

The Treasure Chest

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ
Fort Pierce

MAY 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



We will celebrate Mother's Day this year on Sunday May 12th. There are many traditions that we follow on that day. It is a day that restaurants are extremely busy, the phones are jammed as people call their mothers, and often the house is a mess the next day from the families that "cook" for mom on that day. I did a little research and found that the traditions vary greatly throughout the world.

In *Peru*, it is a common tradition on Mother's Day for families to visit cemeteries to honor and remember deceased mothers. Many people bring flowers, candles, and other offerings to the gravesites to help keep the memory of their mothers alive.

In *Australia*, the tradition of giving chrysanthemums, or "mums," on Mother's Day is a popular and enduring practice. Chrysanthemums hold special significance as a symbol of love, appreciation, and honor for mothers.

Mother's Day in *Mexico* often begins with a serenade called "Las Mañanitas." Family members, and sometimes mariachi bands, gather outside the mother's window to sing and express love and appreciation.

In the *U.K.*, the tradition of "Mothering Sunday" involves children giving flowers and cards to honor their mothers, much like we do here in the U.S. Mothering Sunday began as a way for Christians to honor the Virgin Mary but has evolved over the years to celebrate all mothers.

In *Ethiopia*, Mother's Day is part of a three-day celebration known as "Antrosht." This celebration, which usually takes place in mid-fall, honors mothers with traditional music, dancing, bonfires, and special feasts.

On Mother's Day in *Japan*, it is common for children to present their mothers with bouquets or single stems of red carnations. These flowers hold a special symbolism, representing a mother's selfless love and sacrifice for her children.

On *French Mother's Day*, or "Fête des Mères," it is a popular tradition for families to gift or bake a special cake for their mothers. These Fête des Mères cakes are often designed to look like a flower bouquet.

PASTOR'S REPORT (continued)

No matter how you celebrate Mother's Day, my hope is that you have good memories of your own mother.

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

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP



A small group gathered at Crabby's Dockside Restaurant on Wednesday, April 17, for our end of the year luncheon and fellowship. The next regular Church Fellowship meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 10:00am.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

TARGETED DONATIONS FOR MAY –

For May, our Community Outreach to our homeless neighbors and others in similar difficult circumstances will focus on:

Feminine Hygiene Products

Diapers and Wipes

Please place your donations in the bin provided in the entry hall of the church. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this program!

2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2024

First Congregational UCC Church of Fort Pierce FL

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Carol Sinotte, Moderator, at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 14, 2024. Rev. Reif gave an invocation. Dickie Brooks, Clerk, established a quorum and referred everyone to the minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on April 2, 2023. All committee reports were approved. Dickie presented the slate of Officers and Members of Boards and Committees for 2024-2025 and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. None were presented and the slate was approved unanimously. The Treasurer's report and proposed budget were presented and a vote to approve was unanimous.

There was a call for any new business.

No new business being brought forward, Rev. Reif gave a closing prayer and Carol adjourned the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance and participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Dickie Brooks, Clerk

WE APPRECIATE YOU...

Thank you to **Doug MacWilliam** for leading us in worship the two Sundays that Pastor Reif was on vacation.



Another Thank you to **Cynthia Humphrey** who, through the playing of her clarinet in worship, generously shares her musical gifts with us during the months she and George are in residence here.



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, Jamie, Gabriel, Leone Bater, Peggy Goldacker.

ONLINE DONATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

We are happy to announce that we now offer the ability to give donations online. You can donate using a credit card, a debit card or your bank account. You can do one-time donations or even set up recurring donations every week or every month if you would like. This way, if you're out of town for vacation, going back north for the summer, or just keep forgetting your church donation check or cash at home every week, you can continue to support your church.

Online Donations

- For iOS (iPhone/iPad) app: [Download here](#)
- For Android app: [Download here](#)

If you prefer, you can also search for "Tithe.ly" in your smartphone's app store.

You can access the online donations on our website, www.firstcongf.org, by clicking the "Online Donations" button as in the image above. You can also download the Tithely app for your Apple or Android phone from the website or your app store is you prefer.

Furthermore, going forward, each email and some Facebook posts will have a link available to the donation page that you can click on that may say **Click Here to Donate Online** or **Tithe.ly Giving**.



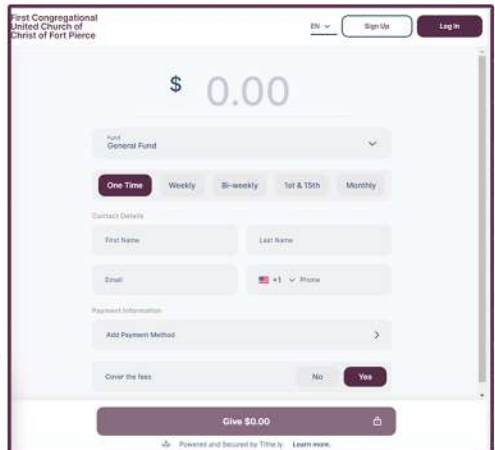
The newsletter will also have a QR code that you can scan with your phone that will look like the one to the left:

Either one of these links or clicking on the "Online Donations" button at the website will cause a form to come up that will look similar to what you see below, but will be formatted to fit your computer, tablet or phone:



Creating an account is very easy and allows you to control your recurring donations, view your donation history, and much more.

If you have any questions, reach out to Rachel Spence or Dickie Brooks at churchoffice@firstcongf.org or connect at facebook.com/firstcongf. By phone, you can reach Rachel at (772) 985-8506 or Dickie at (772) 971-1370.



BIRTHDAYS

- 4th Joel Reif
7th Glenn Hower
9th Gail Cook
11th Rev. Dr. Clyde Embling
11th David Holtje
13th George Humphrey
18th Cindy Reif

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7th Dick & Carol Sinotte
29th Clyde & Audrey Embling



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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