

Faithful Follower¹

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



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

| 941-527-9767

| faithchurchucc.com

DECEMBER 2020



FROM YOUR MODERATOR

This December message and Christmas greeting from your Moderator is a lot different than the message and greeting I prepared last year. Last year I proudly mentioned the many activities that would be taking place at Faith Church, but that was 2019. This is 2020 and things are a little different.

For your safety, Council has decided it is best to continue to worship via zoom. However, the Pastors will be returning to the Sanctuary to 'broadcast' their Sunday message. The Sanctuary will have some decorations, and we will all get to share our own home decorations with each other via zoom.

As mentioned, we will be continuing Sunday service and Christmas Eve service via zoom, and Council will revisit that decision for January at their December Council Meeting.

Speaking of January, Council has established January 31st as the date for our Annual Congregational Meeting. That meeting will include zoom, and at the January Council meeting there will be a decision made if we allow some to come to the church to be a part of that meeting.

I'm getting ahead of myself; let me get back to the month at hand.

Many of you have inquired if I am going all-out with

decorations at my home this year. The simple answer is "yes," but 'all-out' is going to be even bigger and better than 2019! I have added a couple more Christmas trees and various additional decorations.

There is not going to be a buffet church Christmas party at my house this year, but I am working with Brian and Jude to see if we can arrange for some kind of gathering. It might be similar to the in-person coffee-chats the church has been having. More information on that within the next week or so.

I will be enjoying Christmas day at home with the small group of friends that I have been feeling safe to be around. Christmas day will be done a little differently, but it will remain a joyful, festive and an enjoyable day!

The way you are planning on celebrating, be it a small group, via zoom, with your own thoughts or just one other, may this Christmas be as special to you as the fond memories you hold of Christmas past.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and the best in the New Year!

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 and keep you in the know.

Email the office at:
faithchurchucc@verizon.net

or call at:
941-746-8890

Church directories are available upon request.

~ Faith



Financial Secretary Change

As of now, Dorothy Gallo will take over the Financial Secretary duties. Thank you once again for keeping up with your pledges. We have several ways you can fulfill your pledges. You can send a check to Faith United Church of Christ, 4850 SR 64 E, 34208. Mail your check to Dorothy Gallo

and you may give online through PayPal on the church website at faithchurchucc.com. Once again thank you for your generous and continuing contributions.

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.

Reminder that pledges are due on December 6

Faith United Church of Christ Pledged Giving 2021

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

In 2021 I plan to give:

Operating Budget: \$ _____ Week _____ Month _____ Year _____
Building for the Future: \$ _____ Week _____ Month _____ Year _____
Time and Talent: _____ hrs. _____ Week _____ Month _____ Year _____

Stay the Course



Full Streaming Ahead

This estimate helps us to better manage the Church's resources. Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. Please print and return the form, to the church, by December 6

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!

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 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!



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**

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING- former "Veterans of the Cross"

This December, we join again with UCC Churches all over the country to take the Christmas Funds Special Offering. This offering (formerly known as "Veterans of the Cross") helps retired ministers and their spouses with both special assistance (medical expenses, etc..) and supplemental regular income (especially for those who served small rural churches with small pensions). It is one of the five special UCC offerings we take up per year. You can contribute to this fund any Sunday in December, and please remember to mark your donations with the name of the cause. Thank You.

Giving Credit

Last day for giving credit is
December 31.

Christmas Love Offering

This month, we are collecting for our annual Christmas Love Offering. This is simply a monetary gift given, collected and distributed to our hard working staff and volunteers at Christmas time to say "Thank you!" If you would like to make a donation, please indicate it is for the "Love Offering" on your offering envelope or check when sending that in this month. Thank you.

'ROUND THE GROUNDS

The landscape projects continue, and the new plantings are beautiful. All of the garden beds around the church are also receiving fresh mulch. If you have an opportunity to stop by the church, you will definitely be impressed. All of this work is made possible by a generous donation.

There is still much to do, and we typically meet on Saturday mornings weather permitting. If you are interested in joining us I would suggest you contact PJ Widerman or Ken and Vicky Followell to confirm we will be meeting. On Saturdays, the Property Committee folks also address other needs as they occur in and around the building. So if you are a handy gal or guy we can use your help.

The Memorial Garden planning group will soon begin investigating designs and funding opportunities for proposed signage, benches and a Labyrinth installation near the garden. If anyone is interested in being part of this group let us know.

See ya 'round the grounds! Peace, PJ

THANK YOU

Denny and I would like to thank all who sent, cards, messages and emails. Thanks also to those who brought food and a special thank you for all of the prayers coming our way. We love our Faith family and are grateful for each and every one of you

Denny and Judy



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for DECEMBER

December 6, 2020

Communion

Scripture: PJ Widerman

December 13, 2020

Scripture: Dorathy Gallo

December 20, 2020

Scripture: Mary West

December 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Scripture: Joan Sheehan

December 27, 2020

Scripture: Vicky Followell

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



**Special Moments: First Sunday of Advent service streamed
in the Sanctuary with our Advent Wreath lighters.**

FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach-McKeithen, Director

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends!

The children will begin practicing their songs for their upcoming holiday program. We have decided to have each class have their own Holiday Program this year. The schedule for the programs will be:

VPK Class – Wednesday, December 16 – 12:00pm
T/TH Class – Thursday, December 17 – 12:00pm
MWF Class – Friday, December 18 – 12:00pm

Each class will sing a few songs for their families and then enjoy a little treat together. Santa plans to make a special appearance during each of the programs.

We will be closed from December 21 – January 5 for winter break.

*Faith Preschool wishes everyone a
“Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!”*



Advent at Home

One of the things we will miss in Advent this year is the beautiful decorations in the sanctuary. To help us recreate this at home, we will have a time during each Advent services to explain the history of various traditions and decorations during the Christmas Season. As you consider your decorating at home here is a list of things we will be talking about if you want to prepare.

Week 1	(Nov 29)	Advent Wreath (5 Candles - 1 for each week and Christmas Eve)
Week 2	(Dec 6)	Christmas Trees and Greens
Week 3	(Dec 13)	Mistletoe and Holly
Week 4	(Dec 20)	Poinsettia
Christmas Eve		Why We Give Gifts

CHURCH COUNCIL 2021

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



All Together Thankful

Thanksgiving Coffee Chat



Many things to be thankful for despite the circumstances we face.



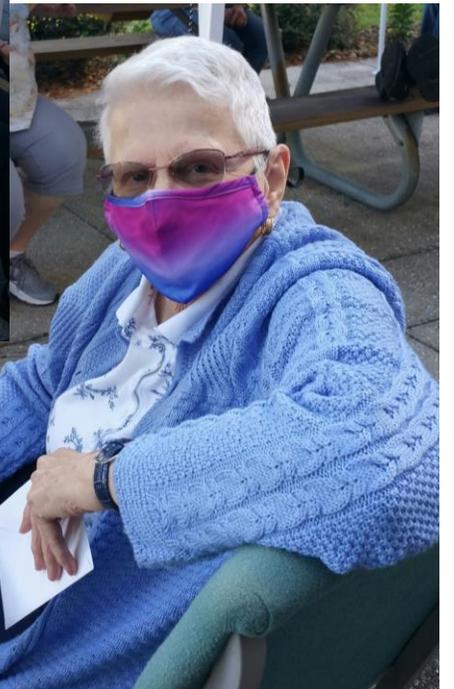
Floy Peterson modeling her fall colors



Marge Hooie & Joan Sheehan



ABOVE: Dorothy Gallo & Linda Van Buskirk



RIGHT: Marge Kirchner



**Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes 11-16-20**

Present: Barbara Brownell, Richard Dilts, Connor Felix, Ken Followell, Vicky Followell, Sylvia Hull, Linda Van Buskirk, Judy Wetter, PJ Widerman

Absent: Brian Bagley-Bonner, Judy Bagley-Bonner, Marge Kirchner, Faith Quici, Amy Van Dell

Meeting opened at 6:36pm by Moderator Richard Dilts.
A quorum was present. Sylvia Hull offered the opening prayer.

A motion to approve the October Council Meeting minutes was made by Judy Wetter and seconded PJ Widerman.
Motion carried.

Financial/Treasurer's Reports: Financial Secretary Judy Wetter reported that the church is still approximately \$25,000 ahead of the projected budget and credited the congregation for their continued support of Faith UCC. Treasurer Vicky Followell reported that there was an issue with the accounting software causing a discrepancy in the reports. However, the issue will soon be resolved and all accounts currently balance out properly. PJ Widerman made a motion to approve the Financial Secretary and Treasurer Reports which was seconded by Ken Followell. Motion carried.

Moderator's comments: Richard Dilts reported that he received positive feedback for Sylvia Hull's service last Sunday and thanked her for filling in while the Pastors were away.

Church Secretary Report: The calendars were reviewed and Moderator Richard Dilts asked for any adjustments to be sent to Faith Quici so she can update the calendars.

Pastor's report: Pastors Brian and Judy Bagley-Bonner were not present.

Old Business: Council discussed the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic and decided that, with the resurgence of cases, the church should remain closed to in person services and will continue online via Zoom. Moderator Richard Dilts stated that the pastors will be moving the service broadcast to the sanctuary which will be decorated on a smaller scale than usual. The council positions for 2021 were discussed and Moderator Richard Dilts reminded council of the term limits that were adopted at this year's annual meeting and clarified that it is four years total in any one position starting from the date of the 2019 annual meeting (01/26/2020). Some council members will be entering their second year and others will be in their first year. Moderator Richard Dilts updated the council on the switch from Frontier to Spectrum to facilitate the development and implementation of the media upgrade and that an error was made about installation requirements, however that is soon to be resolved. It was recently reported that the NA group utilizing the building was not in compliance with CDC guidelines, however that matter was addressed with NA and the guidelines will be followed in the future. It appears that it was a one-time occurrence. Linda Van Buskirk reminded council that the goal of Community Outreach needs to be reviewed and clarified for the upcoming year. Advertising and promotional methods were discussed and it was suggested that someone be designated to handle outreach on social media platforms.

New Business: Moderator Richard Dilts reported that for 2021 and moving forward, the finance committee has elected to

dissolve the Bookkeeper position and divide the duties of that position between the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer for better efficiency. Financial Secretary Judy Wetter briefly explained the different job descriptions of those positions. Treasurer Vicky Followell offered to facilitate a training session for budget planning and financial reporting at the request of council. Vicky Followell will work with Connor Felix to coordinate possible dates for this training which will include the new council members for 2021 in addition to existing council members. Moderator Richard Dilts stated that the 2020 annual meeting is to be held on January 31st, 2021 and noted the need to alter the format due to COVID-19. Secretary Connor Felix suggested a hybrid format consisting of a small socially distanced group of members who cannot join the meeting via Zoom and the remainder of members join via Zoom. Council also discussed the need for the meeting information to be distributed and a suggestion was made for the packet to be emailed to member and any member that needs a hard copy can be provided one by contacting the office. Financial Secretary stated that the meeting must be announced Sunday at least 3 Sundays in advance, which may affect the due date of the committee reports. Moderator Richard Dilts stated that the Church Relations Committee and the pastors met for their annual evaluation. The annual Christmas love offering was discussed by council.

Department and Committee Reports:

Property: PJ Widerman reported that the re-landscaping projects continues, is progressing well and six yards of mulch have been purchased to replace the existing older mulch. PJ Widerman also stated that the project to fix the parking space markers will soon be scheduled and will be followed by another project to improve the Memorial Garden.

Faith Care: Ken Followell reported that the Faith Care team continues to help those in need of assistance and are doing a wonderful job.

Community Outreach:

Linda Van Buskirk reported that she found a potential grant for the planned Memorial garden labyrinth and will research it further.

Worship: Sylvia Hull reported that the altar table and pulpit areas will be decorated for Advent. Council discussed if poinsettias will be offered for purchase this year and decided against it, due to COVID-19. Sylvia Hull has been recruiting greeters and Connor Felix has volunteered to be the Zoom greeter for Sunday services.

Events and Fellowship: Nothing to report.

Social Actions and Mission (SAM): Barbara Brownell stated that there would not be a Habitat for Humanity mission moment, however it will be rescheduled for a later date due to the Stewardship campaign starting soon. She reminded council that the annual collection for the UCC Conference Christmas Fund which goes towards assisting retired clergy members will also start soon and that this collection is different than the Christmas love offering for volunteers and staff of Faith UCC.

Christian Education: Nothing to report.

Sylvia Hull offered the closing prayer.

Next regular meeting will be held on December 14th, 2020 via Zoom.

DECEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	2 Fall Book Study 6:30pm Meeting ID: 835 2260 3098 Passcode: 751498	3 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	4	5 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
6 10:30am Service Communion 2 nd Sunday of Advent 2:30pm BAC	7 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality Meeting ID: 898 5334 1538 Passcode: 616098	8 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	9 Fall Book Study 6:30pm	10 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	11	12 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
13 10:30am Service 3 rd Sunday of Advent 2:30pm BAC	14 Council Meeting 6:30pm REMINDER ANNUAL REPORTS DUE NEXT MONTH	15 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	16 <i>VPK 12pm Christmas Program</i> Fall Book Study 6:30pm	17 <i>T/Th Class 12pm Christmas Program</i> 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7pm In Person- outdoor Coffee Chat at the home of Richard Dilts 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	18 <i>MWF Class 12pm Christmas Program</i> FOLLOWER ARTICLES DUE	19 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
20 10:30am Service 4 th Sunday of Advent 2:30pm BAC	21 <i>Preschool Winter Break Dec 21-Jan 5- School resume Jan 6</i>	22 10am In Person Outdoor Coffee Chat at the church- Christmas Themed 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	23	24 Christmas Eve 7pm on Zoom.	25 Christmas Day- Church Office Closed	26 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
27 10:30am Service 2:30pm BAC	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

Faith UCC Zoom Meetings – DECEMBER 2020

Date	Event	Time	Meeting ID # and Psw	
12/2	Fall Book Study- Shack	6:30pm	835 2260 3098	751498
12/6	Sunday Worship	10:30am	812 6014 2062	572108
12/7	Spirits and Spirituality	6:30pm	898 5334 1538	616098
12/9	Fall Book Study- Shack	6:30pm	835 2260 3098	751498
12/13	Sunday Worship	10:30am	812 6014 2062	572108
12/14	Council Meeting	6:30pm	-	
12/16	Fall Book Study- Shack	6:30pm	835 2260 3098	751498
12/20	Sunday Worship	10:30am	812 6014 2062	572108
12/24	Christmas Eve Service	7:00pm	831 8989 0491	616137

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 though 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 to sign up for our weekly email list to receive the bulletin and updates.