

# FAITHFUL follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



## January 2018

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

## From Your Moderator

### 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.**

### 2018 PER CAPITA

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

Can you believe it?? Where has 2017 gone? It doesn't seem possible that this year is nearly done. We have had a pretty great year at Faith UCC including new members, great programs for all ages, thought provoking worship services, wonderful music and great hospitality. There have been many opportunities for fellowship and mission work this year. We celebrated Tellabration with Peg O'Sullivan, a pancake supper, chili cook-off, Easter egg hunt and other events throughout the year. This is just an example of what has transpired this year.

The Weaver bequests are slowly coming in, to date we have received \$40,000 from the Glen Weaver Trust and \$150,000 from the Helen Weaver Trust. We will be discussing some options at the Annual Meeting for this money. There will still be more coming to Faith UCC from the Helen Weaver Trust.

The Music Committee has interviewed one candidate for the position of Music Leader and had an appointment to interview a second candidate who did not keep their appointment. The Committee felt it would be advisable to start the search again after the first of the year.

The Finance Committee has worked on the Stewardship drive and at their next meeting work on the 2018 budget. At following meetings they will look at investment opportunities both

long and short term.

The Sign Committee has met to discuss the advantages of installing a new LED sign. They have also discussed the possibility of repairing the existing sign. They will meet again starting in January and hope to have the sign replaced or repaired by Easter. There are many restrictions because we are in the City of Bradenton.

Next year will be a bit different with our pastors away on a 3 month Sabbatical. We will all benefit from this experience because we will be encouraged to visit other churches and bring back the good, the bad and maybe even the ugly to see if Faith UCC might benefit from new ideas. When Brian and Judy return we will begin Dreams and Visions II. There will be a small committee to interview and select a person to fill in during the sabbatical for Sunday worship, office time, and on call in case of an emergency. In closing I would like to thank Council members Richard Dilts, Babs Brownell, Robin Wentz, Denny Wetter, Marge Critelli, Donna Blakey, Marge Hooie, Sheryl Overheid-Smith, and Debra D'Angelo and also Fred Damianos as Chair of PRC for serving in 2017. We had great enthusiasm, wonderful interaction and meaningful discussions.

Thank you all for all your help in making 2017 a terrific year at Faith UCC. I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2018.

**Judy**

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Join us Sunday, January 28,  
after service for the Annual  
Congregational Meeting.**

### 2018 PLEDGE DRIVE

The 2018 Pledge Drive has been well received. If you have returned your pledge, thank you. If you have not returned your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. The Finance Committee would like to present a balanced budget and with your help it could be possible.

**Your Finance Committee**

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

**Dear Friends in Faith,**

As I write, it is Christmas Eve and a good time to reflect on one's many blessings. For me and for Brian, top on that list is you! It is such a joy and an honor to be in ministry together with you. We thank you for being a part of this dear, faithful, lively spiritual community. And we offer a special, heartfelt thank you as well for your generous Christmas gift to us. You humble us with your

incredible generosity. Please know it will be going right to our personal sabbatical account, and will really help with our travel expenses.

With gratitude, love and prayers for a blessed New Year.

*Judy and Brian  
Bagley-Bonner*

## ❖ Christmas Gatherings ❖



# 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

### Jan 7, 2018

- Flowers: Council
- Greeters: Council
- Scripture: Marge Hooie
- Ushers: Council
- Nursery: Babs Brownell
- Sunday school: Hatti Damianos and Earleen Nutting

### Jan 14, 2018

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

### Jan 21, 2018

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

### Jan 28, 2018

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

# This January

## WOMEN'S BREAKFAST SAT, JAN 6 AT 9AM

We will meet at Sage Biscuit located at 6656 **Cortez** Rd W, Bradenton, FL 34210, 941-405-4744. Please sign up if you would like to attend.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST SAT, JAN 6 AT 9AM

We will meet at D's Breakfast and Burgers, formerly Norma Rae's. D's is located at 423 10th Ave. W. Palmetto, FL 34221, 941-776-4524. Sign up on the bulletin board if you want to attend.

## DINNER AND DESSERT FRI, JAN 12 AT 6PM

Marge Kirchner will host the January Dinner and Dessert. We will meet up at the Sea Hut and then head to her home for dessert. We will also get to experience her Christmas village. The Sea Hut is located at 5611 US Hwy 19 N, Palmetto, FL 34221, 941-722-6255. Marge's address is: 216 51st St. Cir E, Palmetto, FL 34221, 941-729-6435. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

## 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**

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS 3

## Winter Adult Study

Sunday Mornings at 9 AM we will view and study **Christianity: The First 2000 Years**, an A&E documentary, to greater understand how we have the faith we have today. Each episode will feature an important period of time and will reveal the struggles and victories of each. Come and learn about Christians throughout the centuries. A weekday evening study is a possibility if there is interest. The Study starts Jan. 7 and will run through Feb. 11.

## New Beginnings and New Faces

2018 brings us a brand new blank slate. What is it God will call us to do in this New Year? The possibilities are limited only by our own minds. It is clear that the world still needs the light and love of Christ. So many still suffer and hunger and struggle. But Christmas reminds us that Christ comes in the most difficult times and though sometimes the work is slow, that in the end of the Love of God will conquer all division and injustice. Hallelujah.

We have welcomed many new folks this past year and look forward to meeting even more during season. Take some time to introduce yourself to those you don't recognize on Sunday. Some may already be members. One of the hopes for early in 2018 is to take pictures of all those not in our picture directory and add a page so people are able to connect names and faces.

Some of us will be making new beginnings elsewhere in 2018. Jack and Marge Critelli are planning to move near Jack's daughter up north a bit and so will be selling their house and preparing for that transition. Marge has been a member, choir member and church leader for many years and we will miss her (and Jack) a great deal. Dick and Sue Card are not yet sure where Dick will be receiving treatment for his brain tumor, but we ask God to guide and direct them to the best place. No matter where they end up, our prayers and love will not cease!

Whatever 2018 will bring, we pray God will lead us to greater wholeness and faithfulness in our individual lives and the life of Faith United Church of Christ.

## 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. See Marge Hooie.

### Rummage Sale

Please save your items for an upcoming Spring Rummage Sale. A specific date will be determined soon.



# SOCIAL ACTION & MISSIONS

Babs Brownell and the SAM team

## FOOD BANK

In **January**, we are collecting **Pet Food** (cat and dog/canned or dry) for the food bank.

## 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 January, that is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>.

▶ **The director asked if we could please support them further in collecting deodorant (for men and women) and men's clothing.** We meet from 6:30-8 PM. It is a fun and rewarding time. 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).

## FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach, Director

Greetings from Faith Preschool.....  
We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends.

Our "Pancake Breakfast with Santa" at Applebee's was a wonderful success! The children really enjoyed seeing Santa and it was so nice to see so many families from the past and present come out and join us.

The children did a wonderful job performing for their families at our preschool holiday program. It was a



joy to see their smiling faces on stage.

The teachers and I are kicking off the New Year by attending the Conscious Discipline Workshop on January 4th and 5th. We look forward to learning new skills and furthering our knowledge in early childhood development. We want to wish everyone a Happy New Year!



Left to Right  
Nikki (PreK), Gina (PreK) Wendi (Director), Jen (3's), Teri (3's), Tina (2's & 3's), June (2's)



Talented Nikki, handmade this sign for the Christmas Performance.

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Faith United Church of Christ December 11, 2017

Present: Rev. Brian Bagley-Bonner, Judy Wetter, Denny Wetter, Richard Dilts, Barbara Brownell, Marge Critelli, Sheryl Overheidt-Smith, Donna Blakey, and Marge Hooie.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM followed by a prayer by Pastor Brian.

Donna Blakey moved to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2017 Council meeting. Richard Dilts seconded the motion and it carried. Donna reported that the total deposits for November totaled \$12,958.32. Tellabration receipts (before expenses) wash \$1,345.00, expenses were \$285.00. Marge Critelli moved to accept the Financial Secretary Report the motion was seconded by Denny Wetter and carried.

After a discussion led by Marge Critelli, Treasurer Barbara Brownell made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report, the motion was seconded by Richard Dilts and carried.

Pastor Brian reported that Pastor Judy is looking for a book for a Spring Book Study. He also mentioned there is more interest in joining the church.

Denny Wetter reported to the Council on the ongoing issue with the building settling. He met with the company that is going to do work to

stabilize the area in question.

Judy reported that the Music Committee interviewed one candidate but the Committee did not feel it was a good match. The committee will start again in January.

A discussion was held about a possible second service during Lent. Nothing was decided and it was tabled until the next meeting.

Stewardship reported that at present there are 19 pledges in.

Per vote last month the meeting in January will begin at 6:30 instead of 7:00 on a trial basis.

Next month Fred Damianos, Chair of the Pastoral Relations Committee will be attending the Council meeting to help with the evaluation of the Pastors.

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 28 immediately following worship.

#### New Business

A motion was made to pay \$100 for booth rental for the Manatee Pride Fest to be held on March 17, 2017 by Marge Critelli seconded by Barbara Brownell and the motion passed.

A discussion was held to have a meal with the Apostolic Church to repay their invitation to their Thanksgiving meal. Perhaps Worship

on the Beach in April would be an opportunity to do this.

Barbara Brownell made a motion to reserve the pavilion in the same location as last time. The motion was seconded and carried.

A discussion was held on Sabbatical coverage and how interview and hire a substitute.

#### Team Reports

Sheryl Overheidt-Smith reported on all of the activities coming up in the next few months.

Social Action & Missions report was given by Barbara Brownell. The Committee will be returning the extra Disaster Bucket money to the Conference. She also reported on the grant application process.

Faith Care Team will have a meeting in the near future.

On January 7 Council Members participating in the worship service are Marge Hooie – Scripture; Marge Critelli and Judy Wetter – Communion

Pastor Brian led the Council in prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

**NAME:** Ronald Serfass

**PHONE:** (404)-513-7850

**How long have you lived in the area?**

3 yrs

**Where did you live prior to moving to Bradenton?**

Duluth, GA

**Retired?** Partially

**Prior occupation?** Right now I work my own online business.



**Why did you pick Faith UCC?**

Because it's local and I saw the rainbow on the street sign.

**Any hobbies?** Art, writing and keyboard

# Your Staff

## Pastors

Rev. Brian and  
Rev. Judy  
Bagley-Bonner



(with Janie)

Cell:  
941-718-3132

## PASTORS' OFFICE HOURS

Monday 10 am - 1 pm  
Tuesday 9:30am – 12:30pm  
(also available 6-6:30pm)  
Wednesday 9:30am- 12:30pm  
Thursday 6:00pm -7:00pm

Other times by appointment  
\*3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at UCC meetings

## Office Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY  
9 AM - 12 PM  
746-8890  
Fax 746-0670

## Secretary

Faith Quici

Faith UCC Email:  
faithchurchucc@verizon.net

Faith Website:  
faithchurchucc.com

# Prayer Team

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



|                                    |                                     |                                       |  |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Janis Groth</b><br>941.779.6988 | <b>Marge Hooie</b><br>941. 447.4193 | <b>Helen Nutting</b><br>941. 747.2734 | <b>Sheryl Overheid-Smith</b><br>941.776.5589 | <b>Joan Sheehan</b><br>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)

# Church Council

2018 Church Council Nominations are happening now. Please see Richard Dilts if you are interested in joining our church council.

## THANK YOU!

I wanted to truly thank everyone who contributed to the Christmas Love Offering. Your generosity really touched me and is such a blessing at Christmas time. Thank you all so much!

Love,  
~ Faith



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



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

# January 2018

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY                                      | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|
|   | <b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day – Church Office is Closed</b>   | <b>2</b> 6:30pm Downtown Ministries                                 | <b>3</b> 7:00pm BAC<br><br><b>Pastors return from Vacation</b> | <b>4</b> <b>7:15pm NA</b><br>7:15pm Nar-Anon  | <b>5</b> 7:15pm NA<br>7:30pm BAC                                | <b>6</b> <b>9am Women's Breakfast Sage Biscuit- Cortez</b><br>9am Men's Breakfast at D's formerly Norma Rae's<br><b>10am NA &amp; Nar-Anon</b> |
| <b>7</b> 9am Book Study<br>10:30am Service<br><br><b>Communion</b><br><br>1:30pm BAC<br><b>7:15pm NA</b>                                | <b>8</b> 6pm Harbour Walk HOA*<br><br><b>6:30pm</b> Church Council Mtg<br><br><b>Preschool Resumes</b> | <b>9</b> 4pm Building and Grounds Work Day<br><br>6pm Cottages HOA* | <b>10</b> 10:30am Support Group<br><br>7:00pm BAC              | <b>11</b> <b>7:15pm NA</b><br>7:15pm Nar-Anon | <b>12</b> 6pm Dinner and Dessert<br><br>7:15pm NA<br>7:30pm BAC | <b>13</b> 10am NA & Nar-Anon   |
| <b>14</b> 9am Book Study<br>10:30am Service<br><b>1:30pm BAC</b><br><b>7:15pm NA</b>  | <b>15</b> <b>Martin Luther King Day</b><br><br><b>No Preschool</b><br><br><b>Annual Reports Due!</b>   | <b>16</b> 11:30am Prayer Team Mtg<br><br>6:30pm Downtown Ministries | <b>17</b> 10:30am Support Group<br><br>7:00pm BAC              | <b>18</b> <b>7:15pm NA</b><br>7:15pm Nar-Anon | <b>19</b> 7:15pm NA<br>7:30pm BAC                               | <b>20</b> 10am NA & Nar-Anon   |
| <b>21</b> 9am Book Study<br>10:30am Service<br><b>1:30pm BAC</b><br><b>7:15pm NA</b>  | <b>22</b> <b>Follower Deadline</b><br><br>7pm BR HOA   | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b> 10:30am Support Group<br><br>7:00pm BAC              | <b>25</b> <b>7:15pm NA</b><br>7:15pm Nar-Anon | <b>26</b> 7:15pm NA<br>7:30pm BAC                               | <b>27</b> 10am NA & Nar-Anon   |
| <b>28</b> 9am Book Study<br>10:30am Service<br><b>Annual Congregational Meeting after service</b><br><br>1:30pm BAC<br><b>7:15pm NA</b> | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>   | <b>31</b> 10:30am Support Group<br><br>7:00pm BAC              |   |   |  |



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

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

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

## HEADS UP!

Manatee Pride Fest  
 March 17, 2017



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

**JANUARY 2018**

## The Vision of Faith United Church of Christ

- In our worship, we are an inclusive community, a family of faith, which through prayer, song, the sacraments and liturgy seeks to feel closer to God, to praise God, to give thanks to God, and to seek forgiveness from God in order to grow in discipleship.
- In our Christian Education, we seek to develop a community of people with a mature Christian faith; meaning a faith which leads us to care for others, that opens our hearts to service, an evolving faith that is the product of critical thinking and questioning. Our education is for all ages and is conducted in places inside the church and out.
- In our missions, we seek to share the excitement of our Christian faith without judging others. In our missions, we seek to take our faith and beliefs from the inside out, and know that our missions require that we must also bring the outside in. We take Christ's admonition—to go forth and share the good news—as our own, which we strive to do in word and deed both locally and globally.

Visit Faith's website at [www.faithchurchucc.com](http://www.faithchurchucc.com)