

THURSDAY WORDS

Reaching out to you from Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, June 4, 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP

On this first Sunday in June, we will celebrate communion with two recorded services. As you prepare, be sure to bring some bread and juice.

For adults - Pastor Vicki will recall Paul's words to the Romans and the people of Galatia as he redefined the divisions of his day.

For children – Pastor Gary and Pastor Vicki will have Communion for our young people from out in the Memorial Garden. During the service we will be reminded that being different is beautiful, and that Jesus asks us to love ALL people so that God's light shines through us and our actions.

SPECIAL REPORT

Background: Homer HS graduate, Reed Cleland, invited friends and others to join him in peacefully protesting the events that resulted in the death of George Floyd on May 25. Last Saturday (May 30), Reed coordinated an impromptu gathering on the corner of Cayuga and Main Street – at the edge of our green. Up to 40 people gathered. Reed and others held similar events in Cortland this week. In the newspaper article covering the protest at Grace and Holy Spirit on Tuesday, there was an announcement for a march in Homer, this Saturday, from Durkee Park to “the Village Green”.

Our **Deacons and Trustees** planned a joint special meeting for Wednesday evening. That day, Mayor Hal McCabe consulted with Jim McKenna and Pastor Vicki. He and Bob Pitman (chief of police) are working with Reed to ensure safety on Saturday. When our Deacons and Trustees met, each person had the chance to voice their opinions and questions. Together, we voiced general support for the act of peaceful protest. Along with Mayor Hal, we recognized that, at its core, this protest is a human rights issue. Viewed as such, we voted to allow the use of our green with the understanding that our policy would be followed (no political statements, no alcohol, no smoking or vaping, etc.). We also agreed to have the message “End Racism; Seek Equity” on our sign.

Following the meeting, Jim McKenna called the Mayor. He said that the March will begin at Durkee Park, proceed *around* our Green and then return to Durkee Park. IF there are any speeches at the Green, the village has given permission for the use of the bandstand.

Our Pastor Gary is the Racial Justice Consultant for our NY Conference. His participation provides important representation from our Conference and our denomination. Pastor Vicki will also march, and invites anyone who feels comfortable to join her. Some may wear their HCC shirts, which say that a part of BE-ing the church is to reject racism. There are some Deacons and Trustees who expressed that this is an opportunity to DO something and to, in essence, stand up and be counted. Others, who support the general cause, voiced concern over the current Covid crisis and questions about social distancing. Reed's invitations are clear – all people who participate are to wear masks, practice social distancing and participate peacefully.

We hope that each person will do what seems right to them on Saturday. If you have questions or concerns, please do contact Jim McKenna, Lori Schmidt or Pastor Vicki.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Our **Outreach Team** met on Wednesday to discuss our P.R.E.P. event. As the schools prepare to close for the summer, a flyer will be sent home with students. Due to the current restrictions, an online registration form has been created. Our team will prepare bags and distribute them, *tentatively*, on August 29. Watch for more details about making donations to this marvelous project. Special thanks to Carol Costell Corbin for her many hours of creating flyers, registration forms and web site publicity.

COMING UP

THIS SUNDAY – **Communion Sunday**

- 9:30 Pastor Gary meets with children from K-8th grade Faith Formation classes by Zoom to prepare for Faith Formation Sunday
- 11:00 *If the Church Were Christian* by Philip Gulley – discussing chapters 4 & 5.
- 1:00 p.m. Faith Formation Committee meets
- 6:30 Pastor Gary Zooms with Junior High Youth Group

Tuesday, June 9

- 4:45 Deacons' Meeting

Wednesday, June 10

Children's Bedtime Prayer

Pastor Gary will post a bedtime prayer for our kids on **Facebook**. Watch it whenever you are getting ready for bed that day, kids!

Evening Prayer Service

At 9 p.m., we will hold another brief prayer service. Bring a candle and join us, via Zoom.

Sunday, June 14 – Faith Formation Sunday

During worship we will express our gratitude for the wonderful teachers who have served in both our adult and children's Faith Formation programs this year. This will include a special video message from our children, as well as drawings and haiku!

- 11 a.m. Adult Faith Formation, chapters 6 & 7

CONGRATULATIONS...

...Jacob Dentes, Jenna Johnston and Elijah Smith for receiving an array of scholastic and leadership awards and scholarships. In addition, all three of these outstanding young people were inducted into the National Honor Society this week!

THANK YOU...

- ... Belinda Burtson, Marleah Dentes, Justin & Maddie Dermott, Olivia Harrington, Matt Pelowski, Nancy Stockholm and Jim Ulrich, for helping with last week's Prayer Flag display on our Green.
- ...to the person who gifted the front of our church with ferns in the planters and the flowers planted around our sign. We are grateful for your quiet gift!

WATCH FOR THE ONLINE EDITION OF SATURDAY WORDS.