

# FAITHFUL follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



May 2017

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

Informational  
congregation  
meeting  
Sunday, May 7,  
after the  
service

## IN THIS ISSUE

- o From Your Moderator pg 1
- o From the Pastor's Desk pg 2
- o Church Happenings pg 3
- o Easter Photos pg 4
- o Financial Snapshot pg 4
- o Council Meeting Minutes pg 5
- o Church Contacts pg 6
- o May Calendar pg 8

## From Your Moderator

By now you have all received your letter concerning the Faith-Full Music Campaign. The Music Committee and the Church Council are excited to be able to move forward with the second most important vision brought forward during the Dreams and Visions process. We strongly feel it is time to take this next step and hire a Music Leader who will lead the congregation and our musical groups. There will be an informational congregation meeting May 7 immediately following worship to answer questions. We will also be discussing a recent safety audit with the Bradenton police, the Weaver bequest, a new sign

and problems with the foundation in the new section of the church. A huge thank you to all who helped with our Spring clean-up day, we had a great crew working hard to "spruce" up the church. Our friends from the Apostolic congregation did a wonderful job trimming trees and palms around the building and also helped with the cleaning. Work is so much more fun and gets done so much quicker when there are many hands to help out. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Judy

## FAITH ★ PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach, Director

Faith Preschool's "School Wide Art Show & Silent Auction" is Tuesday, April 25, 2017 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Come out and enjoy the children's art on display, finger foods and participate in our silent auction fundraiser. The silent auction will end promptly at 7:15 PM. Some of the items donated to our silent auction are:

### \*A weekend getaway to Anna Maria Beach:

Stay at a beautiful four bedroom house - June 9 - 11, 2017. Check out VRBO.com #918523 for photos and more details! [\(click here to see virtual tour\)](#)

\*Mar Vista Dockside Restaurant Basket with a \$50.00 Gift Card

\*TreeUmph! Adventure Course - 2 Adult Tickets

\*Publix - \$50.00 Gift Card

\*Target - \$25.00 Gift Card

\*Michaels - \$25.00 Gift Card

- \*MOSI Museum & IMAX Theatre - 2 Tickets
- \*PDQ - \$25.00 Gift Card
- \*Sam's - \$50.00 Gift Card
- \*Subway - (2) \$10.00 Gift Cards
- \*Marina's - \$20.00 Gift Certificate
- \*Wolves Head - \$25.00 Gift Certificate (2)
- \*Florida Studio Theatre - 2 tickets
- \*Flair Salon - \$25.00 Gift Certificate
- \*Me Too Salon with Melly Spaulding - \$100.00 Gift Certificate
- \*Terra Ceia Bay Golf Course - 2 Rounds of Golf with a cart (2)
- \*South Florida Museum - 4 Tickets
- \*Ringling Museum - 2 tickets
- \*KUMON Gift Basket
- \*Bradenton Marauders - 4 tickets, autographed item and promotional gear
- \*Date Night Basket with a \$25.00 gift card to Bonefish\*\*
- \*A variety of gift baskets

We appreciate everyone's help in making our fundraiser a success!



## THANK YOU!

We would like to truly thank the anonymous donor for the new stove in the kitchen and apologize for the lateness of this sincere thank you.



# THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear People of Faith,

It is now the time of year when we say goodbye to our snowbirds. I will be a partial Snowbird myself this summer, spending a couple chunks of time in Ohio, one early in the summer, and one late. (Brian will remain here as your full-time pastor.) Snowbird departure is always sad for all of us, for a couple of reasons. First of all, no matter which end you are on, leaver or leav-ee, we will miss our dear friends very much. Whenever we take leave of a loved one, there is sadness. Yet we must remember that the Holy Spirit still holds us together. As Brian says, "the Holy Spirit was the first World Wide Web." Indeed, we are bound by the ties of faith and love. It helps to pray for each other in absence. Try it! You will feel closer to the people you are praying for!

The second reason we hate to see the snowbirds fly north is because our numbers in worship decline. While we dearly love each of you who remain, it can at times be disheartening to stand in the chancel and see a thin crowd. I would ask that you full-time residents make a particular effort to attend church during the summer. While each individual is precious

and appreciated, it is also good for all of us to have as robust a version of the Body of Christ as possible on Sunday mornings.

On that note, think about inviting a friend or neighbor to church this summer! We have a rare and beautiful community at FAITH UCC, and one that could be a blessing to many more people than currently attend. We continue to work on church growth, but the most effective way for that to happen is enthusiastic word-of-mouth from parishioners who love our church. Do not be shy about telling others about our wonderful church. Some of you already do this, and we very much appreciate it. Let's all try to remember to reach out to friends and neighbors with the good news of a loving community of faith which welcomes everybody!

With love and appreciation for each and every one of you, bless be the ties that bind.

*Jude*

## 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.**

## NEED

We have a member in need of a portable commode for after surgery needs. If you have one to give or have one to sell, please contact the church office with the details. Thank you.



# 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

### May 7, 2017

Flowers: Council  
Greeters: Council  
Scripture: Marge Hooie  
Ushers: Council  
Nursery: Amy Testa  
Sunday school: Hatti Damianos

### May 14, 2017

Flowers: Available  
Greeters: Available  
Scripture: Available  
Ushers: Available  
Nursery: Babs Brownell  
Sunday school: Hatti Damianos

### May 21, 2017

Flowers: Marge Hooie  
Greeters: Available  
Scripture: Joan Sheehan  
Ushers: Available  
Nursery: Linda Anderson  
Sunday school: Hatti Damianos

### May 28, 2017

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

# Mark Your Calendars

## Church Women United Luncheon

10am, FRI. MAY. 5

The last meeting of the season will end with a luncheon. \$5 tickets must be purchased if you plan to attend the luncheon. Please see Marge Hooie as soon as possible for your ticket. We are meeting at Westminster Towers in Bradenton.

## Men's Breakfast

9am SAT. MAY 6

Norma Rae's in Palmetto. Sign up on the bulletin board.

## Women's Breakfast

9am FRI. MAY 6

We are meeting at Leon's House of Omelets located at 7246 55<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. Bradenton, FL 34203. We had a great time the last time, so we are repeating this location.

## Dinner and Dessert

6pm, FRI. MAY 19

Thank you Bob and Deb D'Angelo for hosting the May Dinner and Dessert. We are meeting at the Peridia Golf and Country Club for food and entertainment. The club is located at 4950 Peridia Blvd. E., Bradenton

## Children's Ministry

If you have a heart for children, then consider joining the Children's Ministry Team. We need help in the nursery and Sunday school.

Please contact Babs Brownell if you would like more information

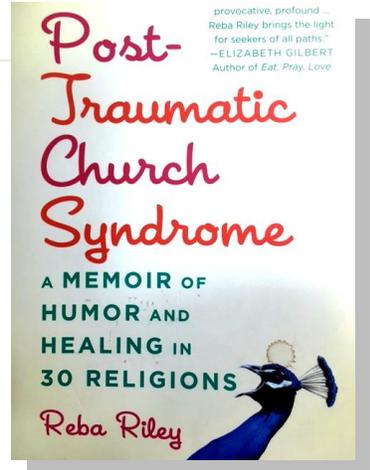
**Call: 941.747.9643**

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

3

## Book Study May – June

We will be reading Post Traumatic Church Syndrome by Reba Riley. Elizabeth Gilbert, author of Eat, Pray, Love says the book is "Hilarious, courageous, provocative, profound." The study will be Sunday morning at 9 am. We will add an evening group if there is enough interest. We have about 10 books available for free! Study begins May 21.



## Regular Prayer Services

Given that many in our congregation are experiencing health, pain and spiritual issues, we are going to start conducting a prayer service that will include quiet music, brief communal prayer, and the offer of individual prayer. We will meet monthly at **11am on the second Tuesday of the month and 6:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month.** The next prayer services will be at 11am on Tuesday, May 9 and 6:30pm on Tuesday, May 23. Anyone is welcome!

## Share Kindness through Cards

We have FREE CARDS available in the Narthex. These are various greeting cards that have been donated, sorted, and organized. They are available for you to send to members and friends to keep in touch and show your kindness. We are asking if anyone would like to donate extra cards WITH ENVELOPES to please bring them in and we will put them out for everyone's use. Please see Sheryl Overheidt Smith or Faith Quici if you have questions.

## Updating Our Records

If you have noticed that your address, phone number, email, birthday, or name has been omitted or is incorrect, please contact the church office. We would like to have our records up to date and correct. If you have a northern address that you would like updated, please let us know. Also, if you are a member who is missing a name tag, please let us know so we can get you a replacement. We can get you a replacement, which are \$8 each. Thank you for your cooperation. Call 941-746-8890 or email us at [faithchurchucc@verizon.net](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net).

## If Roses Grow in Heaven

*By Dolores M. Garcia*

If roses grow in heaven,  
Lord please pick a bunch for me,  
Place them in my Mother's arms  
and tell her they're from me.  
Tell her I love her and miss her,  
and when she turns to smile,  
place a kiss upon her cheek

and hold her for awhile.  
Because remembering her is easy,  
I do it every day,  
but there's an ache within my heart  
that will never go away.

**Mother's Day is May 14 when we  
celebrate and remember all  
mothers.**

# EASTER BLESSINGS



## 2017 PER CAPITA

Per Capita is an obligation we owe yearly to the conference. The cost is now \$15 per member this year. Thank you to those who have already paid. Our goal is to be 100% paid this year. Thank you for your prompt attention to this conference responsibility.



## SOCIAL ACTION & MISSIONS

Remember **FOOD BANK DONATIONS!** - In **MAY**, we are collecting **SOUPS AND STEWS** for the food bank. In MARCH we collected 125 pounds of baby food, baby cereal and baby formula. The next SAM meeting is Monday, May 15 at 7pm. You may also still give to One Great Hour of Sharing. Please indicate that on your giving envelope.

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Faith United Church of Christ /// April 10, 2017

In Attendance: Judy Wetter, Denny Wetter, Richard Dilts, Donna Blakey, Marge Critelli, Barbara Brownell, Sheryl Overheidt-Smith, Marge Hooie, Brian Bagley-Bonner, Judy Bagley-Bonner, Faith Quici

Moderator Judy Wetter brought the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Rev. Jude opened the meeting with a reading and prayer. Marge Critelli moved to accept the March Council Meeting Minutes as printed in the Follower; Marge Hooie seconded the motion; Minutes were accepted.

Financial Secretary Donna Blakey, reported on monthly contributions. She said March 19 was a low week and that March was a low month overall. Richard Dilts moved to accept her report and Denny Wetter seconded it; the financial secretary report was accepted.

Treasurer Marge Critelli, deposited \$6K to Bank of America for Arlene Smith to pay the staff and \$3K to act as a buffer to pay bills on time. She said that even though we are ahead of projected quarter end loss, we have been over budget by an average of \$1,374. Richard Dilts moved to accept her report and Denny Wetter seconded it; the financial secretary report was approved.

Pastors report: Rev. Brian said they have had many meetings with new people and have done quite a bit of pastoral care. The pastors are applying for a sabbatical grant to cover pulpit supply during their Sabbatical in 2018. Ellen King will be the guest pastor on Sunday, April 30. the river service there will be baptism and new naming ceremony for Jeff Felix. Bob, Pete and Dick will provide music for the service. There has been some nice headway with connecting with some of our new attendees.

Secretary Faith Quici, reported that the pens were ordered and will be here next week. She contacted Frontier several times but didn't connect with the sales person who quoted her the price. She will call again and speak to a different agent to get this moving and start saving money. The carpets were successfully cleaned by Quality Counts. The calendar was presented and updated for April and May.

Old Business:

Building Repairs: Denny reported that the south corner of the new wing is sinking, especially in Mrs. Gina's

preschool classroom. He will schedule a meeting with a structural engineer and contact the church insurance company. Safety Report: We met with the police department and they did a safety audit. The 20 point report is located in the church office. It discusses different ways we can make our building safe for all who use it and suggestions for action to take in times of emergency. A security checklist will be made by Building and grounds.

Pride Festival: The cost/benefit ratio was discussed. We are not going to participate in St. Pete Pride, instead stick with the local Manatee Pride event to reach people in our area. There was some follow up with interested individuals from the festival last month.

Junk in the Trunk: Richard Dilts reported it was a fun time and would be worth having again. Babs suggested we give more time for advertising it and have it again in the fall or whenever the Braden River development has theirs again.

Lent: Most of the readings have been taken care of for Maundy Thursday service. Easter will have the specialties of lilies, flower cross, egg hunt and hospitality.

Emerson Point Worship Service is Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> with a picnic potluck afterwards. Rev. Brian will grill hotdogs. Worship will take place in the large pavilion by the mounds. Directions are located on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Outdoor signage will be provided.

Music Committee is sending a letter out to the congregation with their recommendations for fulfilling the dreams and visions in the music area for the church. There will be an informational congregational meeting the first Sunday in May after the service to discuss the church music and other subjects.

The Holocaust Museum trip has some interest and a group will leave the church grounds at 10am on Monday, April 24. The museum is open from 10am-6pm with a service at 5:30pm.

New Sign: Judy Wetter will get quotes for a new electronic sign and bring them to the next meeting. Our sign is one of the most important and best located advertising tool for the church. It was suggested some of the Weaver gift be used to pay for it.

The pastor contract was updated, reviewed and revised. Babs made a

motion to accept the new signed contract with corrections and that it should be sent to the conference right away. Denny Wetter seconded the motion and the council approved it. Building and Grounds leader Denny Wetter, reported on the building repairs and suggested improvements. A copy of his report is located in the office. He said the Spring Clean was a success and the Apostolic Church members helped with landscaping needs. Church Events leader Sheryl Overheidt Smith, reminded us that Hospitality will be served on Easter after the service. The potluck is a picnic potluck. Peg O'Sullivan is hosting the April dinner and dessert at Beef O'Brady's in Parrish. The May women's breakfast will be at Leon's House of Omelets. She is looking for a host for the May dinner and dessert.

SAM met and they are a good group. OGHs has raised approximately \$600 so far and still collecting. Donna did a food bank presentation on April 2 and it was successful. Scholarships are low for meals on wheels and it was suggested we help them with the mission's money. SAM will develop a form with guild lines and procedures to provide grants to community non-profit organizations.. SAM would like the church to participate in a matching grant program to build disaster bucket kits and get the preschool involved too. Blanket Sunday will be in the fall and we already have the promo material and an example blanket to share. Marge Hooie reported that Faith Care team met and they will meet again Wed. April 12 at 10:30am in Brian's office. Everyone in the group is doing a fantastic job with sending cards and making phone calls. The Church Women United luncheon meeting is May 5. See Marge for \$5 tickets. She would like the congregation to join Church Women United in their "Least Coin" project. This will be announced at the river service on April 23. Pastor Brian prayed us out of the meeting at 9:30pm.

Submitted by:  
Faith Quici

# 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*  
*\*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](http://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  
(winter)  
269.673.6676  
(summer)

**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)

## 2017 Church Council

**Moderator:** Judy Wetter

**Faith Care Team:** Marge Hooie

**Deputy Moderator:** Richard Dilts

**Community Outreach:** Deb D'Angelo

**Secretary:** Robin Wentz

**Church Events & Fellowship:** Sheryl Overheidt Smith

**Financial Secretary:** Donna Blakey

**SAM:** Babs Brownell

**Treasurer:** Marge Critelli

**Building & Grounds:** Denny Wetter

**Worship Team:** Richard Dilts

**Christian Ed:** OPEN



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



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

# May 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div data-bbox="51 283 376 613" style="border: 2px solid orange; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center; color: white;"> <p><b>Informational congregation meeting</b> Sunday, May 7, after the service</p> </div>	1	2	3 7:00pm BAC	4 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	5 <b>Church Women United Meeting and Luncheon</b> tickets \$5 see Marge Hooie  7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	6 <b>9am Men's Breakfast- Norma Rae's</b>  <b>9am Women's Breakfast-Leon's House of Omelets</b>  10am NA & Nar-Anon
7 10:30am Service <u>Communion</u>  <i>Informational Congregational Meeting after service</i>  1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	8 7pm Church Council Mtg  7:30pm BR Watch Mtg.	9 <b>11am Prayer Service</b>  Building and Grounds Work Day 4pm	10 10:30am Faith Care Team Mtg.  7:00pm BAC	11 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon	12 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC  <b>Follower Reminder</b>	13 10am NA & Nar-Anon
14 <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>  10:30am Service  <b>1:30pm BAC</b> NA 7:15pm	15 <b>Follower Deadline</b>  7pm SAM meeting  7pm BR HOA	16 11:30am Prayer Mtg	17 7:00pm BAC	18 7:15pm NA 7:15pm Nar-Anon  <b>Jude going up north</b>	19 <b>6pm Dinner and Dessert</b>  7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	20 10am NA & Nar-Anon
21 10:30am Service <b>1:30pm BAC</b> NA 7:15pm	22 7pm INT HOA	23 6:30pm Prayer Service	24 <b>11:30am Preschool Moving On Ceremony</b>  7:00pm BAC	25 <b>7:15pm NA</b> 7:15pm Nar-Anon	26 7:15pm NA 7:30pm BAC	27 10am NA & Nar-Anon
28 10:30am Service 1:30pm BAC NA 7:15pm	29 <b>Memorial Day</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	30	31 7:00pm BAC	<h2>HAPPY BIRTHDAY!</h2> <p>5/5 Joan Sheehan 5/9 Bruce Covey 5/14 Linda Van Buskirk 5/18 Elwin Smith 5/20 Carol Chamberlain 5/23 Evelyn Anderson 5/26 Pete Groth</p>		

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

## Food Bank

For May we are collecting  
**Soups and Stews.**

**If you birthday was missed, please contact the church office so we can update our records. Thank you!**

REMEMBER there is an assortment of free cards in the Narthex, Take one to send or consider donating cards for others to use.



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