



THE MESSENGER



JULY 2014

June 21 was the astronomical marking of the Summer Solstice. Swimming, popsicles, lemonade stands, ice cream, gardens, camping, bike rides, fishing, farmer's markets, vacations—these are just a few images of the summer. As each season has its unique way of inviting us to savor life, the summer and the following months in the Christian liturgical tradition is considered 'Ordinary Time.'

Ordinary Time is the longest period in the Church calendar where there are no major feasts. For the next five months we move through another kind of season examining the day-to-day realities of our lives: We leave behind the mountaintops and walk each week on the plains. In the bright light of every day we find who we are and what we achieve when we are living in the here and now.

In Ordinary Time, God still beckons us to transformation. Becoming more like Jesus is an experience that is at the heart of God's desire for all of us. And we find ourselves being changed as we learn what it means to spend an ordinary day with Jesus, to pay attention to God and open ourselves up to God's work in the midst of our day-to-day lives. As Kimberlee Conway Ireton suggests, to call the longest season of the liturgical year "Ordinary Time" is a profound way of "recognizing that the daily, ordinary rhythms of our lives are sacred; there is something holy to be found in the midst of what often feels like the daily grind; that God is just as present in the grittiness (and glory) of an ordinary day as in the great celebrations of Christmas or Easter or Pentecost."

This Ordinary Time is uniquely different, not only for our congregation, but also for our Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is prayerfully beginning its work with training and becoming familiar with various aspects of the process. There have been many changes since the last time our church called a pastor. They will write the Ministry Information Form which will help the qualified candidates to be matched with the needs of First Presbyterian Church, Corning. Once they begin interviewing candidates, the PNC will have complete confidentiality in all matters and work with their Committee on Ministry liaisons. Our church's liaisons are Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Elmira, and Ruling Elder Tom Bailey from Spencer who also is a member of Presbytery's Personnel Committee. They both bring a depth of experience and expertise to working with the PNC.

Since March 2014, our Presbytery has been going through a rather tumultuous time which resulted in the dissolution of the relationship between the Executive Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Joelle Davis, and the Presbytery of Geneva as of June 24 after a special called meeting. There is currently an ongoing investigation by law enforcement into the irregularities about the finances of the Presbytery. You may find much information on the Presbytery's website www.presbyteryofgeneva.org under Meeting Info. (User ID: directory, Password: fingerlakes.) You may also talk with Ruling Elder Kirk Allen who is our commissioned elder for the Presbytery at this time.

There were also major decisions taken by the General Assembly at its recent meeting in Detroit. The Assembly approved an Authoritative Interpretation (AI) to allow ministers pastoral discretion to perform “any such marriage they believe the Holy Spirit calls them to perform,” where legal by state law. The body also passed a recommendation to change language in the Book of Order to indicate that “marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman.” This change will become effective on June 21, 2015 if ratified by a majority of 172 Presbyteries across the United States.

While these changes both at Presbytery and General Assembly level will not have an impact in the progress of the PNC, as with any major transition, it will create anxiety as we discern who God is calling us to be in covenant community. As we’ve said before, anxiety is a part of human life. But we have to be careful about letting anxiety drive our behavior. It has an insidious way of limiting our thinking and creativity.

Ordinary Time gives us the opportunity to recognize that throughout the highs, lows, and in-between times, we are carried beyond the immediacy of the moment and realize the profound and personal invitation to draw closer to God who holds all things together.

As we journey with Jesus and with one another through Ordinary Time, let’s pray that we would learn to be attentive and open to what God longs to do in and through us for the sake of the greater glory of God’s Kingdom.

God of great love,
your touch makes this world holy.
Open our eyes to see your hand at work
in the splendor of creation
and in the beauty of human life.
Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us,
to share your blessings with our sisters and brothers,
and to experience the joy of life in your presence.
May we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge
of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
Amen.

Blessings for the journey ahead,

Pastors James and Banu



CORNERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MISSION & OUTREACH

Food Pantry

The sun is shining, the flowers are blooming, and the need for hunger assistance at the Corning Community Food Pantry continues to increase. The statistics for May were: 618 households served, 743 children served, 1,305 adults served, and 144 elderly served.

This month we could use canned tuna, and canned spaghetti products, such as beefaroni, ravioli, or spaghetti o's. We could also use baby food, baby cereal, as well as personal items such as shampoo, and deodorant.

Please continue to save your plastic grocery bags that we use for packing food items.

If you are spring cleaning, please donate gently used clothing, especially children's clothing to us for our free clothing closet.

A special notice for golfers! On Saturday, August 23rd, MiracleFest will be holding its Seventh Annual Community Fundraiser Golf Tournament at the Corning Country Club for the benefit of the Corning Community Food Pantry. For more information visit: www.miraclefest.com or call 866-376-9900 ext. 222.

MAJOR GIFTS AND ENDOWMENTS

The Major Gifts and Endowments Committee (MG&E) is highlighting the Landscape Fund this month.

This permanently-restricted endowment was established on April 30, 2000, with monies given by members and friends of our church as a token of appreciation to Frank Hamm for his service as "Clerk of the Works" for the Horizons21 renovation and accessibility project.

The fund is to be used to support and enhance the appearance and usefulness of the grounds and gardens of our church as specified in the policy of the fund.

PARISH LIFE & FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Time

The PL&F committee would like to thank the Mission & Outreach Team, and the Finance Committee for recently hosting 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.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

We still need volunteers to help out in the gardens. Duties include watering and light weeding. If you are interested and can help, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. Thanks!

SUMMER PLEDGE

Summer and vacation time is here! Although the activities at the church slow down during the summer we still have bills that need to be met.

You can send your pledges to the church office if you are unable to attend Sunday services. Have a great summer!

VACATIONS

Since vacations are scattered throughout the summer, if you need to know when the church will be open in the afternoon, please call the church office at 937-5419.

DEADLINE REMINDERS

The deadline for Sunday bulletin information is noon on the Tuesday prior to when you want the information included in the bulletin.

The deadline for *Messenger* articles is 5:00 p.m. on the 15th of the month prior to when you want the article to appear.



PRAYER CORNER

He who walks with integrity walks securely.
- Proverbs 10:9

Integrity. Scripture clearly indicates the importance of this trait. And we honor the God of our lives when we practice it.

Through His Word, God has given us clear reasons to “walk in...integrity” (Ps. 26:11). A person who has integrity has the security of a quiet life unknown to the one who “perverts his ways” (Prov. 10:9). The follower of God who lives with integrity is preserved by his confidence in God, for that person waits for God’s intervention in his life instead of running ahead of Him (Ps. 25:21). And the one who practices integrity will be given guidance and clear direction (Prov. 11:3).

Dear Father; help my word be true. Help my actions be honest. Help my life to reflect Your holiness and shine God’s light for all to see. Help me to live with integrity.

Our Daily Bread

IN MEMORIUM

Vivian Irene Dedrick
December 9, 1929 - June 4, 2014

MONTH OF JULY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

- 1 * Jacob DeRosa
- 2 Dorothy Cawley
Cheri Crozier
- 5 Deborah Marino
- 7 * Brittney Millhollen
- 8 Evelyn Wood
Danielle Beres
- 10 * Owen Sharman
- 13 Wayne Templer
- 14 Gary Yoggy
Kay Rogus
- 15 Marilyn Hagy
Brendan Holmes
- 16 Liz Shoemaker
- 17 Ray Hampson
- 23 * Victoria Holmes
- 24 Gwen Watson
- 25 Matthew Smith
- 27 Albert Johnson, III
- 29 Chet Chang
- 30 Becky Speciale
* Anya Beres
- 31 Forrest Behm

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

- 15 Jim & Carolyn Woughter
- 19 David & Jimma Powers
- 23 John & Kathy Keech
- 31 Robert & Liselotte Lull
Brendan & Kimberly Holmes



If we miss your special day, please call the church office so we can get you included 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
Pastor Banu's Cell Phone: 607-664-7876
Pastor James' Cell Phone: 607-542-6889

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

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

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time: 11:30 a.m.

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2014

The Messenger is published monthly.

DEADLINE for August Messenger articles is July 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 September issue.