

FAITHFUL follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



June 2016

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

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PER CAPITA 2016

Per Capita is a yearly commitment to the conference. The cost is \$14.50 per member.

Our goal is to be 100% paid up this year. Thank you for your prompt attention to this conference responsibility. Your statement will show if you have paid for this year.

Judy, Financial Secretary

From Your Moderator

Members and Friends,

As we look around the church, we see several changes for the summer. We have some new people worshiping with us. We also have a few more children coming forward for the Children's Sermon. Most of our regular choir has gone north for the summer. Our Melody Choir seems to enjoy singing for us on Sunday mornings and we are enjoying some different music.

One May 29 our Pastors, Brian and Judy, will leave for vacation. We will be led in worship by our own Blu Glavin on June 5 and by a former pastor, Donna Papenhausen, on June 12.

If you need a pastor or someone to

help you, please call the office at 746-8890 or the moderator at 447-4193, and we will be glad to help you. Our pastors return from vacation on June 18.

Please check the bulletin board in the Narthex for all activities. If you would like to host something or help with anything, please sign up. Also sign up if you plan to attend so we know how many to expect.

A special thank you to all who have volunteered to help with the worship service or any other activity. Have a great summer!

Marge Hooie
Moderator

A Preschool Note

Wendi Steinbach, Director

Our "Moving On" Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 25th. The children will perform on stage for their families, and our graduates will receive their diplomas. Following the performance we will have a potluck luncheon. Our last day of preschool for the 2015/2016 school year will be Friday, May 27th. We will say goodbye to nine of our students who are moving on

to kindergarten. We wish them much success! We still have some openings in our T/TH class, so if you know of anyone looking for a quality, part-time preschool program for their child, please have them call me at 746-7895 or email me at faithpreschool1@verizon.net.

Have a wonderful summer!

ONECO FLORIST /// 941.756.1556

When ordering flowers through the church, please sign up on the Flower Chart. Flowers orders are \$25 this year. 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.**

SOCIAL ACTION & MISSIONS

In the month of **JUNE**, we are collecting **RICE** for the food bank

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Brian and Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner

The Teacher: Unfamiliarity

Jude and I have been watching videos about the places we will go on our upcoming 35th Anniversary trip. We are going to Honfleur in France for one day and were excited to see a video called "Week-end à Honfleur," so we watched it. It was from the French version of the *Today Show* - a group of happy people all talking together. Having taken French in High School, I caught about every 20th word or so. The pictures they showed helped us understand a bit. I was suddenly quite fluent, however, when the camera crew showed the Boulangerie (Bakery). I understood every word as I gazed upon rich and creamy French baked goods. But after a while of watching I became aware of how hard it was to not understand what was being said.

As a person of privilege in this country, I usually know what is going on, or at the very least, I understand what is being discussed. But sometimes when I go to a Hispanic barber or store in my neighborhood and I am the only one not speaking Spanish, I feel uncomfortable, like I did at the end of the French video. Being the foreign one is weird and uncomfortable, but occasionally it is a good exercise because it reminds me of some important things:

1) **God's world does not center around me or even my culture.** All over the world there are billions of

people that live very different lives, with very different languages, in very different cultures. God loves each person, and even appreciates each culture because it is an outgrowth of human creativity. God, of course, calls individuals and cultures to task when they mistreat others or themselves, but at the base, each and every culture can and does glorify God.

2) **My language and culture, with their gifts and their challenges, shape who I am.** When I have watched recent debates, I have observed the way questions are asked often limit the possible answers. Like Sunday's Sermon where we switched our question from "Where is God's Spirit?" to the better, "Where isn't God's Spirit?" (answer: Nowhere!), it is important for us to remember that our brains are sometimes limited by our language or our cultural experience. There is much wisdom in the phrase, "We don't know, what we don't know."

And so, dear friends, as we prepare to part for other cultures, pray for us (especially for my driving on the other side of the road) and pray we may be open to all God can teach us when we are the foreigners.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian

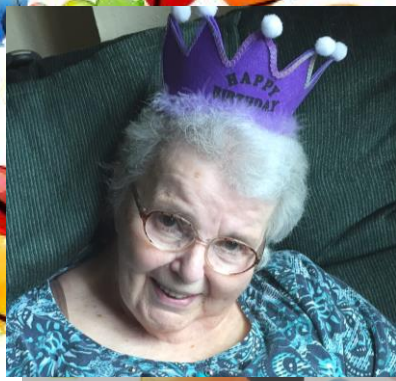
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

January - April 2016

Total Income: 56,636.14

Total Expense 49,248.09

Happy 90th
Birthday
Carol
Chamberlain!



WORSHIP WITH US

2

JUNE 5, 2016

Flowers: Communion Flowers
Greeters: Council
Scripture: Marge Hooie
Ushers: Council
Nursery: Amy Testa
Guest: Blu Glavin (bio below)

JUNE 12, 2016

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

JUNE 19, 2016

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

JUNE 26, 2016

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

BIO: Blu (Marilyn) Glavin has been worshipping with us since last August. She retired from pastoral ministry in 2013, having served several small churches in Maine. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Bangor Theological Seminary in 2004 and was named Minister Emerita upon her retirement by Second Congregational Church in Biddeford, Maine.

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.

Mark Your Calendars

BREAKFAST BUNCH

SAT. June 4

During the summer the men and women go to breakfast together. This month we are meeting at 9am at the downtown Peaches (3201 Manatee Ave W.).

POTLUCK

SUN. June 12

If you would like to host June's potluck, please sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office by May 31.

DINNER & DESSERT

6pm FRI. June 24

Thank you Blu Glavin for volunteering to host the Dinner and Dessert this month. We will meet at 6pm on June 24 at Ortygia. Ortygia is a Sicilian themed restaurant located in the Village of the Arts at 1418 13th Street West, Bradenton FL 34205.

Children's Ministry Team

If you have a heart for children then consider joining the Children's Ministry Team. It's so easy to sign up. Please contact Babs Brownell if you would like more information about this purposeful and rewarding ministry.

Call: 941.747.9643

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

3

Melody Choir

The Melody Choir is having a great time. Anyone is invited to come as we sing familiar songs. You don't have to read music. We don't even look at it, as we mostly just sing the melody. We are currently practicing on Thursdays at 7pm, but are open to changing dates depending on what the participants find is best.

Strengthen The Church

Strengthen The Church, is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, It largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the "church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking," message. We will have the opportunity to give to this important offering on June 26th.

A Great Opportunity!

Dr. Gary Rosenfeld has developed a very helpful couple's communication program that he has taught at the University Life Long Academy. He graciously has offered to do it here at Faith as both an outreach to the community and as a growth opportunity for us in the congregation. Below is a description of the program and a little bit about Gary.

IMPROVING YOUR RELATIONSHIP

Do you sometimes feel inadequate when trying to communicate with your partner, or have you ever been accused of being too forceful? Relationships are built or broken down every day based on communication skills. Being able to ask for what you need without being demanding, to be a good listener even when you have heard it all before, and to learn the skills of assertiveness will all be approached in this class. **(This is NOT a religious program)** This four week program will use lecture, demonstrations, role play and power point to help you communicate more effectively with your spouse or partner and help create a more successful relationship. This four week class will start on July 7 and will end on July 28.

PRESENTER: Dr. Gary Rosenfeld has maintained a private therapy practice in Florida for forty-five years and has taught in adult education classes at several Broward County (FL) schools. He was also an adjunct professor in the Masters Program in Psychology at St. Thomas University (Miami) and at Nova Southeastern University (Ft. Lauderdale). He has a Ph.D. (Southwest University) in Counseling Psychology, an M.S. (Nova University) in counseling psychology, and a B.S. (Columbia University) in pharmacy.

Spiritual Exercise 101



Recently, I was presented with the opportunity to grow my spiritual self. It was suggested to me by a fellow UCC-er that I consider participating in a social justice event, which could help me grow my spiritual self. Once I clarified there would be no heavy lifting, moving or sweating involved, I agreed. To date, this fellow UCC-er has never led me astray, and, while we differ on some things, she has been most helpful in stretching my spiritual awareness.

The social justice mission I chose to accept was to participate in a peaceful organized protest outside a Wendy's restaurant in Sarasota, to support local migrant farm workers and boycott tomatoes or something along those lines. When I arrived, I was armed with a small flag that said something in Spanish, and a handful of printed cards that explained the boycott of Wendy's and the larger social issue at hand. I was instructed to hand out the cards to passing motorists and just say "it's a human rights issue." No problem, I can do that: I am a human and i'm usually always right.

For the record, I have never eaten at Wendy's, I don't speak Spanish, and quite frankly, I don't like tomatoes. However, my two spiritual guides for this social mission were quick to remind me, it's not about me (curses!). It's about helping the oppressed, supporting community, and a family of one under God. I admit, Pastor Brian did attempt to soften my attitude with frozen yogurt before the start of the march but I resisted. I had doubts as to what purpose I had there. We marched and chanted songs of protest for just about an hour, under the same harsh rays of the sun that migrant workers are only too familiar with.

In the end, I did sweat a little, but it was worth it. I still do not understand Spanish nor like tomatoes but my spiritual self bursts with satisfaction. After arriving back at UCC, I realized my two spiritual guides had helped me 'exercise' my soul and grow in the Holy Spirit. They even sparked many of my dormant brain cells with deep discussion on the merits of "Breaking Bad" (if any), Seinfeld

(also questionable), and the passing of Prince (of Minnesota?). We discussed the goodness of God's earth, a plentiful bounty of which we must be good stewards. I learned of growing herbs and how to celebrate the flavor of food with spices from around the globe. In addition, I rejoiced for the gift of grains (to be able to bake Babka!). And finally, identified what a wonderful animal God created in the Cow -- that it gives BOTH ice cream and yogurt!!

Yesterday, I served others and received back so much more. Today is a new day. God woke me up and for that I am grateful. I still do not speak Spanish but now I know a family that does, and I have an open invitation to learn. I am constantly amazed by my God, who continues to lead me on His path and surrounds me with the teachers I need to help grow my spirit.

In Peace,
DONNA RUSCH



In Memorial Katie Leonard

January 22, 1975 - April 4, 2016

Thank you for all those who showed their love and support as we celebrated Katie Leonard's life. Please keep Jeff and all those who miss Katie in your prayers.



Congrats!

Everyone, meet
Branson,
Donna Rusch's
first grandson!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Faith United Church of Christ /// May 9, 2016

Present: Debra D'Angelo, Denny and Judy Wetter, Marge Hooie, Barbara Brownell Jim Willard, Linda Anderson, Pastor Brian, Richard Dilts, and Faith Quici.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 with a prayer from Pastor Brian.

A motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting was made by Judy Wetter and 2nd by Deb D'Angelo. Motion was carried unanimously.

Financial Secretary's Report: Judy reported that a total of \$8,874.69 was deposited to the operating account, Bank of America, \$275.00 to the Bank of the Ozarks, building for the future account and \$282.75 to the Bank of the Ozarks, pass through account for a total of \$9,432.44 for the month of April. She also stated that \$3500.00 was borrowed from the building for the future account to make payroll. This was due to cash flow and timing of bills.

Treasurer's Report: Jim is becoming more familiar with quick books and all the quarterly federal accounts have been sent.

Pastor's Report: New choir started Sunday. New Sunday bible study is moving along. The pastors are preparing for their trip. Possible future study on relationship of gay men and women in the church. Gary has agreed to do a couples communication class. July 5th Jude will be starting her orientation for Tidewell which will be 6 weeks long.

Secretary's Report: Faith asked if we are canceling the May dinner

and dessert due to no volunteers. It was decided to cancel it. Wendi said the preschool classroom was not cleaned over the weekend. This was the third incidence. The other two were a matter of timing: they came during the preschool auction and during service one Sunday. Faith will call the supervisor and then follow up with a letter.

Old Business: Final numbers for the crop walk are in. In 2015 we had 8 walkers and raised \$497.00 and in 2016 we had 7 walkers and raised \$662.00. The count raised a total of \$25691.51 in 2015 and \$23142.16 in 2016.

The women's breakfast had 13 attend. Linda had suggestion of an activity- dinner and a play. Marge said that they may decide to get the women's group back.

Judy said the Inlet hadn't paid for the use of the building for a few months so Faith sent them a notice and sent one to Braden River also (they have never been charged for the use of the building). Braden River paid but still waiting on the Inlet.

Music committee- Judy said that so far only one person has volunteered to serve and that is Blu.

New Business: Rainbow seniors committee will be meeting Friday to discuss ways to reach out to older gays /lesbians in the area.

Pastor Brian said that the rabbi and a few others from Temple Beth El in Bradenton came to talk to him. They are interested in using the church

one Friday a month for their contemporary service in order to attract Lakewood Ranch people. Babs motioned to welcome them one Friday night a month at the rate of \$25.00 for classroom and Narthex and \$75.00 for sanctuary and they must provide proof of insurance. Judy 2nd the motion which was carried unanimously.

Babs then motioned that updated schedule of fees be accepted. This was second by Jim and was unanimously accepted. Babs also motioned that the money from the rent to the Temple be put into the Building for the future account. This was seconded by Deb and carried unanimously.

Departments: Building and Grounds: Denny's full report can be found in the church office. He has updated and corrected the records for the memorial garden. All issues with the insurance company and everything should be settled soon.

SAM: Strengthen the Church will be in June.

Worship: Richard reported that Blu would like traditional communion in June. Judy, Richard, Linda and Denny will serve communion, Marge volunteered to do the children's service and Babs will read the scripture.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 with a prayer given by Barbara Brownell.

Respectfully submitted by,
Linda Anderson.

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

**3rd 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
941.447.4193

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

2016 Church Council

Moderator:

Marge Hooie 447-4193

Building & Grounds:

Denny Wetter 755-4583

Deputy Moderator:

Barbara Brownell 747-9643

Community Outreach:

Deb D'Angelo 610-704-4049

Secretary:

Linda Anderson 704-8772

Social Action & Missions:

Robin Wentz 758-6575

Treasurer:

Jim Williard 531-4559

Worship Team Leader:

Richard Dilts 776-7293

Financial Secretary:

Judy Wetter 755-4583

OPEN POSITIONS:

Christian Education: OPEN

Fellowship & Events: OPEN

Faith Care Team: OPEN



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



www.faithchurchucc.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00pm BAC	2 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	3 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	4 9am Breakfast Bunch 10am NA & Nar-Anon
5 10:30am Service Communion Guest: Blu Glavin 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	6 .	7	8 7:00pm BAC	9 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	10 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	11 10am NA & Nar-Anon
12 10:30am Service Potluck Guest: Donna Papenhausen 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	13 7pm Church Council Mtg	14 Building and Grounds Work Day 4pm	15 7:00pm BAC	16 7pm Choir 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	17 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC Follower Reminder	18 10am NA & Nar-Anon
19 10:30am Service Pastor Brian and Judy are back 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	20 7pm BR HOA Follower Deadline	21 11:30am Prayer Mtg	22 7:00pm BAC	23 7pm Choir 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	24 6pm Dinner and Dessert – hosted by Blu Glavin at Ortygia 7:30pm BAC 7:15pm NA	25 10am NA & Nar-Anon St. Pete Pride Parade
26 10:30am Service 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	27 7pm INT HOA	28	29 7:00pm BAC	30 7pm Choir 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon		

- **BAC:** Bradenton Apostolic Church – We church share with Pastor Ramon and his congregation.
- Monthly Prayer Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday at Freedom Village at 11:30am.
- Our Monthly **Potluck** is every 2nd Sunday after service when someone has agreed to host. Subject to change on special occasions.
- **Dinner and Dessert** is every 3rd Friday at 6pm when someone signs up to host.
- **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)** meets each week, and so does the **Nar- Anon group**, for family members and friends affected by those with drug addictions. If interested in these meetings, please call the NA hotline at 941.257.5055.
- We have local neighborhood Home Owner Associations (**HOA's**) who meet here monthly (Braden River and Inlets).

HAPPY
Birthday

Larry Taylor 6/11
Linda Anderson 6/12
Bridget Sessions 6/16
Reilly Nutting 6/17
Herb Nobles 6/20
Mary Lou Williams 6/29



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

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