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United Church of Christ**  
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**November 2023**

**PASTORS'S MESSAGE**

**Thought for the Month: Give thanks anyways!**



From the Pastor's Desk -

For the past two weeks, I was blessed to spend time with family and friends in Maine and Massachusetts to celebrate the marriage of one of my niece's. It was extra special since I was able to perform the ceremony. The venue she selected was set in a quaint Connecticut town near the Massachusetts border. It had an old barn renovated as a rustic hall for receptions. The actual ceremony was held outside which was quite risky for the month of October in New England. In fact, it was a chilly 52 degrees out when the ceremony began and my teeth were chattering. It was a beautiful celebration but definitely reminded me of why we live in the sunny south.

November brings the start of the busy holiday rush beginning this month with Thanksgiving. As families and friends gather together for the Thanksgiving holiday at a table somewhere, grace is generally prayed with some semblance of sincerity. Usually it sounds something like this: "God, we thank you for all the good gifts you've given us this year...for our family and friends, for our love, for our children, for good food and clothes and heat, for gathering us together, for the DVD player, for the deer I got, for our health, for teens who clean their room, etc...."

This is all well and good but I feel there's something to note – there are plenty of people who've had a bad year and might find it hard to see anything to be thankful for. Maybe this year a job was lost, or a divorce happened, or finances have been especially tight, or someone died. Maybe there's imprisonment, or military deployment overseas, or homelessness, estrangement, abuse or perhaps the doctor said the big "C" word. Whatever the trouble, in tough circumstances it's hard to be thankful – hard, but not impossible.

God is not a puppeteer pulling our strings to make our lives easy or hard, although, admittedly, it can seem this way. The book of Job teaches that God sends rain on the just and the unjust alike, and sends sunshine on the righteous and the unrighteous. Good things happen to bad people, and bad things happen to good people. Some of it, is our doing, some of it is simply life. Whatever happened this year, even if you're angry at God – take a moment to remember and give thanks that no matter what, no matter how good or bad it seems, God loves you and you are important and valuable to God.

Best wishes for a Thanksgiving full of gratitude!

*Pastor Pat*

Pastor's Message	1
Moderator's Message & Operations & Finance Team,	2
Stewardship Campaign	4
Gift & Thrift Store, Food Basket Sunday, Fellowship, Bible Study & Special Thanks	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries & Prayer Concerns	6
Calendar	7

**Staff**

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

## MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



Incredibly, we are in the final TWO months of 2023. Our Church has been able to dramatically increase activities on all levels from use of the church facilities, Thrift Store growth, Church Services, Fellowship Dinners, Bible study classes and having Pastor Pat meet with those in need counseling in her newly painted office. I believe that we have done a great job of using the days, weeks and months of this year in wise and productive ways. We have been able improve our facilities through hard work of church members, generous giving, and growing Thrift Store income. November and December are going to go by very fast. They seem to be the two most active months of the year and I feel this year they will go by even faster. Now, is the time to give serious thoughts about things we still need to do before the year ends. We all have to do lists for personal things and I am suggesting that we all should have a list of things we still need to do for our church. Do not wait to make a New Year's Resolution of things for these two lists, get started on them NOW! More specifically, think about what you can do for our Church before the year ends. I will say more about this elsewhere in this newsletter when presenting ideas for Stewardship. I want to emphasize that "time" is not our friend when we have things to do and we put them off. My recent health challenge has reminded me that we are all mortal beings with limited time to do things in our lifetimes. We must take action daily to get things started and eventually completed. God has given us only one life to live. Wasting the God given gift of **Time** is not what God wants us to do. Wisely invest your time in helping yourself so that you can help others is not only tremendously satisfying but it is also tremendously energizing and gives us a purpose. Use your time wisely!

*Bob Brewster, Moderator*

## OPERATIONS & FINANCE TEAM



**Reed Room Floor:** Malibu construction provided a quote to remove the existing carpet and install LVT matching the product we are using in the hallway and bathrooms at a cost of \$14,118.00. We decided at the June Council meeting to hold off on this project and see if we can find a willing "sponsor" to pay for this project. **Project "on hold"**.

**APS Security Cameras:** Kath will explain her conversations with APS and the progress that has been made and [www.totalconnect2.com](http://www.totalconnect2.com) procedures. Also the camera on the dumpster needs adjustment, scheduled for Wednesday November 8th at 9:30 AM.

**Security Lighting in the Back of the Thrift Store:** It has become apparent with the expansion of the thrift store additional night lighting is necessary for the back area of the thrift store sidewalk, apron, parking lot and dumpster areas. I am looking at possible options to illuminate the dumpster area. Installation will be as soon as I have time to do so. Four of the eight wall lights have been installed. The existing flood light at the end of the Thrift store has been installed. It appears 3 additional wall lights will need to be installed. FPL monthly bill: our demand charge has enhanced to a point where last months bill was over \$600.00. I have been in contact with FLP and they are investigating the reason. We also have an energy audit to be conducted on November 7th.

### **Additional Work Completed:**

**Exterior Doors:** Three new exterior doors have been installed by Malibu Construction.

**Thrift Store Emergency Lighting:** Installation in all rooms has commenced.

**Pastors' Office:** Ceiling and walls patched and painted.. **Work completed by Alan Holcomb and Art Horton.**

*(Continued on next page.)*

A professional HVAC supply duct and register installed in the ceiling. **Work complete.** Air Techs of Volusia County is also going to install a supply duct and tie into one of the existing ceiling registers in the Reed hallway. **Work Completed.**

**Drainage:** French Drains were installed for two of the leaders on the sidewalk side of the Reed building, deteriorated sod was removed and new sod placed by Peaceful Palms Landscaping. A quote is forthcoming for an additional French drain for two leaders, Drains will be cleaned out under the sidewalk and new sod will be replaced.

**Irrigation System:** Is operational but all the sprinkler heads need to be tested and repaired and/or replaced as necessary.

**Additional Projects to Discuss Further:**

**Thrift Store Annex Building:** We are awaiting a quote,

**Sanctuary Bathrooms/Hallway:** Purchase and install four new HC toilets, four sink faucets, replace the pitted handicap hand rails. and paint ceiling and walls. We have left over ceiling and wall paint which will be used in that area. Quote from Premier Renovation was approved by the Council.

Installation of emergency lights on both sides of the bathroom hallway in the Sanctuary will be completed after bathrooms and hallway have been painted. *Art Horton, Operations Chair*

**Financial Update - Operational Budget as 9/30/23**



	<u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Difference</u>
Income	13,762.25	126,091.56	82,566.09	43,525.47
Expenses	<u>9,837.34</u>	<u>101,779.78</u>	<u>106,629.50</u>	<u>(4,849.72)</u>
Profit/(Loss)	3,924.91	24,311.78	(24,063.41)	48,375.19

**Other Income/Expenses as of 9/30/2023  
Capital Improvements**

	<u>YTD Actual</u>
Income	5,590.00
Expenses	<u>53,138.86</u>
Profit/(Loss)	(47,548.86)

Combined Profit/Loss) (23,237.08)

Due to the fabulous job the Store is doing and the income from our rentals we are showing an Operational profit of \$3,924.91 for the month of September and a profit of 24,311.78 year to date. We had estimated a loss of \$240,63.41 for that period but we did not have the rental income from Weight Watchers in our budget forecast nor did we anticipate a profit from the Thrift Store in excess of \$36,000.00 for that period. We have a combined Operational and Capital Improvement loss of 23,237.08 at the end of September. We are fortunate to have a great team of volunteers at the Thrift Store and to have acquired the additional rental income. Our thanks to our amazing volunteers and all who support our Church. *Barbara Horton, Treasurer*

## STWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Fellow Members and Friends of Port Orange United Church of Christ - as far as I can remember this time of the year in every church I have attended is the time for some type of Stewardship Campaign. This campaign has as its prime purpose the reminder to everyone that we should all be giving financial support to our church and its overall ministry. These campaigns focus attention on urging everyone to pledge what they will be giving financially for the coming year. The results of this campaign are to allow the Church the ability to create a budget for what will be done the following year. A formal Stewardship Campaign may involve presentations, making special pleas from the pulpit, mailings and other reach out activities. Giving usually results from all this effort and the Stewardship Campaign is usually successful. This year, we are going to keep it very simple. Our Church is successful because we have people, members and friends, willing to work and give both their financial and their time support to our church. Our Thrift Store is carrying the majority of our church's financial requirements including the many missions we are able to support due to this success. Because our Church membership has been reduced, our annual giving has been reduced. The reality is that we are not expecting individual giving to increase because we think everyone is already doing what they can. However, we feel that there are other ways of giving that can have a long-term sustaining effect on our Church after many of us are less active and able to give or if the day comes where we pass from this life to the next. Some members are donating a portion the money earned from investments, property sales and other one-time incomes. Some of this coming from retirement accounts where a mandatory Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) must be taken each year per IRS rules. Did you know that any funds donated directly from a retirement account to our Church are also tax free? This means a \$1,000 donation from an IRA or other tax deferred retirement account is a \$1,000 donation. 100%! Otherwise, income taxes are due to the IRS. Where is this money better invested? With the government or with our church? There are many other ways to donate one-time or repeating. Our Church website has big RED BUTTON title "Donation". You can hit it and make a one-time donation or you can tell it to make a monthly repeating donation. Think about all this. What can you do? *Bob Brewster, Moderator*

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### MY PERSONAL GOAL TO GOD AND TO PORT ORANGE UCC

**Out of gratitude for God's gifts and trusting God's enabling power, I/we have made the following faith-promise:**

<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 10	Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	Other _____	Yearly	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15		Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

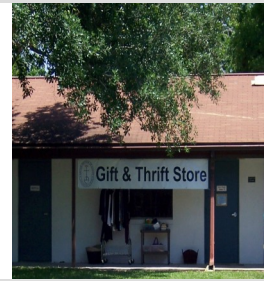
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE

The Thrift Store continues to thrive, and we are seeing increased numbers in new customers daily. We are making small changes to different areas in the store to make it more efficient to get around. We have had nothing but positive feedback from our shoppers, they say the store looks more open and well organized. I am grateful to all our volunteers that continue to work so hard to help us be a wonderful service to our community. *Emily McLean, Manager*



**Please note the Church Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 23 & 24.  
The Gift & Thrift Store will be closed Thursday but will reopen on Friday.**

## YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS



Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. As a reminder, November 5th is our next collection day and will again benefit “Halifax Urban Ministry”. Over 28 bags of food were collected last month for the pantry. Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart for delivering the food. If we all bring a food donation, we will fill the basket each month. **Please make sure all donations have NOT passed their expiration dates.**

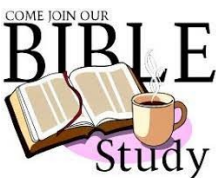
## THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP DINNER

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

*Our next Fellowship Dinner is Thursday, November 9th.  
It's a “Thanksgiving Feast” -- Turkey Provided! You bring the Sides & Desserts. Sign-up Sheet will be circulated during Worship Service.*



## BIBLE STUDY



**POUCC Bible Study:** POUCC “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.

*November 5<sup>th</sup>, first Sunday: UFO's and the Bible.*

*November 19, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Popular Drug placebo and effective spiritual remedies.*

## SPECIAL THANKS



To Denise & Don Gates for representing our Church at the Port Orange Halloween Trunk & Treat at City Center on October 31st. Looks like it was a lot of fun. *Great Job Denise & Don!*





## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS\*

Peggy Fodor	11/2
Vivien Devins	11/5
Jack Barrick	11/6
Bob Brewster	11/12
Don Gates	11/16
Barbara Horton	11/19
Ted Yaeger,	11/22
Grace Manning	11/27

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES\*



Diane & Scott Kirlin	11/2/1996
Pastor Pat's Ordination	11/07



***"Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."***

*Revelation 7:12, NRSV*

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

## PRAYER REQUESTS\*

Charlie & Molly Baskin	Members of POUCC
Deb Blink	Canadian friend of Sheila Fisher
Bob Brewster	Member of POUCC
Doug Brittain	Canadian Friend of Sheila Fisher
Beth & Chris Brown	Daughter & Son-in-Law of Sheila Fisher
Rafael Castels	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Lori Gillhooly	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Stephanie James	Friend of Emily McLean
Janie Janelle	Family of Larry Janelle & Sheila Fisher
Harry & Jim Manchester	Family of Shelia Fisher
Frank & Carol Matos	Friends of Molly Baskin
Luanne Mauldin	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Liz Mills	Former Member of POUCC
Hollie Morgan	Family friend of Sheila Fisher
Howie Mumma	Friend of Sharon Williamson
Jeremy Parker	Canadian friend of Sheila Fisher
Carmella Potenza	Granddaughter of Don & Denise Gates
Kay & Don Schweitzer	Members of POUCC
John Sedgwick	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Renee Smith	Friend of Beth Brown & Sheila Fisher
Amy Stevens	Daughter of Jackie & Bob Gaither
Tammy & Danny	Friends of Ann Tobin
Seth Wanie	Family of Bill & Susie Greiff
Joseph Williamson	Son of Sharon Williamson
Darlene Wolfson	Friend of Sheila Fisher
Ron Zinke	Member of POUCC

### In Care Facilities

Margie Hoebing	Friend of POUCC (Care Center in PO)
Marge Monat	Member of POUCC (Care Center in DB)



### Special Needs

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



*\*Please contact the Church Office (788-0920) with your prayer requests.*

# POUCC November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	3	4 Weight Watchers 7:30 am 9:00 am
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 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	8	9 Weight Watchers 9:30 am Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm	10	11 Weight Watchers 7:30 am 9:00 am
12 Worship Service 9:30 am MOL* Worship Service 6:00 pm	13 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	14 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	15	16 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	17	18 Weight Watchers 7:30 am 9:00 am Council 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 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving  Office & Thrift Store Closed	24 Office Closed	25 Weight Watchers 7:30 am 9:00 am
26 Worship Service 9:30 am MOL* Worship Service 6:00 pm	27 MOL Bible Study 7:00 pm	28 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	29	30 Weight Watchers 9:30 am	*Mountain of Light Church	

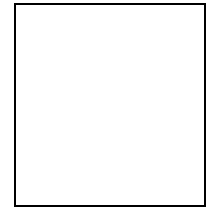
*Fellowship Hour: Following Sunday Worship*

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



***Remember We Fall Back An Hour Sunday, November 5th.***

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**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  
**Gift & Thrift Store Manager:** 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

9:00 AM—Noon

Saturday

**Sunday Worship**

9:30 AM



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