

March 14, 2023

IN OUR HOUSE

***This Sunday! March 19**

10:00 AM Young Person Gathering

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



We will share lunch; after a half an hour, transition to a time to study together.

Bible Study



In large and small groups, we will consider what scripture says about humans' connection with all creation; what are humans' God-given responsibilities for creation; how we understand words like dominion and stewardship; and generate ideas about how UCF might better use creation's resources.

If you have not yet had a chance to sign up, please call the Office if you will be participating, so we can plan for space and materials.

***Fun fellowship and Sharing**

Alice and Carl celebrated their South American trip by providing fellowship reflecting those travels



FOOD PANTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have made food contributions to the Pantry as one of your Lenten spiritual disciplines, or if it is a regular practice for you, needed items are: **Cereal, Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables**

OUTREACH TO THE WORLD – THE EASTER OFFERING

The beneficiaries of the Easter Offering will be refugees and asylum seekers here and abroad. As Rev. Dr. Linda Even stated in recent sermons, there are clear laws in Leviticus 19 (esp. Leviticus 19:33-34) regarding attitudes and treatment of the rich, the poor, and aliens (immigrants). We also heard how Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians (I Corinthians 13), strove to address many issues known to have occurred among the congregation that he (Paul) established in Corinth some years prior. While a reprimand to the congregation, Paul's letter to Corinth points to a more excellent way of love (agape). We learn how to lovingly behave and maintain loving attitudes towards each other and those outside of our church and community. We strive to be closer to Christ and each other.

Christ similarly said, in the parable of separating the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:33-40), that the king will say to righteous that they will be blessed "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." The righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you...?" The king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

The Presbyterian Church USA and American Baptist Churches USA are active in efforts to help refugees and asylum seekers. Some of the services provided through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance include offering space in their churches, providing meals, activities for children, helping to find clothing for people, and arranging travel from their current locations to their desired locations. (<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2022/10/10/presbyterians-continue-to-look-for-ways-to-support/>). American Baptist Churches are working with International Ministries on Project Migrant Ministry, A Mile in their Shoes. With a focus on Latin America, this project provides shelter, potable water, meals elementary education and human rights orientation for migrants seeking immigration and asylum in distressed areas. (<https://www.internationalministries.org/migrant-ministry-a-mile-in-their-shoes/>)

A generous match of \$500 from the Steeple Coffeehouse will be made to the congregation's contribution. As we move through Lent considering the ways we might most faithfully follow Christ, please prayerfully consider your contribution to these efforts.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND UCF ENGAGEMENT

On March 21, Rev. Dr. Linda D. Even and Elder David D. (IPM and Change Work Group Member) will attend a meeting with other religious leaders at the invitation of TMPD Police Chief Michael Crowell.

A portion of the invitations: You may have experienced, as we have, a significant increase with people who are in some form of crisis. While I'm not sure exactly why, I do know that we are dealing daily with people who are either suicidal, or in desperate need of mental health support services. To that end, the TMPD has embarked on a few new programs that I would love to share with you. We recently have been recognized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) for our work in the One Mind Campaign. The One Mind Campaign includes a commitment to forming a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) which is a dedicated group of trained Police Officers who work with field clinicians in support of community members in crisis. The idea is to get people the help they need, and many times, as an alternative to arrest. In addition, post George Floyd, we formed a Community Support Unit (CSU) who are a dedicated group of police community problem solvers/crime fighters.

Dr. Even had a conversation that led to this educational opportunity after parishioners reported to her the extremely respectful treatment officers provided for a family member with mental illness. In a time when mental illness and police and community relationships can cause immense strain and legal, health and other difficulties, we look forward to hearing more about this hopeful sign in our community. We will tell you more as we learn it.

THIS WEEK'S THANKS

*Malcolm B., Jon B., Bob C., John H., and KJ Electric who spent varying amounts of time, and a large total time, analyzing the problem with the organ and getting it repaired. It was lovely to have the organ "back in play" on Sunday morning.

THIS WEEK'S CONCERNS

*War in Eastern Europe and the battle for Bakhmut

*The people of CA who seem to get no break from catastrophic and disruptive storms