

Faithful Follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



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

FEBRUARY 2020

Save The Dates

Tret Fure concert: February 8, at 7pm. Thank you to everyone who made the Tret Fure Concert possible. With special thanks to PJ, Linda and all of the church members who purchased tickets. So far, we have made a profit on this event.

Kiwanis Food Packing Event: February 8 from 8am –10am at the Palmetto Fair grounds

Crop Walk is Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 2pm.

Manatee Pride Fest is Saturday, March 21, 2020.

Flower Festival

On February 22, the Church of the Nativity in Sarasota is hosting its annual Flower Festival and Grand Musicale. The church presents the flower festival to the community in hopes the attendees will be inspired by God's gift of flowers and plants. The arrangers are Nativity parishioners and friends who use their talents to interpret the Creator's blessings. In addition, the Grand Musicale features selections by the Festival chorus. Guest artists include soloists and instrumentalists. Musical presentations by students from the Sarasota Conservatory of Music highlight the program. For the past several years several members and friends of Faith have attended this spiritually moving event. For more information, contact Sheryl Overheid-Smith.

Spring Book Study

[The Road Less Traveled](#) by M.Scott Peck

This classic book, now forty years old, is a timeless treasure, and still well worth reading and discussing. Harmonizing psychoanalysis and spirituality, Christ and Buddha, Calvinist work ethic and therapeutic "talking cures," this book is a touchstone of our contemporary spiritual-therapeutic culture. While Peck uses stories from his therapy practice, his deeper topic is spiritual growth. The last section of the book is the best explanation of spirituality I have ever read.

The Sunday group will run from:

Feb 9-March 29, 9am-10am.

The Wednesday group will run from:

Feb 12-April 1, 6:30pm-7:45pm.

Crop Walk

We are walking yet again in the Bradenton CROP Walk. Our church is one of the biggest fundraisers for this walk, which is one of the most successful in Florida (take that Orlando, Miami and everywhere else!!) This year you can even give on-line to our team by clicking the link below:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/palmettofi/FaithUCC?tab=MyPage>

Contact Marge Hooie or Pastor Brian if you want to walk or give!



FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach, Director

The children are looking forward to having their dads join them for "Dad's Dessert" on Tuesday, February 4th, 2020 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. This is a very special evening when the children can come to preschool with their dads or grandpas to show them their classroom, work on a simple project together and enjoy dessert.

We have started registration for the 2020/2021 preschool year. 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. Thank you!

THIS FEBRUARY

FOLK SUNDAY- SUN, FEB 9- A special service with special guest, Tret Fure.

CHILI COOK-OFF & HEARTFELT HOSPITALITY – SUN, FEB 16- Please see the sign up at the Action Table to participate.

BIRTHDAY HOSPITALITY - SUN, FEB 23 - After the service.

ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPER- TUES, FEB 25

ASH WED Service – WED, FEB 26, 6pm service and 7pm service.

New Inter-Church Mission

Faith United Church of Christ excels at donating to missions at home and around the world. However, sometimes we need to focus on those closer to us, members and friends of the church. Nothing is appreciated more than when someone acknowledges another's struggle and pain. So in response to this there will be a new club starting, a Card Club. Now, you are asking yourself how can canasta or euchre or even poker help fill this need? The answer is... a group of people who would like to make greeting cards. With input from the Faith Care Team and the Prayer Team we would send cards to members and friends who might appreciate a reminder that they are loved. If you would like to join this group please sign up on the sign up sheet. Our first meeting will be Saturday, February 29 at 1:00 PM. You must sign up to participate so kits can be made up for you to assemble. The deadline for signing up is February 19. If you have questions, please contact Judy Wetter at 755-4583 (home) or djwet66@gmail.com.



OUTREACH

DOWNTOWN MINISTRIES: We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (Feb 11 and Feb 25) of the month to work at the warehouse from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. 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).

FOOD BANK: We are collecting **Peanut Butter** for the Food Bank of Manatee County this month, February.

Financial Notes

Checks Made Out: Greetings Faith Church, Please make sure your checks are made payable to: "Faith United Church of Christ". The bank will no longer allow us to deposit checks made out to "Faith UCC". Thank you.

Offering Envelopes: If you have currently received offering envelopes and do not need to use them, please let me know so that I can reassign that number. If you did not receive a book of envelopes for 2020 and would like to have one, please let me know and I will issue a set for you.

Dorathy Gallo - 716-471-1014 - dlqivb@aol.com

2020 PER CAPITA: Each member is asked to pay their \$15 contribution to support the UCC National Office and our Florida Conference UCC for all they do to support us. Our goal is 100% participation. If we do not meet our goal, difference is taken from our operating fund at the end of the year.

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 at the Action Table.

JOIN US

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

February 2, 2020

Council Sunday
Communion

February 9, 2020

Flowers	Available
Greeters:	Janis Groth
Scripture:	Jeff Felix
Ushers:	Available

February 16, 2020

Chili Cook Off and Heartfelt Hospitality

Flowers	Available
Greeters:	Available
Scripture:	Evi Van Oudheusden
Ushers:	Vicky Followell

February 23, 2020

Birthday Hospitality

Flowers	Available
Greeters:	Available
Scripture:	Vicky Followell
Ushers:	Available

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

DECEMBER 2019

Info for members only.

Faith United Church of Christ - Council Meeting Minutes January 20th, 2020

Present: Brian Bagley-Bonner, Judy Bagley-Bonner, Donna Blakey, Barbara Brownell, Richard Dilts, Connor Felix, Dorathy Gallo, Jennifer Hargis, Marge Kirchner, Faith Quici, Sheryl Overheid-Smith, Linda Van Buskirk, PJ Widerman
Absent: Jenny Crocker, Marge Hooie, Lynne Keane
Visitors: Ken and Vicky Followell, Sylvia Hull, Carol Knight, Amy Van Dell, Judy Wetter

Meeting opened at 6:10pm by Moderator Richard Dilts.
Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner offered the opening prayer in the form of a reading of "Jesus Calling."
A motion to approve November Council Meeting minutes was made by Linda Van Buskirk and seconded by PJ Widerman. Motion passed.

Financial Secretary and Treasurer's Reports:

Dorathy Gallo reported the income for the month was up.
Donna Blakey reported that a loss of \$19,000 was budgeted for last year and was actually only \$7,924. The church did well last year.
A motion to accept the Financial Secretary and Treasurer's Reports was made by PJ Widerman and seconded by Linda Van Buskirk. Motion passed.

Moderator's report:

Nothing to report

Church Secretary Report:

Faith Quici had nothing to report, however the calendars were reviewed and revised accordingly.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that there were more attendees than ever before at one individual service and it may be necessary to add more seats. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner highlighted a need for seats to be set aside for those with mobility issues. Connor Felix commented that there were several odd numbers of seats mixed in and it was hard to seat those that arrived a bit late or close to the opening of service, partially due to people not moving to the end or middle of the row. It was discussed how to best accommodate all attendees. Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner reported that she has been having coffee with several newcomers, etc.

Old Business: Linda Van Buskirk reported that the action table is up and running and seems to be more efficient in making sign up sheets and information available. Linda Van Buskirk reported that ticket sales have been excellent for the Tret Fure concert on February 8th, 2020. Linda stated that a full house is expected and that Tret Fure will be offering the "sermon" on Sunday Feb 9th in the form of song and readings. A motion was made to pay Tret Fure an additional \$150 for services rendered on Sunday February 9th by Marge Kirchner which was seconded by Barbara Brownell. Motion passed. Discussion was held on the need for volunteers for parking and that there will be signs directing people to the concert via 64 and that the parking lot entrances may be one way for efficiency purposes and there are temporary lights that can be set up for better visibility. The concert is to last approximately 2 hours and refreshments are being offered during an intermission period.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner provided an update on media, stating that a cable was replaced for the pulpit microphone which seems to have solved the sound feedback issue.

Linda Van Buskirk stated that there are several ways to repeat a fundraiser for the church involving local restaurants such as the one held at Primo's for January Dinner and Dessert. For example, Sweet Tomatoes has a foundation for donating part of their proceeds to non-profit organizations. In addition, this type of fundraiser could be conducted on an individual basis, where consumers go on their own time instead of one larger gathering. An item to address this will be added to the agenda in February.

New Business: The 2020 proposed annual budget was reviewed and it was noted that some items needed to be clarified to differentiate between them, such as office supplies versus maintenance supplies. A note was made that the Church Secretary's review has not been completed and needs to be conducted soon. A motion to approve the presentation of the 2020 Annual Proposed Budget to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 26th was made by Marge Kirchner and seconded by Linda Van Buskirk. Motion passed.

Moderator Richard Dilts and current council members reviewed the

proposed council meeting dates for 2020. A motion was made by Dorathy Gallo to approve the proposed council meeting dates which was seconded by PJ Widerman. Motion passed. A brief meal break was taken at 7:22pm.

It was reported that a member of the congregation is collecting the tabs of soda cans for a veterans' organization and a request was made to place a collection bin in the narthex. It would be maintained by the member and was approved.

Department & Committee Reports: Building and Grounds: PJ Widerman reported that some of the door closures were either repaired or replaced and there is a safety feature on one interior door closure that activates in case of fire, separating the front and back hallways. Planning meetings are to be held soon as there are several projects that need to be scheduled and completed. An electrician has inspected the outside power boxes and installed safety locks. It was pointed out that there are safety locks needed for the A/C units outside as well.

SAM: Barbara Brownell reported that there was \$22,000 in mission spending in 2019, which is wonderful. There are 2 CD's that are due to rollover and one may be cashed out and the other renewed to allow more growth as more funds will be needed to continue funding the grants offered to non-profits every year. Barbara Brownell also reported that the grant applications are available on January 6th and are due February 3rd. A meeting was scheduled for February 10th to review the applications, however the February Council meeting is that same day due to an adjustment in the schedule so the meeting will be rescheduled. The grant applications will be available for approval by the Council at the February 10th council meeting. Barbara Brownell announced that there was a total of \$825 collected for the special mission to Honduras, which was more generous than expected. Barbara Brownell stated that the "Five for Five" fund dates are set for the five annual collections that go to support wider missions. Barbara Brownell also reported that two representatives from the church, one being Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner, will attend a training conference for DART in February.

Worship: Jennifer Hargis asked if communion is to be passed or intinction and it was decided to be intinction. Moderator Richard Dilts that the first Sunday of the month is traditionally handled by Council members. Vicky Followell and Judy Wetter will serve as holders for communion and usher, with Linda Van Buskirk reading Scripture and Connor Felix assisting as an usher as well.

Community outreach: Linda Van Buskirk reported that she has come across an idea for a community garden at the church where a plot in the garden would cost a flat rate and the "owner" of that garden would tend it and any overabundance of food could be donated to food banks, etc.

Events & Hospitality: Sheryl Overheid-Smith reported that the Women's Breakfast is set for February 1st and will be at the Keke's Café on Cortez. A host is needed for February Dinner and Dessert for the 3rd Friday of the month. It was decided that the birthday hospitality will still take place on the last Sunday of the month as that seems to work well for the event's organizers. The annual Pancake Supper was discussed and coordinators for that event are needed this year. A note may be placed in the bulletin for that need.

Faith Care: No updates to report, however Ken Followell is the proposed council member to head this committee if approved at the annual meeting.

Christian Education: No updates to report, however Jenny Crocker will be meeting with the pastors to develop programs for this area. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that the next Spirits and Spirituality report was originally set to begin on January 27th at Lakewood Ranch Beef O Brady's but will be delayed to February 10th. This group will be the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 6:30pm. There will also be a Tuesday night group at D's restaurant in Palmetto starting on February 4th that will occur the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 6pm. It is strongly encouraged that attendees only sign up for ONE group as the goal is to keep the groups smaller and the discussions more meaningful.

The closing prayer for the February meeting will be conducted by Sylvia Hull. Closing prayer was offered by Marge Kirchner. Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm. Next meeting will be February 10th, 2020 at 6:30pm.

FEBRUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 9am Men's Breakfast- D's Palmetto 9am Women's Breakfast – Keke's on Cortez 10am NA 3pm-9pm BAC
2 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service Communion 1:30pm BAC	3 SAM Grant Deadline	4 12:30pm Choir Practice 6pm Spirits and Spirituality- D's 6:30 Preschool Event SAM Meeting	5 7pm BAC	6 7:15pm NA	7 7:30pm BAC	8 Kiwanis Food Packing Event 8am-10am 10am NA 7pm Tret Fure Concert
9 9am Book Study STARTS 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Folk Service 1:30pm BAC	10 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality-LWR 6:30pm Council Meeting	11 12:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	12 6:30pm Book Study STARTS 7pm BAC	13 7:15pm NA	14 7:30pm BAC	15 10am NA
16 9am Book Study 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service Chili Cook Off and Heartfelt Hospitality 1:30pm BAC	17 7pm BR HOA No School	18 12:30pm Choir Practice 6pm Spirits and Spirituality- D's	19 6:30pm Book Study 7pm BAC	20 7:15pm NA	21 6pm Dinner and Dessert 7:30pm BAC FOLLOWER ARTICLES DUE	22 Flower Festival at Church of the Nativity 10am NA 5pm-9pm BAC
23 9am Book Study 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service Birthday Hospitality 1:30pm BAC 2pm CROP WALK	24 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality-LWR 7pm Inlets HOA	25 12:30pm Choir Practice FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPER 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	26 ASH WEDNESDAY Starts at 6pm 6:30pm Book Study	27 7:15pm NA	28 7:30pm BAC	29 10am NA 1pm Card Club