

The Homer Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

June 12, 2016

4th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am Worship



Gathered on the Green in 1801- Still Gathered Doing God's Mission

Worship Service
Participants

Ushers and Greeters
Children and Families

Worship Leader
Doris Hoffmann

Liturgists
Children and Youth

Acolytes
John Gumaer, Elijah Smith

Flowers

Nursery Volunteers
Cindy Stout, Heather O'Hara

Coffee Hour
Children Education Ministry

Attendance
June 5 – 82

Our giving 6/5/16:
Operations – \$1,818.00
Missions – \$231.00

Life in the Parish
Week of June 12

SUNDAY – June 12
10:30 am – Worship service
Following worship – Church picnic

MONDAY – June 13
7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets

TUESDAY – June 14
2:00 pm – Senior Fellowship Club
7:00 pm – Homer Brass rehearsal

WEDNESDAY – June 15
Newsletter Deadline
9:30am – CAM meets
6:00 pm – Worship & Music Committee
7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY – June 16
12:00 pm – Bible Study Group
4:30pm – Endowment Committee meets

FRIDAY – June 17
Office Closed

SUNDAY – June 19
10:30 am – Worship service:
Dads, Grads and Music Sunday

Service of Worship
Children/Youth Sunday

June 12, 2016 10:30 AM

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

The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.

German Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

*those who are able, please stand.

GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER

LITANY – SOWER OF SEEDS

Leader: A sower went out to sow some seeds. The sower's name was teacher.

Teachers: Thank you for calling us to plant your Word in the lives of others. Help us to meet this challenge and privilege joyfully and effectively.

All: **Lord, thank you for those whom you have called to be teachers. Thank you for their faithful service to us and for you.**

Leader: A sower went out to sow some seeds. The sower's name was parent.

Parents: We praise you for the gift of children. Help us to tenderly love and care for them. Strengthen us to guide them in experiencing you in their daily lives.

All: **Thank you for the role of parenthood. Help us to support one another in this wonderful but difficult task.**

Leader: A sower went out to sow some seeds. The seeds fell upon the ground. The ground was called children.

Children: Thank you for creating and loving us. Help us to grow to be more like you each day.

All: **We praise you for children and their childlike faith. Thank you for the ways in which they teach us about trusting and growing in you.**

Leader: A sower went out to sow some seeds. The seeds fell upon the ground. The ground was called the people of God.

All: **Thank you for your Word, which you have planted within us. Help us root ourselves deeply in it. Free us from the rocks and thorns which hold us back from growing. Enable us to grow to the full potential which you have blessed us.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*let us pray together . . .*)
God we recognize you as a God of growth and nurturing. Forgive us for the times when we forget to see the possibilities and focus instead on the limitations. Forgive us for the times when we are too tired or too busy to care for our growth and the growth of others. Help us to grow more fully into your image. God of seeds, help us to appreciate that all that we are and all that we can be is present in a child. Teach us to cherish, nurture and encourage. Guide us in seeing the potential of even the smallest seeds. Amen.

***HYMN**

This Little Light of Mine

Vs. 1 **This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Vs. 2 **Each day at school, I'm gonna let it shine.
Each day at school, I'm gonna let it shine.
Each day at school, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Vs. 3 Always with my friend's, I'm gonna let it shine.
Always with my friend's, I'm gonna let it shine.
Always with my friend's, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Vs. 4 On summer vacation, I'm gonna let it shine.
On summer vacation, I'm gonna let it shine.
On summer vacation, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Vs.5 All over the world, I'm gonna let it shine.
All over the world, I'm gonna let it shine.
All over the world, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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CHILDREN'S MOMENT

A REFLECTION

This Year in Sunday School HCC Children

CHORUS

Halle-Halle-Halleluia

Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja.
Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le-lu-ja.

I AM the Bread of Life, feed on me
I AM the One True Vine grow in me;
I AM the Bread of Life, feed on me.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

I AM the Resurrection, live in me.
I AM the Way the Truth, follow me.
I AM the Resurrection, live in me.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

PRESENTATION OF THE BIBLES

Gwen Cappy, Emma Dermott, Daniel Ford
Teachers: Carol Costell Corbin and Tracy Bertram

RECONGITION OF TEACHERS

Karen Dudgeon, Chair of Board of Deacons

*HYMN # 113 *Jesus Loves Me*
(Children through second grade may go to the nursery.)

LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:36-50 pg. NT 66

SERMON *A Most Precious Gift*
Rev. Nancy Rehkugler

PRAYERS FOR CHILDREN, COMMUNITY, WORLD

God of life, we thank you for the gift of these children and youth. Thank you for the way they enrich our lives with their joy and their laughter, their curiosity and their questions, their new ways of seeing things, and

their constant invitation to us to open our hearts and minds to new understandings.

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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

CHORUS *He's got the whole world in his hand*

**He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.**

**He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,
He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,**

**He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.**

**He's got you and me sister, in His hands
He's got you and me sister, in His hands
He's got you and me sister, in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands**

**He's got ev'rybody here in His hands.
He's got ev'rybody here in His hands.
He's got ev'rybody here in His hands.
He's got the whole world in His hands.**

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OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

***Doxology** (*page 49 in hymnal*) *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

**From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***Prayer of Dedication** (*let us pray together . . .*)
Thank you, God, for the wealth you have entrusted to us. As we share a portion of that wealth, we pray that it may never become the object of our affection. Keep our focus on people and relationships and lasting values. We dedicate our time, our money and ourselves to Your service, so that others may receive Your mercy and grace in times of need. Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE

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

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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We welcome today the **Reverend Nancy Rehkugler** as 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. Nancy enjoys family gatherings, cooking, tennis, reading, and most any kind of writing, which most recently has involved lyrics to songs and anthems.

Plan to be us next Sunday as our **graduates and dads** are recognized. It will also be a Sunday when our choir provides special music as they complete their service until September.

NOTES AND NOTICES

CHURCH PICNIC

Following worship today all are invited to stay for an **All Church Picnic** hosted by the Christian Educational Ministry Committee. There will be plenty of food (you are welcome to share a dish) and the CEM committee will cook up hot dogs and provides drinks. There may even be some lawn games on the Green!

WELCOME ABOARD!

We welcome to our church staff, **Sheila Shea** who was hired as our new Church Administrator. Sheila comes to us with outstanding administrative skills and an enthusiasm for serving our congregation. Sheila recently completed a BS in Childhood Education and is the proud mother of two year old, Gavin. She and her husband Phil Zollweg live in Cortland. Please come by the office and say hello to Sheila. The office continues open Monday - Thursday, 9:00 - 12:00.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Next Friday and Saturday (June 17 & 18) the **Landmark Society of Homer** will be highlighting the unique history of our community with numerous events including the ringing of our church bells and an open sanctuary on Saturday. If you can provide some assistance see Paula Harrington, Kevin Cappy, or any of the Trustees. See <http://landmarkhomerny.org/> for a full schedule. Preparations for **Holiday in Homer** (July 16th) are also taking place. Sign up to volunteer in our sanctuary.

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.

Church Staff and Music Ministry

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Waters, Interim Minister
Rachel Ditch, Director of Christian Education
Joseph Ford, Director of Music
James N. Shultes, Organist
Jan Jeffers, Chapel Bells
Gary Harrington, Sexton
Sheila Shea, Church Administrator

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 or via her cell phone: (315) 380-0774

HCC website - homercc.com

Follow Homer Congregational Church on facebook!

To receive our mid-week email, *Weekday Words*, please email the office

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

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