

# Homer Congregational



No matter who you are  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are...

...welcome here!  
...welcome here!

*Welcome to this "5<sup>th</sup> Sunday" worship opportunity. Ancient people said that the day would come when both old and young people would see visions and dream dreams. During this last year, our transition team helped us look back at the high points of our history as we encountered moments of both conflict and joy. Next, they showed us a means of looking forward to choose some priorities and to establish what became known as our "dream teams". We have four teams helping us to become:*

- a community maximizing our resources*
- a community growing in our faith*
- a community of caring*
- a community participating in outreach.*

*Today, in the context of this worship service, we will hear our collective dreams and visions. Listen for God's whispered call. May our hearts be open to the holy wisdom of the ages as well as the holy fire of youthful dreams.*



For Quiet Meditation

*The Homer Congregational Church*  
*United Church of Christ*

May 29, 2016

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

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**10:30 am Worship**

**Worship Service**  
**Participants**

*Ushers and Greeters*

*Worship Leader*  
Tracy Bertram

*Liturgist*  
Jim McKenna

*Acolytes*  
Heather O'Hara, Grace Wright

*Flowers*

*Nursery Volunteers*  
Carol Costell Corbin, Abby Elkins

*Coffee Hour*  
Dottie Green, Gwen Haynes

*Attendance*  
May 22 – 80

**Life in the Parish**  
**Week of May 29**

**SUNDAY – May 29**

10:30 am – Worship service

**MONDAY – May 30**

Memorial Day – Office closed  
7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets

**TUESDAY – May 31**

2:00 pm – Bridge group  
7:00 pm – Homer Brass rehearsal

**WEDNESDAY – June 1**

7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

**THURSDAY – June 2**

12:00 pm – Bible Study Group

**FRIDAY – June 3**

Office Closed

**SUNDAY – June 5**

9:30 am – Sunday School, The  
Well  
10:30 am – Worship service

*Updated Church Directories  
are available in the Russell  
Fellowship Room*

Behold, I am doing a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
~ Isaiah 43:19

Welcome & Announcements

Report from the Pastoral Search Committee

Prelude

**BEHOLD! OUR VISION FOR MAXIMIZING OUR RESOURCES**

*Dream Team Leader – Jim McKenna*

Call to Worship

Welcome to this time of worship! We are here to see visions and to dream dreams.

**We thank God for one another and for all our resources.**

Using a variety of technology and good old-fashioned mail, we intend to improve our communication.

**Thanks be to God!**

As we grow our church membership, we intend to offer alternative worship opportunities.

**Thanks be to God!**

As we streamline procedures *within* our church, we intend to collaborate with organizations *outside* our church.

**Thanks be to God!**

We are using verbs such as *market, commit, encourage, promote, leverage* – all in an effort to move forward. God is calling each one of us to action as we pursue the path to which God beckons this congregation. Our past has taught us this important lesson: we need one another.

**So let us move forward in this transition, keeping our eyes upon God. May God's vision be our own vision.**

\*Hymn

Be Thou OUR Vision

**Be thou OUR vision, O Lord of OUR hearts,  
naught be all else to US, save that thou art;  
thou OUR best thought by day and by night,  
waking and sleeping, thy presence OUR light.**

**Be thou OUR wisdom, and thou OUR true word,  
thou ever with US, and we with thee Lord;  
thou and thou only first in OUR hearts;  
Great God of heaven, OUR treasure thou art.**

Prayer of Invocation (Let us pray together)

**O God who led ancient people through a wilderness, we are aware of your presence with us today. Through the work of your servant, Kathleen Waters and the entire Transition Team, you are bringing us to a new land of promise. As we hear of the vision shared by our dream teams, kindle your fire within us. Call us forth to accomplish these ministries, using the resources we have – the faith-filled people of Homer Congregational United Church of Christ. Amen.**

\*Musical Response –

*refrain from "Ours the Journey" #458 tune: Ours the Journey*

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey now and evermore.**

**BEHOLD! OUR VISION FOR GROWING IN FAITH**

*Dream Team Leader – Gary Harrington*

The Psalmist's Vision

Psalm 126

Singing

Your Are the Seed

#478 from Chalice Hymnal

***You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;  
you're a star that will shine in the night;  
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt,  
a beacon to glow in the dark.***

***Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,  
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.  
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;  
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."***

Children's Moment

What is needed to grow?

***You are the flame that will lighten the dark,  
sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love;  
You are the new kingdom built on a rock  
where justice and truth always reign.***

Paul's Statement to the People of Corinth

I Corinthians 3:1-11

***You are the life that will nurture the plant;  
you're the waves in a turbulent sea;  
yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,  
a new loaf of bread it will yield.***

Adults' Moment

What will WE do to grow?

*The congregation shares in resolutions to grow in faith.*

\*Hymn

***There is no place for a city to hide,  
nor a mountain can cover its might;  
may your good deeds show a world in despair  
a path that will lead all to God.***

***Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,  
messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.  
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;  
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end of the world."***

**BEHOLD! OUR VISION FOR OUR CARING COMMUNITY**

*Dream Team Leader – Belinda Burtner*

Expressions of Care

*The congregation shares in an act of caring.*

Call to Prayer

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

## **BEHOLD! OUR VISION FOR REACHING OUT**

*Dream Team Leader – Bonnie Smith*

### Litany of our Calling

*Hear these words of scripture:*

Whoever has the world's goods, and sees a neighbor in need and closes one's heart against one's neighbor, how does the love of God abide in that person? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue alone, but in deed and in truth. ~ *John 3:18*

### **We are seeking to be a community that participates in outreach.**

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith, by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ~ *James 2:15-17*

### **We are seeking to be a community that participates in outreach.**

'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' The king will answer, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers or sisters of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me.' ~ *Matthew 25:31-40*

### **We are seeking to be a community that participates in outreach.**

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your sister and brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.' ~ *Deuteronomy 15:11*

### **We are seeking to be a community that participates in outreach.**

Therefore, God's chosen ones, holy and loved, put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ~ *Colossians 3:12*

**Based on this holy writing combined with our sense of God's call upon us, we, the congregation of Homer Congregational United Church of Christ *will* participate in outreach, to serve our sisters and brothers in Homer and around the world.**

### Offering

Invitation to BE the Church in our Community

*The congregation shares acts of outreach to our community.*

### Offertory

Doxology

*#494 tune: St. Brendan's (They'll Know We Are Christians)*

**All praise to Abba from whom all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only son.  
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Prayer of Dedication (Let us pray together)

**O God who has filled our lives with blessing, receive these material gifts and use them to bring your love to this world. Today, we also offer ourselves. As we prepare to depart, we will live our call so that, when we return, we will be able to answer the question “How have you put your faith in action this week?” Amen.**

\*Hymn                      They'll Know We Are Christians by our Love  
**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord (repeat)**  
**And we pray that all unity may one day be restored**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love**  
**Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side**  
**And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand**  
**And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land**

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response  
**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.**  
**Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

\*Postlude

# NOTES AND NOTICES

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## **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).

## **UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES**

Plan to join us for worship on June 12 as we celebrate the children of the congregation and conclude a year of Sunday School. 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!

Preparations for **Holiday in Homer** (July 16th) and an open church event with the **Landmark Society** (June 17th and 18th) are under way and we would appreciate any help you can provide. See Paula Harrington, Kevin Cappy, or any of the Trustees.

**VBS and Chautauqua** – An Adventure in Community! August 1-7. This year there will be programming for the entire family! Monday through Wednesday will be the traditional format from 9 am until 12 noon; Thursday and Friday will be from 5 pm until 7:30 pm with a light dinner for families and an option for parents to attend Chautauqua programs while kids are at VBS. For more info and to volunteer, please contact Mark Bertram at 607-745-0177 or by email [markbertram@hotmail.com](mailto:markbertram@hotmail.com).

## **PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Pastor Search Committee appreciates the support and prayers of the congregation. Committee members are: Bev Berry, Tracy Bertram, Miles Dudgeon, Chuck Feiszli, Dorothy Hopkins, Kathy McKenna, Lori Schmidt, Jim Ulrich.

## Church Staff and Music Ministry

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Waters, Interim Minister

Joseph Ford, Director of Music

James N. Shultes, Organist

Jan Jeffers, Chapel Bells

Gary Harrington, Sexton

Church Office Hours:

Mondays through Thursdays, 9am-Noon, closed Fridays.

Pastor Kathleen's time in the office varies each week, but she is available to visit those with special needs or to meet for any other reason. Please feel free to contact her via email: [pastor@homercc.org](mailto:pastor@homercc.org) or via her cell phone:

(315) 380-0774

HCC website - [homercc.com](http://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. Current newsletters are available at each entrance.

Children - We believe children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. A children's bulletin and "Busy Bags" 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.

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.