

# 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)

## SEPTEMBER 2020

### Our Guest Musician

You may have noticed a new face during our ZOOM worships. Cathy Smith, a friend of Floy Peterson, has shared her beautiful singing voice in some recorded hymns and special solos. She was accompanied by Carly (at a safe social distance), and Pastor Brian even joined the two of them in a couple hymns. Cathy grew up as the daughter of Missionaries and has traveled all over the world. Thank you so much, Cathy, for adding your voice to our praise of God, and thank you to Floy as well, for suggesting the possibility.

### Parking Lot Ministry

Over the summer we were visited by an Angel. Actually, her name was Angel, and she lived down the street in Braden River Lakes. She and her husband, Jameson, were to be married in March, but when COVID hit, they had to

postpone their wedding plans. In this season of slow down, Angel and Jameson realized what was most important in their lives: their family and not their possessions. So they decided to take over a special project. Since they wanted to live a simpler life, they chose to convert a school bus into a tiny home for their blended family to live in and travel the country.

Due to the rules of their neighborhood, they needed a safe place to park their project vehicle for overnights. That's when Angel met Faith.

Permission was granted, and the project was underway. After a few months, this little family was ready to hit the road and head to their first stop, Colorado.

Angel, Jameson and their little family want to express their heartfelt gratitude to Faith Church for allowing our empty parking lot to serve as a safe haven in these troubled times and help prepare their family for great adventures ahead.

### 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 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.

# Neighbors in Need Mission Collection starts Sept 27!

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is one of the five special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ that we as a church family contributes to every year. Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support mission work that aides the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to

community organizing (like the local DART initiative we have become newly involved in) and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

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Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the elected officers of the United Church of Christ determined that the highest priority for our churches was to offer relief where possible. Thus, they gathered monies from a variety of sources, which included NIN, and formed a Covid-19 relief fund. Our collection this year may also serve to augment this fund.

We will begin our collection on September 27, with a Mission Moment in church the week before. Please consider your donation to this worthy mission of our church. Now more than ever, our neighbors are in need. Please help.

## 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/>

**Meals on Wheels PLUS**  
OF MANATEE

**THE FOOD BANK**  
OF MANATEE

## 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

**Friday Evening Church Chat:** Friday, September 25 at 7pm on Zoom.

**IN PERSON Morning Coffee Talk:** Wednesday, Sept 30 at 10am

We are going to begin our slow return to having in person gatherings with a 10 -16 person coffee talk outside on the church campus on Wednesday, Sept 30. We will maintain social distancing using the picnic tables to stay apart. The range of number relates to if your family unit is one person or two. If you are a couple you will sit together and not have to social distance. Please call the office if you would like to be part of this experiment. If it goes well we may initiate such gatherings in different areas so West Siders or Lake Wood Ranchers can minimize travel.

**Save the DATE:** Oct 22 Rethinking Justice Workshop 6-9 pm

Come as we gather online with people of other congregations as we begin to get organized. Through we had hoped to be able to do this meeting in person, we will begin the process of getting to know one another online. We have 14 congregations currently committed and hope to have 20 congregations by October 22nd. This will be a great place to learn what the plans are going forward.

**Manatee Justice Ministry:** Introductory Information Meeting

Our Zoom meeting about the forming Manatee Justice Ministry is now on our YouTube Channel. We also heard from Sabine Prather who has been working with several Anti-Racist activists in the Florida Conference UCC to bring a Resolution for the Annual Meeting about Racism Here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/navesA2fpW4>

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## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

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# FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach-McKeithen, Director

**Back to School for Faith Preschool.....**

Our first day of preschool will be Tuesday, September 8. We will welcome back 29 new and returning children to our center. The VPK Class had their "Meet & Greet" on Tuesday, August 25 and the MWF Class had theirs on Thursday, August 27. The children were happy to be able to see their friends and play on the playground together. Staff Training with all the teachers took place on Tuesday, August 25 from 10:00 – 1:00. We were able to discuss and go over the changes that have been made to our policy and procedures due to COVID-19.

We are all excited about getting back into the classrooms!

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for SEPTEMBER

**September 6, 2020**

Communion

Scripture: PJ Wideman

**September 13, 2020**

Scripture: Mary West

**September 20, 2020**

Scripture: Dorothy Gallo

**September 27, 2020**

Scripture: Vicky Followell

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

### August 17th, 2020

Present: Brian Bagley-Bonner, Barbara Brownell, Richard Dilts, Connor Felix, Ken Followell, Vicky Followell, Marge Kirchner, Linda Van Buskirk, Amy Van Dell, Judy Wetter, PJ Widerman

Absent: Judy Bagley-Bonner, Sylvia Hull, Faith Quici

Meeting opened at 6:33pm by Moderator Richard Dilts. A quorum was present.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner offered the opening prayer.

A motion to approve July's Council Meeting minutes as amended was made by PJ Widerman and seconded by Ken Followell. Motion carried.

Treasurer Vicky Followell provided the June and July Treasurer's reports and reported that the church is doing exceptionally well considering the pandemic and is above budget expectations for this period of the year by \$28,000.

A motion to approve the June and July Treasurer's reports and the July Financial Secretary's Report was made by PJ Widerman and seconded by Marge Kirchner. Motion carried.

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

#### **Church Secretary Report:**

The calendars were reviewed.

**Pastor's report:** Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that all virtual service providers such as Facebook, Youtube and Zoom, etc. are providing additional services to their users. One of the services Zoom is now offering is the ability to check how many computers are logged in to a meeting and create an attendance report for tracking attendance. Pastor Brian reported that this tool is essential for reaching all of those in need.

Pastor Brian reported that Pastor Judy will return next week and they will be traveling to Oregon to visit their son for a week. Moderator Richard Dilts advised Council that the guest preacher on September 6 will be Reverend Donna Papenhausen.

Pastor Brian reported that Spirits and Spirituality has had regular attendance in small groups which has been beneficial to those attending. Friday Church Chats have also been smaller groups which enables better interaction between the participants.

A new member's class will be scheduled for October with a joining ceremony in October as well.

Pastor Brian asked Council about having meetings in person outside the church or at local parks in groups of 12 where social distancing can take place in order to allow for fellowship, especially for those who cannot join Sunday virtual worship. Barbara Brownell made the suggestion that the meetings could be held in different

areas of the city on rotation. It was decided that this idea would be discussed at a later date and will depend on COVID-19.

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Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner also asked about the October reservation for the Annual Fall beach service. Council discussed the ability to social distance and noted that broadcasting the service would be difficult.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that there has not been much activity with the Pastor's Discretionary fund.

**Old Business:** Council discussed the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. Vicky Followell stated that she would prefer to wait to see what happens with the Manatee County schools going back to in person classes and monitor the number of cases that result before making decisions to resume in person services. Other Council members agreed. Richard Dilts reported that the Faith Preschool is reopening the Tuesday after Labor Day.

Judy Wetter also stated that she would prefer to be ready for hybrid services (virtual and in person combined) before going back to in person services so that all of our virtual attendees can continue to do so.

Council decided to remain virtual throughout the month of September and continue to monitor the situation on a monthly basis.

Pastor Brian reported that the media committee has three members and that he is waiting to hear from the consultant to call him back with an update.

Linda Van Buskirk asked if the music scholarship money could be re-dedicated to other uses since the pandemic has interfered with the original use of funds. It was stated that the FL UCC Conference has dedicated those funds to the scholarship opportunity and they should remain so.

**New Business:** Richard Dilts stated that the September 2020 Council Meeting was originally scheduled for the second Monday instead of the usual third Monday due to not having an August meeting scheduled, however, since it was decided to hold an August meeting, he proposed that the September 14 meeting be moved to September 21. Council agreed.

Barbara Brownell made a statement that she has found that sending cards seems to be more effective than making phone calls to members and attendees. She encouraged everyone to send cards as it takes a bit more time and is more personalized.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner stated that there will be a music playlist added to the Youtube channel soon and he will write an article about this in the *Follower*.

There are no department and committees reports as the August 17 meeting was added to directly provide continuous monitoring of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pastor Brian offered the closing prayer.

Next regular meeting will be held on September 21, 2020 via Zoom.

# SEPTEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 6pm Preschool Parent Night  6:30pm Downtown Ministries	2 Pastors on vacation Sept. 2-9	3	4  7pm NA 7pm NarAnon	5 10am NA
6 10:30am Service ZOOM Communion Guest: Rev Donna P.  2:30pm BAC meeting in person	7 LABOR DAY  Church office closed	8 First Day of Preschool  6:30pm Downtown Ministries	9	10	11 7pm NA  7pm NarAnon	12 10am NA
13 10:30am Service ZOOM  2:30pm BAC meeting in person	14	15 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	16	17	18 7pm Friday night Chat- ZOOM  7pm NA  7pm NarAnon	19 10am NA
20 10:30am Service ZOOM  2:30pm BAC meeting in person	21 6:30pm Council Meeting	22 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	23 FOLLOWER ARTICLES DUE	24	25 7pm NA  7pm NarAnon	26 10am NA
27 10:30am Service ZOOM  2:30pm BAC meeting in person	28	29 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	30 10am Coffee Chat in the morning – IN PERSON			

## Faith UCC Zoom Meetings – SEPTEMBER 2020

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting ID #</b>
9/6	Sunday Morning Worship	10:30am	835 3675 9706 Psw: 155824
9/13	Sunday Morning Worship	10:30am	835 3675 9706 Psw: 155824
9/20	Sunday Morning Worship	10:30am	835 3675 9706 Psw: 155824
9/21	Council Meeting		
9/25	Friday Night Church Chat	7:00pm	846 5655 7187 PSW 093397
9/27	Sunday Morning Worship	10:30am	835 3675 9706 Psw: 155824
<b>9/30</b>	<b>Morning Church Chat</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>IN PERSON</b>

### **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.