



*Homer Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Gathering on the Green in 1801 ~  
Still gathered doing God's mission*

**Worship Service**

**Participants**

***Worship Leader***

Bill Masterson

***Trustee Verifier***

Dave Barnes

***Ushers & Greeters***

Carl & Connie Applegate

Bev & Steve Berry

***Nursery***

***Flowers***

The Gumaer Family

*In memory of Larry Gumaer*

***Fellowship***

Joanne Cincotta

***Attendance***

December 10: 90

***Offering***

Operations - \$1,589.25

Missions - \$279.75

**This Week's Events**

**Sunday – December 17**

9:30 am - Advent In Narnia  
Discussion

9:30 am – Sunday School

4:00 pm – Disciple Bible Study

**Monday – December 18**

7:30 pm – Al-Anon

**Tuesday – December 19**

1:30 pm – Mahjong Group

2:00 pm - Bridge

**Wednesday – December 20**

10:00 am – HNS Christmas  
Program

7:00 pm – Choir

**Thursday – December 21**

11:30 am– Bible Study

4:30 pm – Endowment  
Committee

**Friday – December 22**

Office Closed

Service of Worship  
Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2017 10:30 am

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For Quiet Meditation

Jesus is saying that humans are made for joy and that anyone who is truly joyous has a right to say that she is doing God's will on this earth. Where you have known joy, you have known Jesus.

- Frederick Buechner in [\*The Hungering Dark\*](#)

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**THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER**

*\*those who are able, please stand*

Welcome

Prelude            Chorale, Fanfare and Aria      Zabel  
Chimes

Call to Worship

One: Welcome seekers of God's realm!

This is the season of watching and waiting.

Behold, a light is coming.

The Haaland family: Today, our family brings the light of joy.

*The candle is lit.*

\*Hymn #128

One Candle is Lit (v. 3)

Opening Prayer:

**Dear God,**

**In the height of our Advent walk,  
grant us the courage to experience joy.**

**Joy in the face of apathy,**

**Joy in the face of sorrow,**

**Joy in the face of uncertainty. Amen.**



# **GOD’S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE**

## Announcements

\*Hymn #7      When in Our Music (vs. 1 & 5)

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response      Go Tell It on the Mountain

\*Chimes

\*Postlude                      Toccata on “Picardy”                      Zabel

## **SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES**

### **CHRISTMAS FUND – *SHEPARDING THE LIGHT***

This Sunday a special envelope will be inserted in the bulletin for The UCC’s Christmas Fund. This collection provides assistance for clergy and lay leaders who have faithfully served and now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. We help provide, on behalf of the whole church, direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses. Envelopes may be returned until December 31.

# NOTES AND NOTICES

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## TODAY:

4:00 pm Disciple Bible Study

## THIS WEEK:

Thursday at 11:30 am Bible Study

## COMING UP...

The office will be closed from Christmas through January 2. Messages and e-mail will be checked.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

January 7 at 3:00 pm – **Epiphany Choir Festival**  
Grace & Holy Spirit  
Our choir is going to  
participate.

*You are cordially invited to Open  
House at the Manse on Sunday,  
December 31 from 1 - 3 pm.*

We look forward to seeing you.  
*Belinda & Vicki Burtson*

# Christmas Eve Services

*invite your friends and neighbors  
ALL are welcome!*

- 10:30 AM Brunch & worship in the Russell Fellowship Room. We'll gather at tables for good food, caroling, and scripture as we prepare for the Christ child's birth.
- 7 PM A Service of Lessons & Carols  
We will sing your favorite carols, hear the Christmas story and light candles to celebrate.
- 10:15 PM Come early to share some Christmas goodies and a cup of coffee or hot cider.
- 11 PM A Service of Carols and Communion  
As we hear the Christmas story, we will sing the carols, gather at table for communion and light candles of celebration. Our church bell will ring in Christmas at midnight.

## **Welcome friends!**

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us. If you would like more information about our church, please let Pastor Vicki, the worship leader, or one of the greeters know. We hope you will choose to stay for refreshments and conversation following our service.

You should also know that we believe children of all ages have a place here. One of our greeters can bring you a children's bulletin and a "busy bag." After the Children's Time, small children may head to our nursery, where we provide trained caregivers and a fruit snack for the wee ones.

### **Here's how to reach out to us...**

Rev. Vicki Burtson, Pastor

607.624.9940 (cell/text)  
pastor@homercc.org

Joseph Ford, Director of Music

Bev Berry, Financial Secretary

Andrea Herzog, Treasurer

James Shultes, Organist

Jan Jeffers, Chapel Bells

Gary Harrington, Sexton

Anne Wingard, Office Administrator

office@homercc.org

Our office is open Monday – Thursday from 9 am – noon

phone: 607.749.2604

web site: homercc.com

Our digital calendar is at homercc.com/calendar

### **Service information**

- Individual listening headsets are available to provide hearing assistance to anyone in need. Ask our greeters for help.
- Prayer request sheets are at each entrance. Your prayers will be offered later in today's service.