

# The Circuit Rider

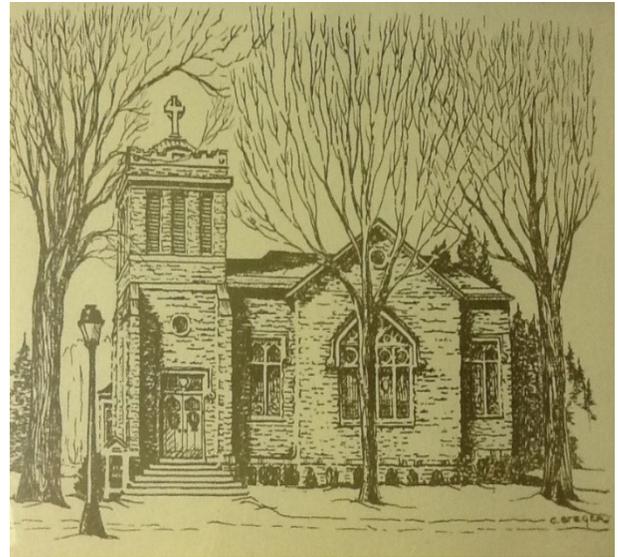


JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Reverend Dr. Sung Jun Park, Pastor

*First United Methodist  
Church of Homer*

***Being disciples of Jesus Christ for the  
transformation of the world***



16 Cayuga Street  
Homer, New York 13077

Phone: 607-749-3260

## *Office Hours:*

Monday-Friday  
9:15 am – 12:15 pm

Sunday Service  
At 9:30 am

In person or online at [www.homerfirst.org](http://www.homerfirst.org)



## Ministry Staff:

Gary Harris- Music Director

Holly Scrano- Communications Specialist

Nancy Albro- Financial Secretary

Alice Conway-Treasurer

Michelle Windsor-Praise Group Leader

John Park- Custodian

## *Table of Contents:*

Page 1: Sermons, Sunday School & Bible Study Schedule

Page 2: From the Pastor's Desk

Page 3 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Page 4: Worship schedule, Bible Study & Sunday School

Page 5: Our Caring Community,  
Prayer Requests

Page 6: Legacy Tree

Page 7: Birthdays

Page 8: Red Cross

Page 9: Prayer Corner

Page 10: "Did you ever wonder?"

Page 11: "Did you ever wonder?" II

Page 12: Food Pantry



Dear Homer First Family,

As we enter Advent and close out 2021, many of us are contemplating what a strange year it has been! All the while, we hope that 2022 will be 'better'. Remember that the days leading up to Jesus' birth were also difficult days. In Advent, we prepare for the arrival of the Light of the World in the midst of gloom. Just as a year ago, we could not have anticipated how different 2021 would be, so we cannot imagine what 2022 will hold. What we do know is that God will be with us and will carry us through. In the midst of uncertainty, we are certain of God!

The weekly meanings of Advent around hope, love, joy, and peace, reflect the theme through: "**Hope** in the face of despair, **Love** in the face of hate, **Joy** in the face of oppression, **Peace** instead of apathy in our community."

Remember the words of Isaiah 40:9, "Raise your voice! Raise it and don't be afraid! 'Your God is coming!'" While it is disappointing that our country still remains in pandemic and will likely not improve at any time through Advent or Christmas, I like to imagine our church folks connecting by phone, mail, or internet, spread out all over Homer and beyond, each and all raising their voices! Each not being afraid and believing "even when" we experience a year like 2021.

I know it's challenging to be separated for the worship and the isolation many of us have experienced due to Covid can feel crushing. Please remember that you are not alone when we worship together. We are part of a community, still bound together by the presence of the Holy Spirit, with many other threads that draw us together. Whether it's the scriptures we read, the beliefs we hold dear, the songs we sing, or our commitment to love and serve the same God, we are connected in many ways.

We will observe Advent with remembering the weekly meanings. And the Christmas Eve Candlelight service will take place at 7 PM on Christmas Eve (12/24). This Advent and Christmas will be different! My prayer is that we will make it through the next couple of months safely and healthily. I look forward to being in the same room one day. Have a blessed Advent and Christmas!

Grace and Peace,

Your Companion in Christ,  
Rev. Park



Please come with your family and children! We will worship and sing carols with Children's Choir during the worship service.

Beginning at 6:30 pm, special music played by *Aaron Windsor* will be served with the coffee hour.

Christmas offerings will be dedicated during the worship.

Come and join us worship the newborn Baby Jesus together to find hope in him!

*Have a very Merry Christmas season!!*





## *Worship Schedule*

Come & Join Us!!

December 24th-Christmas Eve (White)

**“Welcome Home”- Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20**

Worship: Candlelight & Communion Service

December 26th– First Sunday After Christmas (White)

**“Lost at Home”- Samuel 2:18-20, 26 & Luke 2:41-52**

Closing Hymn #3068 “The Lord’s Prayer”

January 2nd-Second Sunday after Christmas

**“The Light of Home”-Jeremiah 31:7-14 &**

**John 1: (1-9), 10-18**

**Sermon & Worship Plan for Epiphany2022**

**Theme: “Love Never Ends”**

January 9th– Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord (White)

**“Well Pleased” - Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

Communion Song # 641 “Fill My Cup, Lord”

Holy Communion

January 16th– Second Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

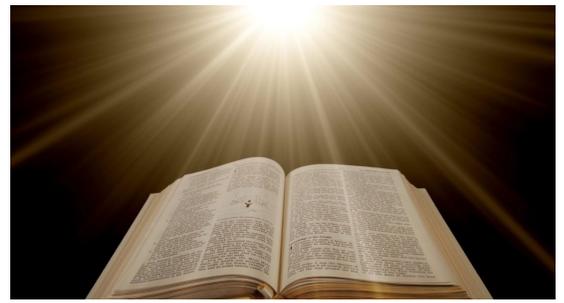
**“Varieties of Gifts” -1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

January 23rd-Third Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

**“You Are the Body”- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

January 30th-Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

**“The Greatest of These” - 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**



## *Tuesday Bible Study*

10:00 am

In the Narthex

Join Reverend Dr. Park  
to take a  
closer look at the weekly  
scriptures.



January 9th & 16th

10 am downstairs

In person & Virtual available

Please contact Michelle

Potter-Windsor for more

information:

shellpotter85@hotmail.com



## Our Caring Community

Lord, as we continue life's journey,

we pray for all who are challenged by health concerns and ongoing illness. We know that the awesome God we worship hears the prayers of our lips as well as the prayers of our hearts.

We pray for people who are currently dealing with a recent illness, surgery, injury, medical or other concerns. Our prayers also turn to prayers for peace and justice around the world. We especially remember all those who currently serve in our country's armed forces.

Lord, we ask your special touch of compassion for all the victims of COVID 19, civil discord and war, families of soldiers, police officers, first responders, and victims of gun violence. It is in the name of your Son and our Savior that we offer our prayers. Amen.

### Please Pray for:

Ava  
Andrew Van Patten  
Family of Tamara Turner  
Amy Tyler  
Rich Stevens  
Karen Bailey  
Martha Bush  
Tex Weaver  
Bill Pesesky  
Rev. Beth Bouwens  
Family of Bob Hughes  
Bill Mau  
Doris Brown  
Steve Warren  
Wayne Hansen  
Meredith Wells  
Dave Newton  
Ginny Longo  
Bonnie & Paul Fish  
Connie Steger  
Barry Valentine (Bill Valentine's brother)

In the Military: Zerek Zimmerman, Dylan Hotchkiss, Alec Edwards, Meagan Bossard, Erik Locklear, Robert Higgins, Josh Hunter, Christopher Tuckey, Randall Baker, Philip Caughey, Brandon Gregory, Brandon Jones, John Kennedy, Justin Kieffer, David Mosher, Bob Sears, Kevin VanDonsel, Martin Wagner, Randy Waterman, Brian Nichols

**Prayer requests/Update can be sent to: 607-749-3260 or [homerfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:homerfirstumc@gmail.com)**

stay in touch with the



Homer First UMC provides information to its members and constituents (and other interested parties!) during the week to keep us in touch with each other and what is happening in our church.

The MIDWEEK CONNECTION is emailed to all who wish to receive it, on Wednesday at noon every week. It contains information on activities and events that concern our congregation, including ways to become more involved in the life of the church.

We also use this method to make people aware of unplanned or special things that happen during the week, such as a death or an announcement of a funeral.

If you wish to receive the MIDWEEK CONNECTION, please let the office know by stopping in or emailing [homerfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:homerfirstumc@gmail.com) and requesting to be added to the email list. We'll be happy to put your email on the list immediately!

Dear Congregation,

You received a letter from our Church Board of Trustees outlining two major projects that necessitate our embarking on a multi-pronged capital fund drive. One component of this fund drive is a Legacy Tree. This tree will be located on the wall of the hall that runs between the narthex and the rear entrance to our church. For every \$100 donation made to the Board of Trustees Capital Fund Drive a leaf may be purchased in honor of or in memory of a person you designate. The "leaf" plaques will be engraved with the names of your designated loved ones.

Although our current capital drive is to help the trustees fund the replacement of church boilers and the parsonage garage, we are establishing the Legacy Tree as an on-going project with the revenue going to the trustees. These future funds would provide an income to be used for the maintenance and repairs of the church building, parsonage, and grounds.

If you, as a member or friend of our church, wish to participate in the Legacy Tree project please fill out the order form below and turn it in along with your check made out to **Homer UMC, Board of Trustees**. More leaf order forms are available by calling the church office 607-749-3260.

LEGACY TREE UPDATE from Homer UMC Trustees

The tree is well underway, spanning over 14 feet of the hallway that serves as the most often used entrance to the narthex and to the sanctuary beyond. It has already sprouted over 40 leaves of love, in honor or memory of those we hold dear. The tree provides a visual means to honor people who were important to our church family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Homer First United Methodist Church, Board of Trustees.

-----  
LEGACY TREE  
Leaf Order Form

Please **print** name(s) to appear on leaf(ves):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please print your name & address (for tax donation reporting purposes):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number (if we have questions):

\_\_\_\_\_



**HAPPY**  
*Birthday!*

*May God bless you with an abundance of peace, joy, and love this coming year.*

thinkabouthings.com



## *January Birthdays*

John Dey	January 4
Jon Valentine	January 4
Marta Sloper	January 9
Beth Bouwens	January 9
Ava Martin	January 11
Nicholas Potter	January 14
Stephen Funk	January 19
Jon Podoliak	January 19
Sally Swisher	January 21
Trish Hansen	January 25
Karin Casolare	January 25
Rachel Bouwens	January 28
Kathy Hicks	January 31





*Together, we can save a life*

The next Homer Community Blood Drive will be **February 12, 2022**. Power Red collection units will be available at this drive for type A-, B, AB- and O. **You may still donate blood, platelets or plasma after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Knowing the name of the manufacturer of the vaccine is important in determining your blood donation eligibility.** The American Red Cross has an **URGENT NEED** for all types of blood. You can donate after getting a flu shot if you are symptom- and fever-free. Those who come to donate blood will receive a Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last.

Those who wish to donate, either whole blood or Power Red, should go to: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). Or call and make an appointment at: 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Donors - get good night's sleep, hydrate, and streamline your donation experience to save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment. The Red Cross is asking that all donors and volunteers bring their own mask that covers both their nose and mouth. If a donor does not have a mask, the Red Cross will provide one.

Plan ahead. If all appointment slots are filled, we may not be able to take walk-in donors.

#### **Upcoming Blood Drive Dates:**

**February 12, 2022**

**April 9, 2022**

**June 4, 2022**

**August 13, 2022**

**October 8, 2022**

**December 10, 2022**



## *The Prayer Corner*

I would like to take you on the prayer journey I once took to increase my prayer life with the help of *Acts 29* by Dr. Terry Teykl and *Too Busy Not to Pray (Slowing Down to Be with God)* by Bill Hybels. Praying the ACTS way begins with **Adoration**.

### **A Stands for Adoration**

1. Sets the tone for prayer, focuses our attention on God
2. Reminds us of who God is, how able and how willing he is to help us
3. It changes our agenda, your “burning” issues don’t seem so overwhelming

How do we adore God?

1. List God’s attributes: Praise him for his guidance, his mercy, his understanding, his power
2. Read or say a Psalm of praise such as Psalms 8, 19, 23, 46, 95, 100, and 148
3. Sing a song

This was the hardest step for me to learn because it was foreign to me. However, after I was able to listen to others who were good at it, it became easier. It has been the most rewarding step because it changed my prayer life.

In the next three months I will take you through three more steps in praying the **ACTS** way.

Kathryn Bundy Locke



---

— — — — —  
— — — — —  
Did You Ever Wonder? Part 32

**A name on a window is a name on a window; the background *behind the names of those past parishioners* tells us “*the rest of the story.*”**

The last window was placed along with another “at either side of the organ” by Mrs. Florence B. Maxson and dedicated to the memory of Rev. Reuben C. Fox (1879-1881). The other window funded by Mrs. Maxson was dedicated to Rev. Albert Damon and was profiled in the last issue of *The Circuit Rider*. *Our window series concludes with Window #32 and the story of Rev. Fox.*

The following biography of Rev. Fox as was Rev. A. N. Damon is last month’s story was excerpted from ***Memorials of the Pastors of the Homer First United Methodist Church*** as compiled by the Rev. Allan J. Ferguson in 2009. *It has been edited for space considerations.*



Reuben Caldwell Fox

“Reuben Caldwell Fox began his earthly life in Keeney’s Settlement in 1831 and departed to the invisible glory from his home in Onondaga Valley, November 3, 1909.

His public ministry commenced in the Oneida Conference July 27, 1855. He served successively the following charges: North Lansing, McLean and Peruville, Tully, Groton, Asbury, Fleming, Ledyard, Newfield, Manlius, Oneida, Waterloo, Port Byron, Homer, Moravia, Skaneateles, Jordan, Marcellus, Onondaga Valley and Cicero. Over this wide field there remain substantial results of his labors, churches built up, debts demolished, and men made members of the kingdom of Christ. He traveled and toiled forty-seven consecutive years, scarcely missing a service on account of ill health. He was always found at the Conference with his brethren, to their pleasure, as well as his own.

Reuben Fox was married to Mary A. Sykes, of Groton, January 14, 1856, and after their long and happy journey together, she waits the time when the gates shall open for her reception.



## Did You Ever Wonder? Part 32

He was one of three brothers who have honored the ministry of this Conference, and of the noble trio only Warren Duane remains, a little longer waiting.

This is from an address given at the funeral of Brother Fox by his relative, Rev. M. R. Webster.

No star ever shed more lustrous and steady ray than Reuben Caldwell Fox. So constant was his life, and such its fidelity, that like the spheres he could be located in any weather. All that was gentlest and firmest seemed to be united in his genial personality. Friction with him was not a sign of force, but waste, and so his life, even in temperament, and quiet in spirit, moved forward without din or confusion, conflict or discord. Of all men least assertive, he nevertheless held the strongest positions of faith and practice. He inherited many of his excellent qualities. From his mother he received a quick and responsive spiritual nature, sensitive as the Aeolian, so that Samuel-like, when others were sleeping in the tabernacle, he heard the divine voice. From his father he inherited a rock-like firmness and integrity, which never bent or wavered, however severe the stress. On his father's side he was descended from Richard Fox, an early settler of Glastonbury, Conn., and of Governor John Webster, one of the founders of the commonwealth of Connecticut and the city of Hartford. On his mother's side he came from Thomas Cadwell, one of the early settlers of Hartford, and Alexander Keeney, of Weatherfield, Conn., honorable names in New England history.

His death was a triumph of Christian faith. It can still be said, "Our people die well." After a severe paroxysm, as he was nearing the end, he said to a friend, "This does not take immortality out of a man. I believe, more than ever, that I am immortal, and that, as we used to sing, 'We're going home to die no more.'" At another time he said, "When they told me at Clifton Springs that I could not recover, I sank into darkness; not that I was averse to the divine will, but it is hard to leave one's friends. I repaired to my room at once and had it out with God! It is all right now. I have had perfect peace ever since." In that perfect he passed beyond our sight. The "gates ajar" are closed as he passes in to see the King in his beauty and behold the land that is very far off.

This concludes our series on the windows of the Homer First United Methodist Church. The research I did has been a lot of work, but a great deal of fun as well. A lot of mysteries were solved, and a lot of questions were answered, but the best part is that one **BIG** mystery still remains.

Do you remember what I wrote at the beginning of the story on Window #31? I will remind you:

*The next two windows were placed "at either side of the organ" by Mrs. Florence B. Maxson and dedicated...*

The problem is that I cannot find these two windows!

A key to this final mystery may be if we can discover the location of the organ back in 1912 when the windows were dedicated. Does anyone remember?

Kathryn Bundy Locke

# The Circuit Rider

First United Methodist Church  
16 Cayuga Street, Homer, NY 13077  
Ph: 607-749-3260

**Sunday Service at 9:30 am**

NONPROFIT

DATED MATERIAL

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

NONPROFIT

US POSTAGE PAID

HOMER, NY

PERMIT #1



Or Current Resident

## HOMER FOOD PANTRY

*Serving the residents of Homer  
and those in Homer school district*

*Open Every*

**Tuesday 10 am - 12:30 pm  
and  
Thursday 5 - 7 pm**



Located in basement of  
Homer First United  
Methodist Church

*Entrance and parking in  
rear of church*

- Closed when Homer School district closed due to weather
- Transportation assistance to pantry available
- In case of food emergency, call Tiny at 607-749-7159

Individuals are welcome to access the pantry once a month to receive a generous distribution of food: hot/cold cereal, canned vegetables and fruits, pasta/pasta sauce, beans, rice, peanut butter, soups, frozen meats, eggs, bread, toilet paper and additional variety as available.



16 CAYUGA ST. HOMER, NY 13077 / 607.749.3260