

# Faithful Follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



Faith United Church of Christ 4850 SR 64 E, Bradenton, FL 34208

| 941-527-9767

| faithchurchucc.com

## JULY 2020

### The Pastor's Corner

Welcome to July.... My how 2020 is flying by. Faith UCC Council has wisely decided to continue with meeting virtually for all our activities including Sunday Worship in July. I know that some of our sister churches are opening up, but with the ever increasing COVID cases in our county (the church's zip is one of the worst spots in Manatee County), I think the council has made a wise decision.

As we enter over 100 days of quarantine, I know it is getting harder and harder to stay home, but we will all be healthier for it. And, as I was reminded by someone yesterday, we will be through this someday. The scientists will find a vaccine, and then we will all wait for our turn to receive it.

The fact is that research has already found that antibody rich blood transfusions and some verified old medicines help those with the worst cases and has led to fewer deaths. We are making progress. Meanwhile, keep coming to Zoom Worship, Church Chat, Spirits and Spirituality, and Coffee Talk.

This Sunday Pastor Jude will be preaching! We are also going to start having some Zoom meetings of the

newly forming Manatee Justice Ministry coming up in the next few months.

If it has been a while, don't forget to call your church buddies and just check in with them. Thanks for all you do to care for each other.

Oh, almost forgot, Downtown Ministries has resumed their Tuesday night workdays that are officially 6:30 – 8, but they often start around 5 ish if you would rather go early.

Blessings, Friends.... Keep wearing those masks and social distancing. We will be together soon!

**Pastor Brian**

### MANATEE FAITH BUILD

There will be a zoom meeting about the Manatee Faith build that continues to move forward on July 15 at 3pm. Please join. The family partner is planning to be there.

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### THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your prayers, good thoughts and cards. They were greatly appreciated.

**Denny**



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### Keeping Current

For those of you who are keeping up your with your pledges, thank you so very much. For those of you who would like to fulfill your pledges, you can send a check to Faith United Church of Christ, 4850 SR 64 E, 34208 or to my home at - or by PayPal through the church website at faithchurchucc.com. Once again thank your for you generous and continuing contributions.

**Judy Wetter**  
**Financial Secretary**

## SAM (Social Action and Missions):

Our local food pantries are critically low on food, and we still want to be a help.

### PICK UP

1. We will be happy to come to your home and pick up your items! (call Babs at -).

### DROP OFF

2. You can deliver to church during office hours. (Call Faith for info on those hours 941-746-8890)

### SHIPPED

3. You can purchase groceries online and have them delivered right to the food bank address. Call Meals on Wheels for more info at: 941-747-4655

### MONETARY DONATIONS

4. You can send contributions directly to Meals On Wheels at 811 23rd Avenue East, Bradenton 34208. And through this link:

<https://securepayment.link/mealsonwheelsplus/one-time-donation/>



## Downtown Ministries

Also, we are also collecting plastic food bags which the Downtown Center needs for its delivery of clothes and food to the homeless. If you have extras of those (Like the plastic Publix grocery bags), please include them with your food items. Again, we will pick up!



**Meals on Wheels PLUS**  
OF MANATEE



**THE FOOD BANK**  
OF MANATEE

## CRITICALLY NEEDED ITEMS

- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CANNED FRUITS
- MAC 'N' CHEESE
- PEANUT BUTTER
- JELLY
- BOXED RICE
- BOXED PASTA
- CANNED SOUPS

- CANNED MEAT
- 100% FRUIT JUICES
- BREAKFAST BARS
- OATMEAL
- POWDERED MILK
- APPLESAUCE
- DRIED BEANS
- TRAIL MIX

*Donations can be dropped off or shipped directly to:*  
**Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee**  
**811 23rd Avenue East, Bradenton, FL 34208**

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

We would like to celebrate anniversaries, and we need your help! Please send us your and your spouse's name and your anniversary date, so we can update our records and celebrate along with you this year on your special day. Let the party begin!

Speaking of celebrating, if you haven't submitted your birthday to the church office, please let us know your birth date! We love sending you a church birthday card each year, so if you haven't gotten one, we probably don't have your birthday in our records.

Please email us with any updates like your anniversary, birthday, address, email, or phone! We love to stay in touch in touch with you!

~ Faith  
Secretary

Email the office at:  
[faithchurchucc@verizon.net](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net)

or call at:  
**941-746-8890**

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

**Spirits and Spirituality:** The 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:30pm through August 10th. We are meeting virtually through Zoom.

**Meeting ID: 843 6927 7674**

**Password: 253510**

**Rainbow Pants Magazine:** Pastor RBP (Rainbow Pants) is working on a print Magazine with activities, stories, etc... to send to kids. We will send each child their own magazine. Please email Faith at [faithchurchucc@verizon.net](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net) to submit a name and address of someone who would like to receive this children's magazine.

**Facilitating Worship:** If you are technically able, please speak with Pastor Brian if you are willing and able to host a future Zoom Sunday service. 941-721-7495.

## Church Chat:

Friday, July 17 at 7pm - **ZOOM ID: 816 7492 1042**

## Coffee Talk:

Saturday, July 25 at 10am - **ZOOM ID: 821 5584 4306**

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

JAN-MAY 2020

# FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach-McKeithen, Director

A note from Faith Preschool

We had a little graduation celebration for our VPK children on Tuesday, June 23 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. The children sang a few songs for their parents and enjoyed playing on the playground with their friends. It was nice to be able to say goodbye and wish them all the best in kindergarten.

Enjoy your summer and we look forward to being back in the fall!

Wendi Steinbach-McKeithen  
Faith Preschool Director



# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for JUNE

**July 5, 2020**

Communion

Scripture: Vicky Followell

**July 12, 2020**

Scripture: Jeff Felix

**July 19, 2020**

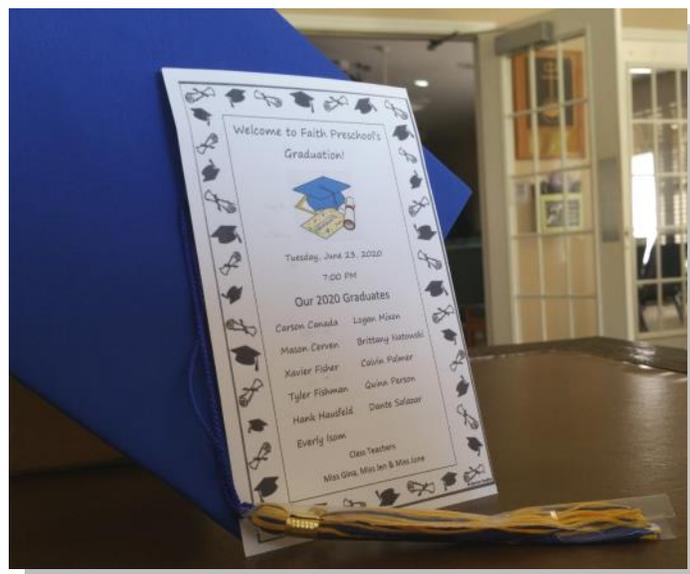
Scripture: Dorothy Gallo

**July 26, 2020**

Scripture: Joan Sheehan

If you would like to read scripture, please sign up by emailing:

[faithchurchucc@verizon.net](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net)



# Faith United Church of Christ

## Council Meeting Minutes June 15th, 2020

Present: Brian Bagley-Bonner, Barbara Brownell, Jenny Crocker, Richard Dilts, Connor Felix, Ken Followell, Vicky Followell, Sylvia Hull, Marge Kirchner, Faith Quici, Linda Van Buskirk, Judy Wetter, PJ Widerman

Absent: Amy Van Dell

Meeting opened at 6:37pm by Moderator Richard Dilts. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner offered the opening prayer.

A motion to approve May's Council Meeting minutes was made by Judy Wetter and seconded by PJ Widerman. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Financial Secretary and Treasurer Reports for May was made by PJ Widerman and seconded by Barbara Brownell. Motion carried.

Treasurer Vicky Followell stated that income at this time is beyond expectations for the budget.

Judy Wetter reported that giving towards the General Operating fund has been good, however the Special Offerings have not done so well.

Judy Wetter also reported that she has been in communication with Bank of America and Bank of the Ozarks and stated that it would be more beneficial if the Bank of America account were to be transferred to Bank of the Ozarks.

A motion to close the Bank of America account and transfer the funds to Bank of the Ozarks was made by Marge Kirchner and was seconded by PJ Widerman. Motion carried.

**Moderator's comments:** Moderator Richard Dilts apologized for a technical error that occurred the previous Sunday.

### **Church Secretary Report:**

The calendars were reviewed. Spirits and Spirituality will continue to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month through August.

Church Secretary Faith Quici stated that she has received some face masks from the Department of Health in Manatee County, which are in the church office.

PJ Widerman asked for the Church Work Day not to be published in the Calendar yet and that she will advise when to send information out about that.

### **Pastor's report:**

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner stated that there have been some members asking when the church will resume in

person services. He also noted that there is an attendee from another area that wishes to become a member. He proposed that the church create a special membership category and perhaps hold virtual membership classes. He stated that the associate membership may be able to be modified to include virtual members.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that research continues with a local audio/visual professional about merging in person services and virtual services so that all who wish to attend can do so.

Judy Wetter stated that she believes we should take this undertaking to the next level

Judy Wetter made a motion to approve a budget of \$10,000 for the technology fund pending approval of the scope of work which was seconded by Marge Kirchner.

Discussion was held on how best to pay for it. Judy Wetter suggested that either a fundraiser could be held or the church can utilize some of the funds remaining from the previous property sale to Thornton's. Church members have been donating to this fund as well.

Motion carried. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner will provide updates as needed.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner will be leaving shortly to assist a church in Ohio during their pastor's sabbatical, however, will be joining services every other week to preach.

Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner reported that they continue to follow up and speak with members on a regular basis, addressing their needs, etc.

### **Old Business:**

Council discussed the ongoing COVID-19 response and discussion was held on the reopening of the church. Pastor Judy Bagley Bonner stated that the UCC Florida Conference has indicated that churches would not be recommended for reopening at least until Labor Day. Council decided that in person services and meetings would continue to be suspended until further notice and it will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner confirmed that the Bradenton Apostolic Church has continued their suspension of in person services as well.

Moderator Richard Dilts asked about the purchase of a new computer for Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner. Pastor Brian reported that he was going to purchase the needed computer with all the specifications needed, however the retailer was out of the computer and it is no

longer on sale, therefore he is continuing to search for another.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that the new pastors' cell phone has been purchased and is still the same phone number.

**New Business:**

Moderator Richards Dilts informed the Council that, due to personal reasons, Jenny Crocker has resigned her post as head of Christian Education and is taking a sabbatical.

Moderator Richard Dilts stated that there is a pending memorial gift from some members of the church and that they would like Council to use the funds for something that the church needs and can serve as a physical reminder of their mother's memory. Council discussed options and suggested that a bench be purchased for the memorial garden or nearby path to provide a meditation spot. The family stated that they would consider this and provide a decision to the Council as to how they wish the funds to be utilized.

Judy Wetter proposed that a monthly report be generated by the pastors for the use of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to provide accountability and transparency as well as an efficient way to track the use of the fund for accounting purposes. This has not been completed in the past. Council and the Pastors agreed, and Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner stated that they would submit a report going forward.

Judy Wetter mentioned that there have been several ideas for fundraisers and she believes it necessary to present these ideas to Council to ensure there are no conflicts with multiple events happening at the same time.

**Departments and Committee Reports:**

**Events and Fellowship:** Nothing to report.

**Faith Care:**

Ken Followell reported that he is coordinating a meeting with the Faith Care team and will be working out the logistics of that with the CDC social distancing guidelines. He also reported that their efforts are going well.

**Worship:**

Sylvia Hull reported that things are on hold due to the virtual meetings and thanked Faith Quici for assisting with getting volunteers to read scripture every week.

**Community Outreach:**

Nothing to report.

**Property:**

PJ Widerman reported that the irrigation company replaced the part needed for the evaluation of the irrigation system, however they encountered an issue of the system not receiving any water and will have to evaluate that issue before moving forward on that project.

**Social Actions and Missions (SAM):** Barbara Brownell stated that the Strengthen the Church event continues this week. Barbara Brownell reported that this time of year is usually when Downtown Ministries collects backpacks for children, and she will have to check and see if they are doing that collection this year given the situation. She stated that she thinks if they do and start collecting sooner that it will prove more successful.

Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner reported that she, Sylvia Hull and Barbara Brownell are scheduled to attend the virtual DART committee of Manatee's conference. Sylvia Hull reported that she and Walt will be taking their annual trip to a state park in Ohio in August and will be out of touch due to lack of internet and cell phone service.

**Christian Education:**

Nothing to report.

There was a final review of the calendars and no changes were needed.

Closing prayer was offered by Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via Zoom.

# JULY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 	3 Independence Day Observed- office closed  7pm NA – outside  7pm NarAnon Inside back room	4 Independence Day  10am NA- outside
5 10:30am Service ZOOM Communion	6	7 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	8	9	10 7pm NA – outside  7pm NarAnon Inside back room	11 10am NA- outside
12 10:30am Service ZOOM	13 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality ZOOM	14 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	15 3pm Habitat for Humanity Zoom update meeting	16	17 7pm Friday Evening Chat- ZOOM  7pm NA – outside  7pm NarAnon Inside back room  FOLLOWER ARTICLES DUE	18 10am NA- outside
19 10:30am Service ZOOM	20 6:30pm Council Meeting	21 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	22 <i>Scheduled Church Work Day (4<sup>th</sup> Wed of every month)</i>	23	24 7pm NA – outside  7pm NarAnon Inside back room	25 10am Saturday Morning Coffee Talk ZOOM  10am NA- outside
26 10:30am Service ZOOM	27 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality ZOOM	28 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	29	30	31	

# How to Access

## SERVICES, SERMONS and BULLETINS



Check us out online! <http://www.faithchurchucc.com/>



All Sunday Services are now accessible through Zoom

**MEETING ID: 850 1145 4779**



**VIDEO SERVICES POSTED**

Check is out on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) for posted video services.



**NOTES AND BULLETINS**

We provide PDF version of the bulletins located in our [google drive](#). Sermon notes are located in the " [NOTES](#) " section of our **Facebook** page. Please email us at [faithchurchucc@verizon.net](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net) to sign up for our weekly email list to receive the bulletin and updates.