



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:

Jim McKenna

Vice-Chair:

Paula Harrington

Secretary:

Becky Jones
Kevin Cappy
Chuck Feiszli
Andrea Herzog
Eugene Wright
2 vacancies

Board of Deacons

Chair:

Karen Dudgeon

Vice-Chair:

Bonnie Haaland
Tracy Bertram
Belinda Burtner
Joanne Cincotta
Darci Gumaer
Gary Harrington
Doris Hoffmann
Vicki Johnson
Bill Masterson
Kathy McKenna
Anne Wingard

Church Staff

Interim Minister:

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Waters

Director of

Christian Education:
vacancy

Sexton:

Gary Harrington
Church Secretary:
vacancy

Children's Day and All Church Picnic

Sunday, June 12

Plan to join us for worship on June 12 as we celebrate the children of the congregation and conclude a year of Sunday School. We will recognize children entering third grade with a presentation of a Bible and recognize Sunday School teachers.

Following worship, stay for an All Church Picnic, hosted by CEM. You are invited to bring a dish to share or dessert as CEM cooks up hot dogs and provides drinks. There may even be some lawn games on the Green!



Welcome Aboard Rachel Ditch!!!

The Personnel Committee, with concurrence with the Board of Trustees, is pleased to announce the hiring of our new Director of Christian Education, **Rachel Ditch**, to begin June 1. Rachel is no stranger to the Homer Congregational Church as she has been a member of our congregation since 2011 and for the last three years has been our "Member in Discernment" while attending Boston University School of Theology. Rachel just graduated with her Masters of Divinity and will be completing the necessary requirements from the Susquehanna Association of UCC NY Conference to be eligible for ordination. We have entered into an Agreement with her until December 31, 2016 with the option of extending if she has yet to receive a pastoral call.

Rachel comes back to HCC with an incredible diversity of experience. While in Boston she served as a pastoral intern at First Congregation Church of Reading, MA, resident advisor for the Barton House at the Walker Center for Ecumenical Exchange. She also completed a Clinical Pastoral Education course at Sherrill House Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Facility. The breadth of Rachel's experience will allow her to guide us as we seek to deepen and expand our educational opportunities for all ages (children, youth and adults). The requirements of the position are as follows. We are pleased that Rachel ideally meets these requirements.

Requirements from the Director of Christian Education job description: A strong Christian character, commitment to fostering the faith of our children, youth and adults; knowledge of current trends and resources in Christian Education, proven experience in children and youth education, computer based learning skills are desirable; ability to multitask and prioritize tasks; have excellent interpersonal and team building skills; handles sensitive information in a confidential manner; valid driver's license; willing to promote the Open and Affirming policy of the church; willing to learn the polity of the United Church of Christ.



Receptivity to Care

Most people are much more open to giving care than to receiving it. When a person is giving care, he or she is in a position of strength, stability, and authority. When a person is receiving care, he or she is acknowledging weakness, insecurity, and vulnerability. As a result, there are countless people today who, though they really could benefit from a Christian friend, who would listen and care for them, instead tough it out on their own. They remain the strong silent type, or wear a smile across a face that is holding back a flood of tears. Society encourages this (particularly for men). To ask for help is to admit weakness. To show weakness is to admit inferiority.

But God did not create us to be independent. We were created to be interdependent. God's Word is clear on this all the way back to Genesis: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18). The New Testament underscores this theme with more than 50 verses that contain the words "one another". These verses include admonitions such as "love one another," "encourage one another," "build up one another," and "pray for one another." What these verses don't say is that we alone are to love, encourage, build up, and pray for other people. The "one another" wording gives them a reciprocal meaning. It also tells us that we are to allow other people to love, encourage, build up, and pray for us!

Many people would prefer to suffer alone than to ask for help. But suffering alone is not what God intended for us. Jesus promises, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). We can receive this promised rest when we turn to one another for comfort and help.

Our Stephen Ministers know all about receiving care. Many of them have been on the receiving end of care at an earlier point in their lives—something that has motivated them to give care now. They know how difficult it is to ask for help, but they also know the great personal and spiritual growth and healing that follow. They know how to respond in a loving, caring, and nonjudgmental manner. They are equipped, ready, and waiting to provide the comfort and care God very much desires you to have.

If you find yourself now or in the future facing difficulties in life, don't succumb to society's norm of remaining strong and suffering alone. Open your heart to receiving God's love and grace through the care of one of our Stephen Ministers. This is a one-to-one, confidential relationship with someone who will listen to you and provide you with the care and encouragement you need, while Christ works inside to bring rest to your weary, burdened heart. For more information on our Stephen Ministry contact one of our Stephen Leaders:
-Bill Masterson (607)-345-4874 or Belinda Burtner (607)-756-2454

My Cup Runneth Over

Fifteen years ago, I reluctantly agreed to accept the Youth Fellowship Coordinator position, on a "temporary" basis. I was nervous because I had spent very little time with teenagers (our kids were 9 & 7 at the time), and had no "religious" training; but, I figured I could fill-in for a year or two. God had another plan for me though. I had no idea of the many blessings that would come to me and my family from this awesome experience.

I would like to thank all of the families who have allowed me the privilege to be a part of their children's lives. I would like to thank the congregation for all of your prayers and support; you make our youth ministry possible. I would also like to thank all of the teens for blessing me with their energy, love and laughter. Finally, I thank God for the many blessings I have received over the last 15 years.

Sherri Masterson



My Heart Is Full

In January 2007, I was hired as your Church Secretary. Other than knowing my job responsibilities included helping to prepare the Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletter, I didn't have a clue about what I was getting into. Turned out to be plenty! In February 2007, I stood with Lori Schmidt and Sherri Masterson behind the pancake warmer at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, looked out across the room and thought "never in a million years will I learn all of these names!"

Over these past years, I have learned not only your names but so much more. Mainly, I have learned what "church" is. I learned that faith, caring, compassion, dedication, hard work for a common cause -- all of these are the essence of "church." It is living your creed daily, not just in Sunday worship. I have taken this into my heart and strive to make it part of my daily life.

I have loved being your Church Secretary and will miss each and every one of you.

Donna Piotti



Kyle Agate will be graduating from Homer High School on June 25. He plans to pursue the trade of underwater welding and hopes to join the US Navy.

Rachel Ditch graduated May 14 with a Master of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology.

Adam Feiszli graduated from University of Rhode Island with a degree in Geology on May 21. He plans to be in China next year to complete his degree in Chinese.

Jenelle Pedersen received her New York State Child Development Associate Credential this past year. This certifies her to work in the childcare profession.

Logan Schmidt is graduating from Cincinnatus Central School with an Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors. He plans to attend SUNY Cobleskill, where he will pursue a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management.

Joe Settineri will be graduating from high school this year. He received a 4-year ROTC Army scholarship and will be attending St. Lawrence University majoring in Chemistry.

Evan Ulrich is graduating from Homer High School and is going to Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA and hopes to major in Physics.

Kenian Ulrich is graduating from Homer High School and will be going to Green Mountain College in Vermont and hopes to major in Sustainable energies and entrepreneurship

Molly Ulrich is graduating from Homer High School and will be going to Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA and would like to major in Geology and Spanish right now.

The Deacon's Bench

“Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later.” – Og Mandin

WORSHIP

The summer is GREEN. On one Sunday a month, the Homer Congregational Church's worship services will be held under the trees on our front lawn. Mark these dates: June 26th, July 17th, and August 7th. Bring a chair and a friend for these relaxing summer services.

Homer Congregation Church services will move to the **9:30am** summer worship time beginning **July 3rd** and continue through **September 4th**.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE (PSC)

The Committee met with United Church of Christ Associate Conference Minister for Clergy and Authorized Ministry Concerns Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams. She had lots of information and guidance. The Committee officers are Chuck Feiszli PSC committee chair, Dorothy Hopkins PCS co-chair, Bev Berry PSC Secretary, and Lori Schmidt PSC Chaplin. They have regular meeting times in place and have begun the process of putting the church profile together. The congregation will be kept informed of their progress with updates during worship service and the newsletter.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

VBS/Chautauqua - Preparations continue for this exciting event August 1-7, 2016. There will be something for both children and adults. If you are interested in helping, volunteers are still needed. Please contact Mark Bertram: markbertram@hotmail.com or 753-8452.

Children's Day will be celebrated on Sunday June 12th. This marks the end of our Church School year. The children will be leading worship, lecturing, and ushering. Be sure to join us for this special service as our amazing children share their talents with the congregation. Immediately following service Christian Education Committee is 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!!! Plus new this year there will be multigenerational games. Please join us for this time of spring fellowship.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Pastor Kathleen and Deacons continue to go through the Active Membership Roll, contacting members by phone. We are reconnecting with members and reconfirming membership in the Homer Congregational Church.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

The Personnel Committee and Pastor Kathleen are reviewing applications for both the Church Administrator Position and the Director of Christian Education. Interviews with potential candidates for each position will be taking place shortly.

SNACK & CHAT

Karen Dudgeon and Jim McKenna continue to hold Snack & Chats on communion Sundays. Please bring your questions, concerns and joys. Contact at Karen at 914-886-2239 and Jim McKenna at 607-345-9863.

The Memory Cafe
Third Tuesday of every month,
10:30 am until noon

The Memory Cafe is located in the old Railroad Station on Central Avenue in Cortland. If you have a family member, or know someone who is caring for a loved one with memory loss, this is a place where you can go to enjoy social activities, get support and just relax. Snacks and coffee are available. For more information, contact Bill Hopkins at william.hopkins@cortland.edu

Holiday in Homer July 16th!

It is hard to believe we are less than 90 days away from Holiday in Homer!!

We have been blessed again, to have Cortland Self Storage, Complete Construction Concepts, Max Graphics as show sponsors. We are so happy to announce Yaman Real Estate as a new show sponsor !!! We are so thankful for their support and partnership.

We have a great response with vendors and we will have a full show! It is always exciting to see new vendors hear about our show and want a space! Not to mention all of our vendors that return every year and make Holiday in Homer the tradition it has become.

For entertainment, we are happy to have Doug the Bubble Man return, sponsored by Homer Recreation Department, as well as the ever popular Dan the Snake Man.

We will have the Homer Brass opening the show and new this year, the Jeff Love Band from Ithaca, performing from 12-3. The Jeff Love Band is the "Soul of the Finger-lakes", they play jazz, R&B, and soul music. They have played all over CNY, including Pumpkin Fest. We are so excited to have them at the bandstand, come bring your lawn chair and enjoy some wonderful entertainment.

We can't forget the BBQ!!! Back again from 11-1:30. Thank you to Gary Harrington and Shirley Osterhoudt for taking this on and as always we know it will be delicious!!

If you have not yet "like" us on Facebook and follow us on twitter @AHolidayinHomer. A very special shout out to Olivia, who has been the "social media" chairman. All show announcements are always made there first.

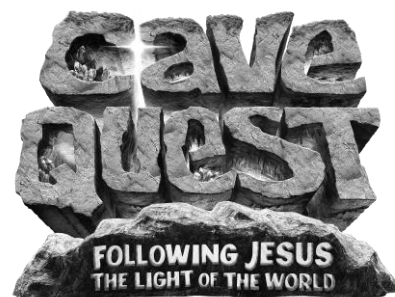
Jan is partnering with Linda, from Kaleidoscope of Quilts, again this year and we look forward to another great Quilt show.

Don and Clay will be working on securing available ad space for our brochure. We have such great support from local businesses, please support them with your patronage.

The dunk tank will be back - thank you to the Homer High School Music Boosters for taking this on. The dunk tank has always been a great draw for the show - not to mention FUN!!!

I know it doesn't feel like it just yet, but summer is coming ... mark your calendars for July 16th and come out to support not just the church, but our community.

Paula Harrington



VBS! VBS! VBS!

Attention all cave explorers! There is a light at the end of the tunnel! Come join us for a special VBS this year that is partnered with the Methodist Church and in conjunction with Chautauqua. VBS will be the week of August 1-7. Monday-Wednesday will be 9AM-12PM; Thursday-Friday will be 5-7:30 PM, and Sunday service at 11:00 AM under the Chautauqua tent. We will experience how Jesus can shine a light in the darkest of places. Campers can sign up from pre-school to the end of 5th grade.

Campers? Pick up registration forms at the church office or on-line at the church website homercc.org

Volunteers? If you have completed the sixth grade, you are old enough to volunteer at VBS. Teens and adults are needed to make our program a success, so please contact Mark Bertram at 607-745-0177 to sign up today.

Want to Make a Donation? We are always looking for donations to help the program. If you would like to buy a grocery store gift card, donate snack supplies, or give cash donations it would be greatly appreciated!



Senior Fellowship Club

**Next meeting
June 14 at 2:00**

Spring was in the air when the Senior Fellowship Club met on Tuesday, May 10, in the RFR. We were decked out with bright yellow daffodils and forsythia to pay tribute to this lovely approaching season. Many thanks to Pat Signor for her help in decorating and to Gwen Hayne and Nita Baldwin for their help in clean-up. We opened our meeting with a thought-provoking reading entitled "The Brick". The message conveyed by this story was: "Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention. God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts." Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, he has to throw a brick at us.

Lynn Olcott was our special guest and gave an interesting talk about her work for CAPCO, a Cortland County Community Action Program. The program recruits people who want help with literacy and matches them up with volunteers who want to help tutor them in reading, writing, math, etc. All teaching materials are supplied. The tutors can help adults and children with basic reading, basic math, reading the newspaper, applying for a job, working toward a high school equivalency diploma to name a few skills. Volunteer tutors attend approximately 9 hours of training (no experience necessary) and commit one or two hours a week to meet with an adult learner. We don't stop to think how difficult it is for adults who really have never learned to read well to function in society. Lynn said it is a great way to share your talents and give back to your community. Many thanks to Lynn who gave a very informative presentation.

Nadyne Harris, Anne Barnes and Shirley Osterhoudt treated us to a delicious cherry (or blueberry or strawberry rhubarb) crumb cake topped with ice cream. As always, our bakers outdo themselves, and we always thoroughly enjoy our refreshment time. We then devoted some time to "Bible Trivia." Leslie Wright and Dora Jones were our stars. We had questions about women in the bible, reviewed some familiar bible stories and tried to remember in what books of the bible these stories were found. Lastly, we had questions about

the Beatitudes, and where they were located in the bible. We also tried to remember all ten of them. We agreed that we need to do "Bible Trivia" more often. We ended our meeting by sharing the reading of an interesting story entitled "The Girl With The Apples".

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 14th. Jan Jeffers will be our special guest and will do a presentation on Homer in the 1800's. Be sure to mark your calendars, and we'll look forward to seeing you then.

Dottie Kelley



The Trustees' Corner

The Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday evening, May 17 for the monthly board meeting and will continue to make progress on a variety of church issues. The board has been communicating with the Board of Deacons on a number of personnel issues and Deacon representatives will present a plan for a major church mission. The following topics will be covered at the meeting:

- Refinement of financial summaries in the bulletin and newsletter.
- Celebrating the pending retirement of Donna Piotti and filling the Church Administrator and Director of Christian Education positions.
- Preparations for Holiday in Homer (July 16th) and the open church event with the Landmark Society (June 17th and 18th) we would appreciate your help; please see Paula Harrington, Kevin Cappy, or any of the Trustees.
- Work on the front steps is scheduled to begin after school finishes and will be completed before Holiday in Homer.
- We continue to streamline the policies of the Board and work closely with the Deacons to support our mission.

We continue to consider various fund raisers and opportunities for outreach; your ideas are welcome. Our building is a wonderful place that the board is keeping in good condition. Please report any problems to a Trustee or the Sexton. Karen Dudgeon and I are available for Snack and Chat after service on Communion Sundays, but also find me or any of the other Trustees any time, if you have questions or want to bring up issues for the board to consider.

Jim McKenna, Chair

Pastor Search Committee Report

The Pastor Search Committee members would like to thank the congregation for the trust you have placed in us. We would like to share with you an outline of the process and where we are at the moment. One of our most important tasks is to keep in communication with the congregation. We will endeavor give you an update at least once a month through the newsletter as well as in announcements at services. But please feel free to contact members if you have questions. The following lays out the basic process:

1. We met with Marsha Williams, our Conference / Association Minister on Wednesday April 27, to review the anticipated phases of the process and to organize the committee. Chuck Feiszli was chosen as the chair and Dorothy Hopkins Co- Chair. Bev Berry will serve as secretary. We agree to meet on Wednesdays twice per month.
2. Rev Williams provided a typical Search Committee Phases sheet that we will be using as our guide. The following paraphrases some of the tasks from that sheet:
 - a. Phase I
 - i. Organize: select chair, secretary, meeting times and frequency, decision making process
 - ii. Establish a covenant for the operation of the committee - this is tentatively completed
 - iii. Establish Worship and Prayer priorities for the Committee
 - iv. Create a tentative time line and what our communication process with congregation will be.
 - b. Phase II
 - i. Establish a committee budget
 - ii. Create the church profile for publication and outline a pastoral job description. Once the church profile is completed, our vacancy will be listed in the "UCC Employment Opportunities". Our Transition team has completed much of the work associated with creating the profile, which will help speed up this portion of the process. Persons authorized to complete a UCC Ministerial Profile will be able to submit profiles through the Conference office once the vacancy and profile are listed. These profiles will include education, experience, a faith statement, references, a background check form. Names of candidates submitting profiles will be held in strict confidence by the Committee.
 - iii. Determine what the candidate profile review process will be.
 - c. Phase III
 - i. Begin to receive profiles and to develop interview questions.
 - ii. Narrow field of candidates to those of most interest and notify candidates no longer under consideration.
 - d. Phase IV
 - i. Further narrow field, determine whether to put a "Hold" on candidates. Again notify candidates no longer under consideration.
 - ii. Determine interview procedures and finalize interview questions.
 - e. Phase V
 - i. Set up an interview schedule. Select a few candidates for personal interviews.

Pastor Search Committee Report (continued)

- ii. Finalize the job description
- iii. And further narrow the field and notify candidates no longer under consideration
- iv. Conduct mock interviews and create a Call agreement draft.
- f. Phase VI
 - i. Finalize candidates chosen for interviews. This will be a small number.
 - ii. Put a hold on profiles and notify the Conference of candidates chosen for reference checks.
 - iii. Complete reference checks, phone interviews, review of sermon tapes, etc.
- g. Phase VII
 - i. Complete the final Call agreement
 - ii. Conduct in-person interviews with selected candidates. This will include Committee members worshipping with selected candidates at a neutral site or site arranged by the Conference office.
 - iii. Select one or more candidates for a second interview. Seek God's guidance in making a selection
 - iv. Select a final Candidate
- h. Phase VIII
 - i. Notify the Candidate and Conference of selection. If the Candidate chooses to accept, make final compensation arrangements.
 - ii. Notify the Congregation of the selection and make arrangements for a Candidate Sunday. The congregation will then have a chance to meet the candidate in an informal weekend setting as well as to hear the candidate preach.
 - iii. Following the worship service, a congregational meeting will be held and members will be able to ask questions of the Search Committee and will be able to vote on the Call of our new Pastor.

So as you can see, this will be a fairly long process. At our May 4th meeting, Lori Schmidt was chosen as our Chaplain to lead us in reflection and scripture. We have blocked out a tentative time frame and hope to finalize this month. We will be discussing budgets and began the Church profile this month.

We are grateful for the interim leadership of Reverend Waters through this transition period. We trust that God will guide both the Committee and our candidates through this process and ask that you pray for us regularly. With your help, hard work, and God's love and guidance, we will be blessed with a new pastor to lead us in our worship.

June Worship

Miss a Sunday and want to review the bulletin? You can find weekly bulletins on our website: <http://www.homercc.com/resources/>. We believe that children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. Children's bulletins and "Busy Bags" are available.

Sunday, June 5 **10:30 am**
3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion will be celebrated.



Lectionary Scripture: 1
 Kings 17:8-24; Psalm
 146; Luke 7:11-17

Sunday, June 12 **10:30 am**
4th Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Sunday

Join us as our children and youth guide us in our time of worship. We will also show our appreciation to the Sunday School teachers that have faithfully served each week – thank you teachers! A number of our children will also be presented bibles from the Homer Congregational Church.

The **Reverend Nancy Rehkugler** will be our guest preacher. Nancy is retired elder in the United Methodist Church where she served several congregations in Central New York. Nancy lives in Cortland with her husband Gerry.

Lectionary Scripture: 1 Kings 21:1-10, 15-21a; Psalm 5:1-8; Luke 7:36-8:3

Sunday, June 19 **10:30 am**
5th Sunday after Pentecost

Dads & Grads

Choir's final Sunday of the year

Lectionary Scripture: 1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a; Psalm 42; Luke 8:26-39

Sunday, June 26 **10:30 am**
6th Sunday after Pentecost

Plan to join us in a worship experience on the Green.



Lectionary Scriptures: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Luke 9:51-62

Summer Worship

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 3 our worship will begin at 9:30 AM.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

for June

Deacon Worship Leader:

Doris Hoffmann

Trustee Verifier

Kevin Cappy

June 5 @ 10:30 am

Ushers & Greeters – Laura Cinquanti, Gail VanPatten, Rachel Rood, Stanley Nilsson
Liturgists – John and Elke Wright Family
Acolytes – Justin Dermott, Kenian Ulrich
Flowers –
Nursery – Kevin Cappy, Molly Ulrich
Coffee Hour – Pat Buchholz

June 12 @ 10:30 am

Children's Sunday

Ushers & Greeters – Children and Families
Liturgists – Children and Youth
Acolytes – John Gumaer, Elijah Smith
Flowers –
Nursery – Cindy Stout, Heather O'Hara
Coffee Hour – Christian Education Ministry

June 19 @ 10:30 am

Dads, Grads, and Choir Sunday

Ushers & Greeters – Jeanne Brohard, Becky Jones, Ellen Paterson, Anne Wingard
Liturgist – Kathy McKenna
Acolytes – Kyle Wright, Jack Bertram
Flowers – Ingrid Fox
Nursery – Susan Benedict, Grace Wright
Coffee Hour – Trustees

June 26 @ 10:30 am

Ushers & Greeters – Peter and Barbara Wright, David and Anne Barnes
Liturgists – Bonnie and Elijah Smith
Acolytes – Heather O'Hara, Grace Wright
Flowers –
Nursery – the Dudgeons, Jenelle Pedersen
Coffee Hour – Bev Berry and Anne Wingard



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

From the Treasurer:

Operating Income to 4-30-16:
\$70,258, 32% of budget

Operating Expenses to 4-30-16:
\$65,804, 30% of budget