



# THE MESSENGER

## JANUARY 2016



### CORNERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## MAJOR GIFTS & ENDOWMENTS

### Organ Fund

This month the Major Gifts & Endowments Committee (MG&E) is highlighting the Organ Fund. The purpose of this unrestricted fund is to provide financial support to ensure the continuation of a quality organ for our church. The fund is designated as part of our church's endowment program and is administered by MG&E. The fund is used for the expected and scheduled rebuilding and refurbishment of our Schantz organ. This rebuilding and refurbishment, done in 2011, is usually scheduled every 30 to 40 years. The fund, established in 1991, is not intended to be used for annual maintenance and tuning. The history of our church's organs is interesting. Our first organ, a Hutchings Votey pipe organ, was installed in 1902. That organ required hiring a pump boy who pumped the bellows to provide the air needed for the organ. It was replaced by an electronic organ in 1960 which was used until we purchased our present Schantz organ in 1978. The organ is a vital part of our music program by itself and in support of our choir and bell choir, especially during the holiday seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Easter. It is essential for weddings, funerals, recitals, worship, and other special events. We are fortunate to have the Organ Fund as part of our endowment program.

## MISSION & OUTREACH

### The Food Pantry

"Help us, help them." A recent survey conducted at the Corning Community Food Pantry elicited the following response from a client. The question on the survey was, "How important is the Pantry to you?" Tammy replied, "I lost my job. My husband lost his job. These are hard times for both of us. We need the Pantry for food." This is just one expression of hardship we hear daily at the Pantry.

Our November 2015 statistics are: 968 households served, 2,028 adults served, 1,116 children served, 283 elderly served, for a total number of 3,477 individuals served. We were closed 3 days due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Food items needed during the winter season: canned corn, canned green beans, pasta and tuna.



Please save your plastic bags and donate them to us for our daily packing needs.

A special acknowledgement to all those community volunteers who helped to pack and give out approximately 403 baskets at our Annual Thanksgiving Basket Distribution. Numerous volunteers came together to help facilitate this huge endeavor. To those who were on site and to those who donated money or food to help bring this incredible endeavor to fruition, your generosity was greatly appreciated. Those who received the baskets were overjoyed and thankful. Your efforts made a significant difference in their lives.

During this Holiday Season of giving, please include in your sharing and caring those who suffer from hunger in our area. Happy Holidays to all.

## PARISH LIFE

### Fellowship Time

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for your donations to our Christmas Mitten Tree! And special thanks to Martha Saunders, who knitted a total of 38 items for our tree! The mittens, gloves, and hats that were given will be donated to the Salvation Army for those in need this winter season.



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### Congregational Dinner

Please join us after worship on Sunday, January 24th, for our annual congregational dinner. This will be a dish-to-pass dinner with tossed salad provided by the Parish Life team. Reservations will be needed for planning purposes.

## DEACONS

### Thank You!



Many thanks from the Board of Deacons to all congregation members who donated food items and their time for the Christmas Dinner. Your help was greatly appreciated by the planners as well as by those who attended the dinner. You, the congregation, continue to make the dinner a success year after year. Approximately 150 people, including guests, take-outs, and workers, were served dinner this year.

Thanks again,

Board of Deacons

\* \* \* \* \*

### News from the Creelman's

We took Christmas Cookies from the Deacons to Gil and Marcia Creelman recently and learned that Marcia is recuperating from a serious shoulder fracture and surgery on November 20 (their wedding anniversary). It is difficult for her as it is her right shoulder and not only for being unable to write, but for sleeping. The arm is in a sling and will be for 2 to 3 more weeks. Gil seems to be doing well and read to us Proverbs 11 from a fine print Bible. He has recently read through Psalms and is currently reading Proverbs. He conversed more with us than previous visits. They became great grand parents last year when Carol's son Joshua and his wife had a baby girl. Marcia would enjoy cards from those of the congregation who know her.



## STEWARDSHIP

On behalf of your Stewardship Committee, we thank you for your support in our pledge drive to support our church's budget for 2016. As of December 21, we have pledged a total of \$101,728 toward our goal of \$120,000. If you are a member or friend of the church who has not made a pledge toward our goal, it is never too late to support God's work through our church. 2016 promises to be an exciting year in the life of our church. We need everyone's gifts of time, talent, and treasure as we keep Jesus as the focus of all we do. Thank you.

Your Stewardship Committee



## 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 Parish Life, 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 January 31st 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 January 31st. 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 or feel free to ask friends or family.
  - 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!

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### SUPPERS OF EIGHT, 2016

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 24, 2016.** ALL LATE SIGN-UPS WILL BE PLACED ON THE SUBSTITUTE LIST.

# MONTH OF JANUARY

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

- 5 Anna Jean Yoggy
- 11 Deborah Rice
- 15 Christopher Kelly
- 16 \* Corey Reppert
- 19 Frances Backer
- 21 Kathy Keech
- 23 \* Lydia Smith
- 24 \* Robert J. Wilcox
- 25 Monica Meek
- 26 Carol Flook
- 27 Tracey Kelly
- 28 Barbara Young  
Alice Moore
- 29 Stephanie Knutsen
- 30 Amita Neuner



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.

# 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

Reverend Jeffrey Ugoretz, Pastor

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

Church Hours: Monday - Friday  
10:00 a.m. - noon & 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Church Email: [office@corningpresby.org](mailto:office@corningpresby.org)  
Visit us on the web: [www.corningpresby.org](http://www.corningpresby.org)

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

# January

# 2016

*The Messenger* is published monthly.

**DEADLINE for February Messenger articles is January 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 March issue.