

# FAITHFUL follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



## December 2016

The Faithful Follower is published monthly by Faith United Church of Christ.  
Editor: Faith Quici and Donna Rusch created our feature page 4 of this issue

### IN THIS ISSUE

- o Christmas Tea  
pg 1
- o Stewardship 2017  
pg 2
- o Church Happenings  
pg 3
- o Faith Chat Room  
pg 4
- o Spiritual Exercise  
pg 5
- o Council Minutes  
pg 6
- o December Calendar  
pg 8



### POINSETTIAS

It's time already to order your poinsettias. The last day for ordering will be, Sunday, December 18. Both the order form and money should be turned in by then. Flowers will arrive on December 23. Poinsettias are \$8 each this year. If you have any questions please call the church office.

## From Your Moderator

It is hard to believe that December is almost here. We are happy to have our members, who were in the north for the summer, back with us, our Pastors will be back in service on December 4.

Our Christmas Tea is this Saturday, December 3, and a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for those who are interested. All women of the church are invited. Please let us know if you are coming so we can arrange the seating.

A special thank you to those who helped decorate the church for the advent season. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help in any way

during 2016. We appreciate every person in our church family and our visitors as well.

Please remember that poinsettia orders are due December 18.

All kinds of special events posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up if you would like to host an event or If you like to help a host, as we could always use extra help.

Peace be with you!  
Marge Hooie  
Moderator



## The Legend of the Christmas Prayer



The Faith Women's Christmas tea, *The Legend of the Christmas Prayer*, will be held on Saturday, December 3, beginning at 11am. The program will include beautifully decorated tables hosted by church members, a Christmas reading, holiday games and prizes, and a delightful craft project. Of course there will be delicious treats! Sign up with a friend! It promises to be a festive afternoon of fellowship. Please see Sheryl Overheid-Smith (941-776-5589) or Marge Hooie.

### ONECO FLORIST /// 941.756.1556

When ordering flowers through the church, please sign up on the Flower Chart. Flowers orders are \$25. 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.**

## SOCIAL ACTION & MISSIONS

In December, we are collecting **Canned Meat** for the food bank.

# Stories from the PASTOR'S Discretionary Fund

From time to time, we will get a "weary traveler" in desperate need of food or gas. We are so blessed to have the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in order to buy gift cards to help these individuals.

We once had a couple who were moving and almost at their destination. They had a huge U-Haul and were stranded in our parking lot. Our church served as a symbol of hope and refuge for them as they "took a chance" to

see if anyone here at Faith could help them. We were able to chat with them and give them a gas card to help them on their way. They were offered prayer for their safe travels. We may never know how many "angels" we have entertained. Please consider a donation to the Pastor's discretionary fund for your 2016 giving credit. Simply mark your envelope for "Pastor's Discretionary Fund."

## In Memorial

Our hearts are with everyone who has lost someone this year or in years past. The holidays, and sometimes every day, can be very difficult without them. We are here for you with our prayers, and if you need to talk with someone, please call the office to schedule an appointment with a pastor. God holds you close at this time, and may you feel God's love strongly.

**We remember those who have recently passed and their loved ones who miss them every day:**

- Katie Leonard
- Doris Gerlach
- Mike Glavin
- Grace Rogers
- Mark Thornton
- Jimmy Veverka
- Bob Wert

If you need addresses to send cards, we have new directories in the church office.

## 2017 Stewardship

Rev. Judy gave a wonderful sermon about the importance of intentional giving. She challenged us to increase our giving for two reasons. First, because increasing our generosity will increase our own spiritual strength and joy. Second, increasing our giving will allow Faith United Church of Christ to grow in its ministry and outreach to the world.

Our church is called to be a place of peace, a refuge of acceptance, and a place where all can come to hear the good news of God's Love. We are living in

tumultuous times in the world and in our own nation. There seems to be more and more messages of division and rejection. The Gospel we share at Faith UCC is very much needed today. The Extravagant Welcome of the United Church of Christ is a beacon of hope to many for whom fear is growing amidst the chaos.

If you haven't returned your pledges for 2017, please do so as soon as possible for church budget reasons. The pledge cards can be picked up at church in the Narthex.

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in signing up to be a greeter, usher or scripture reader, please contact our Worship Team Leader, Richard Dilts, or simply sign up on the bulletin board. You can sign up as; one-time help, on a part time basis or get regularly involved in our Sunday morning worship activities. It's easy and we have so much fun helping out.

## JOIN US WEEKEND SCHEDULE

**December 4, 2016**

Flowers: Communion Flowers  
 Greeters: Council  
 Scripture: Marge Hooie  
 Ushers: Council  
 Nursery: Amy Testa  
 Sunday school: Hatti Damianos

**December 11, 2016**

Flowers: Available  
 Greeters: Pete & Janis Groth  
 Scripture: Jeff Felix  
 Ushers: Available  
 Nursery: Babs Brownell  
 Sunday school: Hatti Damianos

**December 18, 2016**

Flowers: Sheryl Overheidt Smith  
 Greeters: Available  
 Scripture: Joan Sheehan  
 Ushers: Available  
 Nursery: Linda Anderson  
 Sunday school: Hatti Damianos

**December 25, 2016**

Flowers: Available  
 Greeters: Available  
 Scripture: Available  
 Ushers: Available  
 Nursery: Marge Hooie  
 Sunday school: Hatti Damianos

# Mark Your Calendars

## Church Women United

10am, Friday DEC. 2  
Trinity United Methodist Church,  
3200 Manatee Ave. West

## Men's BREAKFAST

9am SAT. DEC. 3  
Norma Rae's in Palmetto

## Women's CHRISTMAS TEA

11am SAT. DEC. 3  
At Faith UCC

## POTLUCK

Sunday, DEC. 11  
after service

Thank you Sheryl Overheidt Smith  
for hosting this Christmas themed  
event. Please sign up to bring a  
dish to share.

## DINNER AND DESSERT

Friday, DEC. 16  
at 6pm

The Watters and Richard Dilts are  
hosting this month's dinner and  
dessert. Please join us at their  
residence, 2306 141st St. E,  
Bradenton.

## January Women's Breakfast

Friday, JAN. 7  
at 9am

KeKe's breakfast cafe  
1121 Cortez Ave west  
Bradenton, FL (941) 345-4463  
(In the mall next to Burlington coat  
factory)

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS 3

## Thank you

Thanks to all who participated in the "I am thankful" crosses. Thanks also to Barbara Connery and Carol Knight for their help with this project.

## The Christmas Fund "Veterans of the Cross"

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that grants us an opportunity to recognize and honor those who have served and continue to serve in lay and authorized ministries of the United Church of Christ. One of the unique aspects of the Christmas Fund is that the funds provide direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay church employees – the funds do not support programs or institutions, but people. We are collecting this offering on **December 18** here at Faith UCC. Please mark your offering envelopes accordingly for 2016 giving credit.



## Christmas Dinner and Dessert

You are cordially invited to Hors d'oeuvres and Dessert, December 16 at 6pm. We are meeting at the home of Denny & Judy Wetter at 2306 141st St. E. Thank you to our hosts, Richard Dilts, and Denny and Judy Wetter. Please bring hors d'oeuvres or a dessert to share and enjoy an evening with good friends and good food.

## Love Offering

Each year we gather donations to show our appreciation to some special people, our Pastors, church secretary and our full time Sunday volunteers (Bruce and Anita). Starting December 1, we will be collecting a Christmas Love Offering for Pastor Brian and Judy, Faith, Anita, and Bruce. The money collected will then be divided by a percentage and given to those who are paid staff and those who generously donate their time to Faith UCC.

If you would like to participate, please make the check payable to Faith UCC and write on the memo line "Christmas Love Offering" please label your envelope "Christmas Love Offering." It can be put in the offering plate. We are able to accept donations until December 18. Let's show our wonderful staff and generous volunteers how much they are appreciated!

~ Your Church Council

## Consider the Council

We have some open positions for the 2017 Church Council. Members who are interested in joining, please contact the church office for further information. 941-746-8890

## Children's Ministry

If you have a heart for children, then consider joining the Children's Ministry Team. We need help in the nursery and Sunday school. Please contact Babs Brownell if you would like more information

**Call: 941.747.9643**

# Faith Chat Room

Share your family photos, stories and comments with us: [faithchurchucc@verizon.net](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net)

## Holiday Humor

At a monastery high in the mountains, the monks adhere to a rigid vow of silence. Only on Christmas Day, by ONE monk, with ONE sentence, is the vow allowed to be broken.

The prior Christmas, Brother Thomas was allowed to speak: He said "I love the mashed potatoes we have with Christmas turkey!!" Silence ensued again for 365 days. The following Christmas, Brother Michael is allowed to speak: He says, "I deplore the mashed potatoes we get with the Christmas turkey."

Once again, silence ensues for 365 days. The next Christmas, Brother Paul speaks: He says, "I am fed up with this constant bickering!!"

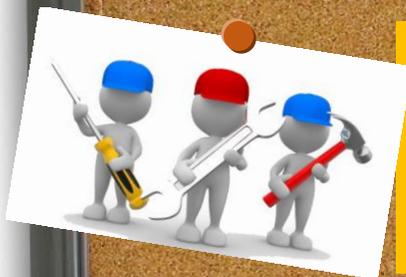
When you consider Christmas, there are four stages in your life:

1. You believe in Santa
2. You don't believe in Santa
3. You are Santa
4. You look like Santa



"Who is that??  
The woman replied, "I don't know but he looks like a lot of fun at a party!!"

Shout out to the resourceful and handsome men of Faith's Building and Grounds Crew. They keep us comfortable and safe in our church. They provide with just the right amount of "man-power" needed to operate -- even without directions.



Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration:  
Earlene, Marge, Pete, Helen, Janis  
and Joan

"Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born." ----  
Anais Nin

# Spiritual Exercise



Happy Season of the Greetings.

I must share I'm not very comfortable with holidays. I don't care for the pomp that surrounds them. I get irritated by the sudden increase in acts of bizarre behaviors exhibited by relatives, friends, and total strangers. There seems to be a free floating, high level of anxiety that no one can escape. Currently, I'm overwhelmed with "the millions of things to do" that everyone ELSE has on their lists (gggrrrrr)!!

Hence, with all these errands to run, places to visit, and foods to eat, I find myself longing for the simple, peaceful days, I guess the way it must have been at the First Christmas. I'm sure gift giving was easy. You gave gold, frankincense, or myrrh. No fuss with sizes or colors. Of course there were no phones, so you couldn't make reservations for anything or ignore text messages. Animals were used for transportation, and since they didn't have headlights, travel in the evening was slow and difficult. Delivery pizza wasn't available yet so you relied on the kindness of

neighbors and strangers for food and drink. Ah, but nights were truly silent, and there was Joy in the World. It was a simple time. There was love, and that was enough.

So what's good about the present day holiday season? Well for me, it will be my grandson Branson's FIRST Christmas! I was secretly hoping his parents might consider letting him play the role of Baby Jesus in a nativity play; however, it seems he started crawling last week and no one can catch him. He has lodged enough 'ground miles' to take him to Bethlehem and back. Anyway, I think his mom and dad will be delaying his stage debut for another time.

So, this is my first Christmas as a grandma. I will be enjoying the season through the eyes of a "crawler" (as he is referred to by the diaper box). Much like the First Christmas, this baby will be visited by many different people, some who will travel far to see him. He will be kept warm and sheltered

as he travels. He will be around animals. Someone will play a drum for him. Okay, not really. Most likely he will hear The Carpenter's Christmas Album over and over. And when he smiles at people, they will feel the love. Isn't that all any of us really need for Christmas? LOVE.

In Peace and Blessings to all,  
DONNA RUSCH  
(Branson' Nana)



Annual Bradenton Apostolic Thanksgiving Feast



Some of Faith UCC's contributions to Church Women United at the Migrant Tea

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

**Present:** Denny and Judy Wetter, Marge Hooie, Pastors Jude and Brian, Faith Quici, Barbara Brownell, Richard Dilts, Robin Wentz and Linda Anderson. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Marge Hooie with a prayer given by Pastor Jude. A motion was made by Judy Wetter to approve the minutes of the October meeting and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denny Wetter. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Financial Secretary:** Judy Wetter reported a total deposit into the Bank of America's operating account of \$13,309.00 for the month of October, \$380.00 in to the Bank of the Ozarks building for the future account and \$588.00 into the Bank of the Ozarks pass through account for a grand total of \$14,397.60.

**Treasurer's Report:** Arlene Smith sent the balance sheet and profit and loss report for the month of October. She also requested that we close items 1250 and 1260 in the bank of the Ozarks and put it into the operating account to be paid out monthly. A motion was made by Barbara Brownell and second by Richard Dilts. Motion was carried unanimously.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Jude reported that the study groups are going well with 1 week left. Stewardship continues with emails and cards going out. The PRC reviewed new folks and shut-ins to

see if a council member would contact new people and shut-ins. Babs suggested council be the "care team" and email the pastor if and when contact is made. Ellen King will be doing service in 2 weeks. We are getting ready for Advent and this Sunday is transgender day of remembrance. Adult study in December will be the Messiah with part now and the second part at Easter.

**Secretary's Report:** Faith reported she is getting quotes for floor and carpet cleaning. She had bought the security cameras but they didn't arrive but we got a credit for them. She has found some more and will purchase them.

**Old Business:** The chili cook off will be February 12<sup>th</sup>. Council positions for the coming year are being filled. Deb D'Angelo will continue as community outreach, Arlene Smith as hired treasurer and hopefully Donna Blakely will take over financial secretary. Sheryl Overheidt Smith will do church events and fellowship, Richard Dilts and Judy Wetter will be co-moderators, Denny Wetter and Scott Brownell will do building and grounds, Robin Wentz will be secretary and Barbara Brownell will do SAM. That leaves openings for worship team and

deputy moderator. The music committee has had one meeting and will be meeting again on Thursday.

**New Business:** Need to do a Christmas love offering for staff and volunteers. Dinner and Dessert will be hosted by Judy Wetter and Richard Dilts and will be hors d'oeuvres and dessert. Annual reports are due January 9<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that potlucks this year will be the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday which will be January 29<sup>th</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup>, July 30<sup>th</sup> and October 29<sup>th</sup>, but this will be discussed with Sheryl.

**Department and Committee reports:** Building and Grounds; the team has been busy fixing lights, dumpster door, and cleaning gutters. For a full report please see the follower. SAM; the Christmas fund (fka; veterans of the cross) will be collected on Christmas Eve and Christmas day. Worship; December communion will be by intinction. Poinsettias will be \$8.00 and the order has to be in by December 19<sup>th</sup> and will be delivered December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting was closed at 9:21 with a song "Anthem" by Leonard Cohen.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Anderson.

## FAITH PRESCHOOL

**Wendi Steinbach, Director**

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

The children have started practicing their songs for our upcoming holiday program that is scheduled on Tuesday, December 20, at 11:30.

The children will perform on stage for their families and enjoy refreshments together after the program.

We will be closed from December 22 - January 9 for winter break. We wish everyone a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year"!

# 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*  
*\*3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
(winter)  
269.673.6676  
(summer)

**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

**Deputy Moderator:**  
Barbara Brownell 747-9643

**Secretary:**  
Linda Anderson 704-8772

**Financial Secretary:**  
Judy Wetter 755-4583

**Building & Grounds:**  
Denny Wetter 755-4583

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

**Social Action & Missions:**  
Robin Wentz 758-6575

**Worship Team Leader:**  
Richard Dilts 776-7293

### OPEN POSITIONS:

**Christian Education:** OPEN

**Fellowship & Events:** OPEN

**Faith Care Team:** OPEN



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



www.faithchurchucc.com

# December 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b></p> <p>12/4 Floy Peterson            12/9 Margy Stewart and Kaitlin Morrell            12/12 Richard Sluss            12/25 Sheryl Overheid-Smith</p>				<p>1 <b>5pm Inlets HOA Annual Meeting</b></p> <p><b>7pm Choir</b></p> <p>7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon</p>	<p>2 Church Women United Meeting</p> <p>7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC</p>	<p>3 <b>9am Men's Breakfast- Norma Rae's</b></p> <p>10am NA &amp; Nar-Anon</p> <p><b>11am Women's Christmas Tea</b></p>
<p>4 <b>9am Adult Study "Messiah"</b></p> <p>10:30am Service With Communion</p> <p><b>Membership Class</b></p> <p>1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm</p>	<p>5 <b>6:30pm Inlets HOA Annual Budget Mtg.</b></p>	<p>6 <b>7pm San Casciano HOA mtg.</b></p>	<p>7 7:00pm BAC</p>	<p>8 <b>7pm Choir</b></p> <p>7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon</p>	<p>9 <b>Secretary Off</b></p> <p>7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC</p>	<p>10 10am NA &amp; Nar-Anon</p>
<p>11 <b>9am Adult Study "Messiah"</b></p> <p>10:30am Service</p> <p>Joining New Members</p> <p><b>Christmas Potluck Sheryl Smith</b></p> <p>1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm</p>	<p>12 7pm Church Council Mtg</p>	<p>13 Building and Grounds Work Day 4pm</p>	<p>14 7:00pm BAC</p>	<p>15 <b>7pm Choir</b></p> <p><b>7:15pm NA</b></p> <p>7:15pm Nar-Anon</p>	<p>16 <b>6pm Dinner and Dessert Judy and Richard hosting</b></p> <p><b>Follower Reminder</b></p> <p>7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC</p>	<p>17 10am NA &amp; Nar-Anon</p>
<p>18 <b>9am Adult Study "Messiah"</b></p> <p>10:30am Service</p> <p><b>Christmas Fund Offering</b></p> <p><b>Poinsettia Orders Due!</b></p>  <p>1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm</p>	<p>19 <b>Follower Deadline</b></p> <p>7pm BR HOA</p>	<p>20 <b>11:30am Preschool Holiday Program</b></p> <p>11:30am Prayer Mtg</p>	<p>21 7:00pm BAC</p>	<p>22 <b>Preschool Winter Break until Jan 4</b></p> <p><b>7pm Choir</b></p> <p><b>7:15pm NA</b></p> <p>7:15pm Nar-Anon</p>	<p>23 <b>Poinsettias Delivered</b></p> <p>7:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA</p>	<p>24 10am NA &amp; Nar-Anon</p> <p><b>7pm Christmas Eve Service</b></p> 
<p>25 <b>Christmas Day 10:30am service</b></p>  <p>10:30am Service</p> <p><b>1:30pm BAC</b></p> <p>NA 7:15pm</p>	<p>26 <b>Church Office Closed</b></p> <p>7pm INT HOA</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7:00pm BAC</p>	<p>29 <b>Secretary Off</b></p> <p><b>7:15pm NA</b></p> <p>7:15pm Nar-Anon</p>	<p>30 7:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA</p>	<p>31 10am NA &amp; Nar-Anon</p>

**BAC:** Bradenton Apostolic Church

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** and **Nar- Anon**, NA hotline at 941.257.5055.

**(HOA's)** Home Owner Associations

**Our DECEMBER**  
 food bank collection is:  
**CANNED MEATS**

*\*For the full list, see the bulletin board... January is: Pet Food*

**NURSERY:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sun: Amy Testa  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun: Babs Brownell  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: Linda Anderson  
 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: Marge Hooie

**VOLUNTEER WITH US**

We could use help during our Sunday worship service. See Richard Dilts if you are interested or sign up on the bulletin board



**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](http://www.faithchurchucc.com)