

# 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

## FEBRUARY 2024

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

#### MUSINGS on FEBRUARY

By Sylvia Hull, Interim Pastor & Worship Leader

I have always appreciated the month of February for a number of reasons. First of all, it's short. And when we were living in Ohio we all looked longingly toward March (which heralded in Spring.) So February's 28 days seems to be a consolation prize for living through the cold, (relatively speaking) dark days of December and January.

Secondly, February brings us more daylight. It is truly delightful when we can leave for dinner in daylight and return home from dinner in daylight. The presence of

sunlight renews our spirits and invites us outside of our homes and outside of ourselves-both of which close up during the darkness of winter.

Third, I like the month of February's bright red décor. It is such a refreshing addition following January's dark and depressive offering. Everywhere we look, everything we see, is dressed in the color of love.

And lastly, by the time February says goodbye, we are beginning to prepare for the resurrection of new life as we embrace Easter in all of its spring-like beauty.

So I encourage you to welcome this new month with joy in your heart and a song on your lips for the darkness is behind us and all of creation joins in the dance of life.

### Our Recommended Pastor by Your Search Committee

Joseph Shore-Goss was born and raised in the Detroit area of Michigan. He was raised a Roman Catholic and attended Sacred Heart Seminary briefly. He felt a strong call to the ministry but, as a gay man, he could not remain a Catholic, feeling that he "could not call a place home where he was not welcome".

He received a BA from New College San Francisco with a Major in Sign Language Studies, working with persons with developmental disabilities. Also, as a part of this program, Joe had the opportunity to go to Nepal. He and his classmates hiked to 15 different Buddhist monasteries, learning about the sherpa culture and Buddhist beliefs. Joe opened a business, in Palm Springs CA where he began attending a Metropolitan Community Church and again felt the call to ministry. He attended Claremont School of Theology where he received his M.Div., and a Masters in Pastoral Care and Counseling. It was there he met his husband, The Rev. Dr. Robert Shore-Goss. They were married in 2007.

In the time since he became ordained, Pastor Joe ministered in diverse situations. With a hunger for continued learning and a passion for spiritual practice, he pursued a certificate in spiritual direction from Still Point CA. He is also certified in Interim Ministry and Disaster Chaplaincy. He has worked at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and served as chaplain for a Los Angeles Police Department.

While serving and working at the Metropolitan Community Church in California, both Joe and Bob started exploring their call to the UCC, a denomination they felt served a wider and global call to ministry. Pastor Joe transferred his credentials to the UCC in 2013.

Joe has served on the board of UCAN, the United Church of Christ AIDS network. He is a member of the Open and Affirming Coalition and has gone through training to be a facilitator to congregations seeking to become ONA.

Most recently, Joe and Bob relocated to Florida to be near Bob's family. While serving as a chaplain at Orlando Health Dr. Phillips Hospital Joe has been seeking and praying for a call back to congregational ministry.

"In congregational ministry, I feel I can better serve as I was meant to; building community, preaching the gospel, encouraging spiritual practice, and helping us, the UCC to bring God's kingdom here on earth." We welcome Pastor Joe and Bob to our family of faith.



# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

**Spirits and Spirituality** - will meet at 6:00pm, on Wednesday, February 14 at the Beef O'Brady's of LWR located at: 1795 Lakewood Ranch Blvd, Bradenton, FL 34211. Please sign up in the Narthex and we will see you there!

## Winter Book Discussion Group

Group Discussion Scheduled for Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00pm at Faith UCC. We will kick off the winter book group with a discussion of *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. Please join us in the journey of this great book with lots of interesting things to discuss. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. Remember to make your own arrangements to obtain the book, there won't be a group book order. If you have any questions, please contact Janis Groth (941)779-6988)

## Lenten Season Preview:

Feb 13	Shrove Tues
Feb 14	Ash Wed
March 24	Palm Sunday
March 28	Maundy Thursday (service)
March 29	Good Friday
March 31	Easter Sunday



## FAITH PRESCHOOL

Wendi McKeithen, Director

A note from Faith Preschool...

On Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:45 – 9:15 AM we will have our "Donuts with Dad" event. The children are looking forward to having their dad's and/or grandpa's join them on the playground to have donuts, orange juice and/or coffee together.

We have started registration for the 2024-2025 preschool year. If you know of anyone looking for a quality, part time program for their 3 – 5 year old, please have them call me at (941)746-7895 or email me at [faithpreschool1@verizon.net](mailto:faithpreschool1@verizon.net) for more information.

*Have a Happy Valentine's Day!*

Wendi McKeithen  
Faith Preschool Director



# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for FEBRUARY

**FEB 4, 2024**

Scripture: Pete Cohoon

**FEB 11, 2024**

Scripture: Judy Cramer

**FEB 18, 2024**

Scripture: Jean Cox

**FEB 25, 2024**

Scripture: Joan Sheehan

## MARCH SCRIPTURE READERS

If you would like to be on the scripture reader team, please let us know! It is an easy and accessible way to participate in your church worship and serving in God's house. You can sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or by emailing: [faithchurchucc@verizon.net](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net)

# 2024-PER CAPITA

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



# Kiwanis Against Hunger

A program of Manatee Sunrise Kiwanis Foundation, Inc., a 501(c) 3 non-profit  
www.kiwanisagainsthunger.com

## Food Packaging Event

**50,000 MEALS!**

Thank you to the  
**Bradenton Kiwanis Club**  
for sponsoring this event!



# Bradenton Kiwanis

If you have any questions, email: [mark@kiwanisagainsthunger.com](mailto:mark@kiwanisagainsthunger.com)

For more information on this program or to donate,  
visit our website, [www.kiwanisagainsthunger.com](http://www.kiwanisagainsthunger.com)

Hosted by the Manatee Sunrise Kiwanis Foundation, Inc.  
[www.manateesunrisekiwanis.com](http://www.manateesunrisekiwanis.com)

## FOOD PACKING EVENT!

Saturday, February 17  
**8am-10am**

At Kendrick Auditorium at  
the Palmetto Fairgrounds

1303 17<sup>th</sup> St. W.  
Palmetto, FL 34221



## Join Us!

First Congregational United Church of Christ's LGBTQ+ advocacy group invites you to a special event taking place at 12:30 pm on Sunday, February 11th. in Syster Hall.

 **Enjoy a light lunch on us!**  

We're excited to have **Gina Duncan, nationally recognized speaker and director from TransAction Florida**, as our guest speaker. Gina's story as a transgender person along with her advocacy for **LGBTQ** rights in Florida is inspiring. Her journey of overcoming adversity needs to be heard!

As a **Florida top 100 LGBTQ Mover and Shaker**, Gina's presentation promises to inform and empower! She also received the **Equality Florida Achievement Award** - a testament to her impactful work. 

**COLLAGE** is First Congregational's **LGBTQ+** open and affirming group. This event includes not just a complementary light lunch, but much food for thought - a real growth and learning opportunity. **Don't miss out on this truly special event!**

Syster Hall is located on First Congregational UCC's beautiful campus located at

 **1031 South Euclid Avenue**  
**Sarasota, Florida 34237**  

## You Are Invited!

For questions, please call John Ristow at 305-967-5813  
or via email at [JohnRistow2010@gmail.com](mailto:JohnRistow2010@gmail.com).

## LET US REJOICE!

The Search Team has completed its work and are unanimously recommending Rev Dr. Joseph Shore-Goss for our next settled Pastor!

Pastor Joe is currently serving as a chaplain at an Orlando hospital and is eager to return to the pastorate of a church.

He has experience in church growth, small church ministry, and connecting the church to the community.

On March 1-3, Pastor Joe will be at Faith UCC for a "Candidating Weekend" where you will have opportunities to get to know him and his husband, Bob.

On **Sunday, March 3**, after the service, we will hold a Congregational meeting to vote on hiring him.

In the coming weeks, you will receive more information on Pastor Joe and the process of bringing him to Faith.

For now, mark your calendars for the **March 3** Service and Congregational meeting afterward!



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## Council meeting minutes

If you are a member of Faith UCC and would like a copy of the 2023 Annual report or copies of the council meeting minutes, please contact the church office to request a copy and one will be provided of you.

# Easter Lilies



We are taking Easter Lily orders. The cost is **\$10** per lily.

**Payment must accompany your order. Orders and Payment are due by FEB 26.**

Easter Lilies help decorate the sanctuary until Easter. Lilies may be given in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an event. **Please remember to take your plant home after the last Easter service.**

Name:

Quantity:

Total Amount Due: (\$10 each) \$

Offering Envelope #

In Celebration or Memory of:

## SAM (Social Action and Missions):

### February is: **Peanut Butter**

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






### CRITICALLY NEEDED ITEMS

<input type="checkbox"/> CANNED VEGETABLES	<input type="checkbox"/> CANNED MEAT
<input type="checkbox"/> CANNED FRUITS	<input type="checkbox"/> 100% FRUIT JUICES
<input type="checkbox"/> MAC 'N' CHEESE	<input type="checkbox"/> BREAKFAST BARS
<input type="checkbox"/> PEANUT BUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/> OATMEAL
<input type="checkbox"/> JELLY	<input type="checkbox"/> POWDERED MILK
<input type="checkbox"/> BOXED RICE	<input type="checkbox"/> APPLESAUCE
<input type="checkbox"/> BOXED PASTA	<input type="checkbox"/> DRIED BEANS
<input type="checkbox"/> CANNED SOUPS	<input type="checkbox"/> TRAIL MIX

**Donations can be dropped off or shipped directly to:**  
**Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee**  
**811 23rd Avenue East, Bradenton, FL 34208**

#### 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 the office 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/mealsonwheels-plus/one-time-donation/>

# FEBRUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom  7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	2 7-9pm Prayer Mtg BAC	3 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
4 10:30am Service <b>Communion</b>  2:30pm BAC	5	6	7 7pm BAC service	8 "Donuts with Dad" Preschool AM  6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom  7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	9 Apostolic Conference 5-9pm	10 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room  Apostolic Conference 5-9pm
11 10:30am Service  2:30pm BAC	12	13 Shrove Tuesday	14 Valentines Day  Spirits and Spirituality 6pm – Beef O' Brady's LWR  Ash Wednesday <b>11a-1p</b> <b>imposition of</b> <b>ashes</b>  <b>Lent Starts</b> (ends March 28)  7pm BAC service	15 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom  7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	16 7-9pm Prayer Mtg BAC	17 8am Food Packing Event  10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> Rev. Dr Sylvia Hull will be available at the church for the imposition of ashes from 11a.m - 1 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, February 14th.</p> <p><b>WHAT IS LENT? (Feb 14-March 28)</b> Lent is a Christian season of self-examination lasting the 6 weeks leading up to Easter.</p> </div>						
18 10:30am Service  2:30pm BAC	19 6:30pm Council Meeting  No School- Presidents Day	20 Winter Book Discussion 7pm	21 7pm BAC service	22 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom  7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	23 7-9pm Prayer Mtg BAC	24 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
25 10:30am Service  2:30pm BAC	26	27	28 7pm BAC service	29 Faith Prayer and Care Team Meeting		<b>BAC= Bradenton Apostolic Church</b>