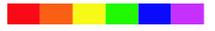


Faithful Follower¹

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



Faith United Church of Christ 4850 SR 64 E, Bradenton, FL 34208

| 941-746-8890

| faithchurchucc.com

AUGUST 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

It has been quite a summer. Both our secretary, Faith, and I lost our fathers in the space of a month. Needless to say, we are both recovering and both being with our mothers as they process the loss. Those events combined with vacations have made for some scrambling. I want to thank PJ and so many who covered for Faith in her time away, and everyone as you have been patient with me in my grief. Our services have not been perfect, but the Spirit of God, of love, and of healing are still in our sanctuary and transported over the internet. We have supported and encouraged one another and continue to try to live as faithful followers of Christ in a strange time.

The Council is now working on finding an interim pastor and also preparing to lead the congregation through preparing a profile of priorities and hopes that will be shared with candidates (see separate article on the Search Process). Please continue to pray for them. Also, Jude continues her work at the Federated Church UCC in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. This is where she grew up, was in youth group, got married, was "in-care" as a seminary student, was ordained, and served as associate pastor. She really enjoys being up there for the Summer with her family and church friends. Upon her arrival the Senior Pastor, Rev.

Hamilton Throckmorton, surprised her by asking her to please consider working with him for 6.5 months through Easter of 2022. She is thinking it might be nice to end her career where it began, so we will see. She will be back in September as we finish out our last month with you before I, at least, am retiring for sure!!

We are so glad to have this extended time with you before our departure. You are all precious to us. Though we both look forward to retirement, we are also beginning to feel the pain and sadness at saying goodbye. We know it is an important part of the transition, but it is not easy for us or for you, the congregation. But we are not there yet. I am excited to say we are planning a special service on August 29th about Coventry Cathedral where Jude and I spent a wonderful day during our sabbatical. Our own Joan Sheehan will talk about her experience as a young child when the bombs fell and set it on fire, and we will look at how they built the new cathedral but left the bombed out part in the architecture. I know you will find the story of their recovery inspiring.

Keep safe during your travels, and come back so we can be together!

Rev. Brian Bagley-Bonner

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for AUGUST

August 1, 2021

Communion

Scripture: PJ Widerman

Aug 8, 2021

Scripture: Dorothy Gallo

Aug 15, 2021

Scripture: Available

Aug 22, 2021

Scripture: Available

Aug 29, 2021

Scripture: Joan Sheehan

If you would like to read scripture, please let us know! You can sign up by emailing:

faithchurchucc@verizon.net

MESSY CHURCH

No, this is not a comment on Pastor Brian's office! We are joining with Congregational United Church of Christ (formerly of 26th St) in a ministry that especially welcomes people with disabilities and their families to a monthly non-traditional service. The service is filled with activities, food, worship and just being together. Rev. Evan Farrar and his wife, Laurie attended a national training on this ministry and we are excited to join with them.

Anyone is invited to come take part in the first in person Manasota Messy Church event on Saturday, August 21st from 11 am - 12:30 pm

DIRECTORY UPDATES!

Please contact us with any updates like your anniversary, birthday, address, email, or phone! We would love to stay in touch with you and keep you in the know.

Email the office at:

faithchurchucc@verizon.net

or call at:

941-746-8890

Church directories are available upon request.

~ Faith
Church Secretary



Messy Church Supply List

We need your help gathering supplies for our Manasota Messy Church activities on August 21st. How you can help:

1. Bring any supplies to worship the next two Sundays.

2. Or offer a donation to help us purchase supplies.

Make check payable to CUCC and mail to 241 Whitfield Avenue, Sarasota, 34243. Put on memo line of the check "for messy church"

Thank you! Any questions contact Pastor Evan at pastorevan@congregationalucc.org or 941-716-5364.

- Very small dry erase boards (several)
- Dry erase markers (various colors)
- White crayons
- Magic Markers (various colors) (several packs)
- Old maps
- Multi-colored card stock paper (2 packs)
- Ribbon/Yarn
- Children's scissors (10)
- Glue sticks (10)

- Clear Contact Paper
- Single whole punches (3)
- Quick dissolve paper (often used for sewing)
- Poster Board (3)
- 8 pair of used shoes (any size or style)
- 8 pair of new shoes (any size or style)
- 4 laundry baskets (if you loan them to us we will return them)
- Small give-away prizes – be creative!
- Hot dog buns (regular and gluten-free)
- Small single-sized bags of chips (regular and gluten free - make sure they do not have peanut oil in them!)
- Juice or lemonade boxes
- Individual packets of ketchup, mustard and relish



**Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes July 19, 2021**

Present: Brian Bagley-Bonner, Barbara Brownell, Peter Cohoon, Sharon Cohoon, Richard Dilts, Ken Followell, Marge Kirchner, Linda Van Buskirk, Amy Van Dell, PJ Widerman.

Absent: Judy Bagley-Bonner, Sylvia Hull

Meeting opened at 6:35 pm. A quorum was established. Barbara Brownell offered the opening prayer. A motion was made by Richard Dilts to approve the minutes, seconded by Marge Kirchner. Motion carried.

Financial/treasurer report: Marge Kirchner inquired if people were keeping up with their pledges and Brian said that they were. A future meeting will be held to better educate the Council on the budget format and financial reports.

PJ Widerman asked if the church periodically researches better pricing for our contract such as insurance, etc. Brian reported that this has not been a practice. PJ suggested that we request proposals to be competitive and cost effective.

Peter Cohoon asked about the acronym definitions listed under the mission funds. We will prepare a description to accompany the reports in the future. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Barbara Brownell and seconded by Marge Kirchner. Motion carried.

Moderator's Comments: P J Widerman reported that she will be meeting with Jean Luc of the Manatee Social Justice Ministry. Jean Luc prefers to meet with each team leader individually so at a later date he will be meeting with Sylvia Hull and Liv Coleman.

P J Widerman also reported that we have renewed our business partnership between the church and Manatee Police Department. They will include us in their patrol schedule between the hours of 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM

Church Secretary report: None given

Pastors report: Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that we had a new visitor from West Virginia attend service this past Sunday.

Old Business:

Reopening of church: The local Homeowners Association is now resuming meetings at the church. Council will monitor the rate of virus increases in Manatee County. Masks should continue to be worn during services. Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that hospice has been called for Faith Quici's father.

Communion: It was reported that Ken found new hosts/drink containers. Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that

he will order them for arrival before Sunday, August 1.

3

A discussion was held on the coverage for secretary and treasurer when either and/or both are not available. Dorothy Gallo stated that she needs to meet with someone from another church to see how they address this issue.

Media Update: Brian Bagley-Bonner inquired about the audio quality on Sunday. Richard Dilts said it was good. Brian would like to have cabinetry built to house the AV equipment and make the area more presentable. PJ Widerman read an email she received from Bruce Covey inquiring about the possibility of him getting a Power Point license. Brian Bagley-Bonner said we have an extra license as part of our package. PJ will inform Bruce.

By laws: Richard Dilts provided the final copy to the Council. After review for grammatical correctness, the congregation will be informed that they can obtain copy from the office. Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that the first section, Article 1 is from 30 years ago and does not reflect who the church is today. The By-Laws will need review and revision in the future.

P J Widerman reported that Leslie Etheridge will meet with the interim search committee in early August. Peter Cohoon asked what the function is for the 3 different search committee, i.e., the committee for interim pastor, for church profile and search for new pastor. Barbara Brownell suggested that the council or Brian Bagley-Bonner should begin to explain to the church members that we are beginning the process and what it will entail.

Ken Followell reported that there were 11 people on Zoom and 23 in person for the service on July 18th.

Gratuity policy: PJ Widerman reported when we passed a policy at the last meeting of Council, that we did not address the gratuity for guest musicians and audio visual technicians. She has requested that we revisit the policy and make the necessary amendments. Barbara Brownell asked for clarification about paying music soloist. Council determined that gratuity will be approved for professional and non-member substitutes.

Painting of church: PJ Widerman reported the cost to paint the exterior of the church is \$8,800. Barbara Brownell made the motion to schedule a date to paint the church. Marge Kirchner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A discussion to touch up part of the interior was approved. Volunteers will use paint saved from the original job to make the necessary improvements.

Continued...

Our Pastors Are Retiring!

What Happens Now?

Interim Pastor Chosen

UCC churches are encouraged to hire an **Intentional Interim Pastor** to help with the pastoral transition. These pastors are specially trained to help with the task of saying goodbye to the current pastors and preparing to welcome a new one. They provide worship, pastoral care, and administration as needed. This pastor will not be a candidate for the "settled" position, but will focus on short term goals with church leaders to make the transition successful

Church Self-Study

When the Interim Pastor is here, the congregation begins the work of discerning and imagining God's vision for Faith UCC. This important work is then summarized into a **Church Profile**. This is the document the church uses to represent itself to potential candidates. The National Office of the UCC will offer Faith UCC's profile to searching pastors across the country. After the Profile is complete, Faith UCC will form and commission a **Search Committee**.

Search Process

The **Search Committee's** work is rigorous and often takes a year or more. They will read many ministerial profiles, conduct virtual and in-person interviews, and check references. They do not share information about candidates with the congregation because candidates have to see Faith as fitting with where God wants them too. After lots of work, the committee presents the best candidate to the congregation

Continued:

New Business: PJ Wideman reported that the Church relations committee should be included on the council meeting agenda. Richard Dilts stated that there was nothing to report on this committee and the next meeting will be on July 28th.

Capital expenditures: Future needs will include repair and paving of the parking lot, installation of raised toilets in the restrooms, upgrades to the AC system, and concrete repair/replacement. It was suggested that we establish a capital campaign program. Linda Van Buskirk stated that she has researched capital campaigns for churches and suggested that any work be put off until a new pastor is in place. Peter Cohoon will research the ADA compliant rules for toilets.

Departments and Committee Reports:

Property and grounds: No report given
Worship: No report given

Events and worship: No report given.

Faith Care: Ken Followell reported that various church members are picking up members without transportation. PJ Wideman stated that she will pick up Peg O'Sullivan

from her new location when Peg is able to attend.

Christian Education:

Richard Dilts has not received any responses from members who are able to volunteer to help with Sunday school.

Community Outreach: Linda Van Buskirk reported that she is doing what she can to get the word out about Faith Church.

Social Actions: Barbara Brownell reported that the Kiwanis food packing event is Saturday, July 24th from 8:00 - 10:00 AM.

She also reported that she will obtain a list of what school supplies are needed for a back to school drive. The donations will go to Meals on Wheels.

A decision was made to make the August Council meeting a special meeting to address the Justice Ministry, interim pastor search, and Budge and Finance reports.

The next meeting will be on Monday, August 16th Brian Bagley-Bonner offered the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

2021 PER CAPITA

Congratulations, we are starting a new, and hopefully better, year. Please don't forget this is the time to pay the \$2.00 initial fund contribution for the envelopes and the \$15 per capita for each member. The per capita is the fund that helps support our district conference. As a congregation, we voted that each member would be responsible to pay their portion. If you don't the church becomes responsible to pay the full amount for each member.

SAM (Social Action and Missions):

Our local food pantries are critically low on food, and we still want to be a help. **The month of August we are collecting canned fruit and vegetables**

PICK UP

1. We will be happy to come to your home and pick up your items!

DROP OFF

2. You can deliver to church during office hours. (Call Faith for info on those hours 941-746-8890)

SHIPPED

3. You can purchase groceries online and have them delivered right to the food bank address. Call Meals on Wheels for more info at: 941-747-4655

MONETARY DONATIONS

4. You can send contributions directly to Meals On Wheels at 811 23rd Avenue East, Bradenton 34208. And through this link: <https://securepayment.link/mealsonwheelsplus/one-time-donation/>



Downtown Ministries

Also, we are collecting plastic food bags which the Downtown Center needs for its delivery of clothes and food to the homeless. If you have extras of those (like the plastic Publix grocery bags), please include them with your food items. Again, we will pick up!

CRITICALLY NEEDED ITEMS

<input type="checkbox"/> CANNED VEGETABLES	<input type="checkbox"/> CANNED MEAT
<input type="checkbox"/> CANNED FRUITS	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% FRUIT JUICES
<input type="checkbox"/> MAC 'N' CHEESE	<input type="checkbox"/> BREAKFAST BARS
<input type="checkbox"/> PEANUT BUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/> OATMEAL
<input type="checkbox"/> JELLY	<input type="checkbox"/> POWDERED MILK
<input type="checkbox"/> BOXED RICE	<input type="checkbox"/> APPLESAUCE
<input type="checkbox"/> BOXED PASTA	<input type="checkbox"/> DRIED BEANS
<input type="checkbox"/> CANNED SOUPS	<input type="checkbox"/> TRAIL MIX

*Donations can be dropped off or shipped directly to:
Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee
811 23rd Avenue East, Bradenton, FL 34208*

FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach-McKeithen, Director



The teachers and I have been busy getting the classrooms ready for the upcoming preschool year. During the summer, the floors have been cleaned and waxed, and both classrooms and bathrooms have been painted. Everything looks so fresh and clean!

We will have a "Meet and Greet" for the MWF class on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, and the VPK class will have theirs on Thursday, August 26, 2021. Our first day of preschool will be Tuesday, September 7, 2021. We are all looking forward to our new year!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and stay healthy!

AUGUST 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10:30am Service Communion 2:30pm BAC	2	3 6pm Scan Casciano HOA mtg.	4 7pm Spirits & Spirituality	5 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	6	7 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
8 10:30am Service 2:30pm BAC	9	10	11	12 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	13	14 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
15 10:30am Service 2:30pm BAC	16 Council Meeting 6:30pm 5:30pm Braden River Lakes HOA meeting	17	18 7pm Spirits & Spirituality	19 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	20 Follower Deadline	21 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room 11am Messy Church Event
22 10:30am Service 2:30pm BAC	23	24	25 7pm Spirits & Spirituality	26 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	27	28 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
29 10:30am Service 2:30pm BAC	30	31				

Faith UCC Zoom Meetings – AUGUST 2021

Date	Event	Time	Meeting ID # and Psw	
8/1	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
8/4	Spirits and Spirituality	7:00pm	859 5328 7082	196805
8/8	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
8/15	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
8/18	Spirits and Spirituality	7:00pm	859 5328 7082	196805
8/22	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
8/25	Spirits and Spirituality	7:00pm	859 5328 7082	196805
8/29	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838

To join by computer

- 1) Go to Zoom.com
- 2) Click "join a meeting"
- 3) Put in the number for your meeting and follow computer instructions. **(Turn on computer audio and camera)**

To join by phone:

Dial by your location

- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Enter the Meeting ID using the keypad:

When asked, the Password: -- Then hit "#"