

FAITHFUL follower¹

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



September 2017

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

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From Your Moderator

This is an exciting time to be at Faith UCC. There are numerous activities and opportunities coming in the next few months. There are Bible studies and book studies, the 2nd Annual Storytellers program, Octoberfest, and maybe even some surprises. We also will have a new member class, and we will be receiving new members in the near future. Then there is Dinner and Dessert and the 1st Saturday breakfasts. We are small, but we are mighty, and we have a lot of fun! The Music Committee has completed the job description for the Music Leader and will advertise the position the week of August 27. Our tentative timeline is to interview in early September and to have the person selected and beginning in early October. We are excited about this next step, and we are looking forward to numerous applicants.

We have a couple of committees beginning work so if you are interested in

servicing on either the Finance or Sign Committee please let me know. Just to give you an idea of the job: the Finance Committee is made up of the Church Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Moderator and Pastor and hopefully, one or two church members. Responsibilities include the budget, fundraising, investment opportunities, and all things that pertain to our financial stability. The Sign Committee, at present, consists of Pastor Brian, myself and two church members. We are looking at the possibility of replacing our sign with a LED sign and would like a couple more members to serve on this committee. The responsibilities of this committee are to gather information, estimates, and design approval.

We appreciate each and every one of you, and we thank you and appreciate your support.

Judy

2017 PER CAPITA

Per Capita is an obligation we owe yearly to the conference. The cost is \$15 per member. 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.

Calling ALL SHOTS

Do you like to take pictures? Are you good at finding neat shots? We are looking for photos for the screens. Landscapes, nature, special places, communion, church pics, religious places and objects and especially Faith events are requested. Lots of things will make good backgrounds even art you may have created. If you have any photos to submit, please email them to bconline@verizon.net. Larger photo collections may be put on a USB thumb drive and given to Bruce Covey. I will return it. If you have questions, please call me at (941) 724-6313. Thanks for your support and your contributions!

Bruce Covey



Privilege

I was privileged to represent Faith UCC this week as I prayed at the County Commissioners Special Meeting on Aqua by the Bay. I believe they asked me because they appreciate our inclusive theology and how that is expressed in prayer. It is a joy to represent you and share the free flowing love of God to all in our community. Faith UCC is a beacon of tolerance and civility in this community.

Privilege is an interesting word. Merriam-Webster tells us it is "a right or immunity granted as a peculiar benefit, advantage, or favor: such a right or immunity attached specifically to a position or an office." Your call to me to be a Co-Pastor here at Faith UCC gives me the privilege - the right (in the eyes of our County Commissioners) to set the tone and direction of an important meeting through prayer. Thank you for that privilege.

I was also privileged to speak on behalf of the *Progressive Clergy of Manatee County* at the Unity Rally at the Courthouse on Monday. My ordination by the United Church of Christ - Minnesota Conference and the support of my clergy colleagues of many denominations allowed me that privilege- that right. I chose to speak representing that group because Jude and I believe that the privilege of representing Faith UCC as your Co-Pastors must be limited in political debates. Some members and friends of Faith UCC were also at the rally, and their support of my speaking meant a great deal. Click on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/ProClergy/> If you want hear it.

The content of my speech was centered in my understanding that as a "Straight White

Protestant Male" I have a certain amount of privilege that many do not share. I do not, for example, worry about being stopped by police in a nice neighborhood, or about being seen as suspicious as I enter a store. Some people in this world actually think my words are more valuable only because I am a SWPM (no comments, Judy!). And the privilege of Straight White Protestant Males in 1920s Florida was almost absolute. The KKK marched down many a Florida Main Street sometimes being praised by newspaper editors. More significantly, lynching, the burning of whole black towns, the castration and beating of a Roman Catholic Priest all were committed with immunity (the other part of privilege) for the SWPM of those days.

Acknowledging privilege is not about taking on blame or shaming oneself. It is an honest acknowledgment that, as Jude often says, "Just because you are on third base, doesn't mean you hit a triple." Jude and I were able to get married in 1981 because straight couples could do that then (and for millennia before) while our LGBTQ friends could not. That was not our fault or theirs. But as people of privilege we realized that we needed to advocate for those who did not share that right - that privilege. Why? Because as Blues Singer Solomon Burke reminds us, "As long as one of us is chained, none of us are free."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFkmRp_G2uo

Thank you for the privilege you have given me of being your Co-Pastor!

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Brian

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

Sept 3, 2017

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

Sept 10, 2017

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

Sept 17, 2017

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

Sept 24, 2017

Flowers: Richard Dilts
Greeters: Available
Scripture: Blu Glavin
Ushers: Available
Nursery: Marge Hooie
Sunday school: Hatti Damianos

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.**

Mark Your Calendars

Breakfast Bunch

9am SAT. SEPT. 2

We will meet at Paul and Frankie's Country Kitchen located at 5227 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34209. Please join us!

Dinner and Dessert

6pm, FRI. SEPT. 15

Thank you Blu Glavin for hosting the September Dinner and Dessert. We will gather at the Ortygia, located at in the Village of the Arts. The address is: 1418 13th St W, Bradenton, FL 34205

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

Financial Snapshot

July 2017

Income: \$11,968.50

Expenses: 14,330.58

Net income: = (2,362.08)

Support Group

This group will be led by Rev. Judy. While this will be a general support group where we share what is going on in our lives, it will be done within the context of prayer. We will begin each session with five minutes of silent, centering prayer, and ten minutes of reflecting on a Psalm. The remainder of the time will be used to share life issues and concerns, and people will be encouraged to write down these concerns in order to pray about them on a daily basis. This group will begin on Wednesday, Sept 20 at 10:30 A.M. and will continue weekly.

Fall Book Study

Traveling Mercies by Anne Lamott

Meets Sundays and Wednesdays, Starting Sunday, October 22, (9:00-10:00 AM) and Wednesday, October 25, (6:30-7:30 PM).

From bestselling author, Anne Lamott, comes a chronicle of faith and spirituality that is at once tough, personal, affectionate, wise and very funny. With an exuberant mix of passion, insight, and humor, the author takes us on a journey through her often troubled past to illuminate her devout but quirky walk of faith. In a narrative spiced with stories and scripture, with diatribes, laughter, and tears, Lamott tells how, against all odds, she came to believe in God and then, even more miraculously, in herself. Whether writing about her family or her dreadlocks, sick children or old friends, the most religious women of her church or the men she's dated, Lamott reveals the sometimes raw and edgy wisdom gathered along her path to connectedness and liberation.

To participate in our Group Book Order, sign up on Church Bulletin Board or call 941-746-8890 between 9 AM and Noon.

New Members Class

On Sunday, September 17th we will have an information session for those considering joining Faith UCC. We will spend some time getting to know one another and then discuss our denomination, this church's history, and the responsibilities and benefits of membership. Folks will have an opportunity to join on World Communion Sunday, October 1st, or at a later time if they so choose.

Council Minutes con't from page 5

able to commit to a dollar amount to participate in the project.

Faith Care- Marge Hooie - The Faith Care meeting has been postponed for August as several members are away

Worship-Richard Dilts

- Sept 3rd will be Communion by intinction. He will be away the last 2 Sundays in Sept and the first in October. Since Oct 1st will be World Wide Communion Sunday, he suggested we not do intinction.
- Dec 2nd- Church decorating

Pastor Brian closed the meeting in prayer at 9:23 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Wentz, Secretary

SOCIAL ACTION & MISSIONS Babs Brownell 4

Following domestic and international disasters, help from others is essential. The UCC Disaster Ministries, our UCC Conference and congregations support these efforts by assembling Service Kits. Faith's SAM committee has decided to make application for the UCC Disaster Ministries Matching Grant. Since CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets are in short supply, we are asking the UCC Disaster Ministry to grant us \$250.00 toward our goal of \$750.00.

SAM committee members are intending to request donations from area businesses. We are also asking the Faith congregation to make a monetary donation to the Bucket Project. Each assembled kit will cost \$75.00. With your support, Faith can complete 10 buckets. Our bucket filling party will be in mid-October. So we will collect your donation in the month of September. Your designated contribution can be dropped in the Sunday collection or at the Church office.

M.R. and I are taking the lead on this project. We are ready to answer any questions you may have about this important ministry. Our application is ready and will be sent by the end of August. The grant money will arrive mid-September. We will be asking for your support in September also. Our Thanks ,

Linda Van Buskirk & M.R. Lembright

In **SEPTEMBER**, we are collecting **100% Juice** for the food bank.

On the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings of every month, members of Faith UCC will help the 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. We have 12-15 interested and invested volunteers. We would love to have you join us! We all enjoy the fellowship as well as a sense of satisfaction for doing something to help our neighbors. **Kids are welcome too!**

We now have a collection box in the Narthex for some of the much needed items for the Downtown Ministries. Please consider donating as a way to have a part in this great ministry.

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:
September 5th and 19th 6:30-8PM**



FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach, Director

The teachers and I are preparing for the upcoming 2017/2018 preschool year. So far we have painted both classrooms and the teachers have cleaned and set up their classrooms. Tuesday, August 22 we had staff training from 9:00 – 12:30.

We welcomed two new teachers to our team; Jen DiPasquale will be the assistant teacher in the Three Year Old class and June Seidl will be the assistant teacher in the Two Year Old class. On Thursday, August 24 the MWF class had a "Meet and Greet" get together at the preschool from 9:00 - 10:00 and Friday, August 25 the VPK class had theirs.



Tuesday, August 29 is Parent Night from 6:00 - 8:00. During Parent Night the parents have a chance to meet their child's teacher, spend some time in their child's classroom and ask any questions about the upcoming preschool year. The first day of preschool is Tuesday, September 5.

We are looking forward to another wonderful year!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Faith United Church of Christ August 14, 2017

Present: Richard Dilts, Deb D'Angelo, Marge Hooie, Faith Quici, Pastor Brian, Judy Wetter, Denny Wetter, Donna Blakey (via Skype), Babs Brownell, Linda Van Buskirk, Robin Wentz

Richard Dilts brought the meeting to order at 7:05; Pastor Brian opened the meeting in prayer. The July minutes were accepted as printed in the Follower.

Financial Secretary Report-Donna

Blakey - Comparing donations from 2016 to 2017 we have improved by \$235; Donations to the Building Fund are down by approximately \$535. A motion was made by Deb D, seconded by Babs B to accept the Financial Secretary's Report as printed, motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report-Marge Critelli

Marge had reviewed the CD maturity dates and interest rates in the Cornerstone account; One CD that matures in August will be given to SAM for them to distribute.

- There was a discussion of the gifting of stock certificates to the church.
- Frontier-phone service was changed to reduce the monthly service charge and in fact increased the bill by \$500. Frontier is in the process of crediting our account.
- Looking at the YTD budget, we are in a deficit of \$14,459.08 although total offerings were \$1446 ahead of budget. Deb D made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, Marge H seconded the motion which was carried.

Pastor's Report-Pastor Brian

- 6 people are ready for a new member class. There was a suggestion that we take photos of the new members.
- Jan 1 thru 7/27 there was a total of 4000 minutes of people watching our Facebook page.
- The Florida Conference's Annual meeting will be held in October in Daytona. They are scheduled to meet all day Friday and until

noon on Saturday.

- Pastor Brian reminded us that he and Jude will be on vacation 8/29 to 9/3. Ellen King will lead service on 8/29.
- Peace on Earth ending maybe sung once per month but there will not be holding of hands.
- 10/8 Beach Service
- Peg O'Sullivan is organizing a "Story Telling" with professional Story Tellers for 11/18. Carol Knight will help and this will be a potential fundraiser with pre-sale tickets.

Secretary's Report- Faith Quici

- Faith stated that she's "on it" in regard to the Frontier bill (previously discussed)
- Calendar reviewed and updated

Old Business

- Denny W stated that he spoke with the Structural Engineer and Universal Geotech Engineering and the estimates to fix the wall is \$18k-\$25k. He has been and will continue to measure the wall every few months to see if movement continues.
- Judy W said that the Music Committee will have a meeting on Wed (8/16) night to put the job description together and she is in hopes that we will be able to post a position this month.
- Judy W stated that until the wall repair costs are determined, the new sign may have to be put on hold.
- Pastor Brian stated that they were informed that they did not get the grant to finance the Sabbatical. They will now apply for a grant through the conference. The amount to be funded for pulpit coverage is \$2400-\$3600. Judy W stated again that we will have a monthly "Sabbatical 101" in the Follower every other month to educate the congregation how the church benefits from a

Sabbatical

New Business

- Carpet Cleaning - Faith Q got an estimate of \$275, she will secure other quotes; motion was made by Babs B to approve an expense of carpet cleaning prior to when the Pre-School starts up to \$350, Deb D seconded the motion which carried.
- Pastor Brian stated that the new member class will held 9/17/17
- 10/1/17 will be World Communion Sunday.

Departments & Committees

Building & Grounds-Denny Wetter

The new front door closer has been installed. A date has to be picked to get the locksmith out to change the keys. May be the week of 8/20.

Community Outreach-Deb

D'Angelo - No report

Social Action & Missions-Babs

Brownell - Babs discussed the following upcoming projects:

- Disaster Buckets-part of Church World Service to provide buckets and contents to be used for 2018 disasters. Linda Van Buskirk is applying for a grant to fund this project. The goal is 10 filled buckets, \$500-collect items in Sept and would have to assemble at the end of October. Carol Knight is taking leadership of a "Bucket Party".
- Neighbors in Need offering to be held 10/15/17, Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross) to be held in December, Habitat Sunday to be held in January, Blanket Sunday to be held in February
- Pastor Brian mentioned that Habitat Manatee is having a "Faith Build" to be completed by July 2018. He attended a meeting about it and told those in attendance (and in charge) that Faith UCC would not be

Con't on page 3

Your Staff

Pastors

Rev. Brian and
Rev. Judy
Bagley-Bonner

Cell:
941-718-3132

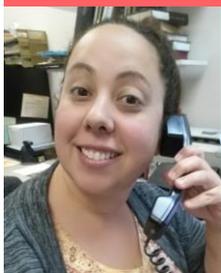


(with Janie)

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

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 Overheid-Smith 941.776.5589 (winter) 269.673.7342 (summer)	Joan Sheehan 941.748.2498
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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

2017 Church Council

Moderator: Judy Wetter

Faith Care Team: Marge Hooie

Deputy Moderator: Richard Dilts

Community Outreach: Deb D'Angelo

Secretary: Robin Wentz

Church Events & Fellowship: Sheryl Overheid Smith

Financial Secretary: Donna Blakey

SAM: Babs Brownell

Treasurer: Marge Critelli

Building & Grounds: Denny Wetter

Worship Team: Richard Dilts

Christian Ed: OPEN



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



www.faithchurchucc.com

September 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY!</p> <p>9/13 Faith Quici 9/20 Anita Porter 9/30 Denny Wetter</p> <p>If your birthday was missed, please contact the church office so we can update our records. Thank you!</p>					<p>1 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC</p>	<p>2 9am Breakfast Bunch mtg. at Paul & Frankie's Country Kitchen</p> <p>10am NA & Nar-Anon</p>
<p>3 10am Melody Choir Guest Preacher- Ellen King 10:30am Service <u>Communion</u> 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm</p>	<p>4 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed</p> 	<p>5 First Day of Preschool Starts</p> <p>6:30pm Downtown Ministries</p>	<p>6 7:00pm BAC</p>	<p>7 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon</p>	<p>8 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC</p>	<p>9 10am NA & Nar-Anon</p>
<p>10 10am Melody Choir 10:30am Service 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm</p>	<p>11 7pm Church Council Mtg</p> <p>7:30pm BR Watch Mtg.</p>	<p>12 11am Prayer Healing & Meditation Service</p> <p>Building and Grounds Work Day 4pm</p>	<p>13 7:00pm BAC</p>	<p>14 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon</p>	<p>15 6pm Dinner and Dessert – Blu Glavin hosting at Ortygia</p> <p>7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC</p> <p>Follower Reminder</p>	<p>16 10am NA & Nar-Anon</p>
<p>17 10am Melody Choir 10:30am Service New Member Class 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm</p>	<p>18 Follower Deadline</p> <p>7pm BR HOA</p>	<p>19 11:30am Prayer Team Mtg</p> <p>6:30pm Downtown Ministries</p>	<p>20 10:30am Support Group</p> <p>7:00pm BA</p>	<p>21 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon</p>	<p>22 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC</p>	<p>23 10am NA & Nar-Anon</p>
<p>24 10am Melody Choir 10:30am Service 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm</p>	<p>25 7pm INT HOA</p>	<p>26 6:30pm Prayer Healing & Meditation Service</p>	<p>27 10:30am Support Group</p> <p>7:00pm BAC</p>	<p>28 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon</p>	<p>29 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC</p>	<p>30 10am NA & Nar-Anon</p>

BAC: Bradenton Apostolic Church
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and **Nar- Anon**, NA
hotline at 941.257.5055.
(HOA's) Home Owner Associations



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