



FAITHFUL FOLLOWER

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Fred Rhines, Interim Pastor

May 2011

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We Are Officially ONA

We have something to celebrate! Faith United Church of Christ voted to become an official UCC Open and Affirming Church on Sunday, April 10, 2011. Our congregation overwhelmingly accepted our statement: Faith United Church of Christ believes everyone is loved equally by God. Therefore, we affirm all people, welcoming unconditionally those of every race, ethnicity, background, physical ability, gender identity, and sexual orientation, reaching out to embrace diversity as we grow together in the light and love of Christ. The vote took place during a congregational meeting called for that purpose; the results were 44 in favor to 3 opposed.



Our ONA status became official on April 15, when we received our congratulatory message from the UCC Coalition on GLBT Concerns. The name of our church will soon appear on their national list of ONA churches where it may be seen at:

<http://www.ucccoalition.org/programs/ona/who/list> We would like to thank committee chairs Joan Beach, Fred Damianos, and all the members of the committee for a job well done!

Called Congregational Meeting
May 1, 2011 Immediately Following Worship

The first matter will be a vote to release Rev. West from his ministry to Faith Church due to his written resignation letter of March 27. The second matter will be to bring you up to date on our recent efforts to streamline and reorganize the church administrative structure. After the formal part of the meeting, there will be a general discussion led by Rev. Rhines as to your questions regarding the church. A quorum is required, please plan to attend.
Mark Sulloway, President BOG

Invite a Friend to Church

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

Worship With Us

May 1, 2011

Message: The Rev. Fred Rhines
Flowers: Available
Greeters: Eleonore Sulloway & Janis Groth
Guest Book: Betsy Biro
Hospitality: Robin Wentz
Scripture: Joan Sheehan
Usher: Marge Hooie & Pat Osborne

May 8, 2011

Message: The Rev. Fred Rhines
Flowers: Ina Bingham in memory of her mother and for all Moms and Moms at heart.
Greeters: Eleonore Sulloway & John Potts
Guest Book: Betsy Biro
Hospitality: Faith Youth
Scripture: Bruce Covey
Ushers: Jack Williams & Pedro Samboy

May 15, 2011

Message: The Rev. Fred Rhines
Flowers: Grace Rodgers
Greeter: Eleonore Sulloway & John Potts
Guest Book: Betsy Biro
Hospitality: Available
Scripture: Fred Damianos
Ushers: Jack Williams & Pedro Samboy

May 22, 2011

Message: The Rev. Fred Rhines
Flowers: Harry & Evelyn Anderson in celebration of their 15th anniversary
Greeter: Eleonore Sulloway & Margy Stewart
Guest Book: Betsy Biro
Hospitality: Available
Scripture: Rev. Barry Stipp
Ushers: Joan Schiller & Joan Beach

May 29, 2011

Message: Faith Youth
Flowers: Available
Greeter: Eleonore Sulloway & Margy Stewart
Guest Book: Betsy Biro
Hospitality: Available
Scripture: Faith Youth
Ushers: Joan Schiller & Joan Beach

“Jesus Didn’t Reject
People. Neither Do We.”



**YOUR
STAFF**

Pastor

The Rev. Fred Rhines

Director of Music

Dennis Crowley

Secretary

Judy Wetter

Office Hours 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

746-8890

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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, May 1

From the Pastor's Desk.....

Dear Members and Friends,

Following a most busy and surprising month of April at Faith UCC, we are nonetheless left in the glow of Jesus' glorious resurrection as we look to the full month of May ahead. May, of course, is still the Easter season- the season of new life, new hope and new opportunities for our church.

I look forward to Faith Church taking advantage of this life and energy and beginning to move forward in our journey to enhance and progress our ministry as a church. The leadership training seminar led by Rev. Jeanette Sherill on April 16, I believe, gave our church leadership a great beginning by taking on the task of looking at our church structure and streamlining it to meet our needs of today and tomorrow.

Our overwhelming vote to be an ONA church in our Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ is a great step in recognizing and becoming the kind of church that we really are... a church of extravagant welcome and one that celebrates diversity and gifts of God's people.

Yes, we are a "God is Still Speaking" church. A church whose thinking is continually updated by our "still speaking" God. Please remember that our faith is 2,000 years old, but our thinking is not.

Shalom,

Pastor Fred



Take a Walk on the Wild Side at Vacation Bible School, 2011!

This summer Fucc will be going wild at VBS! Our theme is Pandamania – Where God is Wild about You! If you didn't join us last year, you won't want to miss out on the fun and the learning this time around. We'll be connecting kids to God, and watching them grow stronger in their faith as they discover God is WILD about them. We'll start each evening with dinner, and then move on to bible adventures, crazy crafts, treetop treats, and bamboo blast games. All the fun culminates with a Panda Picnic on the last day of VBS. We had a great turnout last year, but we're hoping to reach even more youth this summer. Help us get the word out, and then come out and join the fun!

Dates: June 23 & 24 5:00 PM—8:00 PM
June 25 9:00 AM—Noon,
Picnic starts at Noon

Mark Your Calendar

You are all invited to attend a 'free' and truly remarkable prayer event on July 3rd at 3:00 PM. Imagine singing hymns with 3,999 others. It's part of the "2011 UCC General Synod" held at the Tampa Bay Convention Center.



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.

**Faith United Church of Christ
Board of Governors Meeting
April, 12, 2011**

Present: Pastor Fred Rhines, Mark Sulloway, Fred Damianos, Marge Hooie, Barbara Brownell, Bruce Covey, Debra Barnard, Pete Groth, Janis Groth, Judy Wetter, Dick Sluss, and Kaye McGregor. The meeting was opened at 7:15 PM with a prayer by Pastor Fred.

The Minutes for March 15 meeting were approved.

Financial Secretary Report: Marge reported that comparing March 2010 to March 2011 the collection of operating fund money and loose plate offering increased by about \$600. So far this year our Mission giving has been: One Great Hour of Sharing \$472, Blanket Sunday \$409 and Churches Wider Mission \$910.

Treasurers Report: After outstanding bills are paid there will be a balance of \$1224 in the checkbook. Fred Damianos moved that Mark, Pete and Marge finalize the contract with Pastor Fred. This motion was seconded and approved by all members.

Upcoming events were reviewed including: Leadership Workshop on April 16, Maundy Thursday Service on April 21, Easter Service and egg hunt on April 24, Faith Discussion Group will start again on April 27, Habitat Workday on April 30, Faith Women on May 7, Dinner and Desert on May 13 and the 30 Hour Famine May 27 and 28.

Pastors Report: Pastor Fred said the Youth will assist as readers in the Maundy Thursday Service. He is very pleased we have become an ONA congregation. He has a vacation planned for June 1 thru 8 and will discuss getting a supply pastor with Bruce. The Conference has asked that we have a formal vote to release Pastor Len West from his contract. We will do this at a called Congregation Meeting on May 1. Fred Damianos moved that we release Pastor West from his ministry based on his resignation letter dated March 27. It was seconded by Dick Sluss and approved by the board.

Secretary's Report: Judy said she is pleased to be working with Pastor Fred. Our website has been updated and our ONA status is noted. She was able to change the new Church Directories so Pastor Fred will be in it. She said the preschool was concerned about the future of the church and Fred Damianos will speak with representatives of the preschool.

Committee Reports

Dept of Ministry: Easter lilies have been ordered and the flower cross will be brought down from storage.

Christian Education: Heather Reardon will be working with the junior and senior high youth and Ina Bingham will be with the young adults. There will be a youth led Sunday service on May 29 and Vacation Bible School will be June 23 thru 25.

SAM: We are collecting paper products for the migrants. We are continuing to collect for the food bank.

Buildings and Grounds: Work is continuing on the outdoor lights. We are replacing a pressure switch on the well used for watering the yard.

Stewardship: Mark has received information from the conference on fund raising.

Faith Women: Continue to meet monthly on Saturdays.

ONA: We have to be a church in good standing to keep ONA status. We have paid our per capita for 2010.

Endowment: Fred is working on a new tri-fold brochure. He plans to put an article in the follower and possibly on the website.

The meeting closed at 9:35 PM with a prayer by Pastor Fred.

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kaye McGregor, Secretary

News & Notes.....



Church Women United

Church Women United in Manatee will meet on May Friendship Day 2011 on Friday, May 6 at Westminster Manor on 21st Ave. in Bradenton, starting at 10:00 a.m.

If you would like to purchase a \$5 ticket for the luncheon, you can e-mail Peggy Nash at bohnpeggy@webtv.net or you may telephone Peggy at 778-6483 no later than April 28.

We will honor Dr. Edwina Stanley with the Valiant Woman Award. Marjorie Steele will pick up anyone who would like to ride to May Friendship Day at 9:30 in the Faith UCC parking lot.



Faith Discussion Group

Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

Please bring your own drink and a snack to share

Sponsored by the CE Committee

Faith Women May Luncheon



May 7, 2011 at 11:00 AM the women of Faith UCC will have their May Luncheon. Several People have mentioned that we use to all bring something, so I decided to have a Salad Luncheon and ask each of you to bring a favorite salad.

There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board so you can let us know you are coming. Come anyway even if you can't bring a salad. Our guest speaker is going to be our Betsy Biro, who is going to tell us some interesting stories about her life as the daughter of parents who were missionaries. You won't want to miss this luncheon. Please call Marge Hooie at 747-2734 weeknights with questions.

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A special thank you to Michelle Morrell, Erica Seeley and Courtney Bright for helping out at Faith Preschool's Annual Kid's Carnival.
We appreciate all of your help!
Wendi Steinbach, Director
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Greetings from Faith Preschool.....



Our Annual Kids Carnival was a fun-filled and successful fundraiser. We would like to thank the members of Faith UCC and their families who came out to support our

event.



Our next big event will be our Annual Art Show. It will be held on Tuesday, April 26 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Come out and see all the beautiful works of art the children have created throughout the year. Our "gallery" style show is a fancy event with finger foods.

Wendi Steinbach
Director

Dinner and Dessert

Jack and Midge Barnes will host dinner and dessert on May 13 at Bangkok Tokyo Restaurant 7337 52nd Place East, in the Creekwood Shopping Plaza. This is at the corner of Hwy 70 (53rd Ave) and 72nd St, first stop light West of I-75. Dessert will be at the home of Jack and Midge Barnes, 6318 Grand Oak Circle #104 in the Tara Preserve. Follow Tara Blvd 1 mile, turn L on Tailfeather and L into Grand Oak, bear L to 2nd building.





CHOIR HAPPENINGS

The choir has been doing an excellent job over the past month singing well a number of challenging anthems, for which many members of the congregation have indicated their appreciation. Songs like “All in the April Evening” and “Rain Down” set the proper mood during the season of Lent. The traditional anthems of “The Palms” on Palm Sunday, and “The Halleluia Chorus” on Easter are always welcome and enjoyed as meaningful and appropriate.

The choir will be ending its season on the first Sunday of May since many choir members will no longer be available until the Fall. Special music will be worked on to replace the anthem at the usual time in the service until the choir reconvenes.

Our music director, Dennis, is planning to provide an organ/piano concert of patriotic music near July 4th. The program will consist of a number of patriotic favorites such as the “Marines’ hymn”, “Anchors Aweigh”, the music of George M. Cohan and John Philip Sousa, among others. Date and time to be announced. Stay tuned.

The congregation seemed to like the piano renditions of “Bridge Over Troubled Waters” and “Make a Rainbow” that have been presented during the offertory. Look for more inspirational songs to be performed over the coming months.

Members may be concerned that the music program may be affected by the congregational choices made on April 10. You can be assured that the music program will be unaffected and continue to enhance and support the worship service each Sunday without interruption. Thank you for your support.



Lend a Paw!

Volunteers needed! Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 23-25th this year, and we’re hoping you can lend a hand. Your time or donations for supplies will go a long way in helping our kids discover that God is wild about them during our week of Pandamania! Look for the sign-up table in the Narthex before and after Sunday services, or touch base with any of the youth workers between now and June.



SAM Gives on Faith’s Behalf and Everyone’s Help..

PLEASE remember to bring your paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues and women’s products) to church for our collection for Bradenton Migrant Families. These families are especially hard hit in these times and the items we bring to them mean so much!

We are also continuing our collections for the food bank. This church, through all of our own budget struggles, continues to give generously to those with less and we are blessed by it. Thank you!

Month	Item	Notes
March, April & May	Paper goods which can include: paper towels, napkins, toilet paper and feminine products	No paper plates please
June, July & August	Socks & Underwear	Boys <u>and</u> Girls
September, October & November	Diapers	Any brand or size

Youth Doings.....

A big 'thank you' to Fred Rhines, who so bravely pitched in with Faith UCC Sunday school classes. He did a super job and we shall miss him in that capacity. However, we are so grateful that he didn't leave – he just changed positions - back to Pastor Fred. And, he will continue to be involved with activities.

Bowling with Manatee Children Service youth – What an experience!!! You can see pictures and read some testimonials regarding this very special event – posted on the youth & young adult bulletin board. A special thank you to faith women, who donated money towards that outing.

Faith Youth & Faith Preschool – Michelle Morrell, Erica Seeley and Courtney Bright offered to help out at the preschools carnival on April 2nd. Please ask them about their awesome experience...on the youth & young adult back bulletin board you can see the wonderful drawings from the preschool 'big kids' – to our youth. Thank you Wendi and group, for sharing that experience.

Babs, [Barbara Brownell] we so appreciate you providing the palm fronds for Palm Sunday.

Easter Sunday – the youth & young adults will be helping the Easter bunny hide eggs for the little ones to find. Please come and watch as they search for hidden treasures. The delight on theirs faces cannot help but bring you joy!! You might even feel like a kid, again!! Have your picture taken with the Easter bunny – how sweet is that, hmmm?

What's New

On May 1, 2011 we will be starting youth and young adult classes. Heather Reardon has returned as the youth leader. Welcome back, Heather!!! Ina is the young adult leader. This means that their classes will be separate, but they will continue to do activities – events and fun-d raising together!

God is still speaking,

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 14 6:00 PM

Youth Fundraiser
Spaghetti Dinner

May 27-28th
30° Famine

We are planning on sleeping in boxes again this year. The youth & young adults will be asking for donations. Please remember that every - little bit helps. Half of the money will go to: world vision and half to: Manatee children's 'street outreach program' as their community service mission. May we all count our blessings!!

May 29th
Youth Led Service



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.



FLOWER 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: May 1, 29, June 5, 26, July 3, August 14, 21, 28, Sept. 4, 11, October 2, 9, 30, Nov. 6, 27,

Judy

May

2011

SUNDAY 1 10:30 AM Service of Worship
Communion/Food Bank
Congregational Meeting
Youth Group

2 7:00 PM Building & Grounds

4 6:00 PM Faith Discussion Group

5 6:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous

6 9:30 Church Women United

7 11:00 AM Faith Women

SUNDAY 8 **Mother's Day**
10:30 AM Service of Worship
Youth Group

10 6:00 PM Christian Education
6:00 PM Preschool Bd. Mtg.
7:00 PM Board of Governors

11 6:00 PM Faith Discussion Group

12 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous

13 6:00 PM Dinner & Dessert

14 6:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner

SUNDAY 15 10:30 AM Service of Worship
Dept. of Ministry
Youth Group

16 FOLLOWER deadline
7:00 PM Braden River HOA

18 6:00 PM Faith Discussion Group

20 FOLLOWER emailed

SUNDAY 22 10:30 Worship Service
Youth Group
FOLLOWER available

23 7:00 Inlets HOA

25 6:00 PM Faith Discussion Group

27 Preschool Graduation
30 Hour Famine

28 30 Hour Famine

SUNDAY 29 10:30 Youth Led Worship

30 Memorial Day—Office Closed



May Birthdays

5/1 Linda Theiss
5/3 Ben Uher
5/5 Joan Sheehan
5/6 Jane Negron
5/9 Bruce Covey
5/12 Debra Barnard
5/18 Elwin Smith
5/20 Carol Chamberlain
5/23 Evelyn Anderson
5/26 Pete Groth

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.