

WEEKDAY WORDS

Reaching out to you from Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Thursday, September 17, 2020

Last Sunday brought 80 folks to our pews – a welcomed sight for us all. Through music and pictures, we reviewed our ministry since mid-March. Sunflowers were brought to the altar by family members as we remembered the lives of Leslie Wright, Carl Edlund, Dale Halstead, Betsy & Jake Schühle, Phyllis Wainman and Gordon Johnson. Our kids received everything they need to begin the video series “Where in the World is God?” Jack Bertram read our scripture and his dad, Mark offered an invitation to generosity. We are grateful for all who were present – in person *and* online.

THIS SUNDAY

As we gather in the sanctuary, Pastor Vicki will begin a sermon series entitled “Radical Thoughts”. You may prepare by reading Matthew 22:34-40 and Romans 14:19. Our children will meet Frog and learn how to spell Frog’s name. Steve Jones will bless our ears with the anthem “The Blessing”. Join us live or online as we discern how to be people of faith in an uncertain time. Find the link on our website – www.homercc.org.

In order to keep everyone safe, we offer this:

- Now standard practice in our state, please wear a mask. If you do not have one, we can provide one.
- Sit with your “quarantine group”. The pews are marked for seating. Please do not move the ropes marking the available pews.
- Come around 10:15. **Worship begins at 10:30.** When worship is over, we will wave goodbye and depart. (Still no coffee hour option)
- Busy Bags for our kids have been enhanced. Parents may also encourage younger children to bring a book or other “distraction” (if needed.)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The **Faith Formation Committee** met on Monday.

- All copies of Dear Church were taken on Sunday. The study begins this coming Sunday. Three more books have arrived. Call the office if you need one.
- The new Dreams & Visions Team has recommended to the Personnel Committee that we hire an interim coordinator for our children’s ministries.
- The video series “Where in the World is God” begins this week. The series ends on Sunday, October 18. We will continue to monitor the progress of areas schools as we consider a return to in-person Faith Formation classes.

The **Trustees** met on Tuesday.

- Projects completed summer include the repair of steps in Jones Hall, the removal of a dead tree near the UMC, the purchase of a better camera for live-streaming and various updates to our audio system.
- The Jones Hall roof repair will begin by October 5. The manse driveway will be resurfaced in October.
- The Personnel Committee recommended that Alex Faulkenbury be hired as Interim Director of Children’s Ministries. She will be compensated for up to 15 hours a week.
- Chuck Feiszli will contact our lawyer seeking advice about the feasibility of “outside” small groups using our building.

- After the recent break-in, enhancements to the security of our building include the purchase of a safe and a new key box, the installation of a motion light in the Memorial Garden, the installation of a door bell camera at the kitchen door and a change to the combination lock on the kitchen door. A quote is coming for the installation of security cameras around the building.

COMING UP

Monday
5:00 Centering Prayer in the RFR...masked & socially distanced. ALL are welcome.

Tuesday Homer Nursery School begins ~ do offer a special prayer for their year

Saturday Susquehanna Association Zoom - Vicki & Belinda Burtson will attend.

Sunday, September 27

9:30 Adult Faith Formation in the basement - *Dear Church* by Lenny Duncan
Discussion facilitator: Quinn Caldwell. Please wear a mask. We will discuss the introduction and chapter 1.

9:30 Kids in grades K – 2 will ZOOM

9:55 Kids in grades 3 – 5 will ZOOM

10:30 Worship in the sanctuary – read the book of Jonah to prepare

1:00 Outreach ZOOM meeting

Sunday, October 25 Virtual **CROP Walk**

COAT COLLECTION UNTIL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Despite warm temperatures, it won't be long until the snow flies. Our Outreach Team reminds you – it is time to bring in your donations of gently used coats for adult and kids. We are also collecting winter gear including snow pants, boots, hats, gloves, scarves. Bins are available in the narthex and the RFR. CAPCO's coat drive is the first Saturday in October; therefore, our last day of collection is Sunday, September 27.

Special Opportunity:

It is **Mitten Making Time** and Gail Brennan has made a workable plan:

1. **CUTTERS:** Look for bags of fabric (enough for 5 pairs of mittens) on a table in the RFR. You have two weeks to cut out the mittens, and then return the bag to the table. *Afterward, the bags will be untouched for one week.*
2. **STITCHERS:** When it is time, you are invited to take a bag (or more) home. You will have two weeks to sew the mittens, then bring the bags back and place them on the table. *Again, the bags will be untouched for one week.*
3. **CUFFERS:** The final project is to sew cuffs on the mittens. Gail will coordinate this, so if you are interested, let her know.

The patterns are in three sizes: babies, kids, adults. It is all soft, manageable fabric this year and will be fun to work with. This Sunday, we will announce who has the sign-up sheet so you can register your interest.

Good News for sharing

Alex Faulkenbury has accepted the position of Interim Director of Children's Ministries, beginning immediately. She will work up to 15 hours per week in coordinating our ministries with all of our wee ones. Welcome to our staff, Alex. We thank God for you.