

WEEKDAY WORDS

Thursday, September 26, 2024

THIS SUNDAY

At 9:30 AM in Faith Formation, the children's classes (PreK, K-2, and 3-5) will learn about Abraham & Sarah. During the same hour, our youth and adults will also meet for faith development.

At 10:30, Pastor Vicki will continue the sermon series based on Amy-Jill Levine's book "Short Stories by Jesus". This week's story is found in Luke 10 – often called "The Good Samaritan." Carrie Scheibner has the Children's Time. Tracy Bertram and Carol Agate will staff the nursery. Our choir will offer an anthem-prayer "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace." Join us after worship for a coffee hour hosted by Belinda and Pastor Vicki. If you cannot attend in person, find our worship service live stream on Facebook, YouTube or at www.homercc.com

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday Faith Formation will meet via Zoom at 6:30.

Wednesday Worship & Music will meet at 6 pm

Saturday – Monday Photo Shoot see information below

Sunday **9:30** The classes will meet together and learn about Rebekah & Issac
Teachers: Tracy Bertram, Terre Dennis, and Kathy McKenna

6 – 12: Stef Fellows

Adults: Rebecca Clark

10:30 World Communion Sunday

Stef Fellows has our Children's Time.

Tracy Bertram and Acey Sieffert will staff the nursery.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTO SHOOT

We are as excited as the kids get on School Picture Day! It has been nearly 20 years since our last photo directory. This next week, Isaf-Merkur studio is coming to take our photos. Sign up sheets are available on the table just outside the kitchen. You may sign up for your appointment at church, or you may call the office, and Anne will help you find an appointment that works within your schedule. The hours are as follows:

Saturday, October 5 from 8 AM – 10 AM

Sunday, October 6 from 8 AM – 10 AM

Monday, October 7 from 5 PM – 7:45 PM.

You will have the option to purchase a package of photos, just in time for your Christmas cards! Additionally, each family will receive a copy of the directory.

NOTE: The folks at Isaf-Merkur recommend that, for the best quality photos, we wear longer sleeves and solid colors.

FURTHER REFLECTION

Last Sunday, Pastor Vicki's sermon focused on the Parable of the Yeast found in Matthew's gospel (13:33-35). Jesus often started his stories with the words: "The kingdom of God is like..." In this story, he likens the kingdom to a woman who hides yeast in 3 measures (40-60 pounds) of flour. Earlier this week, Jim McKenna shared thoughts, included here with his permission. Jim wrote:

Your sermon got me thinking...so, here is another interpretation:

The yeast is God's spirit in each of us and like yeast, that spirit transforms us. It transforms us from just very intelligent animals to human beings capable of perceiving God and understanding love and applying that (love) to other people and other creatures. Also, like yeast, the transformation depends on the conditions for development. Given a warm, quiet environment, yeast in dough will reach its fullest development. Nurture the spirit in people and we can reach our greatest potential, but in a cold, unimaginative situation, one does not rise much above the animal instincts. One difference from the yeast in bread is that God has given humans free will and choices.

Thanks for sharing your thoughts, Jim. It's great to chew on Jesus' story and to consider the variety of ways we understand his teaching.

A CHANCE TO LEARN AND GROW IN FAITH

During these last two months, many of our leaders have been grappling with the reality of homelessness. In mid-August, the issue came to the forefront when two people who did not have housing, began sleeping on and near our green. When our kids study Abraham and Sarah this Sunday, they may hear about strangers who appear in our lives. Whether sent by God or not, such individuals can help us deepen our understanding and our practice of being people of faith in a world where homelessness exists. At their September meetings, the Deacons and the Trustees talked about this recent encounter with people who are homeless. The conversations were helpful. It is evident to me - we have varied knowledge and experiences related to the issue. Some people are well versed, and others are learning quickly about the systems that create poverty and homelessness and the hard reality: finding solutions is difficult, not to mention expensive.

Last night, the Church Council had the chance to hear from County Legislator Cathy Bischoff. She spoke for over 30 minutes (without a single note) as she described the important work that has begun to address homelessness in this region. We concluded that we want to keep learning and keep listening to how God is nudging us forward. As God's faithful people, how do we offer welcome to all?

We are going to read and discuss two books (each is available for Kindle):

[A Place Called Home](#) by David Ambroz

[Rough Sleepers](#) by Tracy Kidder

If you are interested in reading either book, let Pastor Vicki know. We will be ordering copies of each book.

GOT COATS FOR CAPCO?

A bin will be available in the RFR to collect gently used coats on Oct. 6 or 13.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Kathy Alvord, Connie Applegate, Andrew Kostuk
2	Virginia Knobel's 100 th birthday!
6	Maddy Kusznir
11	Don VanSlyke
15	Evie & Mia Cornwell
22	Dan Ford, Kellie McConnell
23	Gary (Buzz) & Olivia Harrington, Mary Musson
27	Kate Toole
28	Frances Armstrong