

J U N E 2 0 1 8

The Open Door



Faith United Church of Christ
1650 Pinchurst Rd. Dunedin, FL 34698
727-799-4602 – www.faithucc.org

Upcoming HEP Dates:

Tuesdays, June 19th & July 17th
11:30am to 1:00pm
&

Fridays, June 22nd & July 27th
4:15pm to 5:30pm

Serving at HEP is a great way to meet other church members and the residents we serve!

HEP is located at 1120 N. Betty Lane in Clearwater.



2018 LEADERSHIP

Ivan Liss
Moderator

LizBeth Cone
Visioning & Planning Leader

Ron Hughes
Financial Development Leader

Molly Hancock
Congregational Life Leader

Rev. Mike MacMillan
Pastor

Wendy Brand
Clerk

Fran Mitchell
Financial Secretary

GROUNDBREAKING!

Please join us this Sunday (June 10th), following worship, as we officially break ground for the beginning of our building project! The official start date to begin construction on our new gathering space, narthex and ADA bathroom has been set for June 18th. This has been a long time coming and has taken a great deal of work and lot's of generosity from so many of you! So let's celebrate by putting some shovels in the ground!

As part of our celebration, ice cream sundaes will be served! Stay around and join in the fun. All are welcome!

As we get closer to the beginning of construction, please watch for details regarding changes to meetings, parking, building usage and other construction related details. We will do our best to pass on any updates and news as regularly and as quickly as we are able.

Worship @ Historic Shiloh Church!

Pastor Clem Bell, **Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Dunedin**, has invited Faith UCC members to share worship at their sanctuary, 1165 Douglas Ave., on **Wednesday, June 27th, 7:00pm**. Shiloh Baptist is a historic African-American congregation, dating back to 1900. Every January, they sponsor the MLK Jr. Unity Breakfast in Dunedin. The Interfaith Dialogues team at UCC has been in conversation with Pastor Bell for several months, with some of the team having attended the 2018 MLK breakfast where we met Pastor Bell and his wife, and heard their fantastic Gospel Choir.

This service promises opportunity for any interested Faith UCC member to meet members of the Shiloh congregation and enjoy the joyful energy of their worship service! If you are interested, contact Marge Miller (mamiller17@gmail.com/ c/t 631-681-3640). You can either drive directly to the Shiloh church on Douglas Ave, or carpool from the Faith UCC parking lot.

Shower of Stoles Project

On May 27th, several members of Faith UCC's newly launched Interfaith Dialogues group attended the *"Shower of Stoles Project"* at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Clearwater where 30 stoles from the over 1,300 stoles collection were on display.

The Stoles Project is an extraordinary collection of over 1,300 liturgical stoles representing the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people of faith. Each stole contains the story of an LGBT person, either active in their faith community or excluded from service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The Stoles collection began in 1995 and has been steadily growing in numbers as it tours throughout the U.S.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend this limited engagement exhibition were deeply moved by the beauty and stories of each stole. Visit - StolesProject@WelcomingResources.org - for more information.



PRIDE 2018 - June 23rd and 24th!

The St. Pete PRIDE Parade and Festival is coming up! The Parade will be on Saturday, June 23rd, kicking off at 7:15pm. The Festival will be held on Sunday, June 24th, from 11:00am to 5:00pm. We will make sure Faith UCC is represented! Visit the St. Pete PRIDE website (www.stpetepride.com) for more news about the event and watch for more information to come about how you can get involved!



Parish Nurse Notes

Since June is "Men's Health Month" it seems an appropriate time for a few reminders about

prostate health. The American Cancer Society estimates that approximately 239,000 new cases of prostate cancer are diagnosed each year in the United States. It remains the second leading cause of death in men, second only to lung cancer. Currently there is a one in six chance that a man will deal with this disease during his lifetime. Early onset prostate cancer, before the age of 50, is often likely to progress more rapidly and virulently than if first diagnosis is made later in life.

Some of the risk factors to be aware of include:

- a family history of prostate cancer
- eating a diet high in fatty dairy products and/or red meat
- obesity
- aging

A visit to your physician is indicated if you experience:

- bone pain in hips, ribs or spine
- blood and/or pain on urination
- weakness or numbness in the lower extremities

Maintaining a healthy weight, being physically active and eating plenty of fruits and vegetables are currently the best ways to prevent prostate cancer (and so many other unwanted conditions!) So --- happy "Men's Health Month" guys - and STAY HEALTHY!

Pat Sargent, Parish Nurse

FAITH STITCHERS

The Faith Stitchers have finished the stockings for the children at Grace House. Diane Urwiller is now hand sewing the jingle bells on Santa's Cap. We have moved on to making dresses from men's shirts for the younger girls in Haiti. When we have some finished, we will bring them in for a "show and tell". Thanks to all of you who have donated men's shirts for us to use for the dresses. The woven cotton, cotton/blend ones will make lovely dresses. If you have shirts that have worn collars and/or cuffs, don't throw them away! Donate them to us! We will turn them into dresses!

Many of you donated knit shirts — some almost new. These do not work as well, so we are donating them to Grace House. They will be placed in "the closet" (racks in the back of the social hall). When the homeless first move into the facility, their wardrobes are most limited. Vouchers are provided to them, and they can "spend" them on clothes from the "closet" or food from the "pantry".

Anyone who is interested in joining our group is more than welcome. We meet from 10:00am to 3:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at Peg's Studio. Come when you can, leave when you have to. Bring a bag lunch, if you plan to be with us at lunch. Call or email Peg for further information.

Anyone who would like to contribute, but are unable to attend on Wednesdays, no problem! I have a simple project that you can do at home — making pillowcases of juvenile print for cancer patients in hospitals. Contact Peg for instructions...

To all members — we will NOT be meeting in June; the 1st Wednesday in July is the 4th — so we won't meet then, either. Next meeting will be the 3rd Wednesday in July — the 18th! See you then.

Life is Life: *Men's Mental Health*

June is Men's Health Month! Let's take this opportunity to applaud and treasure the dear men in our lives. Let's embrace their whole beings—including body, mind and mental health.

Mental health for men is being called a silent crisis, a sleeper issue that has crept into the minds of millions. At the heart of the problem are new and emerging pressures for men, stemming from changes in societal dynamics at work, in the family and in personal life. In other words, men who are experiencing mental health issues are much more likely to suffer in silence, especially minority men. This is often attributed to stubbornness in men, rooted in traditional American notions of masculinity that emphasize "true grit" doggedness.

While the concept of mental health for men is nothing new, comparatively, gender-specific health awareness and research focuses on women. Women tend to band together, and they are more vocal and expressive about emotions and other aspects of their mental health. As a result, women seek health care in greater proportion than men. Men, on the other hand, traditionally shy away from the physical or mental health-care systems.

Men tend to view **partners and friends** as primary health sources. When they do reach a physician, men tend to focus more on physical problems, and are less likely to discuss deeper emotional issues—particularly if the physician is female. Recognizing these barriers is only the first step to overcoming illnesses that might be weighing on a man's mind.

Additionally, formal mental health services are not finely attuned to men's needs. These services tend to emphasize medication or talk-therapy. Some research suggests that men prefer action over words in the face of stressful situations. This may explain the popularity of practical interventions such as "man caves and men's sheds." These are physical spaces where men can gather together for practical activities while receiving peer-support in the process.

The bottom line is that there are many reasons for men to feel distressed at times. It could be biochemical changes in the brain, situational /life events or psychological factors. Remember you are not alone and there is no shame in seeking help.

Thursday Spiritual Study– Summer Break

Please note the Thursday Spiritual Study Group will take some time off this summer. The group's last meeting will be on Thursday, June 27th. Depending on construction, we will regroup sometime in August. Please watch for dates and details. Join us in anytime as we engage a variety of spiritual, theological and religious topics. During the program year, this group meets on Thursday's from 10:30am to Noon.

Thank You Knitters!

Over the past year, we have had quite a few moments of pain in our congregation – from deaths to surgeries, from grief to issues around transition – and all sorts of other situations requiring loving pastoral care. One of the greatest ways that we, as a community, love and support those in times of difficulty is through our Prayer Shawl Ministry. Prayer shawls, knit with love by caring and committed people in the congregation (*you know who you are!*) and blessed by the entire community, are a true source of comfort for so many people. On behalf of the congregation, THANK YOU to all whose hands create these beautiful shawls with such love and care. Your work is so appreciated!



Do You Want to Sing in the Choir?

Wanted: Singers for the choir! No experience necessary. The perks include lots of fun at rehearsals on Thursday nights from 6:30pm to 8:00pm and Sundays 9:15am to 10:00am, plus a guarantee for a seat for every church service! See choir director Brian Smawley for more information.

United Church of Christ & Faith UCC Core Identities



At the General Synod held in 1985, the UCC voted into being the *Open and Affirming (ONA)* resolution, to extend an authentic welcome to our sisters and brothers in the LGBT Community – the first of its kind of any denomination. Faith UCC voted to adopt this Core Identity in 2006. Currently, only 27% of all UCC churches are listed as *ONA*.

Also at the 1985 General Synod, a resolution was passed that called on churches to adopt ‘*JustPeace*’ resolution. As ‘*JustPeace*,’ the UCC as a whole is opposed to war, and advocates instead for the interrelation of friendship, justice and common security from violence. *JustPeace* churches are called to advocate for peace. We became *JustPeace* in 2006.

At General Synod in 2015, the *WISE* Resolution was passed to energize UCC churches to support people struggling with mental illness. Being a *WISE* church means steps have been undertaken to become welcoming, inclusive, supportive and engaged around issues of mental illness and pledges to continue learning. We became *WISE* last year – in 2017!

The UCC is known as a global leader in terms of merging its faith and care for the environment. A new UCC Core Identity is taking shape called Creation Care. Our Green Team is currently working on this designation, and hopefully soon we will be able to add a fourth Core Identity to our church. Our goal is to become a Creation Care church this year in 2018!



Greeters, Readers & Communion Servers

The sign up sheets for Greeters, Readers and Communion Servers is now out for July, August and September. Our worship is best when we have a variety of people adding their presence and talents to our services. Please, just pick a date for one of the above, add your name and write it in your calendar! If you have questions about the duties and logistics of these opportunities, please see Pastor Mike or Kathy Doucette (*Greeter Coordinator*). We have especially had a great need for Greeters as of late. Greeters are so important because they are often the first people that welcome visitors; they help people find seats on our busiest Sunday’s; and are there for questions and direction. This is an important ministry for our church. Please consider signing up for a Sunday and become a Greeter!

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP FOR JUNE

Readers

Greeters

- June 3rd – Barb Campbell
- June 10th – Peg LeFebvre
- June 17th – Tom Reciniello
- June 24th – Mary Alexander

- June 3rd – Gary Hart, Carol & Will Krieble
- June 10th – Kathy Doucette, John & Debbie Dunbar
- June 17th – *Needed, Needed, Needed*
- June 24th – Donna Lund, *Needed, Needed*

Ongoing Events @ Faith UCC

Worship @ Faith

Sunday's – 10:30am *(Communion is on the first Sunday of each month)*

Centering & Communion Service

Tuesday's – 9:30am

'Life is Life' Group

2nd & 4th Tuesday's – 7:00pm

'Faithfully Aging' Group

4th Wednesday's – Noon

Books & Meditation Group

Wednesday's – 5:00pm

Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday's – 6:30pm

Faith Stitchers *(At Peg LeFebvre's Studio)*

1st & 3rd Wednesday's - 10:00am

Theology on Tap

1st Thursday's – 6:30pm *(Offsite)*

Spiritual Study

Thursday's – 10:30am

PFLAG

4th Thursday's – 7:00pm

12 Steps For Everyone

Friday's – 10:00am

HEP Food Service

3rd Tuesday's – 11:45am @ HEP

4th Friday's – 4:15pm - @ HEP

Faith United Church of Christ

Mission Statement

The Mission of Faith United Church of Christ is to be a progressive spiritual voice rooted in the mystery of God. Through intentionally inclusive fellowship, challenging spiritual education and lively advocacy around issues of justice, we seek to inspire spiritual journeys as we follow the Jesus way of love and peace in the world.



Remember to follow us on Facebook and Twitter – search FaithUCCDunedin

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