

# The Treasure Chest

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ  
Fort Pierce

OCTOBER 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

As the days grow shorter at this time of year, take time for personal reflection. Consider how God is calling you to grow and change during this season. What blessings can you share with others? What burdens can you lay down?

Remember, our church is a safe space for all to explore their faith and seek support. When we look at what is happening in our nation, we need to always remember that our church is a place where all are welcome. We may not agree on all things, but we are all united as God's children,

seeking to bring the message of God's love to our small corner of the world.

**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](mailto:jr7618@yahoo.com)**.

# CHURCH FELLOWSHIP



Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8 at 10:00 a.m. It's time to brainstorm and plan our year's activities in service to the church and our community. New faces and ideas are very, very welcome!! See you there ...

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### **TARGETED DONATIONS FOR OCTOBER –**

In October, our Community Outreach to our homeless neighbors and others in similar difficult circumstances will focus on Food Bank Donations. While we have an ongoing donation bin for this ministry, please bring in extra this month. These donations will be distributed to and through the Treasure Coast Food Bank in November to support holiday needs in our community.

Donate any food that is nonperishable or shelf-stable with a particular focus on holiday meal items such as canned vegetables (beans, corn, sweet potatoes etc.), instant potatoes, rice, gravy, biscuit mixes, cranberry sauce, maybe shelf stable milk, or anything else that you think would be yummy for a holiday meal. Be mindful that not everyone receiving these donations will have a kitchen full of condiments and extra ingredients. Thanks so much in advance!!

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

**Attendance:** Joel Reif, Pastor; Carol Sinotte, Moderator; Dickie Brooks, Clerk; Dick Sinotte, Property; Elaine Souza, Memorial; Jeff Bourassa, Deacons; and Judy Jones, Member at Large.

Carol called the meeting to order and Joel opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Clerk's Report** – The minutes of the May 19, 2024, meeting were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report** – Dickie submitted an abbreviated report on Mary's behalf, and noted that Mary will be transferring \$5,000 into checking this week to cover current and expected expenses. The report was accepted as submitted. Carol reported that the online giving program is going well,

**Pastor's Report** – Joel reported that he'll be holding a new members' meeting on Sunday, September 22, after church for anyone who is interested in joining the church. He also brought up replacing the church sound system, which has been failing slowly for some time. He's discussed this with a colleague who's in the sound system business and who says we don't need anything fancy, no wireless mikes or such. Joel will get a quote from him for the Council to consider. Also Joel will be taking vacation three upcoming Sundays; Kim Sinotte will be worship leader for October 27, Dickie Brooks for November 3, and Joel will recruit someone for November 10. His vacation will also require our moving November's communion to the 17th when he has returned.

**Property** – With several weeks of assistance from a member's brother-in-law, Dick reported the following were accomplished: new flag, replaced all LED bulbs on one side of the sanctuary, cleaned all fans, trimmed garden, hedges, front, and two trees next to the building, cleaned back wall, and power washed the shed.

**Memorial** – Elaine reported that the board has been updated and there is one more plaque order outstanding.

**Church Fellowship** – Dickie reported they will be having their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 17, at 10:00.

**Deacons, Trustees, Music, Stewardship, Evangelism, IT, Missions, and Nominating** – No reports

**New business** – Judy Jones offered to hold a blood pressure clinic once a month following worship. She would start this in January. The Council approved that plan.

The next Council Meeting will be **October 20, 2024.**

*Joel adjourned the meeting with prayer.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Dickie Brooks*

## ELAINE SOUZA'S BIRTHDAY

Join Elaine's friends and family in celebrating her 75th birthday! We'll be partying at the American Legion Post 40 (810 S. US Hwy #1 in Fort Pierce) on Saturday, November 9. Music from 6:00 to 9:00. Dinner, snacks, and drinks are available for purchase. Elaine requests no presents - your presence will be her present! For information or to RSVP, call Elaine (772) 462-2272. See y'all there!



## PASTOR'S VACATION

Rev. Reif will be on vacation October 27 and November 3 and 10. Kim Sinotte will lead worship on October 27, Dickie Brooks on November 3, and “a player to be named later” on November 10. If you need to reach someone from the church during those weeks, please contact one of the deacons.



## 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 Colonese, Susanne Colombo, Sandy Martyn, Bob Therrien, Katie Rogers, Torey, Razel Cramer, Janis & John Gonzales, Ronald Powell, Patricia Allen, Terry Fritz, Rus Dunbar, Diane Ware, Chelsy Lawton, Judy Jones, Jamie, Gabriel, Leone Bater, Bob Schwartzfeger, Tomm Mountz, Dick Keller, Paul Pietrofere



## BIRTHDAYS

2nd Jeff Bourassa  
7th Jack Goodwin  
7th Linda Garneau  
7th Stephen Murphy  
9th Cyndy Webb  
14th John Gonzales  
20th Sandy Starkey  
28th Patricia Allen

## BIBLE STUDY – BOOK OF ACTS

We're continuing to meet each Friday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 at the church. (There will be no Bible Study on Friday, October 4.) Beginning on Friday, October 11, Bible Study plans to begin exploring the Book of Acts. Acts is a unique story written by Luke. If you would like to discover how Jesus rising from death was able to direct his closest friends to go from followers to bringing a new perspective of faith to the entire world, then Acts is for you. If you would like to study how Jesus's teachings were bridged from the Israelites to the whole world, then Acts is for you. If you want to learn how God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one for us, then Acts is for you. If you enjoy learning about God's miracles, then Acts is full of them. If you have ever wondered how so many different Christian Churches were formed, then Acts is for you. If a personal relationship with God and each other is something you would like to take a deeper dive into, then join us for the Book of Acts!! Call me if you have any questions (Judy 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.firstcongrp.org](http://www.firstcongrp.org)

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

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

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