

# 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](http://faithchurchucc.com)

## AUGUST 2020

### Manatee Justice Ministry

At the invitation of some local clergy, the DART organization began organizing a Justice Ministry Program for Manatee County in 2019. DART, which stands for Direct Action Reflection Training, has over 25 such organizations in the Midwest and the South. In October, 2019, the Executive Director of DART (and Judy and Brian's longtime friend), Rev. John Aeschbury introduced our congregation to their philosophy and successes in his sermon "It's Time to Start Straining Camels."

Revs. Brian and Jude attended the first meetings of clergy from Manatee County early in 2020. That group has now set-up a temporary organizational structure and done the legal and financial work to begin the work of building this ministry from the ground up. The process is a long one, but has been tested over time to ensure success when the organization is fully formed. In addition to these regular local meetings, Rev. Jude and Rev. Sylvia Hull attended the National Clergy Training Program in Orlando in February. On June 30th, Rev. Brian and 10

members of Faith UCC attended an Introduction to DART ZOOM meeting hosted by Rev. Kim Uchimura and Emmanuel UMC of Bradenton. Then in July, Rev. Brian and Ken and Vicky Followell attended the National DART Justice Ministry Conference via ZOOM. Pete and Sharon Cahoon and Amy VanDell also attended a Florida Wide DART Rally to continue to work toward using civil citations for young offenders so they do not end up with a permanent criminal record for youthful indiscretions.

Please mark your calendar now for two events. On Wednesday, August 26th at 7 PM we are inviting all members to a ZOOM meeting to hear from some of those from Faith UCC who have been involved so far about the structure and possibilities of such a ministry. On October 22nd in the evening, Manatee Justice Ministry will hold its first Lay Leader Workshop. It may include a meal together if the situation allows meeting in person by then.

**Rev. Brian Bagley-Bonner**

### Let's Stay in Touch

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

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

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

**Church directories are available upon request.**

~ Faith  
Church Secretary



### 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 or by PayPal through the church website at [faithchurchucc.com](http://faithchurchucc.com). Once again thank you for you generous and continuing contributions.

**Judy Wetter**  
Financial Secretary

### 2020 PER CAPITA

We are committed to 100% paid membership. The cost per member is \$15. Thank you for your prompt attention to this conference responsibility.

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL MINISTRY – (AUG 7 deadline)

Most of the children that DOWNTOWN MINISTRIES serves each week are homeless or are living in very temporary housing. They need help for their most basic needs, and the SAM team would like to help get them started on the right foot this school year. How can Faith UCC help? It's easy...

1. Donate "gently used" clothing, uniforms, underwear, socks, or shoes for kids 5 - 18 years old. Please remember that they will be wearing these clothes to school. Please donate clothing that you would want your children/grandchildren to go to school wearing.
2. Donate a new backpack or maybe two for boys and girls of all ages - from Kindergarten to High school.
3. Donate school supplies for kids of all ages. (or fill a backpack or two!)

## BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK LIST

- Crayons
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Pens - Pencils
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Rulers
- Erasers
- Glue/Glue Sticks
- Kid Scissors
- Folders
- Paper
- Composition Books



These donations can be dropped at church, as we do the food donations (during office hours) or you can call Babs Brownell for a masked pickup!

We are asking that all donations be in by **August 10th**. If you prefer to donate money, please make checks out to Faith United Church of Christ with "backpacks" in the memo line. Those can be mailed to the church or directly to Judy Wetter and need to be in by **August 7**. *Let's remember "the little ones".....*

## 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 747-9643).

### 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/>



## CRITICALLY NEEDED ITEMS

<input type="checkbox"/> CANNED VEGETABLES	<input type="checkbox"/> CANNED MEAT
<input type="checkbox"/> CANNED FRUITS	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% FRUIT JUICES
<input type="checkbox"/> MAC 'N' CHEESE	<input type="checkbox"/> BREAKFAST BARS
<input type="checkbox"/> PEANUT BUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/> OATMEAL
<input type="checkbox"/> JELLY	<input type="checkbox"/> POWDERED MILK
<input type="checkbox"/> BOXED RICE	<input type="checkbox"/> APPLESAUCE
<input type="checkbox"/> BOXED PASTA	<input type="checkbox"/> DRIED BEANS
<input type="checkbox"/> CANNED SOUPS	<input type="checkbox"/> TRAIL MIX

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

## Downtown Ministries

Also, we are 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!

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

**Spirits and Spirituality:** Join us for our last one of this season! Monday, August 10 at 6:30pm. We are meeting virtually through Zoom.

**Meeting ID:** 846 8613 8776

**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.

**Friday Evening Church Chat:** Friday, August 21 at 7pm

**ZOOM ID:** 816 7492 1042

**Saturday Morning Coffee Talk:** Saturday, August 29 at 10am

**ZOOM ID:** 821 5584 4306 **Psw:** 595721

**Church Work days** – plan to resume in October 2020

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

June...

Jan-Jun...

## FAITH PRESCHOOL

**Wendi Steinbach-McKeithen, Director**

The teachers and I are looking forward to getting back in the classrooms this fall and seeing the children face to face. Our first day of preschool will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Some of the procedures we have made to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 are: daily temperature checks of the children and teachers, a change in our pickup and drop off procedures to help maintain social distancing. We will continue to provide clean and sanitized classrooms and strictly enforce our sick policy for the safety and well-being of the children and teachers.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and stay healthy!

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for AUGUST

**August 2, 2020**

Communion

Scripture: Vicky Followell

**August 9, 2020**

Scripture: Jeff Felix

**August 16, 2020**

Scripture: Mary West

**August 23, 2020**

Scripture: Joan Sheehan

**August 30, 2020**

Scripture: Jean Cox

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 July 20th, 2020

Present: Brian Bagley-Bonner, Barbara Brownell, Richard Dilts, Connor Felix, Ken Followell, Marge Kirchner, Faith Quici, Judy Wetter, PJ Widerman

Absent: Judy Bagley-Bonner, Vicky Followell, Sylvia Hull, Amy Van Dell, Linda Van Buskirk

Meeting opened at 6:34pm by Moderator Richard Dilts. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner offered the opening prayer.

Moderator Richard Dilts reported that two amendments to the June meeting minutes are needed. Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner was listed as absent and Jenny Crocker as present, and these should be switched. Also, Judy Wetter stated that the motion to approve the closing of the Bank of America account is not clear. The motion needed to be amended to clarify that Treasurer Vicky Followell, Bookkeeper Dorothy Gallo and Financial Secretary Judy Wetter are "authorized to transfer the funds" from Bank of America to the Bank of the Ozarks.

A motion to approve June's Council Meeting minutes as amended was made by PJ Widerman and seconded by Barbara Brownell. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Judy Wetter stated that the current financial reports do not reflect the Bradenton Apostolic Church's rent payment for June as it was not initially paid; however it has been now. PJ Widerman also asked about the Homeowners' Associations who use the church and why their information is not reflected in the financial report. However they are not meeting and utilizing the building at this time due to the virus pandemic. Treasurer Vicky Followell has been ill and was not able to complete a Treasurer's Report in time for the meeting. A motion to approve the Financial Secretary's Report for June was made by PJ Widerman and seconded by Ken Followell. Motion carried.

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

### **Church Secretary Report:**

The calendars were reviewed. PJ Widerman asked if a note could be added to the Church Work Days stating that they will resume in October 2020. It is not feasible to have the work days with the virus and with the hot weather and doesn't want to confuse anyone.

**Pastor's report:** Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner asked Council if utilizing Zoom for a new member class would be appropriate and whether we could use the associate membership status for those who are out of town who like to attend services. It was stated that there is no requirement for members to be in the same area at the church; therefore, it was decided that those who attend via Zoom can join as regular members. It was also noted that those who have other churches can still utilize the associate membership status if needed. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner will check on scheduling a Zoom membership class for the month of August.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that a member of the church is getting married and was originally going to go out of state; however, due to COVID-19 that is not possible. Therefore they have requested that Pastor Brian officiate a small group service at the church which will be live streamed. The wedding will take place at the church on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1pm.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that the Spirits and Spirituality, Church Chat and Coffee Talk events are going well and are consistently small groups of 10-12 people each which helps with their effectiveness.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner also reported that he and Ken and Vicky Followell recently attended a virtual DART conference that was informative. Two other members of the church also attended a similar event, and there is a plan for the two groups to meet and share their experiences and collaborate on how best to integrate the established procedures to best fit the DART model and Faith UCC's role in the Manatee affiliate. The *Follower* will have an article, and the Midweek message will have more information.

Financial Secretary Judy Wetter asked about the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that there was no activity in the last month. Judy Wetter stated that a report reflecting this information as well as current balances, etc. needs to be prepared on a monthly basis. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner stated that he would do so in the future. Treasurer Vicky Followell, Bookkeeper Dorothy Gallo and Financial Secretary Judy Wetter suggested that the Pastor's Discretionary account be transferred to the Bank of the Ozarks for easier use of the account funds. It should have a second signer on the account in the event Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner is not available. Judy Wetter stated that this will increase transparency for the account. Judy Wetter made a motion to authorize Vicky Followell, Dorothy Gallo and Judy Wetter to transfer the Pastor's Discretionary Fund account to an account in the Bank of the Ozarks which was seconded by Barbara Brownell. Motion carried.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner that Pastor Judy will return from Ohio on August 24<sup>th</sup>, and they will be both out of town to celebrate their son's birthday during the first week of September. Therefore, a guest preacher is needed for Labor Day weekend. Council will arrange a guest preacher that Sunday and a member of the media team can host the Zoom service that day and assist as needed.

**Old Business:** Council held a discussion about the current situation with the COVID-19 virus outbreak. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner stated that the Florida conference and greater UCC conference leadership feel that it is prudent to keep services virtual until further notice. Council will monitor the situation and continue to discuss it on a monthly basis. It was decided that in person church services will not be conducted prior to Labor Day.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner stated that the new computer for his office and a new webcam have been purchased and are working wonderfully. Council agreed that the quality of the video and sound was much improved at the previous Sunday's service.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner asked Council if a committee should be formed to continue the media update and develop virtual and in person service capabilities once it is safe to hold in person services. Council agreed that a committee should be formed to undertake this project, and it was suggested that Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner still be involved. It was agreed that the committee should decide who its chairperson will be. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner will reach out to determine member interest in the committee. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner also reported that he notified the local audio/visual professional about the increased budget that Council previously authorized. However he has not heard back so he will contact them and check on progress. He also stated that his contact was looking into systems that would be beneficial and work with the budget so he may be reviewing more with the information for the new budget.

#### **New Business:**

Moderator Richard Dilts stated that he was just informed that the Bradenton Apostolic Church has resumed small in person services; however, the number of people is limited to ten or twelve and that they are cleaning after services and social distancing. A date for their church to return to in person services was initially approved at a meeting with Moderator Richard Dilts and Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner; however, a miscommunication occurred because that agreed upon date had been pushed back. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner and Moderator Richard Dilts will meet with Pastor Ramon to obtain more information about the extent of the Apostolic Church's use of the building.

Moderator Richards Dilts also stated that he has not heard anything from the preschool about their plans to reopen, and it was reported that they typically do not reopen from summer break until after Labor Day.

Moderator Richard Dilts noted that originally there was not an August Council meeting scheduled and asked if Council needed to schedule one to continue monitoring the COVID-19 situation. Council agreed that this is necessary, and a meeting is now scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that Linda Van Buskirk has discovered that there are federal funds available specifically for non-profits to assist in reopening efforts. Ken Followell made a motion to authorize Linda Van Buskirk to pursue the federal grant option for reopening support which was seconded by Marge Kirchner. Motion carried.

#### **Departments and Committee Reports:**

**Property:** PJ Widerman reported that there were some A/C issues which have been addressed. She also reported that the church has a contract for regular

inspections and filter changes.

Moderator Richard Dilts asked for clarification 5 about the cement parking blocks in the parking lot and the need to have maintenance completed as PJ Widerman mentioned at June's Council meeting. PJ Widerman reported that those need to be lifted and the ground leveled out. They have sunk into the ground somewhat. Richard Dilts asked if the Bradenton Apostolic Church should assist the Property Committee, and PJ Widerman reported that they will help if made aware of the need.

**Faith Care:** Ken Followell reported that there are some members of the church who are eager to return to church and are unable to interact with others due to the virus pandemic. He encouraged everyone to reach out to other members to help everyone stay connected.

**Christian Education:** Nothing to report.

**Community Outreach:** Nothing to report.

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

#### **Social Actions And Missions (SAM):**

Barbara Brownell stated that SAM is waiting to hear from Downtown Ministries if they are having their school supply and backpack drive this year. She stated that she believes it will as children will need backpacks and supplies even if schools continue with the eLearning. She wants to get a head start on the collection. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner stated that he will make sure that this information is included in the Midweek message once more information is obtained.

**Worship:** Pastor Brian Bagley- Bonner stated that a member approached him about a housekeeper they use that needs supplemental income and offered to donate funds for the housekeeper to become a guest singer during services as needed. This was discussed, and it was decided that this is not in the best interest of the church.

A final review of the calendar was conducted, and there were no more corrections or additions.

Closing prayer was offered by Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

**The next regular meeting will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via Zoom.**

# AUGUST 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 10am NA
2 10:30am Service ZOOM Communion  2:30pm BAC meeting in person	3	4 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	5	6	7 7pm NA  7pm NarAnon	8 10am NA
9 10:30am Service ZOOM  2:30pm BAC meeting in person	10 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality ZOOM	11 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	12	13	14 7pm NA  7pm NarAnon	15 10am NA
16 10:30am Service ZOOM  2:30pm BAC meeting in person	17 6:30pm Council Meeting	18 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	19	20	21 7pm Friday night Chat- ZOOM  7pm NA  7pm NarAnon  FOLLOWER ARTICLES DUE	22 10am NA
23 10:30am Service ZOOM  2:30pm BAC meeting in person	24	25 6:30pm Downtown Ministries  9am VPK meet and greet  10am Preschool Staff Training	26  7pm Justice Ministry Info Meeting	27 9am MWF class meet and greet	28	29 10am NA  10am Saturday morning Coffee talk- ZOOM
30 10:30am Service ZOOM  2:30pm BAC meeting in person	31	<p><b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b></p> <p>8/11 Bruce Blakey 8/12 Liv Coleman 8/14 Shirley Rampart 8/21 Michael Frederick 8/23 Don Coveleskie 8/25 Pat Crowell</p>				

## Faith UCC Zoom Meetings – AUGUST 2020

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting ID #</b>
8/2	Sunday Worship	10:30am	879 4868 8594 Psw: 423167
8/9	Sunday Worship	10:30am	879 4868 8594 Psw: 423167
8/10	Spirits & Spirituality	6:30 pm	846 8613 8776
8/16	Sunday Worship	10:30am	879 4868 8594 Psw: 423167
8/17	Council Meeting	6:30pm	--
8/21	Friday PM Chat	7:00pm	816 7492 1042
8/23	Sunday Worship	10:30am	879 4868 8594 Psw: 423167
8/29	Saturday AM Coffee	10:00am	821 5584 4306 Psw: 595721
8/30	Sunday Worship	10:30am	879 4868 8594 Psw: 423167

### **To join by computer**

- 1) Go to Zoom.com
- 2) Click "join a meeting"
- 3) Put in the number for your meeting and follow computer instructions. **(Turn on computer audio and camera)**

### **To join by phone:**

#### **One tap mobile**

- +13126266799,,282925260# US (Chicago)
- +16468769923,,282925260# US (New York)

#### **To phone in just dial one of these numbers**

- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 253 215 8782 US
- +1 301 715 8592 US
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Enter the Meeting ID using the keypad:  
Then hit "#"

# How to Access

## SERVICES, SERMONS and BULLETINS



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



All Sunday Services are now accessible through Zoom



### 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.