

The United Church of Fayetteville

February 28, 2023

ARE YOU SAMPLING LENTEN SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES? HERE ARE SOME IDEAS

- **This Sunday, we gather at the Lord's Table. Make a contribution to the Food Pantry.**
- **OGHS Calendar** This year's calendar is focused on enhancing our awareness of food insecurity.
- **Find and use a Lenten Devotional**
- **Join the choir for the season**
- **Worship** Participate in a worship service new to you or one more service per month.
- **Sacrifice** If you have chosen to give something up for Lent (Starbuck's, meat, etc.), contribute what you would have spent either to the OGHS Offering or the purchase of goods for the Food Pantry.
- **Service** Prepare fellowship one Sunday or participate in UCF's community service efforts.
- **Education** Participate in the March 19 Potluck and Bible Study. More info coming soon.

ALSO IN OUR HOUSE

- **Mahjong Begins**



Sarah and Lyn are teaching a four-week mahjong class beginning on March 3. This class is full, but if you are interested in another class later in the Spring, please let Sarah know at 315 882-0109.

UPDATE FROM CHANGE GROUP AND BOARD

As was mentioned at the Annual Meeting, UCF was chosen as a client for the Public Relations Research class at Newhouse. Elder (Immediate Past Moderator and Change Work Group Member) David D. and Rev. Dr. Even met with the class for about 80 minutes at the end of January. Both Dave and Linda were excited by the students' engagement and excitement for the project. By the end of our time together, we could not keep up with the hands in the air waiting to ask questions. Subsequent to hearing from us about our needs, identity, goals and challenges, the class divided itself into four "agencies," addressing the following topics: Younger Demographic recruitment (singles, couples, families); Branding: Defining the UCF brand; Fundraising and Finance: What drives giving? and Community Engagement.

The class will be in periodic contact with us throughout the semester to request any needed information. At some point, they may wish to survey the congregation or lead focus groups. We will receive research and recommendations, along with all their research results. We expect there will be more recommendations than we can implement. The Change Group and Board will have the summer to review and identify those most appropriate to our setting and resources. In the fall semester, we will be a client for the Public Relations Campaign class where they will flesh out implementation options. We are excited by this opportunity and the students' enthusiasm, especially at this important point in our congregation's life together.

EASTER FLOWER AND MUSIC MEMORIAL GIFTS



Make gifts by March 10 in order to be included in the Easter bulletin.

COMING UP: A Date to Note

Sunday March 19

10:00 AM Young people will depart for the Gathering Room during the first hymn. Mrs. D will lead the class in a spring program, which will include a planting project –either at church or with a kit to take home.

11:15 AM Creation Care Lenten Bible Study with Potluck Lunch for Participants
A sign-up sheet will be available so we can plan for setting up.

A STEEPLE COFFEE HOUSE TRADITION

John Price, John Cadley, John Dancks, and John's brother Bob offered music. It is John's tradition to celebrate his birthday by supporting the music community and UCF's mission by sharing his musical gifts.



FLYING THE AMERICAN FLAG

Triggered by the anticipated death of former President Jimmy Carter, I (Linda) did some research about flying the flag, flying the flag at half-mast, and when changes in the hoist of our national flag are appropriate.

The United Church of Fayetteville flies the national flag to the right of the double doors facing East Genesee Street. It is on a short pole, and cannot be flown at half-mast. Guess what?! There is an app for that.

On occasions of proclamations by the President of the United States or the state's governor, this is the protocol for the type of flag we fly. A black ribbon of the approximate width of the stripes on the flag, and approximate length of the "hoist" (short side of flag) can be tied to the top of the flagpole (bottom end left free). The ribbon has been purchased and our B & G folk have agreed to implement as the occasion arises.

There are many sad, notable occasions when churches and everyone else might wish to make witness. We have many means available to us for responding to tragedies/needs etc. We are encouraged/empowered to respond effectively. The particular practice of lowering the flag is not the

most effective compassionate response in every setting on every occasion. Included below are more details about timing/appropriateness of using this system

According to the America Legion, days in the year that the flag is to be flown at half-staff include Memorial Day (May), Peace Officer Memorial Day (May 15), Patriot Day (Sept. 11), National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service (October 9) and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (Dec. 7). The flag is to be flown at full-staff on Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Labor Day. "Unless your state governor or the president of the United States declares otherwise, the flag flies at full mast.



THIS WEEK'S THANKS

- From American Baptist Home Mission, a thank you for a final (but not the first) distribution of **2022's** OGHS distribution for the benefit of those affected by Hurricane Ian: Dear Friends: Thank you for your generous donation. In cooperation with OGHS, the American Baptist Home Mission Societies will use 100% of your donation to provide services to areas affected by disaster... Again, thank you for your partnership and generous support. With hope, *Vincent W. Dent Sr.* Chief Development Officer
- From ECHO Hope Against Hunger for our Christmas Offering: Dear Rev. Dr. Linda D. Even and United Church of Fayetteville Family: Thank you for your gift of \$1612.00 received on February 8, 2023. The impact of our generosity is far reaching as you help ECHO to equip and empower smallholder farmers and partners around the world... Thank you for the support... Gratefully, *Glenn Hornbuckle*, Donor Relations Coordinator Note: The letters are posted on the bulletin board next to Fellowship Hall where you can read more about the organizations' work.
- February 25 Coffee House bakers and dessert suppliers: Shirley, Linda, Janet, Wendy and Mary Jane.
- Sarah G and Sarah C for their assistance in clarifying/updating our communion instructions.

THIS WEEK'S CONCERNS

- The people of Syria and Turkey
- Victims of the mass shootings around the nation
- The people of Ukraine as the war enters its second year.
- People whose lives and livelihoods have been impacted but the severe storms around the country.