



THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2013



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Light and water. Light and water, so fundamental to life on Earth, are basic elements for most of human faith throughout all of history. They have had a primary importance. For the church—and especially in January—light and water have special meanings.

January begins on the 8th Day of Christmas. The light of Christ has come into the world. The Christmas season culminates with Epiphany, the 6th of January, a day which has been described this way: “Begotten before the daystar and before all ages, the Lord our Savior is this day made manifest to the world.”

Epiphany means “manifestation,” and it has the idea of Jesus being revealed to the world. Three different events have been associated with Epiphany: the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and his first miracle—the changing of water into wine. In each case, Jesus is revealed in some way to the world. With the visit of the Magi, that’s especially true, because he is revealed to Gentiles.

Epiphany is all about light. In fact, it’s so much about light that it “illuminates” our everyday language. For example, we speak of having our **own** epiphanies, those moments when “the light” comes on!

And then there’s water. That liquid which covers most of our planet also makes up most of us. Without water, there could be no life on Earth. Water is central to our spiritual life, as well.

The first Sunday after Epiphany is the Baptism of the Lord. We hear the story of John baptizing the people, and “when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased’” (Luke 3:21-22).

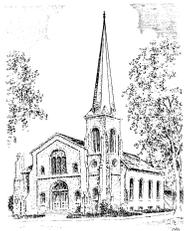
We here at First Presbyterian, Corning, celebrate the Baptism of the Lord in word, song, and deed. And guess what? There’s going to be some water splashing around! Get ready for some actual baptisms!

I wonder if we’ll hear a heavenly voice—or even a celestial choir?

In her book, *The Scent of Jasmine*, Patricia McCarthy says this about the Baptism of the Lord: “Too many times we allow others to influence the course of our actions and just go along with their decisions. To renew our commitment to baptism is to renew our willingness to think for ourselves.”

So, let us again claim our baptism and live as daughters and sons of light—in the light of Christ!

Pastors James and Banu



CORNERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PARISH LIFE & FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Time

The Parish Life & Fellowship Committee would like to thank the Membership and Outreach Committee and Pastors James and Banu Moore for hosting a weekly Fellowship Time in December.

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.

* * * * *

Suppers of Eight

Looking for a way to get to know people or for an enjoyable evening out? Suppers of Eight is a great way to do both! Look for complete information in this issue of the Messenger.



Getting to Know You

* * * * *

Congregational Dinner

New this year!!! Dish-to-pass!!!!

Sunday, January 27, 2013, in Fellowship Hall. Dinner is immediately after worship, and the business/corporate meeting will follow the meal.

This is your chance to wow the congregation with a favorite dish! It can be a main course, side, dessert...whatever you wish!

Beverages provided by PL&F. If possible, please bring your own table service.

Dish-to-pass!!!! New this year!!!



MISSION COMMITTEE

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

The Mission Committee sincerely thanks all those who volunteered on such short notice to ring bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign during Sparkle Christmas on Market Street in December. We ended up with all the time slots filled! Thanks to those who rang for a full hour (and the Baers who rang for an hour and a half). Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



* * * * *

Food Pantry

During November 2012, the Corning Community Food Pantry served: 1,039 households, 2,009 adults, 1,264 children, and 248 elderly. The Pantry was closed for four days during November due to the holiday.

Special needs this month are for creamed soup and canned tuna. We could also use baby food (both jars and cereal).

We appreciate the efforts of all those who have donated money or canned goods during this special season of caring and giving!



PRAYER CORNER

Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.



We pray for Thy help Gracious Lord, to break down the factors that keep us from living up to our full potential. Often we are frustrated because we are realizing such a small portion of the fullness of life Thou hast placed before us. Break the vicious circle in which we find ourselves and sweep us into a new concept, a new dimension, a new fulfillment. Lord, help us to truly live, believing that all things do work together for good for those who trust in Thee and are willing to respond to Thy love and direction. We want to be less rigid, mentally and spiritually. Release us from inhibitions and fears that we may face life and its tasks and responsibilities with poise and strength. Through Christ, the Lord of life. Amen.

Dr. Kenneth O. Jones

CONGRATULATIONS

Former member, Kevin Robinson has been named a partner in the law firm where he works in Orlando, Florida.

NEW ADDRESSES

Jackie & Jesse Curry
110 Creekside Apt. 120
Painted Post, NY 14870

THANK YOU!

To Al Johnson, Rose Houper, and crew for the wonderful reception. To the Allens, Coates, Danforths, and Sammis for their culinary support. To the rest of the Deacons and to the rest of the FPC congregation for their spiritual support over these past weeks.

Our heartfelt gratitude,

The Hampson Family

THANK YOU

The Senior Girl Scout Troop 40673 would like to thank the church for letting them use the Fellowship Hall to present their program in November. They would especially like to thank Mr. Neuner for helping with the audio-visual equipment. Thanks, also, to those members who came to the event.

If you did not get to see "Locavore: From Compost to Cuisine, Make Your Food Go Green," Pastor Banu has a copy you can borrow. Thanks!

WINTER POLICY

First Presbyterian's policy has been that there will always be Sunday worship, no matter what the weather. People should not risk life or limb to get here, but there will be a service for those who can SAFELY get to First and Pine. However, Sunday School, meetings, and other events may be cancelled. Check with the church office or the website for cancellations in the event of a storm.

SUPPERS OF EIGHT



Getting to Know You

Plan ahead to avoid those winter doldrums by joining others in our church to share fellowship. Join in

SUPPERS OF EIGHT is poised to offer another year of fun, food and fellowship for everyone. This program, sponsored by the Parish Life & Fellowship Committee, has become an event that many of us look forward to each winter. Suppers of Eight are small group social gatherings which provide an excellent opportunity to get to know other members of our church community and to form new friendships. As the name indicates, groups of eight people gather for dinner each month for four months, beginning in February. Each group of eight remains together throughout the series of dinners. *Suppers of Eight* is open to all adults including couples and singles. We would especially like to encourage those who are new or relatively new to the church to participate. This is one of our most enjoyable activities and a great way to meet the church family! Several times a group has continued to meet beyond the four dinners!

There will be Friday night and Saturday night groups. Each group will meet once each month in February, March, April and May on a date convenient for the members.

LOGISTICS

- (1) You will be randomly assigned to a group in pairs. Married couples will be placed together. Singles are warmly welcomed. Expect to see new faces! Each couple and/or single will have the opportunity to host. Singles may host a dinner individually or together.
- (2) Everyone will be furnished with a list of the other members of the group including addresses & telephone numbers on February 3rd after Worship. At that time your group can choose the date of your first dinner.
- (3) As previously stated, the dinner series will be held once each month in February, March, April, & May on dates convenient for the group members. If singles in a group host individually, extra dinners may be set up.
- (4) Group members meet in the home of the host(s) for dinner. The first host(s) will be chosen on February 3rd. As the dinners progress, each couple will have a turn to host. The host(s) will contact each member prior to dinner to confirm the date, time, & the dish each is to bring (i.e. vegetable, salad, dessert, hors d'oeuvres.) The host(s) provides meat, potatoes, beverages, & table service.
- (5) The after dinner activity is the choice of the host(s). We would suggest conversation, games, etc.
- (6) If illness or unforeseen circumstances arise to change your plans, you can do one of two things:
 - a. Try to replace yourself as a couple (or single). The substitute would bring whatever dish you planned to bring. You should notify the host(s) of the change. You will be provided with a list of substitutes.
 - b. If you are unable to find a substitute, call Kate Danforth, 962-4034, who will make arrangements for an alternate.

Fill out the sign up form below and join us for SUPPERS OF EIGHT!

SUPPERS OF EIGHT, 2013

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

I (WE) PREFER FRIDAY NIGHT _____ SATURDAY NIGHT _____

We will always need alternates. If you can't participate on a regular basis, but would like to be called as a substitute, please check. I (we) am (are) interested in substituting _____

I am allergic to _____ cats, _____ dogs _____ birds I have a _____ cat, _____ dog, _____ bird

Please return completed form to the church office or place in the offering plate **NO LATER THAN NOON ON JANUARY 27, 2013.** ALL LATE SIGN-UPS WILL BE PLACED ON THE SUBSTITUTE LIST.

MONTH OF JANUARY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 5 Anna Jean Yoggy
James SáPereira
- 6 * Evan Woods
- 11 Deborah Rice
- 15 Christopher Kelly
- 16 * Corey Reppert
- 19 Frances Backer
- 21 Alyse Schrickel
- 22 * Scotty Creelman
- 23 * Lydia Smith
- 24 * Robert J. Wilcox
- 26 Carol Flook
- 27 Tracey Kelly
- 28 Barbara Young
Alice Moore
Amy Gorham
- 29 Stephanie Knutsen
* Emma Woods
- 30 Amita Neuner

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 2 Jim & Sherry Robinson



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

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

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 February *Messenger* articles is **January 15th**. Articles may either be e-mailed to the church or left in the church office. Any information received after the 15th will appear in the March issue.