



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.

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#### **Church Staff**

*Pastor:*  
Rev. Vicki Burtson

*Director of  
Christian Education:*  
Rev. Rachel Ditch

*Sexton:*  
Gary Harrington

*Church Administrator:*  
Sheila Shea



## *This is what I know... this is what I believe...*

Grace and peace to you, dear family and friends of Homer Congregational United Church of Christ. School is now officially over and the summer schedule is upon us.

This is what I know. Summer brings change. There are new opportunities coming. Change is in the air – change of schedule and change of pace, to name a few. Here at the church, “change” includes:

- July 2, the hour of our worship moves to 9:30 AM on Sunday morning. We hope this allows families to *include* worship in the midst of the summer excursions.
- Our choir takes a break. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find a listing of special music for these summer months. Joe Ford has helped us coordinate a wonderful list of musical opportunities to bless our worship.
- Sunday School is taking a break. Rachel has helped us coordinate our VBS planning, and they are planning to book groups for our children/youth. Details are in this newsletter.
- The PACE of life changes during the summer. It seems fitting to enjoy some quieter time, including some tea and good conversation. We are looking forward to having tea now and again – on Wednesdays at 4 in the Memorial Garden.
- We are more intentional about planning family time. It seems a good time to gather in the Memorial Garden on some Friday evenings to enjoy a church-style Happy Hour. Look for more details about Teas & Happy Hours in these pages.

This is what I believe. The Biblical story of creation provides a blueprint for our living. God did the hard work of creation, called it good and then rested. We must rest, all of us. So, as we think about summer plans let us be good members of the UCC and make a covenant together. Let us promise one another that we will take Sabbath time. Bring the family to church and breathe in the beauty of worship and special music. Be intentional about pausing in the midst of the day to watch butterflies or dragonflies. Take an afternoon and go fishing, or golfing. Sit outside in the evening and listen to the birdsong at the end of the day. Give your soul some Sabbath during these summer months. Allow for gaps in the schedule so that you can observe life. You have permission to emulate the person who said, “Sometimes I sits and thinks, and sometimes I just sits.”

See you in church or around town,  
*Pastor Vicki*



## SUMMER HOURS

**Beginning Sunday, July 2, worship services will begin at 9:30 am.** The regular worship time of 10:30 am will resume on Rally Day, Sunday, September 10.

## 2018 ENVELOPES

It's not too early to plan! As people become busy with summer travel, etc, fall will be here quickly. If you would like offering envelopes for 2018, please contact Bev Berry at [finsect@homercc.com](mailto:finsect@homercc.com), so that she may order accordingly.



## THANK YOU



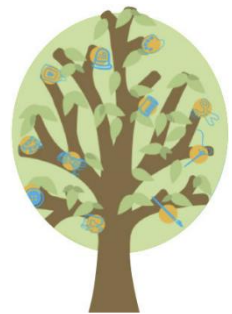
Pete and I would like to express our deepest appreciation for the cards, emails, notes with copies of Sunday Bulletins and phone calls during the recent 4 weeks we were in Rochester while he was hospitalized by a stroke and going through their intensive rehab program at University of Rochester Strong Memorial Hospital. Having the prayers and support of our church family was very comforting and helpful. Pete is making excellent progress and is now having in-home physical therapy as he continues to recover. Special thanks to Pastor Vicki for keeping in close touch (even while on vacation in California), and for the wonderful visit she and Belinda made to the hospital, including a greatly enjoyed "dinner out" for Doris. That really lifted our spirits! Much appreciation also to Anne Wingard and the rest of the Board of Deacons who stepped in to cover Doris' June Deacon of the Month and other duties, and huge thanks to Gary and Paula Harrington for taking care of installing a needed safety grab bar in preparation for Pete's homecoming. God Bless you all! See you in church soon!

-Pete and Doris Hoffmann

## Holiday in Homer: July 15 2017, 10 am-4 pm

We are only 15 days away from Holiday in Homer 2017!

Preparations are underway for our 2017 Fundraiser! Entertainment has been booked! Homer Brass will continue their tradition of opening the show at 10am and we welcome back The Jeff Love Band as our headliner from 12-3. Dan the Snake Man returns as well as bubbles and fun with Doug the Bubble Guy for the kids! The horse rides with Tom Crane are also coming back.



Vendors continue to come in daily and we look forward to having our Green full of fun, including the demos of Hilltop Pottery and Woodcarving. Of course, there will be food! We will have the BBQ luncheon, which has been a huge success, as well as ice cream and all the favorites from popcorn to smoothies.

As the show gets closer, there will sign up sheets to help. This is our chance to open our hearts and doors to the community and show them what a wonderful church family we have. This will also be the first Holiday in Homer for our very own Pastor Vicki! It is very exciting to have her in the gazebo as our ambassador, letting her light shine.

Let's all wear our *HCC Be the Church* t-shirts!

-Paula Harrington, Holiday in Homer Chairman

## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP MEETING—TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017



The Russell Fellowship Room was decorated with red roses, the traditional flower for June, as the Senior Fellowship gathered for its meeting on Tuesday, June 13. We also enjoyed a beautiful arrangement of summer flowers as our table centerpiece. Doris Walker opened the meeting with a delightful tribute to Doc Potter as we celebrated his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. We were glad to welcome several

members of his family to our meeting. Doc has impressed us all with his vitality and his “joie de vivre”. We always enjoy his many jokes. We all brought cards for him and sang a rousing ‘Happy Birthday.’ Doc’s daughter and other relatives provided a luscious, chocolate birthday cake and we served ice cream and a special punch for the occasion.

Jaff Harris showed us slides assisted by Rev. Rachel Ditch helping with her computer and the projector. Rev. Vicki Burtson was there, too, as a backup. We enjoyed a travelogue presentation dating from Nadine and Jaff’s honeymoon trip in 1953 and their subsequent trips across America up to the present. Jaff’s narrative was excellent describing historical sites in the east like Robert E. Lee’s home in Virginia, Gettysburg, Valley Forge, and proceeding west to Hoover Dam. The great natural beauty of our national parks was also described in their travels to Yellowstone Park and Zion, to name a few. Jaff and Nadine went all the way to California visiting Hearst castle and Catalina Island. It is impossible to describe all the sites they visited. Jaff remarked that we live in a beautiful and fascinating country. Many thanks to Jaff and Rachel for an informative and delightful presentation.

Since this was my last meeting as leader of the Senior Fellowship Club, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your unfailing support. Everyone has contributed in some way... baking, decorating, and sending me jokes and interesting bits of information to use. Jaff and Doris Walker have done many programs for us over the years and Rachel and Jaff have helped to find others to do programs. I would like to thank my friend, Doris Walker, for her kind introductory remarks on my behalf and her “poem.” Many thanks to ALL of you for the beautiful centerpiece of summer flowers (I wondered where it came from) and the gift certificate. I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness. It is my hope that this club can continue and that others will be able to take over. Best wishes to you all for a wonderful summer.

-Dottie Kelley



### GOLF TOURNAMENT THIS MONTH!

The **16th Annual Cortland County Council of Churches Golf Tournament** will be held on **Wednesday, July 26th, 2017** at **Willowbrook Golf Course**.

The Captain and Crew tournament costs \$300 per foursome, and the tournament benefits the ministries of the Cortland County council of Churches. The

Honoree for this year’s tournament is none other than the Rev. Vicki Johnson

Burtson, **OUR PASTOR!** Come join us and say thank you to Pastor Vicki for all she has done and continues to do in our community.

Remember! **August 6 at 11am**  
**Chautauqua worship under the tent!**  
 Come and be fed as we worship together  
 with our siblings in faith.





**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY: God’s Love is Everywhere!**

God’s Love is Everywhere. God’s love is in Homer, NY and Wichita Kansas. God’s love is in the United States and Asia. God’s love is in Christianity and Islam. Our world is enriched with beautiful diversity, diversity which our God has said, “it is good” (Gen. 1:10). In our week, we will explore the rich diversity of our world. We will encounter God in places near and far and in different traditions. We will encounter God the Artist who created a diverse planet. We will encounter God in Person who tells us stories of life. We will encounter God in Breath who calls to us!

**Vacation Bible School (VBS)** will be held **Monday, July 31, to Friday, August 4**. We will gather together in the evenings **from 5:30-7:30 pm**. A community meal will be shared each night, and there will be opportunities to engage for people of all ages. Join us for cultural experiences as we explore the ways in which our God is creating in our world, learn how to be a part of what God is doing new each day!

**Monday:** We will explore the goodness of God’s creation in Genesis 1:1-10 while we travel to Mexico and learn of God’s creation with some Catholic friends.

**Tuesday:** God will take us to India with our Hindu siblings as we answer the question, “Who is my neighbor” in Luke 10:25-37.

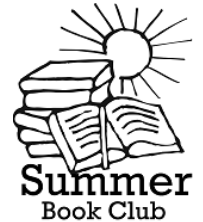
**Wednesday:** We will ponder how to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength as we dive deeper into Matthew 22:36-40, and we will learn from our Buddhist friends of faith in China.

**Thursday:** We will be reminded of the Golden Rule in Matthew 7:12, and we will hear about how our Muslim siblings in Egypt practice the same rule.

**Friday:** We’ll wrap it all up on Friday as we hear from the Psalmist about our inescapable God in Psalm 139.

**DON’T MISS OUT! SUMMER BOOK CLUBS!**

The books have been purchased, and the ice cream is cold! We are ready to start our Summer Book Clubs! Below you will find the details, including calendar of meetings, for each of the clubs. If transportation for your child is a concern, please call Rachel at [607-221-0882](tel:607-221-0882) (cell) to discuss options. Benefactors in the church have graciously underwritten our Book Clubs. This means that everyone can participate and enjoy this experience without the worry about cost.



Reading brings us to new places in our minds. We are transformed in story and grow alongside the characters. What better than to read with friends and have discussions? Discussing over ice cream only enhances the wonderful experience!

There will be three book club groups: one for youth who have completed grades 4 & 5, one for youth who have completed grades 6-8, and one for youth who have completed grades 9-12. Each group will meet four times throughout the summer. Even if you can only come to one or two meetings, you won’t want to miss out!

I’m really excited for this new adventure with your kids, and I can’t wait to begin reading and talking with them! You can contact Rachel at [607-221-0882](tel:607-221-0882) (cell) or [christianed@homercc.org](mailto:christianed@homercc.org) with questions and information!

<p><b>Who:</b> Youth completed grades 4 &amp; 5</p> <p><b>When:</b>                  Wednesday, July 12, 1-2pm                  Wednesday, July 19, 1-2pm                  Wednesday, August 16, 1-2pm                  Wednesday, August 30, 1-2pm</p>	<p><b>Who:</b> Youth completed grades 6-8</p> <p><b>When:</b>                  Thursday, July 13, 1-2pm                  Thursday, July 20, 1-2pm                  Thursday, August 17, 1-2pm                  Thursday, August 31, 1-2pm</p>	<p><b>Who:</b> Youth completed grades 9-12</p> <p><b>When:</b>                  Sunday, July 9, 1pm-2pm                  Sunday, July 16, 1-2pm                  Sunday, July 23, 1pm-2pm                  Sunday, August 20, 1-2pm</p>
<p><b>Where:</b> Super Cream</p>	<p><b>Where:</b> Super Cream</p>	<p><b>Where:</b> Super Cream</p>
<p><b>Book:</b> <i>Call it Courage</i> by Armstrong Sperry.                  Read about it here:  <a href="http://amzn.to/2pU22n9">http://amzn.to/2pU22n9</a></p>	<p><b>Book:</b> <i>Dead End in Norvelt</i> by Jack Gantos                  Read about it here:  <a href="http://amzn.to/2dHbg2W">http://amzn.to/2dHbg2W</a></p>	<p><b>Book:</b> <i>The Hate U Give</i> by Angie Thomas                  Read about it here:  <a href="http://amzn.to/2nMFug3">http://amzn.to/2nMFug3</a></p>

## STEPHEN MINISTRY – MORE FAQs

### Where did Stephen Ministry start?

Stephen Ministry has been around since 1975, when Kenneth Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, began it to multiply the caregiving in his congregation in St. Louis, Missouri. We are just beginning our Stephen Ministry here at the Homer Congregational Church, and are one of more than 10,000 Stephen Ministry congregations from more than 150 denominations. Stephen Ministries St. Louis, the organization behind this international ministry, is headquartered in Missouri.



### Why the name Stephen?

The name Stephen comes from St. Stephen, who was the first lay person commissioned by the apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need as recorded in Acts 6.

### Can I trust a Stephen Minister?

Trust is essential to a caring relationship, and Stephen Ministers are people you can trust. Confidentiality is one of the most important principles of Stephen Ministry. What a care receiver tells his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strictest confidence.

### What is the Pastor's role?

Pastors will always be the primary caregivers, but there is no way pastors can meet all the needs for care. God has called all of us, not just pastors, to minister to one another. Stephen Ministry multiplies ministry by turning pastors into equippers so they can enable lay people to provide caring ministry as well.

### How can someone receive care from a Stephen Minister?

Our Stephen Leaders are Belinda Burtner and Bill Masterson. You may talk to a Stephen Leader or Pastor Vicki; they will be happy to help you through the process of receiving care.

### How much does it cost?

Stephen Ministry is a caregiving ministry available to our members and community free of charge.

### How can someone become a Stephen Minister?

Begin by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders and they can tell you more. Stephen Ministers make a two-year commitment to train and serve.

*Our Stephen Leaders are Belinda Burtner [607-756-2454](tel:607-756-2454) & Bill Masterson [607-345-4874](tel:607-345-4874).*

## SUMMER TEAS & HAPPY HOURS

### Wednesday Afternoon Tea in the Garden

You are invited to join Pastor Vicki and her co-hosts for tea (hot or iced), finger food and discussion. We have adjusted the schedule. Teas will be at 4 PM, beginning Wednesday, July 12:

July 12	co-host: Dorothy Hopkins	(begins at 4 PM)
July 26	co-host: Lori Schmidt	

### Friday Happy Hour

You are invited to join Pastor Vicki and her grilling co-hosts for beverages and grilled finger foods, along with discussion and concluding with prayer. We will meet at 5 PM for some family-friendly time beginning on July 21. Kids are welcome to come, too.

July 21	co-host: Gary Harrington	(begins at 5 PM)
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## THE TRUSTEES CORNER



Members of the Board of Trustees met on Tuesday evening, June 20<sup>th</sup> for the monthly board meeting and continued to make progress on a variety of church issues. The board discussed progress on the church technology upgrade, Manse landscaping, and Holiday in Homer. The following are some of the issues covered:

- Most work on the Manse has been completed, but the landscape is in desperate need of attention. The board voted to hire Joe Settineri to do that landscaping for us. At the same time, the Memorial Committee hired Joe to tidy up the Memorial Garden. Thanks Joe, Logan Schmidt, and Evan Ulrich, who are helping! Basic church repair and maintenance also continues.
- The upgrade of the computer technology continues. We have secure internal and guest wireless network access that covers the entire building. We have acquired a scanner to help with our account system. The board and Pastor Vicki discussed ways to use this technology to carry out our mission in new and better ways. Some of these upgrades are covered by our Capital Project Funds, but other components are not. Our Communication Committee has been a tremendous help with this effort and continues to provide great advice. If making our technological vision a reality is of interest to you, we would welcome your help. Talk with Jim McKenna, Pastor Vicki, or any of the Trustees.
- We are watching the budget closely this year and will explore new fundraisers. The finances were a close balance this month. All ideas and volunteer efforts are welcome. Assistance with organizing the Route 90 sale, Holiday in Homer, and Magic on Main Street would be appreciated.
- Remember to check out our church webpage and Facebook page (a donation button is available), and electronic newsletters have been distributed and available on our webpage. If you elected to pick your hard copy up at church, please find your addressed copy in the Russell Fellowship room.

Today is the first full day of summer and I am enjoying the baby birds that are out and learning to fly. I hope you are spreading your wings, as well. The work of the boards allows the church to think and grow in new ways as the church vision unfolds. You can help. Please consider being part of one of our committees and using your time and talents to help our church grow and prosper. The Board of Trustees is a little shorthanded and we could really use a scribe who would simply take the minutes at the monthly meetings. As always, any of the Trustees are available if you have questions or want to bring up issues for the board to consider.

Peace be with you!

Jim McKenna, Chair



Bill Masterson and Jim McKenna hold Snack & Chats on communion Sundays. Please bring your questions, concerns and joys. Contact Bill at [607-345-4874](tel:607-345-4874) or Jim at [607-345-9863](tel:607-345-9863).

## JULY 2017 WORSHIP

Thanks to Bonnie Haaland for coordinating ushers for July. Her sister Belinda Burtson will be our worship leader for July.



### **Sunday, July 2** Communion Sunday *Worship begins at 9:30 AM*

Scripture focus: Matthew 10:40-42

As we celebrate communion we will also reflect on this liturgical season called "Ordinary Time".

Joe Ford will offer our special music.

Rev. Vicki will lead the Brewster House Communion at 2 PM.

### **Sunday, July 9**

Scripture focus: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

We hope to meet the Rev. Dr. Park, new pastor of our neighbor United Methodists.

### **Sunday, July 16**

Scripture focus: Psalm 150 and other psalms.

*Special Guest* – Pianist Dorothy Thomas

On this day-after-Holiday-in-Homer, come and rest. We will receive the gifts of an extraordinarily talented pianist, who will offer several hymn-based selections. And we will celebrate the successful ministry of Holiday in Homer.

### **Sunday, July 23**

Scripture focus: Genesis 28:10-19

Jacob recognized the awesomeness of his surrounds. We will do the same.

Special Music: Steve Jones and Joe Ford

### **Sunday, July 30** Fifth Sunday

Weather permitting, we will be outside. Our dear friends from *Homer Brass* will be on hand to share their music. We will listen. We will sing along. We will praise God.

### **Sunday, August 6** – Chautauqua Sunday – under the tent at 11 AM



#### **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](mailto:william.hopkins@cortland.edu).

#### **OUTREACH TEAM MINUTE – P.R.E.P. EVENT**

Back to School PREP event will be held on Saturday August 26th. Also, we would like to encourage people to begin buying sneakers to donate for the event. It was a big need last year and we didn't have enough to provide for all the kids that came to the event. The Outreach team meets at approximately 4:45 pm on the last Thursday of every month. ALL are welcome to join us!



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE



### **Deacon Worship Leader**

Belinda Burtson

### **Trustee Verifier**

David Barnes

### **July 2 @ 9:30 am**

Ushers & Greeters – Bill and Dorothy Hopkins,  
Chuck Feiszli, Bonnie Haaland

Flowers – Dora Jones

Nursery – Phil Zollweg, Susan Benedict

Coffee Hour – Clay Benedict, Elaine Olson

### **July 9 @ 9:30 am**

Ushers & Greeters – Bill and Sherri Masterson,  
Janice Bacon, Bonnie Haaland

Flowers – Jean Cadwallader

Nursery – Mark Bertram, Susan Urban

Coffee Hour – Bev Berry, Ann Wingard

### **July 16 @ 9:30 am**

Ushers & Greeters – Jeannine and John Rose  
Susan Benedict, Bonnie Haaland

Flowers – Carl Applegate

Nursery – Carol Costell Corbin, Kathy McKenna

Coffee Hour – Ingrid Fox, Janice Bacon

### **July 23 @ 9:30 am**

Ushers & Greeters – Jan Jeffers, Jean Cadwallader,  
Carol and Anelia Costell Corbin

Flowers –

Nursery – Karen Dudgeon, Joanne Cincotta

Coffee Hour – Sylvia Hammond, Dorothy Kelley

### **July 30 @ 9:30 am**

Ushers & Greeters – Don and Jennifer Van Slyke,  
Andrea Herzog, Bonnie Haaland

Flowers –

Nursery – Lori Schmidt, Tracy Bertram

Coffee Hour – Rachel Rood, Stan Nilsson

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

#### **From the Treasurer:**

- Operating Revenues at 5/31/17 - \$116,506, 51.3% of budget;
- Operating Expenses at 5/31/17 - \$114,744, 50.5% of budget

#### **Find us online!**

HCC website - [homercc.com](http://homercc.com)

Digital calendar - [homercc.com/calendar](http://homercc.com/calendar)

Follow Homer Congregational Church on [Facebook!](#)

To receive our mid-week email, Weekday Words, please email the office: [office@homercc.org](mailto:office@homercc.org)

#### **Email Contacts:**

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Treasurer: [treasurer@homercc.org](mailto:treasurer@homercc.org)

DCE: [christianed@homercc.org](mailto:christianed@homercc.org)