

**October 5, 2022**

**IN OUR HOUSE**

**Steeple Coffeehouse – This Saturday**

Live Music Supporters: October 8th, at 7:30 PM, JT Hall will take the stage at the Steeple Coffee House for an evening of GREAT music! JT put this incredible band together 23 years ago and they play together intuitively. You will all be in for a wonderful evening of original tunes performed by JT on flugel horn, Jimmy Johns on drums, Tom Witkowski on keyboard and Cookie Coogin on vocals and flute! You don't want to miss this fantastic group. Doors open at 7:00 with performance starting at 7:30 to 9:30PM.

Admission/donations \$15/person which includes all offered beverages and a dessert! We look forward to seeing you all!!!

Kathy will be coordinating desserts and stepping in as needed to make it all work. If you plan to bring a dessert, please contact her.

**The Dessert Club**

GOOD FUN and FELLOWSHIP. Sign up for a day and time of your choice with one of our 7 hosts.

**Coming Soon – The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Stu Woodcock Memorial Blood Drive**

**When:** Saturday, October 22nd, 8am-1pm;

**Where:** UCF Fellowship Hall;

**How to make an appointment:** 1-800-RED-CROSS or use the Blood Donor App.

**UCF IN THE WORLD**

**From Our Partners in Haiti**

It has been several weeks since I've been free. The population is held hostage inside their houses. There is much violence of all types. The troublemakers are angry and can destroy all! We can not see the end of this social political crisis since we can't see a willingness of the present government and the opposition to find an agreement. The poor people are exposed even more to death from hunger, thirst and violence. I'm asking my friends to pray for Haiti. We are a good people full of courage. The country is about to collapse. We are counting on your prayers. Your friend, Serge



## THIS WEEK'S THANKS

\*Dear Reverend Even, On behalf of the Fayetteville-Owahgena Chapter of the, NSDAR, I would like to extend deepest gratitude for participating in "Bells Across America." The U.S. Constitution is the foundation of our government and our freedom. Thank you to United Church of Fayetteville for your beautiful contribution to our Constitution Day celebration. Sincerely, *Donna Wassall*, Regent

\*Dick and Shirley, and Barb put Memorial Garden to bed except for plants still flowering. We also put covers over the table and benches to protect them through the winter. Connie helped with all the weeding in the garden throughout the summer. She also donated starter plants from her garden. If you look in garden along walkway, there is one iris stalk with two blossoms really to open. It was so surprising to find that.

## MEDITATION OCTOBER 2, 2022

**For Reflection:** "The service begins when worship ends." William Penn

**Gospel Reading** Luke 4:13-21

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

### **Meditation**

I grew up in Southeastern Pennsylvania – that is "Penn's Woods." We were a stone's throw from Penn's historic home and not much further from Valley Forge. Hence, I grew up steeped in the history of pre-colonial, colonial and revolutionary America. Combined with a family faith heritage which prior to recent generations' Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist practice, on both my maternal and paternal sides, included Mennonite and Quaker traditions. That meant I paid attention to various forms of worship practice.

Our quote for reflection, "The service begins when worship ends," comes from a story told about Penn. He took a friend to his Quaker worship service, where there is only silent reflection until/unless someone feels given a Word to share by the Spirit of God." After a long period of silence, Penn's friend whispered, "When does the service begin?" Penn's response was, "The service begins when worship ends."

What Penn reminds us is that whatever we call this element of our worship – "sermon" or "meditation" it would be rightly placed after the benediction. The Word is proclaimed not by what we do here, but by what we do when we leave here.

Today we make part of our worship experience to be leaving the building in active service." The truth is, the church leaves the building every week. If we do what we do here we do anywhere near right, the Spirit of the Lord is upon us, we preach in the world every week with our words and presence and actions.

There is always a natural tension between what happens here, what we think, believe and do and what

is happening in the world around us and how we act and speak in that world. That tension is healthy. It reminds us of who we are called to be all the time. Our reading from Luke tells us Jesus came for the sake of the whole world –the world in which we live and serve.

A few years ago, John Tumino, founder of *In My Father's Kitchen*, gave a presentation here. John's faith experience and expression is different from many of ours. I was interested to hear him relate an encounter with homeless folk living under a bridge. On his way home, he said to himself, "I took Jesus under that bridge today." And the living Lord said to John, "What do you mean, you took me under that bridge. I took you under the bridge today."

We go into the world today, taking our faith and our caring and our gifts, but we do not take Jesus. Jesus will be waiting for us wherever/whenever we arrive in service. Jesus prays with us that the Spirit is upon us, because he has anointed us to bring good news to the poor. He is sending us to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ... May it be that those whom we serve this day and in all the days ahead may say: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in our hearing, in our seeing, in our presence."