

# The Treasure Chest

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ  
Fort Pierce

MARCH 2024



3601 Kirby Loop Rd

Fort Pierce, Florida 34981

(772) 465-2082

No matter who you are,  
No matter where you are on life's journey,  
You are welcome here!

Come Worship With Us ...  
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
Coffee & Fellowship 11:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Joel Reif



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all



## PASTOR'S REPORT

March is a busy month this year. We will move our clocks ahead one hour on the 10th, we celebrate St. Patrick's Day on the 17th, and finally we get to celebrate Easter on the 31st. Easter only falls in March about 23% of the time. However, the two most common dates for Easter are March 31st and April 16th. These dates will each happen 22 times between 1600 and 2099. If you ever want to look up how the date for Easter is determined each year, it is

based on the timing of the full moon in the spring. Now that you know a little more about the timing of Easter and the dates, maybe the most important thing to consider is what Easter means to us in our Christian faith. One interesting fact is that the first people Jesus revealed himself to after the resurrection were women. They were the ones who had to spread the word of this event. Easter is about life. For us in the northern hemisphere Easter happens in the spring, the time when life starts to break forth again after the dead appearance of winter. Easter really tells us the death is not the end, and that God's love and power are stronger than death. So, even with everything else that might be packed into the month of March, let's never forget to celebrate the greatest gift. The gift of life that God gives to us.

See You in Church.

Rev. Joel Reif

## LET ME KNOW

Just a reminder to be sure to contact me **IMMEDIATELY** if someone is in the hospital, there has been a death, or in need of a call or visit from me. I would rather have 10 people contact me than miss someone.

Rev. Joel A. Reif

## PASTOR REIF'S OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Reif is usually in the office either Tuesday or Wednesday. Please call before stopping by the church to make sure he's going to be there. His cell phone is **772-480-3245** if you need to reach him outside of office hours. His email is **jr7618@yahoo.com**.

# CHURCH FELLOWSHIP



Terry and Patricia reported they cleared out pretty much all of our stored yard sale stuff by participating in the community wide yard sale at Whispering Creek on Saturday, February 17. What was left was donated to REACH (an outreach for the homeless in our community) and to Unity Church for their upcoming yard sale. **WE WILL NOT BE HOLDING A SPRING YARD SALE THIS YEAR AT OUR CHURCH.** We discussed various alternatives to our traditional yard sale fundraisers, acknowledging that we simply do not have the people resources to continue to hold those as we have in the past. More on this as we develop ideas.

## TARGETED DONATIONS FOR HOMELESS & RELATED MINISTRIES

The Church Fellowship group has become increasingly aware of the needs of programs that provide outreach to our homeless neighbors and those in similar difficult circumstances. Some of these programs have already benefited from our unsold yard sale items and small monetary donations from our group but we'd like to try a churchwide targeted donation program. Each month, we'll select a category of item that we know there is a need for. Our church family is encouraged to bring in donations of that type for that month and we'll distribute to the appropriate organization(s) at the end of the month. In March we're targeting donations of personal insect repellent products. There will be a donation container next to the Food Bank donation station. Talk to Terry Fritz or Patricia Bryant if you have questions.

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## FEBRUARY 11, 2024

**Attendance:** Joel Reif, Pastor; Carol Sinotte, Moderator; Elaine Souza, Memorial; Doug MacWilliam, Deacons; Mary Lyford, Treasurer; Tomm Mountz, Trustees; Janis Gonzalez, Music; and Patricia Bryant and Terry Fritz, Church Fellowship.

Joel opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Clerk's Report** – Carol submitted the minutes from the January 7, 2024, meeting, on behalf of Dickie who was absent. The minutes were approved as submitted. After discussion about Rachel Spence's contributions to our social media presence and other IT type support, it was voted to invite her to attend all Council meetings as our "IT Department."

**Treasurer's Report** – Mary submitted the report which was approved as submitted. She reported on modifications which have been made to our insurance coverages as recommended by the Council at our last meeting. In order to reduce our premiums, the shed and the pavilion have been removed from coverage, some deductibles have been increased, and some coverages modified and/or limits reduced.

**Pastor's Report** – Joel reported that he will be on vacation the weeks of Sunday, April 21, and Sunday, April 28. Doug will lead worship on those dates. He also reiterated appreciation for the work Rachel Spence is doing on updating our social media.

**Property** – The work on sealing the front window has been completed.

**Music** – Janis reports they're working on music for Lent and Easter.

**Memorial** – Elaine will be ordering plaques for Alice Fowler and Diana Junker.

**Church Fellowship** – Terry reported an account balance of \$773 which will be used primarily for gifts to community outreach organizations. Also, a suggestion was made to create a "Memorial Board" in the Erickson Room to honor church family members who have passed away recently.

**Deacons, Trustees, Stewardship/Missions, and Nominating/Evangelism** – No reports.

**New Business** – Suggestion that we have a St. Patrick's Day themed pot luck lunch after worship on Sunday, March 17.

**The next Council Meeting will be March 24, 2024.**

Joel adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elaine Souza on behalf of Dickie Brooks*



## WAYS TO BE OF SERVICE

Please consider offering a year of your service on your Church Council. We have a great group of dedicated Council members but new faces and new ideas would be very welcome!

Terms of service are from April 1, 2024, thru March 31, 2025. The Council meets monthly between September and May. For most positions, you don't need to formally be a church member and our seasonal folks are encouraged to join in.

If you'd like to find out more about opportunities for yourself, or suggest someone as a nominee, please contact Dickie Brooks, Clerk, or Carol Sinotte, Moderator.

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK LUNCH & RAFFLE

Join us for a St. Patrick's Day themed potluck lunch after church on Sunday, March 17. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board that you can put down what category of food you want to bring (meat, vegetable, salad, bread, or dessert). You don't need to specify the exact dish, just the category. And there will be a **RAFFLE FOR A COMPLETE CORNED BEEF DINNER** which will include a 4 lb. corned beef brisket, potatoes, onions, cabbage, carrots, cornbread mix, dessert mix, St. Patrick's Day garden flag and decorations, and 2 t-shirts to "dress up the mood". Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.



## IN OUR PRAYERS

Jennifer Gray, Doug MacWilliam, Joanne Hower, Bob Evans, Marv Lammers, Greg and Linda Garneau, Charlotte Fritz, Danny Fanning, Joyce Maybury, Joy Hutchins, Sandy Starkey, Tyler Prince, Anita Tuccillo, Bob Charpentir, Scott Burgoyne, Karen Casavant, Justin Archambault, Patty Hills, Becky Miller, Mike and Jody, Jay White, Donna Mariarski, Sandy Maybury, Margaret, Ed Galpen, Ann Marie Colonnese, Emmy Cook and her family, Jay and his family, Susanne Colombo, Sandy Martyn, Bob Therrien, Amelia Joseph, Katie Rogers, Sally Pelillo, Torey, Razel Cramer, Janis & John Gonzales, Shawn Keyte, Ronald Powell, Patricia Allen, Terry Fritz, the family of Sue Schwertfeger, Jim Fritz, Rus Dunbar, Dennis Murphy, the family of Diann Campbell (Holtje), the family of Amber Leonard, the family of George Starkey, the family of Alice Fowler, the family of Barbara Tuzes, the family of Jan Vandersluis, Diane Ware, Chelsy Lawton, the family of Diana Junker





## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

15th	Dick Sinotte
17th	Charlotte Fritz
20th	Brian Lammers
22nd	Kim Heveron-Hurlbert
23rd	Kathryn McGlaughlin
24th	Bonnie Mountz
24th	Doris Pelton
31st	Marshall Cook

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

4th	Marshall and Gail Cook
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please be sure to check the bulletin board to sign up for the St. Patrick's Day pot luck on March 17th. Also sign up for the Passover remembrance on April 12th.

## PASSOVER SEDER

We will be having a Christian focused Passover Seder on Friday, April 12, 2024. The service will be from 1:00 p.m. to approximately 4:00 p.m. and will include a meal. There is no cost and it is open to anyone you know. In order to attend, just sign up by Easter Sunday. More details will be announced at church. See or call Judy Jones for questions (860-230-8554).

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DEADLINE

The third Sunday of every month. You may drop them off in the newsletter mailbox at the church, or call Elaine Souza (772) 462-2272 or Dickie Brooks (772) 971-1370.

Website  
[www.firstcongregation.org](http://www.firstcongregation.org)

Email  
[churchoffice@firstcongregation.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstcongregation.org)

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Communion is served  
the first Sunday of  
each month, and all  
are welcome!

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