

# Faithful Follower<sup>1</sup>

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING 

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

| 941-527-9767

| faithchurchucc.com

## NOVEMBER 2020

### FROM YOUR MODERATOR

November: the month of Thanksgiving. Despite COVID, we do have a lot to be thankful for. As I write this, no church member has been infected with COVID – thankful. Depending on when you are reading this, the Presidential election is either almost ending or has ended – thankful. Although via zoom, we have been able to meet on Sunday mornings for church service – thankful. Our finances have been stable, and with COVID, better than we anticipated – thankful. When things are looking a little dark, I do, I try to do and yes, sometimes it is hard to remember there is more to be thankful for than not.

At the October Council meeting, Council decided to continue holding church service via zoom. Council is reviewing this on a month-to-month basis, and there is a chance, a chance mind you, that there might be some very limited in-person services taking place during Advent. Council will make the final decision on that during their November meeting.

2021 is not that far off, and your Council has begun to think about the year ahead. We will soon be moving into Stewardship, and I encourage you to start considering what you might be willing to financially contribute to Faith church. 2021 will also need your help ... would you consider being a Council member?

There are two main (Executive) Council positions

currently available in 2021 and they are: Council-Secretary and Financial-Secretary.

After three-years as your Moderator, I have decided it is time for new leadership and Connor Felix has agreed to be recommended for Moderator in 2021. This opens the position of Council-Secretary that he currently holds.

Judy Wetter has decided to return to retirement and will not be continuing as Financial-Secretary.

If you are interested in being recommended to fill one of these positions, please let me know. Yes, there is business that needs to be taken care of but being a Council Member really is rewarding! Those wishing to join Council are approved by the Congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January.

A reminder... the Pastors will be on vacation during the week of November 15<sup>th</sup>, and on the 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be welcoming Rev. Dr. Sylvia Hull to the pulpit via zoom. The church office will be closed on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> in observation of Thanksgiving.

Now as I close this November message, I wish you and yours a very peaceful and thankful Thanksgiving! I still have a few more months as Moderator, but I'm thankful to you for giving me the opportunity and privilege to serve as your Moderator.

Fondly,  
Richard

### LET'S CELEBRATE!!

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 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](http://faithchurchucc.com). Once again thank you for your 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.

# CHECK OUT THE VIRTUAL STUFF THE BUS!

Every year we fill school buses all throughout Manatee County with food donations through our **Stuff the Bus** event. Due to COVID-19, we have to "collect" that food virtually this year!

Join us online and donate funds to purchase food for those in need! **Gifts can be made on our secure website and will be used to purchase food in bulk to help feed Manatee County families!**

**HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF RAISING \$25,000  
TO FEED 1,000 FAMILIES!  
Just \$25 can provide 30 meals for a family of five!**

[Click Here to Donate and "Stuff the Virtual Bus"!](#)

## 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/>

## Update from Kids Against Hunger

As most of you will remember, Faith UCC sponsors Sunrise Kiwanis's Kids Against Hunger events and have often sent a team of our members to help with the packing of meals. Since COVID hit, we have not been able to attend but they sent us this update. SAM will be considering a donation in the next month.....AND Please keep all these wonderful, caring people in your prayers.

"We have been able to package over 60,000 meals this year. This is way down from the 170,000 meals we packaged in 2019. But all meals we have done have been distributed right here in Manatee County to organizations like Feeding Empty Little Tummies and Our Daily Bread.

Although we are not able to hold large scale events like in the past, we have been able to begin doing smaller events at our warehouse. These events are made possible by our generous donors and they are the ones who also volunteer to come and pack the meals.

We are following strict guidelines for the safety of those who attend our events."

## UPCOMING OFFERINGS

We will be collecting a special offering on Sunday November 22 for Habitat for Humanity. We do this yearly as part of our involvement with the community efforts of Habitat for Humanity.

In December, we will collect a special offering for "The Christmas Fund," formerly known as Veterans of the Cross, to help support retired UCC pastors.

## 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!

## Looking for volunteer Zoom Greeters:

As we continue with our online church services, one of the things we are missing is our greeters. During our in person services, these individuals would welcome and greet attendees as they arrived. We would like to see this continue during our Zoom services. Our online greeters would sign on about 10:10 and personally greet each person as they sign on. This is especially important for those new attendees who have been joining us via Zoom. As before, we would ask individuals to commit to a month and this will continue until we return to in person services. If you are willing to do this, please call Faith at the church 941-746-8890 or email her at [faithchurchucc@verizon.net](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net)

## Advent

Advent begins on the last Sunday in November. The worship leaders will be back in the sanctuary and we will be adding new Christmas decorations each week and explaining their origins. Since many (or all) will still be coming to worship via ZOOM you are invited to join in the worship by adding new decorations in your home matching the new elements in the sanctuary. They don't have to be fancy or large. One could even collect all the pieces in a bowl or basket and just get it out for Sunday. The first decoration will be the **Advent Wreath**. Some are very elaborate, but in essence it is 5 candles, the fifth one is usually larger and saved for Christmas Eve. The tradition is 3 purple or blue candles and one pink (3rd Sunday of Advent) but you can use any colors or even just white. The Sundays in December we will find out about the greens, mistletoe, holly, the Christmas tree, Poinsettias, and the Nativity scene. Jude and I look forward to sharing this season of waiting and watching with you. Somehow it is even more significant this year as we all await a vaccine and an end to the effects Covid has had on our lives. May God bless us with hope and patience this Advent Season.

## When are we going to have church in person?

At the October meeting the council gave tentative approval to inviting 10 -15 people to attend worship in person in a socially distanced way starting in Advent (November 29). As Council continues to monitor the local COVID numbers and any impact it might have on meeting in person, this remains tentative and a final decision will be made by Council when they meet in November. No matter the decision, we will continue to have virtual worship on ZOOM. The platform **may** change once we have a vaccine, and we open up completely. But please be assured we will always have church on-line from here on out. Many of us have gone through periods where we have had to stay away from large crowds, and we want to minister to everyone. Faith has also been blessed with some wonderful new folks during this time of virtual worship. Our on-line presence allows us to both support our friends at home and increase our chance to minister to those around the world.

## 'ROUND THE GROUNDS

The Property Committee has been busy at work cleaning out storage closets, repairing screens, following up on maintenance contracts and keeping the light bulbs burning bright. Since most of the interior jobs have been completed we are now concentrating on the outside improvements We usually meet on Saturday morning between 9 and 10 and depending on the number of

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for NOVEMBER

**November 1, 2020**

Communion

Scripture: Linda Van Buskirk

**November 8, 2020**

Scripture: Jean Cox

**November 15, 2020**

Scripture: Vicky Followell

**November 22, 2020**

Scripture: Joan Sheehan

**November 29, 2020**

Scripture: Mary West

If you would like to read scripture, please let us know! You can sign up by emailing:

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

volunteers, we assign jobs such as trimming, planting, raking, etc. We are, for the present, not adhering to the Wednesday schedule that has been published in the monthly calendars. If you are interested in joining us you are more than welcome. For more information please contact Vicky and Ken Followell or PJ Widerman. See you 'round the grounds.

I heartfelt thanks to Marge Kirchner whose very generous donation to the landscaping projects will enable us to complete our major projects.

Thanks to everyone who came out to our property cleanup day. We were able to make great strides in our efforts to continue our beautification projects at Faith UCC.

Many thanks, PJ



# FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach-McKeithen, Director



Greetings from Faith Preschool...

The children had a great time at their fall festivals this week! The T/Th and MWF class had fun activities on the playground and the VPK class went on a scavenger hunt and experienced feely boxes full of Halloween ick.

The preschool will be closed for Thanksgiving break from November 23 – 27.

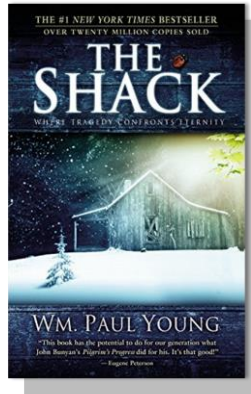
Faith Preschool wishes everyone a "Happy Thanksgiving!"



## Fall Book Study: *The Shack*

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm via Zoom

October 28  
November 4  
November 11  
December 2  
December 9  
December 16



## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

YTD (Year to Date) September 2020



### All Saints Remembrance: Sunday November 1

On the Sunday closest to All Saints Day (Nov 1), Faith UCC has a tradition of remembering loved ones who have entered into eternal life. During the service we celebrate your loved one's life. As you hear their name, please hold up a photo of them so all can see. We will acknowledge and remember your family member.



## CHURCH COUNCIL 2021

If you are interested in participating on the church council for next year, please contact Moderator, Richard Dilts.

# Faith United Church of Christ

## Council Meeting Minutes 10-19-20

In attendance: Richard Dilts, Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner, Pastor Judy Bagley Bonner, Sylvia Hull, Ken Followell, Vicky Followell, Barbara Brownell, PJ Widerman, Amy Van Dell, Linda Van Buskirk, Marge Kirchner, Judy Wetter, Faith Quici

Pastor Brian opened the meeting in prayer at 6:32pm.

A motion was made by Judy Wetter to approve the minutes as printed in the October Faithful Follower. It was seconded by Marge Kirchner. The motion was carried.

Treasurer and Financial Secretary reports were looked over and discussed. We have more givers who have been attending online via Zoom, thus our numbers at this current time are better than they were last year during the same time. The financial reports will be presented to council in an easier to read format. A date will be decided on soon for council members to attend and be trained on how to read and understand all financial reports in full.

A motion was made by PJ Widerman to approve the Aug and Sept financial reports and it was seconded by Sylvia Hull. The motion was carried.

The church calendars were reviewed.

Pastor Brian reported there has been positive feedback on the latest in person coffee talk. The coffee talk schedule for Oct 21 has been cancelled due to low sign up. The coffee talk scheduled for Oct 28 is half way filled with reservations. A new coffee talk is scheduled for Nov 13 at 10 am at Scott and Babs Brownell's home. We have 12 invites out for the new member's class on Oct 25. The pastors met with Leslie Etheridge, of the UCC conference, who gave affirming words about the new people from Sun City who would like join our church. The recent book study has been going well.

### **Old Business:**

There was a discussion about opening with in person services and when. At this time we will not have in person services for the month of November. However there is a possibility of opening in a safe way (minimal attendance through reservations, masks, social distancing, sanitizing, no singing...etc) possible start date would be the last Sunday in November and through the Advent season with minimal Sanctuary decorations and services being broadcast in the Sanctuary while also continuing on Zoom at the same time. A final decision will be made at the next council meeting and will be based on how the COVID numbers for our region will be when that date approaches.

We were informed that the NA/NarAnon groups are not following CDC guidelines that are posted at the church. They will be reminded of the CDC guidelines, given disinfecting materials and asked to clean afterwards. A representative of the church council will be present after their meeting to monitor. This will give them a chance to

continue to meet here. A meeting will be set up with the NA representative - Richard Geib, Richard Dilts and Pastor Brian to communicate the expectations to the NA/NarAnon groups meeting in the building and find out their needs as well.

There was a brief discussion about the HOA's meeting in person at the building. The council has decided not to grant permission for the HOA's to use our building to meet in person at this time.

### **Media Update:**

A contact of Ken Followell assessed the needs to distribute the new internet connection throughout our building. This is an approximate cost of \$2,415. Pastor Brian was advised to apply for a matching grant through the UCC to help with the media update expense. The information about our options with Frontier and Spectrum were reviewed and discussed. Faith will look into the cost of upgrading the phone system and getting new phones.

A motion was made by Marge Kirchner to switch from Frontier to Spectrum as a communications carrier for the church. PJ Widerman seconded it and the motion was carried.

With the church relying more on technology, there is a need for more help in this area. A few ideas and suggestions were made by Pastor Brian on how to solve the work load in this area and delegate some of the responsibilities. No decisions on a solution were made at this time.

### **New Business:**

Nominations for council positions for 2021 were discussed.

Events and Fellowship – Amy reported the first in person coffee went well and she will be at the next.

Faith Care – Ken mentioned he still needs drivers to take members to doctor's apt. etc. The need is especially for the West side of Bradenton.

Worship – Sylvia reported that people are signing up for scripture readers through Faith.

Community Outreach – Linda had no report.

Property – PJ thanked everyone who helped on the outside cleanup. There are plans in the works for the Memorial Garden including tree trimming to have a beautiful line of sight. The next big project is to raise the parking bumpers and paint them.

SAM – Babs asked Brian to mention the Food Bank whenever possible, they are in desperate need. Blanket Sunday has been rescheduled until after the first of the year. The Kiwanis club is still packing meals but are not using outside help. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated.

Pastor Brian closed the meeting with prayer at 8:45pm.

# NOVEMBER 2020

1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS FALL BACK  9am Book Study  10:30am Service Communion All Saints Remembrance  2:30pm BAC	2	3 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	4 Fall Book Study 6:30pm	5	6 7pm NA  7pm NarAnon	7 10am NA
8 10:30am Service  2:30pm BAC	9 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality	10 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	11 Fall Book Study 6:30pm  No School Veterans Day	12	13 10am Coffee Talk in person at the Brownell home.  7pm NA 7pm NarAnon <i>Pastors on vacation Nov 13-20<sup>th</sup></i>	14 10am NA
15 10:30am Service Guest Pastor- Rev. Dr. Sylvia Hull  2:30pm BAC	16 Council Meeting 6:30pm	17 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	18	19	20 FOLLOWER ARTICLES DUE  7pm NA  7pm NarAnon  <i>Pastors Return</i>	21 10am NA
22 10:30am Service  Mission Moment- Habitat Sunday  2:30pm BAC	23 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality  <i>No School Thanksgiving Break (23-27)</i>	24 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	25 10am Outside and In Person Coffee talk	26 Thanksgiving – Church office closed	27 Day After Thanksgiving Church office closed  7pm NA  7pm NarAnon	28 10am NA
29 First Sunday of Advent  10:30am Service  2:30pm BAC	30					



## Faith UCC Zoom Meetings – NOVEMBER 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Meeting ID #</u>
11/1	Testament of Devotion	9:00 am	871 7272 1991 Psw: 443426
11/1	Sunday Worship	10:30am	824 1875 8022 Psw: 348601
11/4	Fall Book Study- The Shack	6:30 pm	824 2413 4415 Psw: 983986
11/8	Sunday Worship	10:30am	824 1875 8022 Psw: 348601
11/9	Spirits and Spirituality	6:30 pm	898 5334 1538 Psw: 616098
11/11	Fall Book Study- The Shack	6:30 pm	824 2413 4415 Psw: 983986
11/15	Sunday Worship	10:30am	824 1875 8022 Psw: 348601
11/16	Council Meeting	6:30 pm	-
11/22	Sunday Worship	10:30am	824 1875 8022 Psw: 348601
11/23	Spirits and Spirituality	6:30 pm	898 5334 1538 Psw: 616098
11/29	Sunday Worship	10:30am	824 1875 8022 Psw: 348601

### **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:**

Dial by your location

- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Enter the Meeting ID using the keypad:

ID: -- Password: -- 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 us 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.