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***A Prayer For Open Arms:***  
***A Church Of Christ, Of His Love, Of His Acceptance Of All***

**God of goodness and God of justice,  
In the midst of fear,  
you point us to the marginalized of society;  
In the midst of uncertainty,  
you point us to an anxious family;  
In the midst of despair,  
you point us to a helpless child.**

**Help us to appreciate what is truly valuable;  
Help us to understand the superficiality  
of pomp, prestige, and pride;  
Help us to welcome the least,  
the last and the lost;  
So that our actions reflect your unconditional love  
for all people and that we will work unitedly  
in reforming society to reflect your justice and goodness.**

**Amen**

## We Remember in Prayer

**P**rayer 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:

- **Gladys Barton**, who welcomes prayers.
- **Anthony Maldonado**, who welcomes prayers.
- **Tammy Spangler**, who continues with treatment for bladder cancer.
- **Antonia Rivera**, who has major medical issues.
- **Jean Brooks**, who has fallen twice and is restricted to a wheelchair.
- **Carol Foss**, who is recovering from illness.

## *Welcome Guests*

**W**e welcome our guests who joined us in worship this past month. Irene McCartney, Jennifer McCartney, Lisa Dove, Dalton Francis, Dustin Pyle, Margaret “Magpie” Bennett, Brooklyn Brothers, Matt Royster, Eva Hollins, Berry King, Robin Sargent, Wendy Archie, and Joann Pearson.

The **LORD** your God *will be with you* wherever you go.  
Joshua 1:9

## *The Advent Season –*

### *“Light the Way to Christmas”*

**A** *dvent is a month-long season* of expectant waiting and preparation for the Nativity of Christ. Like most Christian churches, Open Arms will be observing the traditions of this special time: Open Arms will also approach the Sundays of Advent in a new way.

The traditional colors; the themes of **Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy** that hold the celebrations together each Sunday; and the glowing candles on the Advent wreath bring illumination from Christ as they point the way to Christmas.

Each Sunday before the lighting of the Advent candle, a figure of the Nativity-- Joseph, Mary, a Shepherd, or a Wise Man-- comments on the quality brought to the world by the Christ Child and the way each of these qualities works in their lives—and in ours.

Music and readings that complement the particular message will enhance each vignette. All from the talented Open Arms folks.

Please don't miss a Sunday in Advent or Christmas Eve as we wait for the Holy Infant.

### **Something to Look Forward to . . . .**

**W**hen you are coming off the glory and excitement of Christmas, Open Arms plans to offer you a January 2023 treat: **You may look forward to Fellowship Sunday**, a day to invite friends and family to attend church with you at Open Arms. It is also a day to become a true member of this remarkable group that welcomes all “no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.”

Of course, anyone can attend Open Arms any time, but affirming one's membership here shows a belief in the church's work and promises support to a congregation dedicated to Christ's admonition to love and care for our Neighbor.

Dates and more information about Fellowship Sunday will be forthcoming.

## **A Thank You to Those Who Bring Us Joy**

**E**ver think about how many folks at Open Arms bring us joy? At the risk of being repetitious, this list will bring to light some of those dear ones who have served, worked, entertained, and helped us this month.

- ❖ Bill, Gail, Kenneth, Leru, and Elise satisfied all palates on October 7, Vaccination Day for Tamina, with a lunch of Sloppy Joes, finger foods, and desserts. Thanks to Liz Lemm and others for organizing and managing the day.
- ❖ Along with our “lunch bringers,” we must thank profusely the Christus Foundation for Health Care and their personnel with the Healthy Living Mobil Clinic. These blessed women gave 27 vaccinations that day in Tamina. We hope to form a coalition with the Christus Foundation and have their unit come regularly to the Tamina Center to give inoculations. Hopefully, they can serve children as well as adults. Watch for visitation dates.
- ❖ Of course, again we thank Heather and Ian for representing us at the Woodlands Pride Festival. Thanks to Adam Rinehart and others who helped to set up and run the Open Arms booth. Great fun and a great showing for our church.
- ❖ Can you imagine inviting 50 people to your house for a lunch of hot, fried catfish (that you caught and cooked yourself)? Certainly, James and Liz Lemm are the bravest and most generous to do that. Thank you, dear friends.
- ❖ Thank you’s would not be complete at Open Arms without a profuse thank you to Rev. Jules, who brings the Spirit to us every Sunday. Just when we think he’ll never surpass the last sermon, he moves in and lifts us higher. Thank you, Pastor Williams.
- ❖ And finally, thank you to all the OA people who helped make the Houston Association meeting a success. What a glorious day!

## Bible Study:

### Reading, Studying, and Applying God's Word

**J**ust a look at where we are going with Bible Study in the next few sessions.

\*On November 9, after having computer issues, Chris will complete our study of *Revelation* with a review of our previous session and an examination of the last section of the last book of the Bible.

\*On November 23, if the Thanksgiving turkey will let us, the class will prepare for Advent by discussing meaning, symbols, themes, application, etc., of the Advent tradition.

\*We will have no formal sessions in December—just wait and meditate on the coming of the Christ Child.

\*In the season of Epiphany, the time after Christmas, the time of Insight and Enlightenment, our Bible Study group will meet the Twelve Apostles who, like the earlier Wise Men, followed the light of Christ. Will our Epiphany be the decision to serve Jesus as they did?

### ***What Happened to The Bennetts? — Just Ask the Lit Wits***

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**O**n October 11, the book club aptly named the *Lit Wits*, met at Wunsche Bros. Café to discuss *What Happened to the Bennetts?* by Lisa Scottoline. Donna Gonzaski led the discussion of this crime thriller. Quite a lot happened to the Bennetts: deep tragedy, grief, deceit, infidelity, violence, healing, and renewal. This book “pulls out the stops” on excitement, plot twists, and surprises. A great piece to talk about!

Next Lit Wits meeting date is November 15, 6:00 p.m., at Wunsche Bros. Kate Flagge will lead the discussion of *The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb* by Melanie Benjamin. Critics call this book a “barnstorming tale of an irrepressible, brawling, bawdy era.” The central character is a remarkable, small woman who refused to live a small life. This sounds like a great story with much based-on fact. Why not grab a book, read, and tell Kate you’ll be there.

Lit Wits is a community book club, open to all who love to read and talk about books. The group is growing with new members and visitors. Feel free to join. Call Sue Krueger for more information.

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## ***Something New for Thanksgiving***

Would you like a new dish to serve with the traditional foods of Thanksgiving? One that is delicious and blends very well with turkey and dressing or ham and sweet potatoes? One that could go on your holiday table or could be carried to “grandmother’s house”? The answer may be a salad called “Chili Cheese Corn Salad.” Some of you have had this spicy, crunchy, corn-filled casserole, and have complimented it. It will not disappoint you.

If you would like one of these fall salads “to go,” order below. **There is no cost for the dish, just a donation to the Open Arms Forever Home fund.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: 8x12 or 8x8

Date Requested: November 22 or November 23

Telephone: 713-416-0491

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## CALLING ALL CRAFTERS AND “CRAFTY” PEOPLE

**(That would be anybody: no experience needed.)**

**M**ission Team has the idea to re-cycle old Christmas cards into new, lovely cards and gift tags. The cards can then be donated to teachers at Houser Elementary School. Teachers stay so busy and are dedicated to their students; a little gift could help them prepare for the holidays.

Watch for a date to gather and cut, glue, color, etc. .... not to mention it will be tons of fun!!

## ***Open Arms Financial Information***

### **September 2022**

Offering - \$5,330.80

Missions - \$650.00

Forever Home Fund - \$193.90

### ***Happy Birthday Wishes***

*Julia Rinehart – November 1*

*Sylvia Bradbury – November 9*

*Kim Williams – November 28*



### **God's Awesome Universe**

**“Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Genesis 15:5**

On a clear night away from any city lights with the naked eye you could see from 3,000 to 6,000 stars in the sky. The nearest one is Proxima Centauri 4.2 light-years away. Astronomers estimate there are at least 100 billion stars in our universe alone.



## Mission Thoughts for November

Does it seem like every November, after the ghosts and goblins have eaten an unbelievable amount of candy, that we drag out an old horn of plenty and ragged turkey decorations, and rush through Thanksgiving to make ready for Santa?

Before the red, white, and blue of July 4<sup>th</sup> are gone, some stores start displaying Christmas retail. Some polls even combine Thanksgiving with Christmas and call it, “Winter Holidays.”

But all that is not news to most of us. For decades the secular world has encroached on our honored holidays of Easter, Christmas, and Thanksgiving. Until wooden signs started to appear in craft and gift shops, most folks likely hadn’t given much thought to being blessed or thankful.

Thanksgiving is not just a day in November. It is an attitude of knowing and celebrating the blessings given to us. As people of faith, it is central to our theology that we not only count our blessings, but at the same time to give attention to those who have so little. Proverbs 22:9 tells us: “The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.” Yes, sharing the food – you know the menu – turkey, dressing, gravy, and all the trimmings, and ending with the pumpkin pie. A Buddhist proverb says, “Enough is a feast.” Do you have enough?

It is not just sharing food, it is being mindful of homelessness, racial and economic injustice, women and children rights, gender inclusion, refugee difficulties, and the list could go on and on.

The Open Arms Mission/Outreach takes our “mission” seriously. Each month we attempt to select a worthy project to support. That list goes on and on. In November this year we struggle to decide where we can focus our/your giving. No decision has been made yet, but will be announced in worship soon. If you have a suggestion for consideration, please convey to Open Arms email.

As a famous Texan said, “When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.” Take it from Willie Nelson – The attitude of gratitude will bless the giver as well as the receiver.



## “Not Everybody Knows Your Name”

**O**pen Arms is, hopefully, a welcoming and friendly congregation. But, being aware of hospitality toward guests is very important.

We are not the Cheers Bar in Boston, so not everybody knows **your** name!

Wearing our nametags is important! It helps not only a visitor, but some of us who forget from time to time.

Chuck Lawless writes for Church Answers, a church growth website, offers a few of his reasons to wear nametags:

\* Few people know everybody in the church.

\* Leaders need help with names.

\* Nametags invite conversation.

\* Knowing names makes fellowship more personal.

\* Nametags save embarrassment.

\* Guests feel less conspicuous.

Here's another suggestion: If the long lanyard hangs too low, consider switching to a clip-on style. They're in the box where the nametags are kept.

So, if your name is not Sam, Rebecca, or Norm, better put on your nametag next Sunday.

## Open Arms UCC

### November 2022 Calendar of Events

1	All Saints' Days
2	All Souls' Day
6	<i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center</i> <i>Communion Sunday</i> <b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b>
8	Election Day
9	Bible Study via Zoom
11	Veterans Day -- "Veterans Day originated as 'Armistice Day' on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I."
13	<i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center</i> Council Meeting
15	Lit Wits 6:00 p.m.
20	<i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center</i>
24	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>
27	<i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center</i> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>

Vaccination Day at Tamina Community Center – October 7, 2022



**Open Arms' Booth at the Pride Festival – The Woodlands, Texas  
October 22, 2022**

