

Faithful Follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



The Faithful Follower is published monthly by Faith United Church of Christ. **Editor:** Faith Quici

JANUARY 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

- o Save the Dates
pg 1
- o Upcoming Events
pg 2
- o Book Study
pg 3
- o Missions
pg 4
- o Council Minutes
Pg 5
- o January Calendar
Pg 6

New Beginnings and New Faces

2020 brings us a new slate. What is it that God will call us to do in this New Year? The possibilities are limited only by our own minds. It is clear that the world still needs the light and love of Christ. Christmas reminds us that Christ comes in the most difficult times, and though sometimes the work is slow, in the end, the Love of God will unite all division and conquer injustice. Hallelujah.

We have welcomed many new folks this past year and look forward to

meeting even more during the season. On Sunday, take some time to introduce yourself to those you don't recognize. Some may already be members. If you have any changes or updates to your contact or personal information, please contact the church office so we can update the church directory. The church directory is located in the office in a print version or via email when you contact Faith. Whatever 2020 will bring, we pray God will lead us to greater wholeness and faithfulness in our individual lives and the life of Faith United Church of Christ.

SAVE THE DATES

Informational Meeting

There will be a question and answer informational meeting on Sunday, January 19 after the service to discuss the church bylaws.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting is Sunday, January 26 after the service.

Tret Fure concert: TICKETS ARE GOING FAST!

February 8, 2020. Tickets are \$20. They can be purchased from Linda VanBuskirk, PJ Widerman or online at www.tretfure.com. Checks are acceptable and should be made out to "Faith United Church of Christ." Please write in the memo of your check that it is for the Tret Fure concert.

Crop Walk is Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 2pm.

Manatee Pride Fest is Saturday, March 21, 2020.

Dear People of Faith,

We are just home from the Christmas Eve service as I write. Once again, our hearts are full as we thank God for calling us to this amazing church! Each one of you is a gift to us, and to the spiritual community that is Faith Church. Thank you for all that you do and all that you are. Thank you, additionally, for once again blessing us with your generous Christmas expression of appreciation. We are truly blessed to be your pastors.

With love,

Jude and Brian Bagley-Bonner

THANK YOU!

I wanted to truly thank everyone who contributed to the Christmas Love Offering. Your generosity is very touching and helps me to feel cared about as a staff member at Faith UCC. You are such a blessing at Christmas time and anytime. Thank you all so much!

Love,
~ Faith

THIS JANUARY

MEN'S BREAKFAST

SAT, JAN 4, AT 9AM

We will gather for breakfast together at D's located at 423 10th Ave. W, Palmetto. Please join us.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

SAT, JAN 4, AT 9:00AM

We are meeting at the Sage Biscuit downtown, located at: 1401 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton, FL. Please sign up and see you there.

FUNDRAISER DINNER & DESSERT

FRI, JAN 17, AT **4PM**

On January 17, 2020, Linda Van Buskirk, Dorathy Gallo & Floy Peterson will host a fundraising Dinner and Dessert at Primo's Restaurant, 3800 S Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34239. Primo's is one of the restaurants that is involved in Groupraise which helps to raise funds for not-for-profits. Meals on Wheels uses this process annually for fundraising. Linda and Dorathy signed up Faith UCC for an evening of Dinner and Dessert through Groupraise which will give us 20% of the total cost of each dinner. We just need at least 20 people to attend to meet the requirements and receive the 20% return. Also, to accommodate a group of 20, Primo's has scheduled us for a 4:00 pm dinner. Please look for the signup sheet. We need the 20 people signed up by January 14, 2020. The signup sheet will be available at the Christmas Eve service.

BIRTHDAY HOSPITALITY SUN, JAN 19 After the service.

DOWNTOWN MINISTRIES: Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. The next dates to help out will be **January 7 and 21**. The warehouse is on the corner of 8th Street and 17th Avenue in Palmetto. (Turn west on 17th and go behind the building to access the unit S6). Hope to see you there.

FOOD BANK: We are collecting **pet food** for the Food Bank of Manatee County this month, January. Please drop off donations in the yellow bucket in the Narthex.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Choir Practice starts again on Thursday, January 9 at 5pm.

Undecorating the Church is on Saturday, January 11 at 10am. We will take down the Christmas decorations and put them away for next year. Please sign up if you would like to help us.

Spirits and Spirituality starts back up on Monday, January 27 at 6:30pm.

Prayer team will meet on Tuesday, January 28 at 11:30am.

2020 PER CAPITA

Each member is asked to pay their \$15 contribution to support our "Mother Church" - the UCC National Office and our Florida Conference UCC for all they do to support us and further the mission of Christ. If we do not meet our goal through the \$15 member contribution, Faith UCC has to pay difference from the operating fund at the end of the year. Thank you for your prompt attention to this conference responsibility.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in signing up to be a greeter, usher or scripture reader, please contact our Worship Team Leader or simply sign up on the bulletin board.

JOIN US

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

January 5, 2020

Council Sunday
Communion

January 12, 2020

Flowers	Available
Greeters:	Available
Scripture:	Evi van Oudheusden
Ushers:	Available

January 19, 2020

Flowers	Available
Greeters:	Available
Scripture:	Joanne Dahlgren
Ushers:	Available

January 26, 2020

Flowers	Available
Greeters:	Available
Scripture:	Joan Sheehan
Ushers:	Available

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

NOVEMBER 2019

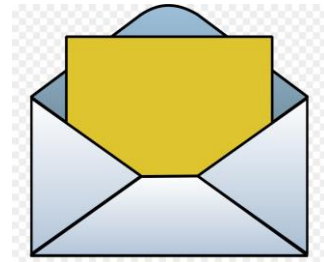
This info is for church members and has been removed for the website.

There is GOOD NEWS and NOT-SO-GOOD NEWS

The good news is that the offering envelopes have arrived for 2020 and will be available for pickup on Sunday mornings. The not-so-good news is that there was a change at the distributor of which we were not made aware. The envelopes should have been numbered as they have always been 1-99. However the numbers now begin with 651 instead of 1. However, your number will remain the same. I have created a cross reference so that when I get envelope number 651, I will know that it is

actually 1. I have created labels on the front of the offering envelope books with your name and your actual number regardless of the number on the envelope. I apologize for any confusion this may cause you. If you have any questions, please call me (716-471-1014) or email me (dlglvb@aol.com) anytime.

Dorothy Gallo



3

Spring Book Study

The Road Less Traveled by M.Scott Peck

This classic book, now forty years old, is a timeless treasure and still well worth reading and discussing. Harmonizing psychoanalysis and spirituality, Christ and Buddha, Calvinist work ethic and therapeutic "talking cures," this book is a touchstone of our contemporary spiritual-therapeutic culture. While Peck uses stories from his therapy practice, his deeper topic is spiritual growth. The last section of the book is the best explanation of spirituality I have ever read.

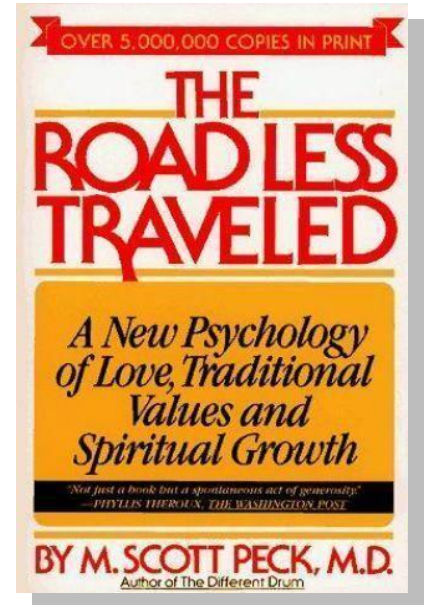
STARTING IN FEBRUARY!

There will be a Sunday group and a Wednesday group.

The Sunday group will run from Feb 9-March 29, 9am-10am.

The Wednesday group will run from Feb 12-April 1, 6:30pm-7:45pm.

Please sign up at church, and indicate if you want to be included in the group book order. Deadline for group book order will be January 12. Cost is \$13



January Mission Focus: HONDURAS.

Starting the first week of January, we have the opportunity to support a local couple Elizabeth Sierra, and Juan Carlos Cintron, who are going to Honduras to work with an International Aid Team. In one week, they plan to build a classroom for Sunday school in a remote part of Honduras. They will also deliver needed food supplies, and uniforms for children who cannot attend school without them. Lizzie and Juan Carlo are friends of Barbara Brownell and well-known to her. They have done several previous missions like this in Central and South America. At SAM's recommendation, Church Council has approved this mission.

We have three opportunities to give:

1. \$15 will pay for a basket of groceries for a family, delivered personally by Lizzie and Juan Carlo.
2. \$30 will pay for school uniforms (including underwear, socks and shoes!) for one student.
3. And finally any amount will be a welcome donation to help pay for building supplies for the classroom.
(That will only cost \$258!)

The cash we donate will be used in Honduras to purchase the above items. This helps the local economy better than if we were to purchase and send food or items.

Please consider prayerfully what you are able to do. Collection will start Jan 5 and run through Jan 19.



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, approximately \$4,000.00, has been invested in CD's with five yearly expiration dates.

In the past year, Church Council has also set aside 10% (tithe) from bequests to the church. A portion of this money, along with the money invested in a CD that expires in February 2020, we will use 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. SAM as created an application and a process and on

Jan 6, 2020 this cycle begins for the second 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 January 6. (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 February 3, and the recipients will be notified no later than March 17th, 2020.

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

Faith United Church of Christ: Grant Application Guidelines

Faith United Church of Christ is offering small grants to local non-profits as part of our community outreach. We welcome agencies seeking funding to support, initiate or fully fund a project that will enhance or extend the mission of the agency.

1. Grant amount \$1,000 to \$4,000
2. Grant applications must be sponsored by a member of the Faith UCC community
3. Applicants must have 501(c)3status
4. Administrative costs of the agency and project being funded must not exceed 15%.
5. Applicants must submit a two page application and required attachments
6. Applications must be into the Church office by noon on Feb 3, 2020
7. Grants will be awarded by March 17, 2020.



FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach, Director



We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. Our Pancake Breakfast with Santa, fundraiser at Applebee's was a wonderful success! The children enjoyed seeing Santa and it was so nice to see so many families from the past and present come out to support us. The children did a wonderful job performing for their families at our preschool holiday program. It was a joy to see their smiling faces on stage. We want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and see you again on January 7, 2020.



*Top Row - Left to Right: Wendi, June and Tina
Bottom Row- Left to Right: Jen, Gina and Teri*

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes December 16th, 2019

Present: Brian Bagley-Bonner, Judy Bagley-Bonner, Donna Blakey, Barbara Brownell, Jenny Crocker, Richard Dilts, Connor Felix, Dorathy Gallo, Marge Kirchner, Faith Quici, Sheryl Overheid-Smith, Linda Van Buskirk. Absent: Marge Hooie, Lynne Keane, Jennifer Hargis, PJ Wideman. Visitors: Gwen W. Smith, Judy Wetter

Meeting opened at 6:38pm by Moderator Richard Dilts.
Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner offered the opening prayer.
A motion to approve November Council Meeting minutes was made by Linda Van Buskirk and seconded by Dorathy Gallo. Motion passed.

Financial Secretary and Treasurer's Reports:

Dorathy Gallo reported that there are large differences between 2018 and 2019 due to income being spent on large projects such as the electronic sign.

Donna Blakey reported that income was higher and the amount of funds needed to supplement for expenses was less than what was budgeted for which was beneficial.

Donna Blakey also mentioned that the congregation should know that if they donate to the church from their required minimum withdrawals from their IRA funds, they are tax deductible without having to itemize their deductions. There will be a note in the midweek message and in the bulletin as there is still time to do so for this tax year.

A motion to accept the Financial Secretary and Treasurer's Reports was made by Linda Van Buskirk and seconded by Marge Kirchner. Motion passed.

Moderator's report:

Nothing to report

Church Secretary Report:

Faith Quici had nothing to report, however the calendars were reviewed and revised accordingly.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner reported that there is one more meeting of the book study that is not on the calendar.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner stated that the Christmas Caroling went well and that there were 12 participants.

Old Business:

Linda Van Buskirk gave another update on the "action table," stating that it has been ordered and should arrive on Friday the 20th. It will house sign up sheets and information about the different events and opportunities in the church and wider UCC church missions. Each committee chair will be responsible for adding information or their respective areas to the action table.

Linda Van Buskirk reported that advertising continues for the Tret Fure concert on February 8th, 2020. Linda stated that most of the sales are taking place online. A full house is expected.

Linda Van Buskirk provided an update on the Donated Deeds fundraiser, which is now being cancelled as it does not appear to be the right fit for our church.

Moderator Richard Dilts stated that the proposed by law changes are ready for Council review and will be presented to the congregation prior to the annual congregational meeting. There will also be a meeting after church prior to the annual meeting which will serve to answer any questions members may have. A proposed budget will also be distributed for congregational review and will be voted on at the annual meeting. Committee reports are due on January 13th.

Discussion was held on the upcoming openings for church council.

New Business:

Judy Wetter presented an idea for a Card Club where a few members of the congregation would meet and create cards for those who are ill, mourning, etc.

Judy Bagley-Bonner reviewed the basic process of how the DART organization operates and stated that a member church's annual dues are \$500 and the church would create a "Justice" committee of two to four people. The goal of the DART organization affiliates is to identify a local social justice issue and then work towards change with local community leaders and politicians. There has been interest in this committee from several people in the church. A motion was made by Barbara Brownell to proceed with participating in the local DART affiliate in Manatee County and provide the \$500 for annual dues which was seconded by Dorathy Gallo. Motion passed.

Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner stated that there is a Clergy conference coming up that she and a member of the congregation would like to attend for training purposes.
Barbara Brownell made a motion to approve up to \$750 from the Mission

fund to send Judy Bagley-Bonner and the interested member to the Clergy conference, which was seconded by Jenny Crocker. Motion passed.

Pastors Brian and Judy Bagley-Bonner stated that there was a need for a new cell phone for the pastors to use as the current one is small and user un-friendly. More information will be gathered as to which service to use and whether or not a new phone would need to be purchased or if a donated phone would be acceptable by the phone service company of choice.

Moderator Richard Dilts stated that the Pastoral Relations Committee has requested a name change to the Church Relations Committee as their team serves the congregation as well as the pastors. Council agreed to the name change and it will be in the proposed by law changes.

It was reported that a member of the congregation is collecting the tabs of soda cans for a veterans' organization and a request was made to place a collection bin in the narthex. It would be maintained by the member and was approved.

Department & Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds: Nothing to report from PJ Wideman (not present).
SAM:

Barbara Brownell reported that the Habitat Sunday November 24th raised \$240 for Habitat for Humanity Manatee and was very successful.

Barbara Brownell also reported that the grant applications will be available on January 6th and any non-profit organization applying will need to be sponsored by a member of the church and can call Faith Quici in the church office for an application.

Barbara Brownell announced that there will be a special collection starting on January 5th for providing Missions to Honduras. The money collected will be used to buy food, build housing and provide school uniforms for children in need.

Worship:

Moderator Richard Dilts asked about communion Sunday for January and it will be a passed communion. Dorathy Gallo, Linda Van Buskirk, Barbara Brownell and Sheryl Overheid-Smith will help serve communion and usher. Barbara Brownell will also read scripture that day.

The official "undecorating" of the church will take place on January 11th and volunteers are needed.

Community outreach:

Linda Van Buskirk reported that she had heard of two groups that will take small groups of people to other countries for missions work. UCC coordinates trips similar to this for the wider mission. Linda Van Buskirk will research on how to get involved in that.

Events & Hospitality:

Sheryl Overheid-Smith reported that the Women's Breakfast at Derr Dutchman went very well and that the potluck was successful as well. It was reported that there more people attended than had signed up, however there was enough food still. The importance of the congregation to sign up for events like these to get a more accurate headcount was highlighted. One of the stumbling blocks to people signing up could be the location of the sign up sheets which will soon be rectified with the "action table." Sheryl Overheid-Smith was proud to report that, due to generous donations at some of the events, only \$100 of the Events' budget was needed this year.

Dinner and Dessert in January will be held at Primos on January 17th at 6pm. 20% of proceeds that night will benefit Faith UCC.

Moderator Richard Dilts stated that the January Council meeting will be held at his home on January 20th with incoming and outgoing council members alike. Dinner will also be served.

Faith Care:

No updates to report.

Christian Education:

No updates to report.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that the next Spirits and Spirituality report will begin on January 27th and will be on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month.

Pastor Brian also reported that a new Book Study will begin on February 9th and 12th. The book for the study is to be determined.

The closing prayer for the January meeting, which will be held at Moderator Richard Dilts' house will be conducted by Marge Kirchner.

Closing prayer was offered by Barbara Brownell.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next meeting will be December 16th, 2019.

JANUARY 2020

6

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 New Year's Day –Church office is closed	2 7:15pm NA	3 7:15pm NA 7:30m BAC	4 9am Men's Breakfast- D's Palmetto 9am Women's Breakfast- Sage Biscuit- Downtown 10am NA
5 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service Honduras mission giving starts. (Jan 5-Jan 19) 1:30pm BAC	6 Grant applications available today.	7 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	8 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7pm BAC	9 5pm Choir Practice 7:15pm NA	10 7:15pm NA 7:30m BAC	11 10am Undecorating the church 10am NA
12 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service 1:30pm BAC	13 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	14	15 7pm BAC	16 5pm Choir Practice 7:15pm NA	17 4pm Dinner and Dessert Floy and Linda VB At Primo's 7:15pm NA 7:30m BAC	18 10am NA
19 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service Birthday Hospitality Informational Meeting Q & A for Bylaws 1:30pm BAC	20 6:30pm Council Meeting at Richard's house 7pm BR HOA	21 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	22 7pm BAC	23 5pm Choir Practice 7:15pm NA	24 7:15pm NA 7:30m BAC FOLLOWER ARTICLES DUE	25 10am NA
26 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service Annual Congregational Meeting 1:30pm BAC	27 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality 7pm Inlets HOA	28 11:30am Prayer Team Meeting	29 7pm BAC	30 5pm Choir Practice 7:15pm NA	31 7:15pm NA 7:30m BAC	

HOLIDAY FUN AND FOOD!



*Thank you Sheryl and all who helped to put
together a wonderful Christmas Potluck!*



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



Your Staff

Pastors

Rev. Brian & Rev. Judy Bagley-Bonner
Cell: 941-718-3132

PASTORS' OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Thursday mornings
Please contact us to make an appointment. We are not in the office on Fridays.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY- WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY

9 AM - 12 PM

TUESDAY-THURSDAY

1PM-4PM

Phone: 746-8890

Fax 746-0670

Secretary: Faith Quici

Music Leader: Carly Rafferty

Anita Porter – Pianist

Bruce Covey – Media Specialist

Arlene Smith – Hired Treasurer

Hatti Damianos & Earleen Nutting -

Sunday school Teachers

Don Duncan – IT Support

Faith UCC Email:

faithchurchucc@verizon.net

Faith Website:

faithchurchucc.com

Prayer Team

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, call one of the following:

**If you have need for prayer,
please call a team member:**

Gayle Covey 741-8566

Janis Groth 779-6988

Marge Hooie 896-6563

Earlene Nutting 792-3124

Sheryl Overheid-Smith 776-5589

Joan Sheehan 748-2498



A BIG CHRISTMAS THANK YOU!

Thank you to our amazing decorating team who did a wonderful job getting the church ready for the Advent and Christmas season. We applaud all your hard work.

Is Your 2020 Giving Pledge In?

Just a reminder, if you haven't yet turned in your 2020 Giving Pledge, please do so as soon as possible so the Church Council can prepare the budget for our annual meeting. Thanks so much for all your support of Faith UCC.

<http://www.uccfla.org/>



OUR PURPOSE

*To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength
and our neighbor as ourselves (Mt. 22)*

2020 Church Council and Nominations will be voted on at the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 26. If you have any questions, please contact Richard Dilts.

Pastors:

Brian Bagley-Bonner
Jude Bagley-Bonner

faithuccbbb@gmail.com
faithuccjbb@gmail.com

(941)718-3132
(941)776-4106

Church Secretary:

Faith Quici

faithchurchucc@verizon.net

(941) 746-8890