

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

We are now in the season of Lent. It is typically a time to look at our own lives and how we live. Many people give up things for Lent as a reminder of the suffering of Jesus. It is also a time to renew our spiritual life. I came across something recently about Lent called the 3:1:1 rule for Lent. It says that for Lent we should pick three things in life to give up for this season. It says we should add one spiritual practice such as daily Bible reading. The final one is that we should pray for one new person each day in Lent. I like this idea and suggest that you try it as well.

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

### REMINDER OF SPECIAL OFFERING

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 backyard. Please prayerfully consider participating in the special mission project.

# CHURCH FELLOWSHIP



Tickets are being sold for the St. Patrick's Day raffle basket and the drawing will be at the potluck luncheon on March 15. An Easter themed basket is being prepared next. Planning ahead, a list of raffle baskets for the Christmas Bazaar is below. If you have any items you think would complement any of these baskets, please bring to Patricia or Dorothy. Thank you!

WINNIE THE POOH	BEACH/COASTAL	BARBEQUE
TOOLS	FAMILY GAME NIGHT	KITCHEN/BAKERY
CITRUS	PATRIOTIC	LIQUOR
WINE	WOMEN'S SELF CARE	CHRISTMAS
WREATH	PARK BENCH	LOTTO TREE
NEW YEAR'S PARTY	PET/ANIMAL	ICE CREAM
ALL THINGS PURPLY	BUTTERFLIES	

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 24, at 10:00.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### TARGETED DONATIONS FOR MARCH –

In March, our Community Outreach to our homeless neighbors and others in similar difficult circumstances will focus on shorts and t-shirts for men and women.

## STEWARDSHIP

Each year our church conducts a stewardship drive. This helps the church determine its budget for another year, but it is also helpful to remind each of us of our priorities. It helps us think about ways we can serve God. This month you will receive a letter from the Stewardship Committee with more detail and a commitment card to return to the church. If you don't receive a letter and would like a pledge card, please see Rev. Reif or Dickie Brooks. Thank you in advance for your support of God's work through our church.

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## FEBRUARY 22, 2026

**Attendance:** Joel Reif, Pastor; Carol Sinotte, Moderator; Dickie Brooks, Clerk; Mary Keller, Treasurer; Dick Sinotte, Property; Doug MacWillilam, Deacons; Janis Gonzales, Music; Elaine Souza, Memorial; Rachel Spence, IT/Evangelism; Patricia Bryant, Fellowship; Judy Jones, Adult Religious Education; 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 January 18, 2026, 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 Steve Murphy will be held after worship on Sunday, March 1. There will be a new member meeting after worship on Sunday, March 8. Rev. Michelle Taylor, Associate Conference Minister for Congregational Care, will be our guest on Sunday, March 22. And our worship the Sunday before Easter will focus on the whole of Passion week.

**Deacons** – Doug will be ordering seasonal bulletin covers and communion cups.

**Trustees** – No report.

**Property** – Dick reported he's been busy tidying up the grounds. The big window in the sanctuary will be cleaned before Easter, utilizing funds donated in memory of Jane Shuster in part for the purpose of maintaining this window.

**Music** – Janis reports Lenten/Easter music is being prepared.

**IT/Evangelism** – Rachel reports she's resolved the issues with our email distribution, and the recording of our worship services is working well.

**Memorial** – Elaine reported that memorial plaques are up to date. Patricia reports she's looking for a purple rose bush to plant in the memorial garden in memory of Terry.

**Adult Religious Education** – Judy reports the Passover Seder will be held on Saturday, March 28, from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be a signup sheet available next week so she can plan accordingly. The blood pressure clinic is gaining interest. She's still interested in a second Bible Study at a different time to attract more participation. Both Rachel and Mary said they'd be interested in a Zoom option to join in.

**Church Fellowship** – Patricia reported that there is a raffle basket for St. Patrick's Day, and there will be a potluck luncheon after worship on March 15 with corned beef as well as a pasta dish for those who don't care for corned beef. There is a signup sheet for that luncheon. There will be an Easter raffle basket coming soon. She continues to collect cans and scrap metal to recycle; the proceeds go to the Fellowship account. The next Fellowship meeting will be on March 24 at 10:00.

**Member at Large Report** – Karen had no official report but noted their row in worship this morning was completely full!

**Stewardship Report** – Dickie passed out a draft of a proposed stewardship letter. It was approved and will be assembled and mailed on or before March 1 with a requested return of commitment cards by Easter Sunday.

**Nominations Report** – Dickie, Doug, and Joel will meet to make recommendations on a slate of officers and committee members for the Annual Meeting. They requested input from any Council members who had recommendations or suggestions. They will report back to the Council for approval at the next meeting.

**New Business:** The congregational annual meeting was set for after worship on Sunday, April 12. The next Council Meeting will be March 29, 2026.

*Carol adjourned the meeting and Joel offered the closing prayer.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Dickie Brooks*

# PASSOVER SEDER

Our church Passover Service will take place on March 28, 2026. The service will begin at 1 p.m. and last until approximately 4 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 something to add to the experience. If you know someone who would like to attend, they are welcome. Just let me 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 the Church!  
Judy Jones



## IN OUR PRAYERS

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, Caden Sustar, the Holmes & Brutt families, Nancy's family, Hilary Vandersluis

Please remember that if you want to add someone to the prayer list or make any changes you need to put that in writing either through an email to Rev. Reif at [jr7618@yahoo.com](mailto:jr7618@yahoo.com) or hand him a written note before worship. Thank you.



## BIRTHDAYS

5th Karen Eason  
12th Diane Jain  
14th Ryan Caron  
15th Dick Sinotte  
17th Charlotte Fritz  
20th Brian Lammers  
22nd Kim Heveron-Hurlbert  
23rd Kathryn McGlaughlin  
23rd Victoria Santana  
24th Bonnie Mountz  
24th Doris Pelton  
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 15, for this potluck lunch. The corned beef has been donated, and carrots, potatoes, and cabbage will be provided. There will be an alternate main dish, rigatoni pasta, for those who don't care for corned beef. 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 how many guests you'll be bringing. 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 12, 2026, 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.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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