

PASS-A-GRILLE BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FISCAL YEAR
2025-2026
ANNUAL
REPORT



*“You are a beloved child of God.
You are made in God’s image.
You are welcome here.”*

~ Rev. Dr. Angela Wells-Bean, Senior Pastor



WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am service

An outdoor service featuring contemporary music and Holy Communion is served weekly.

10 am service

A traditional service in our sanctuary with choir and ensemble singers. The sacrament of Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month.



What Is Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church, UCC?

Known as PAGBCC for short, because ten words for a church name is a little long, here's a bit about our congregation:

- PAGBCC is a member of the mainline protestant denomination, the United Church of Christ. This is very important to some people, others don't give it much thought.
- PAGBCC skews slightly older, but we have a vibrant children's and youth ministry with a congregation that has a heart for nurturing younger generations. Our Children's and Youth Ministry is led by a wonderful husband and wife team, Signe and Todd Webb.
- Some of our members are seasonal, and lots of our members travel during the summer months. Because we believe that rest is sacred, our church ministries slow down in the summertime.
- We love music! Music is really important in our walk of faith and our connection to God. We believe that we can connect with the divine through different musical styles. Our 8:30 am and 10 am services have different kinds of music, both led by wonderful musicians, Dale Williams and Winston Culler. We also have a fantastic choir and handbell choir, as well as music concerts throughout the year.
- PAGBCC believes in serving the community beyond us, always looking for ways to donate, volunteer, or just connect with partners in St. Pete Beach and beyond! Many of our church members also volunteer on their own with non-profits in the area.
- PAGBCC is located in a beautiful setting that we do not take for granted. We love being mere yards from the ocean, which is part of why we worship outside every Sunday morning!
- PAGBCC believes in walking alongside one another through the joys and sorrows of life, and we live this out through our Caregivers and Piecemakers ministries, along with occasional support groups. We believe nobody should walk alone through this life.
- PAGBCC is theologically diverse, we love exploring the Bible and wrestling with biblical texts. We respect each other's beliefs and believe that our faith is deepened when we are in conversation with one another.
- PAGBCC is a politically diverse congregation, as we do not put our ultimate trust in lawmakers, but in Jesus Christ.
- PAGBCC believes that everyone has spiritual gifts to contribute to the life of our community. If someone feels called to start a ministry or plan an event, we have a bias towards YES, and we do all that we can to help make it happen. Along similar lines, we love to try new things, as we think this is an important way for us to be responsive to the Holy Spirit in our midst.
- PAGBCC makes decisions democratically, as we believe that all members of our church have a voice in how we are governed and how we operate. We have meetings a few times a year where members get together to discuss and vote on important topics. Some people serve in elected leadership positions, and are very accessible to the wider congregation.

PAGBCC believes in treating all people with kindness and respect as we try to model the Beloved Community that Jesus envisioned for us. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, which means that we welcome all people into the life of our church, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.



*We are who we are because of each person who calls PAGBCC their church home.
If you are part of our community, we are blessed by your presence.
If you aren't part of our community, please come join us on any Sunday morning,
we'd love to welcome you.*

A MESSAGE FROM

our Pastor

Dear PAGBCC Community,

As I reflect on this past year of ministry together, my heart is filled with deep gratitude for all that God has done in our community. It is truly a privilege to serve as your Senior Pastor, walking alongside you in faith as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ in Pass-A-Grille and beyond.

My calling in this role is to serve you through pastoral care, worship leadership, teaching, administrative support, small group engagement, and prayerful strategic planning. In each of these areas, my hope is that all we do points back to the glory of God and strengthens our shared witness in the world.

Much of my time has been devoted to pastoral care—walking with those navigating challenges, offering presence, prayer, and support. I have also been blessed to connect with many newcomers through handwritten notes and one-on-one gatherings, helping to share the warmth of our community with those looking for a church home. Additionally, I have grown more deeply connected with our leadership through governance work and participation in our many small group ministries.



“One of the most remarkable aspects of our church is the strength of our lay leadership, that's YOU!”

While our size could easily support two full-time pastors, we thrive with just one because of the dedication, faithfulness, and leadership of so many volunteers. You have stepped forward in countless ways, ensuring that our ministries flourish. I am inspired and grateful to serve alongside such committed leaders. You make me want to be a better pastor.

This year also marked an important milestone: our first full year back in our renovated building following the hurricane, and my first full year as your settled pastor. After seasons of transition, I believe we have found a renewed sense of rhythm and stability. There is a spirit of momentum among us—a sense that we are truly stepping into who God is calling us to be.

I also want to acknowledge the significant efforts made by our leadership to strengthen our financial health. Together, we have worked to increase revenue and reduce expenses, striving to live within our means. These changes were not always easy, and they required sacrifice and flexibility from many. Yet, through it all, I have witnessed a spirit of unity and shared purpose. Your generosity and commitment are already bearing fruit, and I am confident that these efforts will continue to bless our ministry in the year ahead.

It is an absolute joy to serve this congregation. I am so proud of how far we have come, and I am filled with hope as we look toward the future. I truly believe that God is at work among us, and I am excited to see what the next year of ministry will bring. Thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your partnership as followers of Christ.



In Christ's love,

Angela Wells-Bean

Rev. Dr. Angela Wells-Bean

Senior Pastor



A MESSAGE FROM

Church Council President

Greetings PAGBCC'ers,

Our 2025-2026 fiscal year started out tough, but ended strong.

On my first day as Council President, we launched our \$1.7 million capital campaign Together We Rise (TWR) to address the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Funds from the congregation, hoped-for grants from FEMA, and other actions will be needed to retire the debt we took on and restore our reserves. We have had a strong start—almost \$750,000 in commitments have been received, and early follow-through allowed us to pay off the line of credit taken to do remediation in the early weeks following the hurricane.



On my second day, I confirmed to the Council and later at the June Annual Meeting that we found ourselves projecting a budgeted loss of (\$263,117) with few reserves still available to be deployed. Very simply, our expenses had not adjusted to changes in our income. The congregation approved this budget with the direction to take necessary actions to reduce the deficit. Together, actions were taken. Expenses were reduced, savings were realized, and, most importantly, our resilient congregation stepped up to increase giving. We expect to end the fiscal year with a close to balanced outcome.

**“ We may have been battered, but we are strong together.
Every day seems a little brighter! ”**

Finally, I had an inkling of the church volunteer activities many congregants contributed their time and talent toward. It makes me proud that so many people work hard to keep our church thriving. Over 100 church volunteers sing in the choir, make quilts for hospitals and other organizations, maintain the church, run our Spring Concert Series, usher, ensure that food and clothing donations get to charities, rebuild in Biloxi on the Adult Mission Trip, manage the parking lots, run the Thrift Store, count donations and get them to the bank, and many other acts of volunteerism. Thank you to each and every one of you!

John England

Church Council President 2025-2027

2025–2026

CHURCH COUNCIL



Serving with leadership, vision, and care for our church community.

John England
President*

Brad Miller
Vice President*

David Christein**
Treasurer*

Michael Brill**
Pastoral Relations*

Vivian Fueyo
Secretary*

Sue MacKenzie & Kim Miller
Worship Life Ministry

Vanessa McCambridge
Music Ministry

Joe Moore**
Stewardship and Endowment Ministry

Sally Scaman
Outreach Ministry

Amanda Lord
Children's & Youth Ministry

Bob Herb
Facilities Ministry

Ed Kuznick
Men's Ministry

Lois Davis
Women's Ministry

Sally Cash
Social Justice Ministry

Tom Pusateri
Nominating Committee Chair

Anthony Saveikis**
Business Manager

Donna DeSpain
Montessori By the Sea & Membership

* Executive Committee

** Interim member installed as an elected member on June 1, 2026.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Chair: Thomas Pusateri

This committee receives recommendations and seeks out emerging leaders to serve in Church Council positions, and after collaboration with the Executive Committee and the Senior Pastor, selects members of the Church for nomination to fill open positions. The list of nominees is then presented to the full Council and put forth for election by the church membership in accordance with our bylaws.

During this fiscal year 2025-2026, we successfully filled four vacancies with interim members who later accepted nominations to full terms and were elected to serve in those roles. (See Council listing on previous page.) We invite and encourage church members interested in serving in a leadership role to identify themselves to the nominating chair, so that we maintain a healthy pool of talent and ensure that our ministries and committees remain strong.

BUSINESS MANAGER

Business Manager: Anthony Saveikis

Supports all of the individual ministries, Pastor, and Church Council in the areas of law, business compliance, and government relations, including the interactions with our first responders. Responsible for reviewing and examining all contracts and supply agreements with the Treasurer for goods and services at PAGBCC and seeking further cost-cutting, efficiencies, and economies of scale.

This year...

We applied to the City of St. Pete Beach for an exemption from its annual FOG (fats, oil, and grease) requirements for our effluent (sewage discharge). An ongoing exemption would obviate the need for annual applications, inspections, permits, and fees for both PAGBCC and Montessori By The Sea.

AND

We engaged the Felten Property Assessment Team for an insurance valuation update of our buildings and their replacement costs. The initial fee was renegotiated to a lower cost to the Church. The full report is on file in the administrative office (97 pages), but an abbreviated "highlight" version is in print. Both reports are available for anyone interested in seeing them.

NEW GOAL: FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION

In cooperation with the Facilities Ministry, we are working with the University of Florida extension botanists and master gardener volunteers (MGV) and aspiring to a more "Florida-Friendly Landscape." This includes identifying invasive plant species, minimizing stormwater pollution, fostering native plants, wildlife conservation, and sustainability.



WORSHIP LIFE MINISTRY

Co-Chairs: Susan MacKenzie and Kim Miller



Provides hospitality for all who join us for worship on Sunday morning and other occasions. This Ministry shall appoint from among its membership a person(s) responsible for head ushers, altar preparation, Baptism, Communion, Confirmation preparation, and collection of offerings.



The Worship Life Ministry shall share oversight with the Minister(s) for the spiritual life of the Church, concern for the nurture and care of the members of the Church, and actively assist the Ministers in the worship atmosphere of the Church.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES



Setting up the outdoor space for the 8:30 am service and preparing the sanctuary for the 10 am service.



Taking physical attendance at both services and returning the Friendship Pad attendance sheets to the office.



Making special preparations for Christmas and Easter, including promoting these services locally.

2025-2026 ENHANCEMENTS



New Communion vessels were acquired.



Youth are assisting with the 10 am service on the first Sunday of the month from October through May.

Thanks...



- ♥ To our over twenty volunteer ushers
- ♥ All those who donate communion elements, and
- ♥ All who help in preparation for our services.

A special thanks to Sharon Freeman for the beautiful decorations she prepared throughout the year.





CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Chair: Amanda Lord

Associates for Children's and Youth Ministry : Signe Webb and Todd Webb

Building a vibrant, welcoming community where children, youth, and families grow together in faith, love, and service.

CELEBRATING

a year of

RESILIENCE, GROWTH, AND NEW ENGAGEMENT.



Bustling classroom and meeting spaces



Enthusiastic engagement in service projects



Intergenerational events and conversations



Pastor-led educational and Confirmation classes



Youth Group mission work in the Peruvian Amazon led to deep introspection and an appreciation of phone-free time.



Over 23,000 meals were prepared and packed in coordination with U.S. Hunger.



Families discover new skills and intergenerational appreciation camping in our backyard nature preserve at Fort De Soto State Park.



After months of classes where Pastor Angela embraced the questions of our Confirmation class, we welcomed these young Christians into full church membership.



Children's Time creates joy for our whole congregation during our 10 am Sunday worship services.



A MINISTRY OF LEARNING, COMMUNITY, AND GROWTH

Montessori By The Sea (MBTS), an outreach mission of Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church (PAGBCC) for over 35 years, serves a diverse community of families in and around St. Pete Beach. We offer high-quality Montessori education at the primary and elementary levels.



A PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY



Montessori By The Sea is governed by a board of volunteers, the majority of whom are members of PAGBCC; and the School Board Chair serves on the Church Council. MBTS in turn serves the church through monthly occupancy donations, currently totaling over **\$130,000** per year.

FAITH, FAMILY & OUTREACH

The school's mission includes an emphasis on growing church membership and participation. As a result of programs hosted by Signe Webb of the Children's and Youth Ministry, we are seeing increased crossover of young families looking for a church environment.

In addition, MBTS's sixth-graders have taken the lead in encouraging all MBTS students and families to support the Church's Outreach Ministry goals: by participating in **Teddy Bear Sunday** (collecting teddy bears for first responders to use with children in traumatic situations) and by collecting clothing for **Clothes to Kids** and food for **Good Samaritan Food Pantry**.



IN THE CLASSROOM

MBTS occupies two preschool-kindergarten classrooms in the Stern House (the blue building, west of the Sanctuary), enrolling 38 children aged 3 to 6, with two certified teachers and two assistant teachers. The upper and lower elementary programs use space in the church's education building, enrolling 42 students in grades 1 through 3 and 20 students in grades 4 through 6, with two certified teachers in each of the three classrooms.

ENRICHMENT & AFTERCARE

The school's aftercare program extends the school day for primary and elementary children until 5:30 pm to assist working parents. The school also offers before- and after-school activities, including:

running club • soccer • robotics • yoga • papermaking • science • chess • tennis • snorkeling

AQUATIC EXPLORATION & SEASIDE LEARNING

In addition to the August–May school year, MBTS offers the popular “Explore the Shore” summer camp for children ages 3 to 6, featuring weekly themes focused on the school's seaside environment.



Sixth-graders participate in scuba diving training and have the opportunity to complete their scuba diving certification, as a capstone to their aquatic master studies throughout their experiences at MBTS.

COMMUNITY & CREATIVITY

Each year, MBTS hosts an International Festival. This popular event allows students and families to experience what each grade level has studied about different countries. Students make presentations and the event culminates with an ethnic food celebration in Hurley Park.

Montessori students also express themselves through art. This year our students held an art exhibit, displaying their projects in the Commons. Church members greatly appreciated seeing the children's work.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

For the past five years, MBTS families, under the leadership of parent and Board Member, Denise Chase, worked with the city of St. Pete Beach to create a playground in Hurley Park. Through generous Annual Fund donations, MBTS was able to contribute \$37,500 to help cover park expenses. After many meetings with the Pass-A-Grille Historical Society, the vote to approve went to the St. Pete Beach Commissioners in late March. After a ground-breaking ceremony in April, students now enjoy playing in the park, full of new playground equipment, every day.

A few years ago, MBTS purchased a bus to transport students to local museums, libraries, and other enrichment opportunities. This year, the school shared the bus with Uke Kooks as they entertained in retirement facilities, as well as the youth groups when going on local retreats and mission trips.



MEN'S MINISTRY



Chair: Ed Kuznick



Through community and prayer, we provide a dedicated space for men to grow in their faith, build community with other men, develop leadership skills, pray for Church members, and address the unique challenges they face. We offer Bible studies, mentoring programs, service projects, and social events, ultimately equipping men to be strong spiritual leaders within their families and community.

Join us for:



**WEEKLY PRAYER
BREAKFASTS**



**POTLUCK
DINNERS**



**PANCAKE
BREAKFASTS**



**OPPORTUNITIES
TO LEND OUR
HELPING HANDS**



Men's Ministry uses technology to bring distant and home-bound members to the table at their weekly prayer breakfast.



Pancake Breakfast

Our Pancake Breakfast builds community and honors first responders.



"Together We Cook"

The Men's Ministry's April Potluck Dinner highlighted the recipes from the Women's Ministry's "Together We Cook" recipe book.



Lending Our Helping Hands

Always lending our "helping hands" we moved many crates of books to the new library and donations to the Thrift Shop, as we rebuilt from 2024 Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Chair: Vanessa McCambridge
Choir Director & Organist/Pianist: Dale Williams
Music Leader: Winston Culler



38 members of the Chancel Choir



12 members of the Handbell Choir



92 worship services this year



Eight services were accompanied by a cellist, three by a violinist, and two by a timpanist. A string quartet played on Christmas Eve, and a brass quartet played on Easter Sunday.



MUSIC THAT INSPIRES WORSHIP

The variety and excellence of the music at our church truly stand out, from the beauty of the choir and the anthems it sings, to our pianist/organist's playing, to the welcoming praise music of our keyboardist at the early service. We offer music to enhance the worship experience in meaningful ways.





A YEAR OF MUSIC & CELEBRATION



The Music Ministry held two special concerts this year, "Let Freedom Ring" and "Broadway Favorites."

This fall, 15 members of our choir joined the Tampa Oratorio Singers on a trip to Europe to sing in the cathedrals of Strasbourg, France, and Speyer and Cologne, Germany.



“ When we first attended PAGBCC, we immediately knew we had found our Florida church home, due in no small part because of the caliber of the music we heard. Participating in and praising God with music was and is a foundational part of worship for us. I emailed Dale (our organist and choir director) the next day and asked to attend choir rehearsal. Of course, she said, "Yes." The rest is history.

— Paul and Sue



ALL ARE WELCOME

Our choir is truly a music ministry. All are welcome. We invite anyone who wants to sing to bring the gifts God gave them and rejoice! No tryouts needed.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Chair: Lois Davis



Our Women's Ministry nurtures women's spiritual, emotional, and social needs in the congregational setting. The ministry is tailored to support women through various life and faith journey stages, offering programs, studies, events, and mentorship opportunities that address women's unique perspectives and challenges. The Women's Ministry strives to empower women to grow in their faith and assume active church and community roles.

Our Priorities



**SCRIPTURAL
TEACHINGS**



**PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT**



**COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

We Are:

- Piecemakers (Quilting Group)
- Women on a Faith Journey (Bible Study)
- Book Club Organizers
- Hospitality Committee (Coffee Hour & Memorial Services) Volunteers
- Women's Social Luncheon Noshers
- Thrift Shop Operators
- Library Curators



LIBRARY CURATORS



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS



THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS

A YEAR OF GROWTH & CONNECTION

This past year has brought some changes to the structure of Women’s Ministry: we no longer have an Executive Committee, but we now have a Chairperson, and the Ministries are operating extremely well.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop has brought in more money this year than ever before!

LIBRARY

The Library has relocated to the Commons area, and the comments have been very positive.

PIECEMAKERS (QUILTING GROUP)

The Quilters have taken over the choir room, and they are happy with their new location.

COFFEE HOUR

We have resumed Coffee Hour, and the donations are very generous—lots of cookies and baked goods.



QUILLOWS FOR YOUTH FIRST MISSION TRIP



PIECEMAKERS

 *Thank You!*
Thanks to all who contribute to our vibrant Ministry. 

OUTREACH MINISTRY



Chair: Sally Scaman

The Outreach Ministry leads and coordinates our church's partnerships with non-profit organizations through volunteering opportunities and in-kind collections, both locally and beyond.

PARTNERSHIPS THAT MAKE AN IMPACT



ADULT MISSION TRIP—BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

A yearly retreat for adults who seek to improve the lives of people affected by natural disasters, the ills of poverty, and systemic economic injustice. The trip for 2026 was to Biloxi, Mississippi.



Working together in faith and service to rebuild homes and bring hope.



CLOTHES TO KIDS (C2K)

Our church collects clothing and monetary donations for Clothes to Kids, which provides new and quality used clothing to low-income or in-crisis school-age children.



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Church volunteers prepare and serve a monthly meal for the families living at the local Ronald McDonald House, which provides comfort, support, and resources to families who travel far from home for the medical care of their children.



TUTORING ANGELS

Serve as tutors at Mount Zion Christian Academy's after-school program for low-performing, low-income children in grades K-6. Church volunteers tutor students weekly in math and reading to improve their academic performance.



GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD PANTRY/VACATION DONATIONS

The pantry, managed by King of Peace Church, provides food to an average of 235 households and 790 individuals per month. PAGBCC collects donations and provides volunteers to greet clients, unload monthly USDA deliveries, and bag and distribute food. Vacation Donations addresses growing landfill waste and hunger by reducing food and item waste in vacation rentals. Food donations are dropped off at our church by short-term renters and then distributed to Good Samaritan Food Pantry.



ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADORS

Volunteers in this group put their faith into action by being good stewards of our planet and engaging with other organizations such as Tampa Bay Watch.



ST. PETE FREE CLINIC

Changes lives by providing health care, nutritious food, housing, and education for our neighbors in need. PAGBCC collects personal hygiene items for the people in need in Pinellas County.



HURRICANE HEALERS

Hurricane Healers is a group of volunteers providing assistance in the event of a hurricane. A survey was conducted this year to have ready names and numbers of individuals interested in assisting if a hurricane strikes our area. Luckily, this past year, the plan was not needed.



TEDDY BEAR SUNDAY

Teddy Bears were collected to donate to the Lealman Fire Station in Tierra Verde. Firefighters gave them to children in stressful situations.



SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY



Chair: Sally Cash



We provide education and resources to church members and the wider community to raise awareness, build bridges, and inspire action.

Through wider member engagement, our efforts expanded from exclusively racial justice, to the broader vision of social justice with an emphasis on LGBTQ+ rights and environmental justice. After surveying our congregation, we added housing inequality, immigration and refugee issues, and consitutional and voting rights to our priorities.

Join us for:



BOOK STUDIES



FILM SCREENINGS



WORKSHOPS

“

MICHAEL'S BOOK LAUNCH

“Participating in the Book Launch of *An Uncertain Life: Growing Up Gay and Southern Baptist*, a memoir by Michael Brill, a member of our church, helped me to know him better and to appreciate the courage of LGBTQ+ youth who often have to leave their families of origin to find understanding. I will be a better ally as a result of this event.”



WE ARE OPEN AND AFFIRMING

FACILITIES MINISTRY

Chair: Bob Herb

Members: John Nelson, Paul Granger, Keith Vandebussche

Our Facilities Ministry shall have the care and custody of the property of the Church.



Our members take loving care to ensure that the church building and grounds are properly maintained, safe, and welcoming for all members and visitors. The ministry takes an active role in preserving the church's physical environment, supporting its mission and activities by providing a well-kept space for worship, fellowship, and community events.

A Busy Year



Re-furbished the Thrift Shop from hurricane damage.



Implemented a landscape refresh thanks to a \$6k donation.



Installed brackets to hold flood barriers around the entire church and in the Thrift Shop.



Re-keyed all locks in the church and Thrift Shop to allow for a master key.



Installed bookshelves in the Commons, creating a new, more visible space for the Library.



Refreshed the flowers in all large pots on the pavilion.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

Chair: Donna DeSpain

Ensures the church's vitality through membership growth and engagement, nurturing and supporting members and fostering a sense of community.



Prospective New Member Luncheons and regular Joining Sundays have created a welcoming atmosphere and a positive outlook on our church's future.

36

NEW MEMBERS
this Fiscal Year

17%

of annual pledges came
from our 2024 & 2025
member classes

30

new members already
actively involved in the
church



Prospective New Member Luncheons
Building relationships and sharing what
it means to be part of our church.



Joining Sundays
Welcoming new members into
the life and mission of our church.

Creating strong connections cultivates a thriving community.

STEWARDSHIP AND ENDOWMENT MINISTRY

Chair: Joe Moore

Responsible for establishing the Church Endowment Fund. Prior to the budget planning process, the Stewardship and Endowment Ministry shall determine, in consultation with the Finance Committee, the amount of available interest income to be used for the upcoming budget. This ministry is also responsible for an annual stewardship drive, along with any additional financial/stewardship efforts needed by the Church, and is responsible for the education of the congregation regarding the giving of time and talent.



“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

—2 Corinthians 9:7

142

HOUSEHOLDS PLEDGED

(42% increase over last FY)

60

HOUSEHOLDS PLEDGED

in 2026 that did not
pledge in 2025

\$629,225

PLEDGED

(37% increase over last FY)

REINVIGORATING OUR ENDOWMENTS

As we plan for FY 26-27, we want to bring this same joyful spirit to the creation of new endowment funds that help secure your legacy at PAGBCC and ensure a vibrant future for our congregation. Will you consider a gift to the church from your will or estate? We would love to meet with you to discuss the options.

You don't have to be wealthy to leave a lasting legacy!



TREASURER'S REPORT



Our 2025-2026 Fiscal Year was an interesting and challenging year. We had just come off our second consecutive year with a substantial loss, our reserves were depleted and our debt from our former Raise the Steeple project and our hurricane recovery Together We Rise project was over \$1.1 million.

And then after just over half of the year, our long-time bookkeeper left and we had to scramble early on to make payroll, pay bills, maintain everyone's donation records and assign costs to the proper accounts. Our solution included the hiring of an outside accounting service managed by a CPA to perform our financial reporting and to help us outsource our payroll, and the addition of a part-time employee to assist with our onsite financial functions. This was accomplished well within the cost of the full-time bookkeeper and provides us with improved financial management.

After beginning the fiscal year performing a cash flow every week to make certain we could make payroll and pay our bills, the congregation stepped up big time. The combination of early giving of pledges, increased donations and contributions from new members, with trimming the budget, and implementing cost reductions, has resulted in our anticipating a balanced budget for the fiscal year. We want to give special thanks to the Thrift Store and the Youth Parking work for both achieving record revenues to help us balance the budget. Our final close for the fiscal year should be completed by the end of the month. Although we were able to pay off \$200,000 of our debt, our TWR campaign is only at 45% of our goal and our debt service of \$900,000 continues to be a major challenge going forward.

We want to thank everyone for the increased number of pledges and the amount pledged for our 2026-2027 fiscal year and were pleased to have had a breakeven budget, including the addition of a part time Associate Pastor, approved at our preliminary budget meeting in April.

**Prayerfully Submitted,
David Christein, Treasurer**

2026 SPRING CONCERT SERIES RECAP



4

**OUTDOOR
CONCERTS**

\$2,600

**TO
CLOTHES TO
KIDS**

\$2,600

**TO
TAMPA BAY
WATCH**

SEVERAL BARRELS

**FOOD DONATIONS FOR
GOOD SAMARITAN
FOOD PANTRY**

Beth England, Brad Miller, and their team of volunteers did it again for a 5th year in a row! We had an incredible series of four outdoor concerts in February and March. We welcomed back some of our favorite bands:

- Greg Billings and the Stay Up Lates
- Stormbringer
- BeatleBeat
- The Black Honkeys Band



The weather didn't cooperate on two of the four concerts this year, but that didn't stop the fans from dancing and singing in the rain and fog! After paying for the bands, we were able to give almost \$2,600 to each of our charities this year: Clothes To Kids and Tampa Bay Watch. We also collected several barrels of food for Good Samaritan Food Pantry! Thanks to everyone for their participation and generosity. We are already working on the dates for 2027!



NEW PROGRAMMING



LABYRINTH PRAYER GROUP

Our Labyrinth was built in the 1990's to create a contemplative space for our congregation and our neighbors, including the multitudes of visitors to our beach. It's an outdoor, permanent Chartres-style (medieval 11-circuit) labyrinth, laid in painted concrete, about 34 feet in diameter. It sits in the covered courtyard between the sanctuary and the education building.



We hoped to offer a spiritual tool to our congregation, the Pass-A-Grille Beach community, and visitors from across the globe, that they might find solace and illumination. There are many paths to God. This is one step.

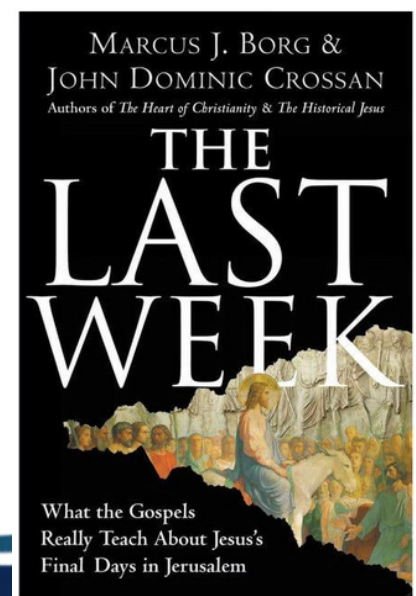
Note that a labyrinth is not a maze, a puzzle, or a game. There is one path in and one path out, and the whole is always visible. But you may come away with answers.

In 2025, Pastor Angela launched and continues to guide a Labyrinth Prayer Group to allow our members and guests an opportunity to experience labyrinth walks collectively and to build an intentional practice of meditation. Please contact the church office if you are interested in learning more about the prayer group.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Several dozen congregants joined Pastor Angela for a six-week journey through the book, **The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem** by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

The discussions went deep as we probed the Gospel of Mark, and the insights were striking. Pastor Angela took us beyond the text, sharing her own research. There was a clear hunger in the room for more conversations like this with our learned Reverend Dr. Angela Wells-Bean.



In Memoriam

We remember those church members who have passed away since June 1, 2025.

Charles "Bud" Aydlett

J. Brett Biggs

Joan Binmore

J.D. Burns

Barbara Carothers

Scott Elsass

Frank Martinelli

Terry Palmer

Paul Peters

Henry Rutledge

Gayle Schimpf

Richard Smith

Why we *Love* our church...



“

I love... our minister and all the people who make the church such a welcoming place...
the outreach we do in the community serving others... *the welcoming community...*
the worship enhanced by inspirational music... our Christ-centered and compassionate pastor...
the stained glass window behind the altar... the support and caring... *the community of faith...*
the music that soothes the soul... *the mission outreach* that we can participate in... the choir...
the sisterhood of the Women's Ministry... how our pastor makes scripture relevant to our daily lives...
how Sunday fills me for the week... learning through the sermon and coming together...
the service that we provide to members and to non-members... choir rehearsal... coming together
because it makes me a better person... being part of a community of faith... *belonging...*
the shared support... the music ministry... the youth... our concert series... our willingness to share
our space with Montessori By the Sea... our value of education... our intimate size... the church bells...
the resilience and hopefulness... *the people...* the congregants... the humility... the purposeful service...
the pastor... the two different and diverse services... worship at the beach... *the feeling of belonging...*
many willing volunteers... the caring... the people... *how happy we are to see one another...* that we're
a UCC church... the opportunity to serve others... the church services... *the coffee hour and
socialization...* the fellowship...how awesome our church is.

”

“

When we first joined PAGBGC, the main attraction for us was the thoughtful sermons and beautiful music, in addition to the church being so inclusive. Now, in addition to those attractions, our church truly feels like family. We thank God for the opportunity to worship, serve, and have fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Finally, the support that we have received from and given to pastoral staff and congregants over the years is truly a blessing in our lives. It means so much to have a network to share life's joys and sorrows while feeling the presence of God in the midst of us.

”



“

If you asked me to tell you in one word,
I would say I ❤️ EVERYTHING!

I've been a member of PAGBCC for about 25 - 28 years. At first, a co-member with my UCC Church in Wallingford, CT.

I Love Our Church and The Beautiful Location!

I love ALL the activities that are available to ALL of US ❤️

I love that I have served on many of our activities
over the years 🎵❤️🎵.

I LOVE THE PEOPLE ❤️

No Matter What — When all is well, we love one another!

When there are bumps in the road,
we deal with them and we still love one another. ❤️

Our Office Staff is awesome, always ready to help!

I've been here with several Ministers and Loved them all, ❤️
🙏❤️ but now with Pastor Angela and her wonderful family,
there is an energy filled with a warmth and love that you know
that God's love is all around us ❤️

That's what I love about our church. ❤️🙏❤️

”



OUR STAFF



Rev. Dr. Angela Wells-Bean
Senior Pastor

PAGBCC worship is blended in nature, at times relaxed and contemporary, on other occasions more formal and traditional. Sermons provide moments of sacred storytelling in engaging and provocative ways. As a congregation of the United Church of Christ, we welcome people from every walk of life regardless of religious background, education, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, economic means or nationality.



8:30 am service

A service on our outdoor pavilion, featuring contemporary music and Holy Communion is served weekly.



Winston Culler
Music Leader
8:30 am Service



10 am service

A traditional service in our sanctuary with choir and ensemble singers. The sacrament of Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month.



Dale Williams
Choir Director &
Organist/Pianist
10 am Service



Signe & Todd Webb
Associates for
Children's & Youth
Ministry



Jennifer Bell & Rafiq Kaid
Cleaning Services



Stacey Jackson
Church
Administrator



Traci Hitchcox
Media Communications
Coordinator



PASS-A-GRILLE BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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