

WEEKDAY WORDS

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

Don't forget that we are lighting the Menorah each evening at 4:30 PM. We gather with our siblings who are Jewish for about 15 minutes. All are welcome.

LIGHT OF MY LIFE

TOMORROW (Friday):

- 4:30 Lighting of the Menorah
- 5:30 Phillips Free Library - Open House, Hot cocoa, 6:00 craft
- 6:30 Tree Lighting on our Green
 - Followed by music by *The Finger Lakes Saxophone Quartet*, refreshments, and Santa's arrival. (Our own Joe Ford is part of the Sax quartet!)

THIS SUNDAY

- 9:00 AM Join our Confirmation Class & their Journey Partners as we decorate the church, then enjoy some homemade Cinnamon Rolls and cocoa.
- 9:30 Faith Formation classes
- 10:30 Advent II and Communion
 - Jack & Amelia Brown, Julie Freeman and Pete Wright light the Peace candle
 - Belinda Burtson and Bonnie Haaland are Deacon/Trustee of the month.
- 11:45 Bible Study upstairs
 - Outreach Team in the Board Room
- 3:00 The Whitechapel Ringers' Christmas Concert at UPC
 - Our own Jan Jeffers is one of the ringers.
- 4:30 Last night of lighting the Menorah.

NEXT WEEK

- Monday Staff meeting at 10 AM.
- Tuesday Faith Formation Committee will zoom at 6:30.
- Thursday All wrapped METS gifts should be at church by 6:00 PM.
 - Leave the tag on the outside of your gift and thanks for the gifts!

When you pray...please include:

Gary Homer, Michael Magee, Pat, Paul, Katherine Wilson, Gene Wright
Those who have Covid and the families who have lost loved ones to the virus.
Those for whom Christmas will not feel very "merry".

COMING UP

Sunday, December 12

- 9:15 Confirmands meet with Pastor Vicki at the Menorah on the green.
- 9:30 Faith Formation classes. Our children finalize the Christmas Pageant.
- 10:30 Worship
- 11:45 Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, December 14

- 2:00 **Senior Fellowship** Christmas celebration
Join us in sharing favorite Christmas memories.
Bring a favorite Christmas ornament or another memento from childhood.
We'll sing and then share special Christmas refreshments and hot beverages.

- 6:30 **Deacons** meet via Zoom
Trustees meet in person in the RFR.
Both groups will finalize budgets for 2022.

Sunday, December 19 - **Christmas Pageant**

- 10 AM Join us in the RFR for a special pre-Christmas brunch of muffins and juice.
- 10:30 We move into the sanctuary for worship, including a pageant for everyone.

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve options

- 4:00 PM A **Family Christmas Celebration** complete with cupcakes, candles and a special telling of the Christmas story.

- 7:00 **Lessons and Carols** – We will celebrate the birth of the Christ Child through scripture, music, and candlelight. As we did for Easter Sunday, we are taking reservations for this service.

Sunday, December 26 – Come as you are...

- 10:30 Come as you are to celebrate worship.
Pastor Vicki will be assisted by our young adults who are home for Christmas.

ADVENT WAITING...

This week, Jack and Amelia Brown will light the PEACE candle on the Advent Wreath. I wonder how we are doing with that concept...peace? I'll be honest. There have been moments this week when peace felt like a fantasy. Another shooting happened. People are coming down with pneumonia. There are families who are struggling with cancer and debt and worry and traumas too personal to share with our whole family of faith.

Thus, I was grateful to read in our book All I Really Want about the two kinds of waiting described on pp. 12-13. There is the first kind of waiting that looks at the state of the world and wonders when is God going to show up? I thought to myself...yes...when, God??

And then it felt as though God was whispering – *don't forget that other kind of waiting!* That is the God-is-almost-here (again) waiting. Someone quietly inquires if a person has enough money for lunch...(yes, I do, thank you...)...and the story is told with but-what-if-I-didn't-ask tears. There is the waiting for Sunday morning, knowing that our sanctuary will be transformed (again) with some boughs and Christmas lights to a vision of peace.

In the midst of the WHEN, God? waiting, we do not lose hope. Again and again, God reappears, if only we take the time to wait and watch and listen.