



On April 6, 2014, the members of Homer Congregational Church voted to become an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ. Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Churches also commit to welcoming people of all descriptions.

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

Secretary:

Kathy McKenna

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

Church Staff

Interim Minister:

Rev. Dr. Kathleen Waters

Director of

Christian Education:

Rachel Ditch

Sexton:

Gary Harrington

Church Administrator:

Sheila Shea



Member Recognition Sunday on October 16

For 23 years, we have honored longtime church members on a Sunday in October, the approximate anniversary of the formal founding of Homer Congregational Church over 200 years ago. This year we will honor the following members during worship and reception afterwards.

Please join in these celebrations of our church family.

40 years

Roger Schultz (joined October 3, 1976)

Bradley Adam (joined June 6, 1976)

50 years

Gary Niese (joined April 3, 1966)

Jeanne Brohard (joined April 3, 1966)

Jane Morenus (joined June 5, 1966)

Phyllis Adams (joined June 5, 1966)

70+ years

Frances Armstrong (joined May 6, 1944)

Carleton Potter (joined January 2, 1944)

Jaffrey Harris (joined May 2, 1943)

Barbara Hale (joined May 2, 1943)

Don Lawson (joined May 2, 1943)

Esther Twentyman (joined May 5, 1935)



Additional Weekly Worship opportunity offered!

Beginning October 2, World Communion Sunday, a short Sunday morning Prayer Service will be offered in the sanctuary from 8:30 - 9:00 AM. It will be led by Pastor Kathleen and the first Sunday of the month will provide the celebration of Holy Communion. All are welcome.

Walk to End Alzheimer's: Please consider either walking on **October 1st**, at Long Branch Park in Syracuse, making an individual donation, or giving to one of our teams, Little York Walkers (Dora and Becky Jones), or Team Brave Dave (Bonnie Smith and her family) towards this worthy goal of working to end Alzheimer's. You can access the web site at <http://www.alz.org> and then search for Walk to End Alzheimer's. Any participation or donation is very much appreciated.

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.



There will be a special offering on **October 2** for **Neighbors in Need**, a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice

initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Donations can also be made online at <http://ucc.org/nin>.

New mailing address: The church has added a mailbox to the grounds and is now receiving mail here. Our PO box will be discontinued. Please use our street address for all future communication: 28 South Main Street, Homer, NY 13077

Youth Group in October

If you are in the 7th –12th grade, you're invited to join the Homer Congregational Church Youth Group! We are still determining a regular meeting pattern, so keep an eye out and check in with Rachel often. Friends are not only welcome, but encouraged to join in the fun!!

The events will be listed in the monthly newsletter and weekly church bulletins and Rachel will talk with you during Sunday School each week.

Sunday, October 16th – Stoughton Farm Corn MAiZE! We'll depart after worship for Newark Valley, NY. Bring \$13.00 for Admission, and we'll work our way through the corn maze before going on a hay ride and enjoying a jump pillow (weather permitting on the pillow).

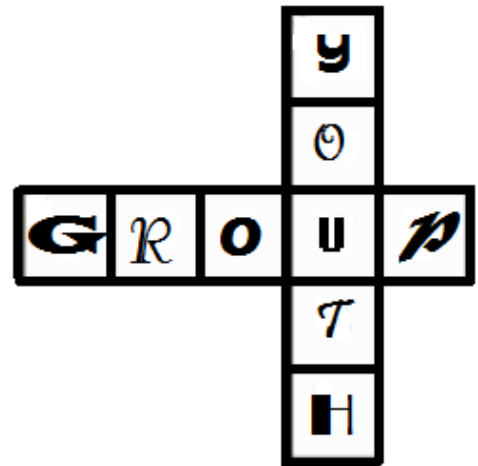
Sunday, October 23rd – The CROP Walk begins at 1pm! Don't miss out!

Sunday, October 30th - Mini Golf (Rain or Shine!)

We will meet at the Cortland Mini Golf at 12:30 and carry on the tradition of playing a game of mini golf and then walking over to the A&W for Root Beer Floats. If it is too cold or looks like rain, we'll go to the indoor course.

It's Halloween! Are you brave enough to wear a Halloween Costume while we golf? Tell your friends!!!

Mark your calendars! November 12th is our Spaghetti Dinner & Time and Talent Auction!





Christian Education at HCC

Opportunities for Education (Some Spiritual, Some Not)

After careful consideration and research, a new curriculum, *Living the Good News*, was purchased to assist us in our continued spiritual growth. Our new curriculum follows the lectionary, and we're implementing it across a few arenas in the church! Weekly opportunities for education are bountiful, and we hope to begin adding more opportunity to ensure that there is spiritual nurture for everyone. We have three children and youth classes available for Sunday School from 9:30-10:15 on Sunday mornings. Kindergarten to 2nd grade is with Carol Costell Corbin, and 3rd to 6th grade is with Tracy Bertram. These classes are located in the classrooms on the second floor of Jones Hall. 7th to 12th graders meet with Rachel Ditch in the basement of Jones Hall, in the Youth Center.

For adult learners, Pastor Kathleen and Barb Wright are taking on leadership of The Well, which meets from 9:15 to 10:15 each Sunday morning in the Board Room. Our new curriculum purchase provides us with a lesson plan each week. Thursdays offer Bible Study, guided by Leslie Wright, and you can join each week in the Board Room at 11:30 AM.

Join **Senior Fellowship** on **October 11th at 2pm**. James Hopkins from Edward Jones will be joining to present information for avoiding phone and email scams we can all fall prey to. Help to secure your resources and your safety, and come hear what James has to offer.

October 30th, immediately after worship, Dr. Bob Spitzer will join us and share his insights about the significance of this November's Presidential Election. We'll begin our lecture and conversation with Dr. Spitzer at **11:45 in the Russell Fellowship Room**. Dr. Spitzer is a Distinguished Professor and the Chair of the Political Science Department at SUNY Cortland.

Opportunities for Mission and Fellowship

CROP Walk! CROP Walk! CROP Walk!

Join fellow Homer Congregational Church members as we raise money and walk in the name of food for everyone. 25% of the funds raised stays right here in Cortland County; 75% is sent to help in sustainable food efforts around the world! So, register for the CROP Walk and help us feed those in our local and global communities who need assistance. **The Walk is October 23rd at 1pm**. Due to the fire and rebuilding at Grace and Holy Spirit Church, our gathering location is yet to be announced.



An online account for the church has been set up, and people can register and join the team here: <http://bit.ly/hcccropwalk2016>.

Don't forget to gather sponsors! You can find a CROP Walk packet from the Sunday School teachers, or send people to <http://bit.ly/hcccropwalkdonate>, and they can make an online donation.

THE DEACON'S BENCH

*Alone we can do so little; together
we can do so much.*

-Helen Keller

WORSHIP

On World Communion Sunday, October 2nd, two services will be offered. The first service is an early Prayer Service from 8:30-9:00 am. It will be led by Pastor Kathleen and Holy Communion will be celebrated. The second service is our regular service at 10:30 and Holy Communion will also be celebrated.

NEW MISSIONS

The Homer Nursery School is bustling with 22 children enrolled this school year. The Homer Nursery School can now be found on the Homer Congregational Church web site. Applications for this great pre-school program can be found at a link on the Homer Nursery School page. Homer Nursery School staff are having an open house for the congregation after worship on October 23. Please plan to stop in and greet the staff and see the lovely improvements to that space.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Our Local Church Profile has been posted on the New York Conference, United Church of Christ web site. The Pastor Search Committee has received the first pastor profiles and has begun to review them. The committee expects many more profiles in the coming weeks. Please keep the committee in your prayers as they



continue this important work. Updates of the Committee's progress are given during service on the last Sunday of each month.

STEWARDSHIP

The Deacons almost have our 2017 budget prepared with hopes of releasing it to the congregation this month.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Pastor Kathleen and Deacons continue to go through the Active Membership Roll, contacting members by phone. In addition, the Deacons will be sending out letters reaching out to members who have not been heard from or seen in two years checking on their spiritual wellbeing. We are reconnecting with members and reconfirming membership in the Homer Congregational Church.

KEEP THE DATES

- October 16th - Membership Recognition Sunday
- October 23rd - Crop Walk

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



Dear Board of Deacons, Thank you for the gift of the fleece blanket. I really appreciate all of the support I have received from my church family over the years. - Logan Schmidt

Dear members of the Congregational Church: We would like to say thank you. Thank you for the new rugs. They are very beautiful and change the whole look of the room. It looks wonderful. Thank you to those of you who have dropped off various toys to help us out. Thank you to those of you who helped empty the classrooms so that the rugs could go in. Thank you to Doris, Pete and Gary for helping us move everything back into the classrooms. Your generous support means so much. Thank you all. -Lisa Clark and Sarah Bouwens

News from the UCC NY Conference:

October is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**. During the month, the Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams, Associate Conference Minister for Clergy and Authorized Ministry Concerns, will be hosting a series of online gatherings for cancer survivors and those who are still battling. She is calling the series, "Sisters 4 Sisters." The meetings will take place using the online platform, ZOOM, at different times each Thursday, in an effort to include as many as possible.

"By God's grace, we are all survivors; let's take this opportunity to gather in support and solidarity." -Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams

OCTOBER IS
BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH



October 6, - 10:00 am

October 13 - 3:00 pm

October 20 - 5:00 pm

To attend, visit: <http://bit.ly/sisters4sisters>

Our **Homer Nursery School** is up and running with twenty-two energetic and happy students enrolled. Thanks be to God!!!! To provide for these precious children we have hired an addition staff person, Jennifer McMasters. Welcome Jennifer. If you haven't been by to see the refurbished rooms stop in, you will be amazed. The staff would like to have an open house for the congregation after worship on **October 23**. Please plan to stop in and greet the staff and see the lovely improvements to that space. A special thanks to Chuck Feiszli and Gary Harrington for their coordination of having the carpets installed.

Please Help Support Youth Fellowship's Spaghetti Dinner!

If you would like to donate items to help with the cost of the dinner, the following items would be greatly appreciated. Please sign up for items in the Russell Fellowship Room before purchasing items.

Money donations: to purchase items at Cortland Produce.

25 pounds of thin spaghetti

(no other varieties, please)

3 gallons of 2% milk

1 quart half and half

125 napkins

2 large Parmesan Cheese

Three 24 oz Italian Salad Dressing

One Ranch 24 oz Salad Dressing

Assorted desserts

Save the date! November 12:



TIME &
Talent
Auction

All donations are needed by the **morning of Nov. 11, please.**

Trustees Corner

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday evening, September 20th for the monthly board meeting and continued to make progress on a variety of church issues. The board has been working with the Board of Deacons on personnel issues and the Homer Nursery School mission. The following issues were covered:



- The Personnel Committee finalized the Homer Nursery School Director's Job Description and the boards have approved it. We continue to work with the Deacons to develop the procedures to help the Nursery School run smoothly and be the best mission it can be.
- New flooring the Nursery School rooms has been installed and paid for. Thanks to all who helped move furniture! That was a great group effort.
- The church front steps have been installed and paid for! Homer Iron Works will be installing the railings soon.
- We also continue to work on better ways to communicate among ourselves and with our community. We are still accepting responses to our questionnaire about electronic newsletter delivery. We have received 33 responses, so far. Thanks to those who have replied. Please get yours into the office, if you haven't yet responded; we need to hear from every one. Electronic versions of the newsletter are likely to begin in October.
- The board discussed a draft of the 2017 budget and hopes to make that available to the Congregation for review in October; a final version will be approved at our Annual Meeting in February.

The Sunday sermon was a nice reminder that we all have different talents and different capacities to help out, but each of us can make a difference. The people on the boards continue to consider various fund raisers and opportunities for outreach and mission; 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

Adult class invitation (The Well): A new offering for our adults will take place each Sunday morning in the Board room from 9:15 - 10:15. During this time we will explore the focus texts of the morning worship service and reflect on how we might apply principles contained in those texts to our daily life experiences. All are welcome. Pastor Kathleen and the Rev. Barbara Wright will be guiding the class.

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 at 607-345-986.

*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.

2016 October Worship

Beginning in October a Prayer Service will be offered on Sunday mornings from 8:30 - 9:00 AM and worship with music at 10:30 AM. 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, October 2

World Communion Sunday



World
Communion
Sunday was
begun on
November 1,

1936 by a group of ministers who viewed Holy Communion as an opportunity to unite Christians throughout the world. The Reverend Barbara Wright will join Pastor Kathleen in guiding our time of worship and preach. Barbara has deep roots in this church having served as the Church Secretary for many years and was ordained as a UCC pastor through HCC. She is married to Peter Wright, son of Eugene and Leslie Wright. The *Neighbor in Need* offering will be received.

Sunday, October 9

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Our gathering this Sunday will focus on the many ways in which God's love takes the ordinary and transforms to something very extraordinary. Isaiah 43:18-19a states, ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

In witness to the ways God's love transforms, following the sermon Belinda Burtner and Vicki Johnson will be exchanging their vows of marriage. There is always a time in our worship experience when "GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND." Our response on this Sunday will be in affirmation of the expression of God's love through Belinda and Vicki.

Sunday, October 16

*22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Membership Recognition Sunday*

In each of this week's passages the longing for justice and the coming of God's way of living is palpable. For those who hope for peace and justice both things can seem a long time in coming. But as the passage in Jeremiah reminds us, "The days are surely coming." Our longtime church members will be honored during the worship service. Please join us for this celebration of our church family. See: Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8.

Sunday, October 23

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Through the parable for this Sunday Jesus teaches not only about prayer, but also about justice and worship. In worship and prayer, justice is important. All are welcomed in God's presence, whatever their stations in life. (See Luke 18:9-14). We will also commission our CROP walkers.



Sunday, October 30

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Fifth Sunday - expect the unexpected
On the eve of the presidential election, we will explore how taking sides are built and walls are removed. We will also celebrate the Baptism of Gavin Shea Zollweg.



WORSHIP
SCHEDULE
for September

Deacon Worship Leader:

Bill Masterson

Trustee Verifier

Eugene Wright

October 2 @ 10:30 am

Ushers & Greeters – Pete & Barb Wright,

Bev Berry & Anne Wingard

Liturgists – Barbara Wright,

Kathleen Waters

Acolytes – Maddy Dermott, Heather O'Hara

Flowers –

Nursery – Jenelle Pedersen

Coffee Hour – Sue Urban

October 9 @ 10:30 am

Ushers & Greeters – Karen & Miles

Dudgeon, Kathy & Jim McKenna

Liturgists – Bill Masterson

Acolytes – Olivia Harrington, Elijah Smith

Flowers – Bonnie Haaland

Nursery – Lori Schmidt

Coffee Hour –

October 16 @ 10:30 am

Ushers & Greeters – Pete & Doris Hoffman,

Kurt & Lori Schmidt

Liturgist – Kathy McKenna

Acolytes – Luke Bertram, Grace Wright

Flowers – Dora Jones

Nursery – Susan Urban

Coffee Hour – Deacons (Member

Recognition)

October 23 @ 10:30 am

Ushers & Greeters – Bonnie & Elijah Smith,

Joanne Cincotta, Sherri Masterson

Liturgists – Jim McKenna

Acolytes – Alex Bertram, Jack Bertram

Flowers – Sylvia Hammond

Nursery – Anne Wingard

Coffee Hour – Ingrid Fox, Tracy Bertram

October 30 @ 9:30 am

Ushers & Greeters – The Bertram Family

Liturgists – Ingrid Fox

Acolytes – Caiomhe Dudgeon, Kyle Wright

Flowers – Shirley Osterhoudt

Nursery – Susan Benedict

Coffee Hour – The Harrington Family



October Birthdays

- 1 Kathleen Alvord,
 Connie Applegate
- 2 Virginia Knobel
- 5 Steven Cinquanti,
 Linda Lansdowne
- 6 Avis Gysel
- 8 Nancy Hopkins
- 9 Tracy Durkee
- 10 Russell Oechsle
- 11 Randy Weatherby,
 Donald VanSlyke
- 12 Garrett Mead
- 13 Nicholas Dentes
- 15 Jacob Durkee,
 Christopher Root,
 Muriel Newcomb
- 17 Lynn Olcott
- 19 Robert Gay
- 21 Lindsey Raymond
- 23 Olivia Harrington
- 24 Paul Root, Marc Settineri
- 28 Frances Armstrong

From the Treasurer:

- Operating Revenues at 8/31/16:
 \$137,377, 63.4% of budget
- Operating Expenses at 8/31/16:
 \$135,721, 62.6% of budget