



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**

*Senior Pastor:*  
Rev. Vicki Burtson

*Associate Pastor:*  
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*Sexton:*  
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### ***From your senior pastor's mind and heart...***

Grace and peace to you, dear family and friends of Homer Congregational United Church of Christ.

As we prepared for the Celebration of Confirmation on Pentecost, I invited members of the Disciple Bible Study to offer some thoughts, some advice, some wisdom to Kaitlyn Clune, Jacob Dentes and Elijah Smith. Fourteen people wrote a bit of wisdom. This was written on one of the cards:

Pray often.  
Thank God for your day.  
Know that God walks with you.

Ah – if we could make these our habits.

How often *do* you pray? To answer that question, one must ponder what one considers prayer. Surely it includes the murmured moments with God on both sides of the day, before getting up and before going to sleep at night. Grace said at meals. Then there are the moments on early walks, seeing dew on a spider's web or the sun's first peak through the trees. There are the deep-breathing prayers when anxiety begins to rise within. Prayer includes unplanned moments: those times when you look at your spouse and remember how lucky you are to share life with that person; the moments when music causes you to roll down the windows and sing at the top of your lungs; quiet moments spent with your pet. Romans 8:26 reminds us that when we have no words, our prayers can even be *sighs that are too deep for words*. Prayer includes moments when we are grateful, when we need comfort, when we are grieving or when we feel sheer joy.

And through it all, God walks with us.

It's good advice. Pray often...thank God...know that God is near.

So what advice would you give? What would you offer to our sister and brothers who just became full members of our congregation? Think about it, and perhaps share your thoughts. We learn from one another.

I thank God for you!  
*Pastor Vicki*

### Senior Fellowship



This month is the final Senior Fellowship meeting before summer! It will include time to catch up with friends, a delicious dessert, and a great presenter. This month we will meet on Tuesday, June 12 also from 2 to 4 p.m., and it's going to be a fun and creative gathering, because David Beale from The Picture Shop in Cortland will be our presenter. Please consider joining us. All seniors are welcome!

## Faith Formation News...

You do NOT want to miss worship on Sunday, June 10 (I know, I know...you already NEVER want to miss worship because it's so awesome!). And that's great, because it means you will be here on June 10 for Children's Sunday! This annual event is an excellent chance for everyone to see what our children have been doing in the classroom each Sunday morning, and what faith-building opportunities our adults have had as well. Plus, it will give us a chance to say THANK YOU to our great teachers, nursery volunteers, and others involved in Faith Formation!

### Children's Faith Formation



The Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have their last two classes before the summer break on June 3 and 10. Both classes will be focused on preparing our young ones for Children's Sunday. We will also talk about gratitude on June 3 and recall what we are grateful for from this year's Faith Formation Classes! PLEASE NOTE: The Nursery will still be available every Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon (rain or shine but not if Santa shows up again!).

### Youth Group



Anyone in 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade is invited to participate in Youth Group (and you can even bring a friend) because no matter who you are or where you are on the journey, you are welcome in our Youth Group! In lieu of our normal Youth Group meeting, June activities will kickoff on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with a trip to Syracuse to see the Chiefs play baseball. If your youth is interested in participating, see Pastor Gary so we can arrange travel details with Preble Congregational Church. We will also be scheduling an additional fun activity for later in the month as a way to kickoff summer. In addition, Youth Group will meet on Sunday, June 10 for its normal gathering.

*Pastor Gary* (Please feel free to call me with questions or comments, 607-423-6456.)



This year we will be participating in the Cortland County Relay for Life held June 16 on our Green. The Relay runs from Noon to 11 p.m. with a moving Luminaria ceremony at 8:30 honoring all victims and survivors of cancer. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our church to participate. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Russell Fellowship room. We invite groups from within the church to sign up for an hour-long slot. During that hour, members can walk, host our table and donate any funds you wish to contribute. Our youth group intends to cover the evening hours. If you have questions please contact Anne in the church office at (607) 749-2604 or e-mail at [office@homercc.org](mailto:office@homercc.org).

*Thank You.*  
*Anne Wingard*



## TRUSTEE'S CORNER

Members of the Board of Trustees met for their usual monthly meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. The Trustees managed the usual committee reports and board activities, and spent considerable time discussing the new fundraising efforts. We greatly appreciate the commitment all of the church members, and especially the Board of Deacons, to helping us meet our budget obligations and maintaining the great energy in the church and its missions. We are still working on property issues, activities on the Green, and a donation policy. Lee and Jim attended a Zoning Board meeting where the Village considered a zoning change request associated with sale of the Perfetti house. Jim spoke to clarify the church's neutral position on that change and our concerns about parking and business activities on the leased portion of the Green. A technicality prevented the Zoning Board from making a decision that evening, but no more public hearings will be held on the issue. Adjustments to the lease allowing the village to acquire the White Church are nearly complete. Varieties of church repairs have been accomplished and we are working on repair of the roof and chimney of Jones Hall and some of the stairs in Jones Hall. We are also working on our office coping capabilities.

Finally, Spring has sprung. The flowers and trees are starting to bloom and the birds are singing (I saw a Barred Owl at work today). It seems a great ending to the Easter Season and the right conditions for Pentecost. The new life helps me find hope, despite troubling world events. This is a great time for "God Sightings". Be alert for them and let the spirit in. God continues to be with us and to guide us all to help the church and our community flourish. Thanks for all of your support and enthusiasm. Contact me or any of the Trustees, if you have questions about our activities or needs.

Peace be with you!

Jim McKenna, Chair



## HOMER NURSERY SCHOOL UPDATES

We have had a very busy 6 weeks. We have made mother's and father's day cards and gifts. We planted a garden in our plot at Homer community gardens and toured the elementary school. We also had a family picnic at Durkee Park and ended our year singing in our end of year program. Our last hurrah was a party after the program. We have had a great year and enjoyed it very much. Our last day is June 7th.

If you know of anyone interested in joining our nursery school program, please have them contact Lisa Clark at 749-6753.

We would also like take this time to thank everyone who helped us out during the year. We really appreciate your support. Have a wonderful summer.

Lisa Clark



We are finishing a year of Faith Formation for children, youth, and adults. It is time to say THANK YOU to all who have made this ministry possible!

We will celebrate as a church family at worship on June 10, Children's Sunday. Make sure to stay afterward for a fun and festive coffee hour!

Thank you to the **children and youth Faith Formation teachers!** Thank you for your creativity, flexibility and dedication throughout this year of transition.

Tracy Bertram	Lori Schmidt
Carol Costell Corbin	Bonnie Smith
Alex Faulkenbury	Rev. Gary Smith
Kathy McKenna	Anne Wingard

Thank you to our **adult Faith Formation leaders!** Thank you for helping us take the time to deepen our faith and reflect on our lives.

Rev. Barb Wright – *Help, Thanks, Wow* book discussion and *Advent in Narnia* discussion  
 Bill Hopkins – *Man's Search for Meaning* book discussion  
 Leslie Wright – for many years leading The Well and Where 2 or 3 are Gathered  
 Rev. Vicki Burtson – Disciple Bible study groups  
 TED Talk discussion leaders

Thank you to all the **nursery volunteers!** Your dedication of time not only allows for a safe and nurturing place for our children but also allows parents to fully engage in worship and a time of reflection.

Susan Benedict	Jim & Kathy McKenna
Tracy Bertram	Jenelle Pedersen
Joanne Cincotta	Terry Pedersen
Carol Costell Corbin	Lori Schmidt
Ingrid Fox	Cindy Stout
Darci Gumaer	Sue Urban
Sherri Masterson	Anne Wingard

If you are interested in serving as a Faith Formation teacher or nursery volunteer beginning in the fall, please contact Carol Costell Corbin or Pastor Gary. We're on a rotating schedule for both, which makes for a manageable – yet meaningful – commitment!

If you have an interest in leading an adult Faith Formation group, talk to either of our pastors!

## Holiday in Homer 2018

### HOLIDAY IN HOMER JULY 21ST, 2018

The countdown begins! We are less than 2 months away from Holiday in Homer and the vendors are rolling in. We are just about full but keep reaching out to anyone you know who may be interested. Look forward to our traditional and regular vendors, but also be on the lookout for brand new looks and crafts. Jan Jeffers has been hard at work already getting our quilt show in place and ready! New and exciting news in entertainment: We have a new headlining band! The Descendants will be playing in the bandstand from 11:30am-3:30pm. We also have new children's entertainment with Jeff the Magic Man. He will have 3 shows; 11am, 1:30pm, and 2:30pm. Dan the Snake Man will be returning for his 6th year with us and will continue to have his display in the basement of the church. We would love to thank the Homer Recreation Department for all of their help and sponsorship in the children's entertainment department this year. Hilltop Pottery as well as Woodturning will be our demos again this year. Stay tuned for other entertainment news that there are still other events developing! We would like to thank our sponsors: CCC Construction, Yaman Real Estate, and Cortland Self Storage. All advertising letters just went out to all of the businesses that help support the brochure and event itself. Get your throwing hand ready and the dunk tank is reserved! Let's not forget all the great food that is coming our way too! Like and share the Holiday in Homer page on Facebook where we post updates on a daily basis!

Keep praying for nice weather and a great event!

*Paula Harrington*

#### EVENTS OF OUR COUNCIL OF CHURCHES:

Tuesday, July 24th	Delegates Meeting at Blodgett Mills Park.
Thursday, July 26th	Golf Tournament at Elm Tree Golf Course Honoree: James Yaman
August 2 – 5	<i>Chautauqua</i>
Thursday at 7 pm	Interfaith Panel and Discussion
Saturday at noon	Lunch and Keynote speaker
Sunday at 11 am	Chautauqua Worship on the Green

#### NEW CONTACT DIRECTORY UNDERWAY

If you have a new address, phone number or e-mail address, please inform the office. If you are new to our faith community, please send all of your contact information, including family birthdays. You do not have to be a member of the church in order to be included. Help us stay connected by sharing the most current contact information for you and your family.

**Worship in June**

Joanne Cincotta is our Deacon of the Month.  
Russ Pedersen is our Trustee Verifier.

**Sunday, June 3**                      Communion

Scripture: I Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139      Sermon: Voices in the Night  
As we celebrate communion, we will be assisted by Gary Harrington, Bonnie Smith, Jim Ulrich and Tracy Bertram.  
Ushers & Greeters ~ Bill & Sherri Masterson, Cindy Stout, Anne Wingard  
Nursery ~ Darci Gumaer                      Coffee Hour ~ Kathy McKenna

**Sunday, June 10**                      Children's Day

Jesus told his disciples to let the children come. And so they shall as we celebrate all that they learned during faith formation this year. We will sing the music they have learned, hear their stories and see some of their creations.  
Ushers & Greeters ~ Our Children  
Nursery ~ Sherri Masterson                      Coffee Hour ~ Faith Formation

**Sunday, June 17**                      "Dads & Grads" celebration

Scripture: Mark 4:26-34                      Sermon: God is like a...  
As we celebrate this special day, we will enjoy music from a women's choir – a gift to our Dads!  
Ushers & Greeters ~ Elijah Smith, Jacob Dentes, Tyler Hilts  
Nursery ~ Kathy/Jim McKenna                      Coffee Hour ~ Trustees  
Flowers ~ The Haaland family

**Sunday, June 24**                      Choir Sunday

Today we will give thanks for music, and all that the choir has given us throughout the year. Join us as we hear the poetry of our faith. Help us make a joyful noise together.  
Nursery ~ Jenelle Pedersen                      Coffee Hour ~ Bev Berry & Anne Wingard  
Flowers ~ Ingrid Fox in memory of Richard Fox

We begin our summer hours of worshipping at **9:30 AM** on **Sunday, July 1.**



## Thank You from The Outreach Team:

**Diaper Drive** - Through Mother's Day, we collected an overflowing pack-n-play filled with donations of diapers and wipes from our generous church family. They were delivered to CAPCO (Community Action Program of Cortland County) for their Emergency Assistance Program and Everybody's Baby Shower they host in June. A heartfelt thank you to everyone for their contributions!

### From the Treasurer:

- Operating Revenues at 4/30/18  
- \$79,617, 32.7% of budget  
(budget overage due to use of capital reserve not originally budgeted)
- Operating Expenses at 4/30/18  
- \$73,461, 30.1.% of budget



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Rebecca Perkins
- 3 James Hopkins, Kenian Ulrich,  
Evan Ulrich, Molly Ulrich,  
Clay Benedict
- 4 Jim Durkee
- 5 Sheila Shea
- 10 Mark Bertram
- 11 Shari Raymond
- 13 James Boyce
- 14 Kimberly Adams
- 15 Andrew Haaland,  
Carolyn Morenus
- 17 Ashley Raymond
- 18 Tyler Masterson
- 19 Jimmy Durkee, Harry Newcomb
- 23 Shirley Osterhoudt
- 29 Albert Durkee

### Email Contacts:

Office: [office@homercc.org](mailto:office@homercc.org)

Pastor: [pastor@homercc.org](mailto:pastor@homercc.org)

Associate Pastor:

[associatepastor@homercc.org](mailto:associatepastor@homercc.org)

Financial Secretary: [finsect@homercc.org](mailto:finsect@homercc.org)

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

### 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)

*We're sorry if we missed your birthday.*

*It's because it is not in our computer membership files. Please contact the office and we'll update our records.*

## God Is Everywhere!



## An Outdoor Adventure

### Vacation Bible School Events

Parents are invited to sign their children up for as many Vacation Bible School (VBS) events as they would like. The events, dates, and times are as follows:

1. Lime Hollow (Saturday, July 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

*Children will have “God-sightings” in the natural beauty of this nature center, as well as in looking for the wildlife that lives there! We will have activity stations, crafts, and music. Lunch will be served. Parents will pick up and drop off right at Lime Hollow Education Center.*

2. Ez-Acres Farm (Wednesday, July 25, 3 to 6 p.m.)

*Children will learn about God’s creation of the earth and all living things, and the importance of being good stewards of God’s gift, through a tour of the farm with a chance to see and experience the milking process! They will also learn about daily life at the farm, and see who works there. In addition, children will meet a few of the migrant workers that come to work on our local farms. Children will then be driven to Durkee Park for snacks, crafts, and music. Parents drop off at EZ-Acres Farm and pick up at Durkee Park (located on Route 11, one-half mile north of the village).*

3. Fillmore Glen (Wednesday, August 1, 3 to 7 p.m.)

*It’s time to take a hike and learn about the many ways God is connected with water! Children will participate in a short walk through this beautiful state park where they will discover fun activity stations. After the hike, children will do a craft, sing songs, and eat dinner. Parents will drop off and pick up at Homer Congregational Church, and the children will be bused to and from Fillmore Glen.*

4. Rally Weekend Picnic at Durkee Park (Saturday, September 8, 3 to 7 p.m.)

*Parents are invited to join their children, and the members of Homer Congregational for a All-Church Picnic to celebrate the many ways children learned that “God Is Everywhere!” We will show pictures from the summer adventures, participate in fun activities and games, and have some great food. Durkee park is located on Route 11, one-half mile north of the village.*

God Is Everywhere!



An Outdoor Adventure

# 2018 Vacation Bible School Registration Form

Homer Congregational Church  
 28 South Main Street, Homer NY 13077  
 (607) 749-2604 email: [office@homercc.org](mailto:office@homercc.org)  
 Church Office hours: Monday through Thursday 9am-Noon,  
 Closed Friday, [homercc.com](http://homercc.com)

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT!**

(See page 8 for specific events and dates!)

Name	Age	Grade in September	Allergies/Medical Conditions

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (parent/guardian): (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (parent/guardian): \_\_\_\_\_ Home church \_\_\_\_\_

Please check each date your child(ren) will participate in:

Lime Hollow Sat., July 14	EZ-Acres Farm Wed., July 25	Fillmore Glen Wed., August 1	Durkee Park Picnic Sat., Sept. 8

I authorize Homer Congregational Church to use images of all members of my family: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 (initials)

I authorize Homer Congregational Church to use bug spray with DEET on my child(ren): \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 (initials)

I authorize Homer Congregational Church to transport my child(ren) from EZ-Acres to Durkee Park during the Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> event. \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

I authorize Homer Congregational Church to authorize medical treatment in the event of an emergency if parent or guardian cannot be reached: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

If yes, insurance provider: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_