

WEEKDAY WORDS

Reaching out to you from Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, August 13, 2020

Last Sunday, nearly 70 people attended worship under our tent. Another 45+ joined us online. We viewed the “Family Album” and caught up on one another’s lives. We celebrated that, even with our building closed, our ministries have continued and our worship services have been “attended” by people from 11 different states! We experienced beautiful centering music and recognized God’s presence with us. Just as God was with our ancestor-in-faith, Joseph, so God has seen us through.

SUNDAY WORSHIP – LIVE! – AT 9:30 AM

This Sunday we gather again, LIVE, for worship under a tent on our green. If you are able to join us, please follow these instructions:

- Wear a mask. If you do not have one, we will provide one.
- Please bring a chair. Ushers will help you find a socially distanced place to sit. (If you do not have a chair to bring, a few of our wooden chairs will be available.)
- Be gracious in parking – allow the spots closest to the tent for those who need to park closer to the tent.
- Come around 9:15. Worship begins at 9:30. When worship is over, we will wave goodbye and depart.
- **NOTE: The nursery area and Faith Formation rooms are CLOSED at this time.**
- IN CASE OF RAIN, the service will be cancelled. If that is the case, our phone tree will be used and you will have a call between 8:00-8:30 AM. You may also check our web site or FaceBook for an announcement.

This Sunday, Rev. Barb Wright will continue the Joseph-story as told in Genesis 45:1-15. Peter Wright will offer the Children’s Time. Cindy Stout is the Deacon of the Day and Jim McKenna is the Trustee of the Day. Molly Ulrich, Jeanine Rose and Joseph Ford are offering pre-service music for recorders and piano. If you are unable to join us in person, look for the link on our website: www.homercc.org

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Our **Faith Formation Committee** met on Monday. The following decisions were made:

- Adult Faith Formation will begin on Sunday, September 20 at 9:30 AM. Rev. Quinn Caldwell will facilitate our discussion of Lenny Duncan’s book *Dear Church*. At this time, we expect that the discussion will be in-person, socially distanced and masked. Copies of the book (\$13) are available. Please call the office to let us know if you plan to participate and if you need a copy of the book.
- This fall, our children will participate in the video series called *Where in the World is God?* On Sunday, September 13, families will receive a bag filled with materials needed for the series. Each week, your family can watch the video whenever it fits into your schedule. On the following Sunday, our classes will Zoom to share their experiences. Alex Faulkenbury is coordinating this project.
- Parents of children in grades K – 5, we need your feedback. Watch for a doodle poll so you can offer input toward our planning. Thanks for your support.
- Right now, we believe the video-related classes will occur on Zoom; however, we all look forward to having our children return to our classrooms. By September 13, we hope to have made a decision about meeting in-person with the children or continuing with our plan to hold Zoom gatherings.

The **Trustees** met on Tuesday evening and made these decisions:

- Voted to complete the repair of some steps in Jones Hall.
- Voted to purchase a video camera that will vastly improve the quality and ease of live-streaming our services.
- Voted to move forward with repair and resurfacing of the manse driveway.
- Noted that the repair of the roof of Jones Hall will be completed in September.
- Voiced appreciation to Brian Cornwell for his tireless work on behalf of the Trustees.
- Considered the reopening plan of the Homer Nursery School and offered suggestions related to the plan.
- Discussed that a tree next to the UMC has died. Tim Sandstrom & Kurt Schmidt examined the tree on Sunday and concurred – the tree needs to be removed. Bev Berry will follow up with the town. As the tree is removed, we hope to have another one planted.

PASTOR VICKI ON VACATION

Pastor Vicki will be on vacation in the St. Lawrence region from Friday, Aug. 14 – Friday, Aug. 28. In her absence, Rev. Barbara Rhudy and Rev. Becky West have agreed to cover any pastoral care needs. If pastoral care is needed during these next two weeks:

Monday – Thursday from 9:30 – 11:30 Call the church office 607.749.2604

All other times, contact:

Jim McKenna 607.345.8175 (Cell – and you might hear Kathy’s voice!)

Lori Schmidt 607.863.3762 (H) 607.745.5377 (Cell)

Jim, Lori or Anne will pass your concerns to Rev. Rhudy and/or Rev. West.

COMING UP

Monday Our Office will be closed.

Wednesday **Children’s Bedtime Prayer** with Gail Van Patten, available after 6 pm.

Thursday **Endowment Committee** meeting in the Board Room at 4:00.

Saturday

9 – 11 Drop off **PREP** donations at the back of the church. Members of the Outreach Team will receive your donations.

11:00 **Outreach Committee** meeting in the Russell Fellowship Room.

Sunday, August 23 Rev. Quinn Caldwell will lead worship.

Sunday, August 30 Dr. Susan Wilson, preaching; Pastor Vicki leading worship

Monday, Aug. 31 Reopening Task Force will meet via Zoom.

June Financials:

Revenue to 6/30/20 - \$146,676, 64.2% of budget

Expenses to 6/30/20 - \$116,412, 45.7% of budget