



POUCC Impressions

Volume 45, Issue 9

September 2023

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

**Port Orange
United Church of Christ**
651 Taylor Road
Port Orange, FL 32127
Office 386-788-0920
Email:
poucc651@gmail.com
Website:
www.portorangeucc.org



From the Pastor's Desk –

I spent 34 years in education before retiring and going to seminary. As a classroom teacher, I needed to come up with rules to assist with the smooth operation of the classroom. My first year of teaching, I tried to keep the list to no more than ten. I quickly learned that I needed more rules to cover all the things that occurred in the classroom and on the playground. As I started to list them out, I realized that a long list wouldn't

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1 work. I was a primary teacher and the list I was writing was too much for young learners to remember. This led me to rethink what is truly necessary for the children to learn and how can I express it in as simple a way as possible.

2 If you have been in church recently, you have heard me share what I finally settled on for my rules during the "Message for All Ages." I chose to have no more than
3 three rules. The first one: BE KIND; if you couldn't remember the first one, there was the second one: BE KIND; and if that one didn't stick with you, you could
4 remember the third one: BE KIND. If you think about it, almost everything can be
5 covered by these three rules, e.g. hitting someone is not kind; cutting in line is not kind; telling someone they can't play with you is not kind; calling someone a name
6 is not kind, etc.

7 These simple rules work for young and old alike and I used them as needed when I taught courses for teachers as an adjunct professor for the university and as a school administrator. They were simple but effective.

In the Old Testament books of Exodus and Deuteronomy, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. As the people of Israel grew in number and developed a Temple structure that included Pharisees/Priests and cultural needs, that number expanded to as many as 613 laws. These laws are carefully spelled out in several books in the Old Testament. I personally find the book of Leviticus difficult to read because it's full of these laws. Trying to remember 613 laws was challenging, not unlike the problem I had with having a large number of rules for the classroom.

Fortunately, the New Testament makes this task easier for us. God sent Christ to teach us how to live and Jesus simplified it by giving us just two commandments to live by: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 22:37-40). The Ten Commandments and all 613 rules in the Old Testament can be summed up by the two great commandments from Jesus. *(Continued on next page.)*

Staff

Pastor:
Rev. Patricia Holcomb

Office Manager:
Kathy Shaffner

Custodian:
Ronnie Servant

Thrift Store:
Jackie & Bob Gaither

Media Communications:
Bob Brewster



In John 13:14, Jesus seemed to clarify the second part of these commandments with this: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. Jesus seemed to simplify the commandments from the Old Testament for us just as I learned that I needed to simplify my classroom rules for the children. The behaviors in my classrooms were always measured against my three basic rules and I believe we can measure our behaviors even today against the two new commandments Jesus gave us.

As we watch the news and observe people's behavior around us, kindness appears to be in short supply. I believe our society is in great need of these two commandments from Jesus. May I suggest that each of us begin in our own little corner of the world and help the process along by examining our own lives and measuring our own daily behaviors against Jesus' two commandments. To me, loving our neighbors as ourselves means treating all those we meet with dignity and respect or if you prefer: Be Kind, Be Kind, Be Kind. Not always an easy thing to do, but one that needs to be done in any civil society. I encourage you to challenge yourself to find ways to: Be Kind Be Kind, Be Kind in many ways each and every day. Research, suggest, if you do it every day for a month, it just may become a habit! Blessings,

PASTOR PAT

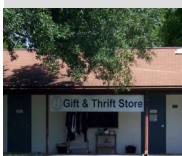
MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

The world is full of trauma! Storms, fires, earthquakes, floods, diseases, tornados, etc. – all from Mother Nature. But, the worst of all is War, where we as human beings cannot find a way to settle our differences except through physical intimidation and killing. We as people seem to look for ways to create turmoil amongst ourselves. Now before you start thinking, Bob sounds like such a pessimist in his usually upbeat Moderator's message why is he sounding so morbid and so negative? Did something happen? The answer is "No", nothing has happened. As I am writing this article, I am watching Hurricane Idalia as it is bearing down on Florida and more specifically Florida's Gulf Coast. We have relatives and friends in its path and it is natural to worry about them. Whether it means evacuation and getting ready by putting up hurricane panels and all the other endless preparations, we cannot help but worry and hope that everyone will be alright. We also worry about ourselves if we are in Idalia's path. Here's the point I want to share with you. Like the actions we take to prepare for a coming storm, we must also prepare our lives for its coming end. By the time you are reading this POUCC Newsletter, Hurricane Idalia will most likely be past. The damage done. The recovery process started. But, what about our lives? How do we prepare ourselves for its eventual end while we are living each day? How do we prepare through good times and bad times? We focus on physical preparation, hopefully, by eating right, exercising, and being generally healthy. But, what about spiritual preparation? Like a coming storm or some other type of impending disaster, where we take action to get ready, we also need to be preparing our lives each day for the eventual unpredictable end of our lives. The fact that you are reading this POUCC newsletter is evidence that you are preparing yourself spiritually. You are part of our church family whether here or far away. You are keeping Christ in your life. You are part of a spiritual family that believes life is meant to challenge us, where the TEST is how we handle it. This is what Jesus taught to his disciples and what he shared in his enduring messages to all of us. Do not be afraid but prepare.

John 16:33

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Prayerfully written, *Bob Brewster, Moderator*

THE GIFT AND THRIFT STORE



The Thrift Store continues to thrive. Thanks to all who donate, shop and volunteer. We are truly blessed which in turn helps us aid the Church and the community.
Jackie & Bob Gaither, Managers

OPERATIONS & FINANCIAL TEAM



Welcome to early fall, it's been a hot one so far, hopefully the weather will turn and we will have a nice fall. To say the least, it has been a very busy summer from the operations standpoint.

Reed Bathrooms and Corridor:

As stated in the recent reports, due to the expanded use of the Reed bathrooms and hallway by the Thrift Store clients, Weight Watchers and Mountain of Light, it was time to renovate the bathrooms and corridor. By the time you read this article, Malibu construction's crew will have completed all the renovations to the men's and lady's bathrooms and the hallway. Ceilings were repaired and painted, the sink in the corridor was removed and the area was framed, sheet rock installed and taped. Bathroom stalls, sinks and counters were removed. Old carpet and tiles were removed and new LVT (luxury vinyl tile) was installed in all areas. New cabinets, granite counters were installed, new sinks with hands free operation valves as well as hands free urinal in the men's bathroom were installed. New locksets were installed and a new coat of paint for all wall surfaces. In the old pastor's office, the A/C wall sleeve and unit were removed, the area patched on both the inside and outside. The old bathroom was converted into a storage closet for the choir robes and equipment.

A concern about the possibility of roof leakage due to the staining on the corridor ceiling was investigated and found no leaks.

Kitchen Water Leaks:

Sealant and caulking in the area of the kitchen sink had deteriorated, water had leaked it appears for many years around the window in the kitchen. Old sealant was removed, water block paint was installed and two coats of enamel finish paint was applied and new sealant was installed. Deterioration of the kitchen cabinets was revealed during the construction process. Repairs were made to the cabinets, back walls and cabinet bases. The area of water intrusion was found and sealed.

Kitchen Fire Suppression System:

The system was inspected, repairs were made to bring the system up to meet the requirements of the most recent code.

Additional income for the church:

We were contacted by a neighbor who works from home for a large Christian insurance company. Due to an aging parent and dogs in the house, he was inquiring about a space where he could conduct and/or attend Zoom meetings and have a quiet place to work. We met with him and his wife and agreed the old pastor's office would accommodate his needs. He has signed a month-to-month contract with the church. This expands the use of our property.

Weight Watchers and Mountain of Light Church:

Weight Watchers holds member meetings on Tuesday, Thursday and twice on Saturday. We are very pleased to have them utilize our facility. They have experienced large membership participation. It is assumed when the snowbirds start returning to their Florida homes the membership attendance will grow.

The Mountain of Light Church conducts services and meetings on Sunday and Monday evenings.

We are very fortunate to have these three organizations/people adding to the financial base of our church.

If you know of an organization and/or person that has a need for space, please have them contact one of the church council members or Kath in the office.

(Continued on next page)

Irrigation System:

The new irrigation system pump was installed recently; Tuff Turf completed a thorough system check, repaired head as necessary and set the system to work three times a week in the off-peak times of electrical power (during the night time hours).

Fencing:

A new fence was installed around the east side HVAC unit; concrete pad was enhanced, and weed mat and stone was added to all the areas around the HVAC unit.

Sod Replacement:

The sod near the side entrance to the Jim Reed building is in need of replacement and the roof gutter drain outfalls are in need of repair. Peaceful Palms landscaping will soon have completed the addition of French drains, removal of the dead sod and installation of new sod.

Thrift Store Area:

Sod was removed and pavers were installed at the receiving area of the Thrift Store. As of this date 3 coats of sealer have been applied to enhance the look as well as extend the pavers life. The pavers have added a level of safety as well as “curb appeal” to the thrift store receiving area.

LED wall lighting was added to the receiving area to enhance security and safety to the area.

Gutter leaf guards were removed on the front and back of the Thrift Store. Gutter and leader were cleaned and the leaf guard replaced and properly secured. The existing small LED flood fixture on the end of the Thrift Store roof will be replaced with a new larger LED flood fixture to enhance the security and safety as the fall and winter daylight hours are upon us. Emergency lights will be installed in all rooms of the Thrift Store prior to the fall/winter season.

Thrift Store Maintenance and HVAC Area:

The committee has cleaned up and organized the room at the end of the Thrift Store to create a small “tool storage and maintenance area”, if you have any excess tools, etc., that are in working condition and feel you can part with them, let me know what you have.

Security, Fire and Camera System:

APS Security, our present alarm company will be enhancing our existing system, adding three (3) additional cameras and installing a separate security system for all areas of the thrift store. Work should be completed and the systems on-line by the time you read this article.

Interior LED Lighting retrofit:

When we retrofitted most of the existing fluorescent lights two years ago, we were not able to retrofit the existing fixtures in the east area of the sanctuary (the old kitchen area). These fixtures will be retrofitted to LED this fall.

New Exterior Doors:

The east side entrance door by the old pastor’s office glass was broken many years ago by the landscape contractor, leaving only one pane of glass which caused intense heat intrusion for both that door and the old pastor’s office/music room door. The Reed main entrance door is not in good condition and as it is the main entrance door for most of the use of the church proper area it needs to be fixed. All three doors are not energy efficient and are in need of replacement. We are soliciting prices to replace them with energy efficient doors.

Sanctuary Bathrooms:

The committee is aware that sometime in the near future the sanctuary bathrooms will need renovations. We are seeking proposals on possible solutions. *(Continued on next page.)*

Reed Room flooring:

Carpet in the Reed room needs to be replaced in the near future. We feel the best solution is to extend the LVT utilized in the Reed bathrooms and hallway. Pricing has been secured. No date for work to be completed has been set. Yes, it's been a busy summer at the church for sure. Until next time, God bless.

Art Horton, Chairman



Financial Update—Operational Budget to Actual as 7/31/2023

| <u>JULY ACTUAL</u> | <u>YTD ACTUAL</u> | <u>YTD BUDGET</u> | <u>YTD DIFFERENCE</u> | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Income | \$ 15,934.16 | \$ 98,044.61 | \$ 64,316.07 | \$ 33,728.54 |
| Expense | <u>\$ 13,938.90</u> | <u>\$ 80,683.00</u> | <u>\$ 83,363.23</u> | <u>\$ 2,680.23</u> |
| Profit/(Loss) | \$ 1,995.26 | \$ 17,361.61 | \$ 19,047.16 | \$ 36,408.77 |

Capital Improvements

| | <u>YTD Actual</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Income | \$ 5,090.00 |
| Expenses | <u>\$ 7,740.08</u> |
| Profit/(Loss) | \$ (2,167.49) |

The Capital Improvements that are being done to our property have been separated out from the Operating Account to properly account for the increased value of our property. As noted above the combined profit at the end of July is \$15,194.12 but we have not yet been billed for any of the improvements. We are very fortunate to have the income from our rentals and from our Thrift Store. Our thanks go out to our amazing volunteers and to all who support our Church. We are truly blessed. Respectfully Submitted, *Barbara Horton, Treasurer.*

YOUR FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Communion Sundays are designated as “Fill the Food Basket” Sunday. As a reminder, September 3rd is our next collection day and will again benefit “Halifax Urban Ministry”. Over 60 bags of food were collected last month for the pantry. We received a note from the Grace Episcopal Food Pantry thanking us for our generous July donations which aided 265 Households, 304 Food Bags, 601 People and 33 New People Thanks to Chuck Konopsky and Mary Ann Stewart for delivering the food. Please be generous and make sure all donations have **NOT** passed their expiration dates.



SECOND THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP RETURNS



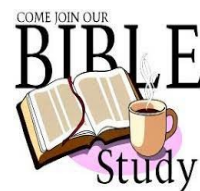
POUCC has a wonderful monthly Fellowship Dinner in the Jim Reed Room. Entertainment follows the monthly dinners.

Our Next Dinner is Thursday, September 14th. It's a Pot Luck!
See the sign-up sheet circulated at Worship Services.

BIBLE STUDY

POUCC “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 a.m. to 10:30 am.) We hold the class at the church in the Sanctuary.

September 3rd, Searching for the Meaning of Life!
September 17th, Maturity and how to Make Decisions.



Happy Birthday!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS*

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Sharon Ostrander | 9/19 |
| Colten Pack | 9/21 |
| Ernie Fodor | 9/22 |
| Remy Barrick | 9/24 |
| Marjory Monat | 9/30 |



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES*

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Ernie & Peggy Fodor | 9/20/1980 |
| Ted & Sue Batturs | 9/23/1961 |
| Don & Denise Gates | 9/30/2017 |



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

PRAYER REQUESTS*

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Charlie & Molly Baski | Members of POUCC |
| Deb Blimkie | Canadian friend of Sheila Fisher |
| Bob Brewster | Member of POUCC |
| Beth & Chris Brown | Daughter & Son-in-Law of Sheila Fisher |
| Rafael Castels | Friend of Sheila Fisher |
| Lorir Gillholy | Friend of Sheila Fisher |
| Harry & Jim Manchester | Family of Sheila Fisher |
| 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 | Family of Don & Denise Gates |
| Kay & Don Schweitzer | Members of POUCC |
| John Sedgwick | Friend of Sheila Fisher |
| Renee Smith | Friend of Sheila Fisher & Beth Brown |
| Amy Stevens | Daughter of Jackie & Bob Gaither |
| Tammy & Danny | Friends of Ann Tobin |
| Seth Wanie | Family of Bill & Susie Greiff |
| Darlene Wolfson | Friend of Sheila Fisher |

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) |

Special Needs

- Victims of Hurricane Idalia
 - Victims of the Caronavirus and Those 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 request.***



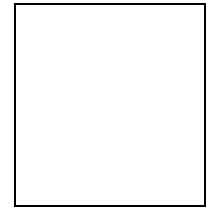
POUCC September 2023

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

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



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Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Patricia Holcomb
Office Manager: Kathy Shaffner
Custodian: Ronnie Servant
Thrift Store: Jackie & Bob Gaither
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

Fellowship Hour

10:30 AM



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