

# Faithful Follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



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

| 941-746-8890 |

faithchurchucc.com

## MARCH 2021

### Faith Church Continues Financial Support of Local Charities!

A few years ago, Faith Church set aside a portion of money for mission when we sold the front particle of land. This money was invested in CD's with five yearly expiration dates in the amount of approximately \$4,000.00.

In the past few years, Church Council has also set aside 10% (tithe) from bequests to the church. A portion of this money will also be used for grants.

It has been trusted to the SAM (Social Actions and Mission) team to follow a process whereby this money can be granted to worthwhile local agencies. It is an important component of this grant process that this money be donated to a 501(c)3 agency that has the support of the members/friends of our church family.

This year, focus for grant awards will be on programs from organizations that provide for basic needs (food, shelter, etc.) and justice advocacy in our local community.

In the past, grant awards have averaged from \$1,000 to \$2500.00.

SAM as created an application and a process and on **March 1, 2021** this cycle begins for the fourth year.

Do you have a favorite not-for-profit that you would like to sponsor for a gift?

Follow these steps to get the application submitted:

1. Request an electronic copy of the application and cover letter from the church office. You can do this starting on March 1. (Or go to our website)
2. Send it to the charity of your choice. (be sure to tell them to put your name on the line for sponsor) Charities can then complete and submit it to the church office themselves. (You are done!)
3. Remind your agency that the grants must be returned no later than at noon on **April 1**, and the recipients will be notified no later than April 30th, 2021.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call or email Babs Brownell.

### JUSTICE MINISTRY ACTIONS

The Manatee Justice Ministry continues to move forward with two important educational events in March. In preparation for our own annual work cycle we will observe our Sister organization FAST in Pinellas County (St. Pete) go through the two largest events of the year.

First on **Monday March 8th** we are encouraged to attend their **Rally at 7:00 PM** either via Car (It will be a Car Rally) or ZOOM Second the largest event of the year, the **Nehemiah Action**, is on **Monday, March 22nd** also at 7 pm via Car or ZOOM. The Nehemiah Action is where every member of the congregations are invited to come together to hold public officials accountable. Please let the office know if you are interested in attending either event, and how you would like to attend. **Contact the Pastors if you have any questions.**

## 'ROUND THE GROUNDS

Gardens and lawn are looking healthy and happy. Looking forward to Spring when we can finish the plantings and move forward on the Labyrinth planning. Stop by and take a leisurely walk and maybe I'll see you 'ROUND THE GROUNDS.

PJ

## LABYRINTH

As the Building and Grounds committee works on the beautification of the outside of the church, a subcommittee has been created to consider the possibility of creating a labyrinth. No decisions have been made and the labyrinth may be part of our future. The subcommittee is looking for individuals who may be interested in joining the discussion of the labyrinth. The dictionary defines a labyrinth as an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering, but purposeful, path. The labyrinth represents our journey our own center and back out into the world. The labyrinth has been used as a meditative and prayer tool for a long time. If you are interested, you can talk to PJ Widerman, Pastor Brian, Pastor Judy or Linda Van Buskirk.

## OGHS

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. We will have a special collection on Sunday, March 28.

## VIRTUAL CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR DENNY WETTER SATURDAY, MARCH 13 at 11am



A virtual Celebration of Life will be held for Denny, on Saturday March 13, 2021, in the Kaniewski Funeral Home, 3545 N. Bendix Dr., South Bend, Indiana at 11:00 am. A visitation will be held for one hour prior to the service. Burial will follow in Bremen, Indiana. Due to the ongoing Pandemic the family requests that all visitors please wear face coverings and practice social distancing. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to your favorite organization. Online condolences may be left at [www.kaniewski.com](http://www.kaniewski.com).

### Special Note:

The visitation and Celebration of life may be viewed via this link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/KaniewskiFuneralHomeLiveStream/>

## SEND IN YOUR REMEMBRANCE

There will be a time of remembrance during the service. If you would like to have a remembrance read, please email it to me at [djwet66@gmail.com](mailto:djwet66@gmail.com) by **March 8.**

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for MARCH

## March 7, 2021

Communion

Scripture: Sylvia Hull

## March 14, 2021

Scripture: Available

## March 21, 2021

Scripture: Janis Groth

## March 28, 2021

Scripture: Joan Sheehan

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

## OPPORTUNITY TO READ IN PERSON:

Do you want to attend worship in person? Now there is a way for one person a week to be able to do that: sign up to be the scripture reader. We will have safety protocols in place like properly wearing a mask and social distancing. There is also a limit to 8 individuals in the Sanctuary at one time. If you would like to read in person, just contact us and let us know and if you would like to bring your significant other. Please contact Faith at ([faithchurchucc@verizon.net](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net)).

## Virtual Easter Lilies

Easter is Sunday, April 4 and we are preparing something new: A virtual Easter lily opportunity! Instead of the traditional purchasing of a physical lily plant and displaying it in the Sanctuary for Easter, we are asking for donations to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in exchange for a virtual lily. This fund helps the vulnerable who need food and gas assistance, emergency shelter, help with utility bills payment, transportation and much more.

**What is a virtual lily?** We will have an order form attached to the email containing your Sunday Zoom link and Sunday bulletin each Sunday in March. By filling out this order form, you can pledge any amount to OGHS and write down the name of who you would like to honor, celebrate or remember with your virtual lily.

We will prepare a slideshow to show on Easter Sunday morning with the name and picture of your loved one that the virtual lily will represent.

After you fill out your virtual lily order form, please email it back and include a digital photo of your loved one. You may also drop off any hard copies at the office. Faith is available to scan a copy of your photo in the office during her office hours. (M, W, F 9-12:00, T, Th 1-4) Please call and make arrangements if coming in person for a photo scanning. Email: [faithchurchucc@verizon.net](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net)

**The order form deadline will be will be Sunday, March 28.**



## Virtual Flower Cross

We are still discussing on a month to month basis the COVID numbers and in person gatherings. In preparing for Easter this year, we are thinking ahead for virtual solutions in case we are unable to physically gather. We encourage you to consider bringing a special flower or plant to your zoom screen for the Easter service and have it displayed for everyone to see and represent your part of the Flower Cross.

### REPRESENTATION

The flowering of the cross represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus' death to joyful celebration of his resurrection. The ceremony transforms a barren cross, a reminder of Jesus' death, into an Easter symbol. This is something that can also take place in your heart and mind when you meditate on the actions of Christ's love for us by dying on the cross, being buried and raising back to life on the third day. By putting our trust in Jesus we are changed from inside out.

## SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, March 14  
Sunday, March 28  
Thursday, April 1  
Friday, April 2  
Sunday, April 4

Daylight Savings  
Palm Sunday  
Maundy Thursday  
Good Friday  
Resurrection Sunday



# 2021 PER CAPITA

Congratulations, we are starting a new, and hopefully better, year. Please don't forget this is the time to pay the \$2.00 initial fund contribution for the envelopes and the \$15 per capita for each member. The per capita is the fund that helps support our district conference. As a congregation, we voted that each member would be responsible to pay their portion. If you don't the church becomes responsible to pay the full amount for each member.

## OFFERING CHANGE:

Church Council has decided that if you choose to mail in your offering donations in, that they should be sent directly to the church for security purposes. Please send them to Faith UCC 4850 SR 64 E. Bradenton, FL 34208

Thank You  
FOR  
**GIVING**  
GENEROUSLY

## 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*

## FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach-McKeithen, Director

The preschool will be closed for Spring Break from March 12 – 19, 2021. We are all looking forward to a week off to relax and spend time with family and friends.



The teachers and I have decided not to have our Annual Art Show and Silent Auction Fundraiser Event this year. We will miss having this event, but we know we need to limit large gatherings to help prevent the spread of COVID.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Easter and happy Spring!

# Faith United Church of Christ

## Council Meeting Minutes February 15, 2001

**Present:** Brian Bagley-Bonner, Judy Bagley- Bonner, Barbara Brownell, Sharon Cohoon, Richard Dilts, Connor Felix, Ken Followell, Dorathy Gallo, Sylvia Hull, Marge Kirchner, Faith Quici, Linda Van Buskirk, Amy Van Dell, PJ Widerman

**Absent:** Vicky Followell

Meeting opened at 6:33 pm by Moderator Connor Felix. A Quorum was present.

Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner offered a poem in place of the opening prayer.

A motion was made to approve the January Council Meeting minutes by PJ Widerman and seconded by Sylvia Hull. Motion carried.

### **Financial/Treasurer's report:**

Financial report not given as Vicky Followell was absent

### **Moderator's comments:**

Moderator Connor Felix stated that he appreciates everyone's support as he takes over this new role. He will contact the committee chairs for their goal this year.

### **Church Secretary report:**

The calendars were reviewed. Ash Wednesday service will be at noon via Zoom.

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

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner discussed the discretionary fund report. He also reported that Pastor Evan Ferrer of the Congregational UCC church would like to join with Faith UCC to develop an outreach to the disabled community, perhaps monthly. A discussion was held on how best to possibly proceed.

### **Old Business**

Council discussed the ongoing current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. For safety concerns, the pastors may have to go back to holding services in their office rather than in the sanctuary. A decision was made to continue to hold virtual services through zoom.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner stated that by late February all video equipment should be in place.

### **New Business**

5

Sylvia Hull will purchase Easter Lilies for decor in the sanctuary. A discussion was held as to whether people could contribute to "virtual" Lilies"

Effective immediately all checks should now be sent directly to the church office rather than to Dorathy Gallo's house.

### **Departments and committee reports**

#### **Property**

PJ Widerman reported that currently just maintenance of new plants was being done. A suggestion was made to have a few motion lights installed. Discussion followed to perhaps have one installed at the patio area, entry way and back door.

#### **Faith Care:**

Ken Followell stated that team members were continuing to contact various church members.

#### **Christian Education:**

Richard Dilts reported that a new family, with 2 young boys, has joined the church. A discussion was held on having Sunday school through zoom.

#### **Community outreach**

Linda Van Buskirk did not have a report

#### **Social Actions and Missions (SAM)**

Barbara Brownell stated that there would be a meeting on Wednesday, February 17th to discuss the grants. March is the opening of the grant process. The deadline to return the applications is April 1st. If a member of the congregation wants to sponsor a non profit charity, please contact Barbara Brownell for more information (B0133 1 [0@aol.com](mailto:0@aol.com))

A discussion was held on the 3 CD's maturing soon. A motion was made by Dorathy Gallo to pull money out of the two smaller CD's to be used for these grants. Linda Van Buskirk seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **Events**

Amy Van Dell did not have a report.

A discussion was held on the final review of the calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm  
Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner offered the closing prayer.

# MARCH 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Book Study 6:30pm - ZOOM	3 Book Study 10:30am - ZOOM	4 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom  7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	5	6 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
7 10:30am Service  2:30pm BAC	8 Justice Ministry St. Pete Annual Event – Issues Rally	9 Book Study 6:30pm - ZOOM	10 Book Study 10:30am - ZOOM	11 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom  7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	12	13 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room  Denny Wetter's virtual Celebration of Lief Service 11am
14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS- SRING FORWARD  10:30am Service  2:30pm BAC	15 6:30pm Council Meeting  SPRING BREAK 15-19	16 Book Study 6:30pm - ZOOM	17 St. Patrick's Day  Book Study 10:30am - ZOOM	18 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom  7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	19 FOLLOWER REMINDER	20 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
21 10:30am Service Mission Moment  2:30pm BAC	22 FOLLOWER DEADLINE  Justice Ministry St. Pete Annual Event – Nehemiah Action	23 Book Study 6:30pm - ZOOM	24 Book Study 10:30am - ZOOM	25 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom  7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	26	27 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
28 PALM/ PASSION SUNDAY  Virtual Lilies Due  10:30am Service OGHS collection  2:30pm BAC	29	30 Book Study 6:30pm - ZOOM	31 Book Study 10:30am - ZOOM			

## Faith UCC Zoom Meetings – MARCH 2021

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting ID # and Psw</b>	
3/2	Tues Book Study	6:30pm	896 5907 9565	219407
3/3	Wed Book Study	10:30am	829 2105 6283	421454
3/7	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
3/9	Tues Book Study	6:30pm	896 5907 9565	219407
3/10	Wed Book Study	10:30am	829 2105 6283	421454
3/14	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
3/16	Tues Book Study	6:30pm	896 5907 9565	219407
3/17	Wed Book Study	10:30am	829 2105 6283	421454
3/21	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
3/23	Tues Book Study	6:30pm	896 5907 9565	219407
3/24	Wed Book Study	10:30am	829 2105 6283	421454
3/28	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838

### **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.