

THURSDAY WORDS

Reaching out to you from Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, May 21, 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP

This Sunday, the last of Eastertide, we are blessed by the presence of Conference Ministers from throughout the United Church of Christ as they offer portions of our worship service. In addition, Pastor Vicki will reflect on our need to surrender to the unknown as exemplified by so many of our ancestors of faith. Watch for Pastor Gary's Children's Time from a special location in Homer! The link for the service will be available by 9:00 on Sunday at: www.homercc.com. Join us as you are able.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Our **Trustees** met on Tuesday. Highlights included:

- Jim McKenna thanked Carl Applegate and David Rutherford for all their good work in completing the paperwork needed for the PPP Loan. Last week, a check for over \$32,000 was received and deposited. These funds are to be used, primarily, for staff salaries. A portion of the funds may be used for utilities.
- Brian Cornwell reported that parts are ordered and the clock repair will tentatively begin the third week in June.
- The lowest bid for the roof on Jones Hall was accepted and requires some follow-up. We now understand that work on the roof will begin in the end of July.
- The Trustees, working with our treasurer, continue to track our financial status in the midst of this closure. We are grateful for several fundraising ideas that were offered. No decisions were made; however, we hope to explore the possibility of virtual possibilities.

COMING UP

Sunday

No **Adult Faith Formation** this week.

6:30

Pastor Gary Zooms with Senior High Youth Group.

Monday

Office Closed and staff is off for Memorial Day

Tuesday

2:00

Senior Fellowship Zoom gathering – What is your earliest memory of church?

Sunday, May 31 – **5th Sunday & Pentecost**

As we reach out to our congregation and our community, you will have the chance to add your prayers to a line of **Prayer Flags**. We are using colored flags on a rope, which will be lifted on the green. Whenever the wind rustles the flags, the prayers will be lifted to our God. More details to come.

11:00 *If the Church Were Christian* by Philip Gulley – discussing chapters 2 & 3.

OF INTEREST...

- Bonnie Haaland has made about 15 elementary-age, children-sized masks. This week, we also received three masks that can be tied rather than fastened with the elastic bands around ears. If you need either form of mask, call the church office at 749-2604.
- Beginning on **Wednesday, June 3**, we will offer two weekly times for prayers:
 - Pastor Gary and friends will post a bedtime prayer for our kids on Facebook. Watch it whenever you are getting ready for bed that day, kids!
 - Pastor Vicki and friends will lead a time of prayer, via Zoom, on Wednesdays at 9 p.m. Bring a candle and plan to join us. We anticipate this time of prayer will last about 15 minutes.
- If there is anyone who is still in need of tech help so you can join the various church Zoom meetings and gatherings, Elijah Smith is happy to help you get set up. He can also help with other computer, smart phone, or tablet questions. Call him at 607-344-1245 or email at elijah@elijahsmith.net.
- The bills continue to arrive. We are aware that some folks have simply forgotten to send a check. When you are able, you can help your church by staying as current as possible with your gifts and pledges. We DO understand that for those who have been laid off or furloughed – you'll do the best you can as you are able. Thank you!
- Churches are part of the last group to be able to re-open. The NY Conference of the UCC has forwarded Re-opening Guidelines and discussions of the guidelines will soon begin. Whenever we are able to gather in our sanctuary again, we know that there will be several changes, including that each of us will be wearing masks. Watch for information as it becomes available. Our first commitment is to everyone's safety.
- Do you have hearing aids that have a "t-switch"? If so, please contact Pastor Vicki. We need some help in testing audio improvements.
- Stimulus checks have been arriving. It is a kind of "manna" for some folks – providing much needed relief from financial struggles brought on by the loss of employment and/or business. Others, frankly, are not in such dire need. If you are able, you may choose to express your faith-values by donating all or part of the check to our church or to organizations who are also working to support people in need. No judgement here...only a thought for your consideration.

Posted on Facebook – a commentary on our need to be socially distance:

*Now I understand why Laura Ingalls
would get so excited when she'd get to go into town with Pa.*

WATCH FOR THE ONLINE EDITION OF SATURDAY WORDS.