

WEEKDAY WORDS

Homer Congregational United Church of Christ
Wednesday, November 24, 2021

THANKSGIVING EDITION

Tomorrow will be a day of giving thanks. Some of us will gather with the whole family to enjoy all the traditions of the day. Some of us will bow our heads at a table set for one. Others will eat on the fly so they can serve thanksgiving dinner to people without a home. No matter how your day is spent, I hope you will take a moment for reflection.

According to the Bible thanks-giving has been expressed since the earliest of times. When the ancient Hebrews escaped from Pharaoh across the dry land of the Red Sea, Miriam danced her song of thanksgiving. When the exiles in Babylon returned home to Jerusalem, they could hardly contain their joy-filled thanks. The Psalms are replete with phrases like “O give thanks to our God!”

Reflecting on her ancestors who were first on this continent, Terra Trevor (mixed Cherokee, Seneca, German ancestry) wrote:

All of the Elders I know tell me Native People have been giving thanks for as long as people have existed. After the corn was all dried, pumpkins sliced, and the wild plums brought in it was a time for “giving thanks.” When the food was together for the hard winter months and when the work was all done, they gathered.

When our immigrant ancestors arrived on this continent, they met the native peoples for whom thanks-giving was just a way of life. We celebrate a day, yet we recognize the act of giving thanks has happened since the beginning of time.

Tomorrow we will, once again, pause to give thanks. When we do, let us remember God’s direction, sent through Jesus.

Love God. Give thanks to God.

Love neighbor –

the ones who came first and the ones who immigrated to this land;

the ones who eat what we eat

and the ones whose cultural traditions bring “different” food to the table;

the ones who we like and agree with

and the ones whose perspective is hard to understand,

but who are no less children of God.

When I gather at our table of thanksgiving, I will remember and give thanks for this family of faith. You work hard. Your love and commitment is felt beyond our walls. I continue to thank God for my call to serve you right here, right now.

With a grateful heart,
Pastor Vicki

THIS SUNDAY

No Faith Formation classes today.

Food Pantry: bring personal care items: TP, Shampoo/Conditioner, Laundry Detergent

10:30 **Advent I**

Jack Bertram, Maddie Dermott, Kathy and Jim McKenna
will light the candle of Hope.

Join us as we begin the countdown to the coming of Christ.

4:30 PM

Hannukah begins today

Join us on the green for a brief liturgy. Everyone is welcome.

Each evening from Nov. 28 – Dec. 5 we will gather at 4:30 with our
neighbors who are Jewish to light the candles on the Menorah.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday The Church Council will meet at 6:30 in the RFR.
If you are the chair of a Committee, plan to attend.

Wednesday Worship & Music will meet at 6:30.

Friday Light of My Life on the green. Watch for details.

COMING UP

Sunday, December 5

9:00 AM Join our Confirmation Class & their Journey Partners to green the church,
then enjoy some homemade Cinnamon Rolls and cocoa.

9:30 Faith Formation classes

10:30 Advent II and Communion

Jack and Amelia Brown, Julie Freeman and Pete Wright
light the candle of Peace

11:45 Bible Study upstairs

Outreach Team in the Board Room

3:00 The Whitechapel Ringers' Christmas Concert at UPC

Our own Jan Jeffers is one of the ringers.

4:30 Last night of lighting the Menorah.

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

Our support for the UCC sponsored mission in Honduras has been steady over time. Now, we can help in person. The NY Conference is organizing a **mission trip February 26 – March 6, 2022** to travel to the village and help with the school construction, sewing project and marketing. They have room for up to five adults or mature youth. A passport is required as well as appropriate medical inoculations. Spanish is *not* needed (there are interpreters). Our mission committee will subsidize the cost by paying for the airfare and room and board while on the mission. (There may be an additional cost to visit and view the Mayan City ~\$250.) For more information, please contact Pastor Vicki or Pete Wright (585-314-5314 or pew2@cornell.edu). We need to commit by mid-December.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Migrant Education Tutorial Services (METS) Holiday Gift Campaign
As a special Christmas outreach, we are collecting gifts for the children of our area migrant workers. Names will be available Sunday, Nov. 28. If you are not able to attend worship next Sunday, you may contact the office to sponsor a child. **Wrapped gifts will be collected at church by Thursday, December 9** for delivery on December 10.

CHRISTMAS WEEK AT HCC

Sunday, December 19 - **Christmas Pageant**

We will gather at 10 AM for a special pre-Christmas brunch of muffins and juice. Share some Christmas joy before we move to the sanctuary in time for worship on 10:30. As you depart the RFR, you will receive a bag. Once seated, open your bag to find your costume and your “part” for the Christmas Pageant. Perhaps you will be a sheep, invited to offer your best “Baaaaa” on cue. Or maybe you will be an angel, encouraged to share your “Gloria” along with the rest of your kind. Together we will hear the Christmas story, lending ourselves to the re-telling.

Friday, December 24 – **4:00 PM**

Bring the family for a time of quiet celebration of Jesus’ Birthday. We will light the candles, pause to pray during the month of our own births and sing “Joy to the World” and “Happy Birthday” to Jesus. Afterward, we will blow out the candles and have birthday cake. All are welcome.

Friday, December 24 – **7:00 PM**

Beginning in December, reserve a place for you family at our traditional service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. We look forward to gathering in our sanctuary for this special celebration as we hear, again, the age-old story of Jesus’ birth.



- 1 Bry Meyka
- 3 Steve Berry, Tyler Hilts
- 8 Rachel Rood
- 12 Evan Faulkenbury
- 15 Brianna Darling, David Ford
- 18 Terry Pedersen
- 23 Jennifer VanSlyke
- 29 Erin Leach
- 30 Clara Faulkenbury
- 31 Elise McCall (Schmidt)