

M A Y 2 0 1 7

The Open Door



Faith United Church of Christ
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“Somewhere in those depths of silence I came upon my first experiences of God as a loving presence that was always near, and prayer as a simple trust in that presence.”

Cynthia Bourgeault

2017 Leadership

Ivan Liss
Moderator

Beth Ann vom Eigen
Congregational Life Leader

LizBeth Cone
Visioning & Planning Leader

Ron Hughes
Financial Development Leader

Rev. Mike MacMillan
Pastor

Wendy Brand
Clerk

Fran Mitchell
Financial Secretary

Greetings Faith Friends,

Let me set the scene for you: two people joined their voices and sang ‘Big Yellow Taxi,’ one of them strumming a guitar; several read poetry they had written and published over the years; some read liturgy they were working on or a favorite prayer; some read haiku and some told jokes; some offered up reflections and one - yes one - recited by memory the entire poem

‘The Cremation of Sam McGee’ – no small feat! One was even going to juggle, but he chickened out (*that would be me!*). I am talking about what the Thursday Spiritual Study Group called the ‘Open Mic’ day they recently held (*thanks John Dunbar for organizing*). As a group that often tackles some heavy topics, this was a day for people to offer up a talent or a passion, or something that inspired them. There was laughter, there was awe, and there were tears as we learned from one another a little but more about just who they are. And I think I can speak for the 25 or so that were there that they felt like they knew each other a great deal more. This was a phenomenal day of hospitality and getting to know one another. There is no better ways than through one’s passions...

I am hoping that we can do this again, on a larger-scale, perhaps during a FEAST night this fall or some other time. As a church, we share in one another joys and struggles - we pray for and support one another all the time. But how much do we really KNOW one another? This format is a great way to do so! So my friends, get your talents and passions ready for this fall, and let’s do this again. And I promise - I will not chicken out again and will juggle for the world to see! Good times are waiting... *Pastor Mike*



Faith Stitchers Update – Peg LeFebvre

The Faith Stitchers are currently working on Christmas Stockings for the children at Grace House, a homeless shelter for families. A few more meetings, and we should be done. Thanks to those faithful few who are always present. It is a good feeling to be done months ahead of time.

When done, we will go back to working on the sheets for 'A Small World Childcare Center.' We make, as well as repair sheets and quilts for naptime. They are so grateful for them. This Preschool/Daycare Center mainly provides services to children from low-income families. Besides being a preschool program for infants through 5 years, they provide before and after school day care, plus transportation to and from the schools. As their services and enrollment have increased, so have their needs! If you would like to help these kids, please talk to Peg LeFebvre.

The children's Nativity costumes are also mostly done, so we will be looking for some new projects. If you have an idea, please let Peg know. You can reach her at Peg@Lefebvre.org or 727-580-0324. Thanks, *Peg LeFebvre*

Theology on Tap – FIRST THURSDAY!



Join us this Thursday, May 4th, for Theology on Tap (TOT). TOT is a way to bring folks together for conversations around theology, spirituality and religion in a casual and fun setting. Because they have a nice, quiet area we can talk, we will again meet at 'de Bine Brewery' (993 Florida Ave. in Palm Harbor – right by Nebraska and Alt 19). We will begin at 6:30pm, and officially conclude by 8:00pm, but you can come as early OR stay as long as you wish. Pizza or snacks will be provided and a donation accepted to help cover the costs. See you there!

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED 2017 MAY FRIENDSHIP CELEBRATION "Kindling New Fires of Love"

DATE: Friday, May 5th

PLACE: Skycrest United Methodist Church
(2045 Drew St., Clearwater)

TIME: Registration – 9:45am;
Program – 10:00am & Lunch at Noon.

To register, please call:
Shirley Cobb at 727-519-9141.

If you are interested in carpooling from the church, call Roberta McIntosh at 727-734-1237.



Communion and Centering Service

On Tuesday's of each week, beginning at 9:30am, join us @ Faith UCC for a Service of

Communion, Meditation and Lectio Divina (*sacred reading*). This roughly 45-minute service is built around silence and stillness, and includes a time of guided meditation, a chosen scripture passage or poem that is read over 4 times with silent time between each reading (Lectio Divina), reflection on that scripture passage, and finally concludes with an intimate communion service. There is no need to sign up for this service – just come and be present as often as you can. This is a regular, ongoing service that will be held each Tuesday unless otherwise communicated.

We Have a Great Need for Greeters!

We have been having a difficult time as of late filling slots for Greeters on Sunday mornings. Greeting is a simple and great way to meet people! The responsibilities of the Greeters are to welcome people as they come in, making sure they get a bulletin and hymnal (if needed); to help collect the offertory; and to assist people in finding seats, especially in the more crowded months. If you have any questions about Greeting, or would like some more instruction on the process, see Kathy Doucette or Pastor Mike. We are more than happy to answer questions and schedule a training session.



Building Conversation – May 21st

Plan to stay around following worship on Sunday, May 21st, for a conversation on the building and capital campaign. If you have questions, or would like to hear an update on the ongoing process, go ahead and pick up some hospitality goodies and head back to the sanctuary for this informal update. Please bring your questions.

The building process is currently in the hands of our Architect Ed Hoffman and his team as they are busy preparing the construction plans and schematics that will be taken to Dunedin City Hall and presented for approval. Permitting will follow the acceptance of the construction plans, and bidding out the work will follow not long after that.

This is such an exciting time! The hope is everyone can be a part of investing in this project in some way. If you have not had a chance to consider making an investment, there is still plenty of time!



Maundy Thursday and Easter Services

The feedback from the Maundy Thursday and Easter services this year has been overwhelmingly that our services were very meaningful and powerful. We had record attendance at both services (*70+ on Maundy Thursday and - get this - 170 on Easter!*). A special THANK YOU to the choir, musicians and music leadership for all your hard work! And a THANK YOU to all who helped set up and clean up for the services.



Farewell to Spicers & Palazini's

With deep sadness, we bid farewell last month to some long time members of Faith UCC. John and Jan Spicer have moved up to Georgia and Jan and Albo Palazini are moving back to Massachusetts. Both are permanent moves, though hopefully we will enjoy seeing them on visits from time to time! In March, we also bid farewell to Judy Condray. We will miss all of them dearly, and are thankful for all the joy they brought to the congregation over the years. We wish you joy and peace in your transitions!

Keep Going Green All Year Long!

Thanks to the Green Team for offering us ways that we can as a church, and individually - go green! Through worship, a beach clean up day, a challenging documentary and 'green' hospitality, the hope is that you were inspired in the ways of sustainable living all year long, and that we as a church can become a model for sustainable spirituality. The good news is Fair Trade coffee, reusable straws and bags and more will be available all year long. These are simple ways we can ease into sustainable living! Watch for more 'green team' activities and news all year long.



Honeymoon Island Beach Clean Up





Strengthen the Church UCC Offering Coming Up!

Each day visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the ‘Strengthen the Church Offering,’ they become a reality. Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. The Strengthen the Church Offering is generally collected on Pentecost, when we celebrate the spirit and energy that animates ‘the church’ and calls it to live out its mission. Our collection will therefore be the same day – Pentecost Sunday - June 4th. Visit www.ucc.org/stc for more information.



Nehemiah Recap

Thank you to everyone that was able to make it down again this year to Tropicana Field for the Nehemiah Gathering! We had over 50 people take part in this night of working for justice in Pinellas County. Mark your calendars for Monday, June 15th for the Celebration. Watch for details.



Worship Leadership for May

Readers

- May 7th – Don Salisbury
- May 14th – *needed*
- May 21st – Becky DeLay
- May 28th – Peg LeFebvre

Greeters

- May 7th – Bill Bergmann, *needed, needed*
- May 14th – Kathy Doucette, Pat Sargent, Bob Sargent
- May 21st – John Zaun, LizBeth Cone, *needed*
- May 28th – Gary Hart, Carol Kriebel, Will Kriebel

Ongoing Events @ Faith UCC

Worship @ Faith

Sundays – 10:30am (*Sermon Talk Follows*)

Communion and Centering Service

Each Wednesday – 9:30am

'Life is Life' Group

2nd & 4th Tuesday's – 7:00pm

'Faithfully Aging' Group

4th Wednesday's – 2:30pm

Eckhart Tolle Reading Group

Each Wednesday – 5:00pm

Choir Rehearsal

Each Wednesday – 6:30pm

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

1st & 3rd Thursday's - 10:30am

Spiritual Study

Each Thursday – 10:30am

PFLAG

4th Thursday's – 7:00pm

12 Steps For Everyone

Each Friday – 10:00am

HEP Food Service

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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