

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

SEPTEMBER 2021

Vaya con Dios

As we prepare for leaving our roles as Faith UCC's pastors, we are experiencing both joy and sadness. We both look forward to the next part of our lives; Jude will finish out her career with 6 months as Associate Pastor at her home church, and Brian looks forward to a time of renewal, helping his mother with moving, and catching up on so many deferred projects and activities. After Jude retires in Ohio (Easter 2022) we will be heading out to Jackson and Heather's wedding and then begin the international travel stage of our retirement.

All those things are the joys, the sadness is leaving this wonderful church and all of you. Faith UCC is a unique and amazing community of faith and it has been our honor to walk with you in our time together. We will miss leading worship with you and being with you for both the joys and difficulties of life. Soon an interim pastor will be doing that with you, and then after a good search, you will call a settled pastor to walk with you on the road of faith.

We have talked about having a "good goodbye." The last two settled pastors' departures were difficult and complicated and so we want to do a clean separating process. It will be sad, for sure, but though we will say goodbye to you as your pastors, it is not a final goodbye. We will still be together as followers of Christ. Somehow, mystically, we will still be together at communion, even though physically apart and certainly we remain together in the wondrous love of God. And so in this, our last Follower article, we want to say vaya con Dios... Go with God ... as an acknowledgment that, yes, we are separating, but we will remain together forever in the bright light of God's love.

Vaya con Dios,

Brian and Jude

Comments from the Moderator: PJ Widerman

As September 26, 2021 approaches, we are all beginning to feel that little "pang" in our hearts that we will be saying goodbye to Pastors Judy and Brian. They have been our friend, family and provided spiritual guidance to all of us. We will miss them.

As they RV away on their new adventures it is important to remember that we are all still here together. We too will be embarking on new adventures together. An Interim Pastor will serve a very important part in leading us forward. Interim pastors are expected to carry on the traditional work of the church including, but not limited to worship planning, preaching, working well with council and committees, and pastoral care. We currently have three applications for Interim Pastor and the Interim Search Team will be interviewing them soon. It will be the Team's responsibility to find the person who will help make our transition to the next pastor as smooth as possible. This transition time will help us learn a lot about our strengths and weaknesses and figure out ways to solve them in order to be ready for a new full-time pastor.

I am excited and encouraged to see what God has in store for Faith United Church of Christ and all of us who have made her our home.



Faith Care

Can you help with rides to and/or from services? Please let me know either by an email to

if you are willing to be part of a schedule to provide these rides. Thank you in advance for your help.

~ Ken Followell and the Faith Care team.

Special Offerings

Will you add **Rowlett School Fundraiser** Two children connected to Faith go to this art based magnet school. Consider supporting them and other young artists. Rowlett Academy Fund Drive Sponsorship Drive 2021 – Community – Rowlett Academy One Time Donation (wufoo.com)

Supporting Afghan Children and Families This highly rated fund has been working in Iran and Afghanistan for years and they are an excellent way to support families in this terrible time. Link:

Kid's Against Hunger

The Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Foundation has agreed to match donations to this great group for the next 6 months!

They will match up to \$500 per household per month

Note: you can donate two ways: on line (see below) or you may mail a check made out to the Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust, 1843 Floyd Street, Sarasota, FL 34239 and note in the memo line on the check the organization (Kiwanis Against Hunger) you would like your monies directed to.

To donate on line:

1. go to the www.FlanzerTrust.org home page
2. Click on the red bar that says "Donate Here"
3. Enter your contact info and select the charity recipient (Kiwanis Against Hunger) from the drop down menu.
4. Click to submit your information to proceed.
5. Then click to submit your donation thru PayPal (you will be asked to check PayPal or use credit card in a minute)
6. Enter the dollar amount and notice the box that lets you check if you want to make it monthly or not.
7. Now you can enter whether you want to pay with a credit card, debit or PayPal
8. Fill out that info and you are done!!

SAVE THE DATES:

Manatee Pride:

Sept 18 from noon-5pm at River Walk

Pastors' Last Sunday:

Sept 26

Next Mission Moment:

Neighbors in Need (NIN)– Oct 3

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for SEPTEMBER

Sept 5, 2021

Communion

Scripture: Barbara Brownell

Sept 12, 2021

Scripture: Dorothy Gallo

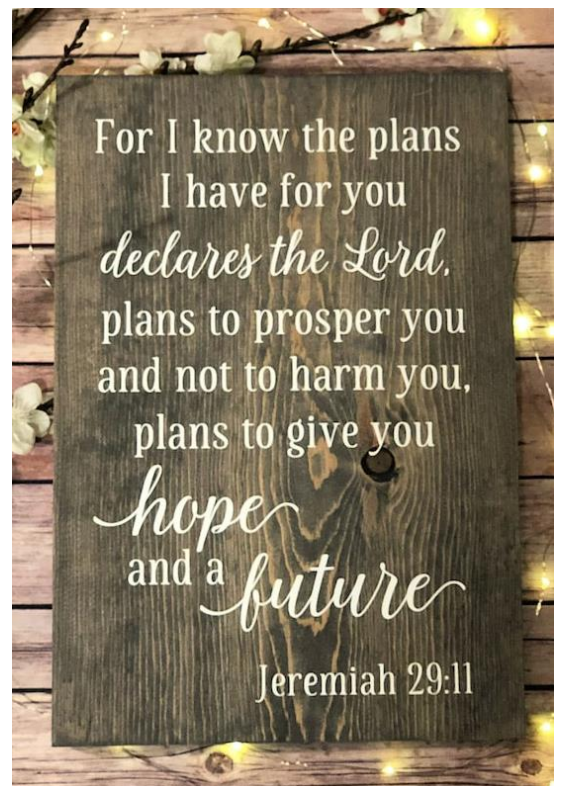
Sept 19, 2021

Scripture: Available

Sept 26, 2021

Scripture: Joan Sheehan

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



REMINDER: 2021 PER CAPITA

Per Capita is one way our church supports the National and State UCC. This is particularly important now as we enter into a search for a new Pastor. The Florida Conference Staff along with the National office will guide us through the process of finding highly qualified candidates who understand the uniquenesses of the United Church of Christ. This \$15 per person donation is sent to them in its entirety.

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 McKeithen, Director

Back to School for Faith Preschool.....

The children enjoyed seeing their friends and meeting their teachers last week during their classes Meet & Greet. We will have Parent Night on Tuesday, August 31st from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. This will give the parents a chance to turn in their child's paperwork and ask any questions that they may have about the upcoming preschool year. The first day back to preschool will be Tuesday, September 7th.

We are all looking forward to another great year!



FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Council Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2021

In attendance:

PJ Widerman, Dorathy Gallo, Linda Van Buskirk, Ken Followell, Marge Kirchner, Pastor Brian Bagley Bonner, Barbara Brownell, Faith Quici

Absent:

Sharon Cohoon, Pete Cohoon, Richard Dilts, Amy VanDell, Sylvia Hull

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm

A call was made to approve the minutes of the July meeting as printed in the Follower. Dorathy noted a correction needed. She was present at the July meeting but marked absent in the minutes. Correction was noted and will be made to the July minutes. Dorathy made a motion to approve the minutes with this change, second by Ken and the motion carried.

Treasurer report: Dorathy continues to organize, balance and verify accounts. A payment of \$1,455 was sent to the conference for our Per Capita requirement. To date we have collected \$750 from the congregational members. A friendly reminder will be sent out, via email, to those who have not submitted their payment. A letter will be sent to those who do not have access to email.

It was suggested that the Financial Secretary and Treasurer have their own "business emails" instead of using their personal emails. Council agreed and Faith will set this up.

Linda motioned to approve the Treasurer Report, Barbara second. The motion carried.

Moderator: We will not have a booth at Manatee Pride this year due to the risk of Covid. Ken made a motion that we donate \$100 to Pride in support. A second by Dorathy and the motion carried.

On September 26, 2021 Leslie Etheridge of the UCC Conference will preach at a special service ceremony.

Following service, we will have a special fellowship for the congregation to wish Pastor Judy and Pastor Brian farewell. We are inviting the Apostolic Church's leadership to join us.

Secretary Report: A new office copier has been purchased and will arrive on Friday, August 20th. Calendars were presented, reviewed and corrected.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brian opened with prayer.

The new communion cups arrived and come with a gluten free option. These should be easier to use.

Prior to leaving the pastors will provide the location of pertinent information they have on file.

The alarm system has been malfunctioning and Faith will contact the alarm company. 4

Spirits and Spirituality is doing well and will continue on a Zoom format.

Old Business:

Church Service: We will continue to meet with all safety measures in place.

Coverage for key positions: There was discussion on coverage for financial and church secretary positions in the event of absence. Discussion continues for solutions to provide backup during their absence.

Media: Matt Lepinski, Richard Dilts and Bruce Covey will provide backup for the media team.

All equipment has been updated. We are in need of a platform/cabinet to be constructed in the back of the sanctuary to house the media equipment. This location will also improve our media presentations for the Zoom services.

A discussion about the quality of the electronic piano vs. the regular piano for the Zoom audience did not seem to make a difference.

Search Committee: On Tuesday, August 17, 2021 Ken Followell, PJ Widerman, Hatti Damianos, and Scott Brownell will participate in a zoom call with Leslie Etheridge of the Florida Conference to discuss and prepare to interview three potential candidates who have submitted profiles/resumes for the Interim position.

Gratuity: Discussion took place on difference between positions as fee based or gratuity pay for events and who is responsible for paying as well as member vs. nonmember amounts. A policy will be drafted for the council to review and define in-house and guest preacher and music substitutes, range of fees and member/non-member requirements.

Painting: Exterior painting of the church building will be scheduled in September or October.

New Business:

A new computer is needed for the Financial Secretary. Dorathy Gallo described what is needed and Barbara Brownell made a motioned to allocate up to \$500 for the purchase. Marge Kirchner second the motion and it was carried. The media budget will cover this cost.

Department and Committees:

Property: The well pump that operates the irrigation

system is in need of repair and possibly replacement. The estimate for the pump is between \$450-\$1600 depending on a repair or total replacement. In addition, the irrigation system needs to be replaced. The cost for this is estimated at \$2000-\$3000. Barbara motioned that we have these completed not to exceed \$4,000 and paid from the building for the future fund. Linda second and the motion carried.

The Gutters have not been maintained for a couple of years. Arrangements have been made for this to be completed on August 18, 2021.

We are in need of an outside storage shed. Our supply rooms are overflowing and in some cases are preventing easy access to electrical panels. Linda has offered to get design and estimates for consideration.

Faith Care: Scheduling transportation to bring folks to church has been a challenge. Transportation to take folks home from church has been easier.

Outreach: Linda is working on fundraising ideas.

SAM: Barbara described a matching grant

opportunity from Kiwanis that will be advertised to church members who may like to participate. 5

We are postponing any in person packing events for now because of Covid.

Closing comments:

Linda and Dorothy would like to continue a Fall Book study for the congregation this Fall. This was eagerly supported.

The idea of a meditation prayer element to be added to the Labyrinth idea was suggested. Linda will talk to Blu Glavin and bring us more information for next council meeting.

Dorothy made a motion to adjourn, Barbara second and the motion carried.

Pastor Brian ended the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Faith UCC Zoom Meetings – SEPTEMBER 2021

Date	Event	Time	Meeting ID # and Psw	
9/5	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
9/12	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
9/19	Sunday Worship	10:30am	868 5394 0971	922838
6/26	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 "#"



SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	3	4 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
5 10:30am Service Communion 2:30pm BAC	6	7 First Day of Preschool Starts	8	9 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	10	11 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
12 10:30am Service 2:30pm BAC	13 Council Meeting 6:30pm	14	15	16 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	17	18 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room Manatee Pride
19 10:30am Service 2:30pm BAC	20	21	22	23 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	24 Follower Deadline	25 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room 11am Messy Church Event
26 10:30am Service Pastors' Last Sunday 2:30pm BAC	27	28	29	30 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room		