

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

MAY 2021

Opening Up

The Council has opened us up for 40 vaccinated and masked people for Sunday Worship. Our secretary Faith has developed a great plan for making reservations. Below are the 3 ways to do it:

TO MAKE A RESERVATION:

CALL: You may call the church and leave a message at 941-746-8890

EMAIL: Email us at faithchurchucc@verizon.net

ONLINE: Or use this preferred online reservation link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunday-worship-may-2-tickets-151698059981>

1. Please reserve for your whole party (especially if it includes friends) we don't need names but do need

numbers of people sitting together

2. Please watch the instructional video about what to expect when you come to church in person

On Sunday

1. Ushers will escort people to their seats so we are able to keep socially distanced.

3. We will be singing With Masks ON to protect one another

4. We will gather outside on the patio after worship but will not have refreshments in May.

Remember, this is our first experiment in coming back.

Things may changed and we will keep you posted. Thanks for all your patience during our Covid-19 Adventure together!



“MOTHERLY ADVICE”

Mother's day is Sunday, May 9. We would like to help you celebrate a women in your life who had a positive influence on you.

Please think back on your life and submit to us a wise saying or piece of advice from the mother figure in your life (mother, grandmother, teacher, aunt... etc). Remember to include their name as well.

The deadline is **Wednesday, May 5**. We will compile these and pass out on Mother's day for everyone to receive a good dose of wisdom.

Please contact us via phone (941-746-8890) and leave a message or email us (faithchurchucc@verizon.net).



‘ROUND THE GROUNDS

Many thanks to Fred Damianos for repairing and refurbishing the Memorial Garden sign that Denny Wetter made some years ago. The sign will be lovingly reinstalled at the entrance to the Garden.

Salvador, a member of the Apostolic Congregation, will be trimming some of the trees in the Memorial Garden that have become very overgrown. He was also a great help to us on the Property Work Day. He and other members of the Apostolic congregation have been raising the parking bumpers and when that is completed the bumpers will be painted.

Thanks to all who continue to help keep our property beautiful.

I hope to see you soon 'round the grounds.

PJ



Church Council Votes Funding for Local Not-for-Profit Agencies

The SAM (Social Action and Missions) Team has completed their annual missions award process and made recommendations to the Council, which were approved at the April meeting. (This fund exists because the Council sets aside a portion of bequests and gifts for this mission fund.) Every grant was sponsored by a church member and successfully met the criteria set. This year the focus was on basic needs and social justice. The money available this year was \$8627.94. The awards are as follows:

Kiwanis Kids Against Hunger \$1500.00

This is the third year we have funded this Kiwanis program. The money will go to provide supplies for this service club's packing events where an all-volunteer group (our members are among past volunteers) assembles high protein, dehydrated food packets. These packets are then delivered to local agencies such as Feeding Empty Little Tummys (FELT) HOPE shelter, Our Daily Bread, and to disaster areas. This year's donation will provide the ingredients for 5,000 meal packets and allow our church to be a recognized sponsor of one packing event. Bruce Covey is their sponsor.

Parenting Matters \$1500.00

This is the third year of funding for this parenting education/support agency and is to support their Family Emergency Fund. This fund helps provide for emergency basic needs for clients that are not provided through any other funding sources. In past our donation has helped with rent, electric bills, food, appliances (a stove and a refrigerator) as well as baby supplies like Pac'n Plays, diapers and children's clothing. Barbara Brownell is their sponsor.

Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee \$696.00

This is the third year of funding the set up and implementation of the agency's Better Impact software program. Because of our funding in past years, this software is able to be used to support recruitment, scheduling and communication for the over 1,000 volunteers that serve this agency.

This year's donation finishes the project by allowing the agency to purchase a renewal fee for the software for 2021. Linda Van Buskirk is their sponsor.

Manatee Justice Ministry \$2000.00

This is the first year of funding for this organization. It is also the first Social Action program being funded through this grant process. The donation will contribute to the salary of a community organizer who will seek to connect members of congregations, community and local leaders to address the root causes of poverty and injustice in Manatee County. Manatee Justice Ministry is an affiliate of DART, a national organization, which provides local groups training in organizing groups for social change. Several members of Faith UCC, including our pastors, are members and supporters of MJM. Rev. Dr. Sylvia Hull is their sponsor.

Habitat for Humanity-Manatee \$2250.00

This is the fourth year of funding for Habitat. In past years we have funded a variety of projects for their "builds", including countertops and cabinetware and interior finishing. This year's donation will sponsor the interiors walls of the home for an Iraq war veteran who is a small business owner in Palmetto. Members of our church have helped on these building projects in the past and are welcome to participate anytime, when able. Barbara Brownell is their sponsor. →

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for MAY

May 2, 2021

Communion

Scripture: Sylvia Hull

May 9, 2021

Scripture: Mary West

May 16, 2021

Scripture: Available

May 22, 2021

Scripture: Available

May 22, 2021

Scripture: Joan Sheehan

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

→ **Total Amount \$7,946.00**
↑ **Balance in fund: \$681.94**

SAM members: Sylvia Hull, Carol Knight, Marge Kirchner, Vickie Followell, Linda VanBuskirk, Barbara (Babs) Brownell. (Pastor Brian ad hoc)

**FINANCIAL
SNAPSHOT**

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.

Strengthen the Church Special Offering Collection dates: May 23 & 30

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/>



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

It is hard to believe the 2020/2021 preschool year is almost over. To end the year, we will be having a "Moving On" Ceremony for the VPK class. It will be held on Tuesday, May 25th from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM.

The children will sing a few songs on stage for their families and receive their diplomas. After the program we will have treats available outside. Our last day of preschool will be Thursday, May 27th. We wish all our graduates a successful year in kindergarten!



We hope all of you have a wonderful summer!!

Faith United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes April 19, 2021

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

Meeting opened at 6:33 pm a quorum was established. Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner offered a devotion in place of the opening prayer,

A motion was made by PJ Widerman to approve the March Council Meeting Minutes and seconded by Marge Kirchner. Motion carried.

Financial/Treasurer report: The report was given. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Dorothy Gallo to approve the report and seconded by P J Widerman.

Moderator's comments: Moderator Connor Felix reported that his sister was ill and that he might have to be out of town. He will inform the council when he leaves.

Church Secretary report: The calendars for April, May and June were reviewed. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that he and Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner would be on vacation starting Monday June 21 through Sunday, July 4th. He also stated that Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner would then be in Ohio through September 6th. A guest minister would need to be found for the Sundays of June 27th and July 4th. A discussion was held that Sylvia Hull should obtain the guest ministers.

Vicky Followell stated that the service for Beth Hooie should be added to the calendar for Saturday, May 1. Barbara Brownell stated that on Sunday, May 16th Strengthen the Church mission report will be given and then the Sundays of May 23rd and 30th there will be collections for this mission.

Pastors Report: Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that they have been receiving heart felt expressions of love since they announced their retirement. Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner stated that the church should be defined by it's members not just by the ministers. Vicky Followell told the pastors that they are moving forward with their life.

Pastoral Retirement: Moderator Connor Felix reported that he had a meeting with a member of the Florida Conference who will be meeting with Pastors Brian and Judy Bagley-Bonner to fund out what their role with the church will be until they retire. A discussions was held on several options for the search committee. Barbara Brownell stated that the church should follow the process. The search committee is an extensive process which will require regular meetings. The committee should have an accurate representation of the demographics of the church. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that the Council appoints the members of the search committee.

Old Business: A discussion was held on whether or not services in person should resume. Possibly easing back with 50 % capacity. Perhaps have a reservation list - whereby

people would call the church office to inform that they would be coming on a certain Sunday. Even with some⁴ people in attendance services would still be available on Zoom and Face book. Masks will be required.

A motion was made by Ken Followell to have May 2nd as the first service back in the sanctuary and limit it to 40 members in addition to the staff. There will be a request that the attendees notify the church that they have been vaccinated. It was seconded by Dorothy Gallo. Motion carried.

Media Update. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that the new video camera should be available by the 1st Sunday in May. PJ Widerman stated that she had sent emails to everyone regarding a get together on a Saturday in May or early June.

New Business: SAM Annual Grants. Barbara Brownell made a motion to approve expenditures as recommended by the SAMs committee. A total of \$7,946 will be spent. Ken Followell seconded the motion. It was approved. Motion carried.

Church Relations committee: A discussion was held on who should be on this committee. Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner stated that Moderator Connor Felix could attend the meeting at as ex-officio. Barbara Brownell stated that Faith United Church of Christ has a manual for this committee. Pastors

Discretionary Fund: Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that during the first quarter the church helped 3 different families for a total of \$624.

Department and Committee Reports

Property/Grounds: PJ Widerman reported that work on the grounds is continuing. Fred Damianos has cleaned up a sign for the memorial gardens originally made by Denny Wetter.

Events: Amy Van Dell reported that there has been several coffee chat get togethers. The Celebration of Life memorial service for Beth Hooie will be on Saturday, May 1.

SAMS: Barbara Brownell reported on 1 Great Hour of Sharing.

Community Outreach: Linda Van Buskirk stated that she is looking into a fund raising.

Faith Care: Ken Followell reported that he will have a meeting via zoon next week.

Christian Education: No report

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner offered the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. The next meeting will be Monday, May 17, 2021.

MAY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room Beth Hooie Memorial Service
2 10:30am Service Communion 2:30pm BAC	3	4 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality	5	6 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	7	8 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
9 10:30am Service MOTHER'S DAY 2:30pm BAC	10	11 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality	12	13 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	14	15 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
16 10:30am Service Strengthen the Church (STC) Mission Moment 2:30pm BAC	17 Church Council Meeting 6:30pm	18 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality	19	20 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	21	22 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
23 10:30am Service STC Offering collection 2:30pm BAC	24	25 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality VPK Graduation 6:30pm	26	27 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	28	29 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
30 10:30am Service STC Offering collection 2:30pm BAC	31 MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed					

Faith UCC Zoom Meetings – MAY 2021

Date	Event	Time	Meeting ID # and Psw	
5/2	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
5/4	Spirits and Spirituality	7:00pm	830 3017 7899	447050
5/9	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
5/11	Spirits and Spirituality	7:00pm	830 3017 7899	447050
5/16	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
5/18	Spirits and Spirituality	7:00pm	830 3017 7899	447050
5/23	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
5/30	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 "#"