

THURSDAY WORDS

Reaching out to you from Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, July 23, 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP – GOD ON FILM

Themes for worship this Sunday come from the 1996 movie, *Michael*. This combination comedy/fantasy offers a whimsical look at life as it affirms truth as recorded in Ecclesiastes 3. There is a time to laugh as well as a time to cry. The link will be available on Facebook and on our web page: www.homercc.com any time after 9 a.m. on Sunday.

SYNOPSIS OF MICHAEL

John Travolta, as an angel named Michael, pours a bowl of Frosted Flakes, covers it with four huge spoonfuls of sugar and then slurps it down, dripping milk everywhere. He smokes. He swears. He makes corny jokes. He delights in anything defined as “the world’s largest.” And in the end, he sacrifices his life for the sake of love. A fan of the Beatles, Michael takes to heart the lyric “all you need is love.” Here is what the movie-makers say:

Three employees from a Chicago-based tabloid are asked to travel to rural Iowa to investigate a claim from an old woman that she shares her house with a real, live archangel named Michael. Upon arrival, they see that her claims are true - but Michael is not what they expected: he smokes, eats a LOT of sugar and has a rather colorful vocabulary. In fact, they would never believe it, were it not for the two feathery wings protruding from his back. Michael agrees to travel to Chicago with the threesome, but what they don't realize is that the journey they are about to undertake will change their lives forever.

PREP FOR P.R.E.P. IS UNDERWAY!

Families are asked to register their children. To date, we have **148** children in need.

We are invited to sponsor a specific child(ren) and purchase a new pair of sneakers, a pack of underwear, and a pack of socks. To date, we have **48** sponsors – most of them are from the wider community. Have you signed up to be a sponsor yet?

Saturday, August 1, 9 - 11	Registration in front of the church and Donation drop offs in the back of the church
Saturdays, August 8, 15, 22	Drop off your donations at the back of the Church

Saturday, August 29 P.R.E.P. Distribution

COMING UP

Wednesday **Children’s Bedtime Prayer** available after 6 pm.
8:45 pm **Groundhog Day** showing at Greek Peak’s Adventure Center.
This is your last chance for the drive-in movies! Invite your friends!

Sunday, August 2 – Communion Sunday + *God on Film* **Groundhog Day**

Sunday, August 9 – Church on the Green! We will be live...socially distanced...masked...
Bring your own chair and our ushers will help you find a safe place to sit.
Come at 9:15 AM; worship begins at 9:30.
We will live-stream the service.
Join us for worship under the tent.

WATCH FOR THE ONLINE EDITION OF SATURDAY WORDS.

For those who have not read this letter in email:

Earlier this week, Pastor Vicki wrote to our church family, saying:

Friends –

We have been discussing the feasibility of reopening through a step by step process.

On **Sunday, August 9 at 9:30 AM**, we are scheduled to have our first “in person” worship service, with these plans in place:

- We will be under a tent and we are asking you to bring your own lawn chair.
 - Should you need help getting from your car to the tent, we will have gloved folks ready to help carry your chair.
 - We do plan to have a few chairs available in case some people cannot bring one.
 - To ensure safe distances, the lawn will be marked. The chair(s) of your “quarantine group” go on those markings. Ushers will help you.
- Masks are mandatory for everyone ages two and up. If you do not own a mask, we have homemade masks for young and old. Disposable masks will be available, too.
- We have purchased a sound system for outside and we will be using a screen/projector for worship.
- Our timing:
 - 9:15 – gathering on the green.
 - 9:30 – worship begins.
 - 10:30 – worship concludes and everyone departs.

Due to safety concerns, we cannot provide nursery care and we are not able to hold a coffee hour.

We WILL live-stream the service on Facebook and on YouTube. In addition, I believe it will be recorded.

And so my question:

Given these parameters and knowing that some people are part of the vulnerable populations, **are you planning to come for worship on August 9?** No explanations needed; instead, we just want to have an idea about numbers for that day. We may need to mark spaces for 100 or we may need to mark spaces for 25. If possible, let me know how many in your quarantine group are attending, including ages. If children are present, we will plan a children’s time; however, children will likely not be invited to come forward.

We have never done this before! Thank you for your patience as we move into the future. Let me know your thoughts and questions. I look forward to hearing from you and I am eager to see you.

In lieu of an email response, we hope you will call the office to let us know your intentions about August 9. Again – no long explanations needed. We simply are “taking the pulse” of the congregation with regard to meeting in person on August 9. As much as possible, our bathrooms have been made “touchless” and we now have free-standing sanitizing units available.

Anne Wingard is in the office Monday – Thursday from 9:30 – 11:30. If you call at another time, please do leave a message.