

WEEKDAY WORDS

Thursday, October 17, 2024

Don't miss Jeff Penoyer's reflections within this edition!

THIS SUNDAY IS THE CROP WALK!

We are celebrating Cortland CROP Walk's 30th birthday! Beginning at 9:30, our whole family of faith can walk around our green, as we raise money to fight hunger, both locally and abroad. For each lap, you'll get a bead. We hope you'll ask friends and family to sponsor you – any amount per bead. We are grateful to Jeanine Rose for coordinating our team page and being our CROP Treasurer, and to Stef Fellows who will be on hand with the beads.

At 10:30, our children and youth will continue walking while worship begins in the sanctuary. Ingrid Fox has some reflections related to the Stewardship Campaign. Pastor Vicki's sermon, based on John 14:1-7 is titled "Sing it With Me!" Joe Ford will be back to offer service music from the piano. Stick around afterward for coffee hour hosted by Anne, Bev, Doris and Kate. Please note – we cannot offer nursery care this Sunday.

If you cannot attend worship in person, find our worship service live stream on Facebook, YouTube or at www.homercc.com

HEY YOUTH - After church, you get to hang out for lunch, games, and a movie. Bring your friends (just let Stef know how many are coming).

NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday we will celebrate the sacrament of Baptism. Kyle Agate and his nieces, Charlotte and Emma Agate are all being baptized. During worship, Grandmother Carol Agate will share some thoughts about her own experiences at Homer Congregational Church. In addition, our Outreach Team will meet after church.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Homer Congregational Church, plan to join Pastor Vicki for a New Members Class on Monday, October 28 at 4 PM. Let PV know if you plan to attend. (Interested, but can't make it that day? Let me know that, as well.)

FOR YOUR PRAYER TIME

As you pray, please include:

...the family of Stan Nilsson whose life was celebrated this past Monday. Pray for Stan's wife, Rachel Rood and all of Stan's friends and family.

...those who are either recovering from or anticipating surgery.

...our search for a new Director of Children's Ministry.

...resource facilities providing for people who do not have a home, including the warming station at the Salvation Army. This winter, Grace & Holy Spirit Church is offering daytime warmth in their building. This new venture has been named "Grace Space".

Stewardship Moment from Jeff Penoyer

Each Sunday, as we welcome the part of our congregation that is online, Pastor Vicki introduces herself by saying that she “...**gets to be**” the pastor of Homer Congregational UCC. The Stewardship Committee chose this as the seed for this year’s Stewardship Campaign. They suggested that, just as Pastor Vicki expresses her thankfulness to be serving God in this place, we, too, are thankful and blessed, for the myriad things we **get to** experience because of our connection to HCC. The committee resolved to invite speakers to briefly share their own reflections about what they “get to experience”. On Sunday, October 13, Jeff Penoyer offered these thoughts:

Today I get to be here on behalf of the stewardship committee and as a proud member of our church.

When I was asked to speak today, I immediately reflected on the idea that “it takes a village to raise a child.” That concept seeks to explain that an entire community of people must provide and interact positively with children for those children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment. I don’t think this concept can be understated.

While I was not a part of this faith community when I was a kid, Sam and I sought out a welcoming village that aligned with how we envisioned our children being raised.

I look around this room and I am amazed by how many people were a part of the village that raised me. My kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Fox, my third-grade teacher Mrs. Van Patten, my 9th grade French teacher Mrs. Agate, a theatre leader/friend Mr. Carr, and my best friend and brother Andrew Kostuk. These people were a part of my village growing up. Throughout my life, these people provided a safe environment to grow and learn. In different ways these people helped me to realize the value of being a kind, thoughtful, and respectful person.

Fast forward to today - My family is fortunate because we get to be a part of this village, this community, this family of faith. This village provides my children, and other children in this church, with opportunities for growth, to learn and experience values that will help them to grow into kind and thoughtful human beings, and to be a part of a faith community. Everyone in this faith community gets to be a part of that important journey and raise the next generation of the church.

We can’t underestimate the importance of a village in raising our kids. Today, we need more villages that can provide a safe and healthy environment for our kids to grow and learn. Because of this village, I know our kids are being given the best opportunity to grow-up and positively contribute to the world.

I am grateful because we get to be a part of this village.