

The Treasure Chest

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ
Fort Pierce

FEBRUARY 2026



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 February 18th 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 again this year as we did last year. The funds will be used by the Fellowship Group to provide for local missions right here in Ft. 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 back yard. Please prayerfully consider participating in the special mission project.

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 on 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



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February at 10:00. We're working on a Valentine's Day raffle basket and making plans for a St. Patrick's Day potluck lunch to be held after worship on Sunday, March 15. There will also be a raffle basket with a St. Patrick's Day theme, and an Easter themed basket to follow shortly after.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

TARGETED DONATIONS FOR FEBRUARY –

The Dignity Shower Ministry of First Church 515 Avenue A, Fort Pierce will be our focus in February as we collect the following:

Bug Spray
Deodorant
Sunscreen
Socks (new)
Belts

For those who aren't familiar with this ministry, their mission is "... to show love to our neighbors by providing warm showers, clean clothing, and a meal to the community members who are experiencing homelessness. We provide support and referrals to assist the unhoused in utilizing community resources."

If you'd like to know more about this ministry, here's the link to their website: <https://www.firstchurchfp.org/dignity-showers>

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 18, 2026

Attendance: Joel Reif, Paster; Carol Sinotte, Moderator; Dickie Brooks, Clerk; Tomm Mountz, Trustees; Dick Sinotte, Property; Jeff Bourassa, Deacons; Janis Gonzales, Music; Elaine Souza, Memorial; Rachel Spence, IT/Evangelism; Patricia Bryant, Fellowship; and Karen Eason, Member at Large.

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

Clerk's Report – The minutes of the November 23, 2025, meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report – The treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

Pastor's Report – Joel reported that a memorial service for Dick Keller will be held after the worship service on Sunday, February 15. The new sound system is performing very well – lots of compliments. And Easter is early this year – April 5 – so Lent will be beginning in just a few weeks. He also reported that Mary Keller is moving and is resigning from her position as Treasurer effective April 1. Rachel Spence has volunteered to take on those responsibilities and so she will be formally nominated for that position at the Church's Annual Meeting.

Property – Dick reported that the door to the shed has been repaired and is now operating correctly.

Music – Janis reports the delayed Christmas program was received enthusiastically by the congregation. She'll be working on Lenten season music soon.

IT/Evangelism – Rachel reports she tested posting the recording of the Cantata on our Facebook page and it went well and was received very well. Her goal is to make each week's service available online. She's also had some issues with our email distribution but is working through those issues.

Memorial – Elaine reported that memorial plaques are being ordered for Rusty Goodwin, Jane Shuster, Steve Murphy, Terry Fritz, and Dick Keller.

Adult Religious Education – Dickie reported for Judy Jones that a new AED battery has been purchased and will be installed today. Also, Judy is planning a Passover Service and would like to do it either March 28 or April 11. Both are Saturdays; the service would be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. but set up requires all day use of the fellowship room. Joel says he'll discuss those dates with Pastor Andre of Living Waters Christ Fellowship Center and see which one works better for them since they typically have their services on Saturday.

Church Fellowship – Patricia reported that there will be a meeting on January 27 at 10:00. She confirmed with Joel that we'll be taking a special offering again this year during Lent to support our local mission efforts. She'll be checking into lilies for Easter and might switch to another type of spring flower if that's more economical. And she proposed a St. Patrick's Day potluck lunch which has been popular in the past. The Council agreed and scheduled it for Sunday, March 15, after worship.

Deacons, Missions/Stewardship, Trustees – No reports

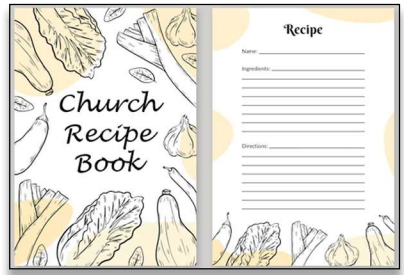
The next Council Meeting will be February 22, 2026.

Carol adjourned the meeting and Joel offered the closing prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,
Dickie Brooks*

CHURCH RECIPE BOOK

We are excited to begin a new church recipe book for our congregation. A 3-ring binder will soon be available in the fellowship hall where everyone is invited to add their favorite recipes from our snack hours and potluck dinners. There will also be a space to write in requests for recipes you would love to have included, so the person who brought a favorite dish can add it to the book. Each recipe will also have a page added online to our church website, making it easy to reference and use these recipes at home.



Some church favorites may even be featured in future newsletters!

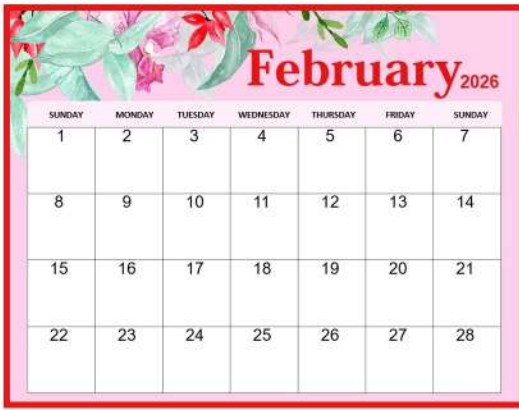
Our church loves to bake, cook, and eat. Let's turn our shared table into a shared tradition. 🍪 ✨



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, Bob Evans, Marv Lammers, Linda Garneau, Charlotte Fritz, Danny Fanning, Joyce Maybury, Scott Burgoyne, Karen Casavant, Justin Archambault, Patty Hills, Becky Miller, Mike and Jody, Donna Mariarski, Sandy Maybury, Ed Galpen, Ann Marie Colonnese, Sandy Martyn, Bob Therrien, Katie Rogers, Janis & John Gonzales, Ronald Powell, Patricia Allen, Chelsy Lawton, Jamie, Leone Bater, Bob Schwartfeger, Josh Lewis, Shirley Borella, Jim Boudreau, Karen Eason, Judy Jones, Grace Carboni, Anita Tuccilo, Michelle Neill, the family of Dick Keller, the family of Steve Murphy, the family of Terry Fritz, the family of John Gagliardo, Caden Sustar, the Holmes & Brutt families



BIRTHDAYS

12th Elizabeth Silvestri
19th Audrey Embling
20th Ruth Genova
21st Chris Duncombe

MEMORIAL SERVICE - DICK KELLER

A memorial service honoring the life of Dick Keller will be held on Sunday, February 15, immediately following worship. Family, friends, and members of the congregation are invited to remain after the service as we gather in remembrance, gratitude, and prayer.

HELP REPLENISH OUR FELLOWSHIP FUNDS!

We are going to replenish our fellowship funds the recycle way! Do you drink your soda or beer out of cans? Save your empty cans and bring them to church! (Any pop tops will go to veterans' organizations) Have questions? See Patricia!

Website
www.firstcongrp.org

Email
churchoffice@firstcongrp.org

Follow us on Facebook



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

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
3601 Kirby Loop Road
Fort Pierce, FL 34981