

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

APRIL 2022

CHURCH SECRETARY ANNOUNCEMENT

Greetings church family and friends!

I really thought that 100 years in the future, after the dent in my secretary chair was really worn, that I would be wheeled out to memorial garden out back and scattered amongst the earth. I never intended to leave my wonderful job surrounded by wonderful people here at Faith UCC. However, I was offered a wide open door opportunity that came to seek me down, when I wasn't even looking. With much struggle in my heart and after much prayer to God, He has made it evident that I am to take this new path. Funny enough, my star this year, which Donna Blakey sends out at the beginning of the year, was "Understanding." Then the first scripture I came across for the year- I just call it my scripture of the year- is Proverbs 3:5-6 which says "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take (New Living Translation).*" I guess I didn't know it yet that God was preparing me for something.

After 9 years, my time here as the church secretary is coming to a close. My last official day will be on April 25. I hope to always stay in touch with all of you as you are all very special to my heart. I have walked the halls and touched the walls of the church weekly over the years and prayed for you and our church for God's blessings and a good future. I know you are going to be in good hands as you are already in God's hands, because why? ... Well, He's got the whole world in His hands! Remember that children's song? It's true. You mean so much to God and He cares about every detail of your life.

I hope to keep in touch through women's breakfasts, special services, events, and of course drive by prayers as I drive around the community remembering my time well spent here and send prayers out my car window toward you all here at Faith. Remember there is no distance in prayer! This human Faith is leaving Faith Church, I'm praying your inner faith actually strengthens in the coming months as you see God move in amazing ways. I can't wait to hear all about it soon!

Love and Hugs!
~ Faith

NEW OFFICE HOURS
~START APRIL 4~
MWF from 9am-12:30pm
TUE/THURS from 1pm-4:30pm

OUR NEW CHURCH SECRETARY Tammy!

We are so happy to have Tammy Kubiak joining us right away! She has been sent from God. Tammy will be training with Faith this month and starts her new office hours on Monday, April 4! Here is a little bit about her:

Tammy was born and raised in Buffalo, NY and moved Florida 5 1/2 years ago. She grew up with 3 older brothers, whom she credits for her love of football and the Buffalo Bills. Tammy's family is her greatest joy, especially her 4 children. She graduated with an Associate's degree in Medical Assisting, and her favorite job right out of college was working in a retirement home for the Felician Sisters in Buffalo. Tammy enjoys painting, helping others create art, and volunteering.



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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!

Women's Breakfast is Back! We are meeting on the first Saturday of the month starting April 2 at 9am. We will meet at the Salt and Pepper café in downtown Bradenton. We are excited to gather in this way again!

EASTER EGG-CITEMENT!

Maundy Thursday- Join us Thursday, April 14, at 6:30pm for a special and moving service where we will travel in our minds from communion with the disciples and Jesus to the garden. This is a service of shadows leaving in quietness as we remember the path Jesus took for us on the way to the cross.

Easter Egg Hunt- *If you build it ... you will be prepared when they come.* That is our motto anyway as we approach the Easter season this year, we have faith to expect some children to join us. So, we are asking your help to prepare some pre-filled plastic eggs. We are asking for 6-12 prefilled plastic eggs per volunteer. You can put a small prize, stickers, non-chocolate candy, or even some coins into the plastic eggs. Grab a partner or a group of friends and make it a fun time. Please drop off your pre-filled eggs to the church office in a plastic bag during office hours or on Sundays. The deadline is Sunday, April 10, Palm Sunday. Thank you for making Easter fun for the little children in our local community.

Flower Cross- It's time to bring back our beautiful flower cross this Easter. You start by picking a flower from your garden or wherever you get your foliage (hopefully not someone else's yard) and bring it to church on Easter Sunday. We then, one by one, tuck our flowers into the cross which will collectively create a beautiful display to represent that Christ is risen and symbolizes our new life in Jesus. Also the flower cross makes a great background for the perfect Easter snapshot, so bring your cameras and take advantage of this photo op!

Easter Reception and Birthday Celebration- We will celebrate Easter and April birthdays on Easter Sunday, April 17, after the service. We hope you can join us for a festive time of joy and fellowship.

**EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 17
10AM SERVICE – JOIN US!**

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for APRIL

APRIL 3, 2022

Scripture: PJ Widerman

APRIL 10, 2022

Scripture: Babs Brownell

APRIL 17, 2022

Scripture: Mary West

APRIL 24, 2022

Scripture: Joan Sheehan

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

Financial Snapshot

Feb 2022

**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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Faith Church Family,

As a movie buff, I am familiar with the term, "stunt double," which refers to movie stars not performing their own stunts, so they don't risk injury on the set. Someone else does the stunt for them. I have also heard of actors having a "body double" who fills in for those scenes when a facial shot is not necessary.

Recently, I heard another definition of "body double." It turns out that uber wealthy people in China, can hire their own personal body double. This comes in very handy when they are trying to avoid prison terms. According to Slate.com, a wealthy 20-year-old named Hu was drag racing his friends when he struck and killed a pedestrian. Although Hu received a three-year prison sentence, allegations arose that the man appearing in court and serving the three-year sentence wasn't Hu at all, but a hired body double.

In another case, the owner of a demolition company that illegally demolished a home hired a destitute man and promised him \$31 for each day the "body double" spent in jail. In China, the practice is so common that there is even a term for it: "substitute criminal." (Source: Blog, "Fact or Fiction: In China Convicted Defendants Can Hire "Body Doubles" to Serve Their Sentences," Reeves Law Group)

Did you know that you too have a body double? You don't have to be rich. In fact, it is better if you are poor. And you don't have to live in China.

Our body double came 2000 years ago, was put to death on a cross and raised to life on the third day.

1 Peter 2:24 says He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.

Happy Easter!
See you in church!
Todd

JUST FOR LAUGHS

My friend thinks he is smart. He told me an onion is the only food that makes you cry, so I threw a coconut at his face.

A teacher asked her students to use the word "beans" in a sentence. "My father grows beans," said one girl. "My mother cooks beans," said a boy. A third student spoke up, "We are all human beans."

A husband and wife were driving through Louisiana. As they approached Natchitoches, they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town. They argued back and forth, then they stopped for lunch. At the counter, the husband asked the blonde waitress, "Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are very slowly?" She leaned over the counter and said, "Burr-gerrr Kiiing."

OUR FAITH CHURCH FAMILY

Condolence Cards- Pastor Donna Papenhausen was a pastor at Faith UCC back in the 90's, and she provided sabbatical coverage for our pastors a few years ago. We have recently been keeping her and her daughter Kristin in prayer. Unfortunately, her daughter did pass away. We would like to give her some comfort through cards. Please see her address below if you are so inclined to reach out.

Donna Papenhausen



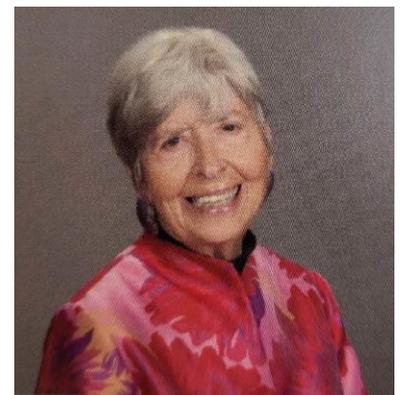
Easter Cards of Encouragement- Let's do an Easter Card Shower for Marge Hooie and Peg O'Sullivan. Marge and Peg have been members of our church for many years and as we grow older and time passes, we can sometimes get a little separated from each other. Let's get a little more connected by reaching out to Marge and Peg with some happy Easter cards. What a wonderful season to brighten someone's day! Their addresses are below:

Marge Hooie

O'Sullivan, Peg



Marge Hooie and her little dog



Peg O'Sullivan

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

PRESENT: Donna Blakey, Peter Cohoon, Sharon Cohoon, Dorothy Gallo, Janis Groth, Sylvia Hull, Faith Quici, Sheryl Overheidt-Smith, Todd Weber, PJ Widerman.

ABSENT: Barbara Brownell

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 and a quorum was established.

PJ Widerman opened the meeting prayer.

Todd Weber requested a clarification in the February minutes that the new computer approved for purchase by Council was not for his personal use. This computer would be used strictly for church audio-visual purposes. A motion was made by Dorothy Gallo and seconded by Janis Groth to approve the minutes with corrections. Motion carried.

MODERATOR COMMENTS: PJ Widerman reported that 4 of her friends came to the service on Sunday. They were so impressed with the warmth and welcoming of the congregation and said they will be coming back. Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." We serve and volunteer confidently, knowing that God has prepared the way for us!

CHURCH SECRETARY REPORT: The calendars for March, April and May were reviewed. Maundy Thursday service will begin at 6:30 pm on Thursday April 14th. Sheryl Overheidt-Smith reported that the April birthday celebration will be in conjunction with Easter on April 17th. Sheryl reported that the April 2nd women's breakfast will resume at the Salt and Pepper Café at 9 a.m.

The next women's breakfast will be held on May 7th at a location to be determined. Sunday, May 8th will be a combined birthday/Mother's Day celebration. Donna Blakey reported that the Faith Care committee meeting will be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

The Justice Nehemiah Action will be held on Monday, April 4th at South East High School. The address is 1200 37th Avenue East.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dorothy Gallo presented the financial reports. PJ Widerman suggested that a budget meeting, to include committee chairs, be held prior to the next budget planning session to prepare a budget that is more in line with the actual spending period. Budget planning should start in October. There needs to be a scheduled and ongoing finance committee meeting, and the members will include Dorothy Gallo, Peter Cohoon, Todd Weber and Donna Blakey, and PJ Widerman. A motion was made by Peter Cohoon and seconded by Donna Blakey to approve the report. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Todd Weber explained that the Maundy service commemorates Jesus' last night with his disciples. It is the crucifixion story.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Painting of church exterior. The painting contractor that was chosen for the work decided to retire. He subcontracted the work to another group. The cost increase was unacceptable from the new contractor. A decision was made to power wash rather than paint the building. Hopefully, this will make a great improvement.
- Update on church membership. Sheryl Overheidt-Smith reported that letters were sent to some congregational members inquiring about their intention to continue church membership. Those who do not wish to continue will be removed from the membership rolls.
- Profile Committee. They will be meeting after the service on March 27th.
- Book Study. Janis Groth reported that, due to lack of participation, this particular study has been canceled. She is preparing a congregational questionnaire to determine interest in a book or bible studies, as well as days and times of week preferred. She will make an announcement on Sunday, March 27th.
- Church parking lot. PJ Widerman stated that she has spoken with the head of transportation for Manatee County Schools Bus Division about the damage being caused by the buses picking up students on our property. The transportation head will speak with the drivers.
- Street Sign. The sign is not working properly. Faith will contact the sign installation company to get this corrected.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Church security. Within the past two weeks, the ADT alarm sounded and the police responded. A general discussion took place. Peter Cohoon suggested that the
- alarm code be changed and the people who have keys and the codes be informed of this change.
- Establish a new Audio-Visual committee:

PJ made a motion to establish a new audio-visual committee with Matt Lapinski as chair. Matt will also become a Council member. Council unanimously agreed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MISSION: PJ Widerman read the report from Barbara Brownell. The mission grants cycle will be from April 1 - 29th.

FAITH CARE: Faith Quici will make prayer request cards to be available on Sundays. These requests may be placed in the collection plate.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Janis Groth reported occasionally we have children attend our church. She suggested prepared lesson plans. However, it was noted that all children's activities outside of the sanctuary must be attended by two individuals who have complete background checks. It was suggested that a children's table be placed in the back of the Sanctuary with a supply of activities (coloring books, etc).

NEXT MEETING: April 18th at 6:30 pm

ADJOURNMENT: Dorathy Gallo made a motion and Donna Blakey seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

CLOSING PRAYER: Sheryl Overheidt-Smith offered the closing prayer.

FROM YOUR MODERATOR

Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." We serve and volunteer confidently, knowing that God has prepared the way for us!

Committees are the most important working forces of our church. Council is not always able to give adequate attention to every single issue it considers and depends on committees, made up of a subgroup of council members, who help to break management into meaningful parts that can be more efficiently done. The delegation of responsibilities to committees also adds to the improvement of the quality of our decision making.

I am pleased to introduce to you your 2022 Committee Chairpersons:

Audio-Visual	Matt Lapinski
Christian Education	Janis Groth
Events & Fellowship	Sheryl Overheidt-Smith
Faith Care	Donna Blakey
Outreach	-
Property	PJ Widerman
Social Actions & Mission	Barbara Brownell
Worship	Sylvia Hull

The Outreach Committee was the passion of Linda Van Buskirk, and she worked tirelessly to put our message out there. She loved this church and wanted us to shine. I hope there is someone in our congregation who would be willing to help continue what Linda started. If you are interested please let me know.

I want to thank everyone who has given of their time, whether on a committee or 'just because,' for all you do for Faith UCC.

Peace and love, PJ



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 Tammy, in the church 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



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)
Earleen Nutting
Sheryl Overheidt-Smith
Joan Sheehan

SAM

NEHEMIAH ACTION ASSEMBLY by S.T.R.E.A.M.
(Stronger Together Reaching Equality Across Manatee)
Let's rally together for justice in affordable housing and criminal justice by showing up on April 4 at 6:30pm at Southeast High School (1200 37th Ave. E.- Bradenton). The more of us who rally together the more we stand as a physical representation that we want change and take a stand for important things.

GRANT APPLICATIONS OPENING SOON! SAM is opening the grant applications on Friday, April 1. If you have a nonprofit organization you would like to nominate for a grant this year, please have them email Tammy at faithchurchucc@verizon.net. We will send them an application and the deadline to apply is Friday, April 29, by the end of the day. The applications will be reviewed by the SAM committee and an announcement will be made for those who received a grant with all the details.

FAITH CHURCH CONTINUES FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF LOCAL CHARITIES!

A few years ago, Faith Church set aside a portion of money for missions when we sold the front parcel of land. This money was invested in CD's with five yearly expiration dates in the amount of approximately \$2,000.00.

In the past few years, Church Council has also set aside 10% (tithe) from bequests to the church. A portion of this money is also 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 local 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 has created an application and a process. On April 1, **2022**, this cycle begins for the fifth 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 April 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 29, **2022**. The recipients will be notified no later than May 20, 2022.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call or email Babs Brownell (747-9643) bgb310@aol.com

SAM (Social Action and Missions):



APRIL IS: MACARONI AND CHEESE

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!

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/>

BEFORE AND AFTER- PRESCHOOL OFFICE



In February, the church council decided to offer the unused church nursery as an office space for the preschool director. Congratulations, Wendi, on your new office space for the preschool! Many of the nursery furniture, supplies and toys were donated to local migrant farmers and their families.

FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach-McKeithen, Director

A NOTE FROM FAITH PRESCHOOL...

All of us at Faith Preschool would like to say "THANK YOU" to Faith Quici for all the help and support she has given us for the past nine years. We wish her all the best in her new venture, and we will miss her very much!

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!

So far, the items I have received for the Silent Auction are:

- One night stay at The Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village
- One night stay at Tampa Marriott Water Street
- Two tickets to the Ringling Museum
- Wawa Gift Basket
- “Pirate” Gift Basket
- “Arts & Crafts” Gift Basket
- “Summer Fun” Gift Basket
- “Breakfast” Gift Basket
- “S'more” Gift Basket



- Two tickets to Florida Studio Theatre
- Family Photo Session from Ashley Palmer Photography (Includes a beach or park location, up to six people and 10 digital images and print releases)

Happy Easter to everyone!

Wendi Steinbach-McKeithen
Faith Preschool Director

APRIL 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Mission Grants Application Open today! You can nominate a non profit	2 Women's Breakfast at Salt and Peper Café 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
3 10:30am Service with Communion One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering 11:30am Choir Mtg 2:30pm BAC	4 New Office Hours Start 6:30pm STREAM- Rally at South East High School- Please join us!	5	6	7 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	8	9 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
10 PALM SUNDAY 11:30am Choir Mtg 10:30am Service 2:30pm BAC	11	12	13	14 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 6:30pm 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	15 Easter Lilies arrive at the church GOOD FRIDAY No School	16 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
17 EASTER SUNDAY 10:30am Service FLOWER CROSS Easter Celebration and Birthday Reception 11:30am Choir Mtg 2:30pm BAC	18 6:30pm Council Meeting	19	20 Follower Reminder	21 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom 7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	22 Follower Articles Due!	23 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
24 10:30am Service 2:30pm BAC	25	26 Prayer and Care team meetings 1:30pm at the church- Sunday School Room	27	28 6pm Preschool Art Show and Silent Auction	29 DEADLINE- Mission Grants applications	30 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room