving to Native American all over the Country. Or, giving to one Veteran’s organization seems to open the door to every other Veteran’s group. Giving to help students in need leads to being asked to help all students. Giving to help feed the poor in Ukraine opens the door to helping the poor everywhere, or so it seems. It seems like giving in general is like turning on a neon sign that states...”Giving done here!”. Where does “Almsgiving” begin and “Giving” end? I am not asking this question to discourage anyone from giving to any cause. On the contrary, I believe giving opens a portion of our heart and psyche that is very healthy to our soul, mind and spirit. Giving is a way to share something with someone else. Perhaps we have too much and want to share. Or, perhaps we have very little but recognize that someone needs the little we have more than we do. It does not matter what we give or how much we give. What matters is how we feel when we give and how we feel in our hearts about helping someone else. Now, back to **Almsgiving** because that is a part of the Lenten Season. I believe that it is not just a Lenten Season action. I believe that as true Christians, we are obligated to share a portion of what we have with someone else in need every chance we get. This means every day all year round. Sharing, Giving, Almsgiving, Donating...are all part of allowing us to freely do something good with something we have. Time, Money, Our Knowledge & Experience, Material Goods, Food, Clothing and Shelter can be all grouped together for what can be possible to give. Our Thrift Store provides a way for people to give and for people to receive. *(Continued on next page.)*



Our Volunteers are giving their time so that others may receive something from us. Our church is giving to others by being there when they or we need spiritual renewal Those who attend our church are giving when they help someone else by being interested in their well being or when they visit someone in the hospital or nursing home. The Lenten Season's 40-days gives us a time to reflect on what Jesus experienced and suffered. It should also be a reminder that Almsgiving and Giving are year round....no, let me rephrase that...Almsgiving and Giving are Life Long activities. I am reminded of the question..."How do you Eat an Elephant?" The answer is "One Bite at A Time!". The same goes for our lives. How do we live our life so that we can help make the world a better place to live...how can we make a difference when the task seems so impossible for us as individuals? The answer...*One act of giving at a time!* **They all add up!** Prayerfully submitted, *Bob Brewster, Moderator*

OPERATIONS & FINANCE TEAM



So here we are approaching late spring in Florida. Is it not crazy? Seems we were just celebrating the birth of our Savior and here we are approaching Easter. Late last fall we found evidence of roof leaks in the kitchen. Stained ceiling tiles led to inspection of the underside of the roof sheathing and we found damage that required repair. Seeing the Kitchen HVAC unit had failed and appeared to be partially responsible for the leaks, we removed the HVAC unit, removed and replaced the deteriorated sheathing (plywood) , flashed and counter flashed around the make-up air and exhaust fan units on the roof and installed new architectural shingles to match the existing ones. Stained ceiling tiles were replaced with new tiles. Thus far we have not seen any new leaks. The shed roof behind the back of the church is leaking and is being attended to. The Church Council decided to place the A/C replacement project on hold. The HVAC contractor was contacted and informed us we should be able to get a "few" more year out of the system. A new fence around the existing HVAC system will be installed soon. We have observed children accessing the church proper roof on the west side of the building. The Port Orange police have been notified and steps are being taken to stop this problem. Our pavement sealing company continues to re-seal the paved surfaces that deteriorated rapidly. The sidewalks are in need of power washing. Do any members have a power wash machine they can provide to accomplish this mission? We are pleased to see Pastor Pat and Alan's plans have changed and she will be resuming her position as our Pastor. We are very thankful Pastor Dunlap has been available and has done a great job providing in depth sermons. we look forward to he and Wayne keeping in touch with our Church. Until we see each other again, God bless. *Art Horton, Chairman*

Financial Update — Operational Budget as 1/31/2023



	<u>JANUARY 2023</u>	<u>YTD ACTUAL</u>	<u>YTD BUDGET</u>	<u>YTD DIFFERENCE</u>
Income	\$ 13,250.55	\$ 13,250.55	\$ 9,516.01	\$ 3,734.54
Expenses	\$ 15,578.88	\$ 15,577.88	\$ 16,871.79	\$ 1,293.91
Profit/Loss	\$ (2,327.33)	\$ (2,327.33)	\$ (7,355.78)	\$ 5,028.45

We had a loss of \$2,327.33 for the month of January but we had budgeted a loss of \$7,355.78. Our Tithes & Offering income was lower than budgeted; however, the amazing Thrift Store Team took in \$4,000.00 more than expected! We are truly blessed to have the income from the Store to support our Church's Mission. Respectfully Submitted, *Barbara Horton, Treasurer.*

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



The Thrift Store continues to thrive thanks to our dedicated volunteers, great patrons and all who continue to donate. We continue to loan out medical equipment and supply clothing to all who are in need. The Red Cross is given items every two weeks and the trailer is being cleared out and ready to receive items for the next big sale. *Bob & Jackie Gaither, Managers*

SPECIAL OFFERING

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2023 CAMPAIGN - MARCH 19TH

Through the OGHS offering, we are planting seeds of new life. Together, we are investing in communities world-wide: providing education to girls and boys, and participating in sustainable solution that offer dignity to all. Envelopes for this offering are in your boxed set.



YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS



Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. As a reminder, **March 5th** is our next collection day. Over 33bags of food were collected last month which benefited Halifax Urban Ministries. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart 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.

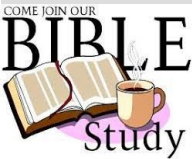
Our Next Dinner is Thursday, March 9th.

It's a “Pot-Luck” Dinner.

Sign-up Sheet will be circulated during Worship.



BIBLE STUDY



POUCC 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 a.m. to 10:30 am). They will be held at the Henderson home (5961 Broken Bow Lane, Port Orange, 32127) only 2 minutes from the church. Snack luncheon provided.

March 5, 2023 1st Sunday Lesson – How Christian churches can stay unified when disagreements happen.

March 19, 2023- 3rd Sunday lesson – Forgiveness moving from congregations to schools.

A THOUGHT TO PONDER FROM REV. DUNLAP

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM YOUR CHURCH?

The Opportunity to Worship
The Opportunity to Learn
The Opportunity to Serve
The Opportunity for Fellowship
Pastoral Care

WHAT DOES POUCC EXPECT FROM IT'S MEMBERS?

To Worship With Us
To Observe its Sacraments
To Contribute to its Support
To Share in its Support
To Invite Your Friends to Come to Church with You
To Pray for its Work, Mission, Members and Staff

Happy Birthday!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS*

Sharon Williamson	3/4
Bill Hooker	3/6
Bill Wheeler, Sr.	3/16
Denise Gates	3/21
Molly Baskin	3/24



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES*

Charlie & Molly Baskin	3/03/1962
Richard & Vivien Devins	3/24/1984
Chuck & Erika Henderson	3/25/1972



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Charlie & Molly Baskin	Members of POUCC
Beth & Chris Brown	Family of Sheila Fisher
Rafael Castels	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Harry & Jim Manchester	Family of Sheila Fisher
Carmella Potenza	Granddaughter of the 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

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)
Eloise Wottke	Friend of POUCC (Care Center, WI)

Special Needs

Victims of the Recent Earthquakes
 Victims of Caronavirus & Those on the Front Line
 Fighting the Virus
 All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families
 Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide

HAVE A HAPPY SPRING



This is the day the
 Lord has made;
 We will rejoice and
be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24 NKJV



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

POUCC MARCH 2023

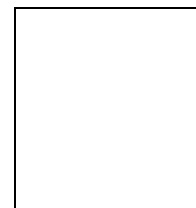
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship Service 9:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am MOL* Worship Service 6:00 pm	6 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	7	8	9 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	10	11
12 Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL Worship Service 6:00 pm	13 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	14	15	16	17 	18 Council Meeting 10:00 am
19 Worship Service 9:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am MOL* Worship Service 6:00 pm	20  MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL Worship Service 6:00 pm	27 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	28	29	30	31	*Mountain of Light Church



DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH.

***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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Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Patricia Holcomb

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Gift & Thrift Store Managers: Bob & Jackie Gaither

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-Noon

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM



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