



**Port Orange  
United Church of Christ**  
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**Volume 48, Issue 5**

**May 2026**

**MODERATOR'S MESSAGE**



**All About “Nothing”**

This month, as Moderator, I have been straining to write something meaningful and insightful that could also be inspirational and spiritual. As I ran various thoughts through my mind without much success as a topic, I thought of William Shakespeare’s play titled “Much Ado About Nothing”. This play was written in 1598 and 1599. The word “Nothing” in the play’s title first caught my attention. Shakespeare’s play was about deception and misunderstandings between its central characters. The play highlighted the complexities of human relationships, love, and misinterpretations from observing others. As I thought more about this, I concluded that this is exactly what has been happening to many churches and congregations in today’s world. People are observing and misinterpreting the messages from the Bible and how they apply directly to our lives in this “Modern” world. For years I have felt there is no difference between people today and those who existed around Jesus during His time. Jesus spent 3-years before His earthly death trying to tell people what they needed to do to live a life that would follow Him after our earthly death. In church, pastors present messages and stories about all kinds of events and people to keep their listeners’ attention and hopefully bring them back the next Sunday. In the mix are all kinds of traditions within the service—hymns, singing, prayers, offerings, etc.—that are basically the same every church service. These traditions are often done through pure memory, almost like reciting the alphabet or counting to 100. People do it automatically without much thought. The Lord’s Prayer for example has been taught to all of us as Christians since we were small children or whenever else we learned it later in life. We repeat the Lord’s Prayer in every service, but do we “feel” this prayer? In other words, do we sincerely *feel* the words as we speak them? Are we reciting this prayer from our heart or just our memory? Now, back to my first thought about “Nothing”. I believe we have confused our observations and relationships with others about “Nothing” with nothing being crisscrossed signals that hide what Christ truly wanted us to know about this life. In today’s tangled mess of politics, economics, and finger pointing “*he said..she said*” communications, we are distracted from the real messages coming from Christ and the Bible. We are letting our lives be controlled by “Nothing” in the outside world while we should be following His word in our lives in the Spiritual World.

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**Staff**

**Moderator:**

Bob Brewster

**Office Manager:**

Kathy Shaffner

**Custodian:**

Ronnie Servant

**Missions:**

Jackie Gaither

**Thrift Store Manager:**

Rachel Sitpu

**Organist/Pianist:**

Daniel Weimer

**Media Communications:**

Bob Brewster

To be clear, I like traditions in and outside of church. I am only advocating keeping a clear and involved mind when following these traditions. Do not just be “going through the motions”. Being a Christian is not being a good church goer following a tradition of attendance, it is doing every day what Jesus commanded us to do. “Love thy neighbor as thou would Love Yourself.” Doing this is not “Nothing”. Doing this is “Everything!” Prayerfully written, *Bob Brewster, Moderator*

## OPERATIONS & FINANCE TEAM



Hope everyone had a Happy Easter. Welcome to May and the beginning of heat and humidity! The facility and grounds are looking great and all is going well. Have a great month! .

### Operating Budget to Actual as of 3/31/2026

	<u>March Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Difference</u>
Income	20,637.80	48,723.22	48,099.19	624.03
Expenses	<u>11,958.91</u>	<u>35,645.45</u>	<u>42,915.26</u>	(7,269.81)
Profit/(Loss)	8,678.89	13,077.77	5,183.93	<u>7,893.84</u>

### CD & MM Income as of 3/31/2026

<b>YTD Interest Income:</b>	401.53
<b>Other expenses</b>	<u>(200.00)</u>



Combined Profit/(Loss) 13,279.30

We had a profit of \$ 8,278.89 for the month of March and a profit of \$ 13,077.77 for the three month period. We had a total profit of \$ 13,279.30 for that period which includes the interest income and other expenses. As always our thanks go out to our wonderful volunteers and to all who support our Church.

*Respectfully Submitted, Barbara Horton, Treasurer*

## THE GIFT & THRIFT STORE



Dear Church Family,  
 It's been a wonderful week, and we have received so many donations every single day. Our sales last week were very successful. We are in need of volunteers for the 1st 2nd Saturdays. If you or someone you know can help, please let me know. Here are some of my favorite quotes that I would like to share: *"Two rules for staying mentally healthy as we age: Rule 1: Wake up every morning knowing what you are going to do that day. Rule 2: Go to bed every night knowing that you helped someone."* Blessings, *Rachel Sitepu, Manager*

## MISSION OFFERING

Strengthen  
the Church

SENT FORTH IN  
**LOVE**

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. The offering will be received **ON Pentecost, May 24th.** and the envelopes will be an insert in your weekly bulletin.

## FOOD BASKET SUNDAY

Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. As a reminder, **May 3rd is our next collection day.** Over 10 bags of food were collected last month which benefited a local food pantry. **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 14th, 6:00 PM.***

***It's a Pot Luck! See the sign-up sheet circulated at Worship Service.***

As a reminder, Fellowship Dinners will be taking the summer off and will return in September. A big thank you to Sharon Williamson and you the members and friends for all the great dishes that are enjoyed by all.

## MOUNTAIN OF LIGHT UPCOMING EVENT

**CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE – May 31, 2026. 3:00 PM**



*Mother's Day  
Blessings*

Just as God  
gives to each rose  
a gentle touch of dew  
and gives  
unto each evening sky  
the lovely sunset's hue

So may He give to you  
from His enduring Love  
Great happiness  
and heart's content  
and blessings from above.

**Happy**  
*Mother's  
Day*



Happy Birthday!



### MAY BIRTHDAYS\*

Jean Trawinski	5/2
Sonnie Zinke	5/5
Sue Batturs	5/7
Charla Manning	5/14
Richard Devins, Sr.	
Ingrid Claunch	5/31

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES\*

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



Sue Batturs	Member of POUCC
Larry & Susan Belzac	Canadian Friends of Shelia Fisher
John Castelli	Friend of Bob & Ruth Brewster
Ingrid Claunch	Member of POUCC
Dallas Dale Davis	Former Member of POUCC
Bob Gaither	Member of POUCC
Steve Grant	Member of POUCC
Erica Henderson	Friend of POUCC
Eric Hollbrook	Nephew of Bob & Ruth Brewster
Chuck Konopsky	Member of POUCC
Jose León	Father of Pastor Javier
Pastor Yarisis León	Member of POUCC
Douglas Paul	Family of Janey & Dan Weimer
Potenza Family Members	Family of Denise & Don Gates
Liz Mills	Former Member of POUCC
Lydia Nevarez	Mother of Pastor Javier
Robert Stein	Friend of Bob & Ruth Brewster
Bob Traver	Friend of Bob & Ruth Brewster

#### In Care Facilities

Margie Hoebing Friend of POUCC (Care Center, PO)

#### Special Needs

Victims of the Recent Tornados

All of Our Military, Veterans & Their Families

Those Fighting Terrorism Worldwide

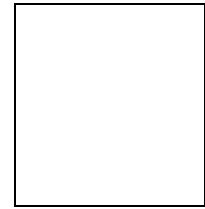


**Note: \*Please contact the church office to update our records and if we missed your special date, and with any Prayer Concern updates.**

# POUCC May 2026

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

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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

First Two Saturday's of Month

9:00AM—Noon

**Sunday Worship**

9:30 AM



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