

WEEKDAY WORDS

Reaching out to you from Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, September 3, 2020

ONE LAST TIME UNDER THE TENT – LIVE! – AT 9:30 AM ***CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF P.R.E.P.***

Join us, again, this Sunday as we gather, LIVE, for worship under a tent on our green. We hope this will help you prepare to join us:

- Wear a mask. If you do not have one, we will provide one.
- Please bring a chair. Ushers will help you find a socially distanced place to sit. (If you do not have a chair to bring, a few of our wooden chairs will be available.)
- Be gracious in parking – allow the spots closest to the tent for those who need to park closer to the tent.
- Come around 9:15. Worship begins at 9:30. When worship is over, we will wave goodbye and depart.
- **NOTE: The nursery area and Faith Formation rooms are CLOSED at this time.**

It is Communion Sunday. You have two choices for this “brown bag communion” under the tent: You may bring your own bread & juice – or – receive a pre-packaged baggie with the elements for communion. Either way, in the midst of our social distancing, we will receive God’s gift of Table Grace.

Pastor Vicki will offer reflections based on Isaiah 12. Our children will zap a blessing upon those who work in education and we will remember that our doors are open to everyone. The clergywomen’s quartet called *Sister Spirit* will sing our scripture and we will celebrate the success of our PREP event on August 29. If you are unable to join us in person, look for the link on our website: www.homercc.org

COMING UP

Monday our office will be closed for Labor Day

Tuesday Our office will once again be open Monday – Thursday from 9 – noon.
6:30 Deacons meeting – LIVE!

Wednesday
6:30 All new “Visions & Dreams Team” will meet – LIVE!
2 Deacons, 2 Trustees, 2 people from Faith Formation and a pastor walked into the Russell Fellowship Hall...
This is the team who will help our congregation dream about our future ministries for children and youth. We invite you to hold the team in prayer:
Deacons: Lori Schmidt & Jim Ulrich
Trustees: Paula Harrington & David Rutherford
Fth. Form: Alex Faulkenbury & Carrie Scheibner
Watch for your chance to contribute your dreams and visions. We will be listening for God’s voice through *your* voice.

Restarting on Monday, September 14 at 5:00 – Centering Prayer in the RFR
In our time together, we hear some spiritual wisdom and pray silently for 20 minutes.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

RALLY DAY IN THE SANCTUARY – AT 10:30 AM

Join us for this very special “resurrection Sunday” as we return to the sanctuary for worship on **Rally Day!** There will be music. There will be laughter. We will pray. We will acknowledge our loss. We might cry! Our kids will be blessed. We will give thanks to our God. The experience will be a little different; however, we will be together again. I cannot wait to see all of you!

In order to keep everyone safe, we offer this:

- Wear a mask. If you do not have one, we will provide one. This has become standard practice in our society.
- Sit with your “quarantine group”.
 - The pews are marked for seating – roughly four people in a pew and in a zig-zag pattern: 1st pew seating is on the outside wall; 2nd pew seating is on the middle aisle; 3rd pew seating in on the outside wall, etc. We only ask that you do not move the ropes marking the available pews.
 - If your family is able to climb the stairs, the *middle pews* on the balcony are available. (Please do not sit in the front seats of the balcony.)
- Be gracious in parking – the spots with easiest access are for those who need to park close. Remember that parking on Main Street is an option.
- Come around 10:15. Worship begins at 10:30. When worship is over, we will wave goodbye and depart. (Still no coffee hour option)
- Restrooms are as hands-free as possible and we encourage one person’s use at a time.
- The nursery area and Faith Formation rooms are CLOSED at this time.
- Busy Bags for our kids will be enhanced. Parents may also encourage younger children to bring a book or other “distraction” (if needed.) Given some of the differences, our worship will likely be less than an hour.

525,600 minutes...525,000 moments so dear.

525,600 minutes...how do you measure...measure a year?

Thus begins the song, *Seasons of Love* from Rent. The song suggests that we can measure a year in *...daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee, in inches, in miles, in laughter in stride...*

Given that it has been nearly six months since we have gathered in the sanctuary in person, let me divide that in half:

Two hundred sixty-two thousand eight hundred minutes...

How do we measure it? Let’s be honest. Some of those minutes have been measured in grief, in loneliness, in conflict, in depression, in anger, in stress, in unexplained heaviness of heart. Some of our minutes have been spent in helping: in making masks, in grocery shopping for someone else, in packing PREP bags, in writing checks for food banks, in protesting, in delivering Easter eggs or homemade crosses to grateful pastors, in checking-in on the phone. I also know that some of those minutes have been spent in prayer, in worship, in reading, in healing, in thinking, in growing deeper in our God.

Guess what? We still have the other half to go! From when we closed our building on March 16, we have roughly *another* two hundred sixty-two thousand eight hundred minutes! With this gift of time and for God’s sake in our community, what shall we do? What shall we DO as we seek to be the church in Homer, NY?