

WEEKDAY WORDS

Reaching out to you from Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, October 3, 2019

This weekend we celebrate World Communion Sunday! Pastor Vicki will preach on Acts 2:1-18a. As we gather and celebrate the sacrament of Communion, we do so in union with Christians from across the globe. After worship, we gather for fellowship, sweet treats, and coffee/tea. Bonnie Smith is our Deacon of the Day and Alex & Luke Bertram will serve as acolytes for the service. This Sunday we will kick off our UCC offering called *Neighbors in Need*. One third of the *NIN* fund provides financial resources to the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministry. The rest of the fund is used to support churches throughout our denomination who are involved in justice ministries. (We may seek a grant from *NIN* for our PREP program in 2020.) Envelopes may be filled on this and/or next Sunday, or dropped by the church during our office hours. This is one of our denomination's five special offerings.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Back when I was teaching Sunday school with the high school aged teens, we watched a Nooma video that talked about the ancient Greeks and how they used many different words to describe all the types of love. For example, there is a big difference between loving pizza and loving a person. As Christians, we are asked to love our neighbors as ourselves. I suppose we could all have different definitions of what this type of love means. I think our church has come up with a great way to define it, in fact we even wrote it on the wall of our sanctuary. "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here". It is a statement that shares the love and grace that God has shown us and extends it to all. We are stewards of this love and generosity. The gifts we give to our church through time, talent and monetary support help us continue to use and share all of the resources that God has entrusted to us. Please keep this in mind as you consider your pledge for the coming year.

~ Sherri Masterson

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The **Outreach Team** met last Sunday. They evaluated PREP and celebrated that, with the help of our community, we served 122 families and 265 children, with 400 people attending. Decisions included:

- After nearly a year of sending "welcome" postcards to folks moving into our area, the team decided to suspend this effort.
- **Saturday, October 19** is a faith-in-action opportunity – **Mitten Project** – from 9-2. Working with Gail Brennan, our congregation will cut and sew wool mittens for people who are homeless. All are invited to come at 9 for coffee. Bring a snack to share and you may receive a special prize! We will break for lunch (pizza provided) and finish by 2. The mittens will be donated to regional programs who provide help for those who do not have a home.
- **Saturday, October 26** is a recycling opportunity – **Kids' Used Clothing Swap** from 10 – 2. Donate used clothing sizes newborn – kids' size 14 and you will receive a ticket. Bring your ticket between 10 & noon and take what you need. Nothing to swap? No problem! Come at noon and all items left will be given away. Drop off clothing during our office hours Monday-Thursday (9 – 12) or Friday evening between 5-7.
- The team agreed to resume their "Laundromat Ministry" in the coming weeks.

Our **Church Council** met on Monday evening. The purpose of the Church Council is to provide an avenue for communication and discussion. Moderator Rev. Barbara Wright read a fable called “The Bridge” and then the Council discussed the question “How are we doing in ministry?” The consensus is that we are headed in the right direction: Our attendance is up, our ministry of Outreach has been strong, our worship is engaging, mission trips for youth and/or adults are on the horizon. We celebrated the presence of our youth in worship and yearn to see them more often. We heard updates from each committee chair and discussed resources for the coming Stewardship Campaign.

Worship & Music met on Wednesday evening. Decisions:

- October 27 is **CROP Walk’s 50th anniversary**. We hope to have 50 people who have each raised \$50, carry our banner. A display is being created for the sanctuary.
- The December calendar includes:
 - Dec. 1 – Advent I
 - Dec. 8 – Advent II
 - Dec. 15 – Advent III and Children’s Pageant
 - Dec. 22 – Advent IV and possible Choir Cantata (TBA)
 - Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve:
 - 4:00 p.m. Service for Families: A Birthday Party for Jesus
 - 7:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

THIS WEEK:

TONIGHT: Thursday, October 3

6:30 p.m. A Sacred Conversation to End Racism –
We will explore how we learned about race and what that said to us. We will also begin to discover the history of how “race” came into being. All are welcome!

Sunday, October 6

9:30 a.m. Faith Formation
10:30 a.m. World Communion Sunday with *Neighbors in Need* offering
6:00 p.m. Junior High (7-8 grade) Youth Group @ Preble Congregational UCC

Monday, October 7

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
4:45 p.m. Disciple Bible Study I
5:15 p.m. Disciple Bible Study II (NOTE NEW TIME)

Tuesday, October 8

2 p.m. Senior Fellowship – Kathy McKenna leading a Halloween Craft
5 p.m. Centering Prayer
6:30 p.m. Deacon’s Meeting

Wednesday, October 9

9:30 a.m. Committee on Authorized Ministry Meeting

Thursday, October 10

6:30 p.m. A Sacred Conversation to End Racism

Friday, October 11 – **Roast Pork Dinner/Harvest Festival**

It's a little bit of tradition mixed with some new ideas. Beginning at 4:30 p.m. we'll have games for the family. Starting at 5:00, dinner buffet is served! There will be plenty of roast pork, mashed potatoes and green beans. This year you may choose either plain sauerkraut or stick with Don's traditional sauerkraut recipe. The Homer & Cornwell families are making homemade applesauce for our feast. In keeping with the historical flavor of the weekend, for dessert have cookies or try a David Hannum sundae (served by Mr. Hannum, himself!) Cost is only \$15 for adults; \$8 for kids, and 4 & under are free. Takeout is available. Sign up to help and to be a part of the fun!

COMING UP:

Sunday, October 13

9:30 a.m. Children's Faith Formation

10:30 a.m. Worship

Noon Mission Lunch – **Days for Girls**

Jeanette Mulford will be here to discuss Days for Girls, a global movement that prepares and distributes sustainable menstrual health solutions for girls. These solutions help women continue school or work and to maintain their dignity. HCC gave a \$300.00 contribution to DFG in 2018 (from the Dorothy Jane Andrews Mission Fund).

Monday, October 14 – Office Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day (formerly Columbus Day)
Disciple Bible Studies will not meet.

Saturday, October 19

9 a.m. **Mitten Making** (see information under "outreach team" above)

Sunday, October 20 – **Membership Recognition** & receiving **New Members**.

Anyone interested in joining the Homer Congregational UCC family, please see Pastor Vicki this Sunday (or send an email to pastor@homercc.org).

DATES TO NOTE:

Saturday, October 26 – **Kids' Used Clothing Swap**

(see information under "outreach team" above)

Sunday, October 27 – **CROP Walk** 50th Anniversary Walk!

We hope to have 50 people raising \$50 for the 50th Walk!

Sunday, November 10 – **Stewardship Sunday**

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Canned Fruits, Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Brownie Mixes, Pasta Sides and Rice Sides