

WEEKDAY WORDS

Thursday, May 18, 2023

THIS SUNDAY

It is Faith in Action day for all our Faith Formation classes. Our kids will walk over to the IGA and make purchases to be donated to the Food Pantry. Join us at 9:30 AM.

During worship, the Rev. Laurel Harte-Westover will lead, assisted by Deacon Carrie Scheibner. Based on Acts 1:14-16, Pastor Laurel has titled her sermon “We Watch and Wait Together.” We look forward to special music from the Tioghnioaga Ringers. Find our worship service live stream at www.homercc.com All are welcome to join us.

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Next Sunday is **Pentecost!** Be sure to wear your **RED!**

9:30 Faith Formation classes will work on Faith Formation inspired art.

10:30 Rev. Ryan Henderson will lead worship with Lori Schmidt as Deacon.
Rev. Henderson is an Associate Conference Minister in the NY Conference of the UCC.

TOGETHER WE PRAY...

We give thanks for the chance to host the NY Conference’s Committees on Authorized Ministry. We thank God for everyone who donated, helped serve, and especially for the leadership who coordinated hosting the event.

We pray for the family of Robert Hale who passed away this week. No services are planned.

PASTOR VICKI’S CHECK-IN...

I found them online. We chose them because they are an ONA church (likely the only one, so labeled, in about a 50-mile radius). First Congregational United Church of Christ in Angola, IN looked and felt a lot like our church. A tad late, we slipped into the back on May 14 and were greeted by at least two people who made certain we had seats and a bulletin. They, too, have technology that guided the service. Jan Jeffers – we can’t wait to share the arrangement of “Let it Be” for handbells and soloist! Rev. Nikki Shaw offered a thoughtful sermon with lots of information from the gospel of John. We received communion and then the service ended...which is when we were surrounded by no less than ten people who welcomed us and talked with us and let us know that their pastor was also heading to the *Festival of Homiletics*. Someone named Mary shared a bit of her faith journey, including her move from a Catholic background to this “they-really-DO-something” UCC church. Folks invited us for coffee. One person got the keys to their chapel so we could see the tiny building that had been moved from its original site – stone by stone. That sacred space was the site of many marriages and, most recently - in the surrounding garden, it received the ashes of one of the faithful from their congregation. It is worth noting that the pastor had someone waiting, so we spoke for about one minute before she needed to excuse herself. The extravagant welcome came from the laity. Unusual hospitality was offered by the people in the pews – some who sat near us, many who walked across the room to say hello. It was the light of God reflected human-to-human so that no one felt like a stranger. I pray that’s the kind of welcome visitors to HCC receive.