



We voted on April 6, 2014, to become an Open and Affirming church of the United Church of Christ. On May 19, 2014, we became the #1192 church in the UCC official listing.

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### **Church Staff**

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*Director of*

*Christian Education:*

Lori Schmidt

*Youth Fellowship*

*Coordinator:*

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Russell Pedersen

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We pause to thank two pillars of the church for their inestimable services to our very being for more years than our young people can remember! Russ Pedersen and Lori Schmidt are retiring! We are at a loss to express how grateful we are to Lori and Russ for all they have done, services both visible and unseen, but certainly felt and appreciated.

Russ assumed the custodial position 16<sup>1/2</sup> years ago and slowly turned it into an entire family endeavor. Those of us who come into the church at "non-church" hours were never surprised to find Russ washing floors, Terry vacuuming carpets, Jenelle dusting furniture and Ryan, Jordan and Luke setting up tables and chairs. Looking at the church from the outside, you see an enormous complex that needs constant attention, both inside and out, to keep it functioning. Russ and his family have been the grease that kept the wheel turning, both smooth and clean.

Lori has been Director of Christian Education since 2000. We see her most visibly when she entertains the entire congregation with her thoughtful, clever, and instructive interactions with our youngsters during the Children's Moment, but her activity extends far beyond that duty, to the planning and execution of our entire Christian Education program. Finding teachers and curriculum materials for Sunday School Classes is on-going, while Vacation Bible School is a daunting endeavor. The year-end programs featuring what our children have studied and learned are always entertaining and reflect the tireless effort Lori has invested.

To both Russ and Lori, sincere thanks for jobs well done.

Peter Jeffers, Chair  
Board of Trustees

It is with great joy, best wishes and deep regret, that we inform you that Lori Schimidt has announced her retirement as Director of Christian Education. Lori has served for 15 years as the shepherd of our children at Sunday school. She has faithfully led us through the jungle, into the science lab and helped us reach for the Sky as leader of VBS. She has shared the word of God with the smallest among us and we are sad to see her leave. She leaves giant shoes to fill. On Sunday, June 28th, during the worship service at 10:30 am, we will celebrate her ministry here at Homer Congregational.

Karen Dudgeon, Chair  
Board of Deacons



Dear Homer Congregational Family,

A few days ago members of your Church Council, after thoughtfully considering the names of many members of the congregation, selected a group of people to serve on a Transition Team. The Transition Team will not be a decision making group and definitely not a pastor search committee, but rather a group who will coordinate a multi-faceted congregational dialogue exploring where the Homer Congregation Church has been, clarifying the hopes and dreams for the future, and identifying the characteristics desired in the next pastor.

The Team represents a diversity of age, gender, and length of membership. Thank you Church Council and thank you Team members who said yes.

Clay Benedict  
Tracy Bertram  
Belinda Burtner  
Gary Harrington  
Molly Ulrich

Bill Hopkins  
Laurie Leach  
Bonnie Smith  
Kenian Ulrich

One of the books that the Transition Team will consult is Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce book, [Beyond the Ordinary: 10 Strengths of U.S. Congregations](#). In the book the author suggests that the qualities U.S. congregations need to be strong are described in the fairy-tale adventure, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. In Frank Baum's tale the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion were imaginary, but intentional ways of framing Baum's message. The characters symbolize the universal human qualities of mind, heart, and courage.

Applying those qualities as tools for congregational discernment Woolever and Bruce suggest that:

“For congregations to reach beyond the ordinary requires integration of three qualities: mind, heart, and courage. *Beyond-the-ordinary* congregations use their mind, suggesting intelligence and analysis. *Beyond-the-ordinary* congregations use their heart or imagination, suggesting beyond the obvious solutions. *Beyond-the-ordinary* congregations use their courage, suggesting a responsive identity whose actions result from the integration of heart and mind.”

You will recall that at the conclusion of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion and the Tin Woodman all discover that they already possessed the qualities that were needed for success. The Scarecrow already was a thoughtful problem solver, the Tin Woodman already was a compassionate friend, and the Lion already was a brave leader. By knowing themselves with the strengths they already possessed, they had the confidence to face the future.

God has given your congregation what is needed to courageously face your future and do so with knowledgeable and passionate hearts. As your Transition Team begins their work, pray that God would guide them and you in God's path, your own “Yellow Brick Road.”

Sincerely in Christ,

Interim Pastor

## Holiday in Homer July 18, 2015

Just about 6 weeks away from Holiday in Homer! Vendor space assignments will be going out very soon and we shift into high gear!

Don and Clay have been working on selling advertising for brochure, and we hope to have to print by end of June.

We will have a new website with a fresh look up and running in the next week. I am so excited to launch it, as it will have all vendor packets accessible for print, as well as up-to-the-minute information. The website was designed by Amanda Lincoln, and we hope to merge with new church website in the fall. We will have same website address so check it out. If you have not, please like us on Facebook, and invite your friends to like us as well!

In the next few weeks we will be working on advertising the show with newspaper, tv and radio. In the next newsletter I will be able to share more information on where to look for our ads.

If you have a quilt to show please contact Jan Jeffers.

It is going to be a great show!

Paula

### 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... Also looking for help on decorating if you can, many hands make light work. Get out your scissors and make some snowflakes....

Thanks,  
The Decorating Committee.



## Changes in Store for 2015 Chautauqua!

The Council of Churches' annual event called "Chautauqua" is being revised, and this includes the dates. We are starting mid-week this year, and ending on Sunday.



Chautauqua +  
Friends & Family

Thursday, August 6 - Sunday, August 9, 2015

The first two days, Thursday and Friday, will include Vespers at 6:00 pm and classes at 6:30 and 8:00, with "Snack and Chat" at 7:30 pm. The schedule of classes will be released soon.

On Saturday, we are planning:

- 9:30 am Wilcox Fun(d) Run - a family friendly, "you choose" 3 or 5K walk or run
- in addition during the morning, we are planning BAKEZILLA 2015 -- the biggest bake sale ever!
- and stories for children and a bounce house on the Green.

In the afternoon we're having:

- "Downtown Olympics" - teams competing in croquet and badminton
- we're also planning "Iron Chef Chautauqua - the Farmers Market Version"
- chance to do a mission project -- Ugly Quilts
- we'll end the afternoon with high tea under the tent!

Saturday evening:

- 6:00 we're hosting an hour of family-friendly trivia and talent show,
- 7:00 snack and chat
- 7:30 trivia & talent show for all who don't have to go to bed by 7:30 PM

Sunday morning

Worship under the tent with Rev. Dr. Kathleen Waters preaching and special music to be announced

After the service -- FREE Community Meal on the Green

Chautauqua + -- a new version of our community event...designed to be family-friendly and inviting to all ages!

The Rev. Vicki Johnson, Executive Director  
Cortland County Council of Churches



## Christian Education News

June 2015

**Next Christian Education Meeting:** The CEM will meet on *Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>* at 11:45 in the Board Room.

**Children's Day:** Children's Day will be celebrated on *Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>*, during the 10:30 service of worship. This day marks the end of our Church School year, and the elementary and junior high students will be presenting two skits related to our Bible lessons this year. Our skits are entitled "Good Shepherd, Smart Sheep" and "Do's and Don'ts". Please plan to join us for this special service as the children share their talents with the congregation.

**Canned Food Drive:** The Church School students invite you to bring canned foods to the Children's Day worship service on *June 14<sup>th</sup>* which will be given to the Homer Methodist Church food pantry.

### All-Church Picnic:

Immediately following the Children's Day service on *June 14<sup>th</sup>*, the CEM will be sponsoring an All-Church picnic. Hot dogs, rolls, potato chips and lemonade will be provided. If you would like to bring a dish to pass, you are welcome to, however it is not required. There will be plenty of food for all! Please join us for this time of spring fellowship.



**VBS Save the Date:** Vacation Bible School will be held during the week of *August 3-7* from 9:00 am to noon each day. If you would like to volunteer to help with this amazing week, please contact Mark Bertram.



### College Graduate

**Tyler Masterson** graduated from SUNY Cortland with a Sports Management Bachelor's Degree. He is studying to take an IT Certification test towards becoming an IT Professional

### High School Graduates

**Nicholas Dentes** will graduate from Homer Central High School in the top 10% of his class and will attend Syracuse University to study engineering.

**Jacob Durkee** will graduate from Homer Central High School in June. He will be attending Cazenovia College beginning in July. He was the number one top recruit for their lacrosse team and will also be pursuing a degree in web design.

**Erin Leach** will graduate from Homer Central High School in June. She will be attending the University of New Haven with a major in Forensics.

**Nathaniel Ulrich** will graduate from Homer Central High School and will be going to Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. He is thinking of going into Communications, continuing to play trumpet in their many bands, and see if his baseball skills are good enough for College Ball.

## The Deacons' Bench

SO Many things happening in our little big church right now. My head spins when I think about it. So many meetings and phone calls and busyness that sometimes I find myself discouraged and loosing sight of the big picture. Sometimes it just seems too big. It's on those days I find myself searching for wisdom. Quiet. God.

God and coffee go together like peas and carrots. I frequently come across prayers that involve coffee, so I don't think that this is a singular phenomenon. I think it's years of no sleep and a warm comforting cuppa that soothes the tired soul and moves you onto what's next.

Making coffee is a spiritual activity in my house. Usually involving a short person sitting on the counter while we wait for the carafe to fill. Inevitably, they ask some existential unanswerable question like, does God sleep? Where does that guy live anyway? Do lost socks go to heaven? or What does blue look like to you? There are no answers to these questions, but there is something grounding in them and the world rights itself.

What about those time of deeper discouragement? What about those days when things just stink? when people are unmovable, uncompassionate and challenges and difficulties seem insurmountable. At these time the small voice speaks just a little louder. The Holy Spirit moves through all things like the wind through the trees. It speaks the loudest when people are revealing their truths, no matter how painful - no matter how outlandish.

As we are journeying on as a people of faith, may we remember to listen to this small voice, it will push us to dare greatly as we move forward.  
Amen.

- Karen Dudgeon



*I would like to thank our church members for the many expressions of sympathy and support that people gave me at time of my father's passing.*

*Sincerely, Clay*

## The Spring Campaign to Help The Methodist Food Pantry Starts Soon



It is time to look for those lunch buckets, tin containers and plastic jars on the counters of Homer businesses. These containers are there to collect money for The Homer Methodist Food Pantry. This food pantry gives food to any one in need in the Homer School District. Even though the economy is improving, there are still many people that need the food pantry to help feed their families. Last fall we were able collect over \$462.16 during our Lunch Bucket Campaign.

During our spring campaign, the containers will be out for a little over two weeks in late May and early June. A number of members of the Homer Congregational Church and the Homer Methodist Church are on the Lunch Bucket Campaign to Fight Hunger Committee. We are always looking for more committee members. Please donate at your local stores and businesses. Please take the time to thank the owners for displaying our containers. You can also donate in the containers at front and back entrances of the sanctuary. Checks can always be sent to the church at Post Office Box #221 I appreciate the recent donations of containers.

Clay Benedict

## New Fund Raising for Church Expenses

We are going to try a new fund raising method for the church. We will be marking the Green with 10 by 10 spaces where people can reserve a spot for the annual Route 90 Garage Sale. Donations for the spaces will be spent to help with the expenses like the boiler. If you are interested in such a space, please write your name address, phone number and e-mail on a slip of paper labeled Route 90 Garage Sale. Then hand in the paper to the office. We are NOT going to provide tables or other services at this time.



## Senior Fellowship Club

**Next meeting  
June 9 at 2:00 pm**

Twenty-seven people gathered in the RFR on Tuesday, May 12th for the Senior Fellowship Club Meeting. We were delighted to see so many there. We shared some reminiscences about important events that had happened on May 12th in former years. Do you remember when Alan Shepard became our first man in space on May 12th in 1961, completing a sub-orbital flight? We also chuckled over a few jokes. Luckily, our members keep us well supplied with interesting tidbits.

Most of the time we just relaxed, sat back in our chairs and let Mr. William Locke (our return guest) ably entertain us with a delightful program of music from the 1950's and 1960's. He mentioned that the lyrics of the songs from the 1950's always told stories unlike those of the 1960's and later.

We heard his excellent renditions of Pat Boone's "April Love", Roger Miller's "Engine, Engine # 9" and a host of other songs. Elaine Olsen was, without question, the winner of all the musical trivia questions posed by Mr. Locke. He expertly led us on a nostalgic walk down "Memory Lane", and we are already looking forward to another visit from him.

We ended our meeting by enjoying ice cream with fresh strawberries and/or chocolate sauce and Jake and Betsy Schuhle's "devastatingly delicious", mouth-watering cookies. I defy anyone to eat less than four of them at any one time. Many thanks to the Schuhles for this treat.

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 9th in the RFR. Our special guest will be our own Kathy McKenna, who will discuss her hobby of growing gourds and transforming them into beautiful, decorative items. The things she makes are truly amazing. Mark your calendars and we'll see you on June 9th.

Dottie and Jaff



## The Trustees' Corner

Last fall, the boilers that heat the church failed. Since it was no heat, no church, the Trustees called a meeting of the First Religious Society to explore and approve replacement of the boilers. At that meeting, the Treasurer reported sufficient funds in the general checking account to cover the \$34,000 cost. Use of that money from a non-interest bearing account spared us from taking money from the Endowment Fund which regularly earns about 5% interest.

However, the General Account money we used included about \$27,000 that had been donated for the Steeple and Steps campaign. In addition, at the Annual Meeting, the Society passed a deficit budget. That action implied that eventually in 2015 we would need additional money, almost certainly from the Endowment Fund to pay our bills. The withdrawal we are now requesting will allow the church to keep operating and to proceed with replacement of the front entry steps.

Peter Jeffers, Chair



## June Schedule

- June 1 - 6:30 pm at Cortlandville 2 vs Cortland United Methodist 2
- June 8 - 6:30 pm at Starr Rd vs Groton Assembly
- June 15 - 6:30 pm at Blodgett Mills vs Cortland Assembly
- June 22 - 6:30 pm at Blodgett Mills vs E Homer Truxton C
- June 29 - 6:30 pm at Beaudry 2 vs Redeemer

## June 2015 Worship

**Sunday, June 7 10:30 AM**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

Holy Communion will be celebrated.

The Rev. Dr. David Cleaver-Bartholomew will be the guest preacher this Sunday. He lives in Manlius, NY with his wife, Dena, who is the Rector of Christ Church (Episcopal) in Manlius. David holds a PhD in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible from Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA. (Pastor Kathleen will be attending the annual meeting of the United Church of Christ, New York Conference.)

Lectionary Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:4-20; Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20 – 35.

**Sunday, June 14 10:30 AM**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

Children's Sunday

Join us on Children's Sunday as our children guide us in our time of worship and provide some amazing skits: "Dos and Donts" (about the Ten Commandments) and "Good Shepherd, Smart Sheep." We will also show our appreciation to the Sunday School teachers that have faithfully served throughout the year – thank you teachers! Some of our children will be presented bibles from the Homer Congregation.

**Sunday, June 21 10:30 AM**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost*

Dads and Grads Sunday

Choir's final Sunday of the year

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.

**Sunday, June 28 10:30 AM**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

The Gospel story is a "story within a story" and contrasts the status of an unnamed woman with the status of a known leader of the synagogue. Their mutual vulnerability reminds us that we can turn to God for healing; God's compassion has no boundaries.

Lectionary Scriptures: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43.



*Special times of recognition will take place during June's worship services for two of our staff who are retiring on June 28.*

*June 21 - Russ Pedersen, Sexton*

*June 28 - Lori Schmidt, Director of CE*



Plan to be with us throughout the summer as each Sunday will offer special music, unique testimonies, and a variety of messages to challenge us to be devoted followers of Jesus. Beginning on July 5, our worship will begin at 9:30 AM.

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE for June

## Deacon Worship Leader:

Carol Agate

### June 7 @ 10:30 am

Ushers & Greeters –  
Acolytes – Darci and Carrie Gumaer  
Flowers –  
Nursery – the Dudgeon family, Jenelle Pedersen  
Coffee Hour – Phyllis Adams, Laura Cinquanti

### June 14 @ 10:30 am

*Children's Sunday*

Ushers & Greeters –  
Flowers –  
Nursery – Volunteers  
Coffee Hour – Christian Education Ministry

### June 21 @ 10:30 am

*Dads, Grads, and Choir Sunday*

Ushers & Greeters –  
Acolytes – John Gumaer, Kenian Ulrich  
Flowers –  
Nursery – Janice Bacon, Logan Schmidt  
Coffee Hour – Trustees

### June 28 @ 10:30 am

Ushers & Greeters –  
Acolytes – Caoimhe Dudgeon, Heather O'Hara  
Flowers –  
Nursery – Karen Downey, Abby Elkins  
Coffee Hour – Gail VanPatten

*We begin our Summer Worship schedule  
on Sunday, July 5,  
with service starting at 9:30 am*



## June Birthdays

2 Rebecca Perkins  
3 James Hopkins,  
Kenian Ulrich, Evan Ulrich,  
Molly Ulrich  
Clay Benedict  
4 Jim Durkee  
10 Mark Bertram  
11 Shari Raymond  
13 James Boyce  
14 Carleton Potter,  
Kimberly Adams  
15 Andrew Haaland,  
Carolyn Morenus  
17 Ashley Raymond  
18 Tyler Masterson  
19 Jimmy Durkee,  
Harry Newcomb  
29 Albert Durkee

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### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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#### Sexton needed

for Homer Congregation Church starting 06/22/2015. Responsibilities include: cleaning of the physical facilities and set-up of meeting rooms for scheduled events. This is a part-time position; pay will be in the \$14 per hour Range. Qualifications: proven experience in janitorial work and in the operation and maintenance of janitorial supplies/equipment; comfortable working in a Christian environment. Send resume to "Resumes@homercc.org" by June 8, 2015. Job description available on our web site at [www.homercc.com](http://www.homercc.com).