

Weekly Updates for March 19, 2024



UNITED CHURCH
OF FAYETTEVILLE

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*Lord, we lift up your name. With hearts full of praise; Be exalted, O Lord my God!
Hosanna in the highest!* Carl Tuttle



A Letter "according to" our Transitional Pastor...



Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we approach Holy Week, I want to thank you again for including me on the Way of discipleship here at UCF. We have had some time together to revisit or introduce some of the central spiritual practices of the Way: centering prayer, lectio divina and the prayer of examen.

Each practice opens our eyes to God's work in our world. In centering prayer, we still our minds, paying attention to our breath or scriptural phrases, so that we can still our busy minds and open to God's voice. In lectio divina, holy reading, we spend time with scripture alone or in community, seeking to discern the way God's word is calling us to do, to be or to change. In the prayer of examen, we look at our life for signs of God's presence or absence, and offer thanks.

As a community of disciples on the Way, following Jesus Christ, these practices build our strength so that we can walk with Jesus during Holy Week. We will gather on Palm Sunday to think about parades and protests, we will pause with some readings during the week, then gather once again for the Last Supper and the Cross, we will keep vigil in different ways as we await Easter morning. We will share our resources with those who are hungry around the world and those who struggle in our country.

Let us join together and plant the seeds of God's love in our lives - through practice, through community, and through service. Let us continue to walk the Way together, noticing the signs of God's new life all around us.

Blessings, Beth

March 2024 - *In Our House

*Wednesday, March 20 – 2:00 PM -3:00 PM – Women’s Zoom Bible Study with **Rev. Beth Du Bois** (Contact Gail S. for the link.)

*Saturday, March 23 – 7:30 PM – Steeple Coffee House – “Vectors Light”

*Palm Sunday, March 24 – 10:00 AM – Palm Sunday Worship with The Rev. Rev. Beth DuBois – Fellowship to follow

*Maundy Thursday, March 28 – 7:00 PM - Worship with the Lord’s Supper

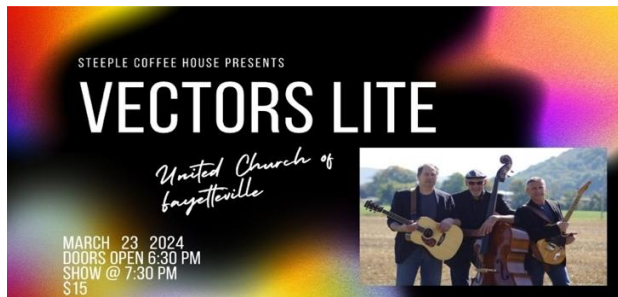
*Good Friday, March 29 – Service to be available on Live Stream noon on at www.theucf.org

*Saturday, March 30 – 7:30 PM – Steeple Coffee House – “The Atta Boys”

*Easter Sunday, March 31 – 10:00 AM – The Festival of the Resurrection Worship with organ, brass and choir!

*Steeple Coffee House Event – March 23rd – “Vectors Lite”

Please let **Kathy Z** know if you can help and/or bake for these next two March events. Thank you!



*In Our World -

***Needs continue each month!**

Please remember the F-M Food Pantry with non-perishable items like: regular size cans of tuna, beets, pork and beans, fruit, chicken, beef stew, broth and tomato paste. or bars of soap, feminine hygiene products and toilet paper.



*March Offerings

Palm Sunday, March 24th

***Remember to bring in your One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks!**



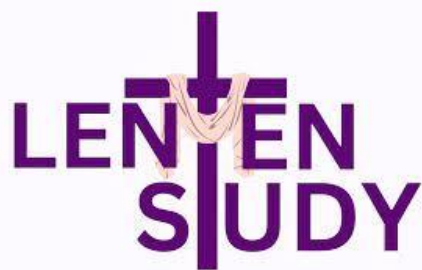
**Easter Offering

****NB – The UCF Outreach Committee will match donations up to \$500 for the Easter Offering from the UCF “Mission Fund”!**



****Easter Offering:** This year our Easter Offering is supporting the work of the Poor People's Campaign in New York and across the nation. Revived in 2018 as an effort to continue Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's original campaign, the current PPC is led by Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis. Rev. Liz is a Presbyterian Pastor who teaches New Testament at Union Theological Seminary in NYC and directs the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice. She was featured at the recent PCUSA Matthew 25 Summit and you can see her talk at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDHsvT77wXE&t=34s>. You can read about the Poor People's Campaign nationally at <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org> and follow the NY State Campaign on their facebook page and linktree <https://linktr.ee/nysppc>. Both campaigns work to raise the voices of those who are directly affected by systemic racism, systemic poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and religious nationalism; they seek to unite those voices to influence policy in a non-partisan way.

*Study Opportunities



Lent is a good time to take the opportunity to **continue to study** scripture, widen your horizons with an online course or zoom into a discussion.

1. Check these out and remember too our UCF March zoom Women's Bible study with Rev Beth Du Bois March 20 at 2pm. (Contact Gail S for the link.)

2. Centering Prayer. You can find more information on centering prayer through the Spiritual Renewal Center or on the web at: <https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org>.

3. Scripture Reading: More information on Lectio Divina, the practice of reading scripture taught in the Jesuit tradition, can also be found through classes at the Renewal Center, at the Contemplative Outreach website or: <https://www.contemplative.org>



1. *Consider sending a card this month to our UCF Homebound friends. Look for lists of names and addresses on the tables entering the sanctuary.

2. *Please help my mom celebrate her 95th Birthday.

Friday, April 5th, my mom will be turning 95. If you have the time, can you please send her a Birthday card. She does not see well so please sign in dark ink and note you are from UCF. This shower of cards is greatly appreciated! If you cannot send a card, prayers are a great gift.

Thank you!
Barb Dugan

Her address...

Edwina Norton
3900 Medical Center Drive
#316
Fayetteville, NY. 13066

***In addition to our two Steeple Coffee House acts this month (March 23 & 30th), please mark your calendars for two other Outreach Concerts coming this April...**

1. *Sunday, April 7th, 3:00pm, Concert for Haiti at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church!



*This special free-will offering concert will support our Haiti Education Mission's Mobile Medical Clinic. Performing will be Onondaga Community College present and retired music professors: **Rob Bridge, marimba, Kevin Moore, piano, Selma Moore, flute, Dave Rudari, vocals, and, Chair of the Haiti Education Mission (HEM), Tim Schmidt, guitar.** They will perform a wide variety of music including flute and guitar duets from Italy and Brazil, a solo guitar piece from Haiti, classical piano, opera, musical theater, and, popular music arranged for marimba. Pebble Hill is located at 5299 Jamesville Road in Dewitt, NY and is *Accessible*. A reception will follow.

Please keep Haiti in your prayers and especially our friends in Paulette, Haiti. Located in the northeast of the country near the Dominican Republic our pre-school and two grade schools are in session and children and adults receive one warm meal each day as our FEED partners continue their work for their village. We have learned that people have started to flee the capital, Port-au-Prince, where all the fighting, looting and turmoil continues, and are on the move north! This could impact our outreach area.

Our one supported university student, Alc  ide Dieudonn  , is stuck in Port-au-Prince where he goes to the university. He is a senior majoring in accounting and was to graduate this year. Here is his latest message to us written in English by him:

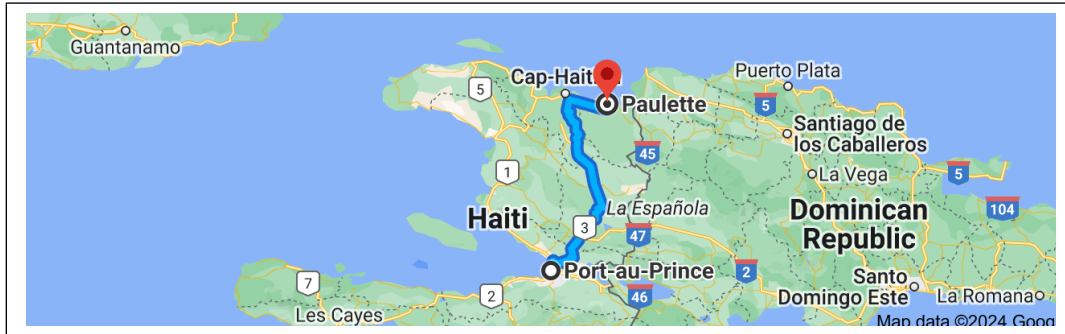
Honestly, things are getting worse and worse in the country. The capital is invaded by armed gangs that sow terror, which paralyzes school and university activities. So in the meantime I stay at home because there is no way to even go back to Cape Haitian where I live. The streets are blocked and even the airports no longer work because of President Ariel Henry that the people do not want to access in the country. (He has since resigned.)

A long time ago I always believed in a bright future in Haiti, but now it is becoming more and more vague. All I want now is to leave the country to have the chance to work and help my family and when everything becomes stable, I would go back to help my country and the disadvantaged people who live there...Please pray for us!



One of our International Missions

This map shows you the cities we often mention so you understand where the **Haiti Education Mission (HEM)** has worked and sends funds in relation to the rest of Haiti.



It is 226 kilometers (about 140 miles) from the capital Port-au-Prince to Paulette or about 6 hours by car because of the roads. You can also see where Cape Haitian is located. Cap-Haïtien is about an hour by car to Paulette where our HEM teams have visited and worked with the FEED team. They have flown into the capital and into Cap-Haïtien in the past. At present those airports are closed.

A March 15th email from Serge, one of our FEED Directors in Paulette is translated here for you: *Dear Friends, Thanks be to God we are well. The cities and towns in the provinces are calm. The only negative repercussions are that everything depends on Port-au-Prince and the roads are blocked. The situation is stretched to the limits. We await a new government. We shall see what happens. Nothing is clear. Please continue to pray for us in Haiti! Your friend, Serge.*

2. A second concert is *Sunday, April 28, 3:00pm with Dr. James Spencer and our Director of UCF Music, Jon Bergman, on the tuba, and, the Syracuse University Brass Ensemble (SUBE) as they play their Pops Concert at the United Church of Fayetteville!

*The audience will enjoy a variety of music. The repertoire includes everything from operatic overtures and modern brass compositions to popular favorites from John Williams and Disney. Led by director James T. Spencer and associate director Craig Elwood, SUBE is made up of over 35 professional-level brass and percussion musicians from around the central New York area. A free-will offering will be taken for **"Rise Above Poverty"**, a Syracuse-based organization, that helps alleviate the economic issues of homelessness in Central New York! <https://www.riseabovepovertysyr.org/>



The Syracuse University Brass Ensemble – Can you find Jon and Jim?