

WEEKDAY WORDS

Reaching out to you from Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, December 19, 2019

“Give your praise and lift your voices. Sing noel!” Join us on this fourth Sunday of Advent and experience God’s grace during our Choir Cantata. Songs include *Celebrate the Promise*, *Alleluia*, *Sing Noel!*, and *Songs of the Star*. During worship, the Anderson, Cornwell, and Homer families will light the candle of Love, and we will be gifted with a Brass Ensemble consisting of Jacob Dentes, Daniel Ford, Karen Downey and Elijah Smith. Worship participants also include Bill Masterson as Deacon, and Delanie & Jenna McConnell as acolytes.

During the 9:30 hour, our children will celebrate last week’s pageant with a Christmas Party that includes making one last ornament craft, and watching Disney’s *Prep and Landing* (with Christmas cookies, of course!). Adult Faith Formation is on break, but will return on January 5 with the discussion of chapter eight of Holy Envy.

CHRISTMAS EVE:

4 p.m. – *Birthday Party for Jesus*

Bring the whole family for our Birthday Party for Jesus as we focus on the true meaning of Christmas in terms that each of us can understand. Alex Bertram and Clara Faulkenbury will invite us into worship. After we hear the ancient story, Michael the Mouse will visit. Jack Bertram is making a birthday cake complete with a candle for each month of the year. We pray and, after singing Happy Birthday to Jesus, we’ll blow out the candles and have cake and ice cream. Tell everyone about this very special opportunity to celebrate Christmas.

7 p.m. – *Lessons, Carols and Candlelight*

In the beauty of our sanctuary we will celebrate a traditional service of Lessons, Carols and Candlelight. As we hear the story of Jesus’ birth retold, there will be special music, time for prayer, and lots of Christmas carols. Jack Carr is singing *O Holy Night*. At the end of the service we will encircle the pews, turn off the lights and sing *Silent Night* while bathed in candle light. Stick around afterward for some Christmas Cheer in the Russell Fellowship Room. All are welcome.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES TO NOTE:

- **End of Year contributions** must be in by **Sunday, December 29** to be counted in the 2019 fiscal year.
- The carpet in Russell Fellowship Room will be steam-cleaned on Monday, December 30. It needs three days to dry, so if possible, please avoid the RFR **from December 30 – January 1**.
- **Reports for Annual Meeting are due by January 5**. This allows the church office time to compile, print and publish the written materials two weeks ahead of annual meeting. Your help with this is greatly appreciated!
- This is the last *Weekday Words* for 2019. WW will resume on Thursday, January 9.
- **A Call to Annual Meetings: Sunday, January 26** Homer Congregational United Church of Christ and the First Religious Society of Homer, NY will meet to receive reports and make important decisions about our ministries in 2020. Snow date is Sunday, February 2.



And the Heifer Project winner was...

For the past few weeks, five containers have adorned the mantel in the RFR – one, each, for Alex Faulkenbury, Bill Masterson, Kurt Schmidt, Rev. Gary Smith and Anne Wingard. The money collected (\$138.57!) is being added to the fall Children’s Offering taken each week during Faith Formation, and will be used to purchase animals through the **Heifer Project**. Last Sunday, during coffee hour, the person who received the most “votes” (donations) had the pleasure of kissing Neptune the Goat, brought in by Terry Howell and Asa Caldwell. And that lucky winner was Pastor Gary! “I never realized goats had such soft lips,” said Pastor Gary. Thank you to all who contributed to this fun project!

THIS WEEK:

Sunday, December 22 – **Fourth Sunday of Advent** – The Candle of Love

9:30 Children’s Christmas celebration & Advent craft
10:30 Choir Cantata
3:00 Blue Christmas Service at Grace & Holy Spirit Church in Cortland

Monday, December 23

9:00 College students meet with the pastors at Sinfully Sweet

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 Birthday Party for Jesus – cake & ice cream to follow
7:00 Service of Lessons, Carols and Candlelight – Christmas Cheer to follow

Wednesday, December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sunday, December 29

10:30 Worship led by our College Students. Evan Ulrich will preach
Our family of faith will also receive a new member!

COMING UP:

Monday, December 30-January 1

All Day Fellowship Carpet Cleaning (please avoid using RFR. Thank you!)

Saturday, January 4

9:30 Stephen Ministry Meeting

Sunday, January 5 - **Epiphany**

9:30 Children’s Faith Formation
Adult Faith Formation - *Holy Envy*, chapter 8
10:30 Worship with Communion
3:00 Epiphany Choir Festival – United Presbyterian Church, Cortland
Our choir is participating!

Happy January Birthdays to:

Jacob Dentes and John Newton on the 1st, Bonnie Haaland and Nate Ulrich on the 2nd.
Look for the rest of the January birthdays next week.