



**Port Orange
United Church of Christ**
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Volume 45, Issue 5

May 2023

SENIOR PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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Staff

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Patricia Holcomb

Office Manager:
Kathy Shaffner

Custodian:
Ronnie Servant

Thrift Store Manager:
Bob & Jackie Gaither

Media Communications:
Bob Brewster



Thought for the Month: God is Still Speaking!

From the Pastor's Desk:

For most of my ministry, I have included the words: "Friends, God is still speaking. And we are still listening" after reading the scripture each Sunday. In addition to it being part of a United Church of Christ motto, it has always reminded me that the Bible is the inspired word of God, written down by man and not the exact word of God. It keeps me focused as I work on my weekly messages by cautioning me to be careful in how I research, interpret and write in the message.

I recently read this story told by the Rev. Peter Panagore in his book, *Two Minutes for God* (2007), and I thought it tied in nicely with the continuing work of the United Church of Christ associated with the motto: "God is Still Speaking". I never knew where the expression came from until I read this and then checked it out.

For the young among us, George Burns and Gracie Allen were a vaudeville comedy team and marital partners who also performed on radio and on television. Gracie, who was actually the brains, heart, and soul of the partnership, played a lovable airhead whose misunderstandings were laughable. At the end of their shows, George would say, "Say goodnight, Gracie." She'd say, "Good night, Gracie."

When she was dying, she feared for George. In the final love note she penned to him just before she died, she wrote, "Never place a period where God has placed a comma....." (another motto used by the UCC).

Lots of us, for all sorts of sincere reasons, have put periods where we ought to have commas:

- God doesn't love me (period).
- God is not there for me (period).
- God has abandoned me (period).
- I do not believe in God (period).
- God does not like Muslims or Blacks (period).
- God says being a homosexual is wrong (period).
- Women do not belong in the pulpit (period).

The thing is, God sincerely believes in us (period). Each and every one of us are made in God's image (period). Sometimes our own ideas get in our way. Sometimes we do all we can to block God out, by putting periods and "No Trespassing" signs all over our lives. We need to remember that God is still speaking to us, if only we would remove the periods and add a comma or two here and there.

This story is representative of the 2004 UCC initiative expressed through the "God is Still Speaking" campaign. The campaign has reflected the need for the United Church of Christ to spread its message of extravagant welcome which continues to historically reshape our understanding of the Christian faith and proclamation. The campaign's goal has been to let everyone know that anyone could find a spiritual home in the United Church of Christ, be strengthened and nurtured in their faith and be blessed to reach out to others with their God-given gifts and talents.

Today, as part of the United Church of Christ under one collective identity, we can enthusiastically lift up that the UCC is a welcoming, justice-minded Christian community. At a time when religion is too often portrayed as narrow-minded and exclusive, many are raising their VOICES for an alternate vision, one –

- Where God is all-loving and inclusive.
- Where the Church of Jesus Christ welcomes and truly accepts everyone as they are.
- Where your mind is nourished as much as your soul.
- Where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary.
- Where together we grow a just and peaceful world.

Today in 2023, this concept is still reflected in a shorter form of "God is still speaking" using the simple term "Stillspeaking." The message is the same and reminds us that God still has a lot more to say and we have more to listen to. It has helped churches and individuals across the country make religion relevant again and to extend an extravagant welcome to all – because "no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." Here in the United Church of Christ, of which we at POUCC, are an integral part.

May we all work tirelessly to live out the commandments of Christ to love God and love our neighbors remembering that God is still speaking to us, even in 2023

May God shower you with many blessings in the month of May.

Peace,
PASTOR PAT

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



April Showers, Bring May Flowers” Here at POUCC, there is something going on every day and somebody doing good for somebody else all the time. Our church is starting to “Bloom” again! Under the ministerial guidance of Pastor Pat Holcomb and the wonderful, insightful messages she brings each Sunday, we are seeing new church growth beginning to happen again. Throughout the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic, our church never really stopped functioning. Oh, yes, there were a few Sundays where worship stopped but they were quickly replaced with audio broadcasts of our church services and then relatively quickly compared to most other churches, we started back to live services. And, now today we are seeing new people coming to our church. We are experiencing a movement from people seeking to hear a clear message about Christ's teachings and how his 2,000-year-old message is more true today than ever before. Our blended service of Traditional & Contemporary music and spiritual teachings filled with God's messages are straight-forward and clear. We are a growing church family with a simple mission – **Let People Know That God is Still Speaking! And, We Are Still Listening!** *(Continued on next page)*

So, as you visit our church, whether only on Sundays or you are here for various reasons throughout the week, don't forget to tell others about who we are and how they can also cut through the "noise" of day-to-day life and listen with us, too.

Prayerfully submitted. *Bob Brewster, Moderator*

OPERATION & FINANCE TEAM

Financial Update — Operational Budget as 3/31/2023



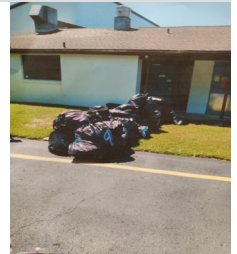
	MARCH ACTUAL	YTD ACTUAL	BUDGET ACTUAL	YTD DIFFERENCE
Income	\$ 12,389.50	\$ 38,494.15	\$ 27,816.03	\$ 10,678.12
Expenses	\$ 9,759.05	\$ 33,273.42	\$ 37,430.71	\$ 4,157.29
Profit/Loss	\$ 2,630.45	\$ 5,220.73	\$ 9,614.68)	\$ 14,835.41

We had a profit again in March mostly due to the Thrift Store being over budget and also having no costly projects going on during that period. Of course, the income from the rental of the Jim Reed Room is extremely helpful as well. 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



We are beginning to merchandise the La Costa Yard Sale overrun. The customers continue to be very pleased with our various sales. If you know of anyone who is in need of a walker or wheelchair, please let us know and we will be happy to provide them one on loan. In the past month we supplied the Red Cross with large amounts of clothes (72 bags to be exact as you can see from the picture), afghans and ties to Boggy Creek and mugs to Palmetto House.. Thanks to all our dedicated



volunteers, those who continue to donate and our many patrons. *Bob & Jackie Gaither, Managers*

FOOD BASKET SUNDAY

Communion Sundays are designated as "Fill the Food Basket" Sunday. As a reminder, **May 7th is our next collection day.** Over 60 bags 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



POUCC has a wonderful monthly Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed Room. Entertainment follows the monthly dinners.

Our Next Dinner is Thursday, May 11th, 6:00 PM. It's a Pot Luck!

See the sign-up sheet circulated at Worship Services.



MAY 14TH
WE WISH ALL THE MOMS OF THE
CONGREGATION A VERY HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



Jean Trawinski	5/2
Sonnie Zinke	5/5
Grace Kern	
Sue Batturs	5/7
June Ferreri	5/9
Charla Manning	5/14
Mary Ann Stewart	5/27
Richard Devins, Sr.	
Ingrid Claunch	5/31

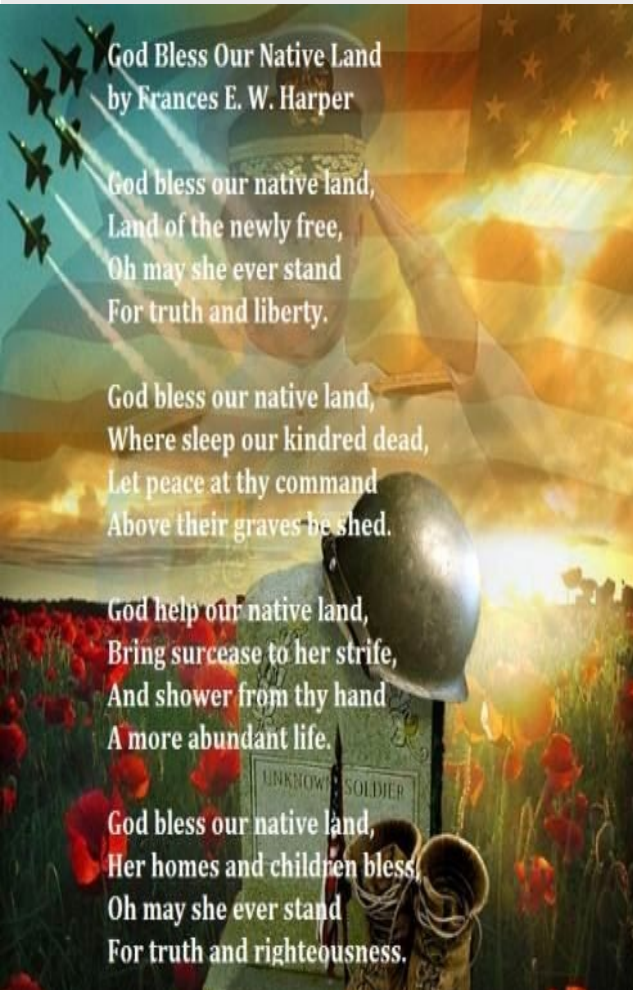
PRAYER REQUESTS*

Charlie & Molly Baskin	Members of POUCC
Beth & Chris Brown	Family of Sheila Fisher
Rafael Castels	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Kathy Cratin	Member of POUCC
Lou Gilhooly	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Harry & Jim Manchester	Family of Sheila Fisher
Luanne Mauldin	Friend 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
Bill Tinney	Friend of POUCC
Seth Wanie	Family of Bill & Susie Greiff
Darlene Wolfson	Friend of Sheila Fisher

MAY ANNIVERSARIES*



Jackie & Bob Gaither	5/08/1982
Kristin & Peter Marshall	5/16/2015



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

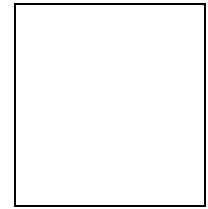


Note: *Please contact the church office to update our records if we missed your special date, and with any Prayer Concern updates.

POUCC May 2023

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

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Office Hours

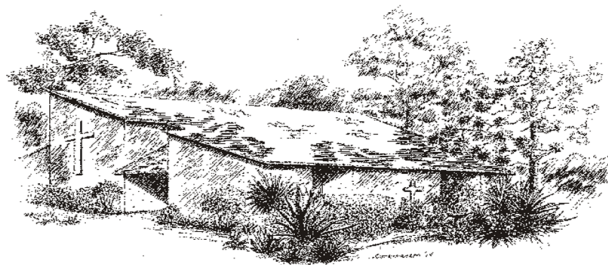
9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Monday—Friday

Thrift Store Hours

9:00 AM—2:00 PM
Monday—Friday
9:00 AM—Noon
Saturday

Sunday Worship

9:30 AM



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