



## The Pastor's Message

### December 2020

### Messenger

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Our theme for Advent and Christmas this year is "Tidings of Comfort and Joy." You may recognize these words from the old hymn, "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen," or as we like to say more inclusively, "Gentlefolk." Incidentally, although the placement of the comma may look strange to us, it is correct. The hymn uses "rest" as a verb in a way that most English speakers don't anymore but was alive and well when it was written over 300 years ago. What the line means in modern English would be something like "God give you comfort and joy." And that is a sentiment welcome in any century and perhaps never more needed than it is right now.

Each week of Advent and Christmas Eve, we will take our inspiration for Sunday worship from one of the following stanzas of this hymn:

#### **Verse 1 (Advent 1)**

God rest ye merry, gentlefolk  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray

#### **Chorus**

O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

#### **Verse 2 (Advent 2)**

In Bethlehem in Judea  
This blessed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger  
Upon this blessed morn  
The which His mother Mary  
Did nothing take in scorn

#### **Verse 3 (Advent 3)**

From God our heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name

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### **Verse 4 (Advent 4)**

And when they came to Bethlehem  
Where our dear Savior lay  
They found Him in a manger  
Where oxen feed on hay  
His mother Mary kneeling down  
Unto the Lord did pray

### **Verse 5 (Christmas Eve)**

Now to the Lord sing praises  
All you within this place  
And with true love and fellowship  
Each other now embrace  
This holy tide of Christmas  
Doth bring redeeming grace

May we all find comfort and joy in remembering not only the birth of our Savior this Christmas season, but in the loving grace he bestows upon us even now. May we remember and never forget the true meaning of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and our sure and certain hope in His return. Until that great day, let us discover Christ again this Christmas by sharing the comfort and joy He has given us with everyone we meet.

God bless and keep you all healthy and safe.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor Jeff





\* \* \* \* \*

The Program Support Fund supports and enhances the internal program of First Presbyterian Church beyond the ability of the operating budget to support and to provide programs interpreting the broader mission of the church.

Other purposes are for the enhancement and support for carrying out the various programs and ministries of the church. Such uses might be: bringing in a noted authority in the field of Bible, theology or religion to enlarge the understanding of the congregation and general public of current thought in these fields; providing tools for programs and ministries of the church; providing consultants or staff help to assist the congregation in doing ministry.

In recent years we have purchased café tables and items for in person worship including masks, hand sanitizer stands and plexiglass shields.



## THE CHURCH MONTHLY INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

Income Jan 1 - Nov 6           \$ 79,281.75  
(pledges and special offerings)

Expenses Jan 1 - Oct 9	\$190,053.01
(salaries for staff of 4, utilities, office and cleaning supplies, maintenance, insurance, Local and global mission)	

DEFICIT TO DATE	\$110,771.26
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### **Trivia #7 ANSWER**

Last month's Trivia picture is of the kitchen vent fan with the cover removed. It is located on the flat roof above the kitchen and gets serviced twice a year during our Spring and Fall Church Work Days.

### **First Presbyterian Church Building Trivia #8**



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

### **Annual Mitten Tree Collection**



**Give the Gift of Warmth**



Help us decorate the mitten tree benefitting the Salvation Army.

Donations of new mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves will be collected through December 18.

Drop off your donations to the church office or church mail slot.





The greens were gathered with the help of the McNaughton boys (Michael, Luke and Gregory) and Ernie Danforth, as you can see from the accompanying pictures, and were taken to Fellowship Hall. They are in the process of being turned into Christmas wreaths to hang on the exterior doors of the church. Thank you to everyone that helped out.







## HANGING OF THE GREENS





## BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE SANCTUARY





Attention all musician friends!

Would you be willing to share a recording of yourself playing or singing any Christmas/Advent songs for our church internet broadcast during the Holiday season?

Just contact Rosie in the church office for more information at 937-5419.

Let's share our talents with one another this Christmas Season!

-Your Pal  
Dave Smith  
Music Director

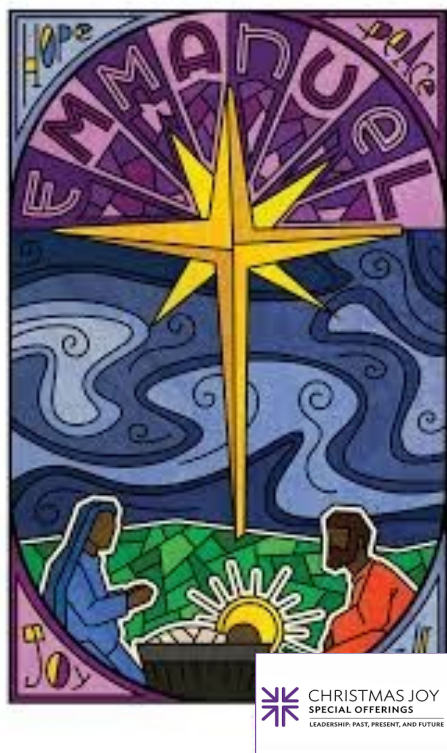


## CHICKEN STUFFING COLLECTION

**SALVATION ARMY IS IN NEED OF 60 BOXES OF CHICKEN STUFFING FOR FOOD BAGS GOING TO DAYSPRING RESIDENTS. PLEASE BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**







Please make your donation via the church website or mail your contribution to the church office specifying "Christmas Joy Special Offering" anytime during the Advent season. Thank you for your generosity.



The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.



PLEASE JOIN US  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24th  
at 5:30 P.M.  
IN THE SANCTUARY

Please join us in the sanctuary or via broadcast live on our Facebook page and on YouTube.

Our Facebook Page:

[www.fb.me/CorningFirstPresby](http://www.fb.me/CorningFirstPresby)

The YouTube Channel:

[www.bit.ly/CorningWorship](http://www.bit.ly/CorningWorship)

# Join Us For Our Weekly Zoom Meetups

BIBLE STUDY  
with Pastor Jeff  
Finding Our Place at the Manger  
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

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

With regard to this year's annual Christmas Dinner, I regret to inform you that the Christmas Dinner Committee has recommended and the Session decided that, because of COVID-19 concerns we will not be able to host the event this year. I'm sure it comes as no surprise as most other events and gatherings are cancelled. We hope to be back on track for next year, bigger and better than before!

Many of you have been very generous in the past with donations of your time and money to help with the expenses of the dinner. This year, in lieu of purchasing hams, baking pies, etc., the Committee would like to send Christmas Cards to our regular dinner guests which will include a nominal gift card and a note explaining the reason for cancelling the dinner. These would be mailed out so they arrive 2-3 days before Christmas. Anyone wishing to contribute towards this Christmas mission may do so by leaving either cash or a check (mark Christmas Dinner in the memo line) with Rosie in the Church office.

The Committee would like to have any donations collected by Sunday, December 6. This will give us sufficient time to take stock of finances, purchase gift cards and Christmas cards, write them all out and prep them for mailing. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please address them to me (Barbara Sammis) and I will answer as best as I can. This year has certainly been a challenge on many levels. I pray that you are all keeping safe and healthy. Thank you for helping us spread some Christmas cheer and the love of Jesus to those in our community.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sammis  
Christmas Dinner Committee Chair

## Alternative Gift Giving



**Presbyterian Giving**  
presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org



**Medical Benevolence Foundation**  
alternative-giving.com



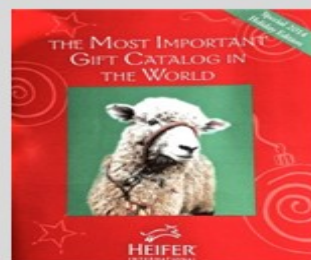
## Alternative Gift Giving



**Church World Service**  
cwsbestgift.org



**Heifer International**  
heifer.org/gift-catalog



**PLEASE JOIN US**

**THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION  
OF NEW OFFICERS**

**WILL BE HELD ON**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>  
IN THE SANCTUARY**

**AT THE 10:30 A.M.  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

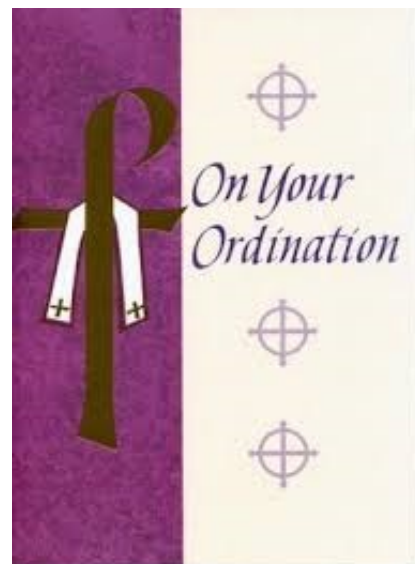
Please join us in the sanctuary or via broadcast live  
on our Facebook page and on YouTube.

Our Facebook Page:

[www.fb.me/CorningFirstPresby](http://www.fb.me/CorningFirstPresby)

The YouTube Channel:

[www.bit.ly/CorningWorship](http://www.bit.ly/CorningWorship)





# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## MONTH OF DECEMBER

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

- 1 David Rudy
- 2 James Ecker, Jr.
- 11 Kaitlyn Ugoretz
- 12 Kailee Van Brunt
- 14 Rosalie Grigsby
- 16 Frank Hamm
- 22 \* Caitlin Holmes  
\*Gregory McNaughton
- 23 \* Leah Rudy
- 25 Jesus
- 31 Mary Baer

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

- 7 Bob & Jean Boell
- 12 Walter & Janet Jones
- 27 Robert & Margaret Brill



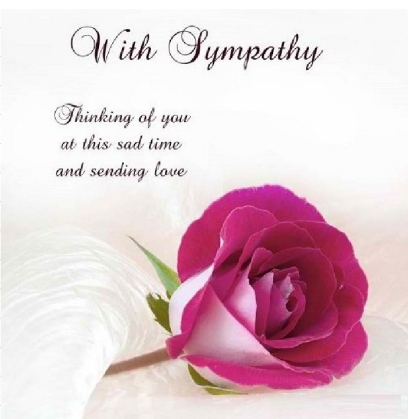
Members, \*children under 18, and non-member participants for whom we have birthday and anniversary information.

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

*We Will Miss You...*

*With Sympathy*

*Thinking of you  
at this sad time  
and sending love*



*Barbara Murray Young*  
11/04/2020





# December 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
		1 6:30p M&O Committee	2 11:00a ZOOM Bible Study	3 11:00a ZOOM Fellowship 5:30p Worship Committee	4 Church Office Closed	5
6 10:30a Communion Worship Service FACEBOOK YOUTUBE	7	8 6:30p Deacons	9 11:00a ZOOM Bible Study	10 11:00a ZOOM Fellowship 5:30p Trustees	11 Church Office Closed	12
13 10:30a Worship Service FACEBOOK YOUTUBE Ordination and Installment Service	14	15	16 11:00a ZOOM Bible Study	17 11:00a ZOOM Fellowship 6:30p Session	18 Church Office Closed	19
20 10:30a Worship Service FACEBOOK YOUTUBE	21	22	23 11:00a ZOOM Bible Study	24 Church Office Closed 5:30p 	25 Merry Christmas Church Office Closed 	26
27 10:30a Worship Service FACEBOOK YOUTUBE	28	29	30 11:00a ZOOM No Bible Study	31 		

# 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](http://www.fb.me/CorningFirstPresby)

The YouTube Channel:

[www.bit.ly/CorningWorship](http://www.bit.ly/CorningWorship)

**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



*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.