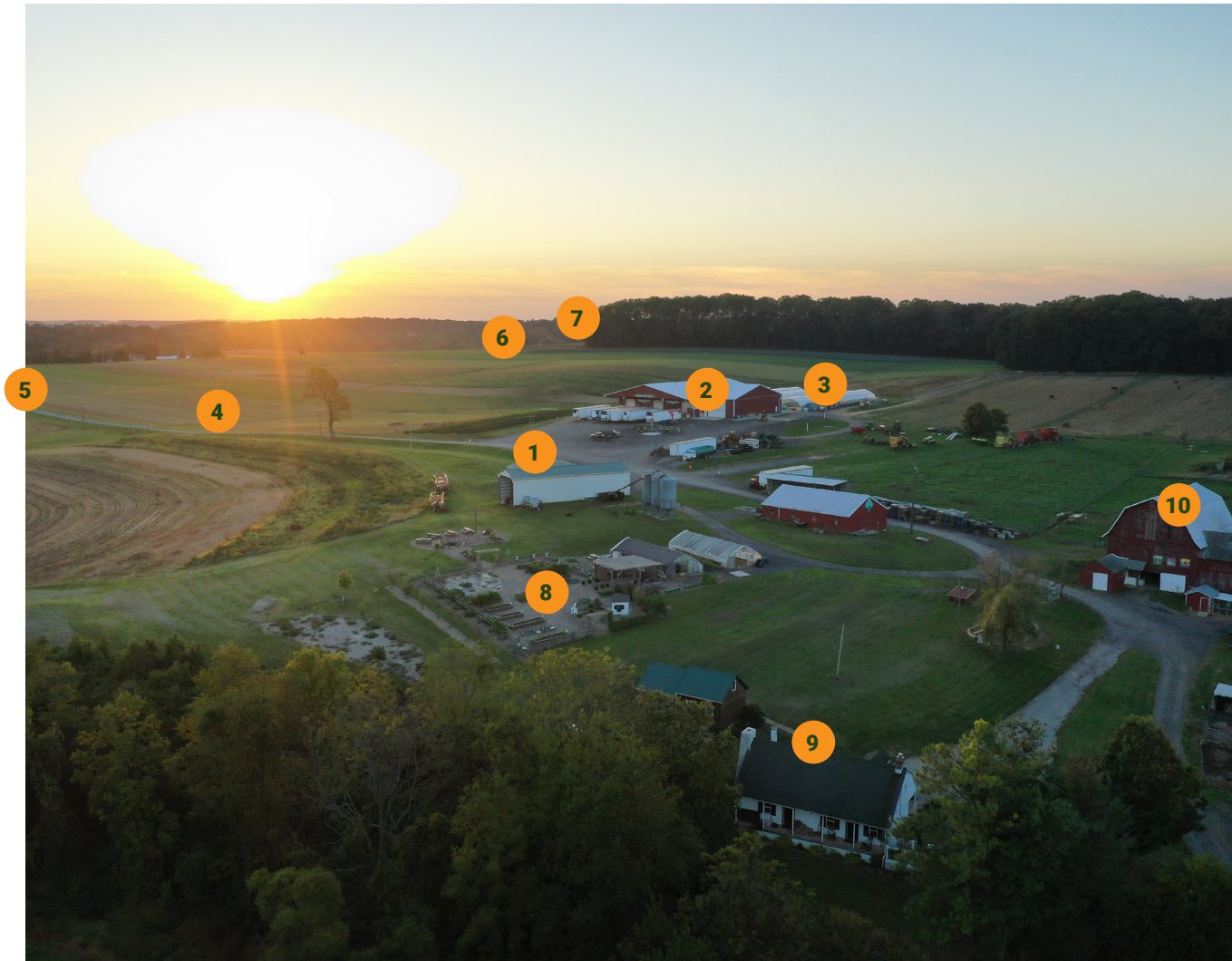


Prayer Walk

- MAY 15, 2024 -



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"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." - MATTHEW 25:35





2024 FFF Prayer Walk

1. Pavilion - When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

The pavilion is where we gather with volunteers. We draw everyone in to pray before the work of the day begins. We reflect the light of Jesus when we explain why we do what we do and thank the volunteers for serving with us and spreading the light. We give glory to God and proclaim Christ with every volunteer group. Thousands will gather in the pavilion this season, and many will bring hurts and brokenness, confusion and loneliness, sorrows and disappointments. But they also bring a willingness to serve. May we come alongside each to listen and encourage. May God make Himself known in a new and personal way to each person, and may they have ears to hear Him call them by name.

2. Distribution Center - Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” John 6:35

The Distribution Center is only one year old, but it has taken off as a major hub of activity where food from the farm as well as other sources, such as bread from H&S Bakery, is made available to scores of partners who help distribute throughout the community to people in need. The logistics team is very faithful, dedicated, and joyful in serving together. May every partner who comes in the hopes of helping others in their community, be provided with an abundance of fresh food to distribute, and may each person who receives food from FFF somehow come to know and understand that God loves them, sees their need and cares for them. Our goal is to offer fresh, nutritious produce to people in need, and also to feed them spiritually with the love of Christ.

3. Greenhouse - “I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

The greenhouse is a delightful and joyful reminder of the true vine, Jesus. In the greenhouse, it is easy to grasp the truth that we can bear no fruit unless we are joined to the vine. The Spirit of the Lord flows through us, when we are walking in faith, and it strengthens and empowers us just as surely as diesel fuels the tractors. We are grateful for Team Tomato, who monitors and performs all the necessary tasks so that those we serve can enjoy a greatly expanded tomato harvest season. We give thanks for the technology and for the benefactors who funded the greenhouse construction, as well as for the team of volunteers who focus their service in the greenhouses.

4. Fields - "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Matthew 25:35

Year after year, the fields produce an abundance of food. The Lord provides the warmth and the rain, the soil and the life for the plants to thrive. We thank God for the beautiful fields with their neatly planted rows and rich earth; we also offer praise and thanks for the days to come when the fields will be filled with volunteers of all ages, who have come to serve others by helping in the harvest. May this ground be utilized to build community, and love for one another, as much as it produces crops of nutritious vegetables.

5. Entrance - "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:9-10

This is the place where volunteers and visitors first come in, and where many will encounter the living God perhaps for the first time, and also where passersby may see so many workers in the fields and wonder about this place and what it means. May we reflect the image of Jesus with a welcoming spirit, kindness, love and grace toward all; may we demonstrate respect and a commitment to stewarding all the Lord has entrusted us with, whether it be the land, the equipment, the financial resources, or the people the Lord brings to us to be served and to serve with us. And may this entrance be the gate, where many who enter become sheep of His pasture, who know His voice and follow Him, and where the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared, and many are saved by believing and inviting Him into their hearts.

6. Crosses - Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1Cor 15:20

The farm wants to reach people with the love of Christ. Whether it is through the food, or the opportunity to serve together, or as a witness to the community, our reason for being is to proclaim Christ and point everyone we interact with to Him for love, light and life. When Jesus declared to Martha that He is the resurrection and the life, he asked "Do you believe this?" Each person must answer the question for themselves. We want to share our hope and our joy and our faith, but each individual must decide for him/herself what to do with Jesus and His claims. May the farm be a place where those who earnestly seek the Lord find Him.

7. Border of woods and Miller property - "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep...I know my sheep, and my sheep know me." John 10:11, 14

The farm is about kingdom building, and we have ever increasing opportunities to do so through extended experience, whether exploring the woods or enjoying a picnic in the meadow, or new pastures and fields to bring into production to expand the yield and volunteer activities at what is referred to as the Miller property. We cannot out-vision God, just like we cannot outgive God. But we walk in faith, following the voice of the Lord, our good shepherd. We don't have to know what lies ahead, we simply trust in Him, obey His leading, and follow His voice.

8. Discovery Garden - Jesus answered, "I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

The FFF Education Program introduces small lessons about agriculture and big ideas about God to students from a broad array of age, experience and understanding. This is a place where many questions are raised and "light bulb" moments occur. May the Holy Spirit inspire, encourage and energize students to explore the universe and their place in it, and to seek Almighty God, creator of all things visible and invisible.

9. Offices - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

God is faithful and has provided for this ministry in countless ways and means over the years. When we trust in Him, and walk in obedience, we will surely experience the peace of Christ. And His command is that we love one another, as He has loved us. May the FFF team grow in its individual as well as collective love for one another and for God. May the team truly trust God and experience unity of the Spirit. We pray that we honor God's faithful provision for this ministry through careful and thoughtful stewardship of all He has given us, and we praise Him for the generosity of so many over the years. May the Lord continue to inspire strong support, generous giving, and new opportunities to serve His children and grow the body of Christ at First Fruits Farm.

10. Barn - When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord", he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "feed my lambs". John 21:15

The cows, chickens, pigs, even honeybees can teach us much about God. The barn is a place where students can encounter animals and learn from them too. It is also a location that holds promise for other events, such as community meals, to bring folks together and listen to their hearts. God has placed a vision on the hearts of FFF to be open to new opportunities to minister to the local community as well as to the larger community of people who struggle against food insecurity.