

▶ PHOTO DAY... PG 1

▶ PASTORS DESK ...2

▶ FROM YOUR MODERATOR... PG 3

▶ SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES ...PG 3

▶ FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT ... PG 4

▶ CHURCH HAPPENINGS ... PG 5

▶ PRESCHOOL CARNIVALPG 6

▶ COUNCIL MINUTES ... PG 7

▶ SOCIAL ACTION AND MISSION...PG. 8

▶ FEBRUARY CALENDAR ...PG. 9

Faithful follower

February 2015



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 25. We will vote on the 2015 budget, the co-pastor opportunity, and the 2015 Church Council.



Christmas Love Offering

Thanks to all who participated in the Love Offering for staff and Sunday Worship Volunteers!



I just wanted to say...
THANK YOU!

I am sending a big hug of gratitude to each and every one who has prayed me through this challenging surgery and rehabilitation. Thanks too for your many cards. The support of this wonderful church family means a great deal!!

M.R. Lembright

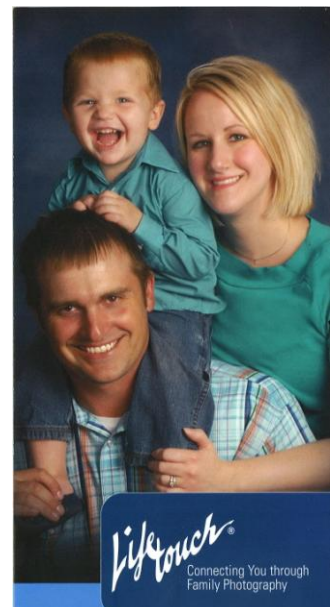
Smile!

Picture days are Tues and Wed, January 27 & 28 and we are looking for greeters.

As a greeter, you will welcome and hand out information to each person arriving to get their photo taken.

It's easy, fun, and a great way to meet everyone at church.

See Judy Wetter if interested in being a greeter or sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



From the Pastor's Desk

Rev Brian Bagley- Bonner

It's Time to Change Gears

This year, February is a time of changing gears here at Faith UCC. For one thing, we will move forward from our annual meeting with a new direction on how the role of Pastor will be performed. After an amazingly generous response to the annual stewardship campaign (you are AWWWEE- some), a new budget will push us to reach for the Dreams and Visions God has put in our hearts. February also starts Lent - a time of self-examination, intentional learning, and for some, intentional sacrifice (like giving up chocolate or TV for Lent). Take time this Lent to do something new and different for yourself. Attend the morning Adult Study before Church or the Thursday Night Prayer and Meditation Service. Let us seek to stretch our spiritual wings this Lent and grow together in the Grace of God.

I am very excited to have my wife, Rev. Jude Bagley-Bonner, now able to be a part of our worship on Sunday. And she is looking forward to involvement here at Faith, however that may look. Please check out her story, and you will begin to see the breadth of her experience and the many gifts she brings to Faith UCC!

A Brief Autobiography

Rev. Jude Bagley-Bonner



I am originally from Chagrin Falls, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. I was the youngest of five children. My father died when I was in kindergarten, and my mother remarried when I was in second grade. My step-father was a member of the UCC church in town, so I grew up going to the Catholic Church on Saturday night, and the UCC on Sunday morning.

In high school, I joined the UCC and was very involved in the large youth group. I began to consider my call to ministry at that time.

Brian and I met as students at Kent State University. After college, we moved to Minneapolis where I began seminary at United Theological. (Brian would have a first career in video production, and attend seminary several years later.) I was ordained in 1986 and became an Associate Minister at an urban church in Minneapolis. My work there centered on church growth. As that was a part time call, I also worked as a chemical dependency chaplain at Hazelden.

A few years later, after our son was born, we moved to a small town an

hour outside of Minneapolis where Brian and I were co-pastors for seven years. For the last few years of that, I did hospice chaplaincy for the hospital in town as well.

In 1999 we moved back to Ohio, where Brian served a church and I again combined chaplaincy with part time congregational work. For four years in Ohio as I served on the staff of a large UCC setting up small groups and providing spiritual growth programs. Most recently, I have been doing interim ministries, including a two year run in Ohio, and then a five month stint in Indian Rocks Beach.

After all this transition, I am very excited about the possibility of sinking roots into one faith community. I am also excited about the possibility of sharing ministry with my spouse again. We work well together, and I believe the congregation will find that the whole adds up to more than the sum of the parts.

I look forward to a long and happy relationship with Faith UCC

Jude

WORSHIP WITH US Sunday Volunteers

February 1, 2015

Message: Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner

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

February 8, 2015

Message: Rev. Brian Bagley-Bonner

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

February 15, 2015

Message: Rev. Brian Bagley-Bonner

Flowers: Available
Greeter: Available
Hospitality: Available
Scripture: Available
Ushers: Available
Nursery: Marge Hooie

February 22, 2015

Message: Rev. Brian Bagley-Bonner

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

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SERVERS

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.

From Your Moderator

Thank you all for your wonderful help with the auction. We did not make as much as I had hoped, but I believe it was a good time for everyone. There is nothing like a congregation working together toward a goal. The fellowship inspires us to move to bigger and better things.

The Annual Meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 25. Please plan to attend this very important meeting when a vote will be taken on the 2015 budget, your Church Council, and also on the proposal of co-pastors.

There has been ample opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns about the co-pastor proposal. Please keep in mind that there are no additional costs to this proposal. It is an opportunity for Brian and Jude to work with their strengths in a joint ministry, and it is a win-win for Faith UCC. As you

know Brian and Jude have had a very successful joint ministry before, so it is nothing new to them, **only to us**. We just need to have faith and trust in the pastors that this move will benefit everyone.

The #1 item during the Dreams and Vision process was to move Brian to full time status. The Finance Committee and the Church Council feel the time is now to fulfill our commitment and move him to full time. Due to the generous 2015 pledges, we feel strongly that it is a financially sound decision to make. There is a new life to Faith United Church of Christ, but there is a lot yet to be done. With Brian working full time, perhaps we can become the little church that could. We need a stronger presence in the community, with larger online and media opportunities, and we need to increase our membership. With a full time pastor we can do it, yes we can!

We are still working with Thornton's to fill in and smooth out the area damaged when the sign was moved and the trees were removed. They are also going to replace the fence. Hopefully, this will be done soon so we are completely done with the project.

I want to thank all of the 2015 Church Council members including Babs Brownell, M. R. Lembright, Sheryl Overheid-Smith, Fred Damianos, Richard Dilts, Robin Wentz, Marge Critelli, Marge Hooie, Deb D'Angelo, Linda Anderson, and Pastor Brian. They are dedicated, hardworking, and loyal to Faith Church, who want nothing but for the church to grow and prosper. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Moderator for the past two years. Thornton's just about did me in, but serving you was a real pleasure.

Judy

Services and Opportunities

Thursday Prayer and Meditation Service

Between 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm we will continue to have a service of quiet meditation and prayer. The service's purpose is to create an oasis of peace and calm and healing in the midst of our busy lives. Please feel free to come and take part, and we will continue to develop this service together to meet our spiritual needs.

Ash Wednesday

At 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 18, we will gather for a service of reflection and the imposition of ashes. This day marks the beginning of the season of Lent. There may also be a noon event; Pastor Brian is exploring the possibility of doing that off-site, perhaps near downtown or even on the River Walk. Stay tuned for more information on that.

Interfaith Dialogue Program

Our sister Church, Congregational UCC on 26th street has joined with two other congregations to present interfaith dialogue programs for Tuesday evenings in February. Starting at 7:30 pm, the format is a brief lecture followed by a question and answer period.

Here are the topics and locations:

| DATE | SUBJECT | LOCATION |
|--------|------------------------|---|
| Feb 3 | God | Congregational UCC 3700 26th St W |
| Feb 10 | Prejudice | St Joseph's Catholic Church 3100 26th St W |
| Feb 17 | Sin & Death | Temple Beth El 4200 32nd St W |

Financial Snapshot

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

** Above posted in last month's follower*



PER CAPITA 2015

(Annual church membership dues)

Continues to be \$14.50 per member & \$29 per couple in 2015. Each member is responsible to pay their dues each year.

ONECO FLORIST
941.756.1556



ONECO FLORIST is offering church members \$5 off their first arrangement. Just mention this article.

Mark Your Calendars

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 7 at 9am at Norma Rae's in Palmetto.

Women's Fellowship Outing

10:30am on Saturday, February 20

Monthly Lunch

Sunday, February 8 after service. Pastor Brian Hosting.

Children's Ministry Team

God has a mission 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: **747-9643**

New Members Class

An information class for those who wish to join Faith UCC will be held on Sunday, February 1, after the Sunday Morning Worship. The following Sunday, those who choose will join the church during the Sunday Service.

Sunday Lunch/Brunch

As of the printing of this Follower, we do not have anyone who has volunteered to head the **Fellowship and Events Team**. As a result, we do not have anyone to organize and prepare for our monthly potluck on the 8th. For February (and for the rest of the year if we do not have a **Fellowship and Events Team Coordinator**), we will invite someone or a group of people to host a monthly Sunday meal and provide set up, food, and clean-up for that one meal. This will be a good opportunity to get together as a family or a small group and show your decorating skill and cook your specialty. The dinner does not have to be fancy, It should include some kind of salad, 2 main dishes (one vegetarian), dessert, and drinks for 30 people. For those who don't cook, a couple of huge subway sandwiches could do the trick. There will be a free-will offering basket to help offset the cost. Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Dinner and Dessert

Dinner and Dessert is planned for February 20. The restaurant is yet to be determined, but dessert will be at Denny and Judy Wetter's home at 2306 141 St. East. More information will follow.

Please contact Judy Wetter 755-4583 if you are interested in hosting Dinner and Dessert in March, April, or May.

The host/hostess picks a restaurant of their choice and contacts them for reservations. After dinner, dessert is provided in the host/hostess's home. The normal time for dinner is 6:00 PM. A sign-up sheet is put on the bulletin board to help with reservations. Please consider hosting dinner and dessert. It is a great time for fellowship and of course good food!

Women's Fellowship

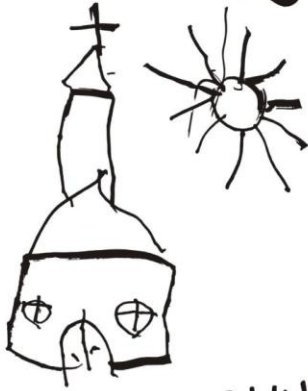
Women's Fellowship will host a special outing on Saturday, February 21, 2015. Our day begins at 10:30am with a breakfast/brunch at the Honey Tree Café, located on Lockwood Ridge Road in Sarasota. We will then travel a short distance to the Church of the Nativity, also on Lockwood Ridge Road, to enjoy a beautiful English Flower Festival and listen to wonderful music. The theme of this year's festival is All Things Bright and Beautiful. After experiencing a multitude of fresh floral arrangements, we will hear the artistry of the Grand Musicale at 1pm presented by the Festival Chorus and guests. Martha Lopez-Leschke, soprano, will be a featured guest soloist. There is no admission charge; the only cost is your breakfast/brunch. For those needing a ride, a car pool from church is available. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the board, along with an informational brochure. This is an all church event- come join us for an inspirational afternoon. Questions? Contact Sheryl Overheid-Smith at 941-776-5589.

CROP Walk

This Year's event is Sunday, February 22, at 2 pm. Last year we had a great group of people walking, and we raised a lot of money that helped people both overseas and here in Manatee County, where 25% of the proceeds support local missions. Please consider walking or sponsoring a walker this year!



FAITH PRESCHOOL



OF FAITH UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

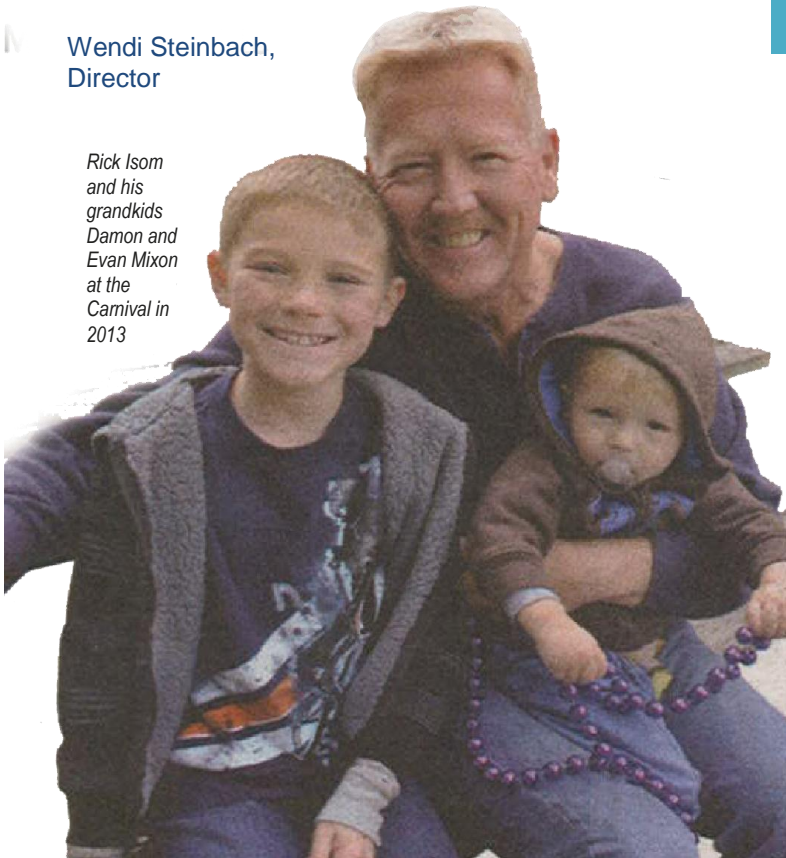
It's Carnival Time Again!

Faith Preschool has started planning its 15th Annual Kid's Carnival! Join us on Saturday, February 22, from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM for a fun-filled day. We will have games for the children, hayrides, a bounce house, a yard sale, food and a Silent Auction. Proceeds will benefit Faith Preschool.

Registration for the 2014/2015 will begin in February. If you know of anyone looking for a quality, part-time preschool, please have them call me at 746-7895 or email me at faithpreschool1@verizon.net to schedule a tour.

Wendi Steinbach,
Director

*Rick Isom
and his
grandkids
Damon and
Evan Mixon
at the
Carnival in
2013*



BUILDING AND GROUNDS



THANK YOU!

Thank you
to everyone for
their support of
our Building and
grounds workdays
in 2014

SEEDS AND NEEDS

Have a need or something to give?

Pick up a Seeds & Needs form in the Narthex. It has all the instructions on it. Please return the completed form to Faith in the office by Mon, March.16. Anything received later than the deadline will not make it into the Follower. Thanks for your cooperation!

2015 Church Council

**Nominations and voting
for 2015 Church Council
will take place on Sunday,
January 25, after service.**

facebook

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Judy Wetter and a prayer from Pastor Brian.

Present: Judy Wetter, Barbara Brownell, Marge Critelli, Marge Hooie, Fred Damianos, Faith Quici, Debra D'Angelo, M.R. Lembright, Pastor Brian, Sheryl Smith, and Richard Dilts.

A motion to accept the December meeting minutes was made by Marge Hooie, and second by Richard Dilts. Motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S

REPORT: Marge Hooie reported that the total deposits to the operating account at Bank of America was \$11,980.65, to the building for the future at the Bank of the Ozarks was \$810.00 and the pass through account was \$2051.51.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Marge Critelli submitted the final financial report for the year 2014 and commented that we ended in the black. She also submitted the 2015 budget which will be voted on at the annual meeting.

PASTOR BRIAN'S REPORT: Pastor Brian reported that he met with Debra Peters, and she has agreed to do some song leadership during worship. The worship service will consist of 1 contemporary song, 1 traditional song and a choir anthem. Deb and Cindy have offered the gazebo they used during their wedding to the church but it would need a lot of work and permits, etc. The board decided to decline the generous offer due to the cost and liability.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Faith is using a different calendar program and submitted January and February for review and additions/changes.

OLD BUSINESS: Auction- the auction brought in \$1210.00 which

will be used for buy a new computer tower for Faith and the pastor's discretionary fund. Nominating committee- Denny Wetter will be taking over Buildings and Grounds. Hattie and Earleen are doing a good job at keeping Christian Ed going. Marge Hooie has agreed to be moderator, Judy Wetter will take over financial secretary. Church Events and Fellowship team, and Christian Education positions are open. Financial Committee Report- The committee submitted their recommendation for the allotment of the money from the sale of the land. MR Lembright motioned to accept the recommendation and Sheryl second it. The motion carried unanimously. 2015 Budget- Babs motioned to accept the proposed budget and Deb second. Motion carried unanimously. Life Touch pictures – 13 people have signed up. Sheryl and Judy will be calling people to sign them up.

NEW BUSINESS: Church windows program – Judy suggested we switch from Quick Books to Church Windows. We would have to upgrade data module and purchase payroll and accounting module for \$800, which is cheaper than Quick Books. The only draw back is that it doesn't connect to the bank, but Marge C said that would not be a problem. MR motioned to purchase it, Deb second, motion was carried unanimously. Computer for Faith - Babs motioned to purchase a new computer tower for Faith, not to exceed \$720.00. Deb second it and motion was carried unanimously. Pastor's Discretionary fund - A motion was made by M.R. to close the SAM account and disperse \$500 to the pastor's discretionary fund and the remainder to be included with the mission CD's. Margaret Critelli will take care of closing that account and dispersing the funds. Babs second the motion

and it was carried unanimously. Deb also motioned to use \$500 of the auction money to put in the pastor's discretionary fund as was previously planned. Marge H second the motion and it too was carried with a unanimous vote. Ballot for co-pastor vote – Brian will check with conference on how to word the ballot and get absentee ballots either emailed or mailed.

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEES:

BUILDING AND GROUNDS-Fred reported that the sprinklers are off again due to a sticking valve but it's underground and will cost about \$300 to have fixed. The committee is considering renting the equipment to locate all the valves and mark them.

CHURCH AND FELLOWSHIP: Pot luck will be the 3rd Sunday this month. Women's fellowship will be February 21st and will be an outing to the living nativity and flower display along with brunch prior to the trip.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Deb D'Angelo has nothing to report.

SPIRITUAL LIFE TEAM- M.R. reports that they have an amazing team.

WORSHIP TEAM – Richard Dilts has a list with openings for communion etc.

Judy thanked Sheryl and Fred for all their hard work in the past year. Marge Hooie reminded the board of the crop walk on February 22nd. Pastor Brian closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by

Linda Anderson.

Thanks to all who have generously contributed diapers to the Food Bank of Manatee this month. As a reminder, **for the month of February, we will be collecting canned vegetables and fruits!** That's an easy one and so very much appreciated! Let's see how high our container can get with the canned items! Thank you, thank you-as always, you are amazing in your giving!

Robin Wentz
SAM Chairperson

2015 Food Bank of Manatee Items

February is:
Canned
Vegetables
&
Fruit



People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.

Audrey Hepburn

Prayer Team

Please Contact the Church

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

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

Janis Groth 941-779-6988

Marge Hooie 747-2734

Helen Nutting 792-3124

**Sheryl Overheidt- Smith
776-5589**

Donna Rusch 301-825-9611

Joan Sheehan 748-2498

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

Your Staff

Pastor

The Rev. Brian Bagley-Bonner
941-718-3132

PASTOR'S HOURS:

Monday: 9-11 AM. (11-1 visitation)
Wednesday: 10-3 PM
Thursday: 9-11 AM (11-1 visitation)

Secretary

Faith Quici

Office Hours

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
746-8890
Fax 746-0670

Faith UCC Email:

faithchurchucc@verizon.net

Faith Website:

faithchurchucc.com

FEBRUARY 2015

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p>February collection is:</p> <p>Canned Vegetables & fruits</p> | <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY!</p> <p>02/02 Richard Nutting 02/08 Gayle Covey 02/09 Ina Bingham 02/20 Janis Groth</p> | | |  | | |
| <p>1</p> <p>9am Adult Study 10:30 AM Worship Service <i>*Communion</i> <i>*New Member's Class</i></p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> <p>7:30pm Interfaith Dialogue "God" At Congregational UCC</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> <p>6pm Prayer & Mediation Service 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> | <p>6</p> <p>7:15 PM Narcotics Anonymous Church Women United meeting at Westminster Presb Church No Preschool Today</p> | <p>7</p> <p>9am Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM NA & Nar-Anon 11am Memorial Service</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>9am Adult Study 10:30 AM Worship <i>*Monthly Lunch-Pastor Brian Hosting</i> <i>*Receiving New Members</i></p> | <p>9</p> <p>7:00 PM Church Council</p> | <p>10</p> <p>7:30pm Interfaith Dialogue "Prejudice" At St. Joseph Catholic</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> <p>6pm Prayer & Mediation Service 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> | <p>13</p> <p>7:15 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> | <p>14</p> <p>10:00 AM NA & Nar-Anon Valentine's Day</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>9am Adult Study 10:30 AM Worship Service</p> | <p>16</p> <p>Presidents Day 7pm Braden River HOA <i>*Follower Deadline</i> No Preschool today</p> | <p>17</p> <p>11:30AM Prayer Mtg. at Freedom Village Pancake Supper 7:30pm Interfaith Dialogue "Sin&Death" At Temple Beth-El</p> | <p>18</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Service 12pm offsite and 7pm here at Faith UCC</p> | <p>19</p> <p>6pm Prayer & Mediation Service 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> | <p>20</p> <p>7:15 PM Narcotics Anonymous <i>*Follower Reminder</i> 6pm Dinner & Dessert- TBA-Wetter's hosting dessert</p> | <p>21</p> <p>10:00 AM NA & Nar-Anon Women's Fellowship Outing, 10:30am Brunch & Church of the Nativity</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>9am Adult Study 10:30 AM Worship Service 2pm Crop Walk</p>  | <p>23</p> <p>7pm Inlets HOA</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> <p>6pm Prayer & Mediation Service 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> | <p>27</p> <p>7:15 PM Narcotics Anonymous</p> | <p>28</p> <p>Preschool Carnival 10am-1pm 10:00 AM NA & Nar-Anon</p> |