



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

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 Paula Harrington, vice chair
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Church Staff

Senior Pastor:
 Rev. Vicki Burtson

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 Rev. Gary Smith

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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.

This is a combined July/August newsletter. After sharing some discussion with staff and church leaders, it seemed to make sense to consolidate our communication and allow a "breather" this summer. So here are some suggestions for your summer. They are offered as a means for you to connect with the Source of Life and to be refreshed in your soul.

Recently I signed up for daily devotions. Several of my wise and deeply rooted friends look to Richard Rohr for spiritual food. I commend to you his daily meditations, provided through the Center for Action and Contemplation. You can google "Richard Rohr daily meditations", or find them at www.cac.org. I promise you something to chew on throughout your days, and something to challenge you as a person of faith.

In addition, our United Church of Christ offers daily devotions. Google "Stillspeaking Devotions". Bill Masterson often uses these writings at our Deacons' meetings. Today, the devotion was about preparing for the Zombie Apocalypse. It's a humorous and thought provoking reflection based on Revelation 22:1-2, written by Vince Amlin.

Both of these devotionals come to my email, allowing me to access them at various times of the day. Now, when I have an unexpected moment of waiting, I can feast on something more than social media. Perhaps you can join me in developing a new habit this summer.

Take some Sabbath! Be even more intentional about tending to your soul and resting. Turn off the phone, TV, electronics and go outside. And make sure the kids do the same. Let *everyone* listen to the music sung by God's creation in nature.

And come to church! Sunday is, indeed, family time, and this family of faith is here to surround you with love and care and hope. If you have been away, come on home and see how things are going. Come sing your favorite hymns. Come partake in Brunch Church. Come and hear flutes, trombones, recorders and guitars. Come and pray alongside your siblings-of-faith. Bring your kids, so they, too, can worship in our sanctuary both inside and outside. Give yourself the hour of worship with people who love you, just as God made you to be. I cannot wait to see you.

Summer blessings!
Pastor Vicki

From your associate pastor for Faith Formation...

It's hard to believe my first six-months at Homer Congregational are now a memory! Wow! The journey thus far has been amazing, awesome, thrilling, joy-filled, and incredibly fun! I feel so blessed to be with this congregation, and to be ministering with my friend, colleague, and sister-from-another-mother, Pastor Vicki. I can't tell you how many times I've wanted to text her late at night and say, "Can you believe we get to do this!!!" Okay, maybe I have texted her late at night upon occasion to say just that! At the same time, I continue to grow, learn, and be challenged by all the incredible ministries and activities we have to offer.

July and August are my favorite months of the year. I will take the summer heat anytime over even the thought of a...shhh...let me say this very, very quietly...snowflake. It is a time to have great fun with youth group and VBS, plan for next year's Faith Formation program, explore adult Faith Formation ideas, take a bit of a vacation, and also sit in my backyard basking in the beauty of God's creation all around us. As I do all of these things, please know that I am incredibly grateful to be part of the best church in Cortland County! I hope you all enjoy your summer, and don't forget a recent Children's Sermon where I encouraged our young ones to look for God everywhere! I know I will!

Below you will find information about various aspects of our Faith Formation Ministry. And on another page of the newsletter, you will find plans for fall in Senior Fellowship. Lastly, I have again included the VBS registration form in this newsletter. Our first outing is July 14 at Lime Hollow. May God's grace and peace be with you!

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



Faith Formation

Register today!!

We are now accepting registrations for the 2018-19 Children's Faith Formation year. You will find a registration form as an insert in this newsletter. It is also available on our church website (www.homercc.com) under the Faith Formation tab at the top of the page. **It will be helpful if parents register early so we can plan for next year's class groupings.** PLEASE NOTE: The Nursery will still be available every Sunday throughout the summer from 9 to 11 a.m.



Anyone in 6th to 12th 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! During the summer, in lieu of our normal Youth Group meeting, we have the following events planned:

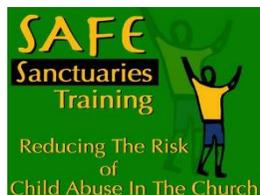
Saturday, July 21 – Holiday in Homer – Hosting Kids Games & Activities

Wednesday, August 22 – Sardines @ The Church (with food!)

End of Summer Bonfire @ Pastor Gary's House – Date TBD

July 14, 25, and August 1 – Help with Vacation Bible School

Saturday, September 8 – Church Picnic @ Durkee Park, 3-7 p.m.



Our church believes very strongly in ensuring the safety of our children no matter what grade level. This not only means creating safe classrooms and youth ministry environments with appropriate furnishings and décor; it also means safeguarding our children and youth against sexual predators. As a result, Homer Congregational Church uses Safe Sanctuaries Training to Reduce the Risk to minimize potential opportunities for harm. ALL teachers, nursery volunteers, and youth group leaders are required to participate in this training, and to have a background check completed through an agency that our church partners with. The one-hour Safe Sanctuaries/Reduce the Risk Training will take place on Thursday, July 5, 7-8 p.m.; Saturday, July 7, 9-10 a.m.; Sunday, August 26, 11-noon; and Tuesday, August 28, 7-8 p.m. If you are volunteering for the Vacation Bible School Activities or Crafts Team, please participate in one of the July dates. Nursery volunteers and Faith Formation teachers can attend any session.

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
 Church Office hours: Monday through Thursday 9am-Noon,
 Closed Friday, 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 25th 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: _____

TRUSTEE'S CORNER



Members of the Board of Trustees met for their usual monthly meeting on June (the 12th). The Trustees managed the usual committee reports and board activities, and are moving ahead on property issues, activities on the Green, and a donation policy. Continued support of our fundraising efforts is greatly appreciated and we are all looking forward to Holiday in Homer. Adjustments to the lease allowing the village to acquire the White Church are nearly ready for signatures. 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 preparing ahead for improvements to our office copying capabilities. Summer is here and it is a great time to share our joy of the natural world with God. Continue to be alert for "God Sightings"; let the spirit in. Jesus is with us and guides 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



Although Senior Fellowship is taking a break during July and August to enjoy our beautiful summer, we do have plans set for the first few gatherings in the fall. On September 11 we will have a presentation by Rebecca from Anytime Fitness who will talk about the programs available, as well as the Silver Sneakers Program. On October 9 we will show a movie and have discussion afterward. And then on November 13, David Beale from The Picture House will return and do some painting with the seniors. All of our gatherings happen from 2 to 4 p.m., and we always have a delicious sweet treat! So mark your calendars now so you don't miss out!

From the DEACON BENCH

For one minute,
Walk outside,
Stand there,
In silence,
Look up at the sky,
And contemplate how amazing Life is.



The Deacons would like to welcome Evan Faulkenberry to our board.

- Planning for the fall Mission Luncheons and "new" Mission Lunch-N-Learns is beginning. If you have any suggestions about speakers, please see a Deacon (listed elsewhere in the newsletter).
- Our Outreach Committee is gearing up for the PREP event on August 25th. Watch for opportunities to lend a hand or to donate.
- Our Stephen Ministry kicked off a Fundraiser to support Homer Congregation Church's Faith Formation Ministry. To date over \$3500.00 has been raised.
- Mark your calendar. On July 29th the Deacons will host a Brunch Church out on our Green Front Lawn. More details to come.
- The Deacons have approved a \$1000 Scholarship from the Dorothy Jane Andrews fund to assist Rachel Ditch in returning to India on mission trip in October. Rachel will speak about this trip at a future Mission Luncheon.

Holiday in Homer 2018

JULY 21ST, 2018

It is hard to believe we are just a few short weeks away from Holiday in Homer 2018! We have lots of new vendors with only a few spaces left.

The show is dedicated to the **memory of Carleton “Doc” Potter**. Thank you to Bill Masterson who wrote a wonderful tribute to him. Set your DVRS to **Bridge Street** on channel 9 and see us on Thursday the 19th at 10am. And July 5th our **radio spots** start, sponsored by Cortland Self Storage. Thank you, Nancy Richards for this wonderful donation.

Planning for our luncheon has begun. Shirley will be calling for much needed help, while Kathy McKenna heads up the luncheon and Gary makes the pulled pork and beans! Thank you to Wegmans for their donation that helps us turn pork into over 200 sold meals – such a blessing. We need your help with the strawberry shortcake and ice cream booth. Sign up in the RF room if you can help run a shift. Come hungry, because the Elks are returning with their food tent, and there are so many great things to eat!

Hospitality-is-us, as we welcome the community to our green and into our church. Thanks, Board of Deacons for providing a warm welcome with water, our keychains and smiles. We need volunteers for the Gazebo where we also welcome people and offer information. The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship room.

HUGE ANNOUNCEMENT – come see The AMAZING BERTO (Terry Bertram) from 9:30am – 10:30 at the bandstand for “**Sing Along with Terry!**” He may have a few special guests as well!! We are so excited to have him join the show to start us off with such fun!!!! Of course our headliner **The Developments** are from 11:30 – 3:30. We have our great children’s entertainment **Dan the Snake Man** and **Jeff the Magic Man**. Don’t miss the **Quilt Show** that Jan Jeffers is putting the finishing touches on. We also have the **Signature Dance Studio** performing from 10:30 – 11:00.

As always, stay tuned on Facebook and on our website at www.holidayinhomer.org.

Paula Harrington

FROM OUR OUTREACH TEAM

Wednesdays, July 11 and August 15 ***Community Meals with Concerts on the Green***
Our free community meal on the Green in conjunction with the Summer Concert Series is a small gesture of hospitality to our community. We would welcome help in grilling hot dogs, passing out drinks, and just saying hi to our neighbors. Concerts start at 7 pm – we’ll be ready to serve around 6:30 pm. Contact Bonnie Smith or Carol Costell Corbin if you can help!

Providing Resources and Essentials to help Prepare kids for School
Saturday, August 25, 1 – 3 pm on the Green ***Back to School P.R.E.P. event***
Last year we helped 107 kids from 56 families get ready for a new school, and we plan to continue this outreach to our community. This is how we **BE THE CHURCH!** We are again providing free haircuts, sneakers, underwear, socks, shampoo/conditioner and toothbrushes/toothpaste. The congregation’s generous donations help make this event possible, and we will be collecting donations again. Look for the giant shoe in the Russell Fellowship Room for sneaker sizes to buy!



LUNCH BUCKET CAMPAIGN

On Friday, June 15 Tiny Hughes, director of The Homer Methodist Food Pantry, and I collected the lunch buckets from 45 businesses in our community. Next, our volunteer counters Anna, Sharon, and Bry totaled the donations for each bucket, including over twenty dollars-worth of pennies. In total, the Lunch Bucket Campaign Against Hunger collected \$820.36 to pass on to the Homer Food Pantry. We appreciate all the donations, proving that every penny makes a difference.

The owners of the various businesses deserve special thanks for displaying our buckets, including the contributions of their own money. A special shout out to Brain Freeze for their large contribution and to Sheridan's Jewelry, who we welcome to our list of stores that participate in our campaign against hunger. We hope you will patronize the local stores that support us.

Businesses that would like to be one of our supporters can call the church office or me to let us know. We are grateful to everyone who helped with this round of Lunch-bucket-collections. If you are interested in participating by organizing or advertising, let the office or I know.

Sincerely,
Clay Benedict



NEW STEPHEN MINISTRY CLASS?

Our program of one-on-one caring has been growing! We are exploring the interest among the congregation to be part of a new class of Stephen Ministers. Bill Masterson & Belinda Burtson would be pleased to talk with you, even if you are just curious about our process. It's a wonderful way for our church to reach out to each other during difficult periods of life and provide care and support. Let us hear from you if you have questions!

THANK YOU!

Our Stephen Ministers coordinated the recent *fill-an-envelope* fundraiser. Thanks to the generosity of many people from our congregation, we have raised **\$4,614** in second mile giving. We are grateful for your generosity. Thanks to Belinda Burtson, Bill & Sherri Masterson and the Wrights (Barb, Leslie & Peter) for coordinating this stupendous effort.

EVENTS OF OUR COUNCIL OF CHURCHES:

Thursday, July 26th

Golf Tournament at Elm Tree Golf Course
Honoree: James Yaman

August 2 – 5

Thursday at 5:30
Saturday at noon
Sunday at 11 am

Chautauqua
Interfaith Panel and Discussion
Dr. Gigi Brown, History Dept. at SUNY Cortland
Chautauqua Worship; Rev. Steph Brown, preaching

Worship in July

Anne Wingard is our Deacon of the Month.

Paula Harrington is our Trustee Verifier.

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

Sunday, July 1 Sacraments of Baptism & Communion

Scripture: Matthew 19:14 Sermon: Bring the Kids!

Special Music provided by Daniel Ford, trumpet; Jack Bertram, sax; & Kirby Stalley, vocalist.

We look forward to celebrating the baptisms of:

Graham Edgar Finn ~ son of Emily & Matthew Finn

Tyler Joseph Hilts ~ son of Maureen Terry-Hilts & Shelly Hilts

Franklin Davidson Hoffman ~ son of Amanda & David Hoffmann

Lincoln Oscar Penoyer ~ son of Jeff & Samantha Penoyer

As we celebrate communion, we will be assisted by

Tracy Bertram, Gary Harrington, Bonnie Smith, and Jim Ulrich.

Ushers & Greeters ~ Terry & Russ Pedersen, Molly Ulrich, Jim Ulrich

Nursery ~

Coffee Hour ~ Clay Benedict

Flowers ~ Jean Cadwallader in memory of Bill Cadwallader.

Sunday, July 8

Lectionary: Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; II Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

Special music provided by Molly Ulrich and friends.

Ushers & Greeters ~ Bonnie Haaland, Belinda Burtson, Terre Dennis, Jan Bertram

Nursery ~ Susan Benedict

Coffee Hour ~ Belinda Burtson/Bonnie Haaland

Flowers ~ Carl & Connie Applegate

Sunday, July 15

Lectionary: Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

Special music provided by Trio Presto. <https://tmingle08.wixsite.com/trioprestocortland>

Ushers & Greeters ~ Joanne Cincotta, Bry Meyka, Maureen Terry-Hilts, Shelley Hilts

Nursery ~ Ingrid Fox

Coffee Hour ~ Ingrid Fox & Janice Bacon

Flowers ~ Pedersen Family in honor of Jenelle's birthday

Sunday, July 22 Sunday after Holiday in Homer!

Sermon: A Celebration of Hymns

Special music provided by [Alex Cottrell](#).

Ushers & Greeters ~ Jim & Kathy McKenna, Gail VanPatten, Shirley Osterhoudt

Nursery ~ Terry Pedersen

Coffee Hour ~ Sylvia Hammond & Dottie Kelley

Sunday, July 29 5th Sunday Brunch Church Communion & "Undies Sunday"

Scripture: I Kings 19

Sermon: Get Up and Eat!

Bring your donations of underwear for P.R.E.P. on our special "undies Sunday"!

As we celebrate communion, we will be assisted by

Darci Gumaer, Evan Faulkenbury, Doris Hoffmann & Terry Pedersen

Ushers & Greeters ~ Bev & Steve Berry

Nursery ~ Cindy Stout

Coffee Hour ~ Rachel Rood & Stan Nilsson

Worship in August

Bill Masterson is our Deacon of the Month.

Trustee Verifier – those present each Sunday.

Sunday, August 5 Worship on the Green - Chautauqua

Preacher: Rev. Steph Brown, Homer Avenue & Virgil UMCs

Sunday, August 12

Lectionary: I Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

Special music provided by

Nursery ~ Ingrid Fox

Coffee Hour ~ Carol Costell-Corbin

Sunday, August 19 Worship on the Green with the UMC

Lectionary: Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

Sunday, August 26

Lectionary: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

Special music provided by Joe Ford.

Nursery ~ Sue Urban

Coffee Hour ~ Connie & Carl Applegate

Flowers ~ Joanne Cincotta

From the Treasurer:

- Operating Revenues at 5/31/18
- \$98,057, 40.2% of budget
(budget overage due to use of capital
reserve not originally budgeted)
- Operating Expenses at 5/31/18 -
\$87,297, 35.8.% of budget

Email Contacts:

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Associate Pastor: associatepastor@homercc.org

Financial Secretary: finsect@homercc.org

Treasurer: treasurer@homercc.org

Find us online!

HCC website - homercc.com

Digital calendar - homercc.com/calendar

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

To receive our mid-week email, Weekday Words,
please email the office: office@homercc.org



Birthdays

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
 20 Jeannine Rose
 21 Russell Perkins
 22 Phyllis Wainman
 26 Sharon Wainman
 31 Alex Feiszli

*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*



Birthdays

2 Nikea Ulrich
 3 Mason Morenus
 8 Laurie Leach
 9 John Helgren
 11 Dylan Loomis
 13 Jeanne Brohard
 14 Nancy Root
 15 Seth Dennis,
 Wesley Lansdowne
 16 Brian Etz, Molly Gray,
 Terry Perkins
 18 Kristen Bell
 19 Lucille Ripley
 24 Ellen Paterson
 26 Jim McKenna
 26 Eric Palm, Kyle Agate
 28 John Rose
 29 John Reif
 31 Jeni Oechsle, Jack Bertram