



THE MESSENGER

JUNE 2014



INTERIM CO-PASTORS' MESSAGE

“Are We There Yet?”

“Are we there yet?” Isn't that a fun question to hear? It is usually asked from the back seat of the car, with a bit of whine in the voice. It's more a statement of impatience than an actual question. If it were a question, it could be answered by simply saying, “Look out the window. Do you see [fill in the blank]?”

Still, that question does express a genuine feeling. So, as a congregation during interim time, we can be forgiven if we ask, “Are we there yet?”

Last year, we sent the congregation a letter that included what are called developmental tasks during intentional interim time. As we head into summer, let's do a review of them. They are not in chronological order. In a sense, they overlap and flow into each other.

The first one is coming to terms with history and celebrating heritage. This involves reflecting on the past, as the Clint Eastwood movie puts it, “the good, the bad, and the ugly.” Fortunately for First Presbyterian, Corning, “the good” far outweighs those other two categories!

The second task deals with renewing congregational identity and discovering a new identity. Actually, this is necessary all of the time, to one extent or the other. Both society and the church are in a constant state of change. Specifically, this might involve taking up those ministry opportunities that we've thought about but haven't attempted.

The third developmental task is strengthening lay leadership and allowing needed leadership change. Our arrival as interim pastors came on the heels of the PCUSA's new Book of Order. Congregations were asked to review policies and procedures. Aside from that, this task includes encouraging those who have been on the periphery of church life to become more involved—listening to the voices that haven't always been heard.

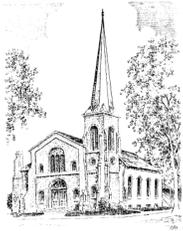
The fourth one involves connecting with the wider church and renewing denominational linkages. As a Presbyterian congregation, the council with whom we have the most contact is the Presbytery of Geneva. (By the way, “councils” refer to sessions, presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly.) The relationship with our presbytery has had its ups and downs. The presbytery itself is going through a difficult time. We truly believe that this congregation will enjoy a stronger and more life-giving relationship with the presbytery—sooner rather than later.

The fifth task is preparing for new leadership and new directions of ministry. Part of this includes embracing new ministry opportunities. There's also something James mentioned in his role as presbytery liaison with the Bath PNC. Sometimes there's a temptation to focus too much on the personality or leadership style of a previous pastor. The nominating committee, and the congregation itself, might look for a *carbon copy* or a *clone* of a former pastor. Conversely, there can be a temptation to seek out the *exact opposite* of a former pastor. Neither is a useful approach. Aside from the fact that the Holy Spirit might have intentions that we don't fully understand (to put it lightly!), there's the simple fact that all of us are unique. There is an entire world within each of us.

So, are we there yet? The answer is: yes and no. We are always there, and we are always on the way. Sometimes we get impatient, but we can trust the Lord to guide us through the process.

Your fellow travelers on the way,

Pastors Banu and James



**CORNERS AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

MEMORIAL GARDEN

We need volunteers to help out in the gardens once again this summer. Duties include watering and light weeding. If you are interested, please sign up for a week or two! The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the church office. Thanks!



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Memorial and Church Gardens

On behalf of the congregation, the Major Gifts and Endowments Committee (MG&E) wish to thank Dr. Milton and Margret Lapp for their generous contribution of the spring cleanup of the memorial garden and other church garden areas, including the application of mulch. Our gardens and shrubs add significantly to the appearance of our church property. We are most thankful for their generosity.

**MAJOR GIFTS & ENDOWMENTS
COMMITTEE**

In the May Messenger, the MG&E Committee highlighted our newest Endowment Fund, the College Scholarship Fund. This month we would like to highlight our oldest endowment, the Jenness Library Fund, which was started with a bequest of \$7,500.00 by Kate Smith Jenness in April 1929.

The investment of this permanently restricted endowment has provided funds for our church since its inception, and will continue to do so as long as our church exists. This fact shows the value of endowments. They are gifts, regardless of size, that continue to give and provide for the work of the church forever. Please support your church's endowment program as you are able.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees have scheduled a church work day for Saturday morning, June 7th, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. There are a variety of inside and outside chores that need to be done and everyone is encouraged to come help. Even if you can only help for an hour or two, your help would be greatly appreciated. Remember, the more people we have to help, the quicker we can get the work done.



**REMINDER - PENTECOST IS
SUNDAY, JUNE 8th
DON'T FORGET TO WEAR RED**

MISSION & OUTREACH

Food Pantry

The sun is shining, and the flowers are breaking through the ground. Corning Community Food Pantry is especially busy as both kids and adults become more active with the better weather. In April the Pantry served: 624 households, 713 children, 1,281 adults, and 127 elderly.

If you are engaged in spring cleaning, remember that we have a clothing closet where clients are able to select new or gently used clothing at no cost to them.

We also offer clients a choice of books so please think of the Pantry when discarding reading material.

If you are starting to plan your garden, please remember to plant a row for our clients.

Help us to keep our baby food shelves supplied with baby food and our personal shelves stocked with dish soap, shampoo, and body soap.

We appreciate your donations to our Pantry. They allow us to continue to meet the needs of those who come to the Pantry and fulfill the requirements of our mission statement: "Feed those who come to us."

CONGRATULATIONS to Eric and Monica Meek on the birth of their son, Adrian, on May 16th.



PRAYER CORNER

For Gratitude - Bless the Lord,
O my soul. And forget not all his
benefits.



Open our eyes, Lord, that we may see all that you give so abundantly, and teach us to be grateful; for the things we hold closest to our heart, for the things that all share in common, for the smallest of pleasures, and for the great hope of heaven. In all that you have given us, let us see your hand and let our delight in your gift become an unending prayer of thanksgiving and an ever-growing habit of generosity toward others. For the sake of him who loves us and gave himself for us, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Forward, Day by Day

SUMMER HOURS

Summer hours will begin on Monday, June 17th. The church will be open from 9:00 a.m. until noon, Monday through Friday.

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.



IN MEMORIAM

ELEANOR GREEN STEBBINS
December 23, 1915 - May 16, 2014

MONTH OF JUNE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

- 2 Ken Baer
- 4 Doris Randall
- 11 Carlton Fawcett
Alyson Sharman
- 14 Jacquelyn Jones
- 15 Peggy Schuckers
Nicole Ecker
- 16 Gil Creelman
Elisabeth Tober
- 17 Kathryn Baker
* Michael Sheldon
* Caroline Sheldon
* Noah Sharman
- 18 Grace Kelly
* Carly Morrisey
- 19 Charlene Hevey
- 21 Chris Sharman
- 22 Margaret Brill
- 24 * Charlotte Rogus
* Emma Rogus
* Natalie Rogus
- 25 Angus Craig
- 26 Galer Perreault
- 28 Lloyd Young
Diana Neuner
* Liam Holmes
- 30 Charlie McLaren

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

- 2 John & Meredith Watts
- 3 Roger & Rosalie Grigsby
- 4 Mike & Becky DeRosa
- 11 Eric & April Millhollen
- 12 David & Diane Rudy
- 17 Doug & Tracey Kelly
- 30 Skip & Alice Moore
Keith & Jennifer McEwen



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
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 a.m. - noon & 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. until June 13th
9 a.m. - noon starting June 16th

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.



The Messenger is published monthly.

DEADLINE for July Messenger articles is June 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 August issue.