

WEEKDAY WORDS

Reaching out to you from Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, January 7, 2021

Dear Church,

We taped the service for this week, in the late afternoon yesterday. It was not until we were finished that I found out that the Capitol building had been over-taken. When I got home, I saw the horrifying pictures. My first thought? *We should have the sanctuary open for prayer.* My second thought? *Covid! We just decided to remain virtual for another Sunday.* And so, in an effort to frame our concerns in prayer, I sent an email to you.

Within the church year, yesterday was Epiphany. The primary scripture for Epiphany is the story (told only in Matthew's gospel) about wise people following a star that finally rested above the place where Jesus had been laid. According to the story, those nomads made a stop at King Herod's house. Herod asked the travelers to come back and tell him where he could find that child-King. Those travelers had a gut feeling about Herod's intentions – to kill that baby, thus ensuring his own royal power. When they had offered their gifts to Jesus and were ready to return home, they made a huge decision – and perhaps it is why we call them “wise.” They opted to return home *...by another way.* In doing so, the wise people removed themselves from Herod's scheme to destroy the child who Herod believed posed a threat to the King's seat of power. Sadly, a lot of babies died. Herod's insecurity resulted in a decree to kill all male babies in the realm. We are told that God guided Mary and Joseph to flee to Egypt with the baby Jesus. Whew! Quite a story for January 6, Epiphany. Quite a story for our time.

We will continue to process what happened on January 6. As we process, may we also:

- ☞ Pray for our country.
- ☞ Seek wisdom and
- ☞ consider how to use our own power to bring good into the world.

Again, Sunday's service was taped before we knew what was happening in Washington. I trust that God's Spirit was present and that, within the service, you will find help in the midst of these days.

Join me in prayers for peace with justice,
Pastor Vicki

THIS SUNDAY **Worship is Virtual**

Join us as we hear the story of Jesus' baptism, complete with descending dove. Focusing on Mark 1:4-11, Pastor Vicki will consider the patterns we choose for our lives. Alex Faulkenbury will help children discover different means to prayer and Joseph Ford will provide special music on the harpsicord. Find the link for our service by 9:00 AM on Sunday morning at: www.homercc.com.

Your offering envelopes for 2021 are now available. Stop by and pick them up.

COMING UP

Monday
4:00 Faith Formation meeting via Zoom

NOTE: In light of the more contagious strain of the Corona virus, we have decided to suspend meeting in person for Centering Prayer. In February, we will re-evaluate our plan.

Tuesday
6:30 Deacons meeting via Zoom

Sunday, January 17 Worship will be virtual. Scripture: John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 24 See below

Sunday, January 31 New Leaders will be dedicated.
Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Mark 1:21-28

Sunday, February 7 Communion
Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 14 Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9

ANNUAL MEETING IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 24.

Written materials will be available this Sunday.

You may get your copy at the church Monday – Thursday from 8:30 – 11:30.
If you wish to have the booklets mailed to you, please call the office to leave your request.