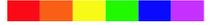


# Faithful Follower

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 2022

### ROUND THE GROUNDS: Meet Richard Nutting

Richard Kenneth Nutting was Born on February 2, 1935 and lived with his parents Kenneth and Helen in Portland, Maine At the age of 19 he was drafted into the military and served in Korea. Following his military service, he came to Florida in 1960 and attended the Manatee Community College. He was employed at Tropicana as a Quality Control Manage in the Glass Bottle Department and retired after 29 years. In 1961 he met his wife, Earleen, at a bowling alley. He did not disclose Earleen's bowling average. They were married in 1962 so perhaps she was a pretty good bowler after all. They have 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Richard and Earleen have been members of Faith UCC from the beginning and for the last 25 years Richard has taken care of the church grounds. He can be seen on his mower every Saturday making sure our property looks great. Thank you, Richard, for your service to this Country and your dedication to Faith UCC.



### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Faith Church Family,

March begins with the invitation to participate in the season of Lent. Every year, I look forward to the day before Lent begins, known as Fat Tuesday, or in my Pennsylvania Dutch heritage, Fastnacht Day. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fastnacht\\_\(Pennsylvania\\_Dutch\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fastnacht_(Pennsylvania_Dutch))) Basically, it means eat all the donuts you can before Lent starts the next day. Dunkin Donuts or Krispy Kreme will do. They are cheaper by the dozen. I hope you will enjoy one or two or three, too! The good news is we'll have 40 days to recover from a sugar hangover.

On a more serious note, Lent is a time when we examine our spiritual commitment as a disciple of Jesus. Jesus calls us to follow him. I noticed that it is not run alongside him or rush ahead of him. Rather, it is the deliberate pacing of following in the steps of the One who goes before us. One whose life is worth following. I hope that we can slow down the pace and just walk with Jesus during this season of Lent. My

hope is that during this time of introspection we will encounter God's grace in new ways.

#### Here's a prayer for Lent I came across recently:

O God, who makes all things new,  
new stars, new dust, new life;  
take my heart,  
every hardened edge and measured beat,  
and create something new in me.

I need your newness, God,  
the rough parts of me made smooth;  
the stagnant, stirred;  
the stuck, freed;  
the unkind, forgiven.

And then, by the power of your Spirit,

I need to be turned toward Love again. Amen.  
~ by Pamela C. Hawkins, Posted on **Prayer and Creeds**, <https://prayersandcreeds.wordpress.com/>

Thank you for being a part of our church family.  
See you in church,  
Todd

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

## BOOK STUDY! Love is the Way-

Lenten Book Study Starts March 9 at 7PM

We will resume our discussion of **Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times** on Wednesday, March 9. In memory of Linda VonBuskirk, we will begin again by discussing the introduction and chapters 1-2. If you are interested in participating, whether or not you were in the previous group, please sign up on the bulletin board. Unfortunately, we're unable to make a group book purchase. Please try the public library or bookshops (or internet) to find a copy of *Love is the Way*.

We anticipate that we'll meet each Wednesday evening in the church conference room from March 9 through April 6 at 7:00. All are welcome, even if you forget to sign up or haven't completed the reading scheduled.

**WHAT'S YOUR STORY?**- Have you ever overheard a conversation and thought to yourself... I never knew they had such an experience. We all have wonderful stories to tell. Some are happy, some are sad, and some are over the top exciting! We'd love to hear and share your stories. If you have a story you would like to share with us, please let us know. We spend almost every Sunday together and many times in committee and other meetings yet we don't really know each other. Let's fix that!

**EVENTS AND FELLOWSHIP-** Yep...the holiday themed/birthday receptions are back! Our next treat gathering will be after church on March 13th. Rumor has it that Ron Serfass will create his famous cheesecake! Plan to stay and meet new visitors to our church, reconnect with our northern folks and chat with old friends. Plans are also in the works to resume our Women's Group breakfasts on the first Saturday of the month, possibly beginning in April. There are so many new local restaurants to try. If we can get enough ladies interested in attending, we will pursue this Fellowship time. Please talk with Sheryl Overheidt-Smith for details.



## Lenten Schedule

Wednesday	March 2	Ash Wednesday service
Wednesdays	Mar 9-Apr 6	Book Study- Love is the Way
Sunday	April 10	Palm Sunday
Thursday	April 14	Maundy Thursday service
Friday	April 15	Good Friday
Sunday	April 17	Easter Sunday- Flower Cross



# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for MARCH

**MAR 6, 2022**

Scripture: PJ Widerman

**MAR 13, 2022**

Scripture: Pat Crowell

**MAR 20, 2022**

Scripture: Jean Cox

**MAR 27, 2022**

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)

## Financial Snapshot

### 2022-PER CAPITA

Per Capita is \$15 per person donation for members which is sent to support the National and State Conference. It is a new year and we are committed to 100% paid membership. Thank you for your prompt attention to this conference responsibility.

## Faith United Church of Christ -Council Meeting Minutes February 21, 2022

**PRESENT:** Donna Blakey, Barbara Brownell, Peter Cohoon, Sharon Cohoon, Dorathy Gallo, Janis Groth, Sheryl Overheidt-Smith, Todd Weber, PJ Widerman

**ABSENT:** Sylvia Hull, Faith Quici

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. and a quorum was established.  
Todd Weber opened the meeting with a prayer.

A motion was made by Barbara Brownell to accept the January minutes and seconded by Peter Cohoon. The motion carried.

**MODERATORS COMMENTS:** PJ Widerman did not have a report.

**CHURCH SECRETARY REPORT:** The calendars for March, April and May were reviewed. Sheryl Overheidt-Smith stated that Sunday, March 13th will be a combination birthday and St. Patrick's Day celebration. The April 10th the birthday celebration will move to April 17th for a combination Easter and birthday celebration. May 8th will combine Mother's Day with the birthday celebration.

A general discussion was held regarding name badges. There will be an article in the Follower to remind everyone to please wear the badge so that Pastor Todd Weber and any new/returning members will know our names. Faith will get prices for anyone wanting a new or replacement badge.

Barbara Brownell reported on the 5 missions we support as part of our church's wider mission. Special collection dates for these missions are also listed. They are as follows: One Great Hour of Sharing - March 27th, Strengthening the Church - June 5th, Neighbors in Need - October 2nd, Stewardship - November 13th, Christmas Fund - December 18th. The collection for Habitat Sunday will be November 20th.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Dorathy Gallo reported on the January statements. PJ Widerman wants to see our Financial Committee become a functioning group again. Anyone in the congregation who has financial knowledge and would like to be a part of this group is asked to let Dorathy Gallo know. A motion was made by Barbara Brownell and seconded by Sheryl Overheidt-Smith to approve the report. Motion carried.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Todd Weber asked if we are going to have an Ash Wednesday service. The Council thinks

we should and it will be held at 7:00 pm on March 2nd.

Manatee Pride Fest is Saturday, March 5th. Pete Cohoon will investigate costs for our participation.

The Profile Committee needs to meet and a date for the initial meeting will be Sunday, February 27th following service. The first meeting will be a brainstorming session. The Committee members are Janis Groth, Liv Coleman, PJ Widerman, M.R. Lembright and Donna Blakey. Leslie Etheridge will provide support from the Florida Conference. Todd Weber will act as consult to the group.

Pastor Todd Weber needs a computer for church use. Council approved purchase.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Church liability insurance** - PJ Widerman stated that she has been reviewing the expenses. In the past there has been no oversight on controlling the costs. She reported that currently the current deductible for our Liability Policy is \$1,000 costing us an addition \$4,000 per year. She suggested raising the deductible to reduce our premium costs. Increasing the deductible to \$10,000 reduces our premium by \$4,000; \$25,000 reduces our premium by \$5,300 a year. Following a discussion motion was made by Janis Groth and seconded by Dorathy Gallo to increase the deductible to \$10,000. Motion carried.

**Education** - Janis Groth asked how we handle Sunday school when children attend church. Hattie Damianos and Earleen Nutting are the Sunday School teachers and are available on Sundays. Janis suggested we make this known, in our bulletin and other church communications, so members and visitors will know their children/grandchildren can take advantage of Sunday School.

**Book Study** - The study will resume on Wednesday, March 9th. Janis Groth will check with Mary West to see if this date is ok with her. The resumption of the book study should be included on the overhead slides on Sunday, the mid-week message and the Follower.

**Prayer requests** - Donna Blakey inquired how we can make it more convenient, personal, and confidential for prayer requests to be submitted. It was decided to prepare a standard form that can be filled out placed in the collection plate.

## Minutes Continued...

### NEW BUSINESS:

**CRC** - The next meeting of the Church Relations Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 9th.

**Parking lot condition** - The school buses picking up and dropping off the students on the Church grounds are tearing up the parking lot. The cut corners when entering and exiting causing deep holes are the ends of each parking section, potholes have developed and traffic areas are wearing. PJ Widerman said cold patching would only be a temporary fix and would not last very long. We need to obtain bids from paving companies for repair and/or resurfacing. This will most likely be a large expense. Typically, these companies don't want to do small jobs.

PJ will also contact the School Board transportation Department about this matter.

**Team Approach to offertory counting** - Council members are need to volunteer to help count the collection after service. This will help when the Treasurer and Financial Secretary are not available on any given Sunday. PJ Widerman, Barbara Brownell, Sheryl Overheidt-Smith and Donna Blakey have offered to be back up.

**Review and update of membership list** - We pay per capita based on our membership total number. Barbara Brownell suggested letters be sent members, who have not participated for some time,

and ask if they want to maintain their membership. We also need to maintain a complete record listing members and non-members. The following have formed a committee to maintain and update these records. This includes Dorothy Gallo, Peter Cohoon, Janis Groth, Barbara Brownell, Faith Quici and Sheryl Overheidt-Smith.

### TRANSFER CD MONEY FOR MISSIONS GROUP.

Dorothy Gallo informed Barbara Brownell that the CD earmarked for mission, in the amount of \$10,000, has matured. A motion was made by Barbara Brownell and seconded by Sheryl Overheidt-Smith to approve moving the matured CD money into the general account. This will be appropriated for the Mission Grant approvals. Motion carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Faith Care and Prayer Committees** - Donna Blakey reported these 2 committees have been combined.

**SAM** - Barbara Brownell gave a general over view on the 5 missions outlined in the Church Secretary Report above.

**NEXT MEETING:** March 21st at 6:30 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Dorothy Gallo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Peter Cohoon and the motion carried.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Barbara Brownell closed the meeting in prayer at 8:15 pm

## SAM (Social Action and Missions):



### MARCH IS:

Baby food, cereal and formula

Our local food pantries are critically low on food, and we still want to be a help in any way.

### 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/>



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Name tags are a wonderful way to let our new and visiting folks know who we are. If you would like to have a new or replacement name tag, please let Faith in the office know and we will get one ordered for you. If you are like me, you often forget to wear your name tag. Check the name tag board in the Narthex for your badge. - PJ



## One Great Hour of Sharing

We are collecting for OGHS (**One Great Hour of Sharing**) on March 27 as part of our 5 for 5 giving. OGHS is the United Church of Christ responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. Gifts to OGHS God's message of love and hope to people in crisis through our work with local churches, conferences, international partners and organizations, One Great Hour of Sharing provides sources of clean water, food, education, health care, small business micro-credit loans, advocacy, resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, emergency relief and rehabilitation as well as disaster preparedness and response. Let's prepare our hearts to give to this worthy cause this later month.



## Faith Care and Prayer Team

Faith Care and Prayer team are happy to be meeting again in person. We are discussing ways to better serve our church family and are thankful for Gayle Covey who has agreed to do card ministry. One item in process is the creation of prayer request cards as an additional means of getting a complete and accurate prayer list. In the meantime, and always, you are encouraged to call a team member if you have a need for prayer or care.

Donna Blakey (chair)	(941) 718-5222
Earleen Nutting	(941) 792-3124
Sheryl Overheid-Smith	(941) 212-9761
Joan Sheehan	



## JUST FOR LAUGHS!

What should you do if you're attacked by a group of clowns? Go straight for the juggler. My teachers told me I'd never amount to much because I procrastinate so much. I told them, "Just you wait!"

Why don't koalas count as bears? They don't have the right koalafications. I couldn't figure out why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

## FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach-McKeithen, Director

A NOTE FROM FAITH PRESCHOOL...

Our next event coming up is our "School Wide Art Show and Silent Auction Fundraiser". It will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2022, from 6:00 – 7:30 PM.

All are welcome to join us!

The preschool will be closed for Spring Break from March 11 – 18, 2022.



# MARCH 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Shrove Tuesday	2 7pm Ash Wednesday	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 with Communion First Sun of Lent 11:30am Choir Mtg.  2:30pm BAC	7	8	9 7pm Book Study <u>Love is the Way</u>	10 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom  7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	11 <b>No School</b>	12 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
13 <b>Daylight Savings</b> 10:30am Service 11:30am Choir Mtg.  <b>St. Patrick's Birthday Reception after service</b>  Mission Moment: One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering  2:30pm BAC	14 Preschool Spring Break March 14-18	15	16 7pm Book Study <u>Love is the Way</u>	17 St. Patrick's Day  6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom  7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	18	19 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
20 10:30am Service 11:30am Choir Mtg.  OGHS Offering  2:30pm BAC	21 6:30pm Council Meeting	22	23 7pm Book Study <u>Love is the Way</u>	24 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom  7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	25	26 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
27 10:30am Service 11:30am Choir Mtg.  OGHS Special Offering  2:30pm BAC	28	29	30 6:30pm San Lorenzo HOA Mtg.  7pm Book Study <u>Love is the Way</u>	31		

## SPRING FORWARD- MARCH 13

### CHOIR!

Remember the choir is meeting again! We meet every Sunday after the service at 11:30am. If you enjoy signing, come and join us!