

PASTOR'S MESSAGE FOR APRIL 2021 MESSENGER



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

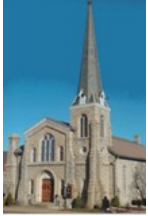
This month, as we continue to celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection during this season of Easter, as well as rejoicing in the first signs of springtime, I thought I would share with you another poem by Ann Weems, titled simply, "Don's Poem," from her book, *From Advent's Alleluia to Easter's Morning Light*. I hope you enjoy it.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Jeff

Don's Poem

In retirement he claps his hands at rabbits and squirrels
who nibble at the fruit of his labor,
leaving small holes in the dirt and petals in the grass.
Each day ...
and yet each day he repairs the damage
and brings me flowers
freshly cut.

Each day God claps for our attention
as we scamper in our destructive ways,
carelessly chipping away at the gifts of God
as though they belong solely to us, and
we can trash this world when we feel like it.
Each day ...
And yet God repairs and cleans
and brings us new life
freshly born.
I'm reminded of the grace of God
Each day.



CORNERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* * * * *



A MILESTONE FOR OUR SEXTON, CURT NEUNER

Congratulations Curt Neuner on starting your 25th Year of Service as our Sexton here at First Presbyterian Church of Corning (FPC)! This is an important milestone and we thank you for the many years of service and dedication to making our Mission, Vision and Values come true every day here at FPC. Starting as a Sexton on March 1, 1997, you have worked closely with our Trustees to ensure the facility is clean, sanitized, properly maintained, safe and secure. On Sundays during worship you are the audio-video technician, manning the soundboard and live video switcher for our livestream to Facebook and YouTube. You are a wonderful blessing to FPC and we are grateful for your service.



THE CHURCH MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

MARCH 25, 2021

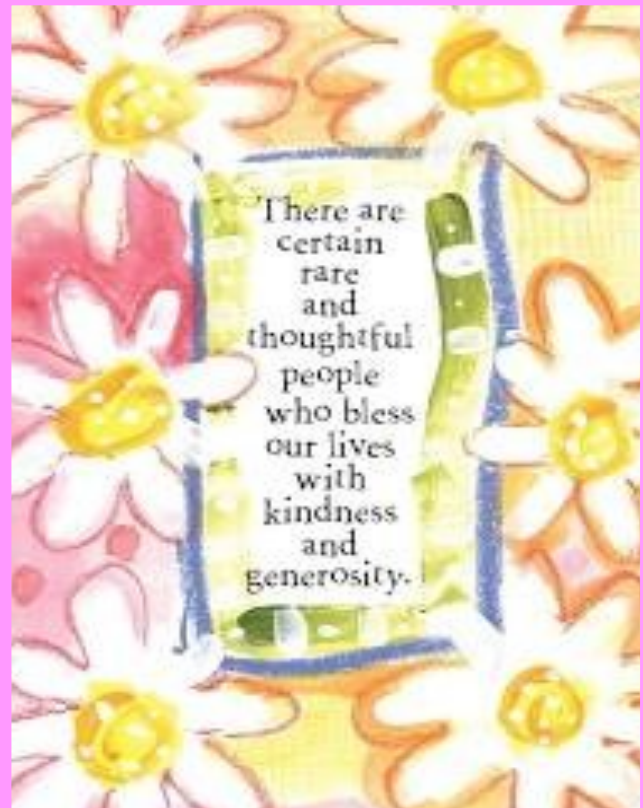
INCOME

Jan 1 - Mar 12 **\$20, 656.03**
(pledges and special offerings)

EXPENSES

Jan 1 - Mar 12 **\$49, 135.86**
(salaries for staff of 4,
utilities, office and cleaning
supplies, maintenance, insurance,
Local and global mission)

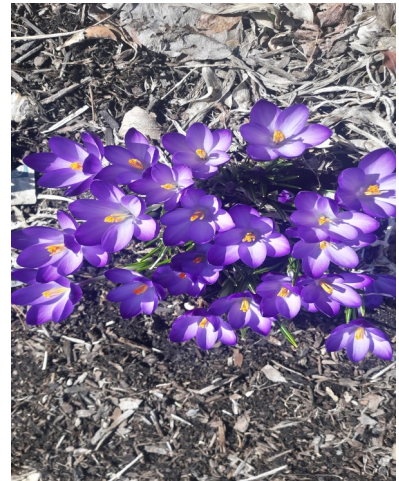
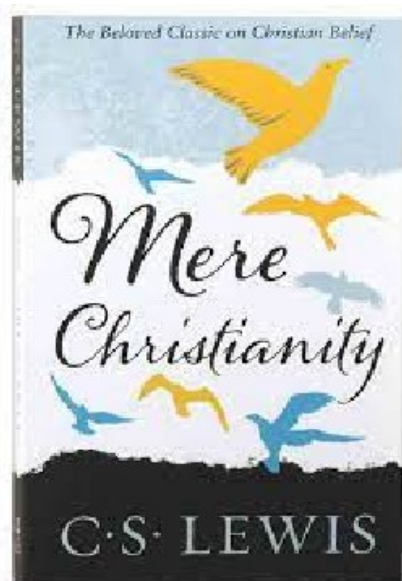
DEFICIT TO DATE **\$28, 479.83**





TO PLAN OR NOT TO PLAN

We spend a lot of time planning for life events: education, a career goal, where to live and who to work for, marriage, children, church membership, the perfect house, cars, trips, vacations, and retirement to name a few. In his book *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis reminds us that as Christians we live forever, a promise made to believers in John 3:16. At the present time we live in our physical bodies, but at some point we will discard those and continue to live in the presence of God according to His plan. Since planning is a large part of our daily lives on earth, shouldn't we plan for how we want our physical bodies to be cared for at the end of our earthly life? If you choose cremation for that time, you might want to consider the use of the columbarium located in our Memorial Garden. It is a modern, inexpensive way to store cremains and memorialize a life. The time to make these plans is when we are active, healthy, and thinking clearly. If I do not do this myself, then some member of my family will be required to do it for me. Planning ahead is the key. There will be additional information about this in the May Messenger. You can also call the church office at any time if you have questions.



VOLUNTEER SERVICE RECOGNIZED

As the outgoing Nominating Committee chairman, (after a term of 3 years) I would like to publicly say "Thank You" to the many volunteers who said YES when asked to serve on a church board or committee. NomCom members have been faithful servants over the years, and those members they approached agreed to serve giving of their time and talents. As well, the same can be said for those who become Elders on Session, Deacons and Trustees.

God does call us to serve and give back, while using our skills to benefit and promote the missions of our church. Without naming names, you know who you are, and again we all say THANKS!

Phil Bradney, Elder

2021 BOARDS/CHAIRMANSHIPS/FINANCES

SESSION

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Clerk of Session | Peggy Schuckers |
| Faith Formation Team | Susan Vermillion |
| Major Gifts & Endowments Committee | Frank Hamm |
| Mission & Outreach Committee | Skip Moore |
| Nominating Committee | Al Johnson, II |
| Parish Life & Fellowship Committee | Barbara Sammis and Rose Houper, co-chairs |
| Personnel Committee | Ken Baer |
| Presbytery Commissioner | Kay Rogus |
| Stewardship/Finance Committee | Mark Landin and Phil Bradney, co-chairs |
| Trustee Liaison | Frank Hamm |
| Worship | Ernie Danforth |
| Weekday Preschool Board of Managers | Skip Moore |
| Weekday Preschool Board of Managers | Andrea Fisher |

DEACONS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| President | Lynde Ugoretz |
| Vice President | TBD |
| Secretary | Denise Allen |
| Care Notes | Lynde Ugoretz |
| College Outreach | TBD |
| Communion Supplies | Lynde Ugoretz |
| Flowers | Ken and Mary Baer |
| Funeral/Condolence Cards | Lynde Ugoretz |
| Meals | TBD |
| Nominating Committee Representative | Denise Allen |
| Swenson Fund Representative | Ken Baer |
| Transportation | TBD |

TRUSTEES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| President | Ernie Danforth |
| Vice President | Marty Coates |
| Secretary | Carol Flook |
| Nominating Committee Representative | Brendan Holmes |
| Swenson Committee Representative | Kirk Allen |

OFFICERS

SESSION:

| 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Phil Bradney | Frank Hamm | Al Johnson, II |
| Skip Moore | Susan Vermillion | (vacancy) |
| Kay Rogus | (vacancy) | (vacancy) |
| Peggy Schuckers | | |

DEACONS:

| 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Ken Baer | Denise Allen | (vacancy)) |
| Rose Houper | Kim Holmes | (vacancy) |
| Laura Palmesano | Victoria Holmes | (vacancy) |
| Lynde Ugoretz | | |

TRUSTEES:

| 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Marty Coates | Kirk Allen | Janet and Walter Jones |
| Ernie Danforth | Carol Flook | (vacancy) |
| Brendan Holmes | (vacancy) | (vacancy) |

Financial Information:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Treasurer | Carol Flook |
| Assistant Treasurer | Susan Sheldon |
| Financial Secretary | Skip Moore |

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR FLOWER DONATION FOR EASTER SUNDAY

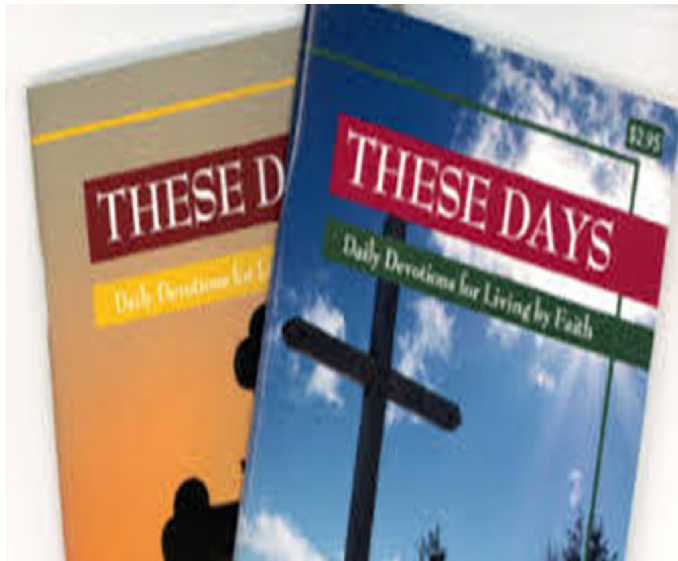


| DONATION FROM | FLOWERING PLANTS IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF |
|------------------------|---|
| Margret Lapp | In loving memory of Dr. Milton Lapp and Dr. JC Lapp |
| Peggy & Esme Schuckers | In loving memory of Claud H. Schuckers |
| Ken & Mary Baer | In loving memory of our parents |
| Curt & Diana Neuner | In loving memory of our parents, Fred & Elinore Roy |
| The Ugoretz Family | In loving memory of our loved ones, Jozsef Aipasi, William Ugoretz, Lucy & Ed Poole |
| Alice & Skip Moore | In loving memory of our parents, Waisheung & William Lem and Marie & Roy Moore |
| Frank Hamm | In loving memory of Phyllis Hamm |
| The Smith Family | In loving memory of our grandparents |
| Ernie Danforth | In loving memory of my parents, Kate, and Barb & Lloyd Young. In honor of my children and grandchildren |
| Bethany Rudolph | |
| Phil & Patti Bradney | In loving memory of my parents and Jessica Preston. |
| Lois McNaughton | In honor of loved ones near and far. |
| Susan Vermillion | |



THESE DAYS

Daily Devotions for Living by Faith



THESE DAYS
Daily Devotions for
Living by Faith For
April/May/June
2021

**are now available in the back of the
church or in the courtyard entryway**



Online Tax Assistance from AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

AARP Foundation Tax Aide is available year-round to answer your tax questions



The AARP in Elmira is offering free tax assistance from February 1-April 15. For more information call (607) 735-2424.



**YOU SHALL BE
CALLED REPAIRERS
OF THE BREACH**

Providing relief from
natural disasters,
food for the hungry,
and support for the
poor and oppressed.

— Isaiah 61



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Join with Presbyterians world-wide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. When making your donation designate OGHS between February 17-April 24.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING





WINFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL READING PROGRAM

We have received \$375 towards our goal of \$1,500. Thank you to all who are supporting this local program and investing in the future of Winfield School kids!



Dear Members and Visitors,

Have you sent in your Family Information Form to the church office? Let's make the 2021 church directory the best yet? Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Contact the church office for further details.

Blessings friends,
Lynde Ugoretz



March 2021 - Trivia ANSWER

Last month's Trivia picture shows the controls, located in the Echo Room behind the Disciple's Window, for the ventilation fan above the Sanctuary.

First Presbyterian Church Building Trivia April, 2021



Can you guess where in the church I can be found? What is it I do?

Email Curt at sexton@corningpresby.org with your guess.

Check out next month's Messenger for the answer and another bit of Church Building Trivia.

DEACONS HELPING OUT

These pictures show a load of firewood that was delivered to Marcia Creelman, a church member, by church deacons. Marcia's husband, Rev. Gilmore Creelman, was an Associate Pastor for our church for a number of years. It is the work of deacons to support and help our members and neighbors.





ESTIMATE OF GIVING FOR 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic is the # 1 topic in the news media each day, and will probably continue for some time. Much of the news focuses on stories that tell about millions of people who have lost their jobs, businesses, and livelihoods. However, statistics tabulated across our country of late reveal an increased sense of generosity. Contributions to food pantries, donations to non-profits, and financial giving to help neighbors and friends has risen to an all-time high. In times like these of great stress and hardship, people have come together to help those in need.

The scriptures tell us that God calls us to be generous, not only with our money, but with our time, love, service, prayers, and more. Along with being generous, we are called to make a commitment, especially now during these troubling times. We must strive to carry-on God's work and mission through our church.

Please prayerfully consider making your estimate of giving for 2021 using the form below, and returning it to the church office as soon as possible.

Stewardship/Finance Committee

MY ESTIMATE OF GIVING



Your response to the financial needs of the church enables the Finance/Stewardship Team to plan for, and meet the operating expenses and mission projects of the church.

Based on how God has blessed you and those you love, please consider your commitment to Christ and his Church.

MY COMMITMENT IS \$ _____ PER:

☐ WEEK ☐ MONTH ☐ QUARTER ☐ ANNUAL

NAME _____ **DATE** _____

ADDRESS _____ **PHONE (____)** _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

(This commitment may be revised or cancelled at any time at my request)

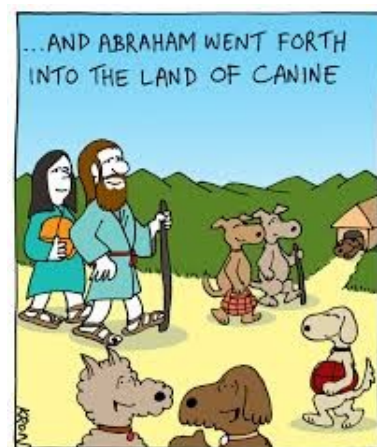
CAROL FLOOK
THANK YOU TO YOUR DEDICATION
TO OUR CHURCH



Carol Flook has been the Treasurer for our church since 2001, and the Treasurer for the Weekday Preschool (WPS) since 1987. These positions include recording deposits, writing checks and processing payroll, including quarterly employer reports and W-2s. She helps with the budgeting process, reports to Session the monthly income and expenses and generates the financial reports for the church annual report.

In addition to these responsibilities, Carol took the initiative and applied for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans for both the church and the WPS (being offered during the Pandemic). As a result of Carol's due diligence, the church was granted \$16,040 and the WPS, \$8,650 in loans. A second loan was granted this year for the WPS, in the amount of \$6,205. Carol's efforts in applying for these loans provided the church with over \$30,000 in assistance. Carol is truly a committed and dedicated volunteer with a strong spiritual service record and extraordinary work ethic. Thank you Carol for all you do for First Presbyterian Church!

LAPP MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP
DEADLINE APRIL 15, 2021





Dear FPC family,

The time is approaching for us to say goodbye as we head “home” to North Carolina. You welcomed us with open arms into the church family, enriched our experience in Corning and we are truly grateful. We pray you continue to reach out to others, showing your love, compassion, and generosity.

If you find yourself in western NC, our door is always open. Our new address is:

Derwin and Jennifer Nelson
2584 Walnut St.
Newton, NC 28658

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation. The Lord be with you all." (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

Peace & blessings,
Derwin and Jennifer

Join Us For Our Weekly Zoom Meetups

BIBLE STUDY (New Topic)
with Pastor Jeff
"Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis
Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.



FELLOWSHIP TIME
WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY
Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.

Call the Church office for Zoom Link Information 937-5419



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

MONTH OF APRIL

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 Mark Rogus
- 3 Trevor Sammis
- 6 Joan Woodhouse
*Sadie Beres
- 7 Skip Moore
- 8 Stu Sammis
Kirk Allen
- 13 Susan Sheldon
- 14 Janet Jones
- 15 Kim Ecker
- 22 Ann Blood-Smith
- 24 *Quintin Fisher
- 26 Patti Bradney
*Benjamin Smith
- 27 George McLaren

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



Happy Anniversary to:

- 8 Joe & Deborah Marino
- 25 Michael & Carol Flook



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



APRIL 2021

First Presbyterian Church
1 East First Street
Corning, NY 14830



Jesus is our focus in
all that we do.

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|----------------------------|---|--|--|-----------|
| | | | | 1 11:00a ZOOM Fellowship 7:00p Maundy Thurs Commu- ion Service  | 2 Church Office Closed 12:00 Noon Good Friday Online Service  | 3 |
| 4 10:30a Easter Sunday Communion Service FACEBOOK YOUTUBE  | 5 Church Office Closed for Easter | 6 | 7 11:00a ZOOM Bible Study "Mere Christianity" | 8 11:00a ZOOM Fellowship 5:30p Trustees | 9 Church Office Closed | 10 |
| 11 10:30a Worship Service FACEBOOK YOUTUBE | 12 | 13 6:30p Deacons | 14 11:00a ZOOM Bible Study "Mere Christianity" | 15 11:00a ZOOM Fellowship 5:30p Worship Committee | 16 Church Office Closed | 17 |
| 18 10:30a Worship Service FACEBOOK YOUTUBE | 19 | 20 | 21 11:00a ZOOM Bible Study "Mere Christianity" 6:30p Faith Formation | 22 11:00a ZOOM Fellowship 6:30p Session  | 23 Church Office Closed | 24 |
| 25 10:30a Worship Service FACEBOOK YOUTUBE | 26 | 27 | 28 11:00a ZOOM Bible Study "Mere Christianity" |  | | |

THE MESSENGER

First Presbyterian Church

1 East First Street

Corning, New York 14830

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



CORNING
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Jesus Is
Our
Focus
In All
We Do

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Our Facebook Page:

www.fb.me/CorningFirstPresby

The YouTube Channel:

www.bit.ly/CorningWorship

Bless the Lord, all his works, in all
places of his dominion. Bless the
Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 103:22

Reverend Jeffrey Ugoretz, Pastor

E-Mail: pastorjeff@corningpresby.org

Church Phone: 607-937-5419

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(closed 12 - 1 for lunch)

Church E-Mail: office@corningpresby.org

Web Page: www.corningpresby.org



Fb.me/CorningFirstPresby



The Messenger is published monthly.

DEADLINE for Messenger articles
is the **15th** of the prior month. Arti-
cles may be emailed to the church or
left in the church office.