

## **WEEKDAY WORDS**

Thursday, April 13, 2023

### **CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JANE LOUISE DURKEE EDLUND**

Saturday, April 15 calling hour from 11:45 – 12:45

Service begins at 1 PM – reception to follow

### **THIS SUNDAY – FAITH IN ACTION!**

Beginning at 9:30 AM, teams of children, youth and adults will head outside to assist with lawn clean-up for some of our members. Wear your HCC tee-shirts!

Worship begins at 10:30, with a focus on John 20:19-31. After worship, our Outreach Team is hosting a Mission Lunch. We welcome:

Colin Moore of Catholic Charities,

Jen Graney from the Cortland Free Library, and

representatives from the Salvation Army and Loaves and Fishes.

Join us for a lunch of soups and bread as we raise awareness of people in our region who are unhoused.

### **THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

Tuesday Deacons meet at 6:30.  
Trustee meet at 7 PM.

Saturday Kitchen Clean Up begins at 10 AM.

### **And coming up...**

Monday, April 24 Pastoral Relations Committee will meet

May 1 – June 4	Pastor Vicki will be on sabbatical
May 7	Rev. Barb Wright will lead worship
May 14	Rev. Barb Wright will lead worship
May 21	Rev. Laurel Harte-Westover will lead worship
May 28	Rev. Ryan Henderson will lead worship
June 4	Rev. Janice Michaels Marsi will lead worship

### **NEW MEMBERS AND BAPTISM**

On Sunday, April 30, we will receive new members and we will baptize Reagan Anice McCall. If you wish to join the church, please be in touch with Pastor Vicki.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

In the midst of Spring blessings, please pray for:

Indiana Elizabeth Thomsen born April 6 – Amanda & Kelly & Roosevelt are ecstatic!

Morgan Martin Dominic Menard-Sieffert born April 11 – AC, Claire & Theo are overjoyed!

Also, pray for Carl, Matthew, and Sylvia (knee replacement).

## **LAST SUNDAY WRAP-UP**

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

It was a day of celebration as our sanctuary was transformed from the bleakness of Lent and Good Friday to the incredible beauty of Easter Sunday morning. We are grateful for the flower donations and for the team of Kathleen Dentes, Paula Harrington, and Kate Toole - extraordinary visual artists.

From the first strains of Andrea Herzog's prelude to our own singing "Up from the grave he arose...", resurrection hope surrounded the congregation. 140 people attended the service in person and as of this writing, another 47 worshipers have viewed online. During the Children's Time, Alex and Pastor Vicki described the surprise that awaited Mary when she found Jesus missing. And then, everyone from pre-school to 12<sup>th</sup> grade found their own surprise - Easter Baskets with 2 lambs or 2 certificates for ice cream, along with a bag of Peeps with the words: *Love is Risen! Tell your Peeps!* Duplicates will be shared with friends who do not attend HCC. It's a fun way to share the good news!

Pastor Vicki augmented the ancient resurrection story with more recent instances when God's grace was made real in life. One of our green Homer Congregational bag containing fresh vegetables, eggs, and a ham brought sobs of relief to one family.

Under the direction of Joseph Ford, our choir's anthem: *Lord, Make Me an Instrument* was stunning. And then, at the end, our "Y'all Come" choir provided a rousing "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*. Oh, it was a day of joy capped with sweet delights made and served by Jeff and Katrina Anderson and their family.

## **FROM 40 DAYS OF LENT TO 50 DAYS OF EASTER**

Hallelujah Is Forever ~ Vince Amlin (UCC Stillspeaking Writers Group)  
God's anger is but for a moment; God's favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning. - Psalm 30:5 (NRSV)

The other day, my wife made her famous apple pie. Only it wasn't. She took the recipe from a different place, thinking it was the usual. When the pie came out, she knew something wasn't right. The apples had overcooked. The crust wasn't flaky. It tasted like nothing. The next week she tried again and discovered her mistake. The two recipes were nearly identical. The difference just 1/4 cup of flour and 1/12 cup of shortening. But from our first bites of the second pie, we knew: Yes! That's the way it's supposed to be.

Baking is a delicate balance. So is faith.

Easter, like Lent, is supposed to be a season: 50 days stretching to Pentecost; 7 weeks of celebration, resurrection, and joy. It's called Eastertide. Don't feel bad if you didn't know. No one does. Many of us observe 40 days of solemn introspection at Lent. We give things up. We take things on. We remember we are dust. We bury our hallelujahs. Then, for one glorious morning, it's lilies, and trumpets, and candy-filled plastic eggs: 40 parts Lent to 1 part Easter. That's the wrong recipe.

The original calls for 50x as much! 50x as many rolled away stones! 50x as many empty tombs! 50x as much death-defeating love! Imagine the difference. In your life. In your church. In our world.

The balance is off. It's time to switch recipes. Welcome to Eastertide. God's anger is for a moment. God's favor for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning.  
Prayer: Death has had its day. Hallelujah, forever!