

WEEKDAY WORDS

Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, September 2, 2021

In this special edition:

- Find out about worship. Keep reading...
- Calling all parents! Calling folks who want to reflect on the last 18 months! Calling anyone who wants to meet another of the Still-Speaking Devotional writers! Check out the unexpected, wonderful opportunity coming our way. Keep reading...
- Find ALL the statistics for our PREP event last week. This will make your heart sing. Keep reading...
- Looking for another way to express your faith? Keep reading...
- Wondering when we return to 10:30 worship? Keep reading...

THIS SUNDAY MORNING

9:30 AM

On this Sunday of Labor Day weekend, we will celebrate communion and the return of students and teachers to school. Pastor Vicki's sermon is based on Isaiah 35 which is all about hope for people returning home. All faculty and staff of our schools (nursery – college) are invited to receive our *Blessing of the Masks*. Carol Costell Corbin and Chuck Feiszli are Deacon and Trustee of the month. As we observe Labor Day, we invite you to wear the “uniform” you wear for work. The service will be live-streamed. Find the link either on our Face Book page (Homer Congregational UCC) or on our web site: www.homercc.com.

This Week

Monday Our office will be closed for Labor Day.

Tuesday Homer Nursery School Board will meet at 4:30.



Homer Congregational Church

**WE WILL BE
CHANGED:
GIFTS OF THE 'RONA
FOR PARENTS &
CAREGIVERS**

Join us for a conversation about
what we've learned, what we're
keeping, and what we're letting go.

**MOLLY
BASKETTE**

Thursday, September 9
6:30 PM

WWW.HOMERCC.COM

Thursday, September 9 at 6:30 PM

We Will be Changed: Gifts of the 'Rona for Parents and Caregivers

Jacob wrestled all night long with an angel and at last wrung forth a blessing. What blessings will we wring for our families from our long wrestling this past year? What do we want to hold on to, and what are we ready to release forever? How can we resist the dominant culture that is already urging us to get back to high-paced consuming and producing, and cling to our own newfound sabbath and purpose? How can we help our children find their own resilience and use it to work for a more just post-pandemic world?

Molly Boskett is a pastor and one of the UCC's Still-Speaking devotional writers.

Ellen O'Donnell is a psychologist.

Join this moderated conversation with these two friends who, together, co-authored *Bless This Mess: A Modern-Day Guide to Faith and Parenting in a Chaotic Age*. The conversation will close with a time of ritual commitment and blessing for all that lies ahead. **CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED!**

COMING UP

Sunday, September 12 **Rally Day**

9:30 Faith Formation

WE'RE BACK! Masked and socially distanced...we are back!

This Sunday we will settle into our classes:

Pre-K & K with Tracy Bertram & Jenelle Pedersen

Grades 1 – 3 with Jan Bertram & Kellie McConnell

Grades 4 – 6 with Alex Faulkenbury & Kathy McKenna

Pre-K through 3rd grade will spend the fall term with the Lord's Prayer.

4 – 6 will begin a new experience called Re:form – getting “real” about faith.

10:30 worship begins

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Faith Formation is growing, and we need YOUR help! We're currently looking for teachers (serve a one month-long rotation - 2 teachers per class), and/or nursery volunteers (serve at least one week - assist our Childcare Coordinator during worship). Not sure how much time you have to offer? No problem! We can work with your schedule (including our “snowbirds”). Currently, we need to cover the month of October in our Pre-K/Kindergarten class. If you can help (including if you are willing to substitute) contact Alex Faulkenbury (alexandria.faulkenbury@gmail.com) with questions and/or to sign up.

RALLY DAY CHALLENGE from the MISSION COMMITTEE

It seems a lifetime ago, but it was just three weeks ago that another earthquake hit Haiti. I remember the devastation of the last one – several church folks from the US were killed in that one. This week our troops departed Afghanistan and hurricanes happened (it seems) every other day and the wildfires are unimaginable. The needs of the world are as overwhelming as is all the disturbing news. Into that mix (that includes Covid), our Mission Committee challenges us to **Be a Blessing!** On **Rally Day**, we will receive a special offering to benefit our “kin” in Haiti. The Mission Committee will match whatever we can gather PLUS add \$1,000.

Saturday, September 11

8:30 AM **Remembering 9/11**

The community will gather around the flagpole and the 9/11 memorial on Main Street to remember the 20th anniversary of a date seared into our memories. Chief Pitmann has organized this remembrance, and all are invited to attend.

Sunday, September 19

2:00 **Celebrating the life of Dorothy Hopkins.**

Dorothy died on January 24. Finally, we can gather to offer comfort and to celebrate with Bill, Tara, and Geoffrey. Dorothy's favorite cookie recipes will be used as we prepare for the reception following the service.

Current Financials

Revenues to 7/31/21 - \$264,408.64, 117.4% of budget
Expenses to 7/31/21 - \$147,614.62, 59.2% of budget

September Birthdays

2	Joanne Cincotta
6	Jack Carr
8	Doris Hoffmann
9	Marleah Dentes
10	Lee Benson
13	Carrie Scheibner
15	Bettie Brown
16	Alex Faulkenbury
19	Shannon Kostuk
24	Luke Pedersen, Kurt Schmidt
26	Les Wainman
27	Jan Bertram
28	Jan Jeffers

PREP Distribution Team



2021 PREP HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, August 25, 2021

Registrations

- **259 kids from 120 families**
(Received sneakers, socks, underwear, shampoo, soap, washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste)
 - Homer = 93
 - Cortland = 80
 - Cincinnatus = 10
 - Marathon = 10
 - McGraw = 27
 - Other/Unknown = 39

Waiting List Registrations

- **55 kids from 24 families**
(Received shoe gift card of \$48 and supplies as available)
 - Homer = 13
 - Cortland = 30
 - Cincinnatus = 0
 - Marathon = 0
 - McGraw = 10
 - Other/Unknown = 2
- **4** unexpected extra kids on day-of with registered families
- **7** kids assisted from 2 additional families who contacted office after registration closed

TOTAL

- **325 kids from 146 families**
 - Homer = 106
 - Cortland = 110
 - Cincinnatus = 10
 - Marathon = 10
 - McGraw = 37
 - Other/Unknown = 52

Sponsors

- **55 Sponsors**
- **15+ individual donors**

Financial Donations/Revenue

2021 Outreach team budget for PREP	\$2,000.00
Brockway Foundation	\$8,000.00
Elks National Foundation grant	\$3,000.00
St. Margaret's Church	\$500.00
Individual Donors	\$1,383.90
Holiday in Homer Coffee donations	\$53.00
Rt. 90 sale from kitchen gear items	\$120.25
Total Income	\$15,056.25

Donations

- YMCA – 115 Tops grocery gift cards of \$50 each (Homer food pantry purchased additional 10 \$50 cards to reach 125 total families)
- Salvation Army – disinfecting wipes, toilet paper, alcohol wipes, hand soap, some shampoo
- Seven Valley Dental – toothbrushes
- Dr. Matthew Dentes – toothbrushes
- Phillips Free Library, Homer – books
- Homer Immediate School – books

First Year of Collaboration with Homer Food Pantry

- 125 food bags packed – one per family
- Bags included cereal, peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and cheese, granola bars, fruit cups, juice boxes and hot cocoa mix

Registration Dates

- First registration – June 16, 2021
- Reached 250 limit/Opened Waiting List registration – July 15, 2021
- Closed waiting list registration – Aug. 18, 2021

Quotes from families on registration list:

- “He is special needs, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to get help with some basic necessities for him.”
- “I’d like to thank you and I am so appreciative of what you’re doing for my children. Thank you. God bless.”
- “I was just diagnosed with cancer please and thank you. Anything helps.”
- “This is a wonderful program for the kids in our community, Thank you!”
- “I recently lost my job due to Covid and have been falling under tough financial strain as this was unexpected. [My son] is growing like crazy and it’s hard to keep up especially with decent sneakers... supportive but “cool” looking sneakers are a lot of money. When I get back on my feet I am definitely going to sponsor a child because I now know what it feels like to be a single mom in need of help. I never thought I would end up this way. Also health issues are preventing me from going back to work for a bit. I feel embarrassed and ashamed to ask for help. It would mean a lot to me.”

Quotes from waitlist families after texting them that we can assist:

- “Thank you so much for the help. Our family really appreciates the assistance.”
- “Thank you very much for all that you do! You have no idea how much this helps.”

Quotes day-of:

- “I picked up [my son’s] stuff this morning, and I just wanted to say thank you, you guys are AWESOME!!”
- Young voice heard as a car pulled up for the bag of food at the UMC:
“I GOT NEW SNEAKERS!!!”