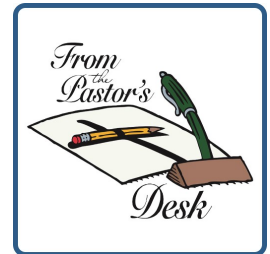




THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2020



What Do Our Neighbors *Truly* Believe?

A Rabbi, a Pastor, and an Imam walk into a room Is this the beginning of a joke? No, it's the start of an important conversation between neighbors of faith.

Inspired by the book, "What Do Our Neighbors Believe?", Rabbi Oren Steinitz (Congregation Kol Ami, Elmira), Imam Zaman Marwat (Islamic Association of the Finger Lakes, Big Flats), and I will be offering a series of talks tackling tough questions common to all people of faith, such as "What are our obligations to strangers and guests?", "What is taught about people who follow other faiths?", and "What is our response to violence and warfare?"

We have decided to do this together because we all believe that the greatest threat to peace and good-will among neighbors is hatred born out of ignorance and fear. This can be seen in our communities in the rising tide of antisemitism, islamophobia, and attacks on places of worship. Rabbi Steinitz, Imam Marwat, and I are united in the belief that it does not have to be this way. Though there are important differences, Jews, Christians, and Muslims share a belief in a God who is compassionate and merciful. By understanding one another better and learning how to engage in respectful dialogue, we believe we can all work together to build more peaceful and cooperative relationships with our neighbors of diverse faiths.

We are planning to hold three events, one at each of our places of worship, including our church. They will be free and open to the public. Each event will begin with a tour at 3:30 pm, followed by a discussion session at 4:00 pm with Rabbi Steinitz, Imam Marwat, and myself, a question and answer period, and a time afterward when participants may mingle and talk with one another. Light refreshments will be served during this time. We will meet on February 23 at Congregation Kol Ami, March 22 at the Islamic Association of the Finger Lakes, and April 19 at our church, so please save the dates. We can arrange car pools so that transportation is not an issue. If you have any questions about these events, please let me know.

I believe this is important work and I hope that you do as well. Jesus said, "whoever is not against us is for us" (Mark 9:40 NIV). In His gracious, welcoming Spirit, I hope you will put forth the time and effort to join me and our neighbors of faith as we try to better understand what each of us truly believe.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Jeff

By special congregational request
Janet Jones has provided her recipe for
Nama's Apple Cake from the
Congregational Dinner

Nama's Apple Cake

Cake:

3 cups flour	1 cup vegetable oil
2 cups granulated sugar	3 large eggs
1 teaspoon baking soda	1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon	
½ teaspoon salt	

3 cups peeled, diced baking apples (ie Granny Smith)
1 cup chopped nuts, pecans (optional)

Sauce:

1 cup packed brown sugar
8 Tablespoon (1 stick) unsalted butter
¼ cup milk

Cake:

Heat oven to 350. Generously butter a 9x13 inch pan. In a large bowl whisk together the flour, sugar, baking soda, cinnamon and salt.

In a medium bowl whisk together the oil, eggs and vanilla. Using a wooden spoon stir the oil mixture into the flour mix, it will be real stiff. Mix in the apples and nuts. Press into the prepared pan and smooth out.

Bake until golden brown and a toothpick comes out clean, 40-45 minutes. Let cool while preparing sauce.

Sauce:

In a small saucepan, combine brown sugar, butter and milk. Over medium-high heat melt the butter and bring to a boil. Decrease to medium heat. Continue to boil, stirring constantly, until sauce just begins to thicken, 2-3 minutes. Pour hot sauce over the cake, spreading it evenly.

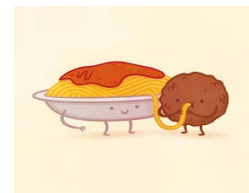
Let the cake cool at least until the sauce has seeped in, about 20 minutes, may serve warm. Or let cake cool completely before serving.



CASH IS BACK

Convenient Free Volunteer Tax Help
Here at First Presbyterian Church in
the Pentecost Room

Available From
February 3-April 14
Dial 2-1-1 or 1 (800) 346-2211 and
make an appointment



Spaghetti Dinner

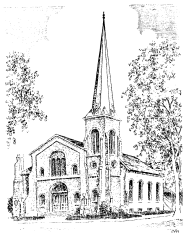
To Benefit the Corning Community
Food Pantry

Saturday, March 7, 2020
5:00 - 7:00 pm
Corning American Legion
8 River Road
Corning, NY
Cost \$10
Eat-in or Take-out

Sauce donated by
Sorge's Restaurant

Includes spaghetti,
Meatballs, salad, bread
And dessert

For tickets call
Cheri Crozier
607-974-7818



CORNERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* * * * *

MG&E Committee The Organ Fund

The Organ Fund assists in providing financial support to ensure the continuation of a quality church organ to enhance the meaning and the enjoyment of church services.

The Organ Fund shall be used for the expected and scheduled rebuilding and refurbishment of our Schantz organ. Funds may also be used for major repairs exceeding five per cent of the current value. If used for major repairs, a plan will be adopted to restore the amount used. The Fund is not intended to be used for annual maintenance.

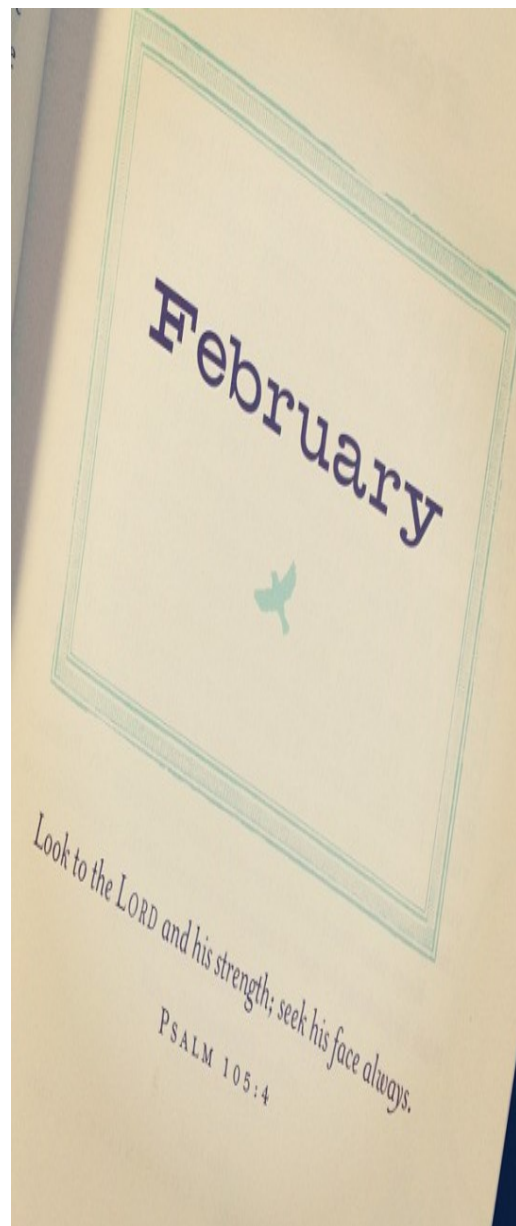
FEBRUARY FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Feb. 2 ~ Hosted by the Swenson Committee

Feb. 9 ~ Hosted by the Holmes Family

Feb. 16 ~ Hosted by the Deacons

Feb. 23 ~ Hosted by the Trustees



Please pick up your
Individual Giving Statements
for 2019 now available in the
narthex.

Happy Valentine's Day - February 14th!



BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY

Let's Tackle Hunger! Together we can turn the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of giving.

DATE:

DEADLINE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2020

COLLECTING FOR:

Corning Community Food Pantry

SAVE THE DATE

IF Gathering @ Beartown Road - 2020

Hi Ladies,

Happy New Year! Another year has come and I am hopeful it will be one that is centered on Jesus! As we look to what is ahead, I pray you will grow in your relationship with God & IF is the perfect opportunity to do just that! We are offering the IF:Gathering again at Beartown Road Alliance Church. I pray our time together will build up & encourage women in our local churches and communities. Here are the details of our gathering:

IF:Beartown Road

Friday, March 13 (6-9pm) & Saturday, March 14
(9am-2pm)

Beartown Road Alliance Church
21 Beartown Road, Painted Post
Get Connected: www.facebook.com/ifbeartownroad

Registration will open in a few weeks! You will receive an email with the registration LINK once it is open. Please spread the word and like our Facebook page so you can get updates and enter some great giveaways!

I will leave you with this from IF's founder, Jennie Allen, " We believe in the everlasting power of God's Word. Our greatest desire is to see women know the God of the Bible and to have deep, honest conversations about faith."

Blessings, Sarah Gehman



To Pastor Jeff & my FPC family-
Thank you for your support & prayers!
My time back in coming has been sweet and I'm grateful to have had the chance to connect with many of you. Thank you for your many levels of support - individually, through missions committee or Swenson - I feel cared for and grateful for you all! Your prayers and support are an encouragement. Thank you!
Bethany Rudolph



**ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 26 AT 7:00PM**



On Sunday, January 26 we had a "Sermon Surprise" Worship Service prior to our Annual Congregational Dinner/Meeting. At the beginning of the worship service Liam Holmes chose the "verse for the year", which was as follows:

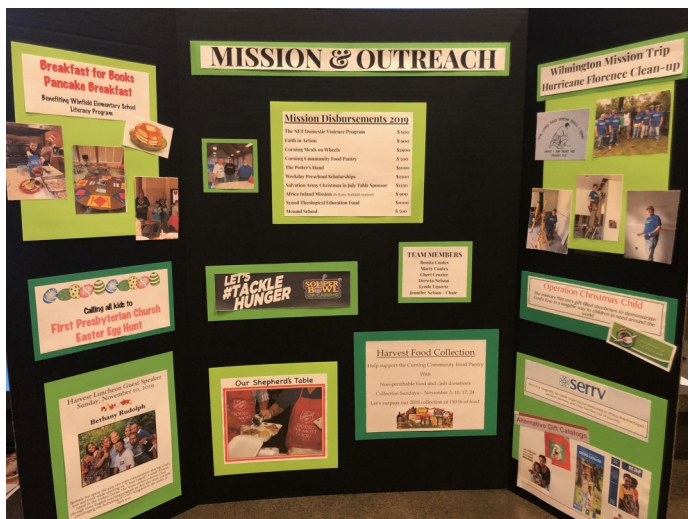
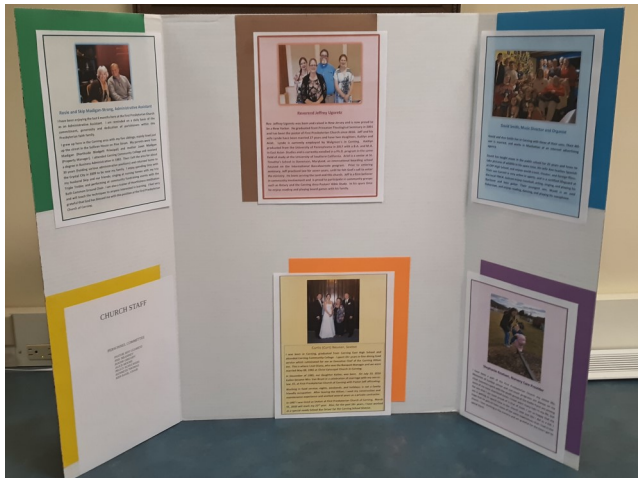
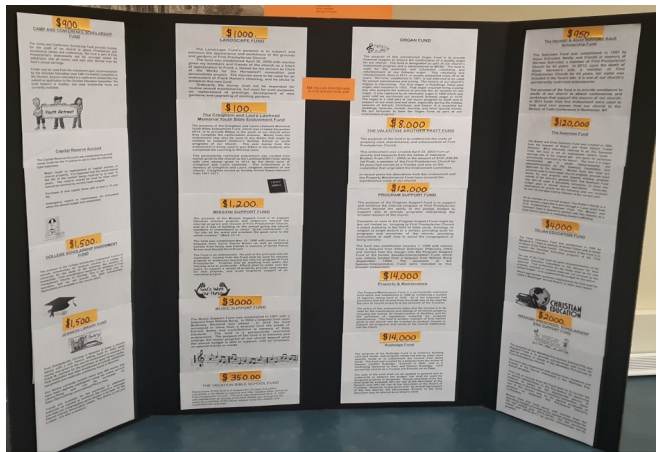
Isaiah 41:13

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

**Pastor Jeff did a
great job preaching
"on the fly" with no
prior preparation.**



Photos courtesy of Kay Rogus and Susan Vermillion. Thank you!



**Our Annual Congregational Dinner/
Meeting was held on Sunday, Janu-
ary 26. The meeting was very pro-
ductive and again the PLF Commit-
tee organized an amazing meal.
Thank you to everyone
involved!**



Photos courtesy of Kay Rogus and Susan Vermillion. Thank you!



**The Deacons
presented Rose
Houper with a
Love Basket for all
her years of volun-
teering her time
and talents to our
First Presbyterian
family. Love Bas-
kets have been
given to church
members periodi-
cally for several
years by the
Deacons.**

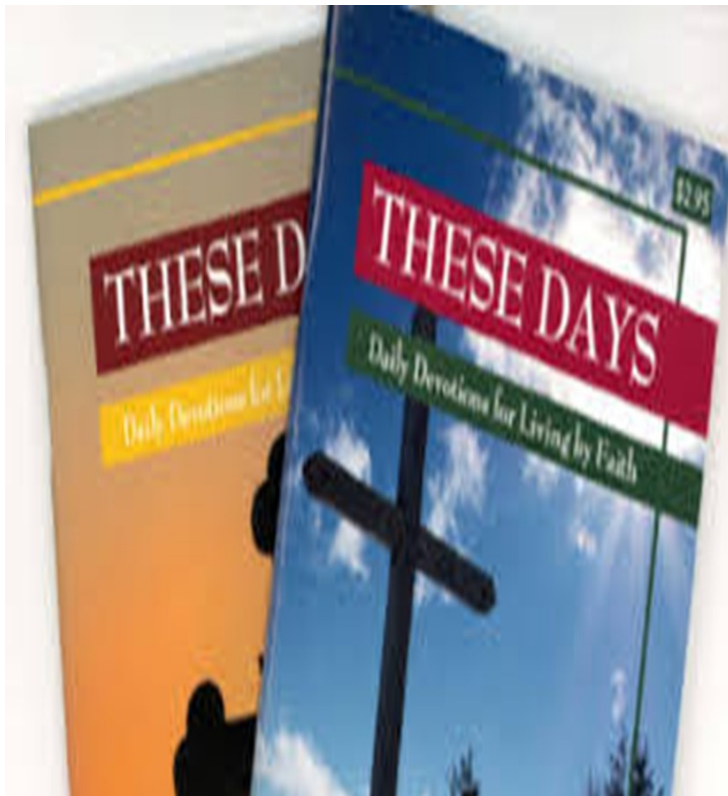
**Thank you and
Congratulations
Rose!**



Photos courtesy of Kay Rogus and Susan Vermillion. Thank you!

**Donate new socks
and under gar-
ments for
the Salvation
Army Clothing
Closet**

**The Deacons
Dresser Drawer
in the church**



**THESE DAYS
Daily Devotions for
Living by Faith For
January/February/
March
2020
are now available in
the back of the
church**

Star Gazing Connects Mother-Daughter during Scary Stint with Cancer

Tori Holmes was only six years old the day her mom, Kim, was diagnosed with an aggressive blood cancer in 2013.

For three stressful months during that time, Kim and her young children were separated by many miles. Kim had to leave home in Corning, N.Y., to receive intensive inpatient treatment at the Wilmot Cancer Institute in Rochester, and the children went to live with an aunt in Vermont.

Star gazing helped to ease the longing. On a particularly sleepless night, Tori's aunt took her to a window and said, "Tori, do you see those stars and the moon? Those are the same stars and the same moon that your mom is looking at right now."

Tori, now 13, wants to bring the same type of comfort to other patients at Wilmot, so she started a volunteer operation and developed a catchphrase: "We were separated by highways but connected by star-ways."

Tori has been making fleece blankets embellished with a star pattern that she brings to hospitalized adults and children. Each package contains two blankets — one for the patient and one for a family member who needs to be wrapped in love — along with a personal note that briefly describes Tori's story.

"It makes me feel really good," Tori said, "because I feel like I'm making a difference."

She and her family started the New Year by dropping off more colorful fleece blankets at Wilmot. Kim Holmes was successfully treated and is six years into a healthy remission from acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

Kim's full story was featured as the cover article in a 2015 edition of Wilmot's Dialogue magazine. She had been eight months pregnant with her third child when doctors diagnosed her with AML, and her case included many difficult twists and turns.

After an emergency admission to Strong Memorial Hospital, she prematurely delivered a healthy baby boy, Liam. He spent some time recovering in the NICU while a large, multi-disciplinary team, led by Jason Mendler, M.D., Ph.D., cared for Kim. They immediately started her on weeks of chemotherapy and additional precision treatments based on a molecular profile of her cancer. Kim also enrolled in a national clinical study only available in upstate New York through Wilmot.

"It really feels like things have come full circle for me," she says.

The baby, Liam, is now 6, a high-energy first-grader. Another child, Caitlin, 10, is in fourth grade. Kim enjoys her career as a teacher's aide, and her husband, Brendan, who was by her side throughout the ordeal, has just started a new job to embark on a new chapter in 2020.

Tori and some of her friends at the Alternative School for Math & Science in Corning have made about 40 blankets so far, with no plans to stop. She's donated her hair twice to the non-profit wig-maker, Locks of Love, done fundraising for the St. Baldrick's Foundation — and continues to cherish her aunt's kind words and pay it forward.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

- 2 Becky DeRosa
- 3 Mona Behrens
- *Ryan MacDougall
- 5 Beth Landin
- 6 Roger Grigsby
- 7 Janice Haynes
- 10 Scott Beres
- 13 Graham Wightman
- 15 *Sam Palmesano
- 17 Andrea Fisher
- 23 *Luke McNaughton

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



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

- 2 Pro & Gail Bardhan
- 7 BJ & Jamie Smith
- 16 Pete & Joan Woodhouse
- 29 Graham & Dee Wightman

If we miss your special day,
please let us know so we can in-
clude the information on our cal-
endar.

February 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 6:00p - 8:00p Suppers of Eight Mixer Pentecost
2 COMMUNION 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship Pentecost SOUPER BOWL OF CARING	3 CA\$H 9:00a- 8:30p Dial 2-1-1	4 6:30p Mission 6:30p Handbells 7:30p Choir CA\$H 9:00a- 8:30p Dial 2-1-1	5	6 5:30p Worship	7 Church Office Closed	8
9 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship Pentecost	10 6:30p MG&E CA\$H 9:00a- 8:30p Dial 2-1-1	11 6:30p Handbells 7:30p Choir CA\$H 9:00a- 8:30p Dial 2-1-1	12	13 5:30 Trustees 6:30 Deacons	14 Church Office Closed Valentine's Day 	15
16 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship Pentecost	17 President's Day Church Office Closed CA\$H 9:00a- 8:30p Dial 2-1-1	18 6:30p Handbells 7:30p Choir CA\$H 9:00a- 8:30p Dial 2-1-1	19	20	21 Church Office Closed	22
23 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship Pentecost 3:30p "What Do Your Neighbors <i>Truly Believe</i> " Series	24 CA\$H 9:00a- 8:30p Dial 2-1-1	25 6:30p Handbells 7:30p Choir CA\$H 9:00a- 8:30p Dial 2-1-1	26 7:00p ASH WEDNESDAY	27 6:30p Session	28 Church Office Closed	29

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

FELLOWSHIP HOUR 11:30 AM

"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

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



2020

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.