

## **WEEKDAY WORDS**

Thursday, March 30, 2023

### **THIS SATURDAY – EASTER GIVE-AWAY**

Pray for the families who will receive items for Easter baskets and food for Easter dinner. Your donations, along with those received from throughout the community, will enable families to know the joy of our Easter holiday, no matter their faith background. We are so grateful to the Seven Valleys Food Rescue who secured a \$500 gift card to Grand Union. With these funds, we can add a bag of potatoes and a bag of carrots to each of the 75 bags of food. Additionally, the Homer Elks and the Homer Food Pantry provided each bag with a ham. Our congregation donated most of the remaining food items, as well as all the materials needed for Easter baskets. WWJD? This is, indeed, what Jesus would do! Many thanks to the Outreach Team for the organization of this event.

### **THIS SUNDAY: PALM SUNDAY**

At 9:30, we are making palm crosses in the Russell Fellowship Room. Carrie Scheibner will coach us as we gather around the tables to enjoy this traditional seasonal craft.

During worship at 10:30, we will remember the parade into Jerusalem as told by Matthew's Gospel. Come and wave palms, shout Hosanna! and join Pastor Vicki in thinking about this very special parade. Carrie Scheibner and Andrea Herzog are Deacon and Trustee of the month. Special music will be offered by Jack Carr, singing *The Palms*. The Burtner sisters: Bonnie Haaland and Belinda Burtson will sing *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus*. Nursery care is available. Find our live-stream service on Facebook, YouTube or at [www.homercc.com](http://www.homercc.com). Stay afterward to practice *The Hallelujah Chorus* for Easter Sunday.

Following worship our Deacons and Trustees will meet for their retreat.

### **HOLY WEEK**

Our faith journey takes us, day by day, into Jerusalem with Jesus.

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Together, we remember Jesus' time in the Upper Room.

5:00           Setting the tables - all food is provided.

5:30           Our meal includes the foods that Jesus would have eaten with his friends. Bring the whole family. We will commune around the tables.

### **GOOD FRIDAY**

Pastor Vicki, will provide a meditation for use when it works best in your schedule.

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

10:30           Bring your friends and neighbors as we sing Hallelujah and share God's good news! We have special treats for our children AND youth. Coffee Hour is being hosted by the Andersen family!

## LAST SUNDAY WRAP-UP

The younger children finished their study of Holy Week, and just in time! The older children experienced an escape room with all problems solved and prizes won. During worship, the handbells provided rich gifts of music. Pastor Vicki asked the question from scripture: Can these bones live? The answer, by God's grace, is yes...but...restoration includes our experiences. After 50 years, the Hebrew people returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt their temple with old and new materials. They had been changed forever. On Christmas Sunday in 1972, the people of our congregation returned to the sanctuary. It looked different than it did before the October 1971 fire; however, faith continued to be nurtured within our beautiful building. The sanctuary renovations included materials that had been salvaged and restored (candle holders, chairs, stained glass windows, chandeliers) along with new materials (including the roof). Our stories, made up or based in experience, help to anchor us in hope, knowing that God is with us.

## PRAYER CONCERNS:

Our prayers help us to spiritually sit beside those who are experiencing rough times on life's journey. We don't always know specific identities or needs, but our prayers matter. So let's pray for:

Jane Edlund, now in Hospice care;  
Carl Applegate;  
Matthew and his family;  
those struggling with addiction and the ones who love them;  
those who have difficulty thinking and their caregivers.

And let us pray blessings for:

the families who will be fed by our Easter give-away;  
Jim Ulrich as he travels to Mexico to visit Molly;  
our church staff during a season filled with additional responsibilities.

## AND...

Within the next month, two families in our congregation will welcome newborns. Sometime after that, you will be invited to sign onto a **Meal Train** to provide food for these two families. After grandparents have returned home but the family is still in that place of joy filled sleep-deprivation, you will be invited to sign up, choosing from the options:

- Deliver a meal of your own making to the family's doorstep OR
- Provide a gift-card for the family's favorite take-out OR
- Invite the family to place an order at their favorite place, then go pay for it and deliver it to their doorstep. (This one is PV's favorite option!)

Alex Faulkenbury is doing the background work – finding out food preferences, allergies, and anything else that helps our planning. When the time is right, you can receive a link that opens the schedule, provides specific information, and allows you to sign up. Some of us may choose to sign-up with a friend and share the expenses. The babies are due in mid-April. What a marvelous way for us to express our support to these young families.

And finally, if you are interested in becoming an official member of Homer Congregational Church, talk to Pastor Vicki. We hope to receive new members on Sunday, April 30.