



Pastor's Message for August 2019 Messenger

Looking Forward to Fall

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We live in a challenging world and in a challenging time. In a diverse and often divided society such as ours, we face difficult decisions nearly every day that call into question our core beliefs and how we live our lives. Amidst all of the competing voices, how can Christians find help in looking at today's difficult moral questions? How can the biblical witness help us to live an authentically Christian life?

I want to let you know about an upcoming sermon and discussion series I have been working on, one that I think could be of great benefit to our congregation and community. This fall, we will offer the program "Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues," from September 29 to November 24.

During this program, our church will offer a seven-week study for adult small groups on Wednesday nights and I will be preaching a series of sermons on the issues in the series. In doing so, I am adapting materials created by the Rev. Adam Hamilton at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. We have used his materials before and many of you have told me that you have found them helpful to your walk of faith. With appropriate planning, and with invitations that were given with sensitivity to the community, that church found a great hunger among people to understand controversial issues from the perspective of Christian faith and even saw its worship attendance increase by 25%.

Here is the plan for the series (where there are two dates, the second is the date of the discussion group for that topic):

TOPIC	DATES
Introduction: "Why Ask for Trouble?"	Sept. 29
The Separation of Church and State	Oct. 6 & 9
Creation and Evolution in the Public Schools	Oct. 13 & 16
The Death Penalty	Oct. 20 & 23
Euthanasia	Oct. 27 & 30
Prayer in Public Schools	Nov. 3 & 6
Abortion	Nov. 10 & 13
Human sexuality	Nov. 17 & 20
Conclusion: "The Ostrich's Dilemma"	Nov. 24

Looking Forward to Fall

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It is my firm belief that these matters would not have remained controversial for so long if it were not the case that people of good faith can differ in how they understand them. My sermons and our discussion groups will be careful to fairly present more than one point of view, and I will also share with you how I view these issues based on my understanding of the witness of Scripture and the leading of the Holy Spirit. We will explore these issues with sensitivity and respect, always seeking to discern God's truth and grace for us. We will listen to one another, and we will take the Scriptures seriously.

As part of this event, we will be making an extra effort to invite members of the surrounding community to participate. We want to let people know that this church is a place where we can talk honestly and thoughtfully, with love and compassion, about important issues of relevance in our lives, as we work and pray together to discern God's will for us. These topics are sure to capture the interest of many in our congregation and our community. People want to know what the Bible has to say about such subjects, and how to apply it's teachings in their own lives. We will also make an extra effort to have a separate program for children available during worship so that parents have the option to excuse their children from any topics they believe they are not ready to consider.

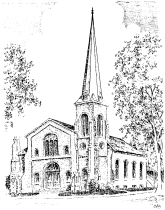
Adam Hamilton, the creator of this study, has done several of these high-profile programs. He calls them "fishing expeditions," after Jesus' invitation to the disciples to be "fishers of people." Jesus calls us not only to be disciples, but to make disciples for these times too. This worship event and discussion series can help us do that together.

Have a blessed and happy August!

Grace and peace to you all,

Pastor Jeff





CORNERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Matching Gifts in Support of our Church Budget

The Major Gifts and Endowments (MG&E) committee thanks the members and friends of our church who generously contributed to the matching gift project in support of the Operating Expense Fund endowment. The amount of \$2,717.30 was raised, which was matched by our sponsor for a total of \$5,434.60. That amount was added to the Operating Expense Fund, growing its total to more than \$78,000.00.



Approximately 90% of what that fund earns each year goes directly to support our operating budget. The Operating Expense Fund can be added to at any time by direct gifts or bequests through wills or similar financial instruments. MG&E thanks you for your continued support.

Chancel Flowers

The Deacons have noticed that recently the flowers for the chancel from Northside Floral have been “skimpy”, sometimes wilted, and not the usual floral arrangement quality we have received for several years. We are investigating other options, and are finding that we may want to change our approach. It is our goal to keep the price reasonable to increase participation.



We are working on a plan for the Fall which will provide more than one option for purchasing flowers for the chancel. In the meantime, if you have grown flowers that you would like to share by providing an arrangement for the chancel, please notify the church office (937-5419) to prevent duplication.

Help Stop Elder Abuse

The Deacons are making plans for a presentation about elder abuse. This will take place on Wednesday evening, September 25 at 7:30pm in the Library. The presentation will be made under the supervision of Kathy Burns of the Steuben County Office for the Aging.

This presentation will provide materials and resources that will assist us in the understanding of elder abuse including current scams, how to prevent various types of elder abuse, and resources to report suspected cases of elder abuse. The incidence of elder abuse cases is both prevalent and on the increase. It is estimated that 5 million older persons in our country are abused, neglected, and exploited, resulting in financial losses exceeding \$2.6 billion. In Steuben county in 2018, the adult services unit of the county department of social services received 550 referrals and opened 436 new cases.

Pastor Jeff has made the statement that there are 2 times in one's life when we are most vulnerable, when we are very young, and when we are elderly.

Please reserve the date of September 25 at 7:30p, and plan to attend. The information presented will be valuable for the elderly, caregivers, and family members of all ages.



FELLOWSHIP TIME ASSIGNMENTS




August 4: Personnel Committee

August 11: MG & E Committee

August 18: Worship Committee

August 25: Nominating Committee



Psalm 149:4

FOR THE LORD TAKES DELIGHT IN
HIS PEOPLE; HE CROWNS THE HUMBLE
WITH SALVATION.

www.salvationarmy.org



COMING SUMMER 2019

Vacation Bible School is coming your way!

August 5th – 9th (9:00 am-Noon)

(First Grade - Fifth Grade)

EXPLORE WHERE GOD'S POWER CAN TAKE YOU!

Please contact Lynde Ugoretz
if you are available to
assist in any way.

Hosted by: First Presbyterian Church, Salvation Army, Christ Episcopal Church and First United Methodist Church



Dear Friends,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for your support and assistance with the 2019 Community Baccalaureate Celebration for this year's HS Graduates in July. While our Graduate attendance was low, the Holy Spirit was ever-present. I pray that the students that attended felt blessed and beloved as children of the Most High and that their connection to their faith and their love for Christ will continue to grow and guide their futures.

I want to especially thank Pastor Jeff Ugoretz for thoughtfully designing the Worship service. The message challenging us all to Seek Justice, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly is one that has continued to resonate with me throughout the week.

Thank you to his sweet daughters, Ariel and Kaitlyn for their assistance with ushering & leading the candle-light service. Our students, Abigail Horton, Mariposa Maxim and Katie Beck's participation was an important element in our celebration and worship and I thank them for their willingness to assist in the service.

Melissa Maxim, you did a fantastic job with the formal announcement and development of the invitations. These were distributed to churches and students involved in local Youth Groups. The school agreed to print it, but I was unable to locate it on their media pages. My understanding is that it was sent out in a PTSA announcement. Additionally, Melissa, thank you for your lovely donation of flowers for the sanctuary. The combination of yellow roses and white daisies was perfect and just lovely!

Dave Smith – you did a phenomenal job with the music (as always)! The piece that you sang with your guitar prior to the procession of graduates was beautiful.

Additionally, thank you for providing your insightful words and your charge to all of us to be active agents of change in our communities – utilizing those Super Powers we have been blessed with!

Rose Houser, our exceptional, amazing reception coordinator, coordinated a lovely post-baccalaureate reception with the assistance of Ken and Mary Baer, Skip and Alice Moore, Marty Coates and Ernie Danforth. Thank you to Kim Holmes, Beth Landin and Lynde Ugoretz also for your contributions of food.

Thank you to Sue in our First Presbyterian church office, for communicating with the Corning Leader about ad placement and typing and printing up the bulletin. Curt Neuner, our building Sexton graciously assisted with all the sound technology for the evening.

Additionally, I am grateful to the local Gideons who so willingly stepped up to support our students by supplying Graduation Bibles. We are grateful for partnerships that support the spread of the Word of God.

Thank you all for your patience as we worked to put this service together. My hope is to develop a stronger community partnership in the future that supports an ongoing ministry to our local students and to work more closely with the graduates to ensure that our service captures the essence of what is meaningful to them as they prepare for this important transition in their lives.

Our students are our future. Our love for them will be supported by our prayers for guidance, protection, wisdom and courage in all the days ahead.

Many Blessings to you....

Bonita Coates

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND THANK YOU'S

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

- 1 Lien Landin
- * Katy Sharman
- 3 * Jenna Morrissey
- 5 Grace Sheldon
- 9 Lisa Sebelle
- *Garrett Smith
- 14 Michele Johnson
- 15 * Victoria McLaughlin
- 19 Stephen Hevey
- 23 * Victoria Holmes
- 24 Barbara Sammis
- * Bella Beres
- 27 Phil Bradney
- 28 Chris Wightman
- * 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

- 6 Stephen & Charlene Hevey
- 10 Phil & Patricia Bradney
- 11 Derwin & Jennifer Nelson
- 13 Ken & Mary Baer
- 15 Jeff & Lynde Ugoretz
- 16 Marty & Bonita Coates
- 17 Jim & Kim Ecker
- 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.



First Presbyterian is in receipt of a thank you card from Brynne Ketchum, one of the Baccalaureate scholarship recipients. Brynne thanked the church for the wonderful wishes and scholarship money she received.

BEST OF LUCK BRYNNE!

FREE SUMMER MEALS

FOR KIDS AND TEENS 18 AND UNDER!

Sponsored by the C-PP School District and Corning Area Youth Center



Hornby Fire Hall

4938 Hornby Rd, Beaver Dams
July 9-July 23
 Tuesday & Thursday
 Lunch 11:00-11:30

Corning Area Youth Center

79 Flint Ave, Corning
July 1-August 30
 Monday-Friday
 Snack 2:00-2:30
 Dinner 4:45-5:15

C-PP High School

201 Cantigny St., Corning
July 8-August 16
 Monday-Friday
 Breakfast 8:00-8:45
 Lunch 11:30-12:15

Denison Park

Market St Exit, Pond Pavilion, Corning
July 1-August 8
 Monday-Thursday
 Breakfast 10:00-10:30
 Lunch 12:10-12:30

Salvation Army

32 Denison Parkway East, Corning
July 8 - August 16
 Monday-Friday
 Breakfast 8:30-9:15
 Lunch 11:30-1:00

Smith Elementary

3414 Stanton St., Palmed Post
July 8 - August 16
 Monday-Friday
 Breakfast 8:00-8:45
 Lunch 11:30-12:15

Southeast Steuben Cty Library

300 Ohio Plaza, Corning
July 8-August 16
 Monday-Friday
 Lunch 12:00-12:30
 Snack 2:00-2:15
Kids' Farmers Market every Wednesday
July 10-Aug 14 11:30-1:30

Stewart Park

336 Flint Ave, Corning
July 1-August 8
 Monday-Thursday
 Breakfast 10:00-10:30
 Lunch 11:15-11:30

William Street Park

West William St, Corning
July 1-August 8
 Monday-Thursday
 Breakfast 10:00-10:30
 Lunch 11:40-12:00

Gregg Elementary

184 Flint Ave., Corning
July 1-August 30
 Monday-Friday
 Breakfast 8:00-8:45
 Lunch 10:45-12:30

Hodgeman Park

147 West Water St, Palmed Post
July 1-August 9
 Monday-Friday
 Breakfast 9:30-10:00
 Lunch 11:30-12:00

For updates and information:

Call the 2-1-1 HELPLINE
 Dial a 1-1 or 1-800-346-1211
 Visit www.2-1-1-helpline.org
 Text: 606-6 to 877-677

Follow us on Facebook

Steuben County
 Free Summer Meals for Kids

No application needed!

Meals must be eaten onsite.
 Meal days and times subject to change.

2-1-1 HELPLINE is confidential and available 24/7
 for information on health and human service needs.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

***No meal service on July 4th**

05/06/16 6/12/2016

AUGUST 2019

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	2	3
4 Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:30 AM	5 Vacation Bible School 9-12 Noon	6 Vacation Bible School 9-12 Noon	7 Vacation Bible School 9-12 Noon	8 Vacation Bible School 9-12 Noon	9 Vacation Bible School 9-12 Noon	10
						Ruth Griffin's Memorial 10:00 AM
11 Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:30 AM	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:30 AM	19	20	21	22	23	24
				Session Mtg 6:30 PM		
25 Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:30 AM	26	27	28	29	30	31

THE MESSENGER

First Presbyterian Church

1 East First Street

Corning, New York 14830

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

FELLOWSHIP HOUR 11:30 AM

“He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.”

Deuteronomy 10:21 (NIV)

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

AUGUST 2019

The Messenger is published monthly.

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