



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jules Williams, Jr.	Telephone: 409.998.0339
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**THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR  
BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH**

**SO MANY DESERVING FOLKS: IF WE MISS SOMEONE,  
PLEASE PARDON!**

***THANKS TO FIRST RESPONDERS AND THOSE WONDERFUL  
PEOPLE WHO GUARD US AND PROTECT US***

- ❖ The South Montgomery County Fire Department
- ❖ The Tamina Community Center
- ❖ The Needham Fire Department ESD #4
- ❖ The local branch of the American Red Cross
- ❖ The Conroe ISD Police Department

***THANKS TO HELPFUL INDIVIDUALS***

- ❖ To Berry King of BK Car Wash and Car Detailing for allowing placement of sign.
- ❖ To Shirley Grimes for distribution of items and use of TCC.
- ❖ To Allison Stewart for donation of school supplies.
- ❖ To Judy Deweese for children's books.
- ❖ To Billie Scalisi for donation of school supplies.
- ❖ To Cecilia Pena, *Young Rembrandts of North Houston*, donation of school supplies.
- ❖ Tianna Hawkins, liaison with South Montgomery County Fire Department.
- ❖ Tony Caillouette, who donated paper goods and a case of coffee.

## **THANKS TO MEMBERS OF OPEN ARMS**

Thanks to those who put out fliers, who decorated, who set up, who made cookies and served food, who donated, who distributed, who monitored, who visited, **who love children and want the best for all. You are a wonderful bunch!**

**A GIGANTIC THANKS TO  
KIM WILLIAMS AND PAM MAYO  
WHO MADE IT ALL HAPPEN**

### **We Remember in Prayer**

**P**rayers has the power to heal and change the lives of those who are hurting in body or mind or spirit. We ask that you would send up prayers for:

- The family of **Olive Baer**, who passed away on July 7, 2022.
- **Kevin**, who welcomes prayers during his illness.
- **Gladys Barton**, who welcomes prayers.
- **Anthony Maldonado**, who welcomes prayers.
- **Tammy Spangler**, who is recovery from surgery.
- **Antonia Rivera**, who has major medical issues.
- **Ron Krueger**, who is taking radiation treatments for cancer.
- **Matt Royster**, who is clear of cancer.

### *Welcome Guests*

**W**e welcome our guests who joined us in worship this past month. Irene McCartney, Jennifer McCartney, Eva Hollins, CJ and his son Ezra, Kole Krueger, Cambridge Krueger, Elijah Powell, Anthony Alex, who played the bongo drums for us.

## Open Arms Missions For: June, July, and August

- Donations to Buffalo and Uvalde: Areas profoundly affected by gun violence.
- Shoes, new or gently used, for population in developing countries (in cooperation with St. Peter, Spring Branch).
- Donation to Community Assistance Center for backpacks.
- Items/food for Montgomery County Food Pantries (July).
- Back-to-School party for Tamina community with first responders helping and with books, backpacks, and school supplies available for children.
- August Monthly Mission: Continued contribution to Montgomery County Food Pantries.

### Good News for Tamina

From *The Woodlands Villager*, Wed., June 29, 2022

“The city of Shenandoah is one step closer to the expansion of its wastewater treatment plant after securing \$6.5 million in financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board in March. . .

“The funding for the expansion comes on the heels of the [Shenandoah] council agreement to use just over \$700,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to jump-start **an effort that could finally bring new water and sewer services to the Tamina community.**”

By Catherine Dominguez, Staff Writer

### Happy Birthday Wishes

*Heather Meinhart – August 4*

*Norman Swaney – August 9*

*Kenneth Reaves – August 18*

*Laura Rinehart – August 20*

*Jules Williams, III – August 25*

## *Bible Study at Open Arms—August*

**T**errific lessons are being planned for the month of August in our Bible Study sessions. Hope you will make plans to attend one or all of our classes. Beat the heat! Cool off with the Holy Word.

*August 3*— Continuation of a study of the Beatitudes (*Matt. 5:1-11*) and a review of the Ten Commandments. Both passages present details about living the life God wants us to live—and they make an interesting comparison/contrast.

*August 17*— Gail Royster will lead the group with information and discussion about women in the Bible. With Gail at the helm, we know this will be a great session.

*August 31*— “The In’s and Out’s of *Revelation*.” Chris Teese, our local Bible scholar, will talk about this complex book that has been interpreted in so many different ways. Chris’s discussion of *Revelation* may extend over two sessions.

Bible Study occurs every other Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. until Noon. Locations for meetings vary, but usually we use Zoom. You can sit at home with your shoes off and study Jesus’ message!

## **Lit Wits—Works with Thoughts to Ponder**

**O**n July 12, Sue Krueger led the Lit Wits in a discussion of *This Tender Land* by William Krueger. This popular book chronicles the efforts of four orphans as they travel downriver in a raft to evade evil forces that are chasing them, and as they seek to find a home on their desperate odyssey. Sue entertained us in her lovely home and treated the group with one of the important dishes served in the book, chicken noodle soup, which we devoured as we pondered the many aspects Krueger asked us to consider—God, faith, family, abandonment, friendship, and love.

Vicky Royster will lead the discussion on August 9 at 6:00 P.M. The book of the month is *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* by one of America’s most beloved authors, Mitch Albom. Albom gained his fame with *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. In *Stranger*, Albom poses the question: “What would happen if we cried out to God for help and someone claiming to be God actually appeared before us?” With that thought in mind, we already are prepared to read Albom’s latest contribution to the literary world. Better join us on 8/9 and attempt to answer the question—and discuss the book.

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## The Family That Prays Together, Plays Together

**A**nybody interested in Open Arms going as a group to an Astro's game? Could be a lot of fun. If you want to participate and/or help with arrangements, text 713-416-0491 or call the church office. Go Astros!

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### A Meditation for Communion

Thoughts to consider as we prepare to take Holy Communion on the First Sunday of each month at Open Arms UCC and as we observe World Wide Communion Sunday, October 2, 2022.

### **All Who Hunger**

**And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying,  
"This fellow welcomes sinner and eats with them."**

**Luke 15:2**

"We live in a world that is obsessed with barriers, borders, and identity: with who is in and who is out, with who is like us and who is not, with who deserves to belong and who does not, and with who is welcome at the table and who is not.

"Jesus does not share our concern with borders and distinctions. He continually crosses our human-made boundaries to offer healing, relationship, and new life to all who welcome him, no matter their background or their status. He knows that when we gather around a table, sharing food, we make ourselves vulnerable to one another. *You can't hold a weapon and a fork at the same time.*

"Sharing food together makes us no longer strangers, but we become companions on the journey. In fact, the word companion means 'to share bread with'."

"For Jesus, all who are hungry for food, hungry for justice, hungry for relationship are welcome at the table, and all are valued companions on the journey of life and faith."

From *These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*, July, August, September, 2022 by Michelle Slater (Tuesday, September 6, 2022).

## Congratulations To Nia

On August 6, Nia Williams will graduate from Sam Houston State University with a Bachelors' Degree in

Music Therapy, and as a member of the Honors College, will graduate Summa Cum Laude. After having completed her internship in Ft. Worth this spring, Nia is now at home in Huntsville and plays the keyboard for Open Arms UCC on Sunday mornings. She has also taken a job in Katy, Texas, and presently is in training, commuting from Huntsville to Katy each day. Congratulations, Nia. May your future be as bright as you are. Many blessings!

### *Houston Association in Tamina Community Center*

**T**he Houston Association of the United Church of Christ will meet on October 29, 2022, from 8:30 A.M. until 12:00 noon in the Community Center. With Open Arms as host, the bi-yearly session will begin with a light breakfast and close with lunch. Order of Business will include reports from various groups related to the Association such as Settegast Heights, Slumber Falls, and United Campus Ministry, etc. and a discussion of restructuring the organization of the Houston Association.

Our involvement in this meeting gives Open Arms members a first-hand look at the local function of the HA/UCC, acquaints us with fellow churches in the Houston area, and presents opportunities to join in common causes and missions.

Please put this date on your calendar.

### Open Arms July Financial Information

**Offerings - \$5,667.28**

**Missions - \$585.00**

**Forever Home Fund - \$300.34**



## MORE BACKPACKS!

**N**ot only did Open Arms UCC prepare backpacks for students in the Tamina community, but also, we donated funds to Community Assistance Center (CAC) in Conroe. CAC is serving 1,500+ students with backpacks, hygiene bags, snack bags, groceries, socks, and underwear for the first week of school.

The back-to-school distributions are in addition to the continued ministry of the CAC as they provide immediate basic needs assistance with food, clothing, utilities, rent/mortgage payments, and case management services promoting long-term solutions and stability for our Montgomery County neighbors experiencing financial hardships. We are thankful for CAC as it constantly does important work in Montgomery County for those in need.

## Food Bank Struggle



**M**ore than two years after the coronavirus pandemic first hit the Greater Houston area in March 2020, food banks are still struggling to meet the growing demand for their services as volunteers are slow to return and donations become scarce.

“At the height of the pandemic, we were seeing people come out in droves,” said Jennifer Huffine, president and CEO of the Community Assistance Center serving Montgomery County. “We’re starting to see more people come back out again [for food assistance] ... for a number of reasons. ... You can make decisions on what you’re going to eat and how much you’re going to buy, but you can’t change how much gas you have to put in your car to get to work; you can’t change how much rent is.” Food insecurity was a challenge in Montgomery County prior to the pandemic, said Kristine Marlow, president and CEO of the Montgomery County Food Bank.

Between the 2014-15 and 2021-22 school years, the portion of students who were considered economically disadvantaged increased from 35.74% to 40.42% in Conroe ISD and from 23.53% to 31.36% in Montgomery ISD. “Food insecurity has been around for a long time. It’s not a new issue, but it’s something that’s kind

of come to the top because it hit home for so many people who have never had to face hunger in their entire lives,” Marlow said. Marlow said the Montgomery County Food Bank nearly doubled its monthly clientele early in the pandemic from 45,000 to 88,000 clients in one month. Although COVID-19 cases and unemployment claims have since declined, food bank leaders said the demand for assistance remains high. Marlow said supply chain issues have now made it harder for food banks to keep certain products such as peanut butter, frozen meat, and canned fruits and vegetables on the shelves.

“A large portion of the food we distribute is donated, but because of those increased food costs right now and supply chain issues and increased demand, the food bank has had to purchase more and more food to fill in the gaps,” Marlow said.



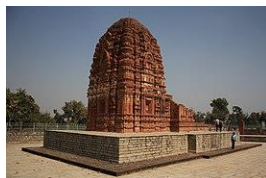
### Open Arms Responds to the Need

Having heard the needs at local food banks, Open Arms decided to donate our “end of month” food donations in July to Montgomery County Food Bank. The Tamina Food Pantry is currently blessed with large amounts of food so the food bank will benefit from our donations.

AND....

**Our August monthly mission project  will also go the food bank.**

**A Thank You from**  
**India**



**S**ome months ago, Open Arms shared mission money with Deep Bal Sewa in Chhattisgarh, India. Deep Bal Sewa is a social services organization working with women and children in rural areas. Since mothers’ work from dawn to



sundown just to provide for their families, children often lack adequate food, health care, education, and child care.

Rev. Ron Krueger and Sue have a long history with the mission work DEEP does. They actually hosted the family when their children were small. Their advocacy led Open Arms to share mission funds with DEEP.

The note from Hemlata Prakash includes the following: “I hope you will understand how your token of love is used which is helping people to come out of darkness. I would like to thank you and your congregation who is helping to uplift our people, Yours in Christ.”

The vision for DEEP is “Healthy Mothers and Happy Children.” That vision could well apply for mothers and children here in Tamina, our country, and the world. We are blessed to be a small part of their ministry.

### **ONA NEWS – From the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC**

**O**pen Arms has recently received communication from the ONA Coalition. The major news involves the leadership team for the Coalition. Andy Lang, longtime leader and director is retiring at the end of the year. The leadership team celebrates his twelve years as champion, advocate, and leader.

The Coalition is committed not only to the historic mission of helping churches become safe and brave spaces for LGBTQ+ neighbors, but also to empower ONA congregations to reach out to the diverse populations they serve. Also, we share with our communities the experience of healing to help others in their quest for self-love and affirmation as a Christian.

As the Coalition has a national gathering in August, let us all give thanks for the UCC as we celebrate the past and prepare for the future as an Open and Affirming congregation.

## Open Arms' Back-To-School Bash

Many Tamina children listened to firemen talk about safety, selected complimentary school supplies and books, performed art activities, and had lunch with all of us! We love our Tamina neighbors. Rev. Dr. Williams, our pastor, is in the center of the group.



**With our help and other churches in the Houston Association, 2500 pairs of shoes have been collected for St. Peter's' shoe drive.**





OPEN ARMS UCC  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS



3	Bible Study Via Zoom at 10 a.m.
7	<i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center Communion Sunday</i>
9	Lit Wits at Wunsche Bros. 6:00 p.m.
14	<i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center Blessing of the Backpacks Council Meeting</i>
17	Bible Study Via Zoom at 10 a.m.
21	<i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center Vision Meeting</i>
28	<i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center</i>
31	Bible Study Via Zoom at 10 a.m.