

Faithful Follower

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPEN & AFFIRMING



Faith United Church of Christ 4850 SR 64 E, Bradenton, FL 34208

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MARCH 2020

PRIDE - March 21th 11:45am -5pm

Come to the Riverwalk to show your PRIDE in the LGBTQ community! Pastors Jude and Brian will join the Progressive Clergy of Manatee County in leading a brief opening Prayer Service at 11:45 am, and then the fun, food and festivities begin. Come be a Faith UCC ambassador at our display table where we invite folks to check out our wonderful congregation and give them some free lemon water (and dog biscuits to the canine attendees!!) Sign up for a shift at the action table.

Congrats! - Hats off to the official Chili

Cook-off winners: Meat- Sylvia Hull and Vegetarian - Dorathy Gallo. Thanks to all our cooks who did a great job, Sue Card, Jeff Felix, Ken and Vicky Followell, Beth Mueller, and our hostess: Amy Van Dell! It was a great time.

Grants - Church Council approved Social Actions

and Missions' recommendations for the following grants:

- 1. \$1500.00** to Habitat for Humanity for the finishing of the interior of the house (current build) for the Harris Family,
- 2. \$2500.00** to Special Olympics Manatee for the summer bowling program
- 3. \$1000.00** to Parenting Matters for the agency's Family Emergency Fund which provides money for needed family items not allowed by other funding sources. (AC window units, beds, tires for cars, stoves, etc.)

New Banners - Many thanks to Marge

Kirchner for the beautiful, new banners that will be in our sanctuary beginning the first Sunday of Lent! There will be one central banner with a dove, including pieces of all the liturgical colors. Then, each liturgical season, there will be two side banners of that season's color. The banners were custom made for us by a liturgical artist in Austin, Texas. The artist will continue to provide each season's specific side banners as the season comes upon us

We are also hoping to purchase paraments for the front of the pulpit in each liturgical color, as well as tablecloths for the Communion Table. We will be making available the opportunity for people to purchase these in memory or in honor of a loved one. More information on this will be forthcoming.

Honduras Mission - Elizabeth and

Juan Carlos have returned safely from their 10 day mission to Honduras and are looking forward to sharing their miraculous trip with us! Elizabeth tells me that the money we donated was like loaves of bread in the Bible: "It just kept growing!" They were able to purchase all the uniforms for the children who needed them, build (and paint!) the Sunday school classroom and provide food for many villagers in both towns! In fact, the room they built was quickly used for a weekend dental clinic which had been in need of space to provide its services. Love Abounds!



FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi Steinbach, Director

COME JOIN US!!

Faith Preschool's next big event is our "Annual Art Show & Silent Auction". It will be held Tuesday, April 28, 2020 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM. The children's artwork will be displayed throughout the building for everyone to see, and we will also have a silent auction fundraiser during the event. Come out and be part of this wonderful evening and support Faith Preschool.

If anyone would like to donate an item to our silent auction, please let me know. All donations are tax deductible. We appreciate everyone's help in making our fundraiser a success!

The preschool will be closed for Spring Break from March 13 - 20.

UPDATES

DART: Some of you will remember our guest preacher last Fall, John Aeschbury. John preached on Micah 6, "What does the Lord require of you but that you do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God." He pointed out that most churches are good at "mercy ministries" like our many important outreach activities. But too few churches are strong in the Biblical mandate to do justice, which has to do with changing underlying systems and structures. (The Good Samaritan helping the victimized man on the Jericho Road is mercy. Making the Jericho Road safe for all is justice.)

At its December meeting, our Church Council voted to join a newly forming, non-partisan congregationally-based justice ministry in Manatee County. The SAM Committee paid for Pastor Judy and Sylvia Hull to attend the annual DART Clergy conference in Orlando. Dart (Direct Action and Research Training) is a national organization comprised of local churches, synagogues, and mosques, who work together to identify injustices within our local communities and then address these injustices with community and county decision makers. Any issues taken on are completely non-partisan. Currently, there are 16 Manatee County churches, black and white, conservative and liberal, who have committed to the DART model of faith-based justice work.

In his book, *Strength to Love*, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. writes, "If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority. If the church does not participate actively in the struggle for peace and for economic and racial justice, it will forfeit the loyalty of millions and cause people everywhere to say that it has atrophied its will."

In Manatee County, we are in the beginning stages. We are currently observing the activities of the Sarasota Group, called SURE, in order to learn the process. Next steps will be to identify members of our congregation who will be part of the Faith UCC DART team. Please let Sylvia or Jude know if you are interested. These members will begin with an informational meeting, (on March 15 after church) and a Bible Study with the fifteen other churches.

As soon as possible, the Manatee Group will be hiring a community organizer, who will lead us through our own processes of identifying the greatest needs in our area. Then the real work will begin as our church joins with others to become a "Change Agent for Justice," meeting with and holding accountable those who make the decisions, control the money, and hold the power over the least and last among us. This is a marvelous opportunity for Faith Church to continue to grow in our mission focus. Please consider getting involved as we seek to respond to the Bible's strong call to do justice.

Sylvia Hull and Judy Bagley-Bonner

PROPERTY PRIDE

You will notice that the Property Committee has added our monthly workday schedule to the calendar. Anyone who is interested in joining us, we welcome your help in maintaining our beautiful church home. We do projects both inside and out, including changing light bulbs, organizing storage areas, mending dumpster fencing, replacing torn window screens, and caring for the Memorial Garden to name a few.

Everything we do is safe, so you don't have to worry that your medical insurance is up to date.

If you would like more information you can talk with any of our committee members: Fred Damianos, Scott Brownell, Pete Groth, Walt Hull, Denny Wetter, Michele Collins or PJ Widerman

DOWNTOWN MINISTRIES: We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month to work at the warehouse from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. 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).

FOOD BANK: We are collecting **Baby cereal, food and formula** for the Food Bank of Manatee County this month, MARCH.

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 at the Action Table.

JOIN US WEEKEND SCHEDULE

MARCH 1, 2020

Council Sunday
Communion

MARCH 8, 2020

Flowers: Available
Greeters: Janis Groth and Sheryl Overheidt Smith
Scripture: Joan Sheehan
Ushers: Madeline Cangemie and Michelle Collins

MARCH 15, 2020

Flowers: Available
Greeters: Pete Cohoon
Scripture: Joanne Dahlgren
Ushers: Sheryl Overheidt Smith and Pete Cohoon

MARCH 22, 2020

Flowers: Available
Greeters: Jeff Felix
Scripture: Pat Crowell
Ushers: Vicky Followell

MARCH 29, 2020

Flowers: Available
Greeters: Sharon Cohoon
Scripture: Evi van Oudheusden
Ushers: Vicky Followell



of Margaret Gregory
A memorial service will be held on
Saturday, March 21 at 4pm.

Faith United Church of Christ: Council Meeting Minutes February 10th, 2020

Present: Brian Bagley-Bonner, Jenny Crocker, Richard Dilts, Connar Felix, Ken Followell, Sylvia Hull, Marge Kirchner, Faith Quici, Linda Van Buskirk, Amy Van Dell, Judy Wetter, PJ Widerman Absent: Judy Bagley-Bonner, Barbara Brownell, Vicky Followell- Visitors: Dorathy Gallo

Meeting opened at 6:30pm by Moderator Richard Dilts. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner offered the opening prayer. A motion to approve January Council Meeting minutes was made by PJ Widerman and seconded by Marge Kirchner. Motion carried.

Moderator's comments: Moderator Richard Dilts reminded the council's new and existing members that the meetings are confidential in nature that the co-pastors have one vote and that matters are approved or denied on a majority basis. Moderator Dilts also reminded council members that "Prayers of the People" during service are meant to be as prayers to God and should be kept simple.

Financial Secretary and Treasurer's Reports: There was no Treasurer's report due to the rescheduling of this meeting from a later date. Judy Wetter is now the financial secretary and asked if non-council members should be utilized if there are no council members available for counting the offering on Sunday. Moderator Richard Dilts advised the council that the previous council voted to approve only council members to count and non-council members should only be utilized as a last resort for confidentiality purposes.

A motion to accept the Financial Secretary Report was made by PJ Widerman and seconded by Jenny Crocker. Motion carried.

Church Secretary Report: Faith Quici presented the calendars for review and were revised accordingly. PJ Widerman asked for the Property Committee church work days to be added to the calendar which will be provided. Discussion was held about training all council members on the alarm system and code system for the front door. A suggestion was made to add the date of revision to the documents such as the agenda, calendars, etc. so that updated documents can be easily identified in the future.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner reported that the church continues to grow and there are several new people that have started attending regularly. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner also stated that he and Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner are set to take a vacation in May and June and will be away for Sunday the 24th and Sunday the 31st, however Pastor Brian will return on June 7th. Guest Speakers will be needed for those two Sundays. Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner has been asked to be a temporary interim at the church in Ohio to cover the Senior Pastor's sabbatical from June through August. Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner also reported that Spirits and Spirituality meetings are going well with approximately 20 attendees at the Lakewood Ranch location and 13 at the D's location. The Pancake Supper will take place on February 25th at D's restaurant in Palmetto. New member classes are to be scheduled soon and the dates will be provided once the dates are finalized. Pastor Brian also highlighted a few prayer requests that exist in the congregation.

Old Business: Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner stated that the Dreams and Visions Committee met recently and have started the process of shifting the focus to fully supporting the different committees of the church, ensuring they are all strong and resilient. During service every week for the near future, a different committee will be featured in a mission moment. This will allow for each committee head to highlight their ministry and ask for volunteers and encourage people to sign up to volunteer.

Discussion was held about the LGBTQ 101 series project which has been placed on hold. A suggestion was made by Linda Van Buskirk to find someone who is skilled in presentations to review the current presentation and make recommendations to revise it. Connar Felix will try to identify someone in the community who can do this.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner gave an update on the Manatee County DART chapter that was recently formed and stated the training was very valuable.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner gave an update on the media system, stating that the new projector was recently installed. Installation of the new sound board will be completed soon. Connar Felix will also set up a time to meet with Bruce Covey in reference to the possible software change to Easy Worship.

Linda Van Buskirk reported that the Tret Fure concert was a huge success and that the church's net fundraising amount was \$775. 80 people attended the concert. Connar Felix stated that there was also very good feedback of the concert from the attendees. There was an idea to bring Tret Fure back for another concert, perhaps biannually.

Connar Felix asked about the status of obtaining a new cell phone for the pastors. It was reported that the church needs to check with Frontier about adding cell service and if a used phone will work or if a new phone needs to be purchased. Judy Wetter made a motion to approve up to \$500 from

the Technology budget to be used by Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner to purchase a new cell phone, which was seconded by Jenny Crocker. Motion carried.

New Business: A review of the members of the different committees was conducted and an update will be completed.

Pastor Brian stated that Ash Wednesday will have two services with a meditation period after each service. The first service will be from 6pm-6:30pm followed by a meditation period and the second service will be from 7pm-7:30pm and will also be followed by meditation.

Manatee Pride is happening on March 21st and signup sheets are needed for volunteers for setup, cleanup and working the booth.

Department & Committee Reports:

Property: PJ Widerman reported that the Property committee met and an outline of projects by priority was decided and that the church work days were scheduled as well. Estimates will begin to be obtained as projects are addressed. PJ Widerman also reported that the irrigation system for the lawn is not working properly and an estimate is needed to assess the situation. A regular inspection schedule of the property will also soon be implemented.

SAM: Linda Van Buskirk reported that 2 CD's will become mature and SAM has decided to allow one CD to rollover and the other CD in the amount of \$4,319.99 to be deposited into the Mission Fund. Linda Van Buskirk also reported that at three of the four available grants have been granted: Habitat for Humanity, Parenting Matters and Special Olympics of Manatee County will receive the first three grants and the fourth grant, which is pending, will be granted to Meals on Wheels. This grant is pending as more information is needed from Meals on Wheels before the grant can be finalized.

A motion to approve the awarding of the grants as reported was made by Linda Van Buskirk and seconded by Ken Followell. Motion carried.

Worship: Sylvia Hull, as the new head of the Worship committee, will be the first to present the mission moment highlighting committees at next Sunday's service and she expressed a need for a schedule in advance and presented the idea of scheduling volunteers for three months at a time. It was decided that communion for March will be intinction and a suggestion was made to utilize the ushers to direct attendees by rows when to join the communion procession. Ushers will be Linda Van Buskirk and Jenny Crocker and PJ Widerman, who will also serve as holders for the communion elements. Ken Followell will read scripture.

Community outreach: Linda Van Buskirk reported that she believes the committee's role should be redefined to better serve the specific needs of the community that the committee needs members and that advertising is becoming more difficult, especially through the newspaper.

Events & Hospitality: Amy Van Dell reported that the chili cookoff is set and has six or seven people signed up to cook chili. The tickets will be sold for \$1 a ticket. One ticket will be used for each sample and then five tickets will be used for a bowl. Votes will be tallied on the best chili.

Discussion was held to find a new prize idea. Jenny Crocker suggested that the aprons that are won be signed by the previous winners and then be passed on like a torch to the next winners. Set up will be completed on Saturday at 12:30pm. Next Sunday will also be a celebration of Pastor Judy Bagley-Bonner's birthday with a cake and a few words provided by Marge Kirchner.

Dinner and Dessert for February will be held on the 28th at the Clam House in Palmetto at 6pm. A host is needed for March Dinner and Dessert and April's Dinner and Dessert will be at Sweet Tomatoes.

Birthdays will be on March 29th, April 26th and May 31st.

Faith Care: Ken Followell reported that their committee has designed a survey to distribute to determine the needs of the congregation and to ascertain their interests and talents. The goal of the committee's survey is to create a well-rounded and sufficiently staffed committee in order to serve all the needs of the congregation. Also included in the survey is an optional section for those who have experienced struggles who might be willing to share those struggles with others who have the same situations. There will be training for members of the committee as well.

Christian Education: Jenny Crocker stated that she has lots of ideas for Christian Education for all ages and thinks that her committee can work in conjunction with Community Outreach as there is lots of overlap. There is a need for members to join this committee and Jenny Crocker requested a meeting with the pastors to discuss the ideas and how best to implement them.

The closing prayer for the March meeting will be conducted by PJ Widerman or Marge Kirchner in the alternative. Closing prayer was offered by Sylvia Hull. Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

MARCH 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9am Book Study 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service Communion 1:30pm BAC	2 Prayer Meeting at 11:30am	3 12:30pm Choir Practice 6pm Spirits and Spirituality- D's	4 6:30pm Book Study	5	6 7:30pm BAC	7 9am Men's Breakfast D's 423 10 th Ave. W, Palmetto 9am Women's Breakfast – Theresa's 608 14 th St. W, Bradenton 10am NA 4pm-9pm BAC
8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 9am Book Study 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service EASTER LILY ORDERS START \$8 1:30pm BAC	9 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality-LWR	10 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	11 7pm BAC 6:30pm Book Study	12 7pm Choir Practice 7:15pm NA	13 7:30pm BAC No School	14 10am NA
15 9am Book Study 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Collection DART info meeting after service. 1:30pm BAC	16 6:30pm Council Meeting Preschool Spring Break Mar 16-20	17 St. Patrick's Day 6pm Spirits and Spirituality- D's	18 7pm BAC 6:30pm Book Study	19 7pm Choir Practice 7:15pm NA	20 6pm Dinner and Dessert 7:30pm BAC FOLLOWER ARTICLES DUE	21 10am NA Manatee Pride Event 4pm Memorial Service for Margaret Gregory
22 9am Book Study 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service 1:30pm BAC	23 7pm BR HOA 6:30pm Spirits and Spirituality-LWR	24 6:30pm Downtown Ministries	25 3pm Property Work Day 6:30pm Book Study 7pm BAC	26 7pm Choir Practice 7:15pm NA	27 7:30pm BAC FOLLOWER ARTICLES DUE	28 10am NA
29 9am Book Study 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Service Birthday Hospitality 1:30pm BAC	30 7pm Inlets HOA	31				

FUN AT THE CROP WALK

