

# Faithful Follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



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

## DECEMBER 2019



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## Christmas Love Offering

We are collecting for our annual Christmas Love Offering. This is simply a monetary gift given, collected and distributed to our hard working staff and worship volunteers at Christmas time to say "Thank you!" If you would like to make a donation, please add it to your offering envelope or write a check and put it in the offering plate. Indicate it is for "Love Offering" Thank you.



## From Your Moderator

As we closed out November, we were once again treated to an outstanding Thanksgiving feast compliments of our friends from the Apostolic Church. If you missed this event, I guess you can be 'thankful' pounds were not added to your waist.

The Sanctuary will once again be decorated for the Christmas season! Don't forget to order your poinsettias (please include payment with order) as this year they will be adding color to not just Christmas Eve but church service on the 22<sup>nd</sup> as well!

December is packed full of various events at Faith Church; check the church calendar within this issue of the *Follower*. Here are just a few ...

Our Annual Christmas Potluck will be on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and of course there is always great food with a great Christmas atmosphere – don't forget to sign up and check what you would like to bring.

## Reminder 2019 PER CAPITA

This is a friendly reminder to those who have not yet paid their \$15 **Per Capita Fee**. This is the amount that we pay, per member, to the Florida Conference UCC for their extensive, basic services. This congregation voted years ago that individuals would pay their own per capita, rather than including it in our



### DOWNTOWN Ministries

On the 15<sup>th</sup> warm-up your voices and join the Faith Carolers!

All are welcome to my house on the 20<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Faith Church *Dinner and Dessert* buffet. I'll supply the food and drink, and if you wish, you can bring a dessert. There will be plenty of food for all. Don't forget to sign up.

Of course on the 24<sup>th</sup> is the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service, a perfect way to lead in to your Christmas Day,

As we enter this festive season of joy in celebration of the birth, may your Christmas be blessed with new celebrations and fond memories of Christmas past.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and the best in the New Year!

Fondly,  
Richard



church budget. The Conference has served us extensively over the years, most recently by granting us a \$2,500 grant for our choir scholarship program. Let's show our good faith as their partners in ministry and make this a one hundred percent per capita church. If each member doesn't pay their fee, it comes out of the church operating fund.

Downtown Ministries is adding a 6:30pm – 8pm **Thursday** open warehouse until Christmas. Please join us at the Downtown Ministries open warehouse.

# THIS DECEMBER

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST** SAT, DEC 7, AT 9AM

We will gather for breakfast together at D's located at 423 10th Ave. W, Palmetto. Please join us.

## **WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS OUTING AND BREAKFAST**

SAT, DEC 7, AT **9:30M**: We will gather for breakfast and shopping at Troyer's Dutch Heritage/Der Dutchmen Restaurant located at 3713 Bahia Vista St, Sarasota, FL 34232. Please sign up.

## **CHRISTMAS POTLUCK** SUN, DEC 8, AFTER THE SERVICE

## **CHRISTMAS BUFFET AND DINNER & DESSERT**

FRI, DEC 20, AT 6PM - Moderator, Richard Dilts is hosting a Christmas dinner and dessert at his home. Please sign up.

## **BIRTHDAY HOSPITALITY** SUN, DEC 29 After the service.

**DOWNTOWN MINISTRIES:** Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm and every Thursday in December. The next dates to help out will be **December 3 and 5**. 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). Hope to see you there.

**FOOD BANK:** We are collecting **canned meats** for the Food Bank of Manatee County this month (December). Please drop off donations in the yellow bucket in the Narthex.

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

## **Choir for Christmas**

**Thursday, Dec 5 at 5:05 pm** will be the first rehearsal for the Chancel Choir. If you have a desire to sing to God's glory, come and check it out! We have a good time!

## **Advent Service of Hope**

The Holidays are often a difficult time of year for those who have lost loved ones. We will have a Service of Hope on **Tuesday, Dec, 10 at 7 pm**. Through prayers and readings meditation and the lighting of candles we will remember our loved ones.

## **Christmas Caroling**

Meet us at church on Sunday, **Dec 15 at 1:30 pm** for caroling in some nearby Nursing Homes and the homebound. This is always great fun. Afterwards we will have Refreshments at the Bagley-Bonner home in Palmetto. Watch for a sign-up sheet.

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Mon, Dec, 24 7:00 pm**

Come and celebrate the Birth of Christ with a Service of Lessons and Carols! Come early to get a good seat (If you join the choir your seat is guaranteed)

**Have you ever considered?** The holidays can be a challenge for those whose families are far away? Some of us are so blessed to have family nearby. What about inviting someone to share your family celebrations this year? You may find it is a real blessing!

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in signing up to be a greeter, usher or scripture reader, please contact our Worship Team Leader or simply sign up on the bulletin board.

# JOIN US

## WEEKEND SCHEDULE

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### **December 1, 2019**

Council Sunday  
Communion

Advent 1: The Duncan Family

### **December 8, 2019**

Flowers Available

Greeters: Richard Dilts

Scripture: Marge Hooie

Ushers: Richard Dilts

Advent 2: PJ and Marier Bellefeville

### **December 10, 2019**

7pm Service of Hope

### **December 15, 2019**

Flowers Available

Greeters: Joanne Dahlgren

Scripture: Joan Sheehan

Ushers: Available

Advent 3: Tom and Jenny Crocker

### **December 22, 2019**

Flowers Available

Greeters: Available

Scripture: Evi van Odens

Ushers: Available

Advent 4: Don Coveleskie

### **December 24, 2019**

7pm Christmas Eve Service

Christ Candle: Blu Glavin & Joanne Dahlgren

### **December 29, 2019**

Flowers Available

Greeters: Available

Scripture: Evi van Oudheusden

Ushers: Available

# PRC

Five Things You May

## Not Know About a Pastoral Relations Committee

1. The PRC is a standing committee of Faith Church for the purpose of supporting and maintaining an open and healthy relationship among the pastors and members of the congregation.
2. The goals of the committee are: the professional growth and well-being of the pastors, and the promotion of mutual ministry between the pastors and the congregation, both of which enhance the effectiveness of Faith Church's mission.
3. As per our Church's by-laws, the Church's Vice Moderator chooses, with input from the Church Council, two members for this committee. The pastor also chooses two members. The Vice Moderator can participate or designate another church member. Our PRC was designed to be small enough to deal with sensitive and confidential issues, and large enough to be an effective resource to our pastor and congregation.
4. The PRC is a forum where members can express their expectancies of our pastor and gain insight to the pastors' specific abilities, limitations, interests and time constraints. The individuals on the Pastoral Relations Committee, as well as the committee as a whole, welcome phone calls, conversations and discussions of church member concerns, thoughts and ideas about the ministry of Faith Church.
5. The members of Faith UCC's PRC are: Carol Knight, Dick Card, MR Lembright, Deb D'Angelo and Barbara Brownell. Please feel free to ask any of us more about the PRC!

## Thank you

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our congregation, we were able to send a check for \$3,025 to the Florida Conference for their Disaster Relief Fund, the fund that helps in Hurricane recovery!

The collections we gathered totaled \$2,025, and the Church Council had voted to match up to \$1,000 of what was collected with money from the Mission Fund.

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY IN THE MISSION FUND COME FROM?

When you hear that we donated money, or awarded grants from the Mission Fund, do you wonder where that money originated? It is money that the Church Council sets aside in the form of a tithe (10%) from money donated to the church in the form of special

## Donated Deeds Silent Auction

Good Deeds for Our Faith Church: From now until the end of January, 2020, you will have the opportunity to volunteer good deeds or services to support our church. In Feb. the deeds will be available for anyone to bid on. What deed could you volunteer? Transportation to/from an appointment? Baking? Yardwork? Car washing? Doing errands? Creating gifts? All ideas are welcomed. Deeds can be donated by completing a donation card available from Donna Blakey, Sheryl Overheid-



*Lend a Hand, Fill a Heart*

Smith or the designated basket in the narthex. You may also send an email to Faith churchucc@verizon.net. Deeds will be available for bidding Feb. 16-March 1, 2020.

bequests or other income, such as fundraising events, or even in the sale of property. (The church set aside money in this way after the sale of the corner lot a few years ago). Some money is in CD's and will be spent when they mature. Other money is available now. Social Actions and Missions Team makes recommendations to the Council on how that money is to be spent. The Church Council then votes to spend that money in that way. Currently we have about \$15,000.

If you have any questions on this or any of SAM's activities. Please feel free to call or talk to any of the SAM team. *Barbara Brownell, Linda Van Buskirk, Marge Kirchner, Cindy Purvis, Vicky Followell, or Carol Knight.*

## Christmas Fund Offering

One of our five conference special offerings is The Christmas Fund- also known as "Veterans of the Cross" taken each December. The funds collected from this offering go to help retired ministers. Pastor Brian will do a mission moment on Dec 8. You will have three opportunities to give: Dec. 15, 22 and 24. Thank You.

## Giving Credit

Last day for giving credit is Tuesday, December 31.

**Stewardship 2020 Pledges are due Sun, Dec 1.**

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

OCTOBER 2019

Total income	\$ 11,550.54
Total expenses	\$ 17,230.00
Net Ordinary Income/ Loss	-\$6,230.00

# WE are the UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

What We Believe

**We believe in the triune God:** Creator, resurrected Christ, the sole Head of the church, and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.

**We believe that each person is unique and valuable.** It is the will of God that every person belong to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved.

**We believe that each person is on a spiritual journey** and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey.

**We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God,** engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.

**We believe that all of the baptized 'belong body and soul to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.'** No matter who – no matter what – no matter where we are on life's journey – notwithstanding race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, class or creed – we all belong to God and to one worldwide community of faith. All persons baptized – past, present and future – are connected to each other and to God through the sacrament of baptism. We baptize during worship when the community is present because baptism includes the community's promise of 'love, support and care' for the baptized – and we promise that we won't take it back – no matter where your journey leads you.

**We believe that all people of faith are invited to join Christ at Christ's table for the sacrament of Communion.** Just as many grains of wheat are gathered to make one loaf of bread and many grapes

are gathered to make one cup of wine, we, the many people of God, are made one in the body of Christ, the church. The breaking of bread and the pouring of wine reminds us of the costliness of Christ's sacrifice and the discipleship to which we are all called. In the breaking of bread, we remember and celebrate Christ's presence among us along with a 'cloud of witnesses' – our ancestors, family and friends who have gone before us. It is a great mystery; we claim it by faith.

**We believe the UCC is called to be a united and uniting church.** "That they may all be one." (John 17:21) "In essentials—unity, in nonessentials—diversity, in all things—charity," These UCC mottos survive because they touch core values deep within us. The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overarching creed is love. UCC pastors and teachers are known for their commitment to excellence in theological preparation, interpretation of the scripture and justice advocacy. Even so, love and unity in the midst of our diversity are our greatest assets.

**We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others** and to be good stewards of the earth's resources. 'To believe is to care; to care is to do.'

**We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church.** As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted.

**We believe in the power of peace,** and work for nonviolent solutions to local, national, and international problems.

**We are a people of possibility.** In the UCC, members, congregations and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear ... for after all, God is still speaking, ...

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## We are a UNITED Church of Christ!

### **Purpose, Vision, and Mission of the UCC**

These statements were overwhelmingly affirmed by the UCC Board of Directors at their fall business meeting, October 20-22, 2016.

**Purpose Statement** (from the Gospel of Matthew):  
*To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.*

### **Vision Statement:**

*United in Christ's love, a just world for all.*

### **Mission statement:**

*United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.*



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## SAVE THE DATES

**Annual Congregational Meeting,** Sunday  
January 26 after the service.

**Tret Fure concert:** February 8, 2020. Tickets are \$20. They can be purchased from Linda VanBuskirk or PJ Widerman. Checks are acceptable and should be made out to "Faith United Church of Christ." Please write in the memo of your check that it is for the Tret Fure concert.

**Crop Walk** is Sunday, February 23 at 2pm.



# FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach, Director

Greetings from Faith Preschool.....

Thanks again for the grant you gave the preschool for the playground improvements! We were able to finish up the work on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. We had a great group of volunteers from the preschool that helped us spread mulch, add sand to the sandbox, add a new border and paint/stain the wooden playground equipment.

Our "Pancake Breakfast with Santa" at Applebee's is Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 10:00 AM. Tickets are \$10.00 each. The breakfast includes 3 pancakes, 2 sausage links and a choice of coffee, tea, juice or soda. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please call Wendi Steinbach at 746-7895 or send an email to



[faithpreschool1@verizon.net](mailto:faithpreschool1@verizon.net). We hope you can join us and help support Faith Preschool.

We will have our Holiday Program on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. The children are very excited to perform on stage for their families and enjoy refreshments together after the program.

The preschool will be closed from December 23, 2019 – January 6, 2020.

*We wish all of you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*



## THANK YOU!

The church cleanup day went very well. All those that were able to make it did a wonderful job and I thank all of them for their contributions.

**PJ Widerman**



*Michelle Collins, on the roof, cleaning the gutters of Faith Church!*

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have helped in any way possible to give a fresh start to Tomacita and her family through Habitat for Humanity. You are changing lives!



*Vicky Followell, Tomacita and her son standing behind supplies which Faith UCC collected to give them.*

## LETTER OF THANKS

Sweet pastors, congregants and friends,

I want to thank all of you for your cards, notes and phone calls; they have lifted my spirits more than I could ever express.

I was just getting to feel so much better in early October and then the fall happened on October 11<sup>th</sup>, and that changed everything.

I was in a soft cast and thought I'd only be in it for about 4-6 weeks. On November 15<sup>th</sup>, everything changed again. My x-rays showed healing in one of my elbow bones. The other bone had not healed at all, so now I'm in a hard cast from my fingers to about 5 inches up the arm from my elbow. That cast may stay on for about another 4-6 weeks. I feel like I can't do anything. Even though I am right-handed, I never realized how much we need both hands to do so many things.

I won't see the doctor until December 3<sup>rd</sup> when more x-rays will be taken. Based on the results, I might have to keep the cast on longer or it may be

taken off. Whenever that happens, I'll be in Physical Therapy for many moons.

I'm not too steady on my feet and I'm sporting an English choir-boy hair style. I wear some crazy outfits to accommodate my cast and I'm hopeful that will change soon. By the way, my cast is hot pink honoring the breast cancers we have both had.

Thank God for Pat as she does so much for me and our precious Miya settles herself on my lap, quite a bit. I hope I'll see you soon.

**Love,  
Marge Kirchner**



## World Aids Day

Sun Dec 1 at 4pm  
Church of the Trinity  
MCC Lockwood  
Ridge, Sarasota. All are invited to come together for love and remembrance.

## Faith United Church of Christ

Council Meeting Minutes November 18th, 2019

Present: Brian Bagley-Bonner, Judy Bagley-Bonner, Donna Blakey, Barbara Brownell, Richard Dilts, Connor Felix, Dorothy Gallo, Faith Quici, Linda Van Buskirk

Absent: Marge Hooie, Jenny Crocker, Lynne Keane, Marge Kirchner, Jennifer Hargis, Sheryl Overheid-Smith, PJ Wideman  
Meeting opened at 6:31pm by Moderator Richard Dilts.  
Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner offered the opening prayer.

Moderator Richard Dilts noted that, while Council approved a change of the name of the Buildings & Grounds committee to Property Committee at the October meeting, the change must be approved by the congregation in the bylaws. A motion to amend and approve the October Council Meeting minutes as amended was made by Linda Van Buskirk and seconded by Donna Blakey. Motion passed.

**Financial Secretary and Treasurer's Reports:** Donna Blakey reported that church income has increased, however so have church expenses. Dorothy Gallo reported that per capita giving is lower than budgeted and suggested follow up to the article in the *Follower*. Barbara Brownell suggested an idea to put a "temperature gauge" type graphic in the narthex so we can track progress in a tangible way and that the per capita concept be clarified for members. A motion to accept the Financial Secretary and Treasurer's Reports was made by Linda Van Buskirk and seconded by Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner. Motion passed.

**Moderator's report:** Nothing to report

**Church Secretary Report:** Faith Quici reported that the projector previously approved has been purchased. Council reviewed the calendars and made revisions.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner reported that a special service for those who struggle with the holidays will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Judy also stated that during service, "Prayers of the People" going forward will be focusing on the concept of speaking as if one is speaking their joys and concerns to God directly. Pastor Judy also announced that the Florida Conference grant for the music scholarship was approved and the church will be offering two scholarships of \$2500 each rather than four scholarships for \$1250 each.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner stated that a guest preacher will be selected for their vacation on December 29<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that there has been a donation to update and improve media and Facebook Live broadcasts.

### Old Business:

Linda Van Buskirk gave an update on the "action table" which will feature sign up boards and information about the various events and opportunities in the church and wider UCC church missions. Each committee chair will be responsible for adding information or their respective areas to the action table. Dorothy Gallo made a motion to purchase the table and supplies to set the table in the amount of up to \$250, which was seconded by Barbara Brownell. Motion passed.

Linda Van Buskirk reported that she and others continue to advertise for the Tret Fure concert on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Linda stated that most of the sales are taking place online and a full house is expected.

Connor Felix spoke about the recent technical difficulties and limitations using PowerPoint presentations for services and offered an alternative option. A program called Easy Worship, which is specifically designed for church worship services, is available for purchase and is inexpensive. The media team will meet to discuss this alternative and report back to Council.

Discussion was held on the upcoming openings for church council.

Discussion on the annual congregational meeting and bylaw updates was held.

**New Business:** Church membership was reviewed for purposes of recording the most accurate number of members.

## Department & Committee Reports:

**SAM:** Barbara Brownell provided an update on the LGBTQ 101 series, stating that a committee is currently working on improvements of the presentation to present once more to the congregation with the goal of presenting the series to the larger community. 6

Barbara Brownell also reported that November 24<sup>th</sup> will be "Habitat Sunday" which will feature a Mission Moment with the family of the recent church sponsored Habitat for Humanity house. There will be a special collection and a reception after service with information for Habitat for Humanity Manatee.

Downtown Ministries is still struggling to find a new location and will receive Faith UCC's continued support to include the biweekly work at the warehouse.

Barbara Brownell announced that there will be a special drive for providing Missions to Honduras in January. More information to follow.

The annual Christmas Fund collection will occur in December as well.

The SAM 2020 grant information is expected to be sent out on January 6<sup>th</sup>, with the grant applications to be due on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The SAM committee will then review the grant applications and present their recommendations to the Council at the February 17<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, with an expected distribution date of March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The National UCC Conference has an initiative to raise funds for a movement called Affordable Housing in Immokalee for migrant workers and their families who are living in deplorable conditions and has pledged \$100,000 to the fund and is asking for individual churches to band together to match this amount for a total of \$200,000. Barbara Brownell made a motion to approve \$500 from the Mission fund to help support this initiative, which was seconded by Linda Van Buskirk. Motion passed.

Barbara Brownell also highlighted the recent event that an Illinois UCC was able to purchase \$5 million dollars in medical debt for \$38,000 and then forgave the debt as an example of how we can truly make a difference.

**Worship:** Moderator Richard Dilts asked about communion Sunday for December and it will be intinction. Dorothy Gallo and Sheryl Overheid-Smith will help serve communion, Connor Felix will read scripture and usher. Barbara Brownell, Dorothy Gallo and Sheryl Overheid-Smith will also usher. Christmas Eve service will be held December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Ushers will be needed as well as readers.

**Community outreach:** No updates to report.

**Events & Hospitality:** Moderator Richard Dilts reported that it was requested that the Birthday Hospitality be held on January 19<sup>th</sup> so as not to conflict with the Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held on January 26<sup>th</sup> after service. Dinner and Dessert for December will be held at Moderator Richard Dilts' home on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Main dishes and sides will be provided, however attendees are encouraged to bring their favorite dessert if desired. Dinner and Dessert in January will be held at Primos on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. 20% of proceeds that night will benefit Faith UCC.

Moderator Richard Dilts stated that the January Council meeting will be held at his home on January 20<sup>th</sup> with incoming and outgoing council members alike. Dinner will also be served.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner stated that Manatee Pride is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>. Linda Van Buskirk made a motion to approve up to \$100 for Manatee Pride, which was seconded by Dorothy Gallo. Motion passed.

**Faith Care:** No updates to report.

**Christian Education:** No updates to report.

**Buildings and Grounds:** PJ Wideman submitted a report in writing that the recent Fall Clean Up day went well and a lot was accomplished.



The closing prayer for the December Meeting will be conducted by Barbara Brownell.

Closing prayer was offered by Donna Blakey.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Next meeting will be December 16th, 2019.

# DECEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
<p><b>1</b> 9am Fall Book Study 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service with Communion World Aids Day  1:30pm BAC</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Inlets HOA meeting</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 6:30pm Downtown Ministries</p>	<p><b>4</b> 6:30pm Fall Book Study  7pm BAC</p>	<p><b>5</b> 5pm Choir Practice  6:30pm Downtown Ministries  7:15pm NarAnon</p>	<p><b>6</b> 7:15pm NA 7:30m BAC</p>	<p><b>7</b> 9am Men's Breakfast  9:30am Women's Breakfast – Troyer's Dutch Heritage  10am NA</p>	
<p><b>8</b> 9am Fall Book Study-<b>LAST CLASS</b>  10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service <b>Christmas Potluck</b>  Poinsettia Orders Due  Christmas Fund Mission Moment  1:30pm BAC</p>	<p><b>9</b> 5:30pm Harbour Walk HOA  Every 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Spirits &amp; Spirituality- Beef O'Brady</p>	<p><b>10</b> <b>7pm Service of Hope</b>  7pm Cottages of San Casciano HOA</p>	<p><b>11</b> 6:30pm Fall Book Study-<b>LAST CLASS</b>  7pm BAC</p>	<p><b>12</b> 1pm Finance Meeting  6:30pm Downtown Ministries  5pm Choir Practice  7:15pm NarAnon</p>	<p><b>13</b> 7:15pm NA 7:30m BAC</p>	<p><b>14</b> 10am NA  <b>We are collecting canned meat for the food bank this December.</b>  </p>	
<p><b>15</b> 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service  <b>1:30pm Christmas Caroling</b> <i>With refreshments after at the home of Pastors Brian and Jude</i>  <b>Christmas Fund Offering</b>  1:30pm BAC</p>	<p><b>16</b> 6:30pm Council Meeting  7pm BR HOA</p>	<p><b>17</b> 5:30pm Inlets HOA  6:30pm HOA San Lorenzo  6:30pm Downtown Ministries</p>	<p><b>18</b> 11:30am Preschool Program  7pm BAC</p>	<p><b>19</b> 5pm Choir Practice  5:30pm River Pointe HOA  6:30pm Downtown Ministries  7:15pm NarAnon  <b>FOLLOWER ARTICLES DUE</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>6pm Dinner and Dessert Christmas Party at Richard's</b>  7:15pm NA 7:30m BAC</p>	<p><b>21</b> 10am NA</p>	
<p><b>22</b> 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service  <b>Christmas Fund Offering</b>  1:30pm BAC</p>	<p><b>23</b> 7pm Inlets HOA</p>	<p><b>24</b> 7pm Christmas Eve Service  <b>Christmas Fund Offering</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day Church Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 7:15pm NarAnon</p>	<p><b>27</b> 7:15pm NA 7:30m BAC</p>	<p><b>28</b> 10am NA</p>	
<p><b>29</b> 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service Guest Pastor  Birthday Hospitality  1:30pm BAC</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> New Year's Eve  11:30am Prayer Team Meeting</p>	<p><b>January 1</b> <b>Church office is closed.</b></p>	<p><b>Happy Birthday</b></p> <p>12/4 Floy Peterson 12/9 Margy Stewart 12/12 Richard Sluss 12/19 Ethan Nealis 12/25 Sheryl Overheidt-Smith 12/28 Jackie Travers 12/28 Beattie Kroeck</p>			

## POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias are \$8 this year and come from Kiwanis Club. Payment and orders are due by Sunday, Dec 8. Order forms are in your weekly bulletin or can be sent to you if you contact the church office  
Thank you!



# Your Staff

## Pastors

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

## PASTORS' OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Thursday mornings  
Please contact us to make an appointment. We are not in the office on Fridays.

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY- WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY

9 AM - 12 PM

TUESDAY-THURSDAY

1PM-4PM

Phone: 746-8890

Fax 746-0670

**Secretary:** Faith Quici

**Music Leader:** Carly Rafferty

Anita Porter – Pianist

Bruce Covey – Media Specialist

Arlene Smith – Hired Treasurer

Hatti Damianos & Earleen Nutting -

Sunday school Teachers

Don Duncan – IT Support

**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:

**If you have need for prayer,  
please call a team member:**

Gayle Covey 741-8566

Janis Groth 779-6988

Marge Hooie 896-6563

Earlene Nutting 792-3124

Sheryl Overheid-Smith 776-5589

Joan Sheehan 748-2498

## ~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~

We received the following members on November 3, 2019

Walt & Sylvia Hull  
Amy VanDell  
Evi Van Oudheusden

Pete and Sharon Cohoon  
Bob & Beth Mueller  
Gwendolyn W. Smith

## ~ Q & A ~

### ~Bob and Beth Mueller ~

#### How long have you been here?

3 months

#### Where were you from?

Rochester NY

#### Retired? (Bob)Yes (Beth) No

Bob used to be in sales and service for Race car manufacturer

Beth s an Account Manager- payroll company.

#### Which church did you come from?

United Church of Christ-Greece NY

#### We love Faith UCC because:

(Bob) Simple easy going and non-pressure church (Beth) Have been a UCC member for over 40 years. Felt very comfortable here at Faith. Very welcoming and friendly

...

**Hobbies?** (Bob) Golf, auto racing, working out, driving my corvette (Beth) Painting, crafts, quilting, golfing, party/special occasion planning

### ~Sylvia Hull~

#### How long have you been here?

5+ years

#### Where were you from?

Jackson Center, Ohio

**Retired?** Yes – was a United Methodist Clergy

#### I love Faith UCC because:

Liberal theology, fully inclusive.

#### Hobbies?

Biking, writing, reading, cooking, baking, hiking, traveling

**2020 COUNCIL NOMINATIONS:** If you are interested in joining the church council in 2020, please contact Moderator, Richard Dilts.

## 2019 Church Council

### Pastors:

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Marge Kirchner  
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# Tis the Season to be Grateful

With the holiday season quickly approaching, I wanted to share how important it is to teach children about gratitude and help them to experience the joy of giving.

There are multiple ways to teach children how to express gratitude. At Faith Preschool, we talk about the importance of letting the person know that we are thankful for something they gave to us or something they did for us. While we express how important it is to say thank you, we also encourage activities that help the expression feel more real for the children. We often have the children draw a picture for the person they are thanking. This activity helps the children feel involved in expressing their gratitude and makes the expression fun and interactive. Preschoolers should be taught to say thank you, but the most important part of teaching gratitude is helping the children understand why they are saying these polite words.

Modeling gratitude as a parent is another way that children can learn the importance. It is helpful to talk to our children about how it made us feel when someone did something nice for us, whether that be in the form of a thoughtful gift, a few kind words or helping hand. Children are still learning how to identify the different emotions that they feel, so talking about how things make us feel as well can be beneficial for our children.

As parents, we can help children experience the joy of giving by changing our habit of asking, "What do you want for Christmas?" into "Who would you like to give a gift to?" This simple switch encourages children to think of others during the holiday season. Parents can help their child make a list of people and the gifts they would like to give. Ideas for gifts could include: a picture the child painted, a batch of cookies they helped bake, or even a Christmas tree ornament the child created. This activity will give your child a great sense of being involved in giving, not just receiving. When my children were little, their Grandmother would take them to the dollar store to pick out a gift for people on their list. This was such a simple thing to do, but such a memorable part of our Christmas each year and it helped my children to experience the joy and excitement of giving. As your children create gifts for family and friends, talk to them about how they think that person will feel when they open their gift. Sharing these feelings will help your children understand the joy of giving but then will also help them appreciate when they receive a gift, as well.

Another way we can help our children experience gratitude is by talking with them about the little things they are thankful for. This is something that can be done before they go to bed, during dinner time or during a car ride. Ask your child, "what made you happy today?" And, then tell them something that made you happy, too. Express to them that these are things we can be thankful for.

And now it's my turn to express gratitude. I would like to thank all of you at Faith UCC for providing Faith Preschool with a grant to improve our playground. Thank you!

**Wendi Steinbach**  
**Faith Preschool Director**



Faith Preschool's VPK Class