

FAITHFUL follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



July 2017

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- From Your Moderator
pg 1
- Pastor's Desk
pg 2 and 3
- Building & Grounds
pg 3
- Church Happenings
pg 4
- Around Here
pg 5
- Church Contacts
pg 6
- July Calendar
pg 7

★ **Council Minutes will be published next week.**

2017

PER CAPITA

Per Capita is an obligation we owe yearly to the conference. The cost is \$15 per member this year. Thank you to those who have already paid. Our goal is to be 100% paid this year. Thank you for your prompt attention to this conference responsibility.

From Your Moderator

This Sunday we celebrate the 60th birthday of the UCC denomination. The United Church of Christ was formed when two Protestant churches, the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches united in 1957. I grew up in an Evangelical and Reformed Church in Bremen, IN.

I went through a formal, two year confirmation process to become a member. Every Saturday morning I would attend classes with Rev. Michael, our minister. Many things were learned by memorization like the Apostles' Creed, the long version of the Ten

Commandments...in order, the meaning of the Lord's Prayer and more. On Palm Sunday, 1959, I was confirmed. I was dressed in a white robe and allowed to take communion for the first time. It was a big deal including a family dinner gifts and my first pair of high-heels. It is hard to believe 60 years have passed since that big event in my life. We have come a long way in those years, with many changes in our beliefs, actions, and views on current events. On Sunday, June 25, we will celebrate with an ice cream social immediately following the worship service.

Judy Wetter

Music Leader Pledge Update

Judy Wetter

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We have exceeded our goal of \$10,000 for the two-year music program. During our Dreams and Visions focus, you indicated that a Music Leader was right up there in importance with a full time pastor. You have certainly proved this with your generosity. We now have two great Pastors and an exciting opportunity to have a great Music Leader who will enhance our Sunday worship experience.



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.**

I was introduced to the United Church of Christ in 1980, by Jude. She had spent much of her youth in the Federated Church of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Her church was formed as a merger between the Congregationalists and the Disciples of Christ in the 1800's. The U.C.C. was formed in 1957 when the Evangelical and Reformed Church united with the Congregational Christian Churches. The histories of the denominations that unified in the U.C.C. are rich and amazing. We have much to be proud of as members of this amazing denomination. As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our founding, let us look back on many "firsts." Below are just a few (some of which I had never read before). We will highlight other more well-known ones in the service on June 25th.



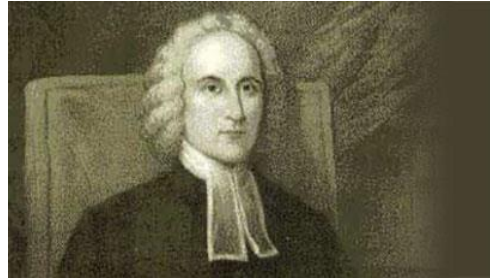
Pilgrims

1630: The Congregational churches founded by the Pilgrims spread rapidly through New England. In an early experiment in democracy, each congregation is self-governing and elects its own ministers. The Congregationalists aim to create a model for a just society lived in the presence of God. Their leader, John Winthrop, prays that "we shall be as a city upon a hill ... the eyes of all people upon us."

1636: The commitment to education and higher learning is deep. Both Harvard (1636) and Yale (1701) were founded out of that vision. So were eight historically black colleges in the South. Also founded by our UCC forebears were Wellesley,

Smith, Dartmouth, Williams, Amherst, Oberlin, Mount Holyoke, Howard, Elmhurst and UC Berkeley.

1663: The first bible in the new world is printed in the Algonquin language, translated by Congregationalist John Eliot. Eliot begins preaching to the Algonquians in their own language in 1646.



Edwards

1730s: The first Great Awakening sweeps through Congregational and Presbyterian churches. One of the great thinkers of the movement, Jonathan Edwards, says the church should recover the passion of a transforming faith that changes "the course of [our] lives." *Personal note - Jonathan Edwards is in Pastor Judy's Family Tree!*

1773: Five thousand angry colonists gather in the Old South Meeting House to demand repeal of an unjust tax on tea. Their protest inspires the first act of civil disobedience in U.S. history—the "Boston Tea Party."

1798: Dissident preacher James O'Kelly is an early founder of a movement called the "Christians." His aim is to restore the simplicity of the original Christian community. The Christians seek liberty of conscience and oppose authoritarian church government.



1806 A prayer meeting and a sudden thunderstorm sends 5 Williams College students into a haystack. They have a commitment to spread the teachings of Christianity around the world, which launches the modern American mission movement. Starting in India, then including blacks and Native Americans in the US, they translate the Bible into local and often previously unwritten languages. Missionaries build schools, churches and hospitals, and trained local leaders.

1807: Congregationalists organize Andover Theological Seminary, the first Protestant seminary in America, which becomes a center for religious reform. It later introduces the critical study of scripture and church history, and offers the first challenge to conventional religious thinking in the debate on evolution.

1840: Pastors in Missouri form the first united church in U.S. history—the Evangelical Synod. It unites two traditions separated for centuries: Lutheran and Reformed.

1887: Poor Wolf, Chief and Spiritual Leader of the Hidatsa people, converts to Christianity. Sent by the American Missionary Association, Congregationalist pastor Charles Hall works in the northern plains beginning in 1876.

1889: St. Louis, MO, is home to many new German immigrants. To meet the urgent need for medical care, the Evangelical Deaconess Society and the Evangelical Deaconess Home and Hospital are founded. Katherine Haack, a trained nurse and widow of a pastor, is the first to be consecrated. At a time continued...

Continued...

when women were often silenced at church, women such as Haack are leaders in the administration and guidance of the home and hospital. The Deaconess movement leads to the establishment of 16 hospitals and institutions for healthcare and nurse training.



Tillich

1952: Evangelical and Reformed theologian Paul Tillich publishes "The Courage to Be"—later named by the New York Public Library as one of the "Books of the Century." "Life demands again and again," he writes, "the courage to surrender some or even all security for the sake of full self-affirmation." He is on the cover of TIME magazine.

1960 South African Albert Lutuli receives a Nobel Peace Prize in 1960. Educated in a Congregationalist mission school in South Africa, Albert Lutuli becomes an educator, lay preacher, and key leader in the United

Congregational Church of South Africa. He opposes apartheid policies and the unjust 'Pass Laws' that limit freedom of movement of Africans. Despite threats of arrest, charges of treason, and government bans restricting his travel, he persists in opposition until his death in 1967.

1973: Meeting in St. Louis, the UCC General Synod becomes impassioned about the plight of farm workers in California. They learn from labor organizer Cesar Chavez that farm owners have unleashed a campaign of violence and beatings against strikers. The church charters a plane to fly delegates to Coachella Valley to show support.



General Synod

1976: General Synod elects the Rev. Joseph H. Evans president of the United Church of Christ. He becomes the first African American leader of a racially integrated mainline church in the United States.

1977: First to lead national UCC disabilities ministries, Harold H. Wilke is internationally known activist and advocate. Born without arms, Wilke serves as pastor, author, denominational executive. When President George H.W. Bush signed

the Americans with Disabilities Act, newspapers worldwide carry the photo of Bush handing Wilke one of his pens, which Wilke accepts with his left foot. A headline, "My left foot plays the White House."

1978: UCC member Roger Cook helps organize public response to the Love Canal disaster. A residential area and school had been built directly on the former toxic waste dump near Niagara Falls, NY. The Ecumenical Task Force, using tactics including civil disobedience, brings the site to public attention. President Carter declares it a federal emergency. Residents are moved and the site cleaned up.

1987: The UCC Commission for Racial Justice issues "Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States," a groundbreaking study documenting that race is the most significant variable in the national distribution of hazardous waste facilities. Study leads to use of the term "environmental racism."

We are truly surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who, though often fighting the beliefs of the dominant culture, have maintained their faith with courage and dignity. May we pray to be an on-going part of God's amazing work through the United Church of Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian

BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATE

Denny Wetter

The Building and Grounds committee continues to work toward the repair of the preschool back wall. We have received a preliminary report from the structural engineer. They believe the settling is caused by the flood we had last year. They have ordered two soil samples from a geotechnical company to determine the condition of the soil under this wall. When they receive the report on the soil, they will tell us what the repair will entail. We will then hire a contractor that is experienced in this type work to make the repair.

Unfortunately, each step of this process is expensive and time consuming. The committee feels the safety and preservation of the building requires that this be

done right. We are hopeful that this work can be completed in time for the preschool to resume classes without any problems.

Building and grounds is also working on the safety recommendations of the police audit. With the blessing of the church council, we are having the security camera system upgraded to cover the front of the building and allow easier access to the data should we need it.

Another problem found in the police audit is that we don't know how many keys to the building exist or who has them. To correct this, we are having the door locks changed from key locks to electronic keypads that will allow us to assign different codes to each authorized person. We will then be able to tell who has entered the building and when.

Mark Your Calendars

Breakfast Bunch

9am SAT. JULY 1

In July the breakfast bunch will go to The Grapevine, located at the Freedom Village at 6406 21st Ave. W. Bradenton, 34205. Come join us!

Dinner and Dessert Potluck

6pm FRI. JULY 21

Thank you host Richard Dilts along with co-hosts Denny and Judy Wetter for the July Dinner and Dessert, Potluck and Pool Party Combo Celebration. We are meeting at Richard's home located at 11117 35th Court East, Parrish, FL 34219. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The main course will be provided. The pool will be open at 2pm. Dinner starts at 6pm.

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**

CHURCH HAPPENINGS



4

July Combo Dinner & Dessert / Potluck and Pool Party

This year, as what has become an 'annual tradition,' the July Dinner & Dessert and Potluck will be combined into one with the addition of a pool party! The date will be Saturday, July 22, with the pool being ready for use at 2pm with snacks and drinks available. A picnic dinner will be ready to be served at 6pm.

The location will be at Richard's house in Parrish with Moderator-Judy (and Denny too) co-hosting. If you are only able to come for the afternoon to enjoy the pool, fine. If you are only able to come for dinner, also fine, but we hope you can make a day of it! If it is for the afternoon, please remember to bring your own towel, and if you will be joining us for dinner, bring a dessert to share. The rest will be supplied by Judy and Richard as this is Moderator-Judy's way of saying "thank you" to the Faith Church family and Richard's way of giving back for the support he has received over these past months.

In order to have an idea of how much food is needed, please remember to sign-up on the sheet located on the bulletin board or call either Judy or Richard.

Craft Saturday

On Saturday, July 29, at 10 am, you are invited to a card-making class here at Faith. We will make five different cards. The class is open to everyone (adults only) and will last approximately 2 hours. The cost is \$5, which will cover the supplies. If you are interested in attending, please see Judy Wetter to sign up and pay in advance. There will be a maximum of 20 people in the class, so sign up early! No card making experience required. Everything will be provided. Mark your calendar for a morning of crafting, fun, and fellowship. **The deadline to sign up is Saturday, July 22!**



JOIN US WEEKEND SCHEDULE

We could always use volunteers. Please see Richard Dilts if you are interested in helping out one Sunday.

July 2, 2017

Flowers: Council
Greeters: Council
Scripture: Marge Hooie
Ushers: Council
Nursery: Babs Brownell
Sunday school: Hatti & Earleen

July 9, 2017

Flowers: Available
Greeters: Available
Scripture: Available
Ushers: Available
Nursery: Babs Brownell
Sunday school: Hatti & Earleen

July 16, 2017

Flowers: Available
Greeters: Available
Scripture: Joan Sheehan
Ushers: Available
Nursery: Linda Anderson
Sunday school: Hatti & Earleen

July 23, 2017

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

July 30, 2017

Flowers: Available
Greeters: Available
Scripture: Available
Ushers: Available
Nursery: Linda Anderson
Sunday school: Hatti & Earleen

THE BREAKFAST BUNCH

5



We started the summer off with the breakfast bunch. In June, we met at the Recipe Box. Please join us in July for another great time at another great location!



"Everyone was so friendly at breakfast! Even my water stain had a smile!" – Faith

SOCIAL ACTION & MISSIONS

Babs Brownell

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

In **JULY**, we are collecting **BEANS** for the food bank (canned and dry). In **May** we collected 140 pounds of Soup and Stews. The next SAM meeting is Tuesday, July 24, at 7pm.

A chance for everyone to be helpful!

On the first and third Tuesday evenings of every month, members of Faith UCC have offered to help with the work of Downtown Ministries in their Palmetto warehouse as they make sandwiches, hygiene kits, organize clothes (for their clothes closet) and repair bikes — to name just a few things— for their mission work in the downtown area of Bradenton. So far this month, 7 of us have helped out and really enjoyed the fellowship and the sense of doing something to help our neighbors. **Kids are welcome too!**

Please consider whether you want to be part of this opportunity. All we ask is that you sign up for the night you want to go so that we can let them know how much help to expect.

**Our next volunteer date is:
July 18 (not meeting July 4th.) 6:30-8PM**

If you want more information please see the postings on the bulletin board at church OR talk to a member of the SAM team and those who have already volunteered.

TEAM: Linda Van Buskirk, MR Lembright, Babs Brownell, Marge Kirchner, Donna Rusch, Carol Knight and Cindy Purvis. Other volunteers: Margaret Gregory, Marge Hooie, Joan Sheehan and Dorathy Gallo.



Open Warehouse: 1st & 3rd Tuesday from 6:30-8pm. Sorting, folding, preparing hygiene kits, lunches, and more. Come join us!!

Your Staff

Pastors

Rev. Brian and
Rev. Judy
Bagley-Bonner

Cell:
941-718-3132

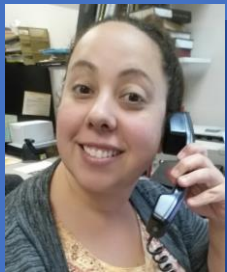


(with Janie)

PASTORS' OFFICE HOURS

Monday 10 am - 1 pm
Tuesday 9:30am – 12:30pm
(also available 6-6:30pm)
Wednesday 9:30am- 12:30pm
Thursday 6:00pm -7:00pm

Other times by appointment
*3rd Thursday at UCC meetings



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

Secretary

Faith Quici

Faith UCC Email:
faithchurchucc@verizon.net

Faith Website:
faithchurchucc.com

In Loving Memory of Lowell (Pete) Peterson

June 20, 2017

**Memorial Service, Thurs, June 29 at
6pm at Faith UCC**

Cards can be sent to Floy at:
4108 14th Ave. E., Bradenton, FL 34208

And their daughter Janis Stone at:
4411 9th Ave. E., Bradenton, FL 34208



This is a picture of Donna Rusch's grandson, Branson, and in her email she titled this picture "**I miss my friend Pete**" This is how many of us feel right now.

2017 Church Council

Moderator: Judy Wetter

Deputy Moderator: Richard Dilts

Secretary: Robin Wentz

Financial Secretary: Donna Blakey

Treasurer: Marge Critelli

Worship Team: Richard Dilts

Faith Care Team: Marge Hooie

Community Outreach: Deb D'Angelo

Church Events & Fellowship: Sheryl
Overheidt Smith

SAM: Babs Brownell

Building & Grounds: Denny Wetter

Christian Ed: OPEN



For RENT
2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1100 sq ft / Riverwalk East



\$800 unfurnish / \$900 furnished per/mo.
davikep@Yahoo.com

Donna Rusch will be spending more time with her grandson soon so her place for rent. If you or anyone is interested in renting please give her a call at 301-825-9611.



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



www.faithchurchucc.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



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