



THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2013



INTERIM CO-PASTORS' MESSAGE

A man was mountain-climbing in the American Rockies, along a very rugged track. Suddenly he slipped, falling over a cliff. He grabbed the roots of a tree and hung there. When he got his breath back he looked down and saw an enormous drop. If he fell, he'd certainly be killed. Looking up, the cliff top was so far above him he couldn't climb back. In desperation, although he knew he was alone, he cried out 'Is anyone up there?' He was startled to hear a booming voice say 'Yes!' 'Can you help me?' 'Yes' came the response. 'What must I do?' The voice answered 'Let go!'. There was a long pause, then finally the man called out 'Is anybody else up there?'

Most of the time in our lives, God has to save us from ourselves reminding us as Julian of Norwich said, 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well'.

Wherever Jesus goes, all is well. Yet at the same time, all is not well. There is human pain and grief that exists amid so much beauty and wonder. There are calamities and diseases afflicting humanity. And they are there all the time. Terrible injustice and terrorism and war. Disease, poverty, hunger and homelessness, drugs, addictions, depression.... Personal problems which literally drive us to the edge.... On and on.

Though all is well, yet at the same time all is not well. How then can we celebrate a new day with joy in our hearts when we feel like our whole world is collapsing?

This answer is both simple and very complex: Jesus the Christ — the one who combines the deepest joy with the most profound grief. The One who is the source of thanksgiving on our lips even though we might be overwhelmed by many problems. His light shines in the darkest pit, and his laughter fills all the graveyards of the world. He gives new life that rises from the ashes. Jesus is the salvation: Deliverance and healing abounds wherever he goes.

Jesus reveals God — the ultimate healer of a broken world. Because of this we can celebrate a glorious new day, even as we pray for the healing of the multiple evils that afflict not just the human race, but our very souls.

Jesus holds us in his hands; embraces us in divine grace and mercy. He empowers us to live life to the full, to be thankful without ignoring the pain of others, to suffer pain without resenting the health of others, to have faith and love without despising those of little faith and little love.

Jesus stands in the midst of our suffering with hope and calls us to deal with whatever ills we can, to pray for one another in sickness and in health. Our hope comes from Him who suffered death for the love for all. The Gospel is not an insurance policy against adversities of life. It is a Gospel of Emmanuel;

INTERIM CO-PASTORS' MESSAGE (continued)

God with us, present in all circumstances with transforming love.

Those who are disciples of Christ are not escapists. The church building is not a place where we hide from the ugly facts of life. Nor is the church community a fellowship where we pretend that bad things will never happen to God's own.

Here we do not shut our eyes to the anguish of each other, in order to sing other-worldly songs of thanks and praise. The church is a place where we can both celebrate and lament together, in the knowledge that God in Christ is with us and for us. The cup we bless holds our tears — tears of joy and tears of grief. We lift up that cup to God with thanksgiving. The bread we break is the food nourishing us so that the journey ahead will not be too much for us.

We declare that it is good to be alive! All is well. All is very well. We follow Christ ashore on the far side of the city and see the crowds come flocking to him — “And as many as touched him were made well.”

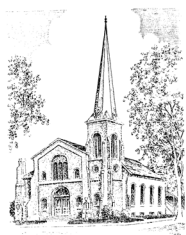
Romans 8 declares, “We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This incomparable Jesus allows us to celebrate life in joy and grief. This Christ enables us to continue on celebrating even in the most adverse circumstances. Through him, all is well and all will be very well.

Many blessings to you and yours throughout this month and a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Pastors James and Banu



CORNERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MISSION & OUTREACH

Corning Community Food Pantry

The fall is alive with the glow of the foliage while the Corning Community Food Pantry is preparing for its 2013 Thanksgiving Basket Application Process. The target number to give out this year is approximately 375. However we could use your help. Consider donating food or money to help supplement our Annual Thanksgiving Fund. Each household deserves to enjoy a nutritious dinner on Thanksgiving so please help us to make their wish come true. Send monetary donations to CCFP, Box 1255, Corning, NY 14830.

Please share your gently used winter clothing with those in need by donating your items to our Pantry. This clothing is free to those who come to us. This month we could use canned beans and tuna. We also need baby food including jars and cereal. Thank you for your continuing support of our mission.

* * * * *

Operation Christmas Child

Remember to pray for the boy or girl who will receive your shoebox. Through the power of a simple gift, you can bless a child's life and make a world of difference.

Extra donation envelopes with the "Boy" and "Girl" labels for your filled shoebox are available in the church office or you can download the labels from: www.samaritanspurse.org/occ

The Joy Store will again be open on Sunday, November 3rd, 10th, and 17th in Fellowship Hall. It's a great and convenient way to shop for your shoebox items

Bring your filled shoeboxes to the church no later than Sunday, Nov. 24th as they will be dedicated that day and sent on their way.

We have set a goal of 125 shoeboxes this year. Won't you please help us reach our goal!



* * * * *

Alternative Gift Fair

Do you have friends or relatives who you would like to buy a gift for but you have no idea what to get them? Or maybe they really don't need anything? Here's the answer to your problem! You can send them a very meaningful gift that they don't have to dust or store ---- and your money will be purchasing something really needed and perhaps lifesaving to a person, child, or family!

Just fill out the order sheet included with this Messenger and bring it to the ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR during Fellowship Time on December 1st, 8th, and 15th. Display tables will be set up giving you more information about the gift and about the need. There will also be free beautiful Christmas cards to choose from to announce your gift to your friend or relative.

For those of you who are unable to get to church or who live out of the area, just fill out the order sheet, enclose a check payable to the First Presbyterian Church for the total amount (write 'Gift Fair' on memo line), and mail both to the church office. We will then send you a card and information to enclose with the card for each gift you order.

* * * * *

Harvest-In-Gathering

Our Harvest-In-Gathering will begin on Sunday, November 3rd, and will continue each Sunday through November 24th. We will be collecting non-perishable food items (soups, cereals, tuna fish, & pasta), paper products, personal care items, and cash donations to assist the Corning Community Food Pantry. Please prayerfully consider helping us help the Corning Community Food Pantry.



PARISH LIFE & MEMBERSHIP

Fellowship Time

The PL&M Team would like to thank the Youth and Ministry Team and the Personnel committee for hosting Fellowship Times in September.

If you would like to host a Fellowship Time some Sunday, please call Rose Houper, Susan Sheldon, or the church office. It is not difficult. Help is available and expenses are covered.

* * * * *

Harvest Dinner

Please join us on Sunday, November 10th following worship for good food and fellowship at this year's Harvest Dinner. Each family should bring a dish-to-pass and their own table service. Beverages and bread will be provided. Reservations would be helpful in order to have enough seating for everyone.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

The Faith Formation Ministry is holding a Prayer Dinner on Sunday, November 3rd, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. It will be a simple soup and bread supper, fellowship, and communal time of sharing and praying. All are welcome to join the dinner for a relaxing, renewing, refreshing time in God's presence!

FREE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

Christ Episcopal Church (corner of First & Cedar Streets) in Corning, NY, will be serving a FREE Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner on Thursday, November 28, 2013, at 11:30 a.m. **SORRY, NO TAKE-OUTS.**

Menu: Turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, squash, cranberry sauce, rolls, pie, and beverage.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!

Call 937-5449 Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Reservation deadline is Wednesday, November 27th.



THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY HOURS

The church will be open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, November 25th, 26th, and 27th from 9:00 a.m. - noon and 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. The office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 28th and 29th. For pastoral emergencies, please call the Clerk of Session at 936-8723. For non-emergencies, leave a message on the church's answering machine, and your call will be answered when the office reopens on Monday, December 2nd.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Natalie Rogus and the Corning Hawks girls cross country team. They brought home a second-place finish at the Queensbury Invitational.

NEW ADDRESSES

Eric & Monica Meek
5630 Van Fleet Rd.
Painted Post, NY 14870

Doris Shanahan
6300 Cathy Ave. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

THANK YOU

A donation has been made to the College Scholarship Endowment Fund by Dr. Milton and Margret Lapp. The gift was made in memory of Charles Lucy and Roy Love.

PRAYER CORNER

Read I Corinthians 10:12-14



These are all warning markers - DANGER! - in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. Our positions in the story are parallel - they at the beginning, we at the end - and we are just as capable of messing it up as they were. Don't be so naïve and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence.

No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.

So, my very dear friends, when you see people reducing God to something they can use or control, get out of their company as fast as you can.

IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy Overstrom Watson
June 28, 1939 - October 8, 2013

IN MEMORIAM

Phyllis Andrews Hamm
November 17, 1928 - October 12, 2013

**A memorial service was held at First
Presbyterian Church on October 26, 2013**



2013 ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

Express the true meaning of Christmas through your gift-giving this year. Use this list to select a special way to honor those on your holiday list. The fair will be held on December 1st, December 8th, and December 15th during Fellowship Time. Come see the card display for gifts!

MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE FOUNDATION: In partnership with the Presbyterian Church (USA), the MBF works to support the health ministries of Christian churches in other countries.

		TOTAL \$
___ HIV / AIDS	\$3.00	_____
Testing and antiretroviral (ARV) treatment		
___ Vaccinations	\$2.00	_____
Mobile health clinic providing vaccinations		
___ Food and Care	\$15.00	_____
Food and care for children at a community based child care center		
___ Malaria Nets	\$10.00	_____
Malaria nets for a family		
___ Medicine	\$5.00	_____
Medicine to treat malaria or TB		
___ Healthcare Training	\$50.00	_____
Train midwife or healthcare worker		
___ Medical Care	\$15.00	_____
Hospital care for indigent patients		
___ Women and Children's Health	\$25.00	_____
Maternity and well-baby care		
___ Support for Medical Benevolence Foundation Ministries	Any \$ amount	_____
For use where most needed		
Sub-Total for Medical Benevolence Foundation		\$_____

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Volunteers from our local chapter, Southeastern Steuben County Habitat for Humanity, will sell a variety of **alternative gifts** and **Habitat merchandise** during the gift fair.

Sub-Total for Habitat for Humanity \$_____

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE: Funds received into this account will provide for immediate assistance and long-term recovery following disasters in the United States and foreign countries. Your faithful giving is appreciated.

Sub-Total for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) \$_____

(OVER PLEASE)

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL: For over 60 years, Heifer has provided needy families around the world with livestock ranging from water buffalo to bees as a stepping stone to self-sufficiency. These and other gifts are available:

		TOTAL \$
<input type="checkbox"/> Flock of Ducks/Geese	\$20.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Flock of Chicks	\$20.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Honeybees	\$30.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Trio of Rabbits	\$60.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Share of Rabbits	\$10.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Seedlings	\$60.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Share of Tree Seedlings	\$10.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Pig, Sheep, or Goat	\$120.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Share of a Pig, Sheep, or Goat	\$10.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Llama	\$150.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Share of a Llama	\$20.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Buffalo	\$250.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Share of a Water Buffalo	\$25.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Heifer	\$500.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Share of a Heifer	\$50.00	<input type="text"/>

Sub-Total for Heifer International \$

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM: Participate as a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in timely and effectively meeting the physical, psychological, and spiritual needs of communities affected by natural and human-caused disasters - particularly those that are marginalized.

		TOTAL \$
<input type="checkbox"/> Oral Rehydration Therapy	\$10.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 School Kits	\$75.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Birthing Kit	\$35.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hygiene Kit	\$10.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Blankets	\$50.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Clean-up Bucket	\$56.00	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 Jerry Cans	\$15.00	<input type="text"/>

Sub-Total for CWS Emergency Response \$

Sub-total for Medical Benevolence \$
 Sub-total for Habitat for Humanity
 Sub-total for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
 Sub-total for Heifer International
 Sub-total for CWS Emergency Response

☐ check payable to First Presbyterian Church ☐ cash GRAND TOTAL \$

Name Phone

Address City Zip

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 4 Doris Shanahan
- 8 David Powers
- 11 Marty Coates
Jimma Powers
- 12 Maxwell SáPereira
* Trey Smith
- 15 Ann Howland
- 17 Dee Wightman
- 21 Meredith Watts
- 22 Robert Lull
*Joshua Beres
- 25 Nancy Perrin
*Ashley Tubbs
- 27 Gail Bardhan

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 7 Lisa & Bill Sebelles
- 20 Marcia & Gil Creelman
- 24 Barb & Lloyd Young



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

If we miss your special day, please call the church office so we can get you entered on our calendar.

THE MESSENGER

First Presbyterian Church

1 East First Street

Corning, New York 14830

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Jesus Is
Our
Focus
In All
We Do**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1 EAST FIRST STREET
CORNING, NEW YORK 14830**

Reverends James & Banu Moore, Interim Pastors
Home Phone: 607-654-7875
Cell Phone: 607-664-7876

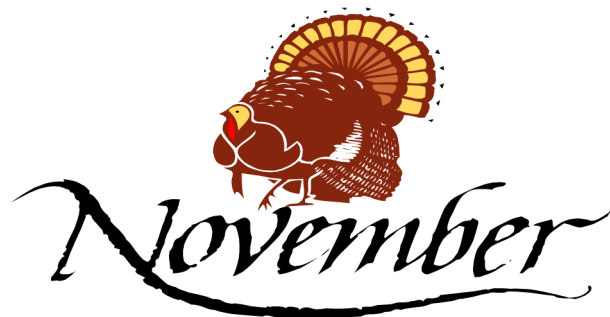
Interim Pastors' Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - noon

Church Phone: 607-937-5419
Church Fax: 607-937-9731

Church Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - noon & 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Church Email: office@corningpresby.org
Visit us on the web: www.corningpresby.org

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time: 11:30 a.m.



2013

The Messenger is published monthly.

DEADLINE for December Messenger articles is November 15th. Articles may either be emailed to the church or left in the church office. Any information received after the 15th will appear in the January issue.