



FAITHFUL FOLLOWER

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Len West

March 2011

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will take place at 6pm on March 8 in the church narthex. Once again, Chef Jack Williams will be serving his famous, tasty pancakes, with assistance from Pete Groth. Sausage and fruit will also be available. Donations will be a requested. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

ATTENTION ALL FAITH WOMEN!



Please attend an important breakfast meeting of Faith Women on Saturday, March 5th at 9:30 am. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on a slate of officers and to decide the future of Faith Women. We currently have no president or vice president, and consequently cannot have Faith Women without a leader. Please come for coffee and a simple breakfast and be prepared to help elect leaders or to disband. A sign up sheet is in the narthex-please sign up so we know you'll be there. Thank you!

Adult Bible Study to Begin

Beginning on Sunday, March 13 at 9:00 AM, Pastor Len will lead an Adult Bible Study. It will be approximately 30-40 minutes in duration.

The focus of the study will be the preaching and worship theme for that day.

Pastor Len



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 19,
9 am

Cracker Barrel
Restaurant

636 67th St Cir. E (off SR 64)



Spring Ahead on Sunday, March 13.

"Our mission is to **affirm** all people as we grow together in the **light** and **love** of Christ."

Worship With Us

March 6, 2011

Message: The Rev. Len West
Flowers: Pat Osborne in celebration of loved ones
Greeters: Don & Dee Brown
Guest Book: Betsy Biro
Hospitality: Available
Scripture: Lowell Peterson
Usher: Margie Hooie & Marjorie Steele

March 13, 2011

Message: The Rev. Len West
Flowers: Harry & Evelyn Anderson in loving memory of Joyce
Greeters: Pat Osborne & Berneta Harper
Guest Book: Betsy Biro
Hospitality: Available
Scripture: Fred Damianos
Ushers: Eleonore Sulloway & Marjorie Steele

March 20, 2011

Message: The Rev. Len West
Flowers: Marge Hooie
Greeter: Pat Osborne & Berneta Harper
Guest Book: Betsy Biro
Hospitality: Harry & Evelyn Anderson
Scripture: Bruce Covey
Ushers: Barry Stipp & John Potts

March 27, 2011

Message: The Rev. Len West & Rev. Kent J. Siladi
Flowers: Gayle, Bruce and Dick Garrard in memory of loved ones
Greeter: Joan & Bob Schiller
Guest Book: Betsy Biro
Hospitality: Available
Scripture: Marge Hooie
Ushers: Barry Stipp & John Potts

If

you, a member of your family, or someone you know is ill or hospitalized please let the office know, as soon as possible. A member of Faith Church would like to make a visit to bring God's word of comfort. The church office telephone number is 746-8890 or email at faithchurchucc@verizon.net.



YOUR
STAFF

Pastor

The Rev. Len West

Director of Music

Dennis Crowley

Secretary

Judy Wetter

Office Hours 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

746-8890

Fax 746-0670

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faithchurchucc@verizon.net

Faith Website:

faithchurchucc.com

The Follower

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2011 Board of Governors

President, Mark Sulloway 350-3355

1st. Vice President, M.R. Lembright 776-9004

Vice President, Fred Damianos 747-3182

Vice President, Janis Groth 779-6988

Secretary, Joan Beach 722-4421

Treasurer, Pete Groth 779-6988

Financial Secretary, Marge Hooie 747-2734

Building & Grounds, Dick Sluss 714-7873

Christian Education, Debra Barnard 545-8689

Department of Congregational Involvement

M.R. Lembright 776-9004

Department of Ministry,

Bruce Covey 741-8566

Kaye McGregor 724-6313

Stewardship, Mark Sulloway 350-3355

SAM, Barbara Brownell 747-9643

Faith UCC Food Bank

Next collection day

Sunday, March 6

Pastor, Pen and Parish

Lent begins...

In just a little over a week we will have yet another opportunity to say,

“This Lent will be different.” We always mean it when we say so, but the busy-ness of life encroaches on our best resolve. But here we are staring in the face of a new Lent with a new hope that we might join more closely with the One who loves us so deeply.

Jesus begins his public ministry with a call to change, to repent, to examine our lives and discover ways to make Jesus’ reign in our hearts real. We ease into the season with Ash Wednesday and perhaps a smudge on the forehead to remind ourselves and show others how intent we are about our quest to become more Christ-like.

The Christ’s first heart-stopping public oration was a proclamation lifted from the prophet Isaiah. He stunned the assemblage at the synagogue in Nazareth when he announced, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.” He continued to channel Isaiah when he said that he had been anointed to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, freedom to the oppressed and recovery of sight to the blind.

Is that not exactly what we at Faith are doing as we work to make the dream of being an Open and Affirming congregation as we welcome and affirm literally everyone, regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation, infirmity, age or place of origin? Do we not continue Jesus’ proclamation of freedom and liberty every time we offer a blanket or supply of food to someone who is imprisoned by hunger or is a captive of a cold dark night. Whenever we offer a kind word of welcome, affirmation and encouragement, aren’t we doing what Jesus did?

During this Lenten season, the *who* is the God who made us and loves us unconditionally. The *why* is that we have been called by Jesus to follow his proclamation. The *when* is right this minute and the *where* is patently obvious.

It is the *what* that is in question. What specifically might our Still Speaking God be asking of us so that this Lent can be different? What spiritual practice might draw us closer to Jesus?

Reflectively,



Rev. Kent J. Siladi, Florida Conference Minister to Visit

The Rev. Kent J. Siladi, Conference Minister for the Florida Conference will provide the message on Sunday, March 27. Rev. Siladi began his duties as Conference Minister in July of 2007. Prior to that time he was on the Conference staff of the Connecticut Conference for 10 years, serving as a Regional Minister. He also was a local church pastor for sixteen years serving two churches in the Connecticut Conference.

As Conference Minister his primary responsibilities include offering a ministry of leadership and relationship, communicating the mission and ministry of the Florida Conference, providing programmatic and Conference staff oversight, assuring business and financial oversight and representing the Florida Conference to the wider church.

Rev. Siladi is a graduate of Nasson College and Yale Divinity School.

**Faith United Church of Christ
Board of Governors Meeting
February 8, 2011**

Present: Pastor Len West, Mark Sulloway, Fred Damianos, Marge Hooie, Joan Beach, Bruce Covey, Debra Barnard, Pete Groth, Janis Groth, Richard Sluss, Ina Bingham and Judy Wetter

The meeting was opened at 7:00 PM with prayer by Pastor West.

The minutes for the January 11, 2011 meeting were approved.

Financial Secretary Report: Marge reported that we collected about \$1800 more in January 2011 than in January 2010. An anonymous donor gave the church \$3500 for operating and \$6500 for the building fund.

Treasurer's Report: Pete reported that we have a current balance of \$6900.

Pastor's report: Len reported that there are two upcoming events and hopes that members will attend. The first is in Sarasota on 3/5 called Unwrapping Our Gifts and the second is the Florida UCC annual meeting in Boca Raton on 4/30. Adult Bible Study will begin on 3/13 at 9:00a.m.

Secretary's report: Judy reported that a truck made donuts in the front lawn and that it has been reported to the police.

Committee Reports:

Ministry: The Pastoral Relations Committee is Joan Sheehan, Marjorie Steele, Carol Chamberlain, Eleonore Sulloway and Bruce Covey. The music committee will evaluate Dennis in 3 months and is ongoing and meets when necessary. Chili Cook-off sign up is on the Kitchen door.

Christian Education: Deb announced that Adult Bible study is meeting on Wed night at 5:30 to eat and then discussion follows until 7:00. The Crop Walk is on 2/27 at 2:00 at Rossi Park.

Building and Grounds: Dick said that there were holes dug in the Memorial Garden. The holes have been filled in and will be reported to the police. Devcon, our security service will be asked to place signs in that area in the hope that further incidences won't occur. Dick is the burial steward for the Memorial Garden.

Faith Women: There will be a breakfast meeting on March 5 to discuss the future of Faith Women

SAM: The next meeting will be on March 1. The group will discuss the possibility of adding to the current list who receive contributions.

Congregational Involvement: MR, Babs and Jack are willing to help committee chairs when the need arises.

Endowment: Pastor Len mentioned that Jack Barnes has worked on endowments and may be able to help.

Old Business: Fred Rhimes is helping with Sunday school. The Youth will help clean the Memorial Garden before Peggy Shanbarker's committal.

Reports were made on phone calls.

There was a discussion on growth.

There was also discussion on SMART goals for the pastor. Fred, Mark, Janis and Joan are on the steering committee.

New Business: A music school in conjunction with Dennis was discussed. There is grant money available for churches and that will be looked into.

The meeting closed with prayer at 9:15 by Pastor Len.

The next meeting will be held on February 15 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Beach, Secretary

News & Notes.....

With Heartfelt Thanks

Dear Friends,

You are good medicine for me! Thank you, thank you for all of your prayers, cards, calls and other unique expressions of support. Each and every one brought a smile to my heart.

Bless you each and every one!

M.R. Lembricht



Food Pantry

. We need your help! Please continue to support our food pantry. Monetary donations are always welcome.

Suggested items might include:

Hearty soup, canned vegetables and fruit, cereal, paper products, laundry products, hand soap, shampoo, etc.



Dinner and Dessert

We had a large group at our last Dinner and Dessert gathering, February 11. The meal was delicious, and the fellowship was great.

We'll do it again March 11, when we meet at the Anna Maria Oyster Bar in Ellenton. Mary Lou and Jack Williams will host the dessert, and rumor has it that Mary Lou will be serving her famous carrot cake. Please mark your calendar for 6 PM on March 11.



Adult Discussion Group

Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

We'll be discussing the book, *"The Bible and the United Church of Christ"*

(Copies of the book will be provided)

Please bring your own drink and a snack to share

Sponsored by the Christian Education Committee

If you have questions, please contact

Janis Groth at 779-6988.



Greetings from Faith Preschool.....

COME ONE, COME ALL

Faith Preschool's Annual Kid's Carnival will be Saturday, April 2, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. We will have a Silent Auction with over 100 items, game booths, a bounce house a huge slide, food and a bake sale.....a fun day for everyone! Come out and join the fun and support Faith Preschool.



Wendi Steinbach, Director





Dennis Crowley, our new Director of Music, came to Faith Church UCC at the beginning of January, and has been trying a number of new anthems with the choir, as well as a variety of music for the Prelude,

Offertory, and Postlude, to enliven the musical program, and to gauge the style of music preferred by the congregation (traditional, contemporary, or both). So far, the choir has sung anthems entitled "Everywhere I Go," "We're the Image of God's Smile," "Come and Dine" and "It is No Secret." Anthems are beginning to change in preparation for the upcoming Lenten season. Other anthems are being prepared by the choir that will continue the Lenten mood, but also attempt to get the congregation involved with the choir in singing an anthem on occasion. The congregation's cooperation in this effort is greatly appreciated

The choir has also begun the practice of singing a new Introit each month, which they introduce on the first Sunday. The congregation is encouraged to join in on the Introit as soon as they become comfortable with it. The lyrics will be projected on the screen. A new "Going Forth" hymn is being added at the end of the service.

Special music is being planned, both instrumental and vocal, by members of the con-

gregation to assist in expanding the musical program over the next several months. If you have a musical talent that you would care to share with the congregation, please come forward so you can be included.

Dennis looks forward to meeting all the members of the congregation, and getting their input into the musical program so it can be improved to meet the needs of all the members. By working together the music can be made both enjoyable and meaningful for everyone.

FOLLOWER CHART 2011



The 2011 flower chart is on the bulletin board. Please pick your special date by adding your name and if the flowers are in memory of or in celebration of a person or event. The cost for flowers is still \$20, payable to Faith Church. The flowers are provided by Elite Florist & Gift Shop. If you would like to reserve a date you can also contact the church office at 746-8890.

Available dates are: April 10, 24, May 1, 8, 29, June 5, 12, 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24, August 14, 21, Sept. 4, 11, October 2, 9, 30, Nov. 6, 27, December 11.

Judy



Faith United Church of Christ Auction

Antiques, Collectibles, Furniture,
New Items & More.

Saturday March 19, 2011.

Preview: 11:00 AM

Auction: 1:00 PM

Actively Seeking Auction Items Call Laura 727-424-0590.

Volunteers Needed.

Youth Doings.....



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Souper Bowl, Valentine's Day Surprise, Carwash and Youth Bake Sale were ALL a SUCCESS!!!! We collected \$88 from the Souper Bowl donations for St Jude's... We so appreciate all of you and may God Bless All of You!
Your Youth, Young Adult and Youth Leaders

UPCOMING EVENT

WATCH for MORE FUN D RAISERS in the near future.

Salad Bar Sunday, March 21- 30° Famine April 22 – Spaghetti Dinner TBA and MORE...

HELP WANTED



WE ARE STILL LOOKING for VOLUNTEERS to HELP OR ASSIST OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES, ETC.. Please contact anyone from Christian Education (Debra Barnard, Earleen Nutting, Linda Theiss, Janis Groth, Hatti Brown-Damianos or Ina) or fill in the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Any help that you can offer, if just on a NOW & THEN or AS NEEDED basis would be deeply appreciated. Primary and Middle School are our biggest need. Thank You and May God Bless.

TO THE YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

KUDOS – you ALL did an AWESOME job with the Valentine baking. Everything was BEAUTIFUL plus DELISH! Debra & Ina

WELCOME FRED RHINES

Our latest part-time/ fill-in Sunday School leader. And, 'THANK YOU' for helping out with the Carwash.. Valet Boy is NOT such an easy job, eh? We truly appreciate you being such a good sport.



"YOUTH to YOUTH"
FAITH UCC YOUTH GROUP to YOUTH at MANATEE CHILDREN SERVICES
DUFFLE BAG DRIVE



"YOUTH to YOUTH" Duffel Bag Drive – This drive is non-ending as sadly, there will always be - Youth in Need – thru Manatee Children Services' OUTREACH program. Duffel bags – backpacks, even totes are appreciated, as most of these youth carry their worldly possessions in them. New or Used. Large or Small. All appreciated. If you have questions or want to donate in any way, please contact: Ina ina8667@aol.com or 941-725-1092. Thank You and May God Bless!

March 2011

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------|----|---|
| 1 | 6:00 PM Social Action & Mission Mtg. | SUNDAY | 27 | 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study
10:30 AM Service of Worship
Youth Group |
| 2 | 6:00 PM Adult Study
7:00 PM Choir | | | |
| 3 | 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous | | 28 | 7:00 PM Inlets HOA |
| 4 | 9:30 AM Church Women United | | 30 | 6:00 PM Adult Study
7:00 PM Choir |
| 5 | 9:30 AM Faith Women Breakfast Mtg. | | | |

SUNDAY

- 6 **10:30 AM Service of Worship
Communion/Food Bank
Youth Group**



March Birthdays

- 7 7:00 PM Building & Grounds
8 6:00 PM Pancake Supper
9 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service
10 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
11 6:00 PM Dinner & Dessert

SUNDAY

- 13 **9:00 AM Adult Bible Study
10:30 AM Service of Worship
Youth Group
ONA Meeting**

- | | |
|------|------------------|
| 3/4 | Shirley McDonald |
| 3/5 | Jerry Gerlach |
| 3/5 | Pat Osborne |
| 3/8 | Leon Barnard |
| 3/10 | Frank Sheehan |
| 3/10 | Barbara Brownell |
| 3/12 | Dusty Stoll |
| 3/14 | Joan Schiller |
| 3/18 | Robin Wentz |
| 3/19 | Diana Allen |
| 3/24 | Doris Gerlach |
| 3/24 | Midge Barnes |

- 15 7:00 PM Board of Governors
16 6:00 PM Adult Study
7:00 PM Choir
17 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous

SUNDAY

- 20 **9:00 AM Adult Bible Study
10:30 AM Service of Worship
Dept. of Ministry
Youth Group**

- 21 FOLLOER deadline
7:00 PM Braden River HOA

- 23 6:00 PM Adult Study
7:00 PM Choir

- 24 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous

- 25 FOLLOWER emailed

SUNDAY

- 27 **10:30 Worship Service
Youth Group**

- 28 7:00 Inlets HOA

PRAYER TEAM

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer call one of the following:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Betsy Biro | 798-8472 |
| Janis Groth | 779-6988 |
| Marge Hooie | 747-2734 |
| Helen Nutting | 792-3124 |
| Joan Sheehan | 748-2498 |
| Evelyn Anderson | 792-6991 |



Members of the Prayer Group are anxious to keep the prayer list current. Please advise us when you would like a name removed.