

WEEKDAY WORDS

Reaching out to you from Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, April 2, 2020

PLANS FOR HOLY WEEK

Saturday, April 4

Members of our Worship & Music Committee will be setting up luminaries and palm branches along our front walk. We hope you will walk or drive by, as we let some light and hope shine. Get some fresh air, but keep appropriate safe distances, dear friends!

Sunday, April 5

Palm Sunday

Gather the family and go to our website: www.homercc.com to find a link for worship. We hope you will sing-along and join in prayers as we celebrate Palm Sunday. Pastor Vicki's reflection, "Wait...What?" is based on the story of Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem found in the Gospel of Mark 11:1-11. Pastor Gary will use Luke's description of the same event as he leads the Children's Message. Jack Carr and Joe Ford will offer the gift of "The Palms" as the prelude to our worship.

If you would like a palm, feel free to walk or drive by and pick one up from the sidewalk.

At 11:00, our discussion of *Daring Greatly* will continue. We are on chapter five.

Games for Youth on Zoom:

7-7:40 Junior High Games 7:45-8:30 Senior High Games

Thursday, April 9

Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m.

Join us for our holy observance by ZOOM! Our Zoom session will begin with a brief welcome and check-in. We will sing and pray and celebrate communion, so please bring your own bread and juice to our gathering. To accomplish this, we need the following:

1. If you haven't done Zoom before, let Pastor Gary know your email address. He is planning another practice session on Sunday at 6 p.m. He will send you a link to follow and he or Brian Cornwell will help you get connected.
2. If you plan to participate on Maundy Thursday (and we certainly hope you will!), please let Pastor Vicki know. She will send an invitation to the service by Wednesday. On Thursday, just click the link within that email invitation and join the Zoom session.
3. Again – bring a piece of bread and some juice to the session. If you don't have grape juice – use whatever you have: water, milk, coffee, etc. We trust that God can provide grace through whatever means is available.
4. When you are ready to connect with the group, be sure to turn off your TVs, put the dogs in another room and provide yourself the best quiet space you can create. The service will be "kid friendly", so bring the whole family.

Friday, April 10

Good Friday

7 p.m.

Beginning at noon on Good Friday visit our website: www.homercc.com to find a link for a video meditation based on the Stations of the Cross. The meditation video will be available throughout the day. Then plan to join us at 7 p.m. for a Zoom session where we will have an opportunity to reflect on the video. If you would like to join the evening Zoom session, the link will be provided right on our website along with the video.

Saturday, April 11

Holy Saturday

Watch for a special opportunity in the Saturday Weekday Words on April 11. Rev. Quinn Caldwell has agreed to provide a devotional exercise for that day of holy silence.

Sunday, April 12

Easter Sunday

Whether we are in the same room or not – the day of resurrection comes! Plan to worship together as we sing Hallelujah and enjoy the blossoming of our acts of kindness throughout the season of Lent.

We are so grateful to share that, the folks who bought Easter flowers have generously agreed to donate them. On Easter Sunday morning, those flowers will be arranged around our sign out front. We are inviting members of the Homer community who may walk or drive by the green, to take a flower home – an assurance of hope in the midst of challenging days.

THANK YOU...

...Buzz, for keeping our building as clean as humanly possible. Buzz is here daily, spraying the surfaces that may have been touched. In addition, he has been steam cleaning carpets, re-organizing closets and getting rid of forgotten items.

...Deacons and Trustees, for passing the Peace of Christ through calls to our members and friends. These weekly check-ins have helped us to keep connected to each other.

...Brian Cornwell, for the hours spent in recording, editing and producing the links for our weekly worship. We have reached members and friends from Pennsylvania to Florida. Your ministry of technology is deeply appreciated.

...children in Faith Formation, for reaching out to some of our elders with a special creative greeting this week. We are beginning to hear the stories behind your great gifts of love and care. Thanks for being a ray of sunshine in our lives.

FYI:

- Zoom has been a helpful tool –
 - allowing Pastor Gary to coordinate games with each youth group,
 - giving Pastor Vicki the opportunity to visit with our college students who are at home. We meet again on Sunday at 1:00!
 - helping Pastor Vicki have a conversation with eleven other clergy from the Homer/Cortland area.
 - enabling coordination of worship with the pastors, Brian and Quinn.
 - keeping the discussion of Brené Brown's book, *Daring Greatly*, moving forward. Ten people have been enjoying the conversation each Sunday.
- Copies of April – June devotional, **These Days**, are now available. They are just inside the kitchen door, so help yourself. If you cannot drop by, call Anne at the office and she will mail a copy to you.

WATCH FOR THE ONLINE SATURDAY EDITION OF WEEKDAY WORDS.