Office e-mail: office@homercc.org Pastor Kathleen's email: pastor@homercc.org

Church Staff and Music Ministry

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Waters, Interim Minister Lori A. Schmidt, Director of Christian Education Sherri Masterson, Youth Fellowship Coordinator Joseph Ford, Director of Music James N. Shultes, Organist Jan Jeffers, Chapel Bells Russell V. Pedersen, Sexton Donna Piotti, Church Secretary

Church Office Hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 9am-Noon, closed Friday. Pastor Hours: At Church, typically, Sundays through Thursdays Available, when needed, at 315-380-0744

HCC website - homercc.com Follow Homer Congregational Church on facebook! To receive our mid-week email, *Weekday Words*, please email the office

Welcome - We are glad that you have chosen to join us for worship this morning. If you would like additional information about HCC please speak to the pastor or worship leader and plan to join us for refreshments and community time after the service.

Children - We believe children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. A children's bulletin and supplies are available at the entrance to the sanctuary. Nursery care is available.

Prayer request sheets are placed at each entrance. Prayers will be offered later in today's service.

Accessibility - Individual listening headsets are available to provide hearing assistance to any in need. Contact one of the ushers for help.

The Homer Congregational Church United Church of Christ

June 14, 2015 🕆 Children's Sunday

10:30 am Worship

Children's Sunday



"And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them."

Mark 10:16

Service of Worship

Children's Sunday

June 14, 2015

10:30 am

For Quiet Meditation

But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Mark 10:14

The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children. German Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonheoffer

If every one of us looked at each child as a child of God, we wouldn't stand for the injustice that kids suffer. Marian Wright Edelman, Children's Defense Fund

GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE	Jerusalem	Parry
CHIMES		
INTROIT		

THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: Come, let us worship our God who creates each child in God's image;
- All: Come, let us worship our God who blesses the children with enfolding grace.
- One: Come, let us worship our God who sustains us in our work for justice for God's children.
- All: Come, let us worship the Triune God.

*HYMN # 284

Gather Us In

***INVITATION TO PRAYER**

By Marian Wright Edelman in *Hold My Hand: Prayers* for Building a Movement to Leave No Child Behind.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (*let us pray together*...) God, you call us to love as deeply as you, and yet we love too few and too little. You call us to stand boldly for what is just and right, and we timidly whisper that the world is unfair. You call us to serve others selflessly, and we mostly take care of ourselves and our own. You call us to hope and faith, and we get mired in despair and doubt.

For our stingy hearts, our timid words, our selfish ways, and our wavering faith, forgive us. Help us to love your children as you do. Help us to speak for justice as you expect. Help us to serve the least of these as Jesus did. Help us to believe in a world made just and kind for all children and in your power to work through us to make it real. Amen. *MUSICAL RESPONSE (or see page 305 in Hymnal) Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

ANTHEM

GOD'S WORD BOTH ANCIENT AND NEW

SCRIPTURE	Mark 4:26-34	NT page 38	
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM Good Shepherd, Smart Sheep			
*HYMN # 113		Jesus Loves Me	
CHILDREN'S PR	ROGRAM	Dos and Don'ts	

PRESENTATION OF THE BIBLES Lori Schmidt, Director of Christian Ministry

RECONGITION OF TEACHERS

Terry Pedersen, Chair of Christian Education Ministry

*MUSICAL RESPONSE

Spiritual

He's Got the Whole World in His Hand He's got the whole world in His hand. (4x) He's got the little bitty baby in His hand (3x) He's got you and me, sister, in His hand (3x) He's got you and me, brother in His hand (3x) He's got everybody here in His hand (3x)

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

PRAYERS FOR CHILDREN OF OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

(As baskets are passed please take a name card for your personal prayers.)

God of life, we thank you for the gift of these children and youth. Thank you for the way they enrich our lives with their joy and their laughter, their curiosity and their questions, their new ways of seeing things, and their constant invitation to us to open our hearts and minds to new understandings.

May we be ever mindful of their gifts and of their needs for our love, affirmation and appreciation. Help us to embrace them, to know, accept and love them, as Christ knows, accepts and loves us.

In your goodness and mercy, watch over them and the children of our community and world; guard and preserve their easy laughter; turn their failures into wisdom; give them dreams which mirror your will; give them strong hearts and courageous spirits which proclaim your dreams of peace and justice for all.

In thanksgiving and in hope we lift them up to you, and now lift up to you our prayers for our neighbors and loved ones....

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory Rhosymedre Vaughan Williams ***Doxology** (or see page 46 in the Hymnal) Praise God from whom all blessings flow: **Praise God all creatures here below:** Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** (let us pray together . . .) Transforming God, change us from cautious into extravagant givers, from self-protective to risktaking disciples, that we may serve the poorest and most needy of your children, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE

***HYMN #75** I Was there to Hear Your Borning Cry

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

***CHIMES**

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Eldridge *those who are able, please stand

NOTES AND NOTICES

Local faith leaders and congregations of many faith traditions will join together for a Pride Interfaith Worship Service to be held at the First English Lutheran Church on Tuesday, June 16, at 7:00 pm.. The address is 501 James Street, Syracuse, NY 13203. Our gathering will feature a diversity of music and prayers of various traditions. A reception will follow. Anyone who wishes to sing in a community choir are asked to arrive by 6:00 pm for a short practice prior to the service.

Wanted for VBS: old tents....Since "Everest" is our theme for VBS. we would like about 3-4 small tents for our base camp, to be set up in the Fellowship Room. If anyone can spare a tent, we would appreciate it! We would need it from about July 29-August 9. Camping and or climbing gear would also be appreciated. Please contact Kathleen Dentes at 749-6725 if you have something you can spare or you have questions.

Save the dates: Special times of recognition will take place during worship for two of our staff who are retiring - June 21, Russ Pedersen, Sexton, and June 28 - Lori Schmidt, Director of Christina Education.

Next Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Pentecost, is Dads and Grads Sunday and the Choir's final Sunday before summer. Our gospel text illustrates that when the disciples followed Jesus they experienced times of fear, especially during a storm on the Sea of Galilee. Today we know that fear is not always inappropriate in this world. Yet God journeys with us in the boat, offering a peace that calms our spirits and encourages our trust. Lectionary Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 32-49; Psalm 9:9-20; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41.

Please note: Sunday School classes end today. We start our summer worship schedule on July 5, with the communion service starting at 9:30 am.



Elementary Class

Maya Allen Alex Bertram Jack Bertram Luke Bertram Gwen Cappy Anelia Corbin Caoimhe Dudgeon Ruairi Dudgeon Danny Ford Heather O'Hara Kyle Wright Sophia Wright

Junior High Class

Abby Elkins Melina Settineri Grace Wright

Senior High Class

John Gumaer Olivia Harrington Logan Schmidt Joe Settineri Evan Ulrich Kenian Ulrich Molly Ulrich

Presentation of

<u>Bibles</u> Jack Bertram Maya Allen



<u>Sunday School Teachers</u> Tracy Durkee Lori Schmidt Jenelle Pedersen Sherri Masterson John Helgren Helper: Abby Elkins

<u>Chapel Bells Director</u> Jan Jeffers

> Youth Groups Sherri Masterson Lori Schmidt



Please join us after worship for our annual All-Church Picnic. We have plenty of food and would love to share this time with you.



Summer Volunteers Needed for: Vacation Bible School!

August 3 – 7 Volunteers make our Christian Education programs successful. Are you ready to join our team? We need 40 volunteers for VBS to help with the decorating committee, to be crew leaders (we especially need adults to help with this role), for registration, and for many other jobs big and little. See Mark Bertram for details.