

The Treasure Chest

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
United Church of Christ
Fort Pierce

MARCH 2025



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



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday - March 5th this year. Lent is traditionally a time of self-reflection and self-denial. Historically people have usually given up something for Lent. It is also a time to think about the sacrifice that Jesus made for us and to be willing to make some sacrifices for others. In light of that, we are collecting a special offering all during Lent. The funds will be used by the Fellowship Group to provide for local missions right here in Fort Pierce. We will have a special container

on the stand by the bulletins for you to place your offerings. You can make a donation each week or a one time donation. There will also be a link on the church website to make donations to this fund if you wish to do that. This is a very special opportunity to help those in need right in our own backyard. Please prayerfully consider participating in the special mission project.

See You in Church.

Rev. Joel Reif

THANK YOU

(Somehow this was inadvertently left out of last month's newsletter.)

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank you so much for the thoughtful and generous Christmas gift. It was truly appreciated. Thank you so much and God bless you.

Pastor Joel & Cindy 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



Church Fellowship is preparing raffle baskets for St. Patrick's Day and Easter, and continues to collect aluminum cans, all as fundraisers for our annual donations to local community service organizations. See the Pastor's Report for information about a special offering during Lent to support these local missions as well. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 25, at 10:00 a.m.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

TARGETED DONATIONS FOR MARCH –

In March, our Community Outreach to our homeless neighbors and others in similar difficult circumstances will focus on personal hygiene items and insect repellents.

PASSOVER SEDER

I am excited to announce we will be having a Passover Celebration Seder this year on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. until about 4:00 p.m. All are invited. Our Passover Seder will be from a Christian perspective. A meal will be included in the service and there is no cost for this experience. Just like with most family gatherings, people will be asked to bring a dish or juice or something If you know someone who would like to attend, they are welcome, I just need to know in advance.

Retelling the Passover Story is an Ordinance from God. Exodus 12:14 – “This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord – a lasting ordinance.”

The sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board. Any questions just grab me at Church or call me at 860-230-8554! Judy Jones

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2025

Attendance: Joel Reif, Pastor; Carol Sinotte, Moderator; Dickie Brooks, Clerk; Mary Keller, Treasurer; Dick Sinotte, Property; Tomm Mountz, Trustees; Elaine Souza, Memorial; Jeff Bourassa, Deacons; Janis Gonzalez, Music; Patricia Bryant, Church Fellowship; Rachel Spence, Evangelism/IT; 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 January 19, 2025, meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report – Mary presented the Treasurer's report which was approved as submitted.

Pastor's Report – Joel will kick off the Lenten Mission Offering next Sunday, and collection will begin the first Sunday of Lent, March 9. There will be an option to donate online as well and Rachel plans to have her tablet available to help people with that if they wish before or after worship.

Property – Dick reported we continue to have no major issues in the property category. He would like to re-mulch the garden soon and everyone agreed. It's been about 3 years.

Memorial – Elaine reported that a memorial board plaque for David Holtje has been received and appropriate ones for Sandy Starkey are being ordered.

Church Fellowship – Patricia reported the St. Patrick's Day basket raffle has begun. There will be a St. Patrick's Day themed potluck lunch after church on Sunday, March 16. The corned beef has been donated, and carrots, potatoes, and cabbage will be provided. She's asking for people to sign up if they're coming, and bring a side dish to contribute if possible. For Easter, she'll be doing another raffle basket and the Easter lilies. She has identified an outdoor nativity she'd like to purchase. She showed pictures of it around and everyone liked it.

Church Fellowship cont'd

Jeff Bourassa then volunteered that he has basically the same one at home that they don't use anymore and he'd like to donate it if we're interested.

Deacons, Trustees, Music, Stewardship/Missions, IT/Evangelism –
No reports

New Business –

Dickie will coordinate nominations for upcoming officers/committees and asked for suggestions from any Council members. She'll have a slate for the next meeting.

Reports for the Annual Meeting should be provided to Kim Sinotte no later than Sunday, March 30.

Rachel inquired if the church would be interested in renting space several days a month to a group she's active in, The Society of Creative Anachronism. (Note: SCA is an international living history non-profit group with the aim of studying and recreating mainly Medieval European cultures and their histories before the 17th century) After clarifying that it wouldn't interfere with the days that Living Water Christ Fellowship Center uses our facilities, and that this would be a written agreement and SCA has the appropriate insurance, Dickie made a motion to approve that Rachel and SCA work with the church to reach such a rental agreement. Tomm seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next Council Meeting will be March 23, 2025.

Joel adjourned the meeting with prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,
Dickie Brooks*

REMINDER
PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES DURING WORSHIP
THANK YOU!

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, 2025, thru March 31, 2026. 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.

BIG THANK YOU FROM "THE CHIMPS"

I would like to thank everyone in the congregation that have contributed blankets, towels, hand towels, and wash clothes to "my chimps." Everyone at the sanctuary appreciates it. There is always a need, so keep 'em coming!

Doug Macwilliam



IN OUR PRAYERS

Jennifer Gray, Doug MacWilliam, Bob Evans, Marv Lammers, Greg and Linda Garneau, Charlotte Fritz, Danny Fanning, Joyce Maybury, Joy Hutchins, 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, Ed Galpen, Ann Marie Colonnese, Susanne Colombo, Sandy Martyn, Bob Therrien, Katie Rogers, 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, the family of Paul Pieterofere, Steve Murphy, Beau Mayfield, Josh Lewis, the family of Sandy Starkey, Shirley Borella, family of Margaret Trocki



BIRTHDAYS

5th Karen Eason
 14th Ryan Caron
 15th Dick Sinotte
 17th Charlotte Fritz
 20th Brian Lammers
 22nd Kim Heveron-Hurlbert
 23rd Kathryn McGlaughlin
 24th Bonnie Mountz
 24th Doris Pelton
 25th Jane Shuster
 31st Marshall Cook

ANNIVERSARIES

4th Marshall & Gail Cook
 31st Chris & Karen Eason

ST. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK LUNCH

Plan to join us after church on Sunday, March 16, for this potluck lunch. The corned beef has been donated, and carrots, potatoes, and cabbage will be provided. If you're able to bring a side dish, appetizer, or dessert that would be appreciated. There's a sign-up sheet to let us know if you're coming. And the drawing for the raffle basket will take place during lunch ... but you don't have to be present to win!

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 13, 2025, 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, and
- Conduct any other business which shall come appropriately before it.

Website
www.firstcongf.org

Email
churchoffice@firstcongf.org

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

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