

# Faithful Follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



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

## FEBRUARY 2019

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### From Your Moderator

Welcome to new Council Members Marge Kirchner (Deputy Moderator), Connor Felix (Council-Secretary), PJ Wideman (Building and Grounds), Jenny Crocker and Lynne Keane (Faith Care) and Jennifer Hargis (Worship) I hope you find your new roles at Faith Church to be rewarding and fun! A thank you, also, to Jenny Crocker for joining Hatti and Earleen on the Sunday school staff!

Did you notice there is a new church sign out along the highway? It will shine as a beacon to welcome and encourage those traveling to stop in to visit.

The Chili Cook-Off is on! This February we will have the cook-off and there will be a church retreat in March. Look for more information on these two subjects within this issue of the *Follower*.

Please remember, your church volunteers work hard. From the staff who help make Sunday Service run smoothly to those preparing and hosting social events, from our monthly master-baker Ron to those who prepare the delicious dishes at the potluck, a kind word of

'thanks' is always appreciated. Please help to make their job a little easier by remembering to sign up for these activities. Sign-up rather than just show-up. I thank all those who participate in these church and social events!

There is also that opportunity for you to help on Sunday mornings from ushering, greeting and reading scripture to helping hand out the bulletins. There is a year of Sundays on the bulletin board (minus the first Sunday of each month as your Council does that Sunday) for you to sign-up for any of them.

I hope the New Year for you has had a good start! January was a very busy and hectic month for me, and I look forward to a little slower February and March.

May the 'month-of-love' (Valentine's Day) be a good February for you.

Fondly,  
Richard



## MARCH RETREAT

**Who Are We as Individuals and Who Are We As A Church? "Feed the Spirit Within"**

Pastors Judy and Brian have made it possible for us to come together to have a safe spiritually centered retreat starting on the evening of March 8 at Faith Church and most of the day on March 9 at Day Springs Conference Center. The retreat was created by Neal Watkins and reviewed by an ad hoc committee of church members. The agenda of the retreat is designed to have fun, to learn something about ourselves and to learn who we are as a church. Lunch will be provided on Saturday. The total cost of the retreat and the meal is \$10.00 per person. The church council has made it possible to cover any other expenses so that everyone has the ability to attend.

Neal Watkins will be at Faith on Sunday, February 3, to preach and to introduce himself to us before we get together at this spiritual retreat. Neal will stay after the church service to answer any questions you may have about the upcoming event.

We need those who plan to attend to sign up so that we have an accurate count for Day Springs to select the correct size room and to prepare the correct number of lunches we need. Linda Van Buskirk will be making the signup sheet available to the congregation starting January 27. For those who need a ride to Day Spring, we will be carpooling from the Faith Church parking lot. You really don't want to miss this! **Linda's phone is 716-471-7740.**

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

## Membership Information Class

After service on February 17, there will be a meeting for those interested in finding out more about Faith Church and the United Church of Christ. The class takes about an hour and there is no obligation to join afterwards, but membership can often lead to deeper involvement and spiritual growth. Because we are a congregation with a lot of part-time folks, we also have an Associate Membership which recognizes affiliation with another congregation and/or denomination. Those who do wish to join the church can do so during the service on March 3. Think about it!

## SAM

### Social Action and Missions

Manatee County Food Bank for FEBRUARY is: Peanut Butter

**Downtown Ministries:** Every first and third Tuesday of the month. We are meeting February 5 and 19.

### COME AND JOIN US: Kiwanis Food Packing Event: February 9

We, Faith UCC, are sponsoring the Kiwanis Food Packing event on February 9 with mission's funds.

## Show Some Love for Blanket Sunday

We hope, that once again, you'll think about helping others in their time of need and prayerfully consider contributing to the Blanket Offering on Sunday, February 10.

Has there ever been a time in your life when you were cold? I mean REALLY cold because of no heat in your house or apartment and the outside temperature freezing? Think about the winter most of the country experienced this year alone! How about having to leave your home because of a hurricane, flood or other disaster when you only had the clothes you were wearing to take with you? Have you been in a situation where you had no home and were required to find a place to sleep night after night with only a backpack to keep all your personal items in? I certainly hope that you or anyone you know or care about has not been in any of those situations, but we know it happens to millions of people in our country and around the world-every day.

Our church has participated in Blanket Sunday for many years now. This is a Sunday when we take a special offering that goes to Church World Service for blankets, tents and tools so that families in this country and around the world can recover from disasters and displacement. They also may receive resources and help acquire the skills necessary to build or rebuild sustainable lives and communities. This year, our Blanket Sunday offering will be Sunday, February 10.

*In this past year our contributions to Blanket Sunday have helped:*

- Homeless shelters and warming stations who offered blankets and relief to those during dangerously cold weather in Jan of this year
- Those suffering from natural disasters with over 125,000 blankets and kits distributed in the US/Puerto Rico
- Provide tools, seeds and microloans that were made to co-ops in rural poverty prone communities in Haiti
- People in war-torn Syria where almost 20,000 blankets and kits were distributed.

**Pastor Judy's 60th Birthday is on February 14. Consider donating \$60 in her honor!**

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in signing up to be a greeter, usher or scripture reader, please contact our Worship Team Leader or simply sign up on the bulletin board.

## JOIN US

### WEEKEND SCHEDULE

### Feb 3, 2019

Council Sunday

Scripture: Donna Blakey

### Feb 10, 2019

Flowers Available

Greeters: Available

Scripture: Available

Ushers: Available

### Feb 17, 2019

Flowers Available

Greeters: Available

Scripture: Joanne Dahlgren

Ushers: Available

### Feb 24, 2019

Flowers Available

Greeters: Available

Scripture: Available

Ushers: Available

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT – FISCAL YEAR

JAN-DEC 2018

Total income	\$
Total expenses	\$
Net Ordinary Income	\$

## WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

SAT, FEB 2, AT 9AM

We will enjoy breakfast at Keke's Breakfast Café located at 1121 Cortez Rd W, Bradenton, FL 34207. Please sign up if you would like to attend.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

SAT, FEB 2, AT 9AM

We will gather for breakfast together at D's in Palmetto. Please sign up if you would like to join us.

## DINNER AND DESSERT

FEBRUARY NEEDS A HOST

We are successful when everyone does their part to help. If you would like to host a future Dinner and Dessert, please sign up on the bulletin board.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY HOSPITALITY

SUN, FEB 24, AFTER SERVICE

## CROP WALK

SUN, FEB 24, 2PM

Meeting at: First United Methodist Church of Palmetto, 330 11th Ave W, Palmetto, FL 34221  
Sign In Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Walk Time: 2:00 p.m.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Do you want to see Faith's children's ministry grow? Then let's be prepared. Please sign up to serve once a month, in either the nursery or Sunday school class. Please contact Babs Brownell if you would like more information.

**Call: 941.747.964**

## ONECO FLORIST 941.756.1556

When ordering flowers through the church, please sign up on the Flower Chart. Flowers orders are \$25. Oneco Florist is offering Church members \$5 off their first arrangement. Just mention this article.

# FELLOWSHIP HAPPENINGS

## CROP WALK

We are walking yet again in the Bradenton CROP Walk. Our church is one of the biggest fundraisers for this walk, which is one of the most successful in Florida (take that Orlando, Miami and everywhere else!!) This year you can even give on-line to our team by clicking the link below:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/palmettofl/User/Profile?tab=Profile>

Contact Marge Hooie or Pastor Brian if you want to walk or give!

## SPRING BOOK STUDY

The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief by Dr. Frances Collins, Director of the National Institute of Health (NIH)

It has long been believed that science and faith cannot mingle; that faith rejects the rational, while science restricts us to a life with no meaning beyond the physical. It is an irreconcilable war between two polar-opposite ways of thinking and living. Written for believers, agnostics, and atheists alike, *The Language of God* provides a testament to the power of faith in the midst of suffering without faltering from its logical stride. Readers will be inspired by Collins's personal story of struggling with doubt, as well as the many revelations of the wonder of God's creation that will forever shape the way they view the world around them. An instant bestseller, *The Language of God* provides the best argument for the integration of faith and logic since C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*.

We will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 from February 6- April 10. The second group will meet on Sunday mornings from 9:00- 10:00 from February 10 - April 14.

The sign up for the group book order has ended. If you missed it, please procure a copy of the book on your own, and come to the first session having read Chapter One!

Please call or email us to sign up for the class 941-746-8890 / faithchurchucc@verizon.net

## CHILI COOK-OFF RETURNS

Calling all buckaroos to a Chili Cook-Off at the Faith Corral on Sunday, February 10 after the service. Numerous members and friends will fire up their best chili concoctions and enter the competition to be "Faith's Chili Chef of the Year," a very coveted title. This event will be a fundraiser with 10% of the proceeds tithed to Missions and the rest donated to the operating fund. Sample a chili for \$1 and purchase a bowl of your favorite for \$3. Left-over chili will also be sold for you to enjoy at home. Various desserts and beverages will be available. So channel your inner cowboy, cowgirl or cow-person, don your jeans, boots and hat if you wish, and head on down to the corral. It promises to be a roo-fun, tootin' good time! Sign-up sheets everywhere! See Sheryl Overheid-Smith or Carol Knight with questions.

## HEARTFELT THANKS

We wanted to write and thank you so much for your generous, Christmas "Love Offering." We are so blessed to have such a kind and thoughtful congregation. Because of the anonymity of the gift, we are unable to thank each person individually, but please know that our gratitude does indeed, extend to each of you personally.

With love,

**Brian and Judy Bagley-Bonner**

A heartfelt thank you for the generous love offering. Your generosity and love have truly touched me.

Blessings,

**Anita**

Thank you so much to the congregation and the wonderful council for their thoughtfulness and generosity at Christmas time with a love offering. I am so grateful!

**Faith**

# Church Council Minutes

Faith United Church of Christ

January 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Those present were, Richard Dilts, Donna Blakey, Dorathy Gallo & Linda VanBuskirk, (via Facetime), Pastor Brian, Pastor Jude, Sheryl Overheidt-Smith, Babs Brownell, Denny Wetter, Faith Quici and Judy Wetter. Visitors were PJ Widerman, Connor Felix and Marge Kirchner.

Pastor Jude opened with a poem from "God Calling."

Moderator, Richard Dilts introduced the visitors.

A motion was made by Denny Wetter and seconded by Linda VanBuskirk to accept the minutes from the December 9, 2018 Council Meeting with the correction of adding Connor Felix to the list of visitors. The motion passed.

Richard Dilts gave a brief update on the 2019 Council and thanked Teddy Sotis and Denny and Judy Wetter for their service.

A motion was made by Donna Blakey and seconded by Richard Dilts to accept the Financial Secretary's December 9, 2018 report. The motion passed.

Denny Wetter made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for December. The motion was seconded by Sheryl Overheidt-Smith and passed. The Treasurer reported that the expected \$31,000 shortfall was actually only \$14,000.

The January, February and March calendars were presented and added to throughout the meeting. Faith Quici reported that she will be going on a mission trip in June.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Judy reported that an all church retreat is scheduled for March 8-9. There will be a Friday night event at the church and the retreat will continue on Saturday, at DaySprings. The cost will be \$10 per person for the lunch on Saturday. The focus of the retreat is "Feeding the Spirit Within." A motion was made Linda VanBuskirk to pay the cost of DaySprings, not to exceed \$500 from the savings account. The motion was seconded by Babs Brownell and passed.

Pastor Jude spoke about a church she served that offered scholarships to 2-4 music students who would participate in the choir. A motion was made by Linda VanBuskirk to obtain a grant from the Florida Conference in the amount of \$2,500 with a matching \$2,500 from the savings account to fund this scholarship. The motion was seconded by Babs Brownell and passed. Pastor Jude is going to request information regarding how this program was managed. The Music Committee will be the facilitators of this program. Pastor Brian reported on the recent visitors and reported there will be a new member's class on February 17 or 24 with new members joining on March 3. A motion was made by Linda VanBuskirk to have Spirits and Spirituality at Beef O'Bradys, at lunch time, on the 1-3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in

Parrish and at Beef O'Brady's on SR 64 and Lakewood 4 Ranch Blvd. on the 1-3<sup>rd</sup> Monday. The motion was seconded by Donna Blakey and passed.

**Old Business:** Discussion was held on the new Council members, annual reports, the new sign, and policy manual. The 2019 budget was discussed and a motion was made by Babs Brownell to increase OCWM to \$1,600, the motion was seconded by Linda VanBuskirk and passed.

## **New Business:**

Discussion was held on the Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 27. There was a reminder by Richard Dilts that discussions at Council meetings were confidential and that applies to incoming and outgoing Council members. Holy Manners has been rewritten and will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

## **Department and Committee Reports:**

### **Committees:**

**Building & Grounds:** Denny Wetter reported that the solution to the commode problem is water pressure and recommended that a bladder tank be installed. He is in the process of trying to get someone to put a smaller tank inside the building. He reported on an offer to clean the building for \$350. Judy Wetter made a motion to have the building and sidewalk power washed, the motion was seconded by Babs Brownell and passed.

**Community Outreach:** Linda reported she is advertising for the adult book study and Spirits and Spirituality.

**Christian Education:** A discussion was held concerning CE.

**Events and Fellowship:** Sheryl Overheidt-Smith reported on upcoming events including the Chili Cook-off, Blessing of the Animals, and the February Dinner and Dessert. A discussion was held on the importance of signing up for events, or informing the office or Sheryl if you cannot attend an event you have signed up for.

**SAM:** The committee working on the grant process for this year's awards. They are also working on other mission projects to be announced at a future date. They will be helping with the Kids Against Hunger event. A motion was made by Babs Brownell to donate \$1,000 to this program, seconded by Donna Blakey and passed.

**Worship:** Volunteers for Sunday February 3 are Communion Richard Dilts and Babs Brownell. Scripture reader will be Donna Blakey.

Pastor Brian closed the meeting with prayer at 9:55 PM.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, February 11, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judy Wetter, Secretary

# Faith Church to Help Local Charities for a Second Year!

Faith Church set aside a portion of money for mission when we sold the front parcel of land a few years ago. This money has been invested in CD's with expiration dates to coincide with yearly donations in the amount of approximately \$4,000.00.

It has been trusted to the SAM (Social Actions and Mission) team to initiate a process whereby this money can be granted to worthwhile agencies in our community. An important value to the Council and SAM was that this money be donated to a 501(c)3 agency that has the support of the members/friends of our church family.

SAM has created an application and a process, and this cycle began **January 21**.

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 grants 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, Cindi Purvis and Babs Brownell.

## FAITH PRESCHOOL

**Wendi Steinbach, Director**

The children are looking forward to having their dads join them for "Dad's Dessert" on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. This is a very special evening when the children can come to preschool with their dads or grandpas and show them their classroom, work on a simple project together and enjoy dessert.

We have started registration for the 2019/2020 preschool year. 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!



# Your Staff

## Pastors

Rev. Brian and  
Rev. Judy  
Bagley-Bonner

Cell:  
941-718-3132



(with Janie)

## PASTORS' OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Thursday mornings

Please contact us to make an  
appointment.

We are not in the office Fridays.

## Church Office Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY

9 AM - 12 PM

746-8890

Fax 746-0670

## Secretary

Faith Quici

## Music Leader

Carly Rafferty

**Anita Porter** – Pianist

**Bruce Covey** – Media Specialist

**Arlene Smith** – Hired Treasurer

**Jenny Crocker, Hatti Damianos &  
Earleen Nutting** - Sunday school  
Teachers

**Don Duncan** – IT Support

**Faith UCC Email:**

[faithchurchucc@verizon.net](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net)

**Faith Website:**

[faithchurchucc.com](http://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

**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](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net)

## 2019 Church Council

Pastors:

Brian Bagley-Bonner

Jude Bagley-Bonner

Church Secretary:

Faith Quici

Council Members:

Richard Dilts

(Moderator)

Marge Kirchner

(Deputy Moderator)

Connar Felix

(Secretary)

Dorothy Gallo

(Financial Secretary)

Donna Blakey

(Treasurer)

PJ Widerman

(Bldg. & Grnds.)

Marge Hooie

(Christian Ed.)

Sheryl Overheidt-Smith (Events & Fellowship)

Jenny Crocker

(Faith Care)

Lynne Keane

(Faith Care)

Linda VanBuskirk

(Outreach)

Barbara Brownell

(S.A.M.)

Jennifer Hargis

(Worship)

# FEBRUARY 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b> Church Women United- Human Rights- The Bridge Church 7:15pm NA 7:30m BAC	<b>2</b> 9am Women's Breakfast- KeKe's 9am Men's Breakfast – D's 10am NA
<b>3</b> 9am Christian History 10:30am Service with Communion 1:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	<b>4</b> Evening: 6pm Spirits & Spirituality (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday)- Beef O'Brady's LWR	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Preschool Dad's Dessert 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	<b>6</b> Lunch: 12pm Spirits & Spirituality (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed) Beef O'Brady's Parrish Spring Book Study 6:30pm 7pm BAC	<b>7</b> 6:30pm NarAnon 7:15pm NA	<b>8</b> 7:15pm NA 7:30m BAC	<b>9</b> 10am NA  <b>Kiwanis Food Packing Event 8am-10am</b>
<b>10</b> 9am Spring Book Study 10:30am Service Blanket Sunday Chili Cook-Off 1:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	<b>11</b> 6:30pm Council Meeting Harbor Walk HOA (every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Spring Book Study 6:30pm 7pm BAC	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day 6:30pm NarAnon 7:15pm NA	<b>15</b> No School Follower Reminder 7:15pm NA 7:30m BAC	<b>16</b> 10am NA
<b>17</b> 9am Spring Book Study 10:30am Service New Members Class 1:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	<b>18</b> No School Follower Deadline Evening: 6pm Spirits & Spirituality (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday)- Beef O'Brady's LWR	<b>19</b> 11:30am Prayer Mtg. 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	<b>20</b> Lunch: 12pm Spirits & Spirituality (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed) Beef O'Brady's Parrish Spring Book Study 6:30pm 7pm BAC	<b>21</b> 6:30pm NarAnon 7:15pm NA	<b>22</b> 7:15pm NA 7:30m BAC	<b>23</b> 10am NA
<b>24</b> 9am Spring Book Study 10:30am Service Birthday Hospitality 2pm Crop Walk 1:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	<b>25</b> Photo Day for Directory 7pm Inlets HOA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Spring Book Study 6:30pm 7pm BAC	<b>28</b> 6:30pm NarAnon 7:15pm NA		