

The United Church of Fayetteville March 28, 2023

IN OUR HOUSE



***Sunday, April 2, Palm Sunday**

F-M Food Pantry Contributions

As we come to the Lord's Table, this Sunday remember all those who do not have nourishing food enough to put on their tables. **Pantry needs include: Canned Beans, Canned Soup, Canned Tuna** (or other canned meat – chicken, spam, etc.), **Peanut Butter, Jelly.**



We will also be dedicating our **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** on Palm Sunday. Divided between American Baptist and Presbyterian Church (USA) Disaster Relief efforts, proceeds will be designated to benefit Syria and Turkey recovery efforts after the massive earthquakes. You may use envelopes in the bulletin, those in the pews (including those UCF envelopes), where you can note OGHS. Checks should be made out to UCF with OGHS on the memo line.



***7:00PM Thursday, April 6 Maundy Thursday**

We will share the Last Supper. This service will be in-person only.



***12:00 Noon Friday, April 7 Good Friday**



This will be a solemn service of reading and reflection. This service will be streamed only; available on the website from noon on Friday through Saturday.

***10:00AM Sunday, April 9 The Festival of the Resurrection! Easter Sunday**

Our celebrations will include the addition of a brass quintet to our worship experience and the Sanctuary will be graced with the spring flowers given in memory and honor of our loved ones.



***Updates from the Board**

At its March meeting, the Board:

*Heard the report that the Financial Task Force, formed to address our significant financial challenges had its first meeting. Thanks to Al A., Rich B. (convener), Sarah C., Andrea and Steve L., and Sandy M. for their commitment to this effort.

*Approved new distribution percentages for Coffee House Fund. The distribution format was recommended to the Board by the Outreach committee in consultation with John P. The distribution will be as follows:

70% of the house is the musicians' share

The remaining 30% (after any Coffee House expenses) will be distributed as follows:

F-M Food Pantry	35%
Outreach	25%
Building Expenses	35%
Coffee House Fund	5%

Typically, these distributions are made at the end of each season. However, distributions were disrupted during the pandemic, as were so many things. Therefore, there will be a one-time distribution of the approximately \$8000 which has accumulated in the Coffee House Fund according to these same percentages.

UCF IN THE WORLD

***The Easter Offering**

The beneficiaries of the Easter Offering will be refugees and asylum seekers here and abroad. The Presbyterian Church USA and American Baptist Churches USA are active in efforts to help refugees and asylum seekers. A generous match of \$500 from the Steeple Coffeehouse will be made to the congregation's contribution. You may use the Easter envelope in your offering box, envelopes in the pews, with Easter Offering noted, or make checks payable to UCF with Easter Offering on the memo line.

COMING UP AT UCF!

***10:00AM Sunday, April 23 Special Earth Day Service**



3:00PM Sunday, April 30 Spring Pops Concert – Beneficiary for *InterFaith Works (IFW) Refugee Resettlement

Did you know United Church was the first congregation to officially partner with IFW's *Faith Partner Program*? UCF is proud to continue its partnership with IFW as it continues its forty-seven-year-old mission. It continues work in four areas: The Center for New Americans, the Center for Dialogue, its Senior Services Program and its Spiritual Care Center.

Philip Harper; *Billy the Kid*, Billy Joel, arr. C. R. Elwood; *Move Magic: Adventure*; *Crimson Tide*, Hans Zimmer arr K. van Woude; *Ghostbusters*, Ray Parker Jr. arr. Frank Bernaert; *Tangled*, Alan Menken arr. M. Worek adapted B. Moren; *Star Trek: Into the Darkness*, Michael Giacchino arr. Michael Brown.

The concert will include: *Omnes Gentes Plaudite Manibus*, G. Gabrieli arr. J. Sheppard; *Egmont*, Beethoven arr. Eric Ball; *Toccata (Widor)*, Charles-Marie Widor arr. Philip Sparke; *Elephant Patrol*,



EASTER GREETINGS TO THOSE WE MISS IN WORSHIP BECAUSE OF HEALTH OR DISTANCE

As we celebrate the Resurrection and new life coming to us and to the earth, let's remember those folk who are always with us in spirit (and we with them), even when we are physically apart. Send Easter cards!



NEW LIFE IN FAITH AND NEW LIFE IN THE EARTH SEND PICS!!!



Lenten rose at Lowell's

We have been watching heaven and earth for signs of new life. Send pics from your gardens. We will share in our Easter week email.

THIS WEEK'S CONCERNS

- *War in Eastern Europe
- *The people of CA who seem to get no break from catastrophic and disruptive storms
- *In Sunday's sermon, we reflected on the story of Ezekiel standing the valley of dry bones, and considered what that meant for today's people of faith when we encounter valleys of the dead. The examples in Sunday's message were war stories, as was Ezekiel's.

However, there is another valley of the dead in which Americans are standing. In statistics released this week, it is reported that there have been **128 mass shootings** (defined as when there at four shooting victims) in this country this year. This is the **112th day of the year**. To date, there have been **661 shooting victims**, uncountable witnesses, and people otherwise traumatized, grieving the loss of loved ones or called to be first responders and subsequent caregivers. Two major feeders are inappropriate access to guns for too many; and too little access to mental health care for too many. This is a complex issue, with no easy solution. People are losing hope.

It has been said that when someone dies, God's are the first tears to fall. There are too many tears on earth and in heaven. Ezekiel stood silently in the field of the dead until God gave him a Word of hope. As we enter the final weeks of Lent and draw ever closer to the Cross, let us stand in silent listening prayer in the valley of the dead, not looking away. Let us open ourselves to the astounding hope of God's work on Easter - a hope like that given to Ezekiel, which empowers and commits us to bring new life in the valleys of the dead.