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*World Communion Sunday - October 2, 2022*

The first Sunday in October, World Communion Sunday, celebrates our unity in Christ with the whole Body of Believers around the world. Whether Communion is practiced in “a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meeting house, or in a storefront,” Christians may partake of the Eucharist in a multitude of ways. As they do, they are asked to affirm that Christ is the Head of the Church and that He desires for all to reach out to their Neighbors, to share, and to love. The following meditation printed in the August Open Arms newsletter seems appropriate for us to consider as we observe World Communion.

*All Who Hunger*

“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 (Tues., Sept.6, 2022).

## 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.
- **Ron Krueger**, who has completed radiation treatments for cancer.
- **Jean Brooks**, who has fallen twice and is restricted to a wheelchair.
- **Carol Foss**, who has had pain issues and a hospital stay, but is much improved.
- **Kim Williams**, who had a mild stroke and is being treated for excessive blood clotting.
- **Laura Rinehart**, who had a fall from her horse.
- **The family of Kevin Lane**, who received his wings on September 8, 2022.

## *Welcome Guests*

**W**e welcome our guests who joined us in worship this past month. Irene McCartney; Eva Hollins; and it was nice to have our Colorado members, Barlow and Sylvia Bradbury with us.

**Let all that you do be done in LOVE. 1 Cor. 16:14**

## ***Open Arms People We Appreciate!***

\*We have to always say thanks to Peter and Vicky. They do so much in helping prepare for the worship service as well as setting up the technical stuff each Sunday. What would we do without them? Many, many “thanks”!

\*And what about our bakers, Sue Krueger and Dr. Carolyn? They baked pumpkin bread for the New Hope residents to munch on during their art workshop with Pam. We know Sue is a master baker, but now we can add Carolyn to the list. Thanks to both of you.

\*And what about our musicians? They stay after worship on Sunday to prepare for the next Sunday. Of course, many of our singers have been contributing since we began—Bill, the Fairbanks, and the Kruegers, etc., now Dr. Kendall Moore participates, and others have joined. Thanks to all of you for your contributions to worship.

\*And what about the Williams Praise team? They, too, do so much in preparing and enhancing worship. They haul that equipment from Huntsville, set it up, and play a full hour. Nia, Mustapha, and Jules III, we love you and thank you.

\*And thanks to the angels who bring us snacks after church!

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In the Bible, what king had the first birthday banquet? – An Egyptian Pharaoh when Joseph was in Egypt – Genesis 40:20.

Who was the first person in the Bible who fell asleep during a sermon and fell three stories to the ground? – Eutychus – Act 20:9

What book in the Bible was the first book named for a woman. – The Book of Ruth

Where did Jesus perform his first miracle? – Cana in Galilee – John 2:1-11

Who was the first Christian martyr in the Bible? - Stephen – Acts 7:54-60

## Enrichment Activities at Open Arms UCC

1. Have you tried Dr. Kendall Moore's new offering on spirituality and spiritual care? The session is one hour once a week, every Wednesday, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Kendall asks participants to focus on praying, reading, and meditating. The goal is to connect with others and with ourselves. Call Kendall at 936-966-0642 for more information.
2. Currently, Bible Study is offered every other Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. The schedule is as follows: September 28, a study of *Revelation* led by Chris Teese; October 12, Women in the New Testament led by Gail Royster; October 26, further discussion of *Revelation* led by Chris. November dates, times, and topics to be announced.
3. Possibly, a survey will be taken to determine if Open Arms would prefer an evening Bible Study group in place of the morning group or in addition to the morning study. You may see that soon.
4. Programs for children and youth are being proposed. Please talk to Pastor Jules or Rev. Royster for ideas. Thanks.

### "Do You Smell Fish Fryin' Over There on James Road?"

**T**he answer is "yes"! Liz and Jim will put the pan on the fire October 16, and we are invited. After church, Open Arms folks will motor over to the Lemms and enjoy crispy, Trinity River catfish cooked just right. Liz may call you for help with side dishes; if not, you call her 832-610-0277. Remember the last feast? You won't want to miss this one.

Their address is 1311 James Rd. in Spring, Texas.

## *Vaccinations for Tamina Residents*

*The following article has been published in the South Central Conference Newsletter, on Facebook, and on Instagram. Please publicize this day for us and plan to attend. Thank you.*

### **Open Arms UCC Proclaims “Vaccination Day”**

**O**pen Arms United Church of Christ is located in the North Houston/Woodlands area, just off I-45 at the Tamina Road exit. As Jesus instructed, we seek to minister and to serve.

A church dedicated to helping the community, Open Arms has designated Friday, October 7, 2022, as “Vaccination Day” for the Tamina /South Montgomery County communities and for anyone else in need of a Covid-19 Vaccine/Booster and/or Flu Vaccine. Arranged and sponsored by Open Arms, a Christus Healthy Living Mobile Clinic is offering these free vaccines from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Tamina Community Center, 18955 Main St. Conroe, TX 77385. For more information, call 713-416-0491.

On October 7, Open Arms is also serving lunch to those in attendance or to anyone that comes by.

No one likes a shot, but a “tiny” needle is better than a “big” illness any day! Hopefully, those illnesses can be prevented with scheduled vaccinations.

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## **The Woodlands Pride 2022 Festival:**

### **An Annual Experience**

**T**his year’s Pride Festival in the Woodlands promises to be the best yet with more than 100 exhibitors, delicious treats, food trucks, entertainment, and more. With the Festival’s goal to promote equality, unity, and love, admission is free for all.

Here are the details: Saturday, October 22, from Noon to 5:00 p.m. in Town Green Park, 2099 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands. Call 281-939-5627 for more information.

Open Arms will have a booth at the festival, just as last year. Ian and Heather Says are the promoters and will have church literature to share with visitors. For those who love nature or a little green touch in their homes, we plan a plant sale, very inexpensive native varieties, proceeds to go to the Forever Home fund of Open Arms UCC.

Hopefully, some of our church members will be there with Ian and Heather to visit with those who come by.

## *Houston Association Meets in Tamina Community Center*

**T**he Houston Association of the United Church of Christ will hold its meeting on October 29, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. until Noon+ in the Tamina Community Center. With Open Arms as host, the planned agenda follows:

- \*Greetings
- \*A light breakfast
- \*Worship
- \*Topic: The revitalization of the Houston Association
- \*Lunch
- \*Topic: The Leep Grants
- \*Closing

Reports from various groups related to the Association such as Settegast Heights, Slumber Falls, and United Campus Ministry will be available for perusal.

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.

# BEHOLD!

The mission project for October is one of the five offerings in which Open Arms UCC participates. We strive to continue our goal of 5 for 5 designation through the SCC and UCC.

In 2022, the Neighbors in Need “BEHOLD!” offering focuses on an economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, we wanted to provide a way to discuss this through a faith lens. As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of Justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service.

In addition to supporting NIN offering, this process affords us an opportunity to reflect on the questions: **Who is Our neighbor? Who is our family?**



## *Last Sunday of the Month Food Offering*



**E**very month, on the last Sunday of that month, we assist the Tamina Food Pantry. There are two ways you can join Open Arms share with our neighbors. 1) Bring canned goods, paper products and other non-perishable food items that go directly to the food pantry and 2) Add cash to the box provided that goes for the purchase of perishable items, like dairy, meat, and produce.

## *Traveling The Lincoln Highway with Lit Wits*

**O**n September 13, Lit Wits met at Wunsche Bros. to eat and discuss a very provocative selection, *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. The characters in this book go on a road trip and learn from their experiences; in two previous readings, the action is on an ocean voyage and on a river raft. Travel is the motif, and in all three the journey contributes to great, great conversations about the books' meanings. We were pleased to have Tammy Spangler and Sarah Rinehart join us for this session. Welcome to both!

On October 11, Lit Wits will again meet at Wunsche's. Donna Gonzaski will lead the evening with the selection *What Happened to the Bennetts* by Lisa Scottoline. The description is intriguing: "Jason Bennett and his family are victims of a crime, the results of which change their lives forever." One critic calls it a "high octane thriller." Better meet us in Old Town Spring at 6:00 p.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup> and explore this book.

Anybody can join our group.

## **Art Workshop for New Hope Housing**

**N**ew Hope Housing is an award-winning organization composed of nearly 14,000 units of beautiful, safe housing in nine locations throughout Houston. With 25 years of service, New Hope Housing caters to those living on modest incomes, including vulnerable families and their children. In terms of its origin, New Hope was first established by Christ Church Cathedral-Episcopal whose parishioners saw the need in downtown Houston for affordable housing for people who had no decent place to live. The church members challenged the local community to do something about those in poor living quarters, or homeless, and the end result was New Hope.

Last spring, Open Arms provided Mother's Day gifts for one of the housing facilities, New Haven. While delivering the gifts, our own Pamela Mayo volunteered to present an art workshop to the residents who might be interested. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Pam, accompanied by her husband Greg, taught some of the New Hope residents how to paint with acrylic paints on canvas. The subject was



“pumpkins.” The participants had much fun and were thrilled with their work. See Greg’s pictures of the day on page 11.

## *Happy Birthday Wishes*

*Doris Luetge - October 4*

*Elise Daulley – October 15*

*Vicky Royster – October 16*

*Heather Says – October 22*

*Barry Fairbanks – October 23*

*Bill Royster – October 31*

## Open Arms UCC

### October 2022 Calendar of Events

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 2  | <i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center<br/>World Communion Sunday</i> |
| 5  | Yom Kippur   |
| 7  | <b><i>Vaccination Day at Tamina Center 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</i></b>                          |
| 9  | <i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center<br/>Council Meeting</i>        |
| 10 | Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day   |
| 11 | Lit Wits 6:00 p.m.   |
| 12 | Bible Study via Zoom   |
| 16 | <i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center<br/>Lemm's Fish Fry</i>        |
| 22 | <b><i>The Woodlands Pride 2022 Festival – 12 Noon - 5 p.m.</i></b>                             |
| 23 | <i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center</i>                            |
| 24 | United Nations Day   |
| 26 | Bible Study via Zoom   |
| 29 | <b><i>Houston Association Meeting at Tamina Center – 8:30 a.m. – Noon+</i></b>                 |
| 30 | <i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center</i>                            |



**Art Workshop for New Hope Housing led by Pam Mayo.**

