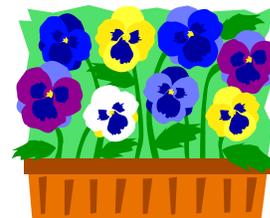


THE MESSENGER

APRIL 2016



Pastor's Message

In his poem, *The Wasteland*, T.S. Eliot famously wrote:

APRIL is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.

Deciding what Eliot meant by this is what keeps teachers of English Literature employed, but if I might hazard a guess I would say he means that the hope of new life that comes with spring does not last forever and therefore always leads to disappointment. Another season passes and we are still pretty much who we were before. As one commentator on this poem puts it, “unfulfilled hope is the worst sort of pain.”

Many of us struggle with the pain of unfulfilled hope. We thought our lives would turn out better or at least differently. On the way to what we thought was our goal, life happened to us and it wasn't always pretty. We all have our occasional bouts with melancholy, but brooding over unfulfilled hopes can severely impair our joy in life. And it's not the way God wants us to live.

Thankfully, we have been claimed by Jesus Christ and so we are a people of hope, a hope that is rooted in his resurrection from the dead. In the words of the Apostle Paul, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Cor. 4:16-18 NIV). On the cross, Jesus con-

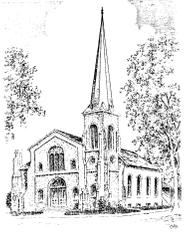
quered sin and death forever so that we would have eternal life with Him. The proof of this is that He is alive, a fact we celebrated together on Easter and which we celebrate every time we gather together as the body of Christ. In the words of a popular hymn:

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone,
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

For the Christian, hope is inescapable. “As sure as April returns every year, we cannot cease to hope. There is something in us that pushes us to hope in some final consummation, some final life in which there is no winter, no death. Thus, hope in an eternal spring is a fact of the human mind, ... it is a fact that corresponds to a spiritual reality, no less real for having no exact material equivalent.”¹ Jesus is real, his resurrection is real, and eternal life in Him is just as real, regardless of whether we can see it in our own lives right now. Hold on to that reality, because with it comes hope that persists throughout every season on life. “And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us” (Rom. 5:5 NIV). Hold fast to hope.

Rev. Jeffrey E. Ugoretz

Micah Mattix, *First Things*, www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2013/04/great-lines-ldquoapril-is-the-cruellest-monthrdquo (Apr. 5, 2013).



CORNERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MISSION & OUTREACH



Corning Community Food Pantry

Twelve percent of Steuben County residents - adults, children, seniors - struggle with food insecurity daily. Food insecurity means that they are without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food at some point during the month or year. Corning Community Food Pantry (CCFP) attempts to help these food insecure individuals by providing healthy nutritious food through our pantry agency. We are open five days a week and on the 2nd and 4th Saturday each month.

The February, 2016, stats for the Corning Community Food Pantry are significantly up from February, 2015: 483 households served, 458 children served, 942 adults served, 158 elderly served for a total of 1558 individuals served in February, 2016.

Please consider "Adding an Item" to your cart each time you shop. Collect items such as canned tuna or a box of pasta and donate them to a Food Pantry each month. You can make a difference in the lives of so many in our area.

Please consider donating your clean plastic grocery bags to our Pantry. We go through so many and are always in need for packing purposes. We could also use baby food and diapers.

A special acknowledgement to all who continue to be involved in the hunger issue by supporting our Food Pantry. We simply could not do it without you.

PARISH LIFE

Fellowship Time

Our thanks to the Girl Scouts, the Stewardship Committee and the Nominating Committee for provided fellowship time goodies in March.

If you would like to host a Fellowship Time some Sunday, please call Rose Houper, Susan Sheldon, or the church office. It is not difficult. Help is available and expenses are covered.

* * * * *

Dinner Theater

Join us on Saturday, April 16th, at 7:30 p.m. to see *West Side Story* at Corning-Painted Post High School. Dinner will be at Bob Evans Restaurant at 5:45 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase at fellowship time on March 27th and April 3rd. If you missed the ticket sales, you are welcome to buy your own ticket directly from the high school box office and join us for dinner. Dinner reservations are due by April 22nd. This promises to be a most enjoyable evening.



* * * * *

Ladies Night Out

Our traditional Ladies' Night Out will be held on Wednesday, April 27th, at 6:30 p.m. at The Gaffer Restaurant on Market Street. Reservations are needed by Monday, April 25th, please. Meet us at The Gaffer or call the church office if you need a ride. Hope to see you there!



MAJOR GIFTS & ENDOWMENTS



May is considered to be wills emphasis month by the Presbyterian Foundation. Many people assume that everyone has a will or other legal document that states their wishes concerning their assets. It is a fact, however, that only 61% of Americans have a will in place. The most frequent reasons given for not having a will are “haven't gotten around to it”, “it's not urgent”, “I don't have a lawyer”. Your Major Gifts and Endowments committee will support a Wills Emphasis Sunday in May. We are also planning an opportunity for people to learn more about wills, trusts, and similar legal documents at an event to be announced.

The slogan used by the Presbyterian Foundation is “LIVE FORWARD, GIVE FORWARD”. We live forward when we plan for the future of our church programs and property. We give forward when we provide bequests that will be invested and provide funds for the church into the future far beyond our lifetimes. Many people feel one has to be rich to leave a meaningful bequest to the church. The fact is that bequests of any size, when combined with the bequests of others, grow and support church programs as intended. When is the best time to make plans to support your church this way? It is never too early to do so; the time does come when it is too late. Ask yourself if you have a will or similar document that expresses your wishes at the present time. Has it been looked at or updated in the past 10 – 15 years? Have you considered a bequest to your church as part of your will?

NEW PHONE NUMBER

Marty and Bonita Coates have surrendered to the 21st century and gotten rid of their landline. You can reach Bonita at 607-742-1737, and Marty at 607-742-0362

DEACONS

The Deacons would like to thank all those who have donated flowers arrangements for our Sunday morning services so far this year. The arrangements really add to the beauty of the service for everyone, and often give tremendous pleasure to our home bound members of the congregation when they are delivered by the deacons following the service.

If you would like to provide flowers for the worship service some Sunday, you can sign up on the calendar on the bulletin board outside the church office. Order forms are posted next to the calendar and can be turned in to the church office or put in the offering plate. The cost is \$25.00.



The semi-annual book sale for Friends of the Library will be held Saturday, April 30th, through Saturday, May 7th, (9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. most days) at the East Corning Fire Hall. Donations are still being accepted at the Library.

FIRST LUNCH BUNCH

The First Lunch Bunch will meet again on Wednesday, April 13th, at 12:00 p.m. Come and join us for great food and fellowship.

Reservations are required and the deadline is Monday, April 11th. So don't forget to call the church office to sign up or you can sign up on the Friendship Tablet on Sunday morning.

MONTH OF APRIL

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 Carolyn Woughter
Mark Rogus
- 3 Trevor Sammis
- 4 *Olivia Smaldone
- 6 Joan Woodhouse
*Sadie Beres
- 7 Skip Moore
- 8 Kate Danforth
Stu Sammis
Kirk Allen
- 11 Gail Bartkowski
- 13 Susan Sheldon
- 14 Janet Jones
- 15 Kim Ecker
- 20 *Justin Lapham
- 22 *Graham Robert Wightman
*Chloe Ann Wightman
- 23 Susan Vermillion
- 24 Matthew Reppert
*Quintin Fisher
- 25 *Marcus McLaughlin
- 26 Patti Bradney
Cheryl Wightman
*Ben Smith
- 27 Norma Scott
George McLaren
- 28 Sally Richardson
Rob Wilcox

Happy Anniversary to:

- 8 Joe & Deborah Marino
- 16 Carlton & Barbara Fawcett
- 25 Michael & Carol Flook



If we miss your special day, please let us know so we can include the information on our calendar.

Members, *children under 18, and non-member participants for whom we have birthday and anniversary information.

THE MESSENGER

First Presbyterian Church
1 East First Street
Corning, New York 14830

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Jesus Is
Our
Focus
In All
We Do

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1 EAST FIRST STREET
CORNING, NEW YORK 14830

Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz, Pastor
Cell Phone: 607-742-8715
Email: pastorjeff@corningpresby.org
Pastor's Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday - 10:00am - 12:00pm

Church Phone: 607-937-5419
Church Fax: 607-937-9731

Church Hours: Monday - Friday
10:00am - noon & 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Church Email: office@corningpresby.org
Visit us on the web: www.corningpresby.org

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time: 11:30 a.m.



April

2016

The Messenger is published monthly.

DEADLINE for May Messenger articles is **April 15th**. Articles may either be emailed to the church or left in the church office. Any information received after the 15th will appear in the June issue.