

## WEEK OF OCTOBER 13, 2024



**From Woody:** I read an article in the AARP Magazine this month that I found fascinating. It is about Dwier Brown, an actor who worked in the movie industry for 40 years. He had small parts in many films but he has come to find a unique place in public response to 5 minutes at the end of a film made 35 years ago. I did thank him once at a baseball banquet. The excerpt is written by Dwier Brown:

*My role in FIELD OF DREAMS was so small, I read all my lines during the audition and I remember thinking, "Nobody is even going to notice this role." But 35 years later strangers still want to tell me stories about their fathers. I feel like the film turned me into a kind of traveling priest, hearing confessions. That scene really touches people.....The first time I really understood how important my character was to people was in 1989. about 3 months after the movie was released. A man approached me in a corner store with tears in his eyes and said, "I can't believe it's you." Then he told me that during the movie, he hadn't been able to stop thinking about his father, who he hadn't spoken to in 15 years. At the end of the film, he had driven straight from the theater to his dad's house to reconnect. Another time, a woman told me how she'd found out that her "uncle" was really her biological father. By the time we finished talking, we were both in tears. When these encounters happen, I love to listen, and often we end up in an emotional hug. As I get older and look less like I did at 29, I don't get recognized as often. But sometimes when I do ballpark appearances, if a team is having a FIELD OF DREAMS theme day or something, there will be 50 people lined up to talk to me. I hear these incredible, tear-jerking stories. Maybe they had a hard time with their father, or maybe he's gone and they miss him....Whatever they it is they want to tell me - or, rather tell John Kinsella-it often seems like a burden is lifted from them, like I'm hearing something they are unable to say to anybody else. I just try to be the surrogate father that person needs me to be in that moment, As a young actor, I had my own dream; to be a movie star, with a long career. And although I worked in Hollywood for 40 years, stardom never came. For a long time I was embarrassed that this five minute scene was the most memorable thing I had done. But now I look at it as something enduring, maybe more so than whatever other films I would have wanted to star in.*

That catch between Ray Kinsella, played by Kevin Costner, and John Kinsella, played by Dwier Brown, is one of most touching scenes I have ever seen in a movie. I cry every time I see it. It reminds us that reconciliation is possible and that all of us can help one another through difficult times and memories. Thank you Dwier Brown.



**Peace and Global Witness:** Thanks to all who have given to the Peace and Global Witness. We will still be accepting gifts over the next week.



**Sunday School** is now in session during our worship service (10:00-11:00am).

Your family is invited to join our 'Covenant Kingdom!' Multi-aged classes for school-aged children that actively relate Christian beliefs and values to everyday life through stories, art, cooking, music, and more! If you know a family who might enjoy our Sunday school and worship services, please invite them! All are welcome!



Cheryl DeVicario has family down south and she has a contact and address to deliver items to for victims of Hurricane Helene. She would like donations of work gloves and new small stuffed animals. People who would like to donate can bring the items to the church or drop the by the Library and Barbara Ballou will coordinate with Cheryl.



**Walk to End Alzheimer's:** The Ballou family is participating for the second time in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® to raise funds and awareness for Alzheimer's care, support and research. You can donate on Barbara's page: [http://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=17658&pg=personal&px=21120525](http://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr_id=17658&pg=personal&px=21120525)

Or check donations should be made out to the Alzheimer's Association. You can mail a check to the Alzheimer's Association, along with the donation form available on Barb's fundraising page. Or send your check donation to her and she can deposit it directly.



**Flowers for Worship:** If you would like to provide flowers for a service please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board next to the church office or contact Ellen Anderson (andersel@njms.rutgers.edu., 973-747-2321). Flowers may memorialize a person or an event and always enhance our shared worship experience. If needed, vases are available in the kitchen. Thanks in advance!



**QR Code:** You can use the QR code below to pay your pledge or other contribution.



QR Code:

Or click on this link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/e47ab025-f0b0-40b4-90e6-f262bb1a29e1>



**Peace Quote:** Do unto others as you would have them do unto you....*Jesus of Nazareth*