

WEEKDAY WORDS

Thursday, February 1, 2024

THIS SUNDAY

Faith Formation will begin at 9:30 am

Pre-K: Mark & Kathy will teach about Jesus traveling to Nazareth.

K – 3: Alex & Kellie will teach about Philip and the Ethiopian.

4 – 6: Anne will continue the study of N.T. “hero” Judas Iscariot.

7 – 12: As the youth gather with Stef, they will continue *The 13 Most Important Bible Lessons for Teenagers*. This week’s topic: Who is God?

Adults: Our *Starting Point for discussion* is the December part of Katherine May's *Wintering*.

Our 10:30 worship will focus on Isaiah 40:21-31 and the hymn *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*. On this Scout Sunday, Cub Master Brian Cornwell and Assistant Cub Master Chris Pacone are bringing members of the Pack 1 Cub Scouts, who will welcome you at the door. It is Communion Sunday and Cindy Stout is the Deacon of the Day. Our choir will offer an arrangement of *How Beautiful*. If you cannot attend in person, find our worship service live stream on Facebook, YouTube or at www.homercc.com All are welcome!

NEXT WEEK

Monday Staff Meeting at 10 AM.

Tuesday The Faith Formation Committee zoom will be at 6:30.

Wednesday Worship & Music meets at 6:00, then choir at 7.

Saturday Our Deacons will retreat from 9 – noon.

LEAPING INTO FEBRUARY:

Once every four years we take this leap together. This year, February includes Valentine’s Day and Ash Wednesday (on the same day!), President’s Holiday and winter break for the public schools, and yes – it is a Leap Year. As you consider the month ahead, here are some special opportunities for you to spend time with your church family and with our God:

Feb. 10 **Deacons’ Retreat** from 9 - noon

Please pray for our Deacons as they prepare for their role as servant-leaders among us. Pray for Carrie, Carol, Cindy, Claire, Joanne, Julie, Kathleen, Lori, and Samantha (Sam).

Feb. 13 **Spud Fest** beginning at 5:30 PM

It’s the night before Ash Wednesday. Hosted by our Faith Formation Committee, this year’s Shrove Tuesday celebration includes all-things-spuds. We’ll have a spud-carving contest, games for the kids, and baked potatoes with plenty of toppings. Baked potatoes, butter and sour cream are provided. Bring the whole family and a spud-topping to share. Sign up in the RFR by Feb. 11.

Feb. 14 **Ash Wednesday Service** at 6:30 PM

Following Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) festivities, we return to the sanctuary to begin Lent with some honesty before God.

Feb. 15 & 20 **The Poetry of Lent** on Tuesdays at 4:30 or Thursdays at 12:15

During Lent, we invite you to some weekly contemplative time, based on scripture and the poems of Mary Oliver. All you need it a Bible, a

copy of the Lenten devotional and Mary Oliver's poems. Pastor Vicki will lead two sessions – purposefully brief – as follows:

- 15 Minutes by Zoom on Thursdays at 12:15
- 30 minutes at church on Tuesdays at 4:30

Feb. 24

Learning how to make delicious biscuits from 10-noon
Belinda Burtson wants to share her method for making biscuits with anyone who wants to learn. Join her in the church kitchen for a biscuit-making lesson.

Feb. 29

Lenten Dinner for Youth from 5 – 7 PM
Beginning on Thursday (leap-year-29th), join Stef Fellows and Pastor Vicki at the manse for dinner and devotions. When you arrive at 5 PM, we'll cook together, eat together, and clean up together, finishing in plenty of time for you to get your homework done. While we're together, we will share devotions appropriate to Lent. Open to everyone in grades 7 – 12...we can't wait to see you.



FOR OUR PONDERING...

Confession: I'm a little out of whack. Are you, as well?

Maybe you have seen it on Facebook. It's a visual map depicting this time of year:

November 16 + 5 weeks = Winter Solstice + 5 weeks = January 22
(December 21)

It comes with a congratulatory statement that we all have made it through the 10 weeks with the few-est hours of light. And maybe you heard it on the weather report. WYSR says that *...January 22nd was the last time CNY saw any appreciable sunshine*. No wonder we're out of whack! No wonder we find ourselves short-tempered, a little negative, easily frustrated, overwhelmed. While some of us really enjoy the cold and snow of winter (I am one of them), there comes a time when the cold, grey, wet winter takes a toll. During Winterfest (which, due to rain, didn't *feel* very festive), I took this picture of a sneaker sculpted in ice. It is a reminder about our ministry called PREP, and that summer is coming. Time moves forward. Today, the vendor letters for Holiday in Homer were mailed. Soon, the sunlight will reveal buds on the trees and emerging flowers on our lawns. Welcome wild violets and songbirds! Of course, it isn't only the lack of sun that causes our situations. Still, given this upstate reality of seasonal ice and clouds, let's be gentle with one another. Let's forgive the person who seems negative, chalking it up to the need for "appreciable sunshine". Let us not lose hope. And maybe, with the Psalmist, we will remember "...I look up at the hills. From where does my help come? MY help comes from God." The ancient poet knew what to do when she (or he) was out of whack. Keep faith!