

**The Homer Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

September 2, 2018

15th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship



Be Open!!!

*Gathered on the Green in 1801 -
Still Gathered and Doing God's Mission*

Homer Congregational United Church of Christ

Sunday, September 2, 2018

Serving us in ministry today:

Tracy Bertram ~ Deacon of the Day

Three Generations of Bertrams ~ Usher/ Greeters

Ingrid Fox ~ Nursery

Anne Wingard & Bev Berry ~ Coffee Hour

The Flowers today are given by

Don & Jennifer VanSlyke

Attendance August 26: 63

Service of Worship

For Quiet Meditation

“Every now and then a [person's] mind is stretched by a new idea or sensation, and never shrinks back to its former dimensions.”

~ *Autocrat of the Breakfast Table* by Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

WE GATHER

**those who are able, please stand*

Welcome

Prelude Andante Tranquillo Mendelssohn
Chimes

Introit Great is Thy Faithfulness
special music by Steve Jones and Joe Ford

Call to Worship

One: Come and celebrate, people of God!
 Sing and shout your praise!

**Many: For our God comes to us:
 in the joy of family gatherings,
 in the gathering of friends at church,
 in the busyness of back-to-school preparations;
 even in the gentleness of a lazy, late-summer day.**

One: God comes to renew our spirits,
 to lift our hearts, and to bring us peace.

**Many: God comes hidden in the safety of a chrysalis
 and emerging in the glory of a butterfly.**

One: No matter where you find our Loving God,
 may God's joy and peace touch your soul.

Many: Make it so, O God, as we worship you this day!

Invocation

We gather to meet you God. To be aware of your presence in our day. For you, Lord, are here now; your Spirit dwells within us. Open our hearts. Open our minds. Open our souls so we may be more fully aware of the many ways you walk beside us. Draw near to us, O God, as we draw near to you. Amen

GOD'S WORD BOTH ANCIENT AND NEW

Anthem No Matter What You've Done ~ *Steve Jones*
Refrain *No matter what you've done*
 You can't erase his love
 Nothing can change it
 You're not separated no matter what

Children's Moment

Peter Wright

If you are visiting, we welcome parents to come forward with your children & stay with them so that they can participate comfortably.

Scripture

Mark 7:24-37

Sermon

Be Open!

OUR RESPONSE

Silence is kept

Offering

An Invitation to Give

Offertory

Adagio

Mendelssohn

*Doxology

**Praise God who gives us life to live.
Praise God who calls us all to give.
Praise God whose image we all bear.
Praise God whose love we now can share.**

*Prayer of Dedication

**Generous God, you have made rich and poor,
powerful and vulnerable alike in your image.
Bless the gifts we have gathered today
that we may use them to protect the afflicted
and bring greater justice to your world. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

Liturgy of Communion

BLESSING

Announcements

Hymn I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me #614

*Blessing of Those Returning to School

Benediction Response I Have This Hope
special music by Steve Jones and Joe Ford

Postlude Maestoso Mendelssohn

THIS WEEK:

Monday our office will be closed for Labor Day

Wed. Homer Nursery School opens

Wed. at 7 **Choir rehearsals begin!**
Come and join the music making.

ALL CHURCH PICNIC

Saturday, September 8 from 3 – 7 at Durkee Park

Plan to join us for this very special time of deepening our connections with one another. We'll crank some old fashioned ice cream, sing, laugh, share burgers & dogs cooked by Chefs Gumaer, play some games and enjoy one another's company. All the food will be provided, so all you need to bring is a lawn chair (if you wish). It is an intergenerational event, and we really need YOU!

What the Mystics Know

Want to deepen your spiritual journey? How about transform your life so you can transform the lives of others? Join Pastor Gary for an informal, weekly, dessert and coffee/tea gathering beginning on Wednesday, September 12 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Three Lil' Birds Cakery, 23 N. Main Street in Homer. To kickoff this group, we will explore Richard Rohr's book, *What the Mystics Know*, which incorporates illuminating insights from the greatest mystics in history with reflections from the Christian and Jewish scriptures. Come and transform your deeper self into a beacon of light for others!

If you are interested in Disciple Bible study (I or II) or *What Mystics Know*, please add your name to the sign-up sheets on the Resource table. Meeting times will be arranged by everyone involved in the group. The study will begin in mid-September.

We just received word that **Esther Twentyman** passed away last Sunday evening. Our prayers are with her entire family. Calling hours will be at Wright Beard Funeral Home on Friday, September 14 from 5 – 7 PM. We will celebrate Esther's life on Saturday, September 15 here at our church.

On Sunday, September 23 we will celebrate the **Sacrament of Baptism**. Please let Pastor Vicki know if you are interested in participating in that service.

Interested in joining Homer Congregational UCC? We will **receive new members** on Sunday, October 21. Let Pastor Vicki know if you are interested.

The Food Pantry is in need of Chunky Soups, Cereal, Pasta, Spaghetti, Canned Fruits, Biscuit Mix and Cream of Mushroom Soup.

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.

We believe children of all ages have a place here. After the Children's Time, small children may head to our nursery, where we provide trained caregivers. One of our greeters can bring you a children's bulletin and a "busy bag" for the older siblings.

Ministry Team with contacts:

Rev. Vicki Burtson, Senior Pastor	pastor@homercc.org	607.624.9940 (cell)
Rev. Gary Smith, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation	associatepastor@homercc.org	607.423.6456 (cell)
Anne Wingard, Office Administrator	office@homercc.org	607.749.2604 (O)
Belinda Burtson, Stephen Ministry Leader	cortlandburtners@gmail.com	607.756.2454 (cell)
Bill Masterson, Stephen Ministry Leader	wjmofcortland@gmail.com	607.345.4874 (cell)
Joseph Ford, Director of Music	James Shultes, Organist	
Bev Berry, Financial Secretary	Jan Jeffers, Chapel Bells	
Andrea Herzog, Treasurer	Gary Harrington, Sexton	

Our office is open Monday – Thursday from 9 am – noon
web site: homercc.com

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.