

# FAITHFUL FOLLOWER

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

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## AUGUST 2024

### *A Word from Pastor Joe:*



As the summer blesses us with longer days, a brighter sun, and time for rest and relaxation, it brings back fond memories.

As a kid I remember how long summer seemed. We would rent a cabin in Michigan. Our neighbors would rent the one next-door. We had days of swimming and fishing and buying penny candy at the camp store. We would get on our bikes and ride through the neighborhood without a care for the world.

Even today I still have adventures. They are discovering our neighborhood and the hidden gems of fine dining, museums, and movies. I have yet to get to a beach, but it is on my bucket list. I pray that everyday you can find some of that childlike joy in your daily adventures. When I would lead the children's moment in congregations, I would always invite the young and the young at heart to join me.

Let us be young at heart and filled with awe at God's creation around us. Let us greet each day with joy counting our blessings. Let us lift in prayer all who are traveling or have gone to their summer homes. All too soon Summer will come to a close.

we will always be blessed by the good memories of life and loved shared with family and friends.

Blessings,

*Pastor Joe*



Thanks to everyone who contributed money to purchase the new screens in the front of the sanctuary. They are certainly a wonderful addition to our worship experience. If you've not seen them yet, plan to come to worship this Sunday and experience the wonder of technology. Thanks to Pastor Joe for coordinating the effort and to Olyvia Mercer and Pete Cohoon who give of their talents to make it all work every Sunday for worship in the sanctuary, Zoom and Facebook too! We want to also thank Bradenton Apostolic Church for their contributions in getting the screens installed.



Like Pastor Joe, I too have fond memories of summertime. Mine was filled with fun times visiting Grandma and Grandpa's farm in Ohio; riding horses and ponies, feeding the chickens, stomping in the creek, catching frogs, fishing and swimming in the farm pond, picking blackberries and eating watermelon, corn off the cob, and blackberry cobbler. I was 14 when we went on our first real family vacation. Camping on the National Seashore on the Outer Banks of North Carolina at Cape Hatteras also visiting Kitty Hawk and Williamsburg, VA.

It was my first time to experience the beauty and power of the ocean. I remember standing on the shoreline experiencing the majesty and power of God through the waves, and how very small I felt in the moment. I've always loved the beach and the ocean. There is something mystical about it that continues to call to me, and it's one place where I feel inspired and still experience that majesty of God. Recently when I visited Coquina Beach I was inspired to write this poem.

"Today the Beach Called Me"

Today the beach called to inquire of my absence.  
I stuttered and stammered by muttered no words.  
As the curiosity within me stirred.  
She coerced me to her waves,  
And her birds in the sky.

Her beauty and grandeur so pleasing my eyes.  
As I walked through the sand and felt it squish between my toes,  
The glorious power of her waves arose.  
She awakened me as the sea air invaded my nose.

Again, she reminded me of the renewal she brings,  
As the sun glimmered on the waves and I heard the birds sing.  
The beach called to me today,  
I listened as the call lightly rang.  
So happy and joyful that I answered her call.  
As always, she invigorated and energized my all.

As I turned my back and began to walk away from it all,  
I'm sure I heard her gentle voice once again call.  
Come again soon, don't make it so long.  
I'll fill you again and sing you, my song.

Rev. John S. Eley



# Spirit & Spirituality

Will be August 14 - 6:00 p.m. at

Beef O'Brady's

1795 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. Bradenton

Join us for some good food, drink

SEE YOU THERE !

**BABY NEEDS !** The Manatee County Food Bank is assembling emergency baby baskets with critical care items for infants and toddlers in need. With your help, they will be successful in helping many families. Here is a list of needed items You can drop off your donations in the big yellow bucket in the Narthex.

**Emergency Baby Baskets** contain critical care items for infants and toddlers in need.

## Critically Needed Items

- Diapers (Sizes Newborn to 7)
- Infant Formula
- Nighttime Potty-Training Pants (Good Nights or Pull-ups)
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Cereal/Baby Food
- Sippy Cups
- Baby Bottles
- Pacifiers
- Burp Cloths
- Bibs



## SCRIPTURE READERS NEEDED

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)

Scripture Readers still Needed for:

August 11, 18, & 25



- 8/7 – Walt Hull
- 8/12 – Liv Coleman
- 8/21 – Bill Cook
- 8/21 – Michael Frederick
- 8/25 – Pat Crowell

## AUGUST: CEREAL.

The Food Bank is asking for our help this summer particularly with cereal. Pick up an extra box and bring it to worship on Sunday

**PICK UP** - We will be happy to come to your home and pick up your items! (call Babs at 747-9643).

**DROP OFF** - You may wish to deliver to church during office hours. Mon.-Fri. 10:00-2:00 or bring it with you to worship.

**SHIPPED** - 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

Funds are always needed so you may wish to send contributions directly to Meals On Wheels at 811 23rd Avenue East, Bradenton 34208. And through the link to the right:



**Meals on Wheels PLUS**  
OF MANATEE

**THE FOOD BANK**  
OF MANATEE

### 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

**Pastor Joe** is looking for pictures of church events, happenings, and people that can be used on our website that we are looking to update and give a face lift to. If you have any such pictures please email them to the church email at:

[faithchurchucc@verizon.net](mailto:faithchurchucc@verizon.net)



**Narcotics Anonymous** – Meets at Faith United Church of Christ every Thursday at 7:15 pm and Saturday at 10:15 am. Brochures are available on the bulleting board In the church narthex or you may log on to <http://sucoastNA.org> for other local meeting locations, times and maps in the area.

# AUGUST 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 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom  7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	9 7-9pm Prayer Mtg BAC	10 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
11 10:30am Service  2:30pm BAC	12 5:30pm Braden River Lakes HOA	13	14 Spirits and Spirituality 6pm – Beef O' Brady's LWR  7pm BAC service	15 6pm Riverpointe HOA	16 7-9pm Prayer Mtg BAC	17 10:15am NA- in multipurpose room
18 10:30am Service  2:30pm BAC	19 6:15 Inlets HOA  6:45pm ZOOM Council Meeting	20	21 7pm BAC service	22 6:30pm-8:15pm NarAnon- in Sunday School Classroom  7:30pm NA- in multipurpose room	23 <b>FOLLOWER DEADLINE</b>  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	30 7-9pm Prayer Mtg BAC	31

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8/7 - Walt Hull  
 8/12 - Liv Coleman  
 8/21 – Bill Cook  
 8/21 - Michael Frederick  
 8/25 – Pat Crowell