

# FAITHFUL follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



## February 2018

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

### MEMBERSHIP CLASS

(even if you are a member elsewhere)

On February 10 after service, we will have an information meeting about Faith UCC, our denomination and the process of joining the church. Everyone is welcome to be a part of Faith any way they want to be, but membership does have its joys and privileges. Even those who are members of another church or denomination can become an Associate Member. Attending the meeting does not require joining, but those who choose to will be received into membership on Sunday, February 18.

### 2018 PER CAPITA

It's a new year and we are committed to 100% paid membership. The cost per member is \$15. Thank you for your prompt attention to this conference responsibility.

### From Your Moderator

Please plan on attending the Annual Congregational Meeting where

- The budget will be approved,
- A new sign discussed
- Music Leader search will be updated,
- The building foundation problem will be addressed

We will also discuss the upcoming sabbatical, Holy Manners, and other issues affecting the church. A quorum is required so please plan to attend.

Don't forget we are planning an all church rummage sale March 23-25. If you would like to serve on the committee to help make this a huge success, please contact Richard Dilts ASAP. You do not need to be a member to serve, we gladly accept all donated help. If you are new to Faith Church or a winter resident, there is no better way to get acquainted with others than to work on a project together.

For dinner and dessert, Denny and I would

like to invite you to a pizza party at our home on Friday, February 23. Our address is **2306 141st St. E., which is located in Mill Creek, off Rye Rd. (A map will be available)**. It is difficult to find a restaurant, during the season, to accept reservations for 20-25 people so we thought we would do something different...have a pizza party. We will furnish the pizza and drinks, but we are asking our guests to bring a salad, appetizer or dessert. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, please sign up so we order enough pizza, and let us know what you will be bringing. All are welcome, members, friends, and visitors.....the more the merrier.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for the support you have given the Church Council this past year. Also, I would like to say you will have a very organized, caring, and thoughtful person serving as your Moderator in the coming year. Thanks Brian and Judy for your care and support also. We are so glad you are part of Faith United Church of Christ.

**Judy**

### THANK YOU

Dear Faith UCC Family, A heartfelt "thank you" for the Christmas Love Gift. Your generosity has touched me and is such a blessing. Thank you very much.

Hugs, Anita

### THANK YOU

The Covey family would like to thank Faith UCC for their support and prayers during this past year.

The Covey's



### OFFERING ENVELOPE INFO

Please note 5th Sunday envelopes are in the back of the book. The first envelope is for an "Initial Offering." You can use this for two special gifts. The congregation voted that we who are able should pay for our Florida Conference UCC per capita, which is \$15.00 per person. This helps the conference to support pastors and congregations through education, administering pastoral searches, organizing disaster relief and justice ministry and providing consultations in challenging times. The per capita may be added to your check along with \$1 (or more) for the initial offering to help pay for the envelopes. Let us know if you want envelopes, and thank you so much for your continued support of Faith United Church of Christ.

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## A Warm Blanket

This winter has been the coldest since I moved to Florida five years ago. I have donned long pants and sweaters. Friends and family are wearing sweatshirts, scarves and other warm clothing I had not seen before. One of the pleasures of this cool time has been sitting on a couch wrapped up in a warm blanket. There is something about a soft, warm blanket that brings comfort and peace.

A blanket covers over our vulnerability to the cold. Likewise, God's love can help us when we face any vulnerability: illness, addiction, financial struggles, depression, grief... and as we have to with a blanket, we must remember the blanket of God's love and wrap ourselves up in it. God's love, like a blanket, does not make the cold entirely disappear, but it lessens how much the cold (or spiritual struggle) affects us. If you are feeling vulnerable right now, take the time to visualize God's love covering you like a

blanket, bringing warmth and comfort.

These past few months several in our church have faced challenges or new beginnings. It is wonderful to watch you as a congregation surround people in the love of God during these times. Your words and cards and prayers mean a great deal to those who are struggling, and those going through positive changes. You as a congregation are often God's loving blanket.

We know there are others in our world who need a literal blanket. This month's Blanket Sunday offering, CROP walk, and our on-going work with Downtown Ministries are ways you can help provide that same love of God to people in Bradenton and around the world.

May God's Love Blanket the Entire Earth,

*Pastor Brian*

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

*From Marge Critelli*

**DECEMBER 2017 income:** \$22,077.98  
**Expenses:** \$21,033.35

**Total Ordinary Income**  
**\$ 1,044.63**  
**December 2017**

**Total year January thru December 2017:**  
**Income** \$345,100.87 (Including trust gifts)  
**Expenses** \$366,826.94 (including transfer of gifts)

**TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME**  
**(\$ 21,726.07) Year 2017**

## Rummage Sale

Please save your items for our upcoming Spring Rummage Sale March 23-25. More details to come.



# 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

### Feb 4, 2018

Flowers: Council  
 Greeters: Council  
 Scripture: Marge Hooie  
 Ushers: Council  
 Nursery: Karen Daugherty  
 Sunday school: Hatti Damianos and Earleen Nutting

### Feb 11, 2018

Flowers: Available  
 Greeters: Available  
 Scripture: Available  
 Ushers: Available  
 Nursery: Available  
 Sunday school: Hatti Damianos and Earleen Nutting

### Feb 18, 2018

Flowers: Available  
 Greeters: Available  
 Scripture: Joan Sheehan  
 Ushers: Available  
 Nursery: Available  
 Sunday school: Hatti Damianos and Earleen Nutting

### Feb 25, 2018

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

# This February

## WOMEN'S BREAKFAST SAT, FEB 3 AT 9AM

We will meet at Leon's House of Omelets located at 7246 55th Ave E, Bradenton, FL 34203. Please sign up if you would like to attend.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST SAT, FEB 10 AT 9AM

We will meet at D's Breakfast and Burgers, formerly Norma Rae's. D's in Palmetto. Sign up on the bulletin board if you want to attend.

## DINNER AND DESSERT FRI, FEB 23 AT 6PM

Denny and Judy Wetter will host a Pizza Party for the February Dinner and Dessert. We will gather at their house. Please sign up on the bulletin board with what you would like to bring and what your favorite pizza is.

## CROP WALK SUN, FEB 25 AT 2PM

We are meeting at Palmetto First United Methodist Church, for the annual Crop Walk to end hunger. See Marge Hooie if you would like to participate this year.

## 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.**

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS 3

## Heartfelt Hospitality

Join us Sunday, February 11, after service for a special valentine hospitality hosted by Sheryl Overheid-Smith.

## Shrove (Fat) Tues Pancake Supper

The famous Jack Williams buttermilk pancake recipe is back again for our traditional pancake supper at the church on February 13. Our faithful volunteer team is ready to serve and would like you to join them. **Serving starts at 6pm and ends promptly at 7:30pm.** This year we are again accepting donations to recoup the cost of the meal. **If you plan to come, the committee urges you to sign up soon so they will know how much batter to make.** Please contact Janis Groth or Sheryl Overheid Smith if you have questions or would like to help.

## Ash Wednesday Service- Drop in

On February 14 from 6 - 8 pm, the sanctuary will be open for receiving ashes, meditation and prayer. Drop in for a moment (on your way to Valentine's Day dinner) or stay for the whole time as we begin the Lenten journey toward Holy Week and Easter. Talk to Pastor Brian for more information

## Spring Study - Book of Joy

### By Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and His Holiness the Dalai Lama

The study starts Wed, Feb 14 and Sun, Feb 18. There is a Wed 6:30pm class and a Sun 9:00am. You can sign up for either class (they are the same, just at different days/times for your schedule). This is a six week study. The class is free, the only charge is your book. **SIGN UP TODAY! DEADLINE FOR THE GROUP BOOK ORDER IS SUNDAY FEB 4 and books are \$15.**

Book Description: "Two spiritual giants. Five days. One timeless question." Nobel Peace Prize Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have survived more than fifty years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression. Despite their hardships—or, as they would say, because of them—they are two of the most joyful people on the planet.

We get to listen as they explore the Nature of True Joy and confront each of the Obstacles of Joy—from fear, stress, and anger to grief, illness, and death. They then offer us the Eight Pillars of Joy, which provide the foundation for lasting happiness. Throughout, they include stories, wisdom, and the science of happiness. Finally, they share their daily Joy Practices that anchor their own emotional and spiritual lives.

## Flower Festival/Musical

You are invited to an all church outing to of the Church of the Nativity Flower Festival/Musical on Saturday, February 24, 2018. This year's festival theme is God's Creation. Floral arrangement viewing begins at 10:30am and the Musical starts at 1pm. Church of the Nativity is located at 5900 North Lockwood Ridge Road in Sarasota. We will meet for brunch at 10:30am at the Honey Tree Café located at 8315 Lockwood Ridge Road. If you prefer, you can take advantage of the English Tea offered by Church of the Nativity which starts at 10:30am for \$15. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board. For more information please contact Sheryl Overheid-Smith 941-776-5589.

# SOCIAL ACTION & MISSIONS

Babs Brownell and the SAM team

## DOWNTOWN MINISTRIES

The Social Action and Missions Committee reminds everyone that the Downtown Ministry Warehouse needs our help! We have committed to help them sort donated clothes, make sandwiches, and generally do whatever they need for 90 minutes on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. In **February, that is the**

**6<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30pm-8pm. The warehouse is on the corner of 8th Street and 17th Avenue in Palmetto. (turn west on 17th and go behind the building to access the unit S6).

## FOOD BANK

In **February**, we are collecting **Peanut Butter** for the food bank.

## FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach, Director

The children are looking forward to having their dads join them for "Dad's Dessert" on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. This is a very special evening when the children can come to preschool with their dads and show them their classroom, work on a simple project together and enjoy dessert.



Registration for the 2018/2019 will begin in February. If you know of anyone looking for a quality, part-time preschool, please have them call me at 746-7895 or email me at [faithpreschool1@verizon.net](mailto:faithpreschool1@verizon.net) to schedule a tour. Thank you!

## Faith Church to Help Local Charities!

A few years ago when we sold the front parcel of land, Faith Church set aside a tithe of our profit for missions. The money was invested in CD's which will give us \$4,000.00 to give away annually. The SAM (Social Actions and Mission) team was asked to develop a grant process to support worthwhile 501(c)3 agencies in our community. Both Council and SAM value giving that money to agencies which are supported by members/friends of our church family.

Do you have a favorite not-for-profit that you would like to sponsor for a gift?

Follow these steps to get the application submitted:

1. Request an electronic copy of the application and cover letter from the church office. (Or go to our website)
2. Send it to the charity of your choice. (be sure to tell them to put your name on the line for sponsor) Charities can then complete and submit it to the church office themselves. (You are done!)
3. Remind your agency that the applications must be returned no later than March 1 at noon, and the recipients will be notified no later than March 30th.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call or email members of SAM: Linda VanBuskirk, Marge Kirchner, Carol Knight, Cindy Purvis and Babs Brownell.

## Storyteller Event

Register at [uccfla.org](http://uccfla.org)

Saturday, February 3, from 10am -3pm is a Storytelling Workshop at First Congregational UCC located at 1031 South Euclid Ave, Sarasota. Special guest storyteller Valerie Tutson invites us to explore and experience the wonder of stories. Lunch is provided and a free will

donation is accepted for lunch.

The day will end with communion. Valerie will also share in the worship service on Sunday, February 4, at 9am and 11am. Register today if you are interested!

[www.uccfla.org](http://www.uccfla.org)



# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Faith United Church of Christ January 08, 2018

Present: Richard Dilts, Judy Wetter, Denny Wetter, Marge H., Marge C., Deb D'Angelo, Babs Brownell, Judy Bagley Bonner, Brian Bagley Bonner, Ron Serfass

Pastor Judy opened the meeting with prayer.

Deb D'Angelo motioned to approve the minutes that were printed in last month's Follower and Marge Hooie seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

We discussed Donna Blakey's report. There were many deposits made at the end of last month due to members catching up. Richard Dilts motioned to approve the financial secretary report and Denny seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Marge Critelli presented the end of the year balance sheet. She also discovered our property value is over 1 million dollars. She mentioned we only had about 45 members pay their per capita in 2017 leaving the church to cover the rest at over \$400. She suggested we remind the congregation of this conference obligation more often. There will be an insert in the bulletin as a reminder. Our budget for 2017 was around - 30K we actually came in around - 20K. Babs motioned to accept the financial secretary's report and Deb D'Angelo seconded it. The motion was carried.

Pastors report- There will be a new member's class in February at a date TBA. There are about 4 people interested in membership. There is a storyteller workshop in Feb at the Congregational UCC we will be advertising this. There is a video based study group happening now on Sun at 9am and Wed at 6:30pm that will run until Jan 31. The spring study ("Book of Joy") will start on Ash Wed (Feb 14) at 6:30pm and Sun Feb 18 at 9am and run for 6 weeks. We might have special soup suppers during Lent.

Secretary's report: Faith asked we look over and correct the Jan/Feb calendar. She reminded us that our annual reports are due Jan 15. She announced the church office is running smoothly.

Building and Grounds- Back building repair is delayed due to permits being behind and a sales/scheduling miscommunication. The work is projected to be done during the preschool Spring Break.

The music committee is looking for the right fit for our music director. There have been several interviews. We will be advertising the position more.

We went over the stewardship report. The Finance Committee will meet about this report this week.

Nominations- we have some new people nominated to positions for 2018 council which include Linda Van Buskirk, Teddy Sotis and Ron Serfass. All nominations will be voted on at the annual congregational meeting, Jan 28.

Pride-fest is March 17 and we have purchased a booth for \$100.

The church growth committee is Pastor Brian and Pastor Judy right and it will be further developed more this year.

Picnic with the Apostolic church will be Sunday, April 8 at Anna Maria Pavilion.

New Business-

Sabbatical Committee will meet and interview pastors to cover us while our pastors are on sabbatical this summer.

Holy Manners - Pastor Judy presented a document called "Holy Manners" a way to treat others in kind and life giving ways. Babs motioned to accept and present this document at the annual meeting in hopes to adopt it as church covenant. Marge Hooie seconded this motion and it was carried.

We discussed the possible purchase of an ipad and stand for

the church so Pastor Brian can better record the Sunday services. The discussion was tabled so we can do research on prices. We will revisit this at the next meeting.

Richard stated that communion will be intinction and asked for council volunteers for Feb 4.

Church Events: Jan 12 is dinner and dessert at the Sea Hut with Marge Kirchner hosting. Feb 3 is the men's and women's breakfast, Feb 13 is the pancake supper, Feb 23 is dinner and dessert hosted by the Wetters, Feb 24 is the Flower Festival, March 3 is the men and women's breakfast, March 16 is the dinner and dessert hosted by the Groths, April 8 is the Beach Service and Picnic with the Apostolic church, April 27 is dinner and dessert hosted by the D'Angelo's at Peridia Country Club.

SAM- Bab's presented the SAM grant application for council approval. Marge Critelli motioned to approve the SAM grant application and Marge Hooie seconded it. The motion was carried. We will not renew the Feb CD which contains the mission money for the first distribution.

Faith Care stated things are going well, most members have returned and that Teddy Sotis has shown interested in leading the team in 2018.

Pastor Brian prayed us out of the meeting at 8:55pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Faith Quici

# 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  
\*3<sup>rd</sup> 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:



<b>Janis Groth</b> 941.779.6988	<b>Marge Hooie</b> 941. 447.4193	<b>Helen Nutting</b> 941. 747.2734	<b>Sheryl Overheid- Smith</b> 941.776.5589	<b>Joan Sheehan</b> 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](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net)

## Church Council

2018 Church Council nomination voting will take place this Sunday, January 28 at the Annual Congregational Meeting. We should have new officers announced soon.



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



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

# February 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	2 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	3 9am Women's Breakfast 10am Storyteller Workshop First Congregational UCC – Sarasota  10am NA & Nar-Anon
4 10:30am Service <b>Communion</b> 1:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	5	6 6:30pm Preschool Dad's Dessert  6:30pm Downtown Ministries	7 7:00pm BAC 10:30am support group	8 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	9 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	10 9am Men's Breakfast  10am NA & Nar-Anon
11 10:30am Service <b>MEMBERSHIP CLASS AFTER SERVICE</b>  <b>Heartfelt Hospitality</b>  1:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	12 6:30pm Church Council Mtg	13 4pm Building and Grounds Work Day  6pm <b>Fat Tuesday Pancake Super</b>	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 6:30pm Book Study Starts (6 week class) <b>6pm-8pm Drop in ASH WED SERVICE</b>  7:00pm BAC	15 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	16 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC  <b>Follower Reminder</b>	17 10am NA & Nar-Anon
18 9am Book Study Starts (6 week class) <b>Receiving Members</b> 10:30am Service 1:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	19 <b>Follower Deadline</b>  7pm BR HOA  <b>President's Day – No Preschool</b>	20 11:30am Prayer Team Mtg  6:30pm Downtown Ministries	21 6:30pm Book Study  7:00pm BAC	22 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	23 6pm Dinner and Dessert – Pizza Party at the Wetter home  7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	24 10am NA & Nar-Anon  <b>Flower Festival</b>
25 9am Book Study 10:30am Service <b>2pm Crop Walk- Palmetto</b>  1:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	26 7pm Inlets HOA	27	28 6:30pm Book Study  7:00pm BAC	<b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY!</b> 2/5 M.R. Lembright 2/2 Richard Nutting 2/8 Gayle Covey 2/10 Ray Crowell 2/14 Judy Bagley-Bonner 2/17 Gerda Marcus 2/20 Janis Groth		

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

**If your birthday was missed, please contact the church office.**



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

**FEBRUARY 2018**

## 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)