



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



Thank you for contributing to the Walk to End Alzheimer's!

Team Brave Dave (Bonnie Smith and family) and the Little York Walkers (Dora and Becky Jones and Keith Palm) want to thank you for your charitable donations to the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Due to donations from our church family,

our friends and family, and our own donations, the Little York Walkers raised \$595 for this worthy cause. Thank you all for your support.

Dear Church Family

We feel blessed to call this church home. We are so grateful for the support & care we received as we celebrated our vows of marriage on Oct. 9th. Truly our lives were transformed by the spirit of God, so present at Homer Congregational Church.

With love, Belinda & Vicki Burtson

Dear Friends from Homer Congregational Church

Thank you for your generous gift of \$960.57 to Heifer International. Your desire to help others will build hope for future generations. Families in countries where we work like Bangladesh, Guatemala and Malawi, who once struggled with hunger and poverty, now have the livestock and training they need to improve their farms. With your commitment and their hard work, they are no their way to building lives of self-reliance and dignity, uplifting entire communities in the process. Thank you for choosing Heifer International and helping us to make a better world, one family at a time.

Sincerely, Pierre U. Ferrari, President & CEO of Heifer International

Dear Kathleen and Deacons from Homer Congregational Church

I just wanted to express my deep gratitude for your generous gift (\$500) to the New York School of Ministry. We are depositing it into the scholarship account, so that when we have participants who struggle to pay course fees, we can ease their way with financial aid. This gift will strengthen the ministry in a number of New York congregations. Thanks for invigorating the Body of Christ!

With blessings, Marjorie Purine, NY School of Ministry

Dear Members of the Homer Congregational UCC

Thank you for your 2015 contribution of \$10,000 for basic support of our Church's Wider Mission.

-John C. Derhauer, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ

Thank you to the Members of Homer Congregational Church for being a "5 for 5 Congregation" of the United Church of Christ in 2015. Five for 5 Congregations support our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and the Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church Special Mission offerings of the United Church of Christ.

-John C. Derhauer, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ

Help Wanted! The **Homer Nursery School** is looking to hire a Teacher's Aide, approximately 9 hrs. per week, Tues, Wed, and Thurs. mornings. The description is on homercc.com. To apply, please send resumes to lclark82@twcny.rr.com. For more info, call (607) 749-6753.

Homer Nursery School Fundraiser

Homer Nursery School will be having a fund raiser to help with the increasing cost of doing business. It will begin November 1, through Coffee Mania. There will be an order form on the bulletin board in the nursery school room, near the bathrooms. If you would like to participate, please use that form to sign up for your favorite coffee. Checks can be made out to Homer Congregational Church and left with order forms in the envelope next to the signup forms. The deadline is November 29 and you will receive your product approximately 10 days later. When ready for pickup, your order will be placed on the tables in the nursery school, labeled with your name, to be picked up after Sunday worship. If you would like your own order form or you have questions, please contact Lisa Clark at (607) 749-6753. Thank you for your help. - The teachers at Homer Nursery School

Hanging of the Greens

The annual Hanging of the Greens will be held on *Sunday, November 27*, during and following the service. Please plan to be with us for worship and decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. More information will be provided in bulletins and Weekday Words as the event gets closer.



Stewardship 2016

The Stewardship Committee is dedicating November 13th as Stewardship Sunday. Stewardship can take the form of time, talents, and financial commitment. We hope that everyone will consider how they can "Go and Do the Same" (Luke 10:37) to make our church a continued home for our spiritual growth and outreach to our communities through mission work. Pledge cards were mailed to our church family, and also are available in the church office. Please join us on the 13th, as we bring our pledges forward during the service. If you are unable to attend on that date, you can mail your pledge card to the church office or bring it on any Sunday. Stewardship Committee - Gary Harrington, Bill Masterson, Kurt Schmidt, Susan Benedict, Cindy Stout

Spaghetti Dinner & Time and Talent Auction

Nov 12th at 5PM, Auction to begin at 6 pm, hosted by our Youth group and Sunday School children in grades 3 and up. Please help support our youth!

Donations for 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. **We will need all items no later than the morning of November 11th please!**

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

One French 24 oz. Salad Dressing

Assorted desserts



TIME &
Talent
Auction

Time and Talent Auction

Please consider donating an item to be auctioned -- Handmade items, homemade dinners, or donations of time to clean/paint/teach a new skill! Get creative! Contact Carol Costell Corbin with any questions (carol.costellcorbin@gmail.com 607-351-5757). Proceeds from the Time and Talent auction go to Christian Education Ministry and will help offset the cost of our newly purchased Sunday School curriculum.



November is upon us! I am enjoying the turning of the leaves with their bright colors cascading over our beautiful region.

Our Sunday School continues with our Living the Good News Curriculum. The kids have been learning some great lessons; recently we talked about the power of prayer, we explored how just a little faith can transform the world in major ways, and we learned about ways we can be spiritually active. Carol Costell Corbin and Tracy Bertram are doing a wonderful job as teachers, and I am grateful to those who have stepped in the help when needed. We're still in need of one or two substitute teachers, so if you're available on Sunday mornings at 9:30 and have a gift with young people, please let me know.

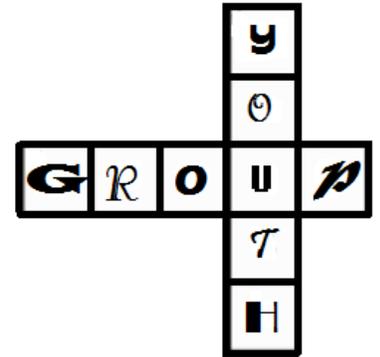
We had 12 volunteers complete Reduce the Risk training in October. Our time consisted of fruitful discussion as we explored ways we can work together to make our church safer for everyone while maintaining our welcoming community. You may not have heard, but we have an updated curriculum! If you've been hesitant to sit through another boring 1980s VHS, fear not. If none of the October options worked for you, be watching your email for a special offering. My hope is that the Reduce the Risk trainings will be offered quarterly to accommodate newcomers to the church who hope to be involved in our youth and children programs.

I'm gearing up for our November and December activities; The Spaghetti Dinner on November 12th, the Hanging of the Greens on November 27th, the Children's Pageant on December 11th, and then we're to Christmas! It seems time is flying by, and I hope we'll all have the opportunity to enjoy all that our church has to offer.

Peace to you,
Rachel

Youth Group in November

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.

November 6 – Youth Group Gathering happens from 7:00 – 8:00 PM in the basement of Jones Hall.

Board games and conversation!

November 12 – SATURDAY, 5PM – Spaghetti Dinner and Time and Talent Auction

November 13 – No Youth Group Gathering at 7 PM

November 27- Hanging of the Greens during and after worship! Stay after and we'll have some fun preparing the sanctuary for Advent!



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Cortland County Council of Churches invites the faith community of Cortland County to gather for a Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, **November 20** beginning at **7 PM**. The service will be held at the **Interfaith Center**, 7 Calvert Street, Cortland. Bring your neighbors and friends and plan to join us!

Senior Fellowship Club: September/October/November Meetings, from Dottie Kelley

The Senior Fellowship Club resumed its regular meetings on Tuesday, September 13th after our summer recess. Twenty-six members gathered, and all seemed to have that “back to school” anticipation of new beginnings. We opened our meeting with a prayer commemorating the unforgettable and tragic events of 9/11 and the inspiring and magnificent acts of heroism that took place that day. Few of us have ever been “tested” in that way. We listened to some humorous sayings with a political bent and also some jokes and readings sent to me by members of our group. Our group is always so cooperative and great. Incidentally, **we would love to have some New Members** and invite all seniors to join us. We know you are out there.

Bill Hopkins was our special guest in September and gave a fascinating and enlightening program on Alzheimer's, stressing the importance of a person-centered approach when caring for those affected by the disease. As we age, the communication between neurons gets slower, and it becomes harder to find stuff we have stored away. Alzheimer's starts in the part of the brain that deals with short-term memories (STM). New information does not get into short-term memory. Bill said that it is not that people forget what they have been told or have just learned; the information just doesn't get in and is not processed. The processing pieces are damaged; they don't work and never will. No amount of repetition to the patient will get the information in; you will become frustrated and also the patient. People with Alzheimer's, however, remember elements of their past, and their “emotional” memory appears to be operating to various degrees. This is very important to remember when caring for an Alzheimer's patient. Bill added that it is good to remember that behavior is a form of communication. What is the patient trying to communicate to you? Do not rush an Alzheimer's patient to respond or suggest a word that you think they are trying to remember. Bill enumerated many valuable “Do's and Don'ts” in caring for Alzheimer's patients.

Bill's talk was exceptional and informative and he supplied us with valuable hand-outs. He graciously answered many question from our group. We extend a Million Thanks to him!

The beautiful colors of fall were very much in evidence in the RFR as the members of the Senior Fellowship Club gathered on Tuesday, October 11th. Thanks to Pat Signor, Marilyn Miller and Nita Baldwin for lending us their artistic talents and creating a lovely and decorative scene.

We then welcomed our special guest, Jim Hopkins, from Edward Jones who presented a very comprehensive and informative program about “scams”. Jim presented each of us with an extremely helpful participant workbook containing a wealth of information to help prevent becoming a victim of scams and frauds. He mentioned that incidents of fraud are on the rise, and scammers' tactics are becoming more complex. Jim pointed out how to spot certain “red flags” that may indicate a fraudulent encounter and he described many scenariosThe Grandparent Scam, the Collection Scam, the Friend or Fraud Scheme, and Lottery and Sweepstakes Scams. We had great audience participation with people sharing their personal experiences with phone scams and e-mails.

To prevent becoming victims, Jim suggested the following: Do not provide personal information via the phone, e-mail, the U.S. mail or over the internet unless you know the request is legitimate; shred all personal and financial documents before disposing of them; do not carry your Social Security card or write your number on a check as typically you are only required to do so when dealing with law enforcement or with a government agency or opening new accounts with financial institutions. Jin also cautioned that confidential documents should be kept in a secure location and computer security and virus protection should be kept up to date. He also suggested getting an annual credit report. Jim's presentation was excellent and greatly enjoyed and appreciated and we thank him for sharing his time and expertise with us.

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, NOV. 8TH – ELECTION DAY! Vote early and join us in the RFR at 2:00 p.m. Our guest will be Gail Bundy presenting a program on “Historic Markers.” More information will be forthcoming.

THE DEACON'S BENCH

November comes
And November goes,
With the last red berries
And the first white snows.

With night coming early,
And dawn coming late,
And ice in the bucket,
And frost by the gate.

The fires burn,
And kettle sings,
And the earth sinks
To rest until next spring.
-Anonymous

WORSHIP

There are two services offered each Sunday through December. The first service is an early Prayer Service from 8:30- 9:00 am and led by Pastor Kathleen. The second Service is the full service at 10:30. Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services on the first Sunday of the month.

MISSIONS

During the September 29th Service \$178 was collected for "Neighbors In Need". On October 9th the loose plate part of the offering taken during service was designated for Hurricane Matthew relief. Nearly \$900 dollars were collected.

There is a new face in the Sunday service nursery. Please welcome Sabrina Karito. She is Carli Clementi's substitute on Sundays when Carli cannot be with us.

Come Sing!



The choir is preparing the cantata "Bethlehem's Child" for December 18. The cantata is a mix of traditional Christmas music and original pieces. We will be working on the cantata from 7:30 until 8:00 each Wednesday evening. All are welcome to join us, even if you've never sung with us before and can only join for the cantata rehearsals. Please consider this opportunity to share in the music ministry and to be part of worship during Advent this year!



PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastor Search Committee is receiving pastor profiles and is reviewing them. The committee is beginning to put together questions interviewing candidates. 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.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Pastor Kathleen and the Deacons continue to update the Active Membership Roll. In addition, the Deacons will be sending out letters shortly 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. The Deacons continue to work on meeting everyone's needs in the church.

KEEP THE DATES

November 6th- A special offering will be taken on Communion Sunday, November 6th, to assist the Grace and Holy Spirit church in covering expenses not covered by their insurance. In the late summer, the congregation experienced a fire that caused significant damage.

November 27th- Hanging of the Greens

Plan to stay after Service for a soup and bread lunch provided by CEM after which we will decorate the Sanctuary. This is a great way to get into the spirit of the season.

Trustees Corner

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday evening, October 18th 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 finance. The following issues were covered:



- The Personnel Committee and boards have approved the Homer Nursery School Teacher's Aide Job Description and hired a backup Child Care Coordinator. Please welcome Sarina Karito when you see her.
- We continue to refine policies for donations, credit card usage, and money handling.
- Homer Iron Works will be installing the railings soon and a dedication is being planned.
- We also continue to work on better ways to communicate among ourselves and with our community. Electronic versions of the newsletter are likely to begin in December.
- We have managed to follow the budget quite well throughout 2016, so far. It is not clear how we will finish the year and everyone's continued support is appreciated. Draft 2017 budgets from both boards will be available for review by the end of October. The FRS budget is quite similar to the 2016 budget, but we expect a 3% increase in necessary expenses. Speak with any trustee, if you have questions about the budget; a final version will be approved at our Annual Meeting in January.

We are a great church with a long and rich history and as we move toward calling a new Settled Pastor we are working hard to prepare our buildings, our finances, and hearts for improving our good traditions and developing new ones. Each of us can make a positive difference. The people on the boards continue to consider various fund raisers and opportunities for outreach and mission; your ideas and assistance 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 takes each Sunday morning in the Board room from 9:15 am - 10:15 am. 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 November Worship

A simple Prayer Service is 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. At Homer Congregational Church we believe that children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. A children's bulletin and other supplies are available each Sunday morning.

Sunday, November 6

Prayer Service

8:30 AM

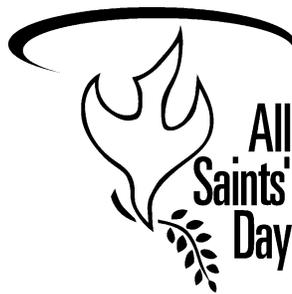
Worship Service

10:30 AM

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration of Holy Communion

All Saints Sunday is a time to celebrate not only historic figures of the church, but also remember the "great cloud of witnesses," those whom we have known and revered as followers of Christ. As we look back we recognize our responsibility to carry out Christ's mission as the living saints of today.



Scripture: Haggai 1:15b-2-9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

Sunday, November 13

Prayer Service

8:30 AM

Worship Service

10:30 AM

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Stewardship Sunday

As a sign of offering our very selves to God, we will be invited to bring our pledge cards forward.



⁴²But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

⁴³Calling his disciples to him,

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Lectionary Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19

Sunday, November 20

Prayer Service

8:30 AM

Worship Service

10:30 AM

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Our focus will be on giving thanks to God. Psalm 100: 4-5 - "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. ⁵For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."



Lectionary Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 100; Philippians 4:4-9; John 6:25-35

Sunday, November 27

Prayer Service

8:30 AM

Worship Service

10:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent

We will begin our new liturgical year with great expectations for hope, joy, peace, and love. Our gospel text reminds us that the people of God are to be ready for the unexpected, and readiness takes preparation. How does such anticipation affect the routine course of the day?

This Sunday's worship will include portions of "Hanging of the Greens" an activity for all ages.

Lectionary Scriptures: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44



WORSHIP
SCHEDULE
for November

Deacon Worship Leader:

Gary Harrington

Trustee Verifier

Chuck Feiszli

November 6 @ 10:30 am

Ushers & Greeters – Belinda & Vicki
Burtson

Liturgists – Andrea Herzog, Heather O'Hara

Acolytes – Luke Bertram, Maddy Dermott

Flowers –

Nursery – Terry Pedersen

Coffee Hour – Edlund Family

November 13 @ 10:30 am

Ushers & Greeters – McKenna Family &
Dudgeon Family

Liturgists – Carl Applegate

Acolytes – Emma Dermott, Jack Bertram

Flowers –

Nursery – Karen Dudgeon

Coffee Hour – Ford Family

November 20 @ 10:30 am

Ushers & Greeters – Bertram Family

Liturgist – Rachel Ditch

Acolytes – Heather O'Hara, Ruairi Dudgeon

Flowers –

Nursery – Darci Gumaer

Coffee Hour – Harrington Family

November 27 @ 10:30 am

Ushers & Greeters – Senior High Fellowship

Liturgists – Various congregants

Acolytes – Justin Dermott, Gwen Cappy

Flowers – Andrea Herzog, in honor of
Heather's birthday

Nursery – Sheila Shea

Coffee Hour – Hanging of the Greens
CEM Soup



November Birthdays

1 Katelyn Lawrence

5 Jean Cadwallader

6 Linsey Etz

7 Alyse Masterson, Richard Seymour

11 Robert Hale

16 Joseph Settineri, Mary Ewing

17 Gwendolyn Hayne

18 William Rumsey, Paula Harrington

19 Dorothy Green

22 Wayne Bacon

26 Barbara Rhudy

28 Marilyn Miller, Stephen Jones

29 Stuart Jones

30 Katrina Allen

From the Treasurer:

- Operating Revenues at 9/30/16:
\$175,089, 80.8% of budget
- Operating Expenses at 9/30/16:
\$173,794, 80.2% of budget

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.

Email Contacts:

Office: office@homercc.org

Pastor: pastor@homercc.org

Financial Secretary: finsect@homercc.org

Treasurer: treasurer@homercc.org

DCE: christianed@homercc.org