



**Port Orange  
United Church of Christ**  
651 Taylor Road  
Port Orange, FL 32127  
Office 386-788-0920

Email: poucc651@gmail.com  
Website: portorangeucc.org

**Volume 46, Issue 3**

**March 2024**

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**



Many hands make light work, and each of us can make a difference by working together. -  
Proverb

**From the Pastor's Desk:**

This past Sunday, I watched the Daytona 500, billed by the media as the "Great American Race." It truly signals for me the beginning of a new season and lets me know that spring will soon be officially upon us. As a former competitor in motorsports and a great motorsports fan, I am always fascinated in how the crews of the NASCAR teams can accomplish so much in a pit stop of less than 14 seconds.

If you haven't watched a NASCAR race lately, you may not realize that each professional NASCAR team is a highly specialized, skilled and well trained working group. During a race like the Daytona 500, drivers will need to come back to their team several times to put on a fresh set of tires, for an adjustment to the car, or for more gas to continue racing. These "pit stops" as they are called aren't casual visits.

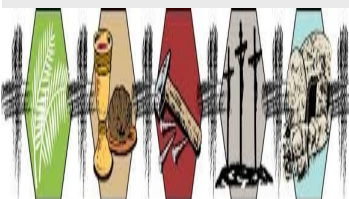
In a professional race, every second spent working on the car or adding gas is less time on the track and puts the driver farther behind the leader. Efficient pit stops don't just happen, they are practiced over and over again. During off season time and between racing events, the driver and crew will practice precise timing of these stops. The best teams have it down to around 10-14 seconds to change four tires, add two 12-gallon cans of gas, wipe off the front grill of the car and make any minor adjustments, if needed. This is all done with only six crew members over the pit wall: the rear tire carrier, the rear tire changer, the jackman, the front tire carrier, the front tire changer, and the gasman. Each man has his precise role in making the pit stop successful including the driver who must get the car into the marked pit box without - exceeding pit road speed limits, driving through more than three other pit boxes, stalling the car, or leaving the pit box before lug nuts are tightened and the gas can is removed from the car. Each person has an important job and an error can result in any number of problems - an injured crew member (e.g. a fall or being run over), penalty (e.g. speeding or not getting all lug nuts on the tire), not enough fuel (e.g. an extra pit stop needed or run out of gas). *(continued on next page)*

**In this Issue:**

Pastor's Message	1
Moderators Message.	3
Operations & Finance Team	
The Gift & Thrift Store, Special Offering, Food Basket Sunday, Fellowship & Bible Study	5
Birthdays /Anniversaries & Prayer Concerns	6
Calendar	7

**Staff**

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



Having an efficient team is critical to winning a Championship where races are won by hundredths of a second.

The day to day operation of our church isn't as vital or as complex as competing in a NASCAR race but it does have things that need to be done on a regular basis to accomplish our mission. A church this size has many needs but only has three employees: the pastor, a part-time custodian, and a part-time Administrative Assistant. Everything else is done by volunteers. Our church council members give many hours not only in meetings but at other times to make sure our church runs smoothly; focuses on our mission and purpose; and is presentable. Their names are contained in our Annual Report, but I want to highlight them here.

Our Moderator, Bob Brewster, is always ready to help with whatever is needed. Bob is our "go to" person for information and assistance with things about the church. He does many tasks without many knowing it's being done. Bob goes above and beyond the role of moderator, including preparing the music and audio for our services.

Art Horton, is a master as our Operations Manager. He not only oversees our facility repairs and updates, but he personally has done a lot of updating of our electrical panels and security systems. He was even seen painting rooms at the thrift store the other day.

Barbara Horton, our church Treasurer, works in the office several times a week to maintain our financial records and pay bills. She also spends time with our accountant each month. Her role is a time consuming one but she does it with such talent and ease.

Most of you know, Jackie Gaither, who recently retired from many successful years of managing our thrift store with her husband, Bob. Retired is probably not the right word because you will still see her many days volunteering time in the back room of the thrift store. In addition, Jackie also heads up our Deacons and Missions activities. With the help of Barbara Horton, they prepare and serve communion every month.

Then there's Emily Mclean, who now manages the thrift store and all the weekly volunteers. Emily personally volunteers 40 plus hours every week overseeing the donations and daily tasks of the store. If you haven't been into the store in the past few months, it's worth a trip to visit and see all the renovations and changes she has made to make it easier for our customers.

Showing us a true example of hospitality, is Sharon Williamson. Sharon does all the preparations before/after for our Sunday Coffee Hour, as well as, plans and cleans up after our monthly dinners. When she's not doing that, you can find her on Friday mornings volunteering in our Thrift Store.

A church of this size has many needs. Almost everything is done with volunteers. If you would like to volunteer for something or have some ideas of things you would like to help us do, be sure to let one of the Council members know. As Hillary Clinton once wrote, "It takes a village to raise a child," and I suggest to you that "It takes a community to be a church."

God bless you for your continued support and help that allows us to keep our church moving forward.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Pat



## MODERATORS'S MESSAGE



Spring is coming but for right now Winter is here. In Port Orange the Winter season is more subtle than that up north but we can still feel and see it's changes. We know when the seasons change. Similarly, like the seasons, our lives go through changes and like the seasons, we can feel and see these changes. We label them childhood, middle-life, senior years. Like the changes in seasons that come and go without our assistance, we do have some ability to control our life changes. We cannot control time, days, months or years, but we can control how we spend, or better yet, how we "invest" our time. Investing in ourselves, whether through a formal education, learning skills, gaining diverse experiences, etc. is all related to time use and the overriding fact that time in terms of years is not an unlimited number. We must be wise about our choices for how we use our time and since life is actually very short verified by testimonies of everyone who has reached their senior years when looking back, we need to include in this investment "spiritual" time where we feed our soul with the teachings and gifts of action left with us by Jesus Christ. Doing things for others is also doing things for ourselves. We cannot do anything about time that has past but we can start today doing something with the time we still have. Invest it wisely. Here at Port Orange United Church of Christ we have many opportunities for that investment. Church on Sunday is a good investment but we have so much more. Think about ways you can invest your time here by helping others while at the same time you are investing in yourself. As Pastor Pat has shared in her messages. We all have talents and skills that when used for good are also our way of gifting back to God thanks for giving them to us. Jesus will be very happy!

Prayerfully submitted, *Bob Brewster, Moderator*

## OPERATIONS & FINANCE TEAM

Ongoing projects are as follows:

- Thrift Store Annex: The Council voted to approve placement of the wood structure At a cost of up to \$25,000. Completion of project will take up to six months.
- Jim Reed Room Flooring: Project will be completed by the time you read this article.
- Grass Parking Drainage and Swale: The area is being addressed.
- Thrift Store Renovations: If you have recently visited the store, you have seen that the renovations are continuing nicely.
- Kitchen Refrigerator: New seals are in the process of being installed.
- Veterans Chapel: The undergrowth was removed and the trees were trimmed on the road side of the chapel. This seems to have had a very positive impact on deterring the students damage to the chapel.
- Security System: Is in place and is working.
- Irrigation System: Issues are continuing to be addressed.
- Newspaper Bin: The Council decided that the bin will be removed from the property due to non use.

Yours in the faith.

*Art Horton, Chairman, Alan Holcomb, Andy Stebenne*



## Financial Update — Operational Budget as 1/31/2023

	<u>January Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Differ- ence</u>
Income	14,855.39	14,855.39	18,349.73	(3,494.34)
Expensed	<u>12,783.88</u>	<u>12,783.88</u>	<u>15,242.23</u>	(2,458.35)
Profit/(Loss)	2,071.51	2,071.51	3,107.50	(1,035.99)



### Other Income/Expenses as of 1/31/2024

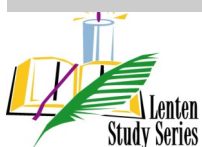
#### Capital Improvements

	<u>YTD Actual</u>
Income	0.00
Expenses	<u>14,876.11</u>
Profit/(Loss)	(14,876.11)
<hr/>	
Combined Profit/(Loss)	(12,804.60)

We did have a profit of \$2,071.51 at the end of January but we were under budget by \$1,035.99. We had a combined loss of \$12,804.60 for that period which includes the Capital Improvements of \$14,876.11. Our thanks go out to our wonderful volunteers and to all who support our Church.

Respectfully Submitted, *Barbara Horton, Treasurer.*

## LENTEN AND EASTER ACTIVITIES/SERVICES



**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**



**EASTER FLOWERS:** See the sign-up sheet circulated at Worship Service. Please note if your flower donation is “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of” Loved One(s), put your name on the bottom and deliver your flower(s) to the Jim Reed Room no later **Wednesday, March 27th.**



## THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



I am so pleased with the many new people that have reached out to volunteer at the Thrift Store. All have stepped up and are doing an amazing job. We keep our focus on what would be pleasing to the Lord and it all seems to fall into place. The comments from the customers have been so positive to all are changes within the store. Daily we are seeing new customers and the new donations just keep rolling in. We are anticipating a new storage area that will replace the trailer out back. It is truly needed to help with our growth. We look forward to the coming months and providing this community with the best possible Thrift Store experience. *Emily McLean, Manager*

## MISSION NOTES

Beginning **March 1st** our Mission Project will benefit the **Pregnancy Crisis Center**. Donations of **diapers, wipes, infant clothing size 0-18 months and monetary donations** are welcome. Your generosity will be so appreciated by both new mother's and their little loves.



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2024 CAMPAIGN - SHARING THE LIGHT - MARCH 10TH** 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 solutions 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 3rd is our next collection day.** Over 21 bags of food were collected last month which benefited Halifax Urban Ministries. In a recent thank you note the Pantry reported the totals for 2023 were: # **Households 3262**, # **Food Bags 3700**, # **People 8267**, # **New People 427**. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart for delivering the food. Please make sure all donations have **NOT** passed their expiration dates.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

This month's Fellowship Dinner is on **Maundy Thursday, March 28th at 6:00 PM**, in the Jim Reed Room. Dinner will be followed by our Maundy Service.

*It's a "Soup/Bread/Dessert" Dinner.  
Sign-up Sheet will be circulated during Worship.*



## 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

**March 3, 2024 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday "Groundbreaking TV Producer Norman Lear, Who helped us Talk about Tough Topics, Dead at 101.**

**March 17, 2024, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday "Mel Mermelstein, Death Camp Survivor Who Sued Holocaust Deniers and Won, Dies at 95**

Happy Birthday!



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS\*

Pastor Pat	3/3
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



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



## PRAYER REQUESTS\*

Charlie & Molly Baskin	Members of POUCC
Beth & Chris Brown	Daughter & Son-in-Law of Sheila Fisher
Rafael Castels	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Sheila Fisher	Member of POUCC
Bill Hooker	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
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
Sara Seachrist	Mother of Sara Sousa
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
Baby Shelah	Friend of Sharon Tinny
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, PO)
Marge Monat	Member of POUCC (Care Center, DB)
Mary Ann Stewart	Member of POUCC (Port Orange Rehab)

### Special

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

# POUCC MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b><i>DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH.</i></b>						
<b>3</b> <b>Worship Service</b> 9:30 am <b>Bible Study</b> 11:00 am <b>MOL* Worship Service</b> 6:00 pm	<b>4</b> <b>MOL Bible Study</b> 7:00 pm	<b>5</b> <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am <b>Chocolate for Lent #5</b> 5:00 pm	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Weight Watchers</b> 7:30 & 9:00 am
<b>10</b> <b>Worship Service</b> 9:30 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10:30 am <b>MOL Worship Service</b> 6:00 pm	<b>11</b> <b>MOL Bible Study</b> 7:00 pm	<b>12</b> <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am <b>Chocolate for Lent #6</b> 5:00 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Weight Watchers</b> 7:30 & 9:00 am <b>Council Meeting</b> 10:00 am
<b>17</b> <b>Worship Service</b> 9:30 am <b>Bible Study</b> 11:00 am <b>MOL* Worship Service</b> 6:00 pm	<b>18</b> <b>MOL Bible Study</b> 7:00 pm	<b>19</b> <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am <b>Chocolate for Lent #7</b> 5:00 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Weight Watchers</b> 7:30 & 9:00 <b>Weight</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Worship Service</b> 9:30 am <b>Fellowship</b> 10:30 am <b>MOL Worship Service</b> 6:00 pm	<b>25</b> <b>MOL Bible Study</b> 7:00 pm	<b>26</b> <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Weight Watchers</b> 9:30 am <b>Maunder Thurs. Soup Dinner &amp; Service</b> 6:00 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Weight Watchers</b> 7:30 & 9:00

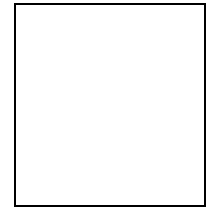
**31 Sunrise Service**  
 7:00 am  
**Worship Service**  
 9:30 am  
**MOL Worship**  
 5:00 pm



***Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 2 pm, Sat. 9-Noon***  
***Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm***

\*Mountain of Light Church

**Port Orange**  
**United Church of Christ**  
651 Taylor Road  
Port Orange, FL 32127



**Church Staff**

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Patricia Holcomb  
**Office Manager:** Kathy Shaffner  
**Custodian:** Ronnie Servant  
**Missions:** Jackie Gaither  
**Gift & Thrift Store Managers:** 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  
Saturday—9:00-Noon

**Sunday Worship**

9:30 AM



*Phone (386) 788-0920*  
*Email: poucc651@gmail.com Website: portorangeucc.org*