

FAITHFUL follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



April 2016

The Faithful Follower is published monthly by Faith United Church of Christ. **Editor:** Faith Quici

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From Your Moderator

Members and Friends,

We are almost at the end of our Lenten Season for this year. Many of our winter visitors returned to celebrate with us. We also had quite a number of new people who came to visit our church. Some of these people are thinking of joining our church. We are very pleased. A New Member's Class has been scheduled for Sunday, April 10, after the service.

A special thank you to pastors Brian and Judy Bagley-Bonner for the special sermons and children's messages. Our Palm Sunday service was wonderful. A special thanks to the Choir for all your beautiful music during the Lenten services and thanks to each who took part in each service as a volunteer.

The following events will be in April, beginning with April 1 when the women of all Manatee county churches are invited to attend the Church women United general meeting at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church (525 Dr. Martin Luther King Ave. East, Bradenton).

Our monthly breakfasts for men and women will be on Saturday, April 2 at 9am. The men are meeting at Norma Rae's in Palmetto, and the women are meeting at Miller's Dutch Kitchen at 3401 14th St. W., Bradenton.

The following activities will be held during the month of April when we have volunteers to host them: Potluck will be held on April 3 after our beach service. Dinner and Dessert on April 15 will be hosted by the Wetters.

The prayer team will meet on Tuesday, April 19 at 11:30am in the Tuscan Room at Freedom Village. Please let me know that week if you plan to be there. This is a busy season and the more notice the better.

There will be sign-up sheets for other events on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please be sure to sign up; we hope to see many of you at the April activities. If you have any questions, give me a call at 447-4193. Happy Easter to you and your families.

May the Peace of Christ be with you!
Marge Hooie, Moderator

PER CAPITA 2016

Per Capita is an commitment we owe yearly to the conference. The cost is \$14.50 per member. Our goal is 100% paid this year. Thank you for your prompt attention to this conference responsibility. Your statement will show if you have paid for this year.
Judy, Financial Secretary

THANK YOU, to my Faith Family!!

I want to thank my family at Faith UCC for all the concern, prayers, cards and blessings sent to Jack and I while I was undergoing my surgery in San Diego. It was very comforting to me to know that I had a group of wonderful and caring people praying for me.

As it is, I had a very good outcome and after several more weeks of recovery I hope to be back at Church. I am still using oxygen and still hurting and tired frequently, but progress is definitely being seen now.

Thanks especially to those who helped us on our return by bringing in meals so that my great husband could have a break. Thanks to Cindy and Deborah, Deb and Bob, Peg, Janis and Pete, Judy and Denny and Jim and Valerie. You have no idea how very much your gifts were appreciated. A special thank you to Pastors Judy and Brian. In case I don't get to Church before March 27, Happy Easter to everyone.

Blessings,
Marge Critelli

ONECO FLORIST /// 941.756.1556

When ordering flowers through the church, please sign up on the Flower Chart. Flowers orders are \$25 this year. You are encouraged to take your flowers home with you after service; but if you leave them, they will be taken to a shut-in. **If you want to purchase flowers on your own, Oneco Florist is offering Church members \$5 off their first arrangement. Just mention this article.**

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Brian and Rev. Judy Bagley- Bonner

Change

We humans are a funny lot. We like change in some things. For example, very few of us eat the exact same food every day. Oh, we may have a favorite breakfast or lunch food, but even those we occasionally forgo when we go out to eat. We change our clothes daily, having extensive wardrobes to deal with different temperatures, situations and moods. Some of us (myself included) like to change our surroundings, and enjoy travelling to different places and seeing different geography and how other people live. Jude and I are excited to soon be going on a 35th anniversary tour of the United Kingdom and Ireland thanks to a gift from Jude's dear Mother for that specific purpose.

But we humans also loath change. We hate it when our computer downloads a new version of a program that works differently. We don't like it when traffic patterns change.

Sometimes we don't like change even if it actually improves things, or like with a vacation, we are good with change for a while, and then are so glad to come back home again and get into our routine with a fresh outlook.

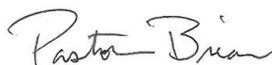
With all this in mind, I want to

thank everyone for taking part in our Church Growth Experiment these last months. We have learned a lot. This is a very welcoming congregation, and we hope to keep that up and even improve on it. With the Council's guidance we are going to keep some of the changes and reverse others - going back to some of our former ways of worship. Though we may struggle with some of the changes (or some returning to former ways) we will continue to pray for God's guidance as we move forward.

One of my least favorite changes in the year comes when we start saying goodbye to our part-year residents. It is such a joy when we can start welcoming you back, but as hard as it is, we send you off with our love and blessings for a wonderful summer. Let us continue to pray for one another until we see each other again!

God is with us through all changes in our world and our own lives. God's love never abandons us, and God's Spirit never stops trying to help us grow into the image and the likeness of Christ - even if it means making us go through changes.

Blessings Friends,



WORSHIP WITH US

APRIL 3, 2016

Flowers: Available
Greeters: Council
Scripture: Marge Hooie
Ushers: Council
Nursery: Amy Testa

APRIL 10, 2016

Flowers: Arline Calvert
Greeters: Available
Scripture: Available
Ushers: Available
Nursery: Babs Brownell

APRIL 17, 2016

Flowers: Marge Hooie
Greeters: Available
Scripture: Available
Ushers: Available
Nursery: Linda Anderson

APRIL 24, 2016

Flowers: Available
Greeters: Available
Scripture: Available
Ushers: Available
Nursery: Marge Hooie

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

If you are serving for the first time and have questions regarding your duties, please look on the bulletin board. Detailed duties for each assignment are printed for you. Please take a copy if you wish. Thank you for volunteering.

Survey Results

The church growth committee has tabulated our survey about becoming an even more welcoming church. The committee reviewed the numeric survey results below as well as all the comments and shared them with the Church Council with recommendations.

Changes to Service and its Impact on Comfort of Visitors					
Pre-Service					Average Score
Welcome visitors as soon as possible without overwhelming them with too much formalized direct contact					4.49
Utilize Signage to make visitors feel welcome from parking lot					4.34
Develop a WELCOME CENTER with Question and Answer person nearby					4.24
Develop a comfortable space in the Narthex for socializing and coffee					4.37
Provide 15 minutes of music and singing in the sanctuary prior to worship for meditation and prayer					4.31
Service: Provide uninterrupted flow of worship					
Dispense with "welcome" and Mission Statement at beginning of service					2.86
Move the greeting of people (passing of the peace) from middle to end of service					4.14
Remove doxology and move right to final blessing and song after offering					3.14
Discontinue holding hands during final song to avoid making new visitors uncomfortable					3.47
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree	
1	2	3	4	5	

After consulting with the Church Growth Committee the Council decided to do the following:

1. **Keep all Pre-Service Changes and the Move of the Greeting** Council noted these all have clear positive scores. We are going to enhance the 15 minute meditation music by lighting candles during the music and eliminate announcements (just have "Music for Meditation") so people get a clear sense that some have already started worship.
- 2) **Reinstate a "Welcome," the Doxology & occasionally the Mission Statement** We will add back a brief greeting from the Pastors to all and especially visitors. We will also occasional use the Mission Statement in worship. **The Doxology** was missed by a number of members, so we are putting it back in the service.
- 3) **Holding Hands** had strong scores on both sides. After much discussion, the council has decided to not hold hands and also not use "Let There Be Peace" to eliminate confusion and sending a mixed message
- 4) There were many comments about the **Music at Faith** and a need to improving it per our Dreams and Visions. Because we still lack enough financial strength to hire musicians, Council is forming a permanent Music Committee to coordinate and maximize the use of our own congregation's talents (see article about "Praise Choir"). As finances improve we may consider seeking out college or High School students as a first step.

Thank you for your feedback and your participation in this experiment in welcoming. We know that some of the changes are hard, but we want to continue to make sure we do all we can to make us as welcoming as possible. To that end the Council has asked the Church Growth Committee to continue to explore ways to bring more people to this wonderful community of faith!

Mark Your Calendars

MEN'S BREAKFAST

SAT. April 2
We are meeting at Norma
Rae's in Palmetto at 9am.

FAITH WOMEN

SAT. April 2
We are meeting at 9am at
Miller's Dutch Kitchen
which is at 3401 14th St. W.,
Bradenton.

POTLUCK

SUN. April 3
The Potluck will be after our
beach service, which will
be held at Emerson Point.
Printed directions are in the
Narthex.

DINNER & DESSERT

FRI. April 15
Denny and Judy Wetter
are hosting the April Dinner
and Dessert. We will meet
at Wheat and Water (7303
52nd Pl E, Bradenton).
Then we will gather at their
home for dessert (2306
141st St. E., Bradenton).
Please sign up , if you plan
to attend

Children's Ministry Team

If you have a heart for
children then consider
joining the Children's Ministry
Team. It's so easy to sign up.
Please contact Babs
Brownell if you would like
more information about this
purposeful and rewarding
ministry.

Call: 941.747.9643

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Praise Choir Forming

A few folks are interesting in starting a choir to sing familiar songs and hymns as well as some contemporary ones. This will be a "learn by listening" choir so you do not have to read music!! Talk to Pastor Brian if you are interested in this possibility.

Beach Worship and Potluck on April 3rd at 10:30am

We will meet at the big shelter at Emerson Point Preserve in Palmetto (follow signs to the interpretive center). There are very nice accessible restrooms, parking is close to the shelter and we can see the river from the shelter. We will celebrate the baptism of Peyton Nutting that day. Bring bikes, kayaks, swim suits, hiking boots, binoculars and a dish to share, for a day of fun!!

Membership (And Associate Membership) Class

After church on April 10, we will have a meeting for those interested in finding out more about becoming a member of our church and the United Church of Christ. Part-year residents or those who wish to maintain membership in another denomination can find out about becoming an Associate Member. The class usually takes about an hour, and there is no obligation to join if you attend. Those who do wish to join the church will do so during the service on April 17.

Facebook and iPhone Help at Faith UCC

The Manatee Public Library is going to hold classes on Social Media and iPhones in April here at the church. Invite friends and neighbors for this opportunity to learn how to post pictures on Facebook and get the most out of your phone. Classes will be limited to 12 people. Tentative schedule is below:

Tues	4/5	6:00 - 7:30	IPhone
Thurs	4/7	6:00 - 7:30	Social Media (Facebook, etc)
Tues	4/12	6:00 - 7:30	Social Media (Facebook, etc)
Thurs	4/14	6:00 - 7:30	IPhone

SOCIAL ACTION & MISSIONS

APRIL is :

Macaroni and Cheese

Here is our plan for the year-keep an eye out for BOGOs!

April-Macaroni & Cheese

May-Soups & Stews

June-Rice

July-beans-dry & canned

Aug-peanut butter

Sept-100% juice

Oct-low sugar cereal

Nov-sugar & flour

Dec-Canned tuna, chicken & other meats

Robin Wentz, SAM Chairperson

Rev. Leslie Etheredge

Western Regional Minister preaching

Faith UCC is honored to be hosting UCC Florida Conference Western Regional Minister, Rev. Leslie Etheredge at worship on Sunday April 24. Rev. Etheredge is a near neighbor living just over the Sunshine Bridge, and she looks forward to being with us and sharing information with us about the work of the conference.



A Preschool Note

Wendi Steinbach, Director

Faith Preschool's Annual Kids Carnival was a fun-filled family day! The staff and families went above and beyond to make this carnival such a successful fundraiser! Thank you to the members of Faith UCC who came out to support our event and a special thank you to Faith Quici for always being so helpful and supportive of Faith Preschool! We look forward to using these funds in many ways in which to benefit our school and the children.

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.

Seeds and Needs

Seed

Sherri's Helping Hands and Cleaning services, helping with your household needs. \$20 an hour charge. Please contact Sherri at 941-405-6045 or 941-524-8671.

Need

Sherri Lee is in search for a car. She is looking for a reliable car between \$2,000 and \$4,000. Her contact numbers are 941-405-6045 or 941-524-8671.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Faith United Church of Christ /// March 14, 2016

PRESENT: Faith Quici, Marge Hooie, Barbara Brownell, Robin Wentz, Pastor Jude, Pastor Brian, Deb D'Angelo, Jim Willard, Linda Anderson, Richard Dilts, Denny Wetter, and Judy Wetter.

The meeting was called to order by the moderator,

Marge Hooie and an opening prayer was given by Pastor Jude. A motion to accept the minutes of February was given by Judy Wetter and second by Deb D'Angelo. The motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: For the month of February Judy deposited \$10,739.20 into the Bank of America operating account \$391.00 into the Bank of the Ozarks building for the future account and \$451.00 in the Bank of the Ozarks pass through account for a total deposit of \$11,581.70.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jim reported that he has been trudging along with Quickbooks and the bills are getting paid, but the whole system really needs to be straightened out. Jim and Pastor Brian will look into the best method to get either Quickbooks going or Church Windows and will get someone to help get whichever one is better, set up.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Brian reported that 4 people have asked about joining so he will hold a new member class on April 10th and they will join on April 17th. The potluck will be April 3rd at the beach service. Pastor Jude reported that the book class started with 20 people and 19 will finish. There were 5 "outsiders" and of those 2 want to join and 1 is thinking about it, the other 2 belong to other churches. Pastor Jude will be meeting with the GLBTs of the church to brainstorm about the wants and needs in the community. She has also been doing some pastoral counseling and hospital visits. Pastor Brian said

that Gary would be willing to give a class on couples and communication. A social media and iPhone class has been set for April. Pastor Brian also said that the ball was dropped regarding the riverwalk pride festival which will be held this weekend but he will see if there is any way to get a table or booth in it.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Faith talked to Wendi about the smoke smell in the back room and she said she does smell it but opens the room up and febrezes. Faith will put an ad in the follower to see if anyone has an air cleaner collecting dust that they would like to donate. Faith also met with Wendi regarding the cleaning issues. They met with John and Faith put up a check list and so far it's good. The \$200.00 charge that the website developers were charging has been dropped. Faith reported that it was getting close to the time to get a new lease for the copier. A few people have been by to try to sell theirs. Judy said she would go with Faith to check some of these companies out in order to make a good recommendation to the board.

OLD BUSINESS: Beach service April 3rd with a possible baptism. Growth committee tabulated the survey results. They would like to present the results to the church. Barbara Brownell made a motion to accept the committee's recommendations. Robin seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote. One of the recommendations was regarding a music committee. It was said that we need a committee to make the most of the talent we have at the church. Judy Wetter volunteered to chair that committee.

NEW BUSINESS: Church women United will be meeting April 1st at St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church.

Dinner and dessert will be at the Outback and then dessert at the Groths'. There is no one signed up for April at the present time. Sheryl Smith volunteered to do hospitality after Easter service. The potluck for March was canceled and the potluck for April will be at the beach.

DEPARTMENTS:

Building and Grounds: Denny Wetter presented his report of the efforts to keep the church in good shape. He mentioned that service master has completed the restoration work and is waiting on a final inspection by the insurance company. The complete report can be found in the follower.

Pastoral Relations: The PRC will likely meet in April.

Community Outreach: Deb D'Angelo is preparing ads for social media and iPhone classes.

SAM: One great hour of sharing was Sunday Strengthen the Church will be in June. Barbara asked for diapers (newborn especially) for women at her facility as well as for the yellow bin in the narthex.

Worship: Richard Dilts asked if communion could be moved to the second Sunday in April since the first Sunday we will be at the beach. Barbara requested a spotter to keep an eye out for inunction, and Richard requested volunteers for communion. Deb volunteered to assist Richard, and Robin will be the spotter for April. Easter lilies will be ordered Wednesday and delivered on the 25th.

Closing prayer was given by Pastor Brian.

Respectfully submitted by,
Linda Anderson.

Your Staff

Pastors

Rev. Brian and
Rev. Judy
Bagley-Bonner
Cell:
941-718-3132



(with Janie)

PASTORS' OFFICE HOURS

Monday 10 am - 1 pm
Tuesday 9am - noon
Wednesday 8:30 am - *noon
Thursday 8:30 am - 9:30 am

Other times by appointment

**3rd Thursday at UCC meetings*



Office Hours
MONDAY-FRIDAY
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
746-8890
Fax 746-0670

Secretary

Faith Quici

Faith UCC Email:

faithchurchucc@verizon.net

Faith Website:

faithchurchucc.com

Prayer Team

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



Janis Groth
941.779.6988

Marge Hooie
941. 447.4193

Helen Nutting
941. 747.2734

**Sheryl
Overheidt-
Smith**
941.776.5589

Donna Rusch
301.825.9611

**Joan
Sheehan**
941.748.2498

Members of the Prayer Team want to keep the prayer list current. Please advise us when you would like a name removed from the list.

SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST

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

2016 Church Council

Moderator:
Marge Hooie 447-4193

Building & Grounds:
Denny Wetter 755-4583

OPEN POSITIONS:

Deputy Moderator:
Barbara Brownell 747-9643

Community Outreach:
Deb D'Angelo 610-704-4049

Christian Education: OPEN

Secretary:
Linda Anderson 704-8772

Social Action & Missions:
Robin Wentz 758-6575

Fellowship & Events: OPEN

Treasurer:
Jim Williard 531-4559

Worship Team Leader:
Richard Dilts 776-7293

Faith Care Team: OPEN

Financial Secretary:
Judy Wetter 755-4583



Just search for: **"Faith United Church of Christ, Bradenton ,FL"**



www.faithchurchucc.com

April 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Church Women United 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	2 9am Men's Breakfast – Norma Rae's 9am Women's Breakfast- Miller's 10am NA & Nar-Anon
3 10:30am Beach Service and Potluck 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	4	5 6pm iPhone Class	6 7:00pm BAC	7 7pm Choir 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon 6pm Facebook Class	8 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	9 10am NA & Nar-Anon
10 10:30am Service Communion New Members Class 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	11 7pm Church Council Mtg.	12 Building and Grounds Work Day 4pm 6pm Facebook Class	13 7:00pm BAC	14 6pm iPhone Class 7pm Choir 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	15 6pm Dinner and Dessert – the Wetter's 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC Follower Reminder	16 10am NA & Nar-Anon
17 10:30am Service Receiving New Members 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	18 7pm BR HOA Follower Deadline	19 11:30am Prayer Mtg	20 7:00pm BAC	21 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	22 7:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	23 10am NA & Nar-Anon
24 10:30am Service Rev. Leslie Etheredge 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	25 7pm INT HOA	26	27 7:00pm BAC	28 7pm Choir 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	29 7:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	30 10am NA & Nar-Anon

- **BAC:** Bradenton Apostolic Church – We church share with Pastor Ramon and his congregation.
- Monthly Prayer Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday at Freedom Village at 11:30am.
- Our Monthly **Potluck** is every 2nd Sunday after service when someone has agreed to host. Subject to change on special occasions.
- **Dinner and Dessert** is every 3rd Friday at 6pm when someone signs up to host.

The host picks a local restaurant to meet and dessert is followed at their home or another gathering spot.

- There are **Narcotics Anonymous** (NA) meetings here each week, and **Nar-Anon**, which is a group of family members affected by those with drug addictions, also meets. If interested in these meetings, please call the NA hotline at 941.257.5055.
- We have several local neighborhood Home Owner Associations (**HOA's**) who meet here monthly.



- Ray Stoll 4/3
- Alexis Theiss 4/4
- Brian Bagley-Bonner 4/9
- Richard Dilts 4/10
- Fred Rhines 4/15
- John Wentz 4/27
- Barbara Willcox 4/29
- Norma Lee Rhines 4/30



FAITHFUL FOLLOWER
Faith United Church of Christ
4850 SR 64E
Bradenton, FL 34208-5527

The Vision of Faith United Church of Christ

- In our worship, we are an inclusive community, a family of faith, which through prayer, song, the sacraments and liturgy seeks to feel closer to God, to praise God, to give thanks to God, and to seek forgiveness from God in order to grow in discipleship.
- In our Christian Education, we seek to develop a community of people with a mature Christian faith; meaning a faith which leads us to care for others, that opens our hearts to service, an evolving faith that is the product of critical thinking and questioning. Our education is for all ages and is conducted in places inside the church and out.
- In our missions, we seek to share the excitement of our Christian faith without judging others. In our missions, we seek to take our faith and beliefs from the inside out, and know that our missions require that we must also bring the outside in. We take Christ's admonition—to go forth and share the good news—as our own, which we strive to do in word and deed both locally and globally.

Visit Faith's website at www.faithchurchucc.com