



**Port Orange
United Church of Christ**
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March 2025

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



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Staff

Moderator:

Bob Brewster

Office Manager:

Kathy Shaffner

Custodian:

Ronnie Servant

Missions

Jackie Gaither

Thrift Store Managers

Emily McLean

Media Communications:

Bob Brewster

As Moderator of the Port Orange United Church of Christ, my position is traditionally that of leading the church council and our various committees/teams through the day-to-day and month-to-month decision making for handling church business. To get all this done we have a wonderful church staff and dedicated volunteers both members and non-members on these teams to make sure that the church functions in all areas. Normally, the Pastor would handle all other duties required and described under "Pastoral Care" needs, which could be almost anything involving members and friends of our church who require spiritual comfort, guidance and counseling for a limitless number of reasons. In the later half of 2024 we lost having a pastor available during the week but gained a pastor who on Sundays fulfilled our needs for Spiritual Connection. We have all heard, and many of us have experienced that "God works in mysterious ways". Well, that is what happened to us! Our church lost our pastor and the accompanying Pastoral Care but in that loss we gained two wonderful people. One, Dan Weimer, who now provides us with his wonderful talent on the piano and organ, and the other Pastor Javier León, who now provides us with a strong spiritual connection message on Sundays. Neither Dan or Pastor Javier were planned or even considered as an option but each has brought us back to why we attend church services. Dan joined us after retiring from being the organist at Our Lady of Hope Church for 41 years. Pastor Javier Leon, based on a need for us to have someone deliver the Sunday message, joined us when he was asked if he could "fill-in" on Sundays until we found someone. Little did we know what was going to happen and how these two individuals would change our church. For people raised in a church where the pastor's message is prepared a week or more in advance and carefully delivered on Sunday, it has been a sudden awakening to hear a message based on the Bible delivered without any notes and most often not planned until the time it is delivered to our waiting ears. For many, to hear both the organ and piano played along with a Praise Team in a quiet church setting is also a spiritual renewal and welcome relief from all the "noise" we are bombarded with during the week.

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Further, to have our Bible open and to actually read the scripture while it is explained to us for what it means to us in today's world, this is a BIG change. To hear that the Bible is the "Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth" is an incredible breakthrough for everyone who truly believes that there is life after death. This is in the messages shared by Pastor Javier with us. He is reminding us that the Bible has lessons for us all regarding Life. That Life is short. That it is full of ups and downs, joys and sadness, successes and failures, good health and bad health, danger and safety, cloudy days and sunny days, days full of love and days with hate, grieving and celebrating, bad thoughts and good thoughts, self-doubt and self-confidence, and so on and on. That Life is not fair and it is not predictable. All these things make up our lives as we go from Birth to Death. Time never stands still and for each moment something is happening to each and every one of us. How we react to these happenings is what makes us all different. How we think about ourselves makes us all different. How we plan for tomorrow makes us all different. How we accept believing in Christ and that he died for us so that we could be with him after death makes us all different. But, what makes us all the same is HOW we BELIEVE and HOW we PREPARE for the next life. We are all on the same path, just at different times getting to the end. How we travel this path is our own individual choice. But, the choices to live a good life, to love one another, to use our God given talents and not waste them, to BELIEVE and to have FAITH no matter what life throws at us are all choices we can make. It is these choices that make us all the same.

Prayerfully submitted, *Bob Brewster, Moderator*

OPERATIONS & FINANCE TEAM



Welcome to March and the beginning of Spring. I am pleased to report that all the facility and grounds are in good shape. As you all can see the Sanctuary painting has been completed by Premier Renovations and it looks great! At the recent meeting the Council discussed sealing of the Scripture verses. Next on the list is obtaining an estimate for cleaning and sealing of the Sanctuary and restroom floors.

Yours in the faith. *Art Horton, Chairman, Alan Holcomb, Andy Stebenne*

Operating Budget to Actual as of 1/30/2025



	<u>January Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Difference</u>
Income	18,266.58	18,266.58	20,104.58	(1,838.00)
Expensed	<u>11,917.24</u>	<u>11,917.24</u>	<u>13,560.88</u>	(1,643.64)
Profit/(Loss)	6,349.34	6,349.34	6,543.70	(194.36)

We had a profit of \$6,349.34 for the month of January which put us very close to our budget number of \$6,543.70. A very good way to begin the new year! As always our thanks go out to all our wonderful volunteer and to all who support of Church.

*Respectfully Submitted, Barbara Horton,
Treasurer*

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

On Sunday, February 16th, we were delighted to welcome Pastor Javier and his wife Yarisís León and our organist/pianist Daniel Weimer to our congregation. All three were received as a Reaffirmation of Faith. Congratulations and welcome; we're blessed to have you!



THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



We are looking forward to our new signage out front for Taylor Rd. area to advertise our Thrift Store. Our volunteer staff continues to grow, as we welcome Lenny, Andy and Tom to help with all the incoming donations and going through these items. We are hoping to transform our former furniture room into smaller pieces that can be cash and carry items to move quickly. There is always a slow period, but we know that God's plan for us allows us this rest time to replenish and do much needed cleaning. It is wonderful to meet all the new shoppers that keep coming in daily as our numbers keep growing! Our friendly staff and unbeatable prices are truly the key to being successful! Praise God for all his blessings on us.

Emily McLean, Manager

MISSION NOTE

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2025 CAMPAIGN - LOVE REMAINS -

MARCH 30TH. 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 2nd is our next collection day. Over 20 bags of food were collected last month which benefited Halifax Urban Ministries. Thanks to Ruth Brewster for delivering the food. **Please make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates.**

SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

This month's Fellowship Dinner is on **Thursday, March 13th at 6:00 PM**, in the Jim Reed Room.

It's a "Pot luck" Dinner. Sign-up Sheet will be circulated during Worship.



BIBLE STUDY

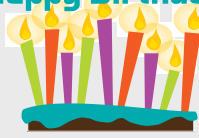


"Wired Word" Bible Study will always be held on the **1st and 3rd Sunday** of each month at **11:00 AM** (right after church service 9:30-10:30 AM.) We hold the class at the church in the Sanctuary.

March 02: Only 36% of Americans can pass citizenship test: Would you pass are you a good Christian test?

March 16: Passenger jet and helicopter crash-rush to judgment-I "need to know" contrary to faith

Happy Birthday!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS*

Sharon Williamson	3/4
Shirley Stever	3/12
Bill Wheeler, Sr.	3/16
Denise Gates	3/21



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES*

Richard & Vivien Devins	3/24/1984
Chuck & Erika Henderson	3/25/1972



PRAYER REQUESTS*

Sue Batturs	Member of POUCC
Bob Gaither	Member of POUCC
Erica Henderson	Friend of POUCC
Chuck Konopsky	Member of POUCC
Liz Mills	Former Member of POUCC
Paul Shaffner	Friend of POUCC

In Care Facilities

Margie Hoebing Friend of POUCC (Care Center, PO)

Special

All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families
Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide
Those recovering from the California wildfires.



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

POUCC MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <i>DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH.</i>						1 Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am
2 Worship Service 9:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am MOL* Worship Service 3:00 pm	3 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	4 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	5 	6 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	7	8 Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am
9 Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL Worship Service 3:00 pm	10 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	11 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	12	13 Weight Watchers 9:30 am Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	14	15 Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am Council Meeting 10:00 am
16 Worship Service 9:30 am Bible Study 11:00 am MOL* Worship Service 3:00 pm	17 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm 	18 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	19	20 Weight Watchers 9:30 am 	21	22 Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am
23 Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am MOL Worship Service 3:00 pm	24 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	25 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	26	27 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	28	29 Weight Watchers 7:30 & 9:00 am

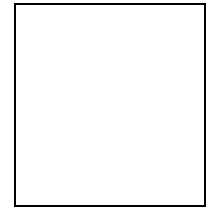
30 **Sunrise Service**
7:00 am
Worship Service
9:30 am
MOL Worship
3:00 pm

31 **MOL Bible Study**
7:00 pm

Thrift Store Hours: M-F 9 am – 2 pm
Church Office Hours: M-F 9 am - 1 pm

*Mountain of Light Church

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Office Hours

9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Thrift Store Hours

9:00 AM—2:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM



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