

# FAITHFUL follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



## January 2016

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

### IN THIS ISSUE

- From Your Moderator pg 1
- Pastor's Desk pg 2
- Financial Snapshot pg3
- Church Happenings pg4
- A New Book Study pg 5
- Updates, pg 6
- Council Mtg. Minutes pg 7
- Church Contacts pg 8
- January Calendar pg 9

## From Your Moderator

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who volunteered to help in any way during 2015. We have had many activities that we have enjoyed together.

A special thank you to our Pastors, Brian and Judy Bagley-Bonner, for their wonderful sermons, our adult classes, their concern for all of us and our families and their wonderful sense of humor.

We look forward to the beginning of 2016 and the many new things we will face together.

Our adult study classes will resume on Sunday, January 3, 2016, and Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

Church Women United will have our first meeting of 2016 at Pathways Christian Fellowship, 329 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, Bradenton. We would love to have more of the women join us in attending. The date is January 8, 2016.

Our first Dinner and Dessert of the year will be on January 15, 2016, at Peg O'Sullivan's. The prayer team meeting will be on the third Tuesday of the month on January 19 at Freedom Village in the Tuscan Room. Please let me know if you plan to attend so I can make the reservations.

Please check the bulletin board in the Narthex to see what other activities are going on. There will be sign-up sheets if you plan to attend. There will also be a place to sign-up if you would like to be the host or hostess.

The church council members' names are listed in the bulletin. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call us, and we will be happy to help you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you and again my thanks for all your help this year.

**May the peace of Christ be with you!**  
**Love,**  
**Marge Hooie**

## Thank You

**From Faith Quici**

Thank you so much for the wonderfully appreciated Christmas love offering gift. It is so helpful to get a blessing like this at Christmas time. It's been tough with my dad in and out of the hospital and now taking care of him at home. I am doing better each day and healing nicely from my dislocated knee. I should be back to normal soon. Thank you for everything!

## Envelopes

We are trying a new type of offering envelope this year. **Please note: it is no longer necessary to write separate checks for flowers, special offering, etc. Please just write one check for all donations and list them on the envelope in the space provided. Also, your envelope number may have changed so please do not use old envelopes.**

Included in the envelope pack, is an envelope for your initial offering of \$1.00 to cover the cost of the envelopes. As a reminder, Faith UCC is responsible for paying a per capita charge to the Florida Conference. The congregation voted years ago to pay individually their own per capita charge. The cost is \$14.50 for each member, if you are not a member this does not apply. Please contact me at 755-4583 or [djwet66@gmail.com](mailto:djwet66@gmail.com) if you have questions.

**Judy Wetter**  
**Financial Secretary**

## Important MEETINGS

**Informational meeting:** there will be a meeting after church **January 17**, to review changes in the service and the thoughts behind the changes.

**An Annual meeting** will be held on **January 31.**

**A quorum is required.**

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Brian and Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner

## Leap (of Faith) Year

Ah, can it be 2016? Wow. And a Leap Year to add some zing (Christmas 2016, for example, is on a Sunday)! I like Leap Years as they are quirky and full of possibilities. Jude's Paternal Grandfather, being born on a February 29th, only had a birthday every 4 years. Back in the old days when computers and video recorders weren't so smart, we would have to adjust them for that pesky extra day. It is hard to believe that adding just one day to a year can make things so interesting.

**Interesting** is the word I want to use as we look ahead to 2016. We are going to have a good time studying about aging, hearing the choir, worshiping together. There continues to be a Spirit of hope

## What is a Sabbatical?

There are a couple of professions that have a sabbatical as a part of their career. One is college professors; a second is pastors. These two professions have many things in common that make sabbaticals important to staying healthy and inspiring.

**Constant Change** – Both professors and pastors help people interact with the constantly changing world in which we live. Both require a significant amount of education at the beginning, but in order to stay current and relevant, focused time of continuing education is essential and this is one of the main purposes of the sabbatical time.

**Renewal** – Both professions give a lot of time to those they serve, and as a result need time to take a step back and get personally re-invigorated. Pastors, in particular, can become spiritually worn out by the intensity of their work and need time to be renewed in order to continue to provide good pastoral care and inspiring leadership.

and joy as we journey together, but we will face challenges. This year our finances may be a bit rocky, but God will see us through. It will be an "interesting" year. But as people of faith, we were never promised that things would be easy. People who study churches have concluded that a congregation which has no financial stress (i.e. a church that has a huge endowment and everything is paid automatically) is very likely to become spiritually bankrupt and may even face the possibility of disappearing. I am happy to say FAITH UCC does not have that problem!! 😊

Let us walk together into this interesting year. God is with us and we are all together. What more do we need as we take the Leap of Faith into 2016!

**BBB**

The reason we wanted to share this information is because Faith UCC has had a Sabbatical Policy in place since 2001. In recent years, however, no pastors have stayed for the time required to receive a sabbatical. So the good news is, we now have a pastoral team who looks like they are going to serve us long enough to warrant one. The other news is we will see a new item in the budget this year that is called Sabbatical Reserve. This is money we will save over the years to pay for the pastoral coverage during the 2 month of study leave and the regular 1 month vacation that is usually combined to make the total sabbatical time. During this time the pastor(s) receive their usual pay and the church usually hires a pastor to do Sunday worship and Pastoral Care on a part-time basis.

Please contact a member of the PRC if you have any questions about this.

**Barbara Brownell**  
747-9643

# WORSHIP WITH US

2

## JANUARY 3, 2016

Flowers: Communion  
Greeters: Council  
Scripture: Marge Hooie  
Ushers: Council  
Communion: Council  
Nursery: Babs Brownell

## JANUARY 10, 2016

Flowers: Sheryl Overheidt-Smith  
Greeters: Available  
Scripture: Blu Glavin  
Ushers: Sheryl Overheidt-Smith  
Nursery: Linda Anderson

## JANUARY 17, 2016

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

## JANUARY 24, 2016

Flowers: Available  
Greeters: Available  
Scripture: Joan Sheehan  
Ushers: Available  
Nursery: Babs Brownell

## JANUARY 31, 2016

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

## SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

If you are serving for the first time and have questions regarding your duties, please look on the bulletin board. Detailed duties for each assignment are printed for you. Please take a copy if you wish. Thank you for volunteering.

# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

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## PER CAPITA 2015 and 2016

The decision for individuals to pay their own Per Capita was made years ago. Per Capita is an obligation we owe yearly to the conference to pay for staff, help with pastor searches, programs, etc. If you have not paid your 2015 Per Capita please do so by the end of the month . This money will come from the church budget if not paid individually. The cost is \$14.50 per person. Thanks for your prompt attention to this conference obligation. Your statement will show if you have paid for this year.

**NEXT YEAR, in 2016, IT WILL REMAIN THE SAME COST of \$14.50 for Per Capita.**

*Financial Secretary*

*Judy*

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## ONECO FLORIST /// 941.756.1556

Oneco Florist is offering Church members \$5 off their first arrangement. Just mention this article.

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## SOCIAL ACTION & MISSIONS

JANUARY food collection is: Pet Food

### UPDATES:

Our Family Christmas Adoption was a success. All the needs of the family that was adopted for Christmas were met.

Thank you for participating in the Christmas Fund offering on Sunday, December 20. We should find out the totals from that offering soon.

Please remember to donate to the food collection barrel in the Narthex. Everything goes to the Manatee County Food Bank. We are hoping for more participation and record giving in our food bank donations in 2016. If you want to see how many pounds of food and goods we have donated, please look on the bulletin board in the Narthex as it

is recorded there regularly.

### This year we have donated:

98 pounds of pet food in January  
121 pounds of Canned veg and fruit in February

*Missing March info*

**72 pounds** of canned meats in April

**53 pounds** of peanut butter in May

**24 pounds** of rice in June

**36 pound** of healthy cereal in July

**48 pounds** of mac and cheese in August

**36 pounds** of stew in September

**21 pounds** of canned food October

**77 pounds** of Flour and Sugar in November

Still collecting baby food items for December

## Mark Your Calendars

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### MEN'S BREAKFAST

SAT. January 9  
We are meeting at Norma  
Rae's in Palmetto at 9am.

### WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

SAT. January 9  
We are meeting Popi's  
Place in Ellenton at 9am

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### POTLUCK

We need volunteers to sign  
up to host the potluck. The  
Potluck is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of  
the month after service.  
This month it will be  
Sunday, January 10.

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### DINNER & DESSERT

January 15 at the home of  
Peg O'Sullivan.

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## Children's Ministry Team

God has a purpose for you,  
and if you have a heart for  
children, then it could be  
to join the Children's  
Ministry Team. It's so easy  
to sign up for only a few  
Sundays out of the year.  
Contact Babs Brownell if  
you would like more  
information about this  
purposeful and rewarding  
ministry.

**Call: 941.747.9643**

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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## Green Team

One of my goals for 2016 is to continue to grow in environmental faithfulness. This past fall's Florida Conference UCC gathering had lots of ideas for ways a congregation can make a difference! Are you interested in being part of a Green Team here at Faith? Let's start one and see what interesting possibilities reveal themselves!

*Pastor Brian*

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## Faith Women United

The first meeting of 2016 will be Friday, January 8. It's the Annual meeting. We will gather at Pathways Christian Fellowship in West Bradenton. If you would like to go or car pool, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

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## Hosting a Potluck

Hosting our monthly pot-luck is a way to provide a real service to your friends at Faith UCC. If everyone would consider hosting just once every two years our calendar would be full. A checklist is available on the bulletin board in the Narthex, so you can see the steps more easily. Do not fear.... We will all be grateful for your hard work!

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## Taking down Christmas

We had so much fun decorating the church for Christmas and everything looks so beautiful! Wonderful job, to everyone who helped. What goes up, must come down. We will gather on January 6 at 10am to take down and put away our church Christmas decorations. Please see Richard Dilts if you are interested. We could really use your help.

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## Choir Rehearsal

The Choir is back! We will be meeting regularly, on Thursday evenings at 7pm starting January 7. Please see Pastor Brian if you are interested in singing in our choir.

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## 2016 Council

Please see Babs Brownell or Pastor Brian if you are interested in being a part of the 2016 Church Council. We have a couple of open positions.

# WINTER BOOK STUDY

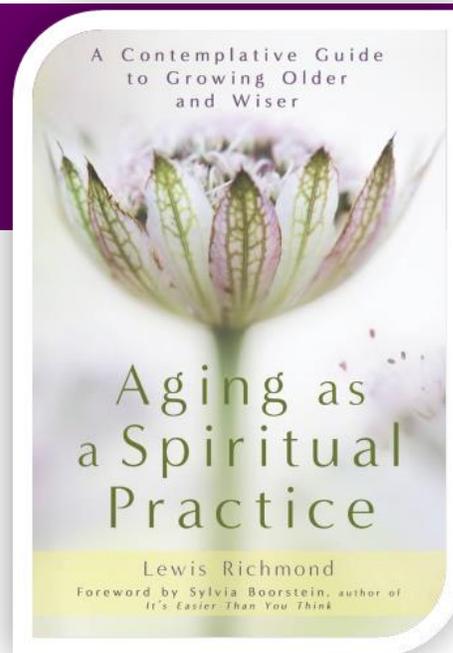
*A Contemplative Guide to Growing Older and Wiser*  
**AGING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**

New Book Study: [Aging as a Spiritual Practice](#)-

As we look ahead to 2016, it is not too early to start thinking about our next book study! Again, there will be two groups, one on Sunday mornings at 9:00 and one on Tuesday evenings at 6:30. These will begin on **February 14 and 16**. Again, we will advertise these groups in the wider community, and encourage all Faith UCC members to spread the word, especially with your unchurched friends.

The next book is entitled [Aging as a Spiritual Practice](#) by Lewis Richmond. The first thing that needs to be said about this book is that it is NOT just for senior citizens! In fact, we are all aging from the moment we are born, and the earlier we begin to process it consciously and spiritually, the better. So you are invited to attend this study no matter how young or old you may be. The second thing to be said about the book is that the author is a Buddhist meditation teacher. If that makes you nervous, relax. He is a user-friendly, American Buddhist and his ideas blend seamlessly into our own Christian tradition of contemplative spirituality. He has intentionally written the book for people of all faiths.

More about the book from the back cover: "The first truth about aging is also the first truth of Buddhist teaching: everything changes. In [Aging as a Spiritual Practice](#), Buddhist meditation teacher Lewis Richmond helps us understand how the transformation can bring new possibilities, fresh beginnings, a wealth of appreciation, and a depth of gratitude that profoundly affects how our lives proceed. Regardless of whether



you are enjoying growing old, hating it, or in denial, each chapter is filled with relatable anecdotes. Incorporating illuminating facts from scientific researchers, doctors, and psychologists on aging's various challenges and rewards, Richmond explores the tandem of maintaining a healthy body and healthy relationships, infused with an active spiritual life.

Please do sign up in advance for this six week study. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board at church. If you want to get in on the church book order, you must sign up by **Jan. 31. Cost is \$15.00.** Pay when book is received.

I believe you will benefit greatly from this contemplative guide to growing older and wiser.

## A Preschool Note

**Wendi Steinbach, Director**

Faith Preschool had their holiday program on Wednesday, December 16th. The children did a wonderful job performing on stage for their families. After the program everyone enjoyed some refreshments together.

We will be closed from December 21 - January 4 for winter break. We wish everyone a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year"!



**and a happy new year**



# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Faith United Church of Christ /// December 14, 2015

**Present:** M.R. Lembright, Pastors Brian and Jude Bagley-Bonner, Marge Hooie, Marge Critelli, Judy and Denny Wetter, Deb D'Angelo, Robin Wentz and Linda Anderson. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Marge Hooie. Pastor Jude gave the opening prayer. A motion was made to accept the minutes of November's council meeting by Marge Critelli and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judy Wetter. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Judy Wetter reported that a total of \$12,535.27 was deposited into the operating account at Bank of America; \$490.00 was deposited into the building for the future account at Bank of the Ozarks; and \$960.00 was deposited in the pass through account at the Bank of the Ozarks. She also reported that pledges as of 12/13/15 were; \$50,394.00 for the operating account and \$7,770.00 the of building for the future account.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marge Critelli reported a YTD total income of \$130,430.09 and a YTD total expense of \$144,969.78. She also purchased a \$50,000.00 CD with money from the building for the future account for 15 months at 1.16% interest.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Brian reported good attendance on Sundays. The worship experimentation is carrying on and a survey will be done in January to assess what people like and/or don't like. Pastor Jude states that the book study has maintained its membership. She is working on the next study group and working with Deb D'Angelo to increase the advertising to reach a broader spectrum of people.

**Secretary's Report:** Faith was not

present for the meeting but sent a few requests to the council through Marge Hooie. The annual meeting is January 31<sup>st</sup> and she needs the reports by January 11<sup>th</sup>. She asked the council to review the calendar and make any changes in it.

**Old Business:** Family Christmas adoption: Robin reported that all the needs of the family that was adopted for Christmas were met.

Council Nominations/Interests: Openings are available for Treasurer, secretary, Christian education, church events and fellowship and spiritual life team. Anybody wishing to help with these positions is most welcome. Crop walk: there will be a meeting next month.

**New Business:** January potluck host is open. If no one volunteers there will not be a potluck.

January dinner and desert will be at Peg O'Sullivan's house.

Church women united will be meeting January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Budget: Marge, Judy and Pastor Brian will meet to come up with next year's budget.

Informational meeting: there will be a meeting after church Jan 17<sup>th</sup> to review changes in the service and the thoughts behind the changes. Annual meeting will be held January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**A quorum is required.**

**Departments and Committees:**  
**Building and Grounds:** Denny Wetter submitted his report of everything that has been

accomplished this past month and the final work from the flood will be accomplished over Christmas break. For more information see his report in the follower.

**Community Outreach:** Debra D'Angelo will advertise in more circulars and newspapers.

**SAM:** Christmas Fund Sunday is December 20<sup>th</sup>. She also noted that the food bank contributions have been decreasing.

**Faith Care Team:** M.R. reported that it has been a wonderful team.

**Worship Team:** Richard said the poinsettias will be delivered on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>. There is one reader for Christmas Eve service but he needs one more. January communion will be by intinction. On Jan 6, we will be un-decorating the church. Closing prayer was given by Pastor Brian.

## K-Cups Wanted

Thank you, Marge Critelli, for donating a Keurig Coffee Maker to the church. If you have some K-cups you don't plan to use (*especially TEA or other non-coffee drinks*), we would love to offer them on Sunday mornings. You may drop them off at the church kitchen.



# Your Staff

## Pastors

Rev. Brian and  
Rev. Judy  
Bagley-Bonner  
Cell:  
941-718-3132



(with Janie)

## PASTORS' OFFICE HOURS

Monday 10 am - 1 pm  
Tuesday 9am - noon  
Wednesday 8:30 am - \*noon  
Thursday 8:30 am - 9:30 am

*Other times by appointment*

*\*3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at UCC meetings*



**Office Hours**  
**MONDAY-FRIDAY**  
**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
746-8890  
Fax 746-0670

## Secretary

Faith Quici

## Faith UCC Email:

faithchurchucc@verizon.net

## Faith Website:

faithchurchucc.com

# Prayer Team

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, call one of the following:



**Janis Groth**  
941.779.6988

**Marge Hooie**  
941. 747.2734

**Helen Nutting**  
941. 747.2734

**Sheryl  
Overheidt-  
Smith**  
941.776.5589

**Donna Rusch**  
301.825.9611

**Joan  
Sheehan**  
941.748.2498

Members of the Prayer Team want to keep the prayer list current.  
Please advise us when you would like a name removed from the list.

## SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST

If you, a member of your family, or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let the office know as soon as possible. A member of Faith Church would like to make a visit to bring God's word of comfort. The church office telephone number is 746-8890 or email at [faithchurchucc@verizon.net](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net)

## 2015 Church Council

**Moderator:**  
Marge Hooie 747-2734

**Financial Secretary:**  
Judy Wetter 755-4583

**Social Action & Missions:**  
Robin Wentz 758-6575

**Deputy Moderator:**  
Barbara Brownell 747-9643

**Building & Grounds:**  
Denny Wetter 755-4583

**Faith Care Team:**  
M. R. Lembright 758-5716

**Secretary:**  
Linda Anderson 704-8772

**Christian Education:** OPEN

**Worship Team Leader:**  
Richard Dilts 776-7293

**Treasurer:**  
Marge Critelli 685-3807

**Fellowship & Events:** OPEN

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



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



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

# January 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>New Year's Day the Office is Closed</i> 7:15pm NA Preschool winter break until Jan 4	2 10am NA & Nar-Anon
3 9am Adult Study 10:30am Service <b>Communion</b> 1:30 BAC NA 7:15pm	4	5 6:30pm Adult Study	6 10am Un-Decorating the Church  7:00pm BAC	7 7pm Choir 7:15pm NA	8 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC <b>Church Women United Annual Meeting</b>	9 9am Men's Breakfast  9am Women's Breakfast 10am NA & Nar-Anon
10 9am Adult Study 10:30am Service <b>Potluck</b> 1:30 BAC NA 7:15pm	11 7pm Church Council Mtg.	12 6:30pm Adult Study  Building and Grounds Work Day 4pm	13 7:00pm BAC	14 7pm Choir 7:15pm NA	15 6pm Dinner and Dessert 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	16 10am NA & Nar-Anon
17 9am Adult Study 10:30am Service INFORMATIONAL MEETING- after service 1:30 BAC NA 7:15pm	18 7pm BR HOA <b>Follower Deadline</b> No Preschool today	19 11:30am Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Adult Study	20 7pm Faith Care Team Meeting 7pm BAC	21 7pm Choir 7:15pm NA	22 7:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	23 10am NA & Nar-Anon
24 9am Adult Study 10:30am Service 1:30 BAC NA 7:15pm	25 7pm INT HOA No Preschool today	26	27 7:00pm BAC	28 7pm Choir 7:15pm NA	29 7:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	30 10am NA & Nar-Anon
31 9am Adult Study 10:30am Service ANNUAL MEETING- after service 1:30 BAC NA 7:15pm						

- 1/1 Marge Critelli
- 1/6 Jeffery William Hunter Felix
- 1/7 Rose Smith
- 1/18 Hatti Damianos
- 1/28 Scott Duncan

- o **BAC:** Bradenton Apostolic Church – We church share with Pastor Ramon and his congregation.
- o Monthly Prayer Meetings are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Freedom Village at 11:30am.
- o Our Monthly **Potluck** is every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after service when someone has agreed to host. Subject to change on special occasions.
- o **Dinner and Dessert** is every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 6pm when someone signs up to host. The host picks a local restaurant to meet and dessert is followed at their home or another gathering spot.
- o There are **Narcotics Anonymous** (NA) meetings here each week, and **Nar- Anon**, which is a group of family members affected by those with drug addictions, also meets. If interested in these meetings, please call the NA hotline at 941.257.5055.
- o We have several local neighborhood Home Owner Associations (**HOA's**) who meet here monthly.