

# THE MESSENGER

## AUGUST 2020



### **Pastor's Message for August 2020 Messenger**

*Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare (Jer. 29:4-7 NRSV).*

Long ago, our ancestors in faith, the people of Judah, were taken by their enemies into exile in the far-away city of Babylon. Among them were false prophets of the “don’t worry be happy” variety, who told the exiles that all of this would be over soon and not to bother settling in for the long haul. The true message from the Lord, delivered by the prophet Jeremiah, was very different and not as popular. Get settled, he told them: build houses, plant gardens, enjoy what they produce, and have families and children so that God’s people would have a future. Not only that, but actively work for the common good of the place of their exile and pray on its behalf, because “in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

Ever since the coronavirus pandemic began five months ago, we have all been waiting eagerly for the day when everything finally gets back to normal, when the crisis is over, and we can all go back to doing things the way we’ve always done them before. I can’t wait for that day either. But I think most of us have started to understand that “normal” is likely a long way off yet, if we ever get back there at all. As individuals and as a church, we have gotten through the stay-at-home orders and other crisis measures in part because we felt we would only have to endure them for a short time. And that was true here in New York State for the most restrictive of the measures. But other measures, such as physical distancing, wearing masks around other people, and limits on the size of gatherings of people are likely to be with us for quite a while yet, not just because our government orders them, but because they are what is necessary for the well-being of our neighbors and community.

But while we look forward together to something approximating normal to return, there is much we can do together to embrace and advance the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ. Much like those exiles long ago, we can faithfully look forward to a future free of the threat of coronavirus while still actively living and working in the present for the good of our community. Although much of our customary ways of being the church have had to change quickly, it is also true that God is blessing us with new opportunities to make Christ known in our local community and far beyond through the internet and social media. Now is not the time for us to shrink further back into ourselves, but to come together and use our God-given imaginations to dream new ways not just to survive, but to thrive as God’s people in the “new normal.”

God bless and keep you all healthy and safe.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor Jeff

## Update on Sanctuary Worship

Dear friends,

You are all probably wondering where we stand with our plans to reopen the sanctuary to Sunday worship. As you remember, this coming Sunday, August 2, would have been the earliest day we could have done so if all of the equipment we had ordered had arrived by the earliest possible date. Although we have received the other equipment, we are still awaiting delivery of the Protexus sprayer to be able to sanitize the sanctuary and other parts of the building we will be using. We were told to expect 8-12 weeks for delivery when we ordered it and the retailer continues to assure us that it will arrive sometime between now and August 26 at the latest. In accordance with the plan approved by the Session, as soon as it arrives and we are able to reasonably test it, we will notify you of the first Sunday the Sanctuary will be open. Even when that happens, we will continue to stream worship online on Facebook and YouTube. We have been hard at work to ensure that no one gets left behind.

Thank you for your patience as we try to do this in a way that complies with NYS guidelines and protects the health of our congregation as much as we reasonably can. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. God bless and keep you all healthy and safe!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Jeff

## Swenson Committee



This is a reminder that the Swenson Committee will be accepting and processing applications for grants from the Swenson Endowment Fund this Fall. Application forms are available online through the church's website or from the church office. Completed applications can be submitted to the Mission Committee of the church or sent to the church office. The deadline for completed applications is September 30. The Swenson Committee will review applications and send their recommendations to Session.

## CORNERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### The Potter's Hands Foundation Needs Volunteers

#### Three hours a week...

Do you have some extra time on your hands? If so, we could use your help! We will offer training and assistance for all areas.

#### Grocery Shopping

Do you love to shop? We need someone who would be willing to shop for materials and supplies for our Heavenly Treats business.

#### Delivery Drivers

We are in need of delivery drivers who would be willing to assist with making deliveries to local and regional businesses.

#### Production and Packaging Volunteers

Production happens on Monday and Tuesday mornings from 9-12 and Packaging is Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 1-4 PM.

Interested? Please reply to this message, send us a message via Facebook or contact us through our website so we can get in touch with you.

Deborah Kuehner

[thepottershandsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:thepottershandsfoundation@gmail.com)

Executive Director and Founder  
The Potter's Hands Foundation, Inc.  
[www.thepottershandsfoundation.org](http://www.thepottershandsfoundation.org)



### Gluten Free Scones

#### Ingredients

1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups gluten-free all purpose flour; we purchased flour that had xanthan gum already in it  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup sugar  
2 tsp baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp xanthan gum if flour does not contain it  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp nutmeg, optional  
8 tablespoons butter, cold, cut into pats  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup diced dried fruit such as apricots, blueberries, raisins, currants, walnuts  
2 large eggs  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  cup cold milk  
1 tsp vanilla extract (gluten-free)

#### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400F. Grease scone pan or baking sheet
2. Whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, xanthan gum, salt and nutmeg
3. Work in the cold butter until mixture is crumbly
4. Stir in the dried fruit/nuts
5. Whisk together the eggs, milk, and vanilla till frothy
6. Add to the dried ingredients, stirring till well blended. The dough should be cohesive and very sticky
7. Drop the dough by the  $\frac{1}{3}$  cupful into the scone pan or onto the baking sheet. If you have not added dried fruit use less dough, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup. Let scones rest for 15 minutes.
8. Sprinkle the scones with sparkling sugar or cinnamon sugar if desired. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, till golden brown. Remove from the oven and let rest for 5 minutes or so before serving. Best enjoyed warm, with butter and jam, tea or coffee.

## Shepherd's Table Sunday, July 26

Special thanks to all that prepared a dish-to-pass and those that packed up to-go meals for this past Sunday's Shepherds Table at the Salvation Army. Captain Raul Rivera was there to welcome us with open arms. Rose Houper, Barb Sammis, Frank Hamm, Mary and Ken Baer, Rosie Strong and Kirk Allen your efforts are much appreciated.



## Plaque outside the Pastor's Study in Memory of Pastor Jeff's Father



## A Letter in Response to the Plaque sent to Pastor Jeff's Mother

Attn: Ken Baer, Chair of Personnel Committee

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church,

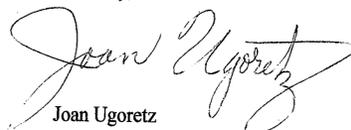
There are no words to express my gratitude for the beautiful plaque that you sent in my husband Bill's memory, but I will try.

I was brought to tears when I opened the box and read the lovely letter and inscription on the plaque. It epitomizes how Bill lived his life as a man of God, quietly helping others in need or just to put a smile on someone's face. He was the love of my life, and I was so lucky to share fifty-three years of marriage with him. Bill was a humble man and would have felt so honored to be remembered in this way.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being so thoughtful and caring.

May God bless you all.

Sincerely,

  
Joan Ugoretz



Are you having difficulty with the new way we stay connected to our church family? The Bible Study and Fellowship Time via Zoom can be done on your home or cell phone. Please call the church office for assistance to this process.



### The Power Of Prayer

In addition to our One Call Now Phone Tree Prayer Requests you can now submit your prayer requests on our First Presbyterian Facebook Page. This weekly video on Facebook is from the 10:30am Worship Service. Please feel free to add your own prayer requests in the Comment section below the video on Facebook and they will be added to the video the following week.

## JOIN PASTOR JEFF FOR WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS IN JULY ON RACE & AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY

Anyone in our church who is participating in Houghton College's online course, Race & American Christianity, is welcome to join our Zoom discussion group, which will gather on Mondays at 6:00 pm to discuss the readings and lecture from the prior week. Please email [pastorjeff@corningpresby.org](mailto:pastorjeff@corningpresby.org) for an invitation to the discussion group if you would like to participate.



## Houghton College Offers Free Course on Race and American Christianity

[www.houghton.edu](http://www.houghton.edu) › News › Academics

June 19, 2020 - Houghton Offers Free Course on Race and American Christianity. Recent events have created a "kairos moment"—a moment when glaring disparities in American culture due to racism have our attention. ... The course is titled *Race and American Christianity* and will take place on Thursday nights live from 7 to 9 pm ET.

## PASTORS AND STAFF WORKING THROUGH A PANDEMIC

This article was written by Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church of Canada. Although it describes the working conditions faced by pastors and staffs in general due to the pandemic, I feel the words are especially appropriate and fitting for our church. Many churches and church offices remain closed.

Please read the article from your knowledge of our church and how our staff has continued to work effectively as a team under Pastor Jeff's leadership. Thank you.

Ken Baer, Chair of Personnel.



**Moderator Richard Bott**

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Anyone who is reading this post - whether you know it or not, the minister and staff in your community of faith has been working all-out since the beginning of the pandemic.

Many ministers have had to learn a completely new skill set to be able to continue to bring the community together for worship. Many other ministers have increased their pastoral connections. Telephone and online communications have increased. Many have had to create offices in their homes - which is great in many ways, but has also meant trying to learn what it means to have an office in the home, rather than a home in the office.

Lots of those ministers are parents. Some with children who are kids who have needs at home. Others with adult children (young and old) who have been sheltering far away.

Many of those ministers have had people in the communities of faith for which they have leadership responsibilities die, during this time of isolation. Some from Covid-19, some from other causes. In all of these situations, ministers have had to figure out how to be present, without being \*there\*.

Now, more than ever, the ministry and staff team's work is hidden. People can't even drop into the office and see the staff and ministers there (even if you're not quite sure what it is they're doing.) So, for some folks who don't know, there's the sense that ministers and church staff haven't \*really\* been working for the past few months.

I'm going to ask you to trust me on this one. They have. Quite possibly harder than ever before.

For you. For the wider community. For God.

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Like many, many people, their sleep patterns have been disrupted, their stress levels are through the roof, and they are exhausted.

What do they need right now?

Well, a note of appreciation would go a long way.

If you aren't part of the elected leadership of a community of faith, you might want to check in with the congregational governing body, or the minister, or other church staff, to see what gifts you might be able to offer to support the ministry at this time. (For many of you in communities of faith who are gathering for worship in online spaces, this might be the time to offer to lead worship - either as an individual, or with a team! You'll be sitting in front of your computer, rather than standing in front of the congregation... and I promise you, God has lots to say through your life and faith.)

Ministry and Personnel Committees who support ministers and staff taking weekly times of rest that work in their new schedule, and, even more than that, support ministers' and staff members' requests to take their holiday time, as needed, would be extremely helpful.

Recognizing that we are in this for a long haul - with the possibility of additional future waves of Covid-19 requiring physical isolation from the community of faith - and that if your minister or staff requests a break right now, it's because they \*need\* it, would go a very long way in helping the pastoral relationship.

Your ministers and congregational staff are doing amazing things to support your faith and life.

Please, support them in theirs.

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## **First Presbyterian Church Building**

### **Trivia #3 ANSWER**

Last month's Trivia picture is a view of the inside of the back of the left-hand freezer in the kitchen, with the back panel removed. Notice the copper wire in the center of the picture which is looped around the defrost heat coil and down the drain hole. This is a hack to keep the drain line from freezing shut and leaking water into the refrigerator section, which is a common problem with this style of refrigerator.

### **First Presbyterian Church Building Trivia #4**



### **Trivia #4**

Can you guess where in the church I can be found? What is it I do?  
Email Curt at [sexton@corningpresby.org](mailto:sexton@corningpresby.org) with your guess.

## The Symbol of The Presbyterian Church USA

The symbol of the Presbyterian Church USA is a visual statement of Presbyterian Church heritage, identity, and mission. The symbol acts as a mini confession of faith.

The cross is the dominant structural and theological element in the design. The cross is the universal and most ecumenical symbol of the Christian church. The cross represents the incarnate love of God in Jesus Christ, and His passion and resurrection.



The top portion of the cross is transformed into the shape of a descending dove which is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The spirit is almost always portrayed as descending, because God's Spirit comes from Him in heaven.

The burning flames at the base of the cross are a symbol of God's refining fire of judgment. They are a symbol of how the Holy Spirit descended like tongues of flames given on Pentecost. These flames are also a symbol of revelation in the Old Testament when God spoke to Moses from the burning bush.

A triangle is formed by the Cross, the Dove, and the Flames. The triangle is a traditional symbol of the Trinity. Therefore at the heart of our Presbyterian Symbol is God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Central to the Christian Faith is God's Holy Word of the Bible. Look directly beneath the dove and note the contoured line and shape of an open book, the Holy Bible. This integration of the horizontal dimensions of the cross with the book highlights the emphasis which Presbyterians (often called People of the Book) have placed on the role of Scripture as a means of knowing God's word.

Directly under the Bible is a pulpit upon which the Word of God, the Bible rests. This is a reminder that the calling of the Church is to Proclaim the Gospel for the salvation of humankind.

Central to the Presbyterian Church's Worship and Life are the Two Holy Sacraments. Looking at the center of the pulpit design, one discovers a Baptismal Font, and a Chalice, or Cup of Communion, seated on top.

Finally, look within the shape of the descending dove and discover the image of a fish (the body of the dove). The fish reminds us of one of the Lord's greatest miracles, the feeding of the 5,000 with a few loaves of bread and some fish. It also reminds us that we are called to feed the hungry and be as servants to those in need.

As you travel in and around our church, be on the lookout for the Presbyterian Church Symbol.

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## MONTH OF AUGUST

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

- 1 Lien Landin
- 3 \* Jenna Morrisey
- 5 Grace Sheldon
- 9 \*Garrett Smith
- 14 Michele Johnson
- 23 \* Victoria Holmes
- 24 Barbara Sammis  
\* Bella Beres
- 27 Phil Bradney  
\* Kevin Lapham
- 29 Al Johnson II
- 31 Michael McLaren  
Sue Conklin

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



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

- 10 Phil & Patricia Bradney
- 11 Derwin & Jennifer Nelson
- 13 Ken & Mary Baer
- 15 Jeff & Lynde Ugoretz
- 16 Marty & Bonita Coates
- 22 David and Ann Smith
- 29 Scott & Susan Sheldon
- 30 Stu & Barb Sammis  
Scott & Danielle Beres



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

# AUGUST 2020

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
						
<b>2</b> 10:30a FACEBOOK YOUTUBE Worship Service	<b>3</b> 6:00p ZOOM Race & American Christianity Discussion	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 11:00a ZOOM Bible Study	<b>6</b>  11:00a ZOOM Fellowship 5:00p <b>Worship</b> 7:00p ZOOM Race & Christi- anity	<b>7</b> Church Office Closed	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 10:30a FACEBOOK YOUTUBE Worship Service	<b>10</b> 6:00p ZOOM Race & American Christianity Discussion	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 11:00a ZOOM Bible Study	<b>13</b>  11:00a ZOOM Fellowship 5:30p <b>Trustees</b> 7:00p ZOOM Race & Christi- anity	<b>14</b> Church Office Closed	<b>15</b> 
<b>16</b> 10:30a FACEBOOK YOUTUBE Worship Service	<b>17</b> 6:00p ZOOM Race & American Christianity Discussion 6:30p <b>Deacons</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 11:00a ZOOM Bible Study	<b>20</b>  11:00a ZOOM Fellowship 7:00p ZOOM Race & Christi- anity	<b>21</b> Church Office Closed	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10:30a FACEBOOK YOUTUBE Worship Service	<b>24</b> 6:00p ZOOM Race & American Christianity Discussion	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 11:00a ZOOM Bible Study	<b>27</b>  11:00a ZOOM Fellowship 6:30p <b>Session</b> 7:00p ZOOM Race & Christi- anity	<b>28</b> Church Office Closed	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10:30a FACEBOOK YOUTUBE Worship Service	<b>31</b> 6:00p ZOOM Race & American Christianity Discussion					

# THE MESSENGER

First Presbyterian Church

1 East First Street

Corning, New York 14830

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Jesus Is  
Our  
Focus  
In All  
We Do



## SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Facebook Live Worship Service

I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'

Isaiah 41:13

Reverend Jeffrey Ugoretz, Pastor

E-Mail: [pastorjeff@corningpresby.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@corningpresby.org)

Web Page: [www.corningpresby.org](http://www.corningpresby.org)



Fb.me/CorningFirstPresby

