

THURSDAY WORDS

Reaching out to you from Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, April 16, 2020

TAKING SABBATH TIME DURING A PANDEMIC

Join us for worship this Sunday – the first Sunday after Easter. By 9:00 a.m. the link will be on our website: www.homercc.com. Rev. Gary Smith will use the story of Elijah and the cave (1 Kings 19:4-13) to remind us of the importance of taking Sabbath in the midst of “flattening the curve.” And children will learn ways to calm worries during stressful times.

HOLY WEEK IN REVIEW

On **Maundy Thursday** 50 people participated in communion by Zoom! We were delighted to see the faces of our snowbirds (Carol Agate, Clay Benedict and Gail Van Patten). In addition, Jane Edlund and her daughter were present with us. What joy to see one another, to pray together, to listen to music and to remember how Jesus gathered with his disciples so long ago. Special thanks to Pastor Gary and Brian Cornwell who have helped people get connected via Zoom.

On **Good Friday** we were blessed by a multigenerational group of readers and reflectors for the Stations of the Cross. What a blessing it was to remember Jesus’ journey and to capture the connections to modern-day Good Friday. Later, several of us joined in a marvelous conversation, identifying the significance of particular “stations”. It was another HCC team effort for which we are so grateful.

Thanks to Rev. Quinn Caldwell, the silence of **Holy Saturday** was observed by his article entitled “Harrowing”. If you haven’t seen it, it is still available in *Saturday Words* from April 11 – on our web site.

Our sign was a garden of grace and hope on **Easter Sunday**! Inside, stones and sunflower seed blossomed to sunflowers. And isn’t that how our Lenten kindnesses affected the world, as well? Many thanks to Daniel Ford and Karen Downey who played trumpet on Christ the Lord is Risen Today.



And now the season of Easter continues...

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Our **Deacons** met on Tuesday evening. They debriefed Holy Week and expressed thanks to the array of people who helped with music, visuals, liturgy and taping. Committee reports include:

- Our Outreach Committee has been working with Tiny to have the Homer Food Pantry open on Thursday evenings. These connections have taught us that, for now, ***the most feasible means of donation is monetary***. Due to cuts from regular sponsors, the food pantry will be in great need of fresh products. Your financial support will help to fill the gaps that are occurring. Make your checks out to Homer Congregational Church and put “Homer Food Pantry” in the memo. Anything that you can donate will make a difference.
- Work will begin next week on replacing the lights under the balcony in the sanctuary. Funds from the Memorial Committee will cover this project.

General feedback indicated that, even in the midst of distance, we have been doing well in our efforts to stay connected and to worship our God. We will continue to reach out to one another by phone, email and snail mail.

COMING UP

Sunday, April 19

9:00 The link for worship will be available on our web site: www.homercc.com

11:00 Book Discussion – Brené Brown’s *Daring Greatly*

12:00 Faith Formation Committee meets

1:00 College Students checking in with Pastor Vicki

Monday

Mission Committee meeting via Zoom

Tuesday

6:30 Trustees’ meeting

THANK YOU...

...Paula and Buzz for setting up the flowers around the sign on Easter Sunday. By Sunday evening, only two flowers remained. Happy Easter, indeed!

...Jim and Evan Ulrich for faithfully ringing our church bell each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We may not be here in person, but our community can still hear us!

...for all the special greetings and treats shared with Pastor Vicki and Pastor Gary. Your gifts made us smile.

...for continuing to give to the Church. Your financial support is vital to our efforts of being in ministry to one another and to the world – for the sake of grace and hope.

WATCH FOR THE ONLINE EDITION OF SATURDAY WORDS.