

## WEEKDAY WORDS

Reaching out to you from Homer Congregational United Church of Christ  
Thursday, January 14, 2021

With this writing, we offer support and comfort to the family of **Betty McNeil**, who passed away last week. When the weather permits, a private graveside service will be held.

### THIS SUNDAY

#### **Worship is Virtual**

This Sunday, I “invited” one of my dearest friends from seminary to preach. We welcome Rev. Dr. Rich Simpson, Canon of the Ordinary from the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. Using Genesis 1:1-5, Rev. Dr. Simpson will focus on what it means to be the Baptized Community - the community called to live more deeply into the Covenant that calls us to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of everyone.

I count Rich among my dearest of friends. Rich is a deep thinker and one of the most theologically articulate people I have ever known. In an effort to support their clergy, the staff of the diocese where Rich serves provided a series of sermons for use in virtual worship. When I saw Rich’s sermon offering on Facebook, I sought and received his permission to share it with you.

Whenever we have communion, we invite you to bring some bread and juice. This Sunday, I invite you to bring a bit of water for use as we remember and reaffirm the words that were said at our baptisms. Find the link for our service by 9:00 AM on Sunday morning at: [www.homercc.com](http://www.homercc.com).

#### **Currently on our kitchen counter for you to pick up:**

Reports for our Annual Meeting on January 24  
Copies of the devotional *These Days* for January – March  
2021 offering envelopes (for those who requested them)  
Calendars from the Barber Funeral Home – a free gift for you

### COMING UP

Monday Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – offer a prayer for peace today!  
Our office will be closed.

Tuesday Trustees meeting via Zoom at 6:30

Wednesday **Happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday Lee Dixon!** Lee is Gail Benedict’s mother.  
Cards can be sent to: 42 Homer Ave., Cortland, NY 13045

Sunday, January 24 See below

Monday, January 25  
**Happy 94<sup>th</sup> birthday Doris Brohard!**  
Cards can be sent to: 61 Copeland Ave., Homer, NY 13077

Sunday, January 31 Virtual worship; Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Mark 1:21-28

Sunday, February 7 Virtual Communion; Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 14 Virtual worship - 2 Kings 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9

## **ANNUAL MEETING IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 24.**

**The meeting will be “hybrid” - Zoom for some; in person for others**

**We will gather at 10:30 AM**

Reports have been written. The materials have been printed for your review. Budgets have been drafted. Future plans are being formed. We approach this Annual Meeting as worshipful work in the midst of Covid-19 restrictions!

Many people know that our church represents two different entities:

1. The First Religious Society in the Town of Homer, New York and
2. The Homer Congregational Church

Moderator Barb Wright cannot join us; therefore, Jim McKenna has agreed to moderate our meetings. During the meeting of the Homer Congregational Church, church clerk, Kathy McKenna will take notes. Bonnie Haaland will take notes for the meeting of the First Religious Society of Homer, New York. Andy Haaland has graciously agreed to be our parliamentarian for the day. You have options for attending the meeting, as follows:

### ZOOM:

We encourage as many as possible to attend our meeting via Zoom. A link will be sent next week. Cameras will be set up in the sanctuary, enabling all business in the room to be seen via your zoom link. In addition, zoom participants will appear on a large monitor so that people in the room will be able to see you. We are asking you to bring papers for voting: one that reads “YES”, one that reads “NO” and one that reads “ABSTAIN”. (While Zoom allows the option of raising hands, we believe that this method will allow fuller participation in voting.)

### IN PERSON:

For those without zoom technology, we invite you to join us in person – wearing a mask and sitting socially distanced in the pews. All communication will need to be made through our microphone system.

We ask for your patience during the meeting. Given varied Wi-Fi speeds from home, we anticipate potential delays. Our Zoom experience has taught us to take these delays in stride. We will not “talk over” one another. We will be careful to use microphones so that everyone can hear.

Recognizing this as worshipful work, our songs and prayers for worship will be woven into the Annual Meeting agenda. We will NOT publish a live-streamed or recorded worship service for January 24. We look forward to seeing you via Zoom or here at church as, together, we celebrate our ministry in 2020 and prepare for 2021.

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Our Faith Formation Committee met on Monday. Quinn Caldwell and Carrie Scheibner suggested that this winter/spring, adults read a whole book, discussing it after the book has been read. The first book is Zola Neale Hertzson’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. You are invited to secure your own copy to read. The discussion is scheduled for Sunday, February 14. More information is coming.