



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:

Rachel Ditch

Sexton:

Gary Harrington

Church Administrator:

Sheila Shea

Wilcox Fun(d) 3K/5K Run at VBS and Chautauqua Saturday, August 6

Mark your calendars and join us for a family friendly walk/run on Saturday, August 6. Choose from a 3K or 5K-route fun run through the streets of Homer!

- We will start and end on The Green.
- Check-in begins at 8:30 am; run begins at 9:30 am.
- \$20 Registration. Discounts for group/family registrations of 4 or more.
- We will accept same-day registrations, but you must pre-register to be guaranteed a shirt.
- Proceeds benefit the Wilcox Fund of the Cortland County Council of Churches. The fund supports the work at the Interfaith Center and Campus Ministry at SUNY Cortland.



For more information and to sign-up, visit chautauqua5k.com.

UCCNY 2016 Annual Meeting: Rochester, NY June 10-12



This annual meeting was a combined meeting with the Christian Church Disciples of Christ: we each held our annual meetings and conducted business separately, and then came together to hear the keynote speakers and share worship and meals.

The theme of our sessions was “Let Justice Roll...”, from Amos 5:24. Our speaker was Rev. Dr. William Barber. His entire message was on justice, how it is a part of everything we do: it is a very large concept and one I am still working on understanding.

During our worship service on July 10th, all of us who attended Conference this year will take some time to share what we experienced, and the actions that we voted on. There is a whole network of UCC activities and committees that we would like to acquaint you with.

During the proceedings, officers of the Conference were elected. Barbara Wright was voted Secretary of the NY Conference, and Rachel Ditch was elected to be a NY Conference delegate to our national synod for 2017.

My wish for our church is that we become more aware of how our denomination is active in the world; that we could send more representatives to the annual meetings to make more connections with all the programs available to us to revitalize our church and join with others to make a difference.

I hope we will see you all at our July 10th service! -Belinda Burtner

Those in attendance were: Belinda Burtner, Vicki Johnson, Rachel Ditch, Kathleen Waters, Barb Wright, and Peter Wright.

Save the date ...
**Council of Churches Schedules Golf
 Tournament on July 27**

Come and play golf while you support the ministry of The Council of Churches! Wednesday, August 27, Elm Tree Golf Course, with an 8:30 shotgun start, captain and crew. Join us as we honor Dan McNeil, Sr. For more information, contact cortlandchurches@aol.com or 607-753-1002



Pastor Search Committee

The Pastor Search Committee met twice in May and June. Since last month we have met twice and are approximately half way through with writing the church profile. Once it is in a tentative form we hope to make it available for comments prior to finalizing. Our tentative timeline was to complete the profile in August. It will likely be the end of September before we are ready to submit all our documentation. This will put us on a time line to begin receiving candidate profiles in October or November. If all goes as planned we hope have completed the process by spring of 2017 be ready to welcome our new minister. We are still early in the process and are only in Phase II of the eight phases outlined in last month's newsletter.



Committee members are:

Bev Berry, Tracy Bertram, Miles Dudgeon, Chuck Feiszli, Dorothy Hopkins, Kathy McKenna, Lori Schmidt, and Jim Ulrich

**Snack &
 Chat**

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



Motorized Scooters

Free to a good home: 2 motorized scooters. They've been at the church for quite some time. They are non-operational, but with new batteries and some tender, loving care, they may become usable once again. For more information, see Pastor Kathleen.

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.

Words of Thanks

♥ Thank you to all who supported me, sent cards, and prayed for Peter over the last few months. I appreciate the friendship and love that I feel from my church family.

Sincerely in love,
Jan Jeffers

♥ Thank you to all who helped with Children's Day and the All Church Picnic! Thank you to CEM Committee for your organization/set-up/clean-up/dishes to share; to Gary and Bill for cooking the hot dogs; to Joe and the choir for their help with This Little Light of Mine music; and to Tracy for organizing a fun kickball game (despite the cold wind!).

Carol Costell Corbin

♥ I would like to thank the congregation for all of their prayers and support during my recent surgery. I also appreciated all of the kind words I received regarding the ending of my position as Youth Fellowship Coordinator. It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a loving church family.

Sincerely,
Sherri Masterson

♥ To all of my friends at Homer Congregational Church,

Thank you all for the beautiful service and reception for my retirement at the end of May. I so appreciate the cards, gifts, and kind words you gave me. I will always think of you fondly and wish the best for you and what is to come.

Donna Piotti



♥ Special thanks to all who participated in our Adult Choir this year. By sharing your gifts and your dedication, you have enriched our worship of God.

Jim Schultes, organist; Joe Ford, Director of Music; Members: Jeanne Brohard, Pat Buchholz, Belinda Burtner, Jean Cadwallader, Chuck Feiszli, Ingrid Fox,

Bonnie Haaland, Sylvia Hammond, Andrea Harzog, Steven Jones, Dottie Kelley, Marilyn Miller, Elaine Olsen, and Jim Ulrich.



The Deacon's Bench



**Every second brings a fresh beginning,
Every hour holds a new promise,
Every night our dreams can bring hope and
Every day is what you choose to make it.**

A NEW MISSION

As announced on June 12th during service, the Homer Nursery School is going to become a mission of the Homer Congregational Church. This vibrant pre-school program will be overseen by a committee of the Homer Congregational Church. The committee will consist of 1 Deacon, 1 Trustee, 2 at large Homer Congregational Church members and 3 parents of children attending the school. The teachers will become part of our church staff. There are plans to update the rooms with new flooring and paint. We look forward to providing a valuable service to our community and supporting some of our youngest people.

WORSHIP

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

Come enjoy Sunday Worship services out on our front lawn July 17th, and August 7th. Bring a chair and a friend for these relaxing summer services on the Green.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Committee is currently working diligently on our church's profile. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue this important work.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Although our Sunday School has concluded, Vacation Bible School/Chautauqua preparations continue. This exciting event is August 1-7, 2016. There will be something for both children and adults. If you are interested helping please contact Mark Bertram: markbertram@hotmail.com or 753-8452.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Deacons and Pastor Kathleen continue go through the Active Membership Roll, contacting members by phone. We have gone through about 1/3 of the membership roll. We are reconnecting with members and reconfirming membership in the Homer Congregational Church.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

The Personnel Committee and Pastor Kathleen welcome Shelia Shea as our Church Administrator. 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. If you find yourself at the church, stop by and say hello to Sheila. The Personnel Committee and Pastor Kathleen would also like to welcome Rachel Ditch as Director of Christian Education. 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 seminary. 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.

Keeping Confidences

Stephen Ministry



Confidentiality, as you may have read or heard before, is a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry. What a care receiver says to his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strictest confidence. Even the identity of a care receiver is kept secret (unless the care receiver chooses to tell someone). Confidentiality gives care receivers the reassurance they need so that they can risk revealing to their Stephen Ministers their deepest thoughts and feelings, details they might not be able to discuss with anyone else. It is through the sharing of innermost feelings that God can work the miracle of healing, restoring faith and hope to care receivers' lives. Without the assurance of confidentiality, most care receivers would have a difficult time opening up, which would impede the healing process.

How does this relate to you, as a member of Homer Congregational Church? Even if you are not a Stephen Minister, think about the importance of confidentiality in your day-to-day relationships. Consider how you can improve relationships and help people's personal healing by maintaining confidentiality when something is told to you. When someone shares a personal feeling, a thought that is troubling him or her, or something for which he or she might feel guilty, it can be very tempting to pass that information along to someone. Even when motives are noble (for instance, wanting to pass the information along as a prayer request), it could be

damaging or painful to the person who first shared the information. If you really believe it is something that needs to be passed along – to a prayer chain, pastor, Stephen Leader, or someone else who could help – tell that to the person who shared it. Explain why you believe others should know, and encourage him or her to pass it along to the appropriate person(s). Or get permission from the individual for you to share the information yourself.

You also can play a part in helping our Stephen Ministry remain confidential. If you hear through the grapevine who a particular Stephen Minister's care receiver might be (because a care receiver has revealed this, for example), remember the Stephen Ministers' pledge to confidentiality and the important reasons for it. Refrain from asking a Stephen Minister about the caring relationship or from making comments or observations (however helpful they might appear) about someone you suspect is a care receiver. It puts a Stephen Minister in a very difficult spot when someone asks about a care receiver (whether or not it even is the Stephen Minister's care receiver). If you have a question about how a possible care receiver might be doing, ask that person him – or herself. A personal expression of concern from you probably would make that person feel good and would show that someone else really cared.

Confidentiality is a standard of conduct all of us need to live by – not just those involved in our Stephen Ministry. Confidentiality promotes trust, builds one another up, and encourages healing in a Christian community. As Solomon says in Proverbs 12:18: "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

If you would like more information about our Stephen Ministry please contact one of our Stephen Leaders:

- Belinda Burtner 756-2454
- Bill Masterson 345-4874

Senior Fellowship Club

Next meeting: September 13

The Senior Fellowship Club met on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 amidst flowers and flags in celebration of Flag Day. We welcomed and presented Rachel Ditch to the club and are delighted that she will be assisting us with future programs. Rachel opened our meeting with a prayer for all the victims of the terrible shooting in Orlando. We then paid tribute to Doc Potter on his forthcoming 98th(WOW)birthday and naturally sang Happy Birthday to him.

In honor of "Flag Day" we reviewed its history. The idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the flag is believed to have originated in 1885 when a schoolteacher in a Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School arranged for his pupils to observe June 14th (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of the Stars and Stripes)as "Flag Birthday" or "Flag Day". The idea caught fire and other schools began to enthusiastically celebrate "Flag Day". Adults, too, began to participate. President Woodrow Wilson established the day with an official Proclamation in 1916. While "Flag Day" was celebrated in various communities, it was not until 1949 that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as "National Flag Day".

We also recalled that our "Pledge of Allegiance" has undergone several changes since the words were first written. As you know, the addition of the words "under God" in 1954 has never ceased to anger secularists and atheists, and our flag has been reviled, burned, and stamped on by subsequent generations of Americans. Many refused to say the pledge to the flag. Our club members who grew up with reverence and respect for our flag stood up on Tuesday and enthusiastically saluted our flag. We knew all the words too. We then paused to enjoy delectable refreshments prepared by Nita Baldwin, Ann Barnes, and Gwen Hayne. Many thanks, ladies, for the delicious treat.

Jan Jeffers was our special guest and presented an interesting and informative report on "Homer in the 1800's". Jan grew up in Homer and her family background is closely connected to the Village of Homer.



Jan said that the Homer area was originally a military tract of over one million acres to be divided into farm lots and issued to Revolutionary War veterans and enlisted men of the state militia. In 1791 The

Thomas Beebe Family built the first home, a pole cabin near the river. A boulder rests on the corner of No. Main St. and Hooker Ave. in the village the probable site of that cabin. By 1810, Homer had grown to 3,000 inhabitants and the village was chartered in 1835.

Jan discussed several of the earliest homes scattered around the village and pointed out the many stately homes in Homer and their prominent owners. She mentioned the Jebidiah Barber Home on No. Main St. not far from The Great Western Store, Barber's thriving business at the time, the David Harum House, and the "Hedges" on South Main. Jan indicated that Homer was the birthplace of many notable people..Andrew D. White who became President of Cornell University, Amelia Bloomer, Andrew Stoddard who became one of Lincoln's secretaries and Francis B. Carpenter, the famous artist whose homestead was on Rte. 11, just north of the village. His most famous painting is of President Lincoln and his cabinet signing "The Emancipation Proclamation".

Jan related many other stories about early settlers. their homes, their accomplishments, and their descendents. Many thanks to Jan for such a comprehensive and thorough portrayal of "Homer in the 1800's" and reminding us all of Homer's proud legacy.

We will not be meeting during July and August, and I wish you all a wonderful summer respite. Hope we can resume in the fall.

-Submitted by Dottie Kelley

Holiday in Homer July 16th!

It is hard to believe we are less than 30 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.

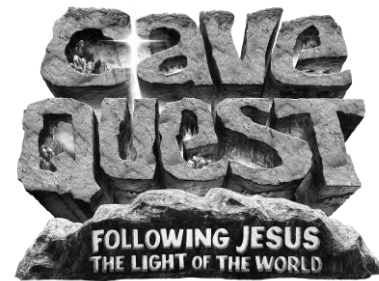
Don and Clay will be working on securing available ad space for our brochure. We have such great

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!

United Church of Christ News

Commentary: Orlando: Anger, Rage and Profound Grief

Written by John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ



The United Church of Christ deplores the violence that ended the lives of 49 beautiful people this past weekend. Even more intolerable is the apparent motive to target members of the LGBTQ community, who continue to live with the fear of ever present danger.

Especially concerning to the United Church of Christ are those brands and expressions of Christianity that demonize the LGBTQ community. When religion is used as a shield for homophobia, and when religious leaders spew forth hatred, judgment and condemnation: they create a context in which such violence is cultivated.

We want to express our profound grief on behalf of those friends and family members most affected by this violence; and who in the days to come will either be burying loved ones or attending to their physical and emotional wounds.

But what we feel and wish to express goes far beyond deep grief. There is also enormous anger and profound rage that once again beautiful and innocent people have been violated in this horrible way; and that homophobia continues to threaten the safety and sanctity of another person's right to pursue happiness.

The United Church of Christ again calls for America to act swiftly to produce gun legislation that lowers the risk that someone with an agenda, a distorted view of humanity, a proclivity for violence, and access to automatic weapons can wreak such havoc and destroy so many lives.

We are fast growing numb to the experience of processing our collective grief around these mass murders. Political and civic leaders across this country must galvanize our grief and anguish and take direct action to regulate a gun industry that has grown far too powerful.

Likewise, religious leaders must stop hiding behind archaic and abusive renderings of their sacred writings as the rationale for their homophobia. We know enough now to see that such beliefs do not reflect the will of the one we call Holy. We know enough now to understand that homophobia, racism, violence against women, sexism, xenophobia and other means of stigmatizing and discriminating against people who are different are all connected. We know enough now to declare that all God's children are beautiful and beloved. A Christianity that suggests anything less than that is no longer defensible, and must accept some culpability for any action meant to do harm to or perpetrate violence against any gay, lesbian, transgender, or bisexual person.

2016 July 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.

Sunday, July 3 **9:30 am**
7th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Our focus reminds us that ordinary people, including such unexpected prophets as children, minister to us in unexpected ways. We too, can be "unexpected prophets" - caring for others not only in dramatic actions, but also in small and simple ways. We are sent out to spread the good news of God's reign of justice and peace to those we meet every day. What supplies do we need for our journey and ministry?

Lectionary Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6: 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sunday, July 10 **9:30 am**
8th Sunday after Pentecost

Using the theme of the recent Annual Meeting of the New York Conference, UCC, "Let Justice Roll" Peter Wright, Belinda Burtner, and Kathleen Waters will guide our time of worship. See Amos 5:24.

Lectionary Scripture: Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

Sunday, July 19 **9:30 am**
9th Sunday after Pentecost



Plan to be with us this Sunday as the **Homer United Methodist Church** joins us in a worship experience on the Green.

Our focus text will be Luke 10:25-37, the Story of the Good Samaritan. This story reminds us that people on the edges of the society in which the gospel was written - the outcasts, the lonely, the sick, women, and children - are all recipients of God's gracious love. Following our time of worship we will gather together for food and fellowship.

Lectionary Scripture: Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, July 24 **9:30 am**
10th Sunday after Pentecost

The **Rev. Dr Roger Martin** will be our guest preacher. Roger recently retired as the pastor of Faith United Church in Oswego, NY and Registrar of the Oneida Association of the NY Conference, UCC. This congregation is a "united" congregation sharing membership in both the United Church of Christ and Presbyterian Church (USA). Roger is an ordained PC(USA) minister.

Lectionary Scriptures: Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13

Sunday, July 31 **9:30 am**
11th Sunday after Pentecost

Our "Fifth" Sunday worship experience will focus on the assimilation of the Homer Nursery School as part of our mission.

Lectionary Scripture: Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 52; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

Miss a Sunday and want to review the bulletin? Go to 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.

Find us online!

HCC website - homercc.com

Follow Homer Congregational Church on facebook!

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

Office email: office@homercc.org

Pastor email: pastor@homercc.org

Financial Secretary email: finsect@homercc.org

Andrea Herzog email: treasurer@homercc.org

Rachel Ditch email: christianed@homercc.org

WORSHIP
SCHEDULE
for July

Deacon Worship Leader:

Belinda Burtner

Trustee Verifier

Becky Jones

July 3 @ 9:30 am

Ushers & Greeters –
Liturgists – Sylvia Hammond
Acolytes – Abbey Elkins, Elijah Smith
Flowers –
Nursery – Ingrid Fox, Molly Ulrich
Coffee Hour – Clay Benedict, Elaine Olson

July 10 @ 9:30 am

Ushers & Greeters –
Liturgists – Peter Wright
Acolytes – Kyle Wright, Jack Bertram
Flowers – Carl Applegate
Nursery – Susan Benedict, Heather O'Hara
Coffee Hour – Belinda Burtner, Bonnie Haaland

July 17 @ 9:30 am

Worship on the green

Ushers & Greeters –
Liturgist – Rachel Ditch
Acolytes – Maddy Dermott, Justin Dermott
Flowers – Ingrid Fox
Nursery – Lori Schmidt, Molly Ulrich
Coffee Hour – Ingrid Fox, Janice Bacon

July 24 @ 9:30 am

Ushers & Greeters –
Liturgists – Carl Applegate
Acolytes – Caoimhe Dudgeon, Sophia Wright
Flowers –
Nursery – Sheila Shea, Phil Zollweg, Abby Elkins
Coffee Hour – Sylvia Hammond, Dorothy Kelley

July 31 @ 9:30 am

Ushers & Greeters –
Liturgists – Elaine Olsen
Acolytes – Grace Wright, Kenian Ulrich
Flowers –
Nursery – Ingrid Fox, Grace Wright
Coffee Hour – *No coffee hour: Chautauqua*



July Birthdays

2 Alexander Bell
4 Jane Ann Fisher
5 Carol Agate
7 Elizabeth Rumsey,
Delaney Smith
8 Bradley Adams
11 Amanda Oechsle
15 Jenelle Pedersen
16 Betsy Root, Suzanne Riley
17 Miles Dudgeon
18 Brody Urban
19 Beverly Johnson
21 Russell Perkins
22 Phyllis Wainman
26 Sharon Wainman
31 Alex Feiszli

Excuse our mess:

The front steps to the sanctuary, along with the memorial garden retaining wall are being replaced

From the Treasurer:

Operating Revenues at 5/31/16 -
\$90,161, 41.6% of budget

Operating Expenses at 5/31/16 -
\$80,336, 37.1% of budget