

FAITHFUL follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



December 2017

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

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2017
PER
CAPITA
Let's finish
strong!

2017 is almost over!
Let's see 100% paid
for our Per Capita.

The cost is \$15 per
member. Thank you
to those who have
already paid.
Thank you for your
prompt attention to
this conference
responsibility.

From Your Moderator

Many thanks to all who helped make TELLABRATION 2017 a wonderful event, especially Peg O'Sullivan who brought this wonderful evening of storytelling to Faith UCC. We filled the house and the storytellers were very pleased. It was great!

There are lots of things happening at Faith in the coming weeks: new member meeting and taking in new members, stewardship drive, a potluck, Christmas caroling, the Christmas party hosted by Richard Dilts, the Women's annual Christmas tea, Men's breakfast, Christmas eve day service and Christmas eve service at 7:00. We are a busy bunch.

It is the time of year when we show our appreciation to our staff and worship volunteers in the form of a Love Offering. If you would like to make a donation, please add it to your offering envelope, or you can write a check and put it in the offering plate, or hand it to Judy Wetter.

Love Offering

We are collecting a Love Offering for our hard working staff and worship volunteers. If you would like to make a donation please add it to your offering envelope, or you can write a check and put it in the offering plate, or hand it to Judy Wetter.



Giving Credit 2017

In order to have your donations to Faith UCC recorded in 2017, they must be in the office no later than noon on December 29. Thanks for your continued giving and support of Faith Church.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

A Family Church Becoming A Garden Church

Church Growth literature talks about different kinds of churches. The different types of churches all have their strengths and their challenges. Since I have been at Faith, we have been what is called a Family Church. As the name suggests, a Family Church is much like a family. Everyone knows everyone else. People often have a specific job that everyone knows they do, and most of the time much (or all) of the family is involved in projects large and small. There is a warmth and comfort to this type of church and we certainly have that at Faith. In the Family Church, the pastors as part of the family are involved in almost everything all the time. The downside of the Family Church is that growth is limited. You can't do all the multiple projects at the same time. It is harder to try new ideas, and the pastors' limited time and energy mean activities are limited too.

In contrast, a Garden Church is one in which there are multiple areas of growth. In a Garden Church, flowers pop independently all across the garden. People tend to focus on a few of the multiple projects the church is pursuing. A Garden Church is still small enough for everyone to know everyone else, but people tend to have a closer relationship with a smaller group with whom they share activities. Pastors in a Garden Church, like any gardener, tend to differ "crops," as needed. Sometimes the tomatoes need watering, sometimes the lettuce needs planting, etc. so the gardener trusts others (including God) to take care of the other

plants when their focus is on a particular crop. Practically speaking, this means the pastors will not always be involved with every, single thing that is occurring and will not always attend every meeting or activity.

The good news of this past year is Faith is growing numerically, but even more so in terms of the ministries we are doing. SAM got us involved in Downtown Ministries and putting together Disaster Buckets, both of which were great blessings. Our two Book Study groups have a combined total of 20 people in them making us think that in spring we will need three groups. Sunday morning worship attendance is growing, and with focus on our music in 2018, that is going to continue! We may have to look at adding a service during season in the coming year. Faith UCC is a vibrant and growing congregation.

As Faith grows from a Family Church to a Garden Church some things will change. A new person you meet in worship may have been coming for months or are already a member. New events and mission opportunities will present themselves. The pastors will still be around a lot, but we won't be able to be at everything! Pastors of a Garden Church must sometimes focus on specific areas to ensure health and continued growth of the whole garden. But no matter what changes happen, we will continue to be a church where people experience the love of God and the warm embrace of Faith UCC.

Blessings,
Brian & Judy

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.**

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

Dec 3, 2017

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

Dec 10, 2017

Flowers: Marge Kirchner
Greeters: Available
Scripture: Blu Glavin
Ushers: Available
Nursery: Available
Sunday school: Hatti Damianos

Dec 17, 2017

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

Dec 24, 2017

Flowers: Poinsettias
Greeters: Available
Scripture: Janis Groth
Ushers: Available
Nursery: Marge Hooie
Sunday school: Hatti Damianos

Dec 31, 2017

Flowers: Jackie Travers
Greeters: Available
Scripture: Jeff Felix
Ushers: Available
Nursery: Marge Hooie
Sunday school: Hatti Damianos

Coming Soon

JANUARY 2018

Dinner & Dessert

Friday, Jan. 12 at 6pm. Hosted by Marge Kirchner. More information to be announced.

FEBRUARY 2018

Flower Festival

Saturday, February 24, 2018, at Church of the Nativity in Sarasota is the Flower Festival. This is a great event with live classical music and themed flower arrangement show. This year it is an all church outing.

Crop Walk

Sunday, February 25, 2018, at 2pm at Palmetto First United Methodist Church, is the annual Crop Walk to end hunger. Further details to come.

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

Christmas Fund Offering

In December we will have a special offering. This offering was known as "Veterans of the Cross" in the past. The funds collected help retired ministers. It is one of the five special offerings suggested by the conference we take up per year. You can contribute to this fund Dec. 17 and 24. Thank You.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS 3

Faith Women's Annual Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 2, at 11am. We will gather for a time of fellowship at beautifully decorated holiday tables and enjoy hot tea and light snacks. There is a short program. See Sheryl Overheidt Smith for more details.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 2, at 9am. Join us at Sage Biscuit, downtown Bradenton.

Preschool Pancake Fundraiser

Saturday, December 2, from 8am-10am. Consider supporting our preschool. Please call Wendi at 746-7895 for your \$10 tickets.

Christmas Card Making Class Full

Saturday, December 9, at 10am. Judy Wetter is leading. The class is full but thank you for signing up. See you then.

Poinsettia Orders \$8

Please turn in your form with your payment by Sunday, December 10. Order forms are on the table in the Narthex. You can request one by email as well or call the church office at 941-746-8890.

Faith's Holiday Potluck

Sunday, December 10, immediately following the service. Please prepare your favorite holiday dish and join us for a time of food and fellowship. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Help is always appreciated! Contact Sheryl Overheidt Smith with any questions.

Dinner and Dessert

Friday, December 15, at 6pm. Hosted by Richard Dilts and co-hosted by Sheryl Overheidt-Smith. A buffet dinner will be supplied by your hosts. Please bring a dessert to share. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will start at 6pm; the buffet will be ready at 6:30pm. Richard's address: 11117 35th Court E., Parrish, FL 34219. Phone: 941-776-7293.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 17, after the service. See Pastor Brian for more info.

Christmas Spectacular

Our sister church, Congregational United Church of Christ located on 26th St. W., invites us to this free musical event.

Christmas Eve - 2 Services

Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year, so we will be having two services that day. A **10:30 am** service, which will start as the 4th Sunday of Advent and end with celebrating Christmas, and our traditional Candle-light Christmas Eve Service at **7 pm**. The two services will feature different Christmas Carols, but will both be celebrations of joy! Looking forward to seeing you then!

Stewardship

Each year we begin the Stewardship campaign prior to our Annual Meeting in January. We at Faith UCC are truly blessed, and that is the theme of our Stewardship drive for 2018, WE ARE BLESSED. Please read the Stewardship information, and after careful consideration fill in your pledge card and return it by December 10.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.



Please Save Your items for an upcoming Spring Rummage Sale.

Christmas Joy



Christmas is a season of joy and of thinking about peace around the world. Yet many of us have mixed feelings of both joy and sadness. Jesus's birth created a new happy precious family, even though their circumstances in a barn with a manger, far from home, family and friends were not the best. But this new family had a special joy through their difficulties and Joseph had been told that this child would become the Savior of the world. Being grateful for this is what the Christmas season is all about. So we sing carols about Jesus's birth and have special lights and candles because, as the Bible declares, Jesus is the light of the world in the darkness.

Floy Peterson




You are Invited to Attend the

MANATEE HABITAT INTERFAITH BUILD
GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

Saturday, December 9th
12:00 noon
604 11th Avenue East, Bradenton

Reception to follow at the home of Mae Lizzie Jennings, 624 11th Ave. E.
RSVP by December 8th to Amy Van Dell at (941) 748-9100 x107 or avandell@manateehabitat.org

The three goals of the Interfaith Build:

- to build a single-family affordable home in Manatee County
- to build a coalition of faith communities serving God
- to witness their unity and their service to the local community.

The Founding Faith Communities are:

- Church of the Annunciation
- Faith United Church of Christ**
- Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
- Harvest United Methodist Church
- The Islamic Society of Sarasota and Bradenton
- Knights of Columbus Council 13341 of Our Lady of the Angels
- St. Armand's Key Lutheran Church
- St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church

RSVP requested by Friday, December 8th. Amy Van Dell or call 941-748-9100 ext 107

Let's Get Acquainted

New Member Questionnaire

NAME: Karen Daugherty

PHONE: (570) 764-0439

How long have you lived in the area?

2 yrs

Where did you live prior to moving to Bradenton?

Danville, Pennsylvania

Retired?

Yes

Prior occupation?

Teacher (supervisor of infant/toddler program)

Home church?

St. James UCC

Why did you pick Faith UCC?

When I first visited, I was greeted very warmly. The small congregation is so similar to my church in P.A.

Any hobbies?

My hobby right now is caring for my 18 mos. old granddaughter, while her parents work.

Welcome

NAME: Robert Hofmann

PHONE: (941) 465-3171

How long have you lived in the area?

8yrs

Where did you live prior to moving to Bradenton?

New York City

Retired?

Yes

Prior occupation?

Security

Home church?

St. Luke's Episcopal

Why did you pick Faith UCC?

Helping a friend in need



BLESSED

Marge Kirchner

This Pride lei was given to me as my wife, Pat, and I were on our way from the parking lot at the Manatee Fairgrounds to Pride Fest a few years ago. I was in a wheel chair at the time, and I thanked the smiling woman who gave it to me. That woman was Judy Wetter, and at the time, I didn't know that meaningful changes in my spiritual life would begin that day.

As I approached the booth staffed by members of Faith Congregational Church, I noticed some people whom I had met several years before when I briefly attended Faith. Their welcome was delightful, and I felt great seeing them again. We were introduced to your new minister, Brian, who engaged us in conversation and then gave us an invitation to attend services the next day.

I attended alone as Pat considers herself "a recovering Catholic" and rarely attends any church gathering. I was moved by the service and felt embraced by Brian and Jude as well as the congregation.

That week, Jude called and asked if she could visit and I felt blessed that a minister would do more than extend the right hand of fellowship to me. Our conversation had special meaning for me and I felt I might have found the church experience I had sought for many years.

Since then, whenever we snowbirds were in town, I

considered Faith to be my spiritual home. Socially, I began to attend the Women's breakfasts and got to know several people who have become more than acquaintances. I've attended some "Dinner and Desserts," and Pat even joined me for one evening of fun and good food. That put her on Pete Groth's radar as someone who needs to join us and he often asks about her.

The spirituality at Faith Church has touched me deeply, and on December 11th of 2016, I joyfully became a member of the best church I've ever known.

I am enriched by your embrace of diversity, by your desire to reach out to others, and by your becoming a mission church. I love our book studies, our Wednesday morning support group, our after-service get-togethers and I love seeing our Grandma, Helen, at all our gatherings. I am particularly moved by the well-presented talks with our children and the sermons we hear each Sunday from Jude and Brian.

On September 25th of this year we officially became full time Florida residents. Having been a New Yorker for all of my 75 years, this was a very emotionally charged move for me. Yet through it all, Pat reminded me that what we had in New York was our home and what I had in Florida was Faith.

I am blessed to be here.

SOCIAL ACTION & MISSIONS

Babs Brownell and the SAM team

FOOD BANK

In **December**, we are collecting **Canned Meats** (tuna, chicken...etc) for the food bank.

GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

SAM is prayerfully considering how best to use the tithe money that the church received from the sale of part of the property. We would like to know which agencies are important to you. For now, we are gathering the names. In early 2018, we will have an application for agencies to complete.

We need your help! Please take a moment to consider the many agencies that serve our community. Do you volunteer for a non-profit in our area? Have you or a loved one benefitted from services? Do you have a passion for a certain organization?

Please email Carol Knight at cknight168@aol.com or fill in the sign up sheet on the bulletin board at the

church. Your input is critical to this process. Thank you! We are grateful for you and all you do!

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 December, that is the 5th and the 19th.

It is a busy time of year, I know, but if you can spare from 6:30-8 PM on one or both of those nights, you will be pleasantly surprised. It is fun and rewarding. Please join us! 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).

**NEXT SAM MEETING IS: TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 5 AT 7PM**

WALL REPAIR

We have contracted with a foundation repair company to do the actual repairs on our sinking back wall. The work involves placing eleven support piers along the back of the building. These piers will be screwed into the ground until they reach solid soil and then are attached to the foundation. The work will be done during the preschool Christmas break.

Denny Wetter

FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach, Director

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Our "Pancakes with Santa" fundraiser at Applebee's is this Saturday, December 2 from 8:00 - 10:00 AM. If you would like to join us for this event, please call Wendi Steinbach at 941-746-7895 or send an email to faithpreschool1@verizon.net. We hope to see you there!

The children have started practicing their songs for

CHURCH COUNCIL

It is time to start thinking about Church Council positions. If you are interested in serving on the Council for 2018, please talk to Richard Dilts.



our upcoming holiday program that is scheduled on Friday, December 15th at 11:30. The children will perform on stage for their families and enjoy refreshments together after the program.

We will be closed from December 21 - January 5 for winter break. We wish everyone a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year"!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Faith United Church of Christ November 13, 2017

Pastor Judy Bagley Bonner prayed us into the meeting at 7:09pm

Marge Critelli made a motion to accept the council minutes that were printed in the November Follower. It was seconded by Marge Hooie. The motion carried.

Financial Secretary Donna Blakey stated that there was actually \$436 more collected for the disaster buckets than originally calculated. This amount will be verified after talking to Arlene. There was an anonymous \$260 gift to the church with no specification. Pastor Brian motioned to dedicate the anonymous gift to the future church sign. Babs seconded the motion and it carried. More checks are arriving from the Weaver Trust and being placed into the Back of Ozarks account until the financial committee can meet and make recommendations for those funds. A follower article will be written with an update on these funds.

Treasurer Marge Critelli went over the profit and loss statement. We are close to and better than we budgeted to be this time of year. Richard motioned to accept the Financial Secretary and Treasurer report. It was seconded by Denny and the motion was carried.

Pastor's report: They have found a user friendly way to keep up to date records on visitors. Small groups are going well and the Wednesday night group is popular with a large group of 16. Support group is small but helpful to those who attend. Judy and Brian are going to make a shift; Judy will take on more of the care ministry as Brian transitions. There is a possible 4-8 potential members joining the church before the end of the year. There was a positive response from the Reformation Sunday special service and more services like that will be in the future.

Secretary Faith Quici said the office is running smoothly and suggested everyone go over the calendar. Changes were made and noted. A verbal reminder was stated about annual reports due in January.

OLD BUSINESS:

Building: L.R.E. Ground Services will do the support work on the building during the preschool Christmas break this year. The cost could be up to \$20K or a little more for this crucial building fix.

Music Committee: will be interviewing 2 people for the music director position on Thursday, November 16.

Sabbatical Plan: The church will hire one minister for the time our pastors are on sabbatical. We will have a grand send off and return celebration at the church for

them. There were a couple anonymous donations specific for the sabbatical. After Pastor Brian and Jude discussed their dates of May 1-July 22 for the Sabbatical, Babs motioned that the sabbatical be from May 1, 2018- July 22, 2018. This motion was seconded by Marge Hooie and the motion was unanimously carried.

Tellabration: Up to at least 60 tickets have been sold thus far. We have seating for 110. After Peg presented in church on Sunday, November 12, there was a good response in ticket sales.

Advent: Thursday, November 30 is decorating the church. Saturday, December 2 at 11am is the Annual Women's Christmas Tea. Christmas card making class is Saturday, December 9 at 10am. Christmas potluck is Sunday, December 10. Christmas Dinner and Dessert party is Friday, December 15 at 6pm. Christmas Caroling is after the service on Sunday, December 17. Christmas Eve candlelight service is Sunday, December 24 at 7pm. Undecorating the church will be sometime after January 6, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Members: New members class is Sunday, November 26 after service.

Extra Worship Service: Church growth experts say that when a church is at 80% capacity it's time to add an additional worship service. We discussed that when we get to that point we might add an additional worship service either early Sunday morning or even a midweek service. This might take place during Lent 2018 (7 week trial basis). We will come to the next council meeting with ideas on this subject.

Stewardship: will start December 3. Theme is "We Are Blessed".

Pastors Vacation: The Pastors will go on vacation December 26-January 2.

Apostolic Thanksgiving: We have been invited do the Thanksgiving meal on Nov 19 hosted by the Apostolic church. We have 13 people signed up from our church to participate.

Nominating Committee: We need a nominating committee to build next year's council. Richard Dilts and Judy Wetter will work together and find others to join.

Council Meeting Time Change: Richard Dilts motioned to start our council meeting in January and February at 6:30pm instead of 7pm. Denny seconded the motion and it was carried.

Pastor Evaluation: We will get a written evaluation of our Pastors and staff by the end of the year. At next council meeting the pastors will bring their goals and we will

go over them for approval.

Women's Tea: Saturday, December 2 at 11am with light snacks, tea and a Christmas program.

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, December 2 at 9am at Sage Biscuit / downtown location.

DEPARTMENTS:

Building and Grounds: see report

Christian Ed: Karen Daugherty is joining the nursery team. It was suggested we get updated finger print documentation on file for all those who work with children under 18.

Church Events: Oktoberfest was a success and after expenses, \$31 was made. This may be a yearly event. Thankfulness Hospitality is Sun, Nov. 26 after service. Dec 2 is the Tea, Dec 10 is the potluck, Dec 15 is the Dinner and Dessert. It was suggested that we do a Seder service maybe in combination with a meal for Maundy Thursday next year. We might have a Chili/Soup Cook -Off on Super Bowl Sunday Feb 4 next year.

SAM: The disaster buckets went to Church of the Palms Food Pantry a local distribution point for people still cleaning up after Irma. SAM will meet and recommend what to do with the \$436 left from the bucket donations. SAM will meet and go over goals, guide lines and an application form for the grant they will give in Feb or March to a local 501c3 non profit. They are asking church members to list those agencies (on the sign up in the Narthex) they feel strongly about or support themselves so we can hopefully have a sponsor for the grant. Faith Care: People are still up north but people who are here have stepped in to help with care. They were able to connect with a lot of people and send a lot of cards.

Worship: Richard will put the poinsettia orders in the bulletin on Nov 19 at \$8 per plant. He suggested each council member financially support a flower order the first Sunday of the month. December communion will be intinction. Marge Hooie will read scripture and Karen will be in the nursery.

Brian prayed us out at 8:55pm

Respectfully submitted by:
Faith Quici

Poinsettia Order form



It's time to order your poinsettias to help decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season. Poinsettias are \$8.00 each and may be given in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an event or person. Please indicate below the number of beautiful poinsettias you would like to order and you may take your poinsettia(s) home with you after the Christmas Eve service. **ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th** and please include your payment with this order form.

Name:

Quantity:

Total Amount Due: **(\$8.00 each)** \$

Take OR Donate

In Celebration or Memory of:

2018 Stewardship Pledge Card

Faith United Church of Christ Pledged Giving 2018

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

In 2018 I plan to give:

Operating Budget:	\$ _____	_____ Week	_____ Month	_____ Year
Building for the Future	\$ _____	_____ Week	_____ Month	_____ Year
Time and Talent	_____ hrs.	_____ Week	_____ Month	_____ Year



This estimate helps us to better manage the Church's resources. Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. Please return the form by December 10.

Words of Wisdom

For the Elderly

Funeral Laughs

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?"

"98," she replied.

"Two years older than me"

So you're 96," the undertaker commented. She responded, "Hardly worth going home is it?"

Staying Positive

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."



Hide and Seek

The nice thing about being senile, is you can hide your own Easter eggs.

Watch out on the Roads!

Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

Thank you Joan Sheehan for these.

The Chrismon Tree and Symbols

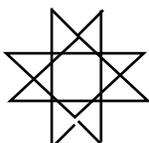
The word; "Chrismon" is a combination of parts of two words: CHRIST and MONogram. A chrismon is just that, a monogram of Christ. Early Christians used such symbols to identify themselves to one another and the symbols also served to transmit their faith and beliefs.

All Chrismons are made in combinations of white and gold — white, the liturgical color for Christmas, refers to our Lord's purity and perfection; gold to His majesty and glory. We symbolize Christ as the Light of the world by using tiny white lights on the tree.

We hope the following explanation will add to your appreciation of the Chrismon Tree which we so lovingly decorate each year.

8 POINTED STAR

The 8 pointed star refers to man's regeneration through Holy Baptism.



SHEPHERD'S CROOK or STAFF with ALPHA & OMEGA

A number of symbols for our Lord are in this simple design. The shepherd's crook is hung with an Alpha and Omega to show that this staff refers to the Eternal One, the Good Shepherd.



TRIQUETRA and CIRCLE

The Trinity in Eternity! The Eternal Triune! The Eternal One!



CROSS TRIUMPHANT or CROSS OF VICTORY A cross supreme over the world represented by a circle. The divisions suggest continents which are united into one by the circular extension of the cross — thus the world united in Christ Who has dominion over all.



FISH As early as the second century, Christians were using the fish to symbolize the Christ

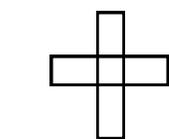
CORNER STONE :The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner." (Mark 12:10) "Jesus Christ, the chief corner stone." (Ephesians 2:20)



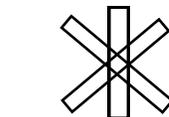
ORB with CROSS ATOP The Lord holding an orb (the world) topped by the cross to symbolize His dominion over the earth.



GREEK CROSS Cross with arms of equal length. The Greek cross showed loyalty to the Eastern Church as opposed to the Latin Cross used in the Western Church.



IOTA CHI (IX) The Greek Iota (I) is the first letter of Jesus, and the Chi (X) is the first letter for Christ.

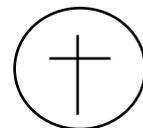


CIRCLE with CROSS The circle, which is endless, symbolizes eternity. It can also symbolize God the eternal life we may have with Him. Christ, Chi is in the center.



CROSS IN ETERNITY

At one time in history, God, through His Son, made Himself known to man and provided for man's eternal salvation.

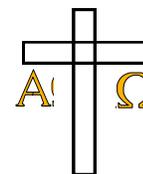


CHI RHO (X P) The CHI RHO is the oldest monogram for Christ and was commonly used by the early church.



LATIN CROSS with ALPHA & OMEGA

While no one really knows the shape of the cross on which Jesus died, the church used this form, the Latin Cross most often. Early Christians often combined the Alpha and Omega to declare the divinity of Jesus.



GREEK CROSS AND CHI The first letter of Christ, is combined with the cross. Can these two be separated? Only when we understand both the Christ and the cross can we begin to see the full measure of God's love.



THE CHILDREN'S CORNER The manger scene will be easily recognized by young children



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
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

2017 Church Council

Moderator: Judy Wetter

Faith Care Team: Marge Hooie

Deputy Moderator: Richard Dilts
Secretary: Robin Wentz

Community Outreach: Deb D' Angelo

Financial Secretary: Donna Blakey

Church Events & Fellowship:
Sheryl Overheidt Smith

Treasurer: Marge Critelli

SAM: Babs Brownell

Worship Team: Richard Dilts

Building & Grounds: Denny Wetter

Christian Ed: OPEN

2018 Church Council Nominations soon. Please see Richard Dilts if interested.



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



www.faithchurchucc.com

December 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!							
BAC: Bradenton Apostolic Church Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Nar- Anon , NA hotline at 941.257.5055. (HOA's) Home Owner Associations		12/4 Floy Peterson 12/9 Margy Stewart 12/12 Richard Sluss 12/19 Ethan Nealis 12/25 Sheryl Overheidt-Smith				1 10am Quartet Practice 6pm St. Andrew UCC World Aids Day Service 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	2 8am-10am Preschool Pancakes with Santa/ Applebee's 11am Women's Christmas Tea 9am Men's Breakfast 10am NA & Nar-Anon
3 9am Book Study 10:30am Service <u>Communion</u> Stewardship Sunday 1:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	4 5pm Annual Inlets HOA	5 6pm Inlets Master HOA 6:30pm Downtown Ministries 7pm SAM meeting	6 10:30am Support Group 6:30pm Book Study 7:00pm BAC	7 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	8 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC Faith Vacay Day	9 10am Christmas Card Class 12pm Habitat Build Groundbreaking Ceremony 10am NA & Nar-Anon	
10 10:30am Service Poinsettia Orders Due Christmas Potluck 1:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	11 7pm Church Council Mtg	12 Building and Grounds Work Day 4pm 6pm San Casciano	13 10:30am Support Group 6:30pm Book Study 7:00pm BAC	14 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	15 11:30am Preschool Holiday Program 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC Holiday Dinner and Dessert at Richard Dilts'	16 10am NA & Nar-Anon	
17 10:30am Service Christmas Fund Offering Christmas Caroling after service 5:30pm Christmas Concert at Congregational UCC 1:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	18 Follower Deadline 7pm BR HOA	19 11:30am Prayer Team Mtg 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	20 Poinsettia Delivery 10:30am Support Group 6:30pm Book Study 7:00pm BAC	21 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	22 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	23 10am NA & Nar-Anon	
No Preschool on Winter Break (Dec 21 - Jan 8)							
24 10:30am Service Christmas Fund Offering 7pm Christmas Eve Candle Light 1:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	25 Christmas Day Church office is closed	26	27 10:30am Support Group 7:00pm BAC	28 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	29 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC Last Day for Giving Credit Faith Vacay Day	30 10am NA & Nar-Anon	
No Preschool on Winter Break (Dec 21 - Jan 8)							
31 New Year's Eve 10:30am Service 1:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	1 New Year's Day - Church Office is Closed	2 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	3 10:30am Support Group 7:00pm BAC	4 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	5 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	6 10am NA & Nar-Anon	
No Preschool on Winter Break (Dec 21 - Jan 8)							



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

DECEMBER 2017

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