

WEEKDAY WORDS

Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, March 11, 2021

Spring forward, everyone. Sunday daylight savings time begins!

THIS SUNDAY

This 4th Sunday in Lent, we welcome Rev. Barb & Peter Wright to worship leadership. Barb will focus on Numbers 21:4-9 as she considers humanity's ongoing relationship with our very loving God. Peter will share some time with our children. Jeanine Rose and Joe Ford will usher in the presence of the Spirit. Jim Ulrich will serve as the Deacon of the Day. Our service will be live-streamed and then it will be available online by noon. Find the link for our service at: www.homercc.com.

- **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering is due this Sunday. This is one of the UCC's special offerings and we are reminded that when we give to One Great Hour of Sharing, we serve as co-workers with God to build a just world for all. Let love flow.
- We hope you will drop off your donations for the Food Pantry. This week, we are collecting **Toiletry items**, including: Shampoo, Conditioner, Laundry Detergent, Toilet paper
- For kids in grades K-5 – Be sure to pick up your bags for the Good Samaritan unit of **Faith Formation**.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday

6:30

Trustees Zoom

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Affirmed the recommendation from the Mission Committee to send \$3,000 from the Dorothy Jane Andrews Mission Fund to NY Help Honduras. Connections are being made before the financial support will be sent.
- Voted to pay half of our dues to the Susquehanna Association and one quarter of our support for the New York Conference of the UCC.

Lenten Food Pantry Collection

We continue our collection of foods for the **Homer Food Pantry**. Use this list to guide your purchasing:

Sunday, March 21: Snack/Dessert items, including: Granola Bars, Fruit Cups, Muffin mixes, Brownie mixes

Sunday, March 28: Dinner items, including: Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Rice/rice sides, Diced tomatoes, Beans

Focused Prayer

This week, please pray for:

Joy: Sunshine! Time spent with dear friends.

Concerns: Alan, Brian, Carrie, Chris, Gary, Gwen, May, Nick, Pat and Patty.

COMING NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 21:

We are taking baby steps toward our new version of “normal”!

Where reservations are requested, call the office or email pastor@homercc.org.

9:30 **IN PERSON Faith Formation** (by reservation, please)

We think our kids are experiencing Zoom-fatigue! And so – with your help – we invite kids grades K – 5, along with one parent, to gather in the Russell Fellowship. Each family (read Covid group) will have a table. Teachers Joanne Cincotta and Kathy McKenna will lead a brief check-in about the Good Samaritan and then we will learn how to fold an origami Crane. Our cranes will be part of the “Flocking for Hope” project and we will express our gratitude and hope. We may also write a note or draw a picture for the Meals on Wheels greetings. This in-person time **replaces** the zoom meetings scheduled on March 21 & 28.

10:30 Worship and...**NURSERY RETURNS** (by reservation, please)

Our Child Care Coordinator, Mark Bertram will be on hand to provide nursery care with these guidelines:

- Following the Children’s Time, small children will go to the RFR with Mark and a volunteer. Due to cleaning issues, we will not use the area where the Homer Nursery School meets.
- All adults in the nursery will wear a mask.
- Nursery age limit will be, strictly, **infant – 3 years**. Everyone else will stay in worship with a parent – masked & distanced appropriately.
- If your child will be in the nursery, please bring a favorite toy. Though difficult, every effort will be made to keep toys and their owners distanced.
- There will be a “2nd set of eyes” present for oversight; however, not everyone in the congregation has had both doses of the vaccine. The 2nd person may not be able to interact directly with the children.

1:00 Zoom discussion of *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas.

PLANS FOR PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK:

Sunday, March 28 at 10:30 Palm Sunday

We will gather for worship as we recall Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. As we did last year, we will share our palms with the wider community. They will be distributed inside during worship and outside for any passers-by.

Thursday, April 1 at 7 PM Maundy Thursday

Together we will meet Jesus around our table in the sanctuary. Our service will end with prayers and symbols of the garden.

Friday, April 2 at 5 PM Good Friday

We will remember seven last words with an array of seven herbs. The service is planned to be brief and deeply meaningful.

Sunday, April 4 Easter Sunday (by reservation, please)

No one should be turned away on Easter Sunday, so we are requesting that you make reservations for worship at 10:30 AM. If we exceed the numbers our sanctuary can safely hold, we will have a 2nd service at 8:30 AM. The decision will be made in advance based on the reservations we receive. Hey kids – come and meet Pastor Peeps!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- **The gifts of Palms & Flowers** - We are receiving donations towards palms for Palm Sunday and flowers for Easter Sunday. Your donations can be in honor or memory of your loved ones. More details will come next week.
- **Notes of Connection and Hope** - The Outreach Team welcomes you to write note cards of hope and connection to be distributed to **Meals on Wheels** recipients. Our goal is to collect **225 note cards by March 21**. Use your own note cards and drop off at church (leave the envelope blank). Or come early to worship on Sunday and fill out a few cards in the fellowship room. Children and youth are invited to draw a picture and write a message. Out of respect for the variety of faith traditions of the recipients, we encourage you to refrain from religious messages. An example: “This is a note to let you know that someone is thinking of you and wishing you all the best today. May the increasing sunshine and warmth of spring offer you hope and bring you peace. *Your name*, part of the family at Homer Congregational Church” .
- **Also from the Outreach Team** – If you plan on doing any spring cleaning, we will be collecting gently used kitchen items (pots, pans, dishes, utensils, etc.) in May. Hold onto these items and plan to bring them whenever the actual collection is announced.
- As we prepare for Easter, Joseph Ford invites everyone to participate in creating our own version of Handel’s **Hallelujah Chorus**. Recording dates will be posted next week.
- The “Flocking for Hope” project has collected over 3,000 folded paper cranes! Some of that number came from our Sr. Fellowship this past Tuesday. The cranes will “fly” on our green from April 10 – April 25.
- On Sunday, April 18 at 3 PM, Ralph Dudgeon will be in concert in our sanctuary. Plan to come early or stay late so you can stroll through the display of cranes on our green and then settle in for some marvelous trumpet and organ music. Be sure to tell your neighbors and friends. A free-will offering will be received to benefit the Homer Food Pantry.

