

The Treasure Chest
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
United Church of Christ
Fort Pierce
APRIL 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

Easter was very early this year arriving on March 31st. That seems to throw us into summer mode right here at the beginning of April. We do know that many of our snowbirds will be leaving soon, so things will slow down a bit. This also begins a season of more traveling for many of us. Please continue to remember the church during this time. We will still be here and working faithfully to share God's love with our community. There will continue to be regular

posts on Facebook, so if you have not, please be sure to follow the church on your Facebook account. I hope that all of you, whether you stay here or spend the summer elsewhere, have a healthy and enjoyable time. Keep in touch and please continue to pray for the church.

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

ANNUAL MEETING

All members of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Fort Pierce, are requested to be present for the Annual Meeting of the Church on Sunday, April 14, 2024, immediately following our worship service.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Hear and accept all reports
- Receive and act upon the proposed budget
- Elect officers and board members
- Receive, discuss, and act upon changes in the bylaws, if proposed
- Conduct any other business which shall come appropriately before it.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP



Thank you for supporting the first month of our **Community Outreach** to our homeless neighbors and others in similar difficult circumstances. Since the Church Fellowship will not meet during the summer, here is our donation focus for the next several months.

April – travel sized personal hygiene items and flip flop sandals in various sizes. These will be donated to a mobile shower ministry serving the homeless in St. Lucie County.

May – diapers and wipes; feminine hygiene products.

June – shorts and t-shirts (new or like new) for men and women.

July – school supplies

August – socks, underwear, bras for all ages and sizes – must be new and in the package and/or have tags on.

September – to be determined in August

A list of all these will be posted on the bulletin board so you can plan ahead for your donations. And there will be a flyer posted over the donation box monthly to highlight that month's donation focus. Note that we also need reusable (not plastic) grocery bags to help with distribution. And, if you have an idea for a donation focus, or a local organization that serves this type of need in our community, let us know. We would like to work with a variety of local outreach groups!

Our April meeting will be a luncheon at Crabby's Dockside (downtown at the Fort Pierce Marina) on Tuesday, April 16, at 11:30. Everyone is welcome! There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board (or let Patricia or Terry know) so we can be sure we have room for everyone.

Our next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 10:00.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Attendance: Joel Reif, Pastor; Carol Sinotte, Moderator; Dickie Brooks, Clerk; Doug MacWilliam, Deacons; Mary Keller, Treasurer; Janis Gonzalez, Music; Dick Sinotte, Property; Patricia Bryant, Church Fellowship, and Rachel Spence, IT Support.

Joel opened the meeting with a prayer.

Clerk's Report – Dickie submitted the minutes from the February 11, 2024, meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report – Mary submitted the report which was approved as submitted. She reported that the adjustments made to our property insurance coverages and limits reduced the annual premium from \$14,262 to \$9,121.

Pastor's Report – Joel reminded that he will be on vacation the weeks of Sunday, April 21, and Sunday, April 28. Doug will lead worship on those dates.

Property – Dick reported that things have been very quiet on the general maintenance front. Patricia reported she had received an anonymous donation to cover cleaning of the front window in the sanctuary and hopes to get that completed before Easter Sunday.

Music – Janis reported she's divided the Easter/Lenten music program into 3 parts, two of which were presented last Sunday and today (Palm Sunday) and the third will be presented on Easter Sunday.

Stewardship – Dickie reported that we usually send out our annual stewardship letter in the spring. She volunteered to write the letter and assemble for mailing, targeting within the next 2 weeks. She opened a discussion about online giving and turned the discussion over to Rachel who explained generally how that would work. The Council agreed that Rachel should pursue that for us.

Nominating – Dickie presented a proposed slate of officers and committees for the 2024-2025 church year for discussion. There were some additions and adjustments and a slate was approved for presentation at the Annual Meeting on April 14.

Memorial – Dickie read a report from Elaine that all name and year plaques have been received and those are now up to date. Plaques will be placed on the boards in the near future.

Church Fellowship – Patricia reported that there will be no yard sales or Christmas Bazaar this year. We just do not have the people resources to continue to hold those as we have in the past. Realizing that these fundraisers do help support the church's operating budget, several ideas for replacement income were discussed and will be further discussed at the Church Fellowship meeting this coming Tuesday. Also at that meeting, officers will be elected for the coming year and a decision will be made on our annual community outreach donations.

Deacons, Trustees, Missions, and Evangelism – No reports.

Old business – Joel reminded that we need to complete the updating of the Church Bylaws. Carol and Dickie committed to working on that over the summer.

The next Council Meeting will be May 19, 2024.

Joel adjourned the meeting with prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,
Dickie Brooks*

UPDATED PICTURES FOR THE CHURCH WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK



Over the next few months, we will be taking photos during our services, fellowship and events to update on the website and to share and generate interest for our church through social media. If anyone is concerned with and would prefer to avoid appearing in photos that may end up on either or both of these electronic venues, please give your name to the office or Rachel Spence so that we can make sure to honor your wishes while taking those photos.



IN OUR PRAYERS

As you read the names of our “In Our Prayers” list below, if you know someone whose name is on the list but they no longer have specific prayer needs – or if there is someone you feel needs to be on the list but is not - please let Doug MacWilliam or Rev. Reif know. Thank you!

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, the family of Amber Leonard, the family of Alice Fowler, the family of Barbara Tuzes, the family of Jan Vandersluis, Diane Ware, Chelsy Lawton, Judy Jones



BIRTHDAYS

1st Roberta Saart
15th Samantha Jones
20th Jim Saart
23rd Ben Gray
27th Kim Sinotte

ANNIVERSARIES

1st Joshua & Elizabeth Silvestri
8th Jim & Charlotte Fritz

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, March 10, we welcomed three new members
- Jane Shuster, Jeff Bourassa, and Rachel Spence.

We are blessed by their presence among us and grateful for this growth in our church family!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure to check the bulletin board to sign up for the Passover remembrance on April 12th. 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. **Please sign up by Easter Sunday.** See or call Judy Jones for questions (860-230-8554).

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**.

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

Email
churchoffice@firstcongregation.org

Follow us on Facebook

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

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