

WEEKDAY WORDS

Thursday, October 19, 2023

IT'S A RECORD!

Last evening, our Trustees heard the news that **Holiday in Homer set a record** for recent years profit. Using “leftovers” from July, five people (mostly Trustees) sold pulled pork sandwiches, nachos, and fried dough at the September Fall Festival on our Green. The effort raised an additional \$835, bringing the 2023 Holiday in Homer profit to an astounding **\$10,227!** Thanks to Linda Brown, Stef Fellows, Andrea Herzog, and PV for volunteering for the project. Additionally, we are grateful to Paula Harrington for being our Head Coach and to Buzz for more of his smokin'-good pork.

NEWS FROM OUR DEACONS & TRUSTEES

During the last two weeks, both Deacons and Trustees met. Highlights include:

- The Susquehanna Association's Fall Meeting, held at our church, was appreciated by UCC leadership. Thanks to everyone who joined in our effort to offer extravagant welcome and hospitality.
- 2024 marks two anniversaries to celebrate:
 - April 6 is the 10th anniversary of our vote to become Open and Affirming.
 - September 10 is the 225th anniversary of the First Religious Society!If you are interested in planning our celebrations, please let Pastor Vicki know.
- With thanks for her marvelous preaching/teaching on October 2, the **Mission Committee** sent \$1,000 to the Catherine Bertini Fund for Education within the United Nation's World Food Program.
- Through the work of the **Outreach Team**, we have supported two efforts to help people as winter approaches.
 - Gently used coats were gathered and donated to CAPCO.
 - We received a \$2,000 grant from the Wilkins Foundation and passed it on to the Homer Elks for their **new coat give-away**. This is another example of the cooperation we enjoy with the Elks, who work with us on PREP and participate in Holiday in Homer.
- The Trustees have voted to move forward on the **removal of asbestos** in the basement of Jones Hall. Soon, we will invite a Saturday work-day to clean out the entire basement (including refrigerators & freezer). When the room is empty, contact will continue with MJT Contracting, who will remove asbestos tiles and monitor the air throughout the process. Initial funding will come from the Richard Harris Estate. Eventually, we expect to have new flooring and a bathroom on the basement level.
- The Trustees also affirmed the use of **Power Church** for financial, membership, and directory information, as well as an inventory of our computer hardware. We have elected to use the cloud-based version which offers consistent backup. Power Church will consolidate our records with one software (rather than three).
- The Trustees approved the Personnel Committee's staff **salary recommendations** for 2024. We appreciate each member of our gifted staff.
- Financials: Revenue at 9/30/23 - \$186,642.65, 86% of budget
Expenses at 9/30/23 - \$181,759.64, 78.6% of budget
- Both Deacons and Trustees are now drafting their **Ministry Plans** for 2024. Those plans (in the form of budgets) will be prayerfully prepared for our Annual Meeting in January.

Saturday Funday for 4th – 6th Graders

Hey 4th-6th graders – bring your friends...bring your older siblings...come and paint a pumpkin for Halloween. We'll get started at 3 PM. You can paint a pumpkin, participate in some special activities, and chow down on Fall treats. We keep hearing something about caramel apples! The event will finish by 5 PM.

This Sunday is our CROP Walk

We start at 9:30 AM for all generations to begin walking laps around our green. This year, you'll receive a bead for each lap. Sponsors of the Walk may choose between a standard amount -OR- an amount-per-bead. (*PV is in for a buck-o-bead!*) Toddlers, kids, youth, adults (young & old), come and **BE THE GOOD** in the world as we walk to end hunger. Remember – 25% of what we raise returns to fight hunger in Cortland County.

At 10:30, many young people will continue to walk while the rest of us gather in the sanctuary for worship. A member of our Stewardship Committee, Ingrid Fox will share why she chooses to support HCC's ministry. Together we will consider the ways we can, indeed, BE the good for a world in such profound need. Due to the CROP Walk, there will be no Children's Time; however, nursery care is available. If you cannot attend in person, find our worship service live stream on Facebook, YouTube or at www.homercc.com

Stick around after worship (and/or walking) for a **free nacho bar**, including nacho chips, taco meat, warm melty cheese, and lots of other toppings.

WANT TO SPONSOR SOMEONE IN THE CROP WALK?

To donate online to our church team, go to:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/homer-congregational-church>

You may also sponsor a walker by making checks payable to: **CWS/CROP**. Our coordinator, Jeanine Rose will gladly receive those checks.

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30 Faith Formation for everyone.

Starting Point begins discussing a podcast by Dolly Parton.

10:30 During worship, three generations will share their experiences at HCC.

We look forward to hearing from Gail Van Patten, her daughter Deb Pelowski, and her granddaughter Shannon Kostuk.

11:30 Coffee Hour will be hosted by the 4th – 6th grade class.

And after all of that – the youth group (grades 7 -12) will carve pumpkins.

WHEN YOU PRAY...

Pray for our church family and friends, including:

Bill, Brianna, Carol, Chrissy, Dotty, Gail, Jack, Karen, Nita, Richard and his father.

Pray for people who are moving and people who need to move – and their families.

A UNIVERSAL PRAYER FOR PEACE FROM THE IONA COMMUNITY

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our lives, our world, our universe.

Peace, peace, peace. Amen