



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.

#### **Board of Trustees**

*Chair:*

Don VanSlyke

*Vice Chair:*

Paula Harrington

*Secretary:*

Carrie Gumaer

David Barnes

Kevin Cappy

Becky Jones

Andrea Herzog-O'Hara

Eugene Wright

1 vacancy

#### **Board of Deacons**

*Chair:*

Karen Dudgeon

Belinda Burtner

Joanne Cincotta

Chuck Feiszli

Darci Gumaer

Bonnie Haaland (*interim*)

Gary Harrington

Vicki Johnson

Bill Masterson

Kathy McKenna

Bonnie Smith

1 vacancy

#### **Church Staff**

*Interim Minister:*

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Waters

*Director of*

*Christian Education:*

*vacancy*

*Youth Fellowship*

*Coordinator:*

Sherri Masterson

*Sexton:*

Gary Harrington

*Church Secretary:*

Donna Piotti

*Financial Secretary:*

Jan Jeffers

*Come for the Dinner – Stay for the Auction!*

*Saturday, November 7*



**Spaghetti  
Dinner**

*Starts at 5:00 pm – prepared and  
hosted by our Youth Group*

**Spaghetti, salads, drinks, and desserts!**

Adults \$7; ages 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free.

Max per family, \$25. Reservations are not

necessary. All proceeds benefit the Youth Group.

**TIME &  
Talent**

*Starts at 6:00 pm and benefits  
Christian Education Ministry  
programs*

**Auction**

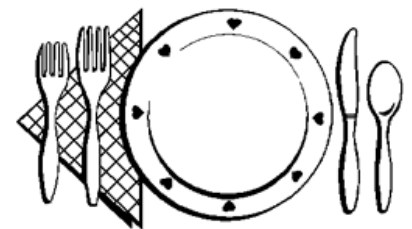
*To donate items for the auction, see Terry Pedersen*

**Roast Pork Dinner**

**with all “the fixin’s”**

**Saturday, November 14**

**5:00-7:00 pm**



*Continuous Serving – No Reservations Needed*

*Take-out Orders Available*

Please use entrance off the rear parking lot

**\$12 Adult • \$5 Children 6-10 • 5 and under Free**



Dear Homer Congregational Family,

Many thanks to the Transition Team and the Deacons for hosting an outstanding luncheon and forum on October 25. Not only was the food and fellowship rich, but the conversations were equally rich. The Team will be combining the response from the “table talks” with other input to put together a comprehensive Congregational Assessment. Some of the highlights of the conversations are below.

During the month of November the Transition Team will continue to focus on Congregational Assessment through interpreting the results of the recent Forum and the *US Congregational Survey*. In addition, on **November 17, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM**, the Rev. Freeman Palmer of the New York Conference will be guiding us in a workshop focusing on *“Who Is Our Neighbor? - Mission Insite.”*

*Frederick A. Waters*

Interim Pastor

### ***Table Talk - Conversation #1***

***Every congregation has its history which makes it unique. What events, person, experiences have given Homer Congregational Church its uniqueness? What events, person, experiences have been most positive?***

The devastating fire of 1972, which destroyed much of the sanctuary and fellowship hall, was mentioned as one of those events that brought the congregation together – “passing the test of fire.” A Sunday worship service was not missed and the leadership of Pastor Russell was greatly appreciated.

Holiday in Homer (started in 1981) and the congregation’s cooperation with events on the Green is a source of pride. The Festival of Choirs and other worship services such as Christmas Eve were mentioned as a reflection of the value of music to the life of the congregation. The addition of the elevator and ramp reflected a commitment to welcoming all.

The decision of becoming an Open and Affirming Congregation (2014) and placing a banner at the front of the sanctuary were viewed as significant events and some connected these decisions to the abolitionist struggle of the early congregation. Pastor John Keep (1821 – 1833) was mentioned as an ardent abolitionist and believed in equal rights for women (he was asked to leave HCC after twelve years of ministry because his views were too radical). In addition, the strong connection to President Lincoln to the Homer congregation, as reflected in the works of artist, Francis Carpenter (see his painting in Russell Fellowship Hall) was part of what makes us unique.

Mission and social justice endeavors such as the Peace Tree, the Home Store, Habitat for Humanity, the Youth Center (1999-2012), Mitten Tree, and our Vacation Bible School represent our connection to the greater community. Names mentioned in connection to these endeavors were Bill Brohard, John Kingsbury and Leslie Wright.

In addition, the positive role of the Senior Fellowship Club and the Youth Group were mentioned. Linked to the Youth Group: canoes trips, coffee houses, spaghetti suppers and other fund raisers. Appreciation for the service of Lori Schmidt, Kurt Schmidt, Sherri Masterson, and Bill Masterson and the involvement of all our children in the life of the congregation was noted.

Many names were mentioned as having a positive impact on congregational life: pastors included Barbara Rhudy (2009 – 2012), Rick Cowles (1986 – 2000), Anne Kingsbury (1993 – 2001), Earl Keirstead, (1974 – 1984), musicians: Jim Schultz, Joe Ford, Shirley Wilson, and Don Berg; others: Vicki Johnson's campus connection, Florence Durkee, Ruth Lawson, Dave Alvord, and Homer Jones.

The congregation was described as a conglomeration, a "melting pot" of those with different perspectives and opinions but a congregation that benefits from this diversity.

### ***Table Talk - Conversation #2***

***What are the most important events at Homer Congregational Church prior to 2010? What issues have created conflict and been most challenging? What have we learned from these challenges? What are the most important events at Homer Congregational Church in the last five years? What issues have created conflict and been most challenging? What have we learned from these challenges?***

Prior to 2010 - Four topics were raised by most table groups:

1. Money and the establishment of the Endowment Fund (ongoing)
2. The Fire (1972)
3. The Perfetti lawsuit (completed in 2007)
4. Ministers: John Keep's dismissal; Rich Cowles' departure left a huge vacuum because he did so much; Tom Garrison's arrival was a contrast because some felt he did too little, some viewed as Trustees vs. Tom Garrison, divided the congregation because of personalities; Jim Ziobro, some viewed his communication weakness responsible for a Confirmation Class controversy.

After 2010 - Six topics were raised by most table groups:

1. The sign controversy
2. Budget crunch
3. Barbara Rhudy's leaving
4. The Youth Center closing
5. Adoption of Open & Affirming position  
"Long process to build consensus; can't please everyone; don't be held hostage/appeasement; identity as a congregation evolves slowly, painfully, and joyfully, relevance in the wider community; revitalization once resolved"
6. Departure of Jim Ziobro  
"Still no non-gossip/scuttlebutt, discussion or explanation; Pastor Jim's personality/leadership; difficult to ask a pastor to leave."

#### **What have we learned?**

People can work together and support each other in an inclusive way; need to ensure a good match between the church and pastor; need to work within the budget.

### ***Table Talk - Conversation #3***

***For over two hundred years the Homer Congregational Church has been served by gifted pastors, and yet every pastor and congregation experiences occasional difficulties and conflicts in their partnership. How has the congregation responded during these times? What have we learned from these challenges? As the congregation moves forward to search for a new pastor, what can be done to improve this partnership?***

*How has the congregation responded during these times?*

Some felt the controversy was private and did not want to get involved.

There was lots of disagreements, anger  
Some people stopped attending because of personal experience with the pastor  
Some people stopped attending and but said nothing  
Some viewed that the pastor was absent a lot and did no visitation  
The congregational leadership tried to work with Jim Ziobro, evaluations took place, the Pastoral Relations Committee was involved, Deacons provided help to allow time for visitation, and assistance was sought from the Conference  
We are growing slowly  
Past members are starting to come back  
People have not come back

*What have we learned from these challenges?*

If you are not on a committee you are poorly informed. Good communication is needed.

Learned that people come to church for different reasons:

“I like to come to church and listen to music.”

“I like to come to church and eat.”

“I like to come to church to learn something.”

Bigger problem of connectedness with the church, “What level of community do we want?”

Congregation’s obligation – direct communication, personal communication will always be paramount

Trust pastor and boards; let them do the heavy lifting

The pastor can’t do/solve/fix/be everything

Pastor is not our accountant or building maintenance person, etc.

More important to have a closely knit church family

Conflict isn’t always bad, because if we can learn to communicate effectively, and respectfully we can grow and learn together.

Deal with problems and not shy away from them

Everyone needs to be present and active

*As the congregation moves forward to search for a new pastor, what can be done to improve this partnership?*

Specifically define the pastor’s role, “Is he the boss or a leader? Does he work for us? Does he have the ability to compromise, ability to pitch in?”

Need to brainstorm ways to solve problems, i.e., communication

Better transparency and communication needed

A bi-annual evaluation session should take place

Find someone who loves people, a younger/energetic person

It would help our congregation to be very tightly knitted together as a church family when another pastor arrives

Need different leadership

Financial questions and public accounting never have been addressed to the congregation

Mutual goals need to be established and have accountability and pastoral support



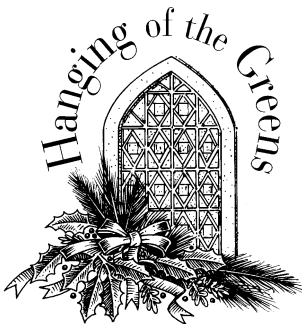
Please join us on Sunday, November 8th, when we bring forward our Pledges and Time/Talent cards during the service. This is so important, as it helps the Boards to plan financially for the upcoming year, as well as helps the Nominating Committee to fill positions with people who are willing to share their talents and time.

We ask everyone to prayerfully consider their pledge to the church for 2016, what you can pledge for next year of your time, talents and money. Bring your pledges and completed Time/Talent cards to join ours. Thank you.

Becky Jones and  
the Stewardship Committee



The Cortland County Council of Churches invites the faith community of Cortland County to gather for a **Community Thanksgiving Service** on **Sunday, November 22 beginning at 7 PM**. The service will be held at **St. Mary's Catholic Church** in Cortland. Light refreshments will be available at 6:30. A free-will offering will be received and used to help feed people who are hungry. Bring your neighbors and friends and plan to join us!



The annual Hanging of the Greens will be held on *Sunday, November 29*, immediately following a yummy soup and bread lunch provided by the Christian Education Ministry. Please plan to stay after worship, break

bread with us, and decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Activities will be provided by the Youth Group for the younger children during our decorating time.



## The Trustees' Corner

As we enter the fourth quarter of 2015 the Trustees have been hard at work. We estimate that the 2015 deficit budget gap will be decreased from \$28,000 to \$15,000. We are making substantial progress and we know that together, united with each other and with the Lord on our side we can accomplish anything!!

We are awaiting final word on the front step project. The finances have been passed and are in place, and now the project is in the hands of the contractors for plan approval and scheduling.

There are several great fundraisers and annual events coming up in the month of November, so please take advantage and give what you can financially and with your time and talents. Roast pork, Spaghetti, and Stewardship!! Fall is in the air and the pace of our church life is picking up, so we encourage you to be a part of our vibrant future as we move towards the end of the year together!!

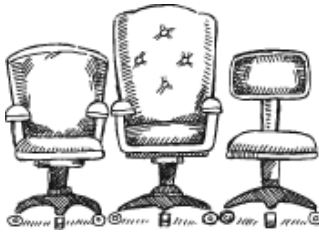
Paula Harrington

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## SPECIAL MEETING UPDATE

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On Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>, the First Religious Society met in a special meeting to consider a change to our By-laws to allow us to complete repairs to the church's front steps. Extensive planning and legwork by the Trustees has provided us with a good idea of what work must be done and by whom. Changes to the By-laws and uses of the Endowment fund must always be considered very carefully. As a church, we should always allow God to guide our choices, including uses of the Endowment Fund. After that careful consideration and some discussion, the assembled quorum of members voted to accept the change that allows a one-time withdrawal from the Endowment Fund for the purpose of repairing the front steps. Work will take place in the spring. The Trustees can provide more detailed information.



We've made some major changes on the second floor in September and October.

- Pastor Kathleen converted half of the rear classroom into space for the older children's program
- Archives moved to the old Director of Christian Education office and also became the Church Clerk's office
- The Director of Christian Education moved to the former Associate Pastor's office
- MICAH moved to the old Archives room.  
Many thanks to Gary Harrington and Jan Jeffers for making this happen.

### *A word from the Archives ...*

I've had the privilege of working with Jacob and Betsy Schuhle over the summer helping to organize and keep the archives up-to-date. Jacob Schuhle has been our archivists since Elizabeth Baldwin died in March, 1993. As Church Clerk, I've needed their help finding information to update our church records.

Going through files, especially reading old newsletters and Sunday bulletins has really piqued my interest and love for the history of our church. I'm having fun finding out things I had forgotten as well as answers to my questions, filling in details in the Church Clerk's records. Then I started wondering about when I held various positions at our church. My connection with our church goes back to my teens. I joined the church in 1960 and after graduation from Homer High School I went to New York City. When I returned to Homer to finish college and obtain my teaching degree, I joined the choir, as Don Berg, who had been my chorus teacher in high school gave me no choice!

After teaching a few years, Peter and I were married in 1985 and then blessed with Amanda in 1987. When Amanda was three years old, I wanted her to also be a part of our church through music, so I started the Cherub Choir in 1990. When an opportunity to work in the office became available, I was the Church Secretary from February 1992 through February 1993. This was a perfect job, as Amanda went to the Homer Nursery School for two years! I continued as Cherub Choir Director through

December 1994. I also continued as Editor of the Church Newsletter till 1995 when we went to Georgia. My love for ringing handbells led me to a set of color-coded bells (one octave) and introduced them to the Cherub Choir.

I became Church Clerk in 2010 and found some records had not been carefully kept up, so I took on the challenge to fill in the blanks. This research brought me to asking help from Jake and Betsy and now I'm helping to make the transfer of our archives to a larger space. More to come next month.

Jan Jeffers

### Attention Bakers!!

Youth Group will be selling baked goods in the Russell Fellowship Room on **Sunday, November 8th** to raise money to buy Christmas presents for a family in need through the Bridges for Kids program at the YWCA. Please help us by baking cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc and packaging them in small quantities ready for sale. You can drop the items off at our table in the Fellowship room the day of the event, or leave them in the kitchen labeled for youth group. Thanks for supporting the youth of our church and community!!



### Adopt-a-Family



Youth Group is sponsoring a family from the YWCA Bridges for Kids program this Christmas. We will post their wish lists in the Russell Fellowship Room and in our weekly bulletins once we receive them! Please have all gifts wrapped, labeled and at the church by Sunday, November

29th. Thanks!!!

- Gracie (female) is 10 and in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Serenity (female) is 7 and in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.
- Jayden (male) is 5 and in K.
- Mom is Cassie. She works as a home health aide nights and weekends and grandma watches the kids.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor in their program, the YWCA is looking for reliable long-term community mentors for Gracie and Jayden. Please contact Sara Earl at [saraE@kortlandywca.org](mailto:saraE@kortlandywca.org) if interested.

## More FAQs About Stephen Ministry

### Where did Stephen Ministry start?

Stephen Ministry has been around since 1975, when Kenneth Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, began it to multiply the caregiving in his congregation in St. Louis, Missouri. We are just beginning our Stephen Ministry here at the Homer Congregational Church, and are one of more than 10,000 Stephen Ministry congregations from more than 150 denominations. Stephen Ministries St. Louis, the organization behind this international ministry, is headquartered in Missouri.

### Why the name Stephen?

The name Stephen comes from St. Stephen, who was the first lay person commissioned by the apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need, as recorded in Acts 6.

### Can I trust a Stephen Minister?

Trust is essential to a caring relationship, and Stephen Ministers are people you can trust. Confidentiality is one of the most important principles of Stephen Ministry, and what a care receiver tells his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strictest confidence.

### What is the Pastor's role?

Pastors will always be the primary caregivers, but there is no way pastors can meet all the needs for care. God has called all of us, not just pastors, to minister to one another. Stephen Ministry multiplies ministry by turning pastors into equippers so they can enable lay people to provide caring ministry as well.

### How can someone receive care from a Stephen Minister?

Our Stephen Leaders (Belinda Burtner & Bill Masterson) will be training our first Stephen Ministers very soon. Once training has been completed, you can talk to a Stephen Leader or Pastor Kathleen; they will be happy to help you though the process of receiving care.



### How much does it cost?

Stephen Ministry is a caregiving ministry available to our members and community free of charge.

### How can someone become a Stephen Minister?

Begin by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders and they can tell you more. We plan to begin our first training class in January. Stephen Ministers make a two-year commitment to train and serve. Our Stephen Leaders are: Belinda Burtner 607-756-2454 and Bill Masterson 607-345-4874

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### Notes from the Susquehanna Association

*This is a save-the-date announcement from Sue Frost, Registrar for the Susquehanna Association, UCC New York Conference:*

The installation of the Rev. Dr. David Kaden, the newly hired senior pastor at Ithaca First Congregational, will be held November 15th at 3pm.

More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

### 90-Day Goals for UCC

*New UCC General Minister John Dorhauer envisions a church culture of risk-taking, innovation and ingenuity. See the article at [www.ucc.or](http://www.ucc.or).*




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### Congregational Caring

Starting in January 2016, we are beginning a new feature in the newsletter - "Congregational Caring."

We will publish births, deaths, weddings, prayer list concerns (with permission) and milestone events such as significant birthdays and anniversaries.

This will be a reader-driven feature and we need your help for these postings. Please contact Donna in the office at 749-2604 or email at [office@homercc.org](mailto:office@homercc.org) to add names to this feature.



**November 2015**  
**Mission Activities and Fun Events**  
**for 7th thru 12th graders**

If you are in the 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, you're invited to join the Homer Congregational Church Youth Group! We *usually* meet the first and third Sundays of each month. Friends are not only welcome, but *encouraged to join in the fun!!* The events are always listed in the monthly newsletter and weekly church bulletins. By attending regularly and helping with at least one fundraiser, you're invited to go on the end-of-the-year trip.

**Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – Spaghetti Dinner**

Please come to the church at 3:00 pm to set up for the dinner. We will eat at 4:00.

**Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> – Bake Sale**

We will have a bake sale in the Russell Fellowship Room to raise money for the family in need at Christmas.

**Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Kmart – Shopping for Family in Need**

We will meet at Kmart at 1:00 to shop for the family in the Bridges for Kids program, and then have pizza at Little Caesar's. *Please let me know if you plan to attend and if you are bringing a friend!*

**Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> – Hanging of the Greens**

We will entertain the children of the church while their families help decorate. We will also wrap presents for the family in need.

Sherri Masterson (345-4875)  
 Youth Fellowship Coordinator



**Senior Fellowship Club**

**Next meeting**  
**November 17 at 2:00**

The Senior Fellowship Club met on Tuesday, October 13th in the RFR amidst a profusion of colorful fall flowers and pumpkins. We opened our meeting with a couple of readings, reminding us to be mindful of everyone in our lives and to lend a helping hand whenever we have the opportunity to do so. Following this we heard a prayer thanking God for all our blessings and asking him to continue to bless all our friends and our families.

We then shared some laughter over jokes contributed by several in our group who faithfully keep me supplied via e-mail. Dottie Green also read some "Brain Teasers" which we all thoroughly enjoyed even though we were unable to figure out the answers.

Doris Walker was our special guest and shared great pictures with us of a cruise she took in 2010. The cruise began in Venice, Italy. With a map Doris oriented us to her travel route, sailing south on the Adriatic Sea to Bari, on to Greece and the ancient city of Olympiad, and then proceeded to the beautiful island of Santorini.

We paused to give our narrator a break and to enjoy refreshments. October is designated as "apple" month and our incredible, edible New York State apples are in plentiful supply. We all enjoyed a scrumptious apple nut cake served a la mode. Our bakers were Sylvia Hammond, Marilyn Miller and Pat Signor. Great job ladies and many thanks. Thanks also to all those who helped on clean-up

Doris continued her narration proceeding to the capital city of Athens, to the island of Corfu in the Ionian Sea, and to Croatia.

Many thanks to Doris for sharing her great pictures with us and for her excellent, interesting and very informative narrative.

Our next meeting will take place on November 10th and our guest will be Kathy Hammond who is with NY Connects at the Office of the Aging. She will discuss long term services and supports to enable people of all ages to remain independent in their daily lives. Anyone who is a caregiver and seeking information is also invited to attend. Mark your calendars and we'll see you there.

Dottie



## 2015 November Worship

Miss a Sunday and want to review the bulletin? You can find weekly bulletins at our website: <http://www.homercc.com/resources/>. Share with a friend.

**Sunday, November 1** **10:30 AM**  
 23rd Sunday after Pentecost  
 Celebration of Holy Communion

All Saints Sunday is a time to celebrate not only historic figures of the church, but also remember the "great cloud of witnesses," those whom we have known and revered as followers of Christ. As we look back we recognize our responsibility to carry out Christ's mission as the living saints of today.



Scripture: Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

**Sunday, November 8** **10:30 AM**  
 24th Sunday after Pentecost  
 Stewardship Sunday - As a sign of offering our very selves to God, we will be invited to bring our pledge cards forward.



<sup>42</sup>But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. <sup>43</sup>Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I

tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup>They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Lectionary Scripture: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Heb. 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

**Sunday, November 15** **10:30 AM**  
 25th Sunday after Pentecost  
 The Rev. John Hottenstein will be our guest preacher. John completed seminary at Harvard

Divinity School and served in a number of pastorates. In addition he completed a Master's Degree in Television at the Newhouse School of Syracuse University and was a member of the faculty until his retirement. After retiring from teaching he served as administrator of the Spiritual Care ministry of the InterReligious Council of Central New York, an interim pastor at Plymouth Congregational Church in Syracuse, and is a regular volunteer in spiritual care at University Hospital. He has served the United Church of Christ as an interim pastor, a member of various Oneida Association committees, chair of the Executive Council of the New York Conference, and recently as chair of the Conference Minister Search Committee.

Lectionary Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

**Sunday, November 22** **10:30 AM**  
 Thanksgiving Sunday

Lectionary Scripture: 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12 or 93; Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

**Sunday, November 29** **10:30 AM**  
 First Sunday of Advent

The Fifth Sunday is also the first Sunday of Advent. We will begin our new liturgical year with great expectations for hope, joy, peace, and love.



Our gospel text reminds us that the people of God are to be ready for the unexpected, and readiness takes preparation. How does such anticipation affect the routine course of the day?

Scriptures: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

for November

**Deacon Worship Leader:**

Karen Dudgeon

**Trustee Verifier:**

David Barnes

**November 1 @ 10:30 am**

Ushers & Greeters –

Acolytes – Kyle Wright, Jack Bertram

Flowers – Dale Halstead and Sylvia Hammond

Nursery – Cindy Stout, Abby Elkins

Coffee Hour – the Harrington family

**November 8 @ 10:30 am**

Ushers & Greeters –

Acolytes – Caoimhe Dudgeon, Sophia Wright

Flowers – Shirley Ousterhoudt

Nursery – Susan Benedict, Heather O'Hara

Coffee Hour – the Dudgeon family

**November 16 @ 10:30 am**

Ushers & Greeters –

Acolytes – Justin Dermott, John Gumaer

Flowers –

Nursery – Sherri Masterson, Grace Wright

Coffee Hour – the Ford family

**November 22 @ 10:30 am**

Ushers & Greeters –

Acolytes – Maddy Dermott, Elijah Smith

Flowers –

Nursery – Terry Pedersen, Jenelle Pedersen

Coffee Hour – Cindy Stout

**November 29 @ 10:30 am**

Ushers & Greeters –

Acolytes – Abby Elkins, Grace Wright

Flowers – Andrea Herzog-O'Hara

Nursery – Lori Schmidt, John Gumaer

Coffee Hour – Kathy McKenna



November  
Birthdays

- 1 Katelyn Lawrence
- 5 Jean Cadwallader
- 6 Linsey Etz
- 7 Alyse Masterson, Richard Seymour
- 11 Robert Hale
- 16 Joseph Settineri, Mary Ewing
- 17 Gwendolyn Hayne
- 18 William Rumsey, Paula Harrington
- 19 Dorothy Green
- 22 Wayne Bacon
- 26 Barbara Rhudy
- 28 Marilyn Miller, Stephen Jones
- 29 Stuart Jones
- 30 Katrina Allen

★ Thank You! ★  
★ THANK YOU! ★

*Dear friends and neighbors,*

*Thank you for your continued support of our Food Pantry through the years.*

*Many thanks to whomever thought up the Lunch Box for donations from various stores' customer in the Homer area. What a great idea!*

*We are anticipating more clients this holiday season, since Helping Hands, Caring Hearts program for folks with children who need help all through the year has had an increase of 93 new families just since January. This included not only unwed mothers, but single dads trying to cope and grandparents now raising grandchildren. Please keep them in your prayers. Again, many, many thanks.*

*The Homer Methodist Church  
Food Pantry Committee*

Thank you to all who participated either as a walker or sponsor in the **CROP Walk**. Nearly 500 participated in raising funds for alleviating world hunger. The preliminary total is \$12,000, and 25% of the funds raised will be returned to the Cortland area to established programs and food pantries. Sixteen walkers from the HCC community participated and we raised almost \$800. Thank you!