

FAITHFUL follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



September 2016

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- o Pledges pg 1
- o Pastor's Desk pg 2
- o Church Happenings pg 3
- o Faith Chat Room pg 4
- o Spiritual Exercise pg 5
- o Council Minutes pg 6
- o September Calendar pg 8
- o Vacation Pictures pg 9

PER CAPITA 2016

Per Capita is a yearly commitment to the conference. The cost is \$14.50 per member.

Our goal is to be 100% paid up 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

From Your Moderator

I would like to thank Donna Rusch for finding our new, interesting places to have our monthly breakfast outings during the summer months when the men and women meet together.

I would also like to thank Jeff for hosting our August potluck. We had a wonderful variety of food and a very nice time. Thanks to everyone who helped with the clean-up. Many hands make light work.

Please check the bulletin board in the Narthex weekly for activities and sign up if you would like to host one of the activities or attend.

Thank you again to the Melody Choir for singing this summer. We have had a lot of fun

singing and the members seem to enjoy the music. A special thanks to Anita for playing for us.

Thank you Donna for being creative and virtual hosting our Dinner and Dessert for Friday, August 26. A special thank you to everyone who volunteers to help in all the Sunday services.

Thank you to our two wonderful Pastors for your wonderful sermons, and classes, and all the things you do for the members and friends of Faith United Church of Christ.

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

Pledges

From Your Financial Secretary

It is the time of year when Faith UCC and most Florida churches find themselves with cash flow problems. Thank you for keeping up with your pledge, it is greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, our bills don't take time off during the summer. Please prayerfully review your pledge and help us to move forward and continue our ministry.

Years ago the congregation voted to pay their per capita individually, instead

of including it in the budget. The per capita does not stay with Faith UCC, it is paid to the Florida Conference to help support all of the programs offered by the Conference. If you haven't paid your per capita, then please do so. It is \$14.50 per member.

Thanks to Gayle Covey for letting me know that the offering envelopes have 5th Sunday envelopes toward the back of the pack.

Thanks again to those of you who are keeping up with your pledges or paying ahead, we all want Faith UCC to prosper and grow and your continued financial support is going to help that happen.

Judy Welter

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

THE PASTOR'S DESK

News of the New 😊

There are a few new things going on at Faith UCC that are exciting! They are going to help us continue to move forward in our lives and ministry. First, we are now streaming the Sunday sermons live on Facebook. Around 11 am we go live on one of the Pastor's Facebook pages (send us friend requests if you are not on with us yet). You can watch it live there or on Monday morning, the sermon is posted on the Faith UCC Facebook page. We have had viewers from all over the world (New Zealand, Mississippi, Ohio, and Minnesota) including some of our friends who no longer live in the area and some, who because of illness or work, can't make it Sunday morning. We hope to expand our virtual ministry into having education classes on Facebook in the fall. There is a lot of potential in this outreach. We are also going to explore how to take contributions online so our virtual community can help us keep the doors open.

Speaking of finances, the council has hired a bookkeeper for the church in order to navigate the complicated world of banking, payroll and taxes. Arlene Smith, who was recommended by our sister church in Venice, is going to be paying our bills and doing the payroll work. Jim Willard did a good job as treasurer, and discovered the process was very complicated for a non-professional. He decided to resign the position. We will now seek

a new treasurer who will be the liaison with Arlene and also to give more attention to our total finances (Building for the Future Funds, the Endowment, Mission Funds). Any one out there up for the new and improved treasurer position?

Old News 😞

And also speaking of finances, like every summer we are struggling to keep up with the bills. Even with losing some very generous givers in the last couple years due to relocation (some on earth and others to heaven!) we have received about the same amount in offerings in June and July, but some expense have increased and so we are still borrowing from ourselves (the Building for the Future Fund). Most of us are up to date with our pledged giving, but with the lazy and crazy days of summer, some of us are a bit behind. Could you check to see which category you are in?



Timely News

We will look forward to welcoming back our migrating members and friends in the coming months. We hope you will enjoy some of our new worship features (the Melody Choir and Food Pantry Offering). You may also find it cooler here!

Blessings,

Pastor Brian

FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach, Director

Our first day of preschool will be Tuesday, September 6. We will welcome back 28 new and returning families to our center. The teachers for each classroom are: Tina Liaros is the T/TH Lead Teacher and the MWF Assistant Teacher, Whitney Starner is the T/TH Assistant Teacher, Teri Holtslander is the MWF Lead Teacher, Gina Hoying is the Lead VPK Teacher and Nicole Parsley is the Co-VPK Teacher. The teachers are all excited about the upcoming school year! Our first fundraiser of the year is a "Back to School Breakfast" at Applebee's on Saturday, October 1 from 8:00 - 10:00 AM. Tickets are \$10.00 each. The breakfast includes 3 pancakes, 2 sausage links, and a choice of coffee, tea, juice or soda. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please call Wendi Steinbach at 746-7895 or send an email to faithpreschool1@verizon.net. We hope you can join us and help support Faith Preschool!

WORSHIP WITH US

September 4, 2016

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

September 11, 2016

Flowers: Available
Greeters: Available
Scripture: Available
Ushers: Available
Nursery: Babs Brownell
Sunday School: Available

September 18, 2016

Flowers: Available
Greeters: Available
Scripture: Available
Ushers: Available
Nursery: Linda Anderson
Sunday School: Available

September 25, 2016

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

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.

Mark Your Calendars

BREAKFAST BUNCH

(men and women combined)
 SAT. Sept. 3
 Meeting at 9am at Leon's House of Omelets, located at 7246 55th Ave. East in Bradenton, FL.

POTLUCK

Sun. Sept 11
 after service
 We are looking for a host. If you want to host, please call the office by Monday, September 5. Information on how to host a potluck is located on the bulletin board.

DINNER AND DESSERT

Fri. Sept. 23 at 6 p m
 We are looking for a host for this event. If you want to host, it's easy! Please call the office by Monday, Sept. 5, if you decide to be our host.

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. We have room for you in the nursery with the little ones or in Sunday school with the older ones. Please contact Babs Brownell if you would like more information about this purposeful and rewarding ministry.

Call: 941.747.9643

Mission Opportunities

We are now collecting our **Food Pantry** offerings during the service, just before the Time for Children. This is a way of keeping that opportunity more visible and hopefully increasing our giving to the Food Pantry. This month is 100% juice, but you can always bring other things as well.



Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need Offering will be taken October 2nd but we wanted to share with you one of the ministries this UCC Special Offering supports:



Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ (COAUCC)

Understanding their call to work and witness for justice and peace, 2010 NIN grant receiver, **Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ (COAUCC)** of Lancaster, PA uncovered a new purpose. They discovered in the local newspaper a ministry to at-risk adolescents as an alternative to street gang membership. The ministry, **DigIt**, teaches life skills through youth centered programs with a focus on sustainable agriculture. Following the prompting of the Holy Spirit, contacts were made, relationships were built and a partnership ensued.

In March 2010, COAUCC offered part of their 21 acre green space at no rental fee to DigIt so the organization could add gardening space to grow, harvest, and sell more produce while transforming the lives of area youth. COAUCC fertilized, plowed and tilled the soil at no cost. DigIt promotes gardening without chemicals and pesticides. Harvested vegetables are sold in the city. Produce is also taken to urban low cost housing communities and sold at affordable prices door to door.

According to COAUCC Senior Pastor, the Rev. Rebecca Meyer transformational experiences arose within the church from their work with DigIt. "Three distinct generations shared gardening space and social interactions began. Relationships developed slowly and intentionally. We are taking small successful steps. Regrettably, we note that racism is alive and well. So as God transforms our congregation, God continues to nudge our conscience toward loving 'the other'. Change takes time. We know it will come gradually with lots of 'God moments' which were not part of 'our plan'. This serves to let us know that *God is still speaking* and if we watch and listen, the transformation in us will be revealed."

Faith Chat Room

Share your family photos, stories and comments with us: faithchurchucc@verizon.net

Pooch n' Pal Match Up

They say some people look like their pets. Let's see if that's true. Match the pet with the pet owner, above. Have fun!

Answers on page 5



Chuckles

1. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer.
2. Alarm Clock: a small table-top device used to wake up people who don't have cats.
3. What do they call a pastor in Berlin? a German Shepard
4. I decided to make my password "incorrect" because if I type it wrong my computer will remind me "Your password is incorrect."



Thank you Richard Nutting for the beautiful and professional job you do you on the grounds of Faith UCC. We appreciate you!

John, Ringo, Paul, George and Pete.
The original Beatles.
Photo from Pete and Janis's summer trip to Great Brittan.



Spiritual Exercise



5

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own judgement. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."* (Proverbs 3:5-6)**

I almost got a ticket -- two actually -- and not the kind from TicketMaster. The operative word here is "I." Bad things happen when I forget who the Great "I AM" is, and I think I am. So why am I confessing this unsavory event to you? Because yet again, God has had mercy on me. Maybe someone else can relate....

One day I got lost in a faraway city called Sarasota. Did I remain calm, keep the faith and trust God would lead me home? *Really?* I immediately launched into road warrior mode. I executed a U-Turn (apparently unlawful) and as if that wasn't evil enough, I rolled thru a "Right-On-Red" without coming to a complete stop. I was on a mission. Still, no excuse for my lapse in judgement (yet again).

Well, by the time the nice sheriff got to my car, I had already spoken to God, which involved much whining, huffing and puffing. I admitted 'my bad' and asked for His forgiveness. Then I 'Let it Go.' At that moment of surrender, I felt the fear and shame lifted and my spirit renewed. "Ok Mr. Sheriff, bring it on." I was ready to accept whatever the consequences (e.g., prison, water-boarding, capital punishment). What I learned is that when I do have a lapse in faith and judgement, if I can

Let Go and Let God, things will work out. The moment of peace I felt when I surrendered to God was humbling. It was like a wave of serenity washing over me. Also, I learned it's sometimes best to remain silent, pray, and say thank you. In the end, I didn't go to prison, didn't get tortured and best of all, I didn't get any tickets. **THANK YOU JESUS !!**

P.S.- The next day I received a notice of violation from the City of Sarasota. Interestingly, this alleged violation (curse those Right-On-Reds!!) had taken place well over a month ago. I guess God had been holding my mail so that I didn't receive it on the same day as my most recent lapse in judgement. He is patient yet fair.

In Peace and Prayer,
DONNA RUSCH
Branson's Grandma

Disclaimer:
Professional driver.
Do not try at home
(or anywhere else).



Love comes in all colors

Social Action and Missions (SAM)

All hands on deck! **The Food Bank of Manatee needs our help!** The coffers are dangerously low and they are asking everyone to help them donate food for those who are in need! Thank you for all you have given thus far! We are asking everyone to contribute what they can but in particular, here are items which are high on the list:

- Baby Cereal, Food & Formula, Diapers
- Canned Beans
- Healthy Cereals
- Tuna & Other Canned Meat & Fish
- Peanut Butter
- Pasta and Rice
- Canned Soups & Stews
- Boxed meals
- Canned Vegetables & Fruits
- 100% Fruit Juice (Cans, Bottles, Boxes)
- Nutritious Kid-Friendly Snacks

You can choose one item on this list to give or as many as you would like-let's fill our barrel with lots of food this month! **Thank you!**

We also will be taking a special mission offering for **Neighbors in Need** on October 2nd but wanted to remind you this month. This offering supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US. One third funds the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects through grants. These grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systematic injustice. Thank you for prayerfully giving to this worthy offering.

Robin Wentz

ANSWERS FROM PAGE 4:

A.=5, B.=1, C.=2, D=6, E.=3, F=4

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Faith United Church of Christ /// AUGUST 8, 2016

Present: Marge Hooie, Judy and Denny Wetter, Linda Anderson, Pastor Brian, Debra D'Angelo, Faith Quici, Barbara Brownell and Robin Wentz. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm with a prayer given by Pastor Brian.

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Judy Wetter and second by Robin Wentz. A vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Financial Secretary's Report: Judy would like to look at different bank then Bank of America, she also suggested BB&T. Judy reported a total deposit to the operating account in June was \$7621.01 and July was \$9769.15. The deposit to the Bank of the Ozarks building for the future was \$305.00 in June and \$645.00 for July, and the Bank of the Ozarks pass through account total was \$345.00 in June and \$100.00 for July. This was a total deposit to all accounts of \$8,271.01 in June and \$10,489.15 for July. Judy also presented a spread sheet of comparison between 2015 and 2016 due to a total of \$14,100.00 has been borrowed from the building for the future account. The total operating fund deposit from January to July was \$81,008.77 in 2015 and \$77,680.84.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Willard resigned from the position. Arlene Smith has agreed to keep the books for \$50.00/hour and estimates that it will take 2 hours/week. She already does this for 2 other churches so is experienced in the bookkeeping needed. A motion to hire Ms. Smith was made by Barbara Brownell and second by Deb D'Angelo. The motion was carried unanimously. It was also mentioned by Judy Wetter that Helen Weaver has bequeathed a percentage of hers and her husband's trust to the church. It was estimated that probate would take 4-6 months.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brian reported that it was suggested in the PRC meeting that the church works on a safety plan given the problems that have occurred in churches, mosques and synagogues of late. He showed

an article in the paper that states the police are willing to go to places and conduct a free site safety evaluation plan. Stephanie Katz will be doing an android class in the fall at the church. The live stream of the service yesterday was not a great success but there were at least 50 people who went of Facebook to see it. It needs work and after viewing it himself Pastor Brian thought it might be good to start with the sermon and add on as technique is perfected. Pastor Brian also said that it was suggested he consider doing the LBGTQ 101 class on line.

Secretary's Report: Faith reported that the copier committee has recommended the new b&w Cannon copier for a 60 month lease which would be a savings of \$291 when compared to the current copier. A motion to accept the committee's recommendation was made by Barbara Brownell and second by Robin Wentz. A vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously. Faith gave a report of the cleaning situation with John. There have been many instances of rooms not cleaned and bathrooms not cleaned. Faith wrote a letter, talked with John and emailed him many times over the past year and things have gotten worse instead of better. Jan Pro called her 2 weeks ago and gave a quote of \$325/month which is less than our current \$418/month. They currently clean the Woodland Community Church so it was suggested Faith call them to see how they like them and also see if we could get a trial period of 30 days. Marge Hooie will write a letter to John. The video camera is out. Faith thinks it might be the hard drive issue on power supply.

Old Business: Damaged playground equipment- Marge called Pastor Ramon about damage. He talked to Wendy to see if it was ok for them to try to fix them. One was repaired but the second was not able to be repaired

yet. He was going to try one more time and if not then will need to replace. Cleaning- Nicole had talked to Faith about the possibility of taking over the cleaning of the church. Nicole was notified by Marge Hooie of the requirements per our bylaws to clean the church. She has not responded back. Schedule for Sunday school has been set but if for some reason nobody is available the nursery person will have to teach Sunday school.

New Business: Jeff has volunteered to do potluck Sunday – the theme is bring your favorite dish. No one has volunteered to do dinner and dessert for August. Robin reported that Thornton's has contacted John asking if the pastor would write a letter stating how good it was to work with Thornton's and what good neighbors they make. Department and Committee Reports: Building and Grounds: Denny submitted his report work done and work scheduled to be done which can be found elsewhere in the follower. PRC: Barbara Brownell reported that the PRC discussed growth and safety and the next meeting is November 2, 2016. Community Outreach: Debra D'Angelo had nothing to report. SAM: Robin Wentz reported that the foodbank is in dire need. Anything and everything will be accepted. Neighbors in Need donation will be October 2. Worship: Richard was not available. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Deb D'Angelo and 2nd by Judy Wetter. Vote was taken and carried unanimously. Final prayer was the Johnny Appleseed song.

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
(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

Building & Grounds:
Denny Wetter 755-4583

Deputy Moderator:
Barbara Brownell 747-9643

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

Secretary:
Linda Anderson 704-8772

Social Action & Missions:
Robin Wentz 758-6575

Treasurer:
Jim Williard 531-4559

Worship Team Leader:
Richard Dilts 776-7293

Financial Secretary:
Judy Wetter 755-4583

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

September 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY							
				1	7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	2	7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	3	9am Breakfast Bunch 10am NA & Nar-Anon				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30am Service Communion 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	Labor Day Church office is closed today. 	Church office hours resume Preschool starts today 7pm Choir	7:00pm BAC	7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC Follower Reminder	10am NA & Nar-Anon	10:30am Service Potluck 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	7pm Church Council Mtg 7pm – Sanct BAC Pastor’s Meeting	Building and Grounds Work Day 4pm 7pm Choir	7:00pm BAC	7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	10am NA & Nar-Anon
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
10:30am Service 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	Follower Deadline 7pm BR HOA	11:30am Prayer Mtg 7pm Choir	7:00pm BAC	7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	6pm Dinner and Dessert 7:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	10am NA & Nar-Anon	10:30am Service 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	7pm INT HOA	7pm Choir	7:00pm BAC	7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	7:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	

- **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.

Go VACATION





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