

**United Church of Fayetteville  
February 1, 2023**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE –LOTS HAPPENING IN THE MONTHS AHEAD**

**February 5 10:00 AM Worship**

We welcome Dr. Ramy Marcos to the pulpit. Dr. Marcos is ordained in the Christian Church of Egypt and came to the US six years ago. He will be leading worship with us to allow other congregations in the presbytery to experience his worship leadership. Folk from other congregations will be visiting us that day. In Presbyterian parlance, we are providing the hospitality of a “neutral pulpit” which allows search committees to experience worship leadership before making decisions and recommendations to congregations. This will be an engaging worship experience for us. He is not providing leadership in order to be considered by our congregation.

**February 10, 7:00 PM Game Night is Back!**



Round 2 of Game Night. Everyone is invited. Bring a game. Bring a snack. Bring yourself. No one is too old or too young to come and have fun. Who is competitive; who is a good winner; who is a good loser; and who are the sleepers who come out of nowhere to excel and show us how it is done. Look for a sign-up sheet in the hallway.

**February 12 Young Person Activity  
Spreading the Love**

Young people create and send Valentine greeting to our homebound folk.



**March 19 Young Person Activity Signs of  
Spring**



**March 19, After Worship Bible Study**

Participants will share a potluck lunch. After lunch there will be an approximately two-hour large and small group conversation, including discussion of how Scripture is interpreted or misinterpreted; humans as woven into the whole fabric of creation, not above or outside it; and scripture’s guidance for responsibility and action. The experience will be designed and led by Dr. Even.

**Bible Study**



While it isn't "Game Day," a little healthy competition never hurt anyone. As voted on by class participants, a prize will be given for the wittiest, funniest or most creative biblical name given to a potluck offering. (The challenge is not to create a biblical dish (no locusts, please!)) but to name your offering. Put your thinking caps.

### April 23 Young Person Activity Service

### April 30 3:00 PM Spring Pops Concert



### May 6 9:00 AM to Noon Brown Memorial Meal Prep in Church Kitchen



### May 7 Afternoon Serving Meal at Brown Memorial



### JUST FOR FUN

#### **Mahjong Anyone? Time, Day, Schedule TBA**

Are you interested in learning how to play this fun and enormously popular classic game of strategy, skill and summation? Sarah has offered to host a series of classes on how to play..



### HOUSEKEEPING

**PLEASE NOTE: On Tuesday, February 7: The office will be closed from 10-11AM while our new Administrative Assistant has a zoom class to learn how to update the website. Messages will be returned after the class is complete. Please do not enter the office during that hour, so that her class is not interrupted. (We are paying our computer consultant to train her.)**

## **UPDATE FROM THE CHANGE WORK GROUP**

The Change Workgroup was appointed by and is accountable to the Board. Every month, the Board receives an update on the group's activities. The group's focus is to strengthen the ties of our existing church family and to inform, excite and partner with the greater community in our ministry and mission.

You may recall a survey that was sent to you last fall. You told us you wanted more chances to get together outside of Sunday worship with opportunities like family game night (round 2 coming Feb 10); Mahjong classes (respond to Sarah Gilmore for more information); another bible study opportunity – coming this Lent. Several individuals hosted dessert gatherings in late fall. Others wanted opportunities to continue with our feeding/outreach programs. We also queried “youth” who were active in UCF during their school years as to what stood out to them during that time period and what does their faith journey look like now.

The group is looking into a panel discussion/lecture/workshop on a topic that will resonate with the FM community as a way to introduce non-UCfers to our church family. Look for more on this in the future.

We are partnering with SU's Public Relations Research Class at the Newhouse School to look into how we can capture the attention of 25-50-year-old individuals and involve them in the life of our church.

### **From Fiscal Oversight -- What Is Per Capita?**

On the top of your annual UCF pledge envelope box is a sticker: “Per Capita is \$23 per Communicant Member.” You also see *per capita* noted under benevolences in the annual budget. But what does that really mean?

Simply put, it's every member's “share” of the funding UCF provides to the PCUSA and American Baptist organizations for the fiscal year. UCF has historically asked members to pay this amount in addition to their pledged giving, regardless of whether a member receives an actual envelope box or not.

The Presbyterian and Baptist organizations provide support and guidance for CNY congregations. They both provided extraordinary support and guidance during the worst of the pandemic. Only the local presbytery provides a suggested amount for this support. The ABC Association leaves the amount open to congregations. We are required to and do pay our budgeted amount, even if every household does not or is not able to provide the additional funds.

Every year, the UCF Board determines the per-member amount of funding we will provide. For the last several years, it's been \$23. That amount is then multiplied by the total number of communicant members, e.g., adults and all confirmed young people. Because we are a united church, in accordance with our standard practice, we divide the total amount equally and send half to each organization. We typically make these payments in quarterly installments. So, if you've not yet made and can make your *per capita contribution*, there's still plenty of time.

Fiscal Oversight Chair

### **THIS WEEK'S THANKS**

- Sarah for serving as Elder-on-Call during Dr. Even's study leave.
- Coffeehouse helpers:  
Bakers: Shirley, Penny, Linda, Jenny, Martha, Andrea, and Mary Jane  
Onsite- making it happen: Shirley and Dick, Charlotte and Dave

### **THIS WEEK'S CONCERNS**

- The people of Ukraine
- The people of China, both in their native land where COVID runs rampant, and Chinese folk around the world who experience discrimination/racism, as well as victims of gun violence and their families.
- The victims, families and first responders dealing with the horrifying spate of gun violence around the country