

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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APRIL 2020

From Your Moderator

Greetings Friends,

I departed on my month long 'bucket-list' trip on Valentine's day and this virus was but a mere-mention. I returned safely home on St Patrick's day to a totally different environment. Because of my traveling I self-quarantined for the suggested fourteen-days and I have now passed those fourteen-days clear!

As we 'ZOOM' service, please remember to keep up-to-date with your 2020 pledges. For more information on that, see the article by Financial-Secretary Judy Wetter.

Our Holy Week services will of course have a different look than what we are use to having. There will be more information on what you can expect arriving to you via email (or phone). Please also look for updates via your email on the events at Faith Church.

Your Council is working with the guidelines mandated by the state, county, the home UCC and of course our own precautions to keep you safe and to continue to bring you an uplifting Sunday Service.

With the staying a distance from people, the TV show starring Roy Rogers and Dale Evens comes to my mind (I've seen it in reruns). Their song was "Happy Trails" and one of the lines within that song is: 'happy trails to you until we meet again, happy trails to you keep smilin until then.' Until we meet again in person, I wish you a very pleasant Easter and good health! Keep smilin until then!

**Fondly,
Richard**

Update on Kid's Against Hunger

Please see: January 16-22, 2020 North River News Article about Kids 'Against Hunger.

You can register as a volunteer by emailing mark@kiwanisagainsthunger.com"

Bruce

Dear Members and Friends of Faith UCC,

Like the death of President Kennedy, the space shuttle explosion, or 9/11, the current pandemic has shaken us all to the core. Its affects will be felt and talked about for years to come. Just like we did in those times of crisis, we now look to one another and to God to help us get through.

The CDC has restricted meetings of more than 10 which means church activities, including Sunday morning services, have had to be cancelled. Your Council and Pastors are making plans to provide meaningful worship services on line and to keep in touch with members and friends on a regular basis. Though we can't meet in person we will use the phone and the internet to connect with one another as much as possible.

As the Financial Secretary I want to remind you that though everything about our regular life together has changed, that we still have financial obligations. Please consider continuing to give so that we can still do the work of the church in these difficult times. Perhaps mailing in your pledges on a monthly or bi-monthly basis might work for you. You can even drop off your offerings at the church or click on the donate button on the website or our Facebook page and pay by credit or debit card.

Thank you for your continued support of Faith United Church of Christ, we will weather this storm together.

**Sincerely
Judy Wetter, Financial Secretary**

From The Property Committee:

The lack of rain is really taking a toll on our grounds. We are currently working to have our irrigation system up and working again. The irrigation company we are working with is struggling as are all of us. They will work on our project as they are able. Until the virus crisis releases us from its claws the Property work days will be postponed.

I hope all of our church family is well and safe. I pray daily that we will all be together soon. Thank you Faith and Pastors Jude and Brian for keeping us informed and all you do for us.

PJ Widerman

COUNCIL MINUTES

Faith United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes March 16th, 2020

Present: Brian Bagley-Bonner, Barbara Brownell, Jenny Crocker, Connor Felix, Sylvia Hull, Marge Kirchner, Faith Quici, Linda Van Buskirk, Amy Van Dell, PJ Widerman

Present via teleconference: Judy Bagley-Bonner, Ken Followell, Vicky Followell, Judy Wetter

Absent: Richard Dilts

Meeting opened at 6:30pm by Deputy Moderator Marge Kirchner.

Pastor Brian Bagley-Bonner offered the opening prayer.

A motion to approve February's Council Meeting minutes was made by Linda Van Buskirk and seconded by PJ Widerman. Motion carried.

Church Secretary Report:

The calendars were reviewed, however due to the coronavirus outbreak, it will be decided as to whether or not to cancel or postpone events as needed.

Deputy Moderator's comments:

None

Old Business:

Barbara Brownell provided an update on the fifth grant slated to be awarded to Meals on Wheels. She stated that there was a miscommunication in their grant application which has been clarified. Barbara Brownell stated that Meals on Wheels has satisfied the grant application and is ready for Council approval, however the committee was not able to approve the grant before the March council meeting. Barbara Brownell made a motion to award \$504 to Meals on Wheels pending the final approval from the SAM committee which was seconded by PJ Widerman. Motion carried.

New Business:

There was a serious discussion held about the church's response to the coronavirus outbreak. After long deliberation, there was a motion made by Brian Bagley-Bonner to follow the CDC guidelines for social distancing by suspending all face to face church gatherings and activities for the next fifteen days, which was seconded by Jenny Crocker and carried. The Council will re-evaluate once the fifteen day period has passed at a special meeting on April 6th, 2020 at 6:30pm.

One of the main concerns of the pastors and council is to keep everyone connected while staying safe and healthy during this very trying time. Pastors Brian and Judy Bagley-Bonner, along with Carly Rafferty the music

director, will be having services on Sundays and will be broadcasting the services online via Facebook Live. They are also setting up online meetings for the Spirits and Spirituality group and Book Study group via Zoom. They are also available for spiritual guidance and comfort including visits to those ill and healthy. All necessary precautions will be taken if visiting ill members. Ken Followell and the Faith Care team are also working closely with the Pastors to ensure that all members and regular attendees are staying cared for and connected, however volunteers are needed to assist the Faith Care team. This will be included in the Mid-week message.

The Pastors will also be hosting a mid-week message Facebook Live video of silent meditation and prayers for the people. Those with joys and concerns can email or call the pastors and will be asked for permission to include it in the mid-week message.

Members and attendees can still provide their offering to the church by accessing the donation button on the church's Facebook page and website or mailing their offering to the church office.

Two letters will be sent out which contain the decision to suspend activities for the church and offer alternatives as well as financial information on how to continue member giving and the contact information for anyone interested in assisting the Faith Care team. A phone tree for both the Council and Faith Care team to contact members will also be established to ensure that all remain connected, both socially and spiritually.

Alternatives to holding Easter service were also discussed and will be determined at the special Council meeting on April 6th, 2020.

Note: All other business was tabled in the interest of addressing the response to the coronavirus and that will be picked back up at the April 20th meeting.

Closing prayer was offered by Marge Kirchner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm

There will be a special meeting on April 6th, 2020 at 6:30pm for re-evaluation of the coronavirus outbreak response.

The next regular meeting will be held on April 20th, 2020.

Schedule of Current Activities

At Faith UCC



Worship Service

Sundays at 10:30am (Sign in at 10:15am)
Service will be posted to YouTube on Mondays with a link on Facebook.

MEETING ID: **282 925 260**



Midweek Message

Wednesdays through Facebook live and through email.



Short Meditation

New recordings on Thursdays and Sundays by phone / call 941-721-7495



Spirits and Spirituality

(Ends May 1)

1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30pm

2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6:30pm



Pastor Rainbow Pants

New episodes on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Faith UCC Zoom Meetings – April 2020

Date	Event	Time	Meeting ID #
4/9	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service	7:00 PM	704-889-420
4/12	Easter Sunday Worship	10:30 am	282-925-260
4/14	Spirits and Spirituality	TUE 6:30 pm	434-040-756
4/19	Sunday Worship	10:30 am	282-925-260
4/21	Spirits and Spirituality	TUE 6:30 pm	434-040-756
4/26	Sunday Worship	10:30 am	282-925-260
4/27	Spirits & Spirituality	MON 6:30 pm	961-629-025

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

- 1) Dial one of these numbers
 - +1 253 215 8782 US
 - +1 301 715 8592 US
 - +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
 - +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)
 - +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- 2) Using your keypad to put in the **Meeting ID #**
- 3) Just hit **#** again as you do not need an ID to join

How to Access SERVICES, SERMONS and BULLETINS

[All services are now accessible though Zoom](#)

MEETING ID: 282 925 260

VIDEO SERVICES POSTED



Check is out on [Facebook](#) or YouTube for posted video services.

NOTES AND BULLETINS



We also provide PDF version of the sermons located in the " [NOTES](#) " section of our **Facebook** page. Or by email. Please email us at faithchurchucc@verizon.net to sign up for an emailed version of the notes and bulletin.

AUDIO SERVICES



The Zoom services from Sunday morning worship will be converted to audio and can be accessed through google drive by clicking below or on the image of headphones entitled "recorded services" on our web page.

[Click here for Audio Services](#)