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A Daily Doxology

In many denominations, the Doxology is a song of praise that comes after the weekly offering. The old German Lutheran congregations used to sing it with gusto to the tune of the Old One-Hundredth.

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Such archaic language may seem totally outdated to the modern Christian, so often this Doxology is not part of a contemporary worship service.

But the concept of a doxology is **not** outdated; it is appropriate today and always. A *doxology* is an opinion of glory expressed vocally or in writing. A statement of praise or thanksgiving.

We learn of much sadness, suffering, anger, vehemence, and violence these days. We ask God for so many favors, so much support. But when do we celebrate the good around us; the many blessings?

When was the last time you “sang” a doxology to God? For helping you through the day? For protecting your loved ones? For giving you life? For offering you a lovely church like Open Arms that embraces all “no matter who”?

Certainly, we can’t all be “Pollyanna’s” turning a blind eye to reality, but we can live with the “glass half full”; and at the end of the day, give praise to the Power that has blessed us. Let’s practice a “Daily Doxology.”

Idea borrowed from *These Days: October/November/December 2022*, Kathleen Bostrom, Thursday, December 1, 2022.

Remember in Prayer

Prayer 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:

- **Kevin**, who welcomes prayers during his illness.
- **Gladys Barton**, who welcomes prayers.
- **Anthony Maldonado**, who welcomes prayers.
- **Tammy Spangler**, who welcomes prayers.
- **Antonia Rivera**, who has major medical issues.
- **Ron Krueger**, who is taking radiation treatments for cancer.
- **Matt Royster**, who is clear of cancer and welcomes prayers for continued health.
- **Jean Brooks**, who fell and hurt herself.

Celebrating the Lives of Two Women of Faith

In August, Open Arms celebrated the lives of two women, both lovers of their church and faithful Christians.

Olive Baer (February 12, 1922-July 7, 2022) was remembered with a Celebration of Life on Friday, August 12, 2022, at Brookside Funeral Home. Officiating at the ceremony were Rev's. Bill Royster, Ron Krueger, and Jules Williams, Jr.

Doris Hageman (July 5, 1933-October 20, 2019) was remembered on Saturday, August 20, 2022, in the Tamina Community Center. Rev. Ron Krueger held the celebration service.

Open Arms UCC was blessed by the presence of these two women. The last lines of the book of *Proverbs* present an apt description of both Olive and Doris:

“The woman to be admired and praised/is the woman who lives in the knowledge of God. Give her everything she deserves! /Festoon her life with praises!” (Proverbs 31:30-31)

Welcome Guests

We welcome our guests who joined us in worship this past month. Irene McCartney; Jennifer McCartney; Eva Hollins and her sons Berry and Raymond and her daughter and son-in-law Rosalind and Henry Lewis; Millie Amaya; Susie Johnson; the Perez family, Noel, Marcelino, Malaki, Karon, Alleigha, Siouxsie.

Those that Bring Us Joy!

In our lives we are fortunate to have friends and loved ones that cheer us anytime, anywhere. Those joy-bringers are the ones we thank this month. Think about them as you look at the list—can you model yourself after them and become a joy-bringer also?

- ✚ Thanks to Barry Fairbanks for being the Open Arms Music Man. Barry and Gaye have opened their home to choir rehearsal and have found beautiful music for choral presentation. Although rehearsals are moving to TCC, their work with the choir and their music continues to bring much joy.
- ✚ Always thanks to Ron Krueger for his saxophone serenades, especially at our Back-to-School party. His playing charms us, and he also researches music and accompaniments to enhance his performance.
- ✚ Joy came from Noel Perez's speech to the congregation as she told of the reasons she chose one of her children's names. She also shared parts of her faith journey, as she, like all of us, struggles with personal challenges. Thank you, Noel. Many blessings.
- ✚ What joy Julia Reinhart brought as she sat and tended the children during worship on August 7. The three little ones were perfect parishioners as they drew, colored, and made crafts with Julia. Much appreciation, Julia.
- ✚ Does anyone bring more joy to Open Arms than Brenda Mayfield? Her friendly smile and cheerful greeting make you glad you made it to church, if for nothing more than to see Brenda. We love you, Brenda. You and Jules make Sunday morning a real blessing.

Thanks to both of our Liz's:

- ✚ Thanks to Liz Lemm for the door covering behind the preacher in the community center. Belated, I know, Liz, but thanks all the same.
- ✚ Liz Herrick is our HEB angel, bringing goodies to wake us and give us a Sunday morn lift. Thanks to you and HEB, Liz.

Chris Grimes: New Member of Open Arms Staff

Welcome Chris Grimes to the Open Arms family! As a new member of the staff, Chris will be giving much needed help on Sunday mornings, assisting in setting up and taking down the tables and chairs in Tamina Community Center before and after worship. Once a month, Chris will sit with Rev. Dr. Jules and receive instruction on the in's and out's of becoming a professional in the workplace, a skill so many young employees need to succeed at a job.

Chris's weekly financial gift is funded by the Tamina Tutoring and Children's Ministry Fund, a legacy of Bud and Pat Spooner. The purpose of the fund is to "provide tutoring for all ages, enrichment materials, and teaching of specialized skills."

Chris, it's great to have you at Open Arms.

Houston Association in Tamina Community Center

The 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 August Financial Information

Offerings - \$7,133.80
Missions - \$310.00
Non-Monetary Missions - \$313.75
Tamina Food Pantry - \$300.00
Forever Home Fund - \$328.67

Last Call for Baseball

If you would like to attend a Minute Maid game with the Open Arms gang and watch those amazing Astros, talk to Ian, Margaret, or Pam. We could have a lot of fun at the “ol’ ball game.”

Singers, Here’s Your Chance

Beginning in September,

OA choir practice will be after worship on Sunday following the weekly church service. Having choir practice after worship will make it easier for some individuals to attend rehearsal. Thanks to Gaye and Barry for providing rehearsal space up until now and for continued research and location of music for use by the choir.

Bible Study for September — Women, Revelation, the Apostles and Their Acts

In the patriarchal societies of the Bible, where are the women? Who bears the babies, grinds the meal, bakes the bread, brings in the water? On August 31, Gail Royster will take us back to Biblical times to examine women and their roles in the Bible. The meeting is Zoom at 10:00 a.m.-12 noon or so.

The next session is set for September 28, when Chris Teese will discuss the book of *Revelation*, issues related to its content, and interpretations of symbols and various details. So many have pondered this last book of the Bible. Chris will have some enlightened observations! Another 10 a.m.-12 noon gathering.

A new unit begins in October with an examination of the beginnings of the early Christian church. On October 12, plan to meet Jesus' twelve disciples, who became apostles and spread the word of Jesus Christ to other peoples and lands. Each apostle is worthy of a separate lesson because of the folklore and history related to him. We will close this unit by reading the book of Acts, Chapters 1-15. Join us if you can.

Lit Wits: Studies in Who? What? Why?

Often, we wish for a guide that explains the meaning of our reading. That was so as we tried at Lit Wits to unravel the characters, their motivations, their actions, and the messages they bring with them in the novel of the month. On August 9, we met to discuss Mitch Albom's *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* with Vicky Royster leading the discussion. Vicky did a great job of having us dig around in this provocative story and come up with the themes. Perhaps the novel's most important message is in the element of faith demanded by God. *Believe* and you will not perish, for God is always present.

The September novel, *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles, has its questions also. Four very different young men, brought together to travel the Lincoln Highway, a road spanning the United States from San Francisco to New York, have greatly contrasting life journeys and destinations. Characters tell their stories through their own points of view. The book is long, so you may want to skip a few sections if you fall behind on your reading. Try to get to know the personalities of the main characters and be sure to read the last few chapters. The ending is not what is expected!

Lit Wits meets September 13 at 6:00; location is to be announced. Whether you have a chance to read or not, please attend the meeting and learn about one of 2022's most significant novels.

Free Vaccinations for Tamina

In October, free vaccinations will be offered to Tamina seniors and other adults at the Tamina Community Center. The date has not been firmed up but watch for that announcement soon. Christus Foundation for HealthCare (mobile health unit) will come to Tamina to give vaccinations for influenza (flu shots) and Covid19. Vaccinations will occur in the morning, and a lunch will be provided after the shots are given, courtesy Open Arms UCC. Please get this information out to the community including all churches. The health care workers are asking that we have at least 20 participants.

Cinderella
...proof that a new pair
of shoes can change your life!



In July Open Arms UCC partnered with another Houston UCC church, St. Peter UCC, to join together for a Shoes Mission Project. Open Arms collected almost a truckload of shoes and they were delivered to St. Peter UCC and combined with that congregation's donations. Together the goal was met!!

The shoes will be shipped to underdeveloped countries and become the basis for small businesses to provide income for families in need. Also, those who have need of basic footwear in their daily living will use the shoes.

Montgomery County foodbank We are so grateful for your recent donation that we received on August 1st. Your donated goods will support children, families, and seniors facing hunger with the healthy food and resources they need to thrive.

Thank you for your partnership. Together, we can make a greater impact in fighting hunger and feeding hope throughout Montgomery County.



The Woodlands Pride
2022 Festival
Saturday, October 22, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.



Back Bay Mission is well known to many of us in Open Arms. BBM is a superb 100-year-old ministry on the Mississippi Gulf Coast - in Biloxi, to be exact. Its ministries have been primarily focused on the poor, but BBM has also been on the frontline of justice and racial efforts as well.

The ministries provided are numerous, like:

- +Housing Rehab and weatherization,
- +Day Center for the Homeless, providing showers, laundry, phone and computer access, food bags and a lot more.
- +Rental Assistance
- +Permanent housing for those disabled and the chronically homeless
- +Emergency assistance with food, utilities, etc.
- +Housing for Veterans

What began by a pastor in a church kitchen, now serves thousands - -
And thru OCWM, Open Arms is part of BBM's mission:

“Strengthening neighborhoods, Seeking justice, Transforming lives.”

Happy Birthday Wishes

Donna Gonzaski – September 5
Justin Gonzaski – September 6
Jonathan Sanders – September 6
Katy Flagge – September 8
Adam Mayo – September 9
Jonathan Mayo – September 9
Robert Cobb – September 16
Barlow Bradbury – September 18
Adam Rinehart – September 24
Claudia Sanders – September 29

*“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine
upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance
upon you, and give you peace.”*

(Numbers 6:24-26)



“Open Arms had a one-day food drive [in July] to benefit the Montgomery County Food Bank. As a result, we delivered two hundred fifteen pounds to the food bank. Jesus said, ‘Feed my sheep.’ And we did!”

SEPTEMBER, 2022
OPEN ARMS UCC – CALENDAR OF EVENTS



4	<i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center Communion Sunday</i>
5	Labor Day - has been a nationally celebrated holiday in the U.S. since President Grover Cleveland signed it into law on June 28, 1894.
11	<i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center Council Meeting</i>
13	Lit Wits 6:00 p.m.
18	<i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center</i>
21	International Day of Peace. The 2022 International Day of Peace theme is End Racism. Build Peace.
23	Autumnal Equinox - Welcome Fall
25	<i>In Person Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Tamina Community Center</i>
26	Rosh Hashanah - Jewish New Year
28	Bible Study Via Zoom at 10 a.m.