

THURSDAY WORDS

Reaching out to you from Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, May 28, 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP

This Sunday is **Pentecost** so we begin with the story of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2. Using a vision from the prophet Isaiah, Pastor Vicki will consider the promise of Pentecost again. Also during our recorded worship, watch for Pastor Gary's Children's Time and a special prop! The link for the service will be available by 9:00 on Sunday at: www.homercc.com. Join us as you are able.

During our prayer time, you will be invited to join in writing individual prayer requests on Prayer Flags that will be hung from the trees on our Green. From 1:00 – 3:00 on Sunday, wear your mask, keep socially distant and come to our yard to write your prayer. This is a multi-faith community effort, so no matter how one defines faith, ALL are welcome to participate. Whenever the wind rustles the flags, we believe that the prayers will be offered again.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Our **Church Leaders** met on Monday to discuss the new "Covid-19 Church Reopening Guidelines" sent to us from the New York Conference of the UCC. This initial discussion included our Moderator, the chair & vice-chair of both the Deacons and the Trustees, the chair of Worship & Music and the pastors. The guidelines are based on NY standards, CDC guidelines and they are very similar to guidelines of most denominations.

In NY State, church buildings are in the 4th phase of reopening. When the building does reopen, only ten people may attend – all wearing masks and staying six feet apart. (NOTE: pastors & musicians are included in the 10.) Provided that no cases of the virus develop, every two weeks, attendance can increase – all wearing masks and staying six feet apart. It is not until step four that the entire church can gather – and in all likelihood, masks will still be required. Clearly, there is much to consider.

The group's consensus included:

- Dedication to safe practices and protecting our most vulnerable people.
- A commitment to open sooner than later, although no one knows exactly what that means. We do understand that it hinges, in part, on the latest statistics of the virus in this area.
- In addition to information from NY State and the UCC, we are eager to hear the plans made by our area school districts.
- When they call you this week, the Deacons and Trustees have been asked to invite your thoughts about the timing of reopening.
- We need to continue the discussion so that, whenever we are able to open, we are prepared to do so.

COMING UP

THIS SUNDAY – 5th Sunday & Pentecost

11:00 *If the Church Were Christian* by Philip Gulley – discussing chapters 2 & 3.

1 – 3 Wear your mask when you drop by the green to write your prayer on a Prayer Flag.

7:00 p.m. Pastor Gary Zooms with Junior High Youth Group

Wednesday, June 3

5:00 Outreach Team Meeting

Beginning something new this Wednesday...

Children's Bedtime Prayer

Pastor Gary will post a bedtime prayer for our kids on **Facebook**. Watch it whenever you are getting ready for bed that day, kids!

Evening Prayer Service

Beginning at 9:00 P.M., Pastor Vicki will lead a liturgy of prayer. Bring a candle and join us, via Zoom. We anticipate this Prayer Service will last about 15 minutes.

Sunday, June 7 – Communion Sunday

Once again, we will tape two services. One will be designed specifically for our children and their parents. The second is prepared with our adults – young, middle aged and elders. Bring your own juice and bread. Hallelujah!

Adult Faith Formation will continue to discuss our book.

OF INTEREST...

- Special offerings for the UCC... This Sunday is the day we would typically receive the “Strengthen the Church” offering. “One Great Hour of Sharing” should have been received on March 22 which was our first Sunday of virtual worship. If you are interested in supporting either of these causes, write your check and include the offering title on the memo. FYI – last year we collected nearly \$150 for One Great Hour of Sharing and we were just shy of \$120 for Strengthening the Church.
- If there is anyone who is still in need of tech help so you can join the various church Zoom meetings and gatherings, Elijah Smith is happy to help you get set up. He can also help with other computer, smart phone, or tablet questions. Call him at 607-344-1245 or email at elijah@elijahsmith.net.
- Do you have hearing aids that have a “t-switch”? If so, please contact Pastor Vicki. We need some help in testing audio improvements.

WATCH FOR THE ONLINE EDITION OF SATURDAY WORDS.