

WEEKDAY WORDS

Thursday, December 7, 2023

TONIGHT (THURSDAY) AT 4:30!

For our Jewish siblings, Hannukah begins tonight. Each evening at 4:30 PM, come to the Menorah on the green for a brief (15 minute) liturgy as we join with our neighbors to light the candles.

THIS SUNDAY – ADVENT 3

It is the 3rd Sunday of Advent, so three generations of Reagan Anise McCall's family will light the candle of Joy on our Advent Wreath. Afterward, we will tell the Christmas Story. Take a bag as you enter the sanctuary, then become the character of the costume inside. Amanda McCaslin, Kelley Thomsen, and their daughter Indianna will be the ancient couple with a newborn baby. The rest of us will become sheep, shepherds, wise people, King Herod, and a host of angels. Joseph Ford will provide music as we sing many of your favorite carols. Stick around for coffee hour provided by our Youth. If you cannot attend in person, find our worship service live stream on Facebook, YouTube or at www.homercc.com

2:30 Staff Christmas Celebration at the manse.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday

2:00 Pastor Vicki invites anyone who is free to bring a favorite teacup and join her for tea and pie. There's sure to be laughter and storytelling. Do join us!

6:30 Our Deacons will meet. Here's hoping there will be left-over pie!

Saturday

Y'all Come Choir practice is at 9:30.

The Handbell choir will rehearse at 10:30.

NEXT WEEK

Faith Formation traditionally has a post-Pageant party. This year, our children and youth may go "shopping" to our give-away table. We've invited everyone to donate items that could become Christmas presents from our kids to their grown-ups. We'll have gift bags and tissue paper so the selections can be a secret until the big day!

At 10:30, four generations of Luca's & Landon's family will light the Advent Candle of Love. Our celebration of seasonal music will include selections from the choir, the Tioughnioga Ringers, and Andrea Herzog on the organ. Pastor Vicki will host coffee hour.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE – DEC. 21

If we are honest, the holidays can be emotional. For some of us, it has been a difficult year filled with life-changing events and/or the usual wrestling with depression, addiction, finances, or health. People who provide care to loved ones can feel drained. Thursday, December 21 is the day that has the fewest hours of sunlight in the entire year. That evening, we will gather in the sanctuary at 6:30 for a Blue Christmas Service. Come and light a candle as we recognize that life is sometimes really hard. We won't fix it, but we can be in solidarity with one another.

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24th we will celebrate two services:

10:30 AM Family-friendly service followed by a cupcake coffee hour.

7:00 PM Lessons & Carols and a “Family-Tradition Cookies” coffee hour.

AN INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Kids-to-Grown-ups Donations:

A big part of the joy at Christmas is giving. To enable our children and youth to experience that kind of joy, you are invited to bring donations of gifts appropriate for a young person to give to a grown-up. We'll take new or things that LOOK LIKE NEW for the give-away table. Put your donations in the huge box underneath the table by Friday the 15th. We plan to arrange things for “shopping” to happen during Faith Formation on Sunday, December 17.

Poinsettias:

Soon we will add 25+ poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the flowers, envelopes are available at the doors of the sanctuary. Leave your contribution envelope in an offering plate, and then on Christmas Eve, take a flower home with you. We welcome you to take a flower to someone who is homebound, as well.

Christmas Fund offering:

December 24 is also the day for the last of the special offerings for our UCC denomination. The Christmas Fund provides relief for clergy and laity who serve God in various capacities within the Church.

COMING IN JANUARY

Reduce the Risk:

Led by Alex Faulkenbury and Stef Fellows, if you work with our children or youth, you may attend one of the following sessions:

Saturday, January 6	9 – 11 AM (at church)
Sunday, January 7	11:45 AM – 1:45 PM (at church)
Thursday, January 11	6:30 – 8:30 (via Zoom)

Watch for registration information in your email.

Annual Meeting:

Our Annual Meeting is **Sunday, January 21** at 10:30 AM.

Annual Meeting Reports:

We must publish the reports two weeks in advance, which is January 7. All chairs of all boards, teams, and committees should submit a report on behalf of your group by the end of December. Please submit your report as a Word document, using Georgia Font size 12. Thanks for helping the booklets come together on time.

WHEN YOU PRAY:

When you pray, please include these names and situations.

James McKenna as he begins his new job in Maryland.

Comfort for the family of Deane E. Deshon, who died on Dec. 2. Deane is the father of Jeanine Rose.

Holy Presence with Dottie, Gary, Marcia, Pat, and Susan.