



# THE MESSENGER

MARCH 2013



## INTERIM CO-PASTORS' MESSAGE

“The more things change, the more they stay the same.” That seems to be one of those universal truths, expressing the way life seems to remain in a state of flux. Actually, the fact that things continue to change is part of life itself. Whether we’re thinking about single-celled organisms that constantly move in order to find food—or the larger creatures called animals that are “animated”—by its very nature, life requires movement; it requires change.

There is a technical term for something that never changes: it’s called “dead.”

Congregations are living things. As a result, they also are constantly changing. As was mentioned in a recent sermon, there is a difference, however, between change and transition. Change is something that happens. Change is an event, whether we choose it or not. Transition is how we experience that change. We have very little say in whether or not we want change (that is, of course, if we want to remain alive!). Transition, though, is something we can control.

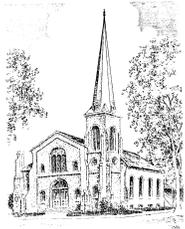
In Philippians 3, we see the apostle Paul trying to lead the people through the change that the gospel inevitably brings. In this case, it’s the abandonment of circumcision as a requirement for Christian faith. Whether they embrace that as transition in the changed reality is another question. Will they come to terms with it? Will they change their practices?

In his book, *When God Speaks Through Change*, Craig Satterlee applies these ideas to congregations in interim, transitional times. He says that in-between times can seem “wasted and meaningless.” But that need not be the case. “Chaos,” he says, “is more hospitable to new ideas than are standardized methods and routines.” For Satterlee, we need to “resist the desire for certainty and closure. Congregations often try too quickly to ‘get back to normal’ when in reality there is no ‘normal’ to get back to.” There is no “normal,” because due to change, we’re in a new environment, a new world.

What changes are we facing now? If we want to choose life, what transition do we need to follow? The season of Lent, with its focus on reflection and discernment, lends itself well to such questions.

As Henri Nouwen once said, “When we cling to our own positions and are not willing to let our hearts be moved back and forth a little by the ideas or actions of others, we may easily be broken. A humorless, intense, opinionated rigidity about current issues might cause these issues to break our spirits and make us bitter people. Let’s be flexible while being deeply rooted.”

Grace and peace,  
Pastors Banu and James



**CORNERS AT  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**MISSION COMMITTEE**

**Food Pantry**

The activity at the Pantry has not slowed after the rush of the holiday season. In fact the January 2013 monthly intake numbers have increased greatly from the December 2012 monthly numbers. The statistics for the month of January 2013 were: 705 households served, 921 children served, 1,428 adults served, and 165 elderly served.

As the number of individuals we help with a hunger issue continues to grow, so too does our need to supply them with nutritional and healthy food. At this time we could use donations of peanut butter, tuna, and creamed soups. We could always use jars of baby food and baby cereal.

Thank you for your interest and dedication to the hunger issue in our area and to those individuals who deal with it on a daily basis.



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**Thank You!**

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous donations during our *Souper Bowl of Caring* held Sunday, February 2nd. We collected \$247 for the Corning Community Food Pantry.

Special thanks to Bethany Rudolph and Bonita Coates for organizing the event and providing the colorfully-decorated bowls. We also couldn't have done it without our young helpers that collected donations before and after the worship service! Thank you again for your generosity.

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**PARISH LIFE & FELLOWSHIP**

**Dinner Theater**

Dinner Theater will be held on Saturday, March 23rd. Dinner will be at 5:45 p.m. at the Central in Painted Post. This year we will see West High's production of *South Pacific*.

Tickets for the show will be available on Sunday, March 3rd, and Sunday, March 10th, at Fellowship Time. The deadline for dinner reservations is Wednesday, March 20th.

Please join us for this evening of fun, fellowship, and entertainment.

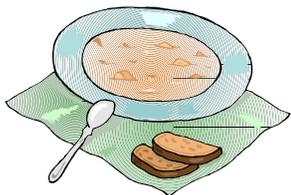


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## Maundy Thursday Soup Supper

Please join us for our traditional Maundy Thursday Soup Supper on Thursday, March 28th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A variety of soups will be provided, along with bread, dessert, and beverages.

Reservations are needed by Monday, March 25th. Donations are welcome to defray costs. Please bring your own table service or use disposable provided.



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## Fellowship Time

The PL&F committee would like to thank the following committees for hosting a weekly Fellowship Time in February: Youth and Family, Christian Education, and Mission.

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.

## YOUTH SUNDAY

On Sunday, March 17th, the youth of our church will take over worship! They are preparing songs and a presentation of the drama, "The Tale of the Three Trees." Come see how talented our many youth are!

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM



The Youth and Family Ministry Team is sponsoring a Seder Meal on Sunday, March 3rd, at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The Seder Meal is a traditional Jewish meal that is conducted in conjunction with the Jewish feast of Passover. What we call the Last Supper, the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples was very similar to what we are planning for March 3rd. Pastors Banu and James will lead us through the meal and explain the key features.

Please plan to join us on the 3rd. Sign up on the Friendship Tablet on Sunday morning or call the church office.

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## FINANCE

### Financial Update--February 2013

Operating Income	Jan.-Feb. 2013	YTD Budget
<i>Pledges</i>	\$13,624	\$24,000
<i>Other Income</i>	\$1,602	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,226</b>	
Operating Expenses	\$28,331	\$38,663
<i>Net Operating Loss: \$13,105</i>		
Pledges for 2013:	\$95,506	

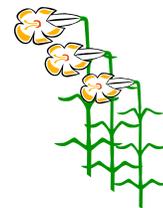
## EASTER FLOWERS

Would you like to place a plant in the church for Easter Sunday, March 31st? The plants will be a part of the Easter celebration and will then bring joy to others. Use this form to place your order for a lily, tulip, or daffodil plant. Following Easter Worship, the Deacons will deliver the plants to members of their calling list or you may pick up your plant if you wish.



### DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: Monday, March 11th

Cost:	Lilies	\$12.50	(6" pot)
	Tulips	11.00	(6" pot)
	Daffodils	11.00	(6" pot)



Name of Donor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of plant: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Deacons deliver: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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## PRAYER CORNER



“By prayer and supplication...let your requests be made known to God.” - Philippians 4:6

After all these years, I still don't fully understand prayer. It's something of a mystery to me. But one thing I know: When we're in desperate need, prayer springs naturally from our lips and from the deepest level of our hearts.

When we're frightened out of our wits, when we're pushed beyond our limits, when we're pulled out of our comfort zones, when our well-being is challenged and endangered, we reflexively and involuntarily resort to prayer. “Help, Lord!” is our natural cry.

Author Eugene Peterson wrote: “The language of prayer is forged in the crucible of trouble. When we can't help ourselves and call for help, when we don't like where we are and want out, when we don't like who we are and want a change, we use primal language, and this language becomes the root language of prayer.”

Prayer begins in trouble, and it continues because we're always in trouble at some level. It requires no special preparation, no precise vocabulary, no appropriate posture. It springs from us in the face of necessity and, in time, becomes our habitual response to every issue—good and bad—we face in this life (Phil. 4:6). What a privilege it is to carry everything to God in prayer.

David Roper from Our Daily Bread

# PER CAPITA: AN OVERVIEW

## A brief history

The earliest mention of something like a per capita apportionment dates back to the 1700s. In the mid 1800s, a “plan of mileage” was adopted by the General Assembly to defray the expenses of commissioners attending General Assembly meetings so that everyone could be present to participate regardless of distance or financial resources.

Over time, per capita has been used to fund “ecclesiastical and administrative” functions that are shared by the whole church. In 1995, the following definition was developed:

*Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the mid councils to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians (GA Minutes, Part I, 1995).*

In essence, per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)’s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system.

## Why per capita?

Per capita exists as a way for all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church, to give meaning to the interdependent nature of Presbyterian polity. Per capita is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It exists to allow the whole church to share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterian:

- our theological identity
- our connectedness
- our system of mid-councils that allow elders and ministers together to discern the mind of Christ
- our ecumenical connections that make us part of the church universal
- our core structures that keep us together as a church
- our call to work for full participation in decision making.

(Per Capita continued)

Per capita allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

Exodus 30:11-16 – “...the rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel [for the sanctuary]....”

1 Corinthians 12:7 – “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

### **Who pays per capita, and how much?**

Congregations (through their sessions) pay an annual amount of money per church member — per capita apportionment — to their presbyteries.

The annual per capita amount is a combined request from a congregation’s presbytery, synod, and the General Assembly — based on their respective budgets for the coming year.

A presbytery’s per capita rate depends on its geographical location and size, its mission needs, and the needs of the respective synod. The rate typically ranges from \$5 to \$45 annually per member.

**This year’s per-capita apportionment is \$44 per member.** Our church pays its share quarterly. We are asking each member to pay their share throughout 2013 so that we may continue to support the covenantal nature of our church-wide community. You may pay this all at once or divide it during the year. Blue per-capita envelopes are provided for your convenience.

Thank you for your generosity.

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### **One Great Hour of Sharing is on its way!!!**

This year as we continue our journey through Lent and prepare for Easter, we also look toward **One Great Hour of Sharing**. A truly ecumenical offering with twenty-nine Christian faith communities participating, this church-wide Special Offering is a privilege in sharing our love with the world. In a place like Tucson, Arizona, Haiti, Kirkwood, Missouri, Cameroon, and Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, those most in need are finding hope and help through the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Self-Development of People program, and their partners in ministry.



Feeding the hungry, helping people build up their own livelihoods, responding to disasters—these are all ways that One Great Hour of Sharing is changing lives, changing communities, and changing the world.

Please visit the One Great Hour of Sharing website — [www.pcusa.org/oghs](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs) — to find out more information on how your support of OGHS helps people all over the world.

**We will have the sharing on March 31, Easter Sunday.** Join Christians all across the country as we open our hearts to witness tangibly to the abundant love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing.

# MONTH OF MARCH

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 3 Kathy Strack
- 5 Bob Dates
- 9 Marcia Creelman  
Andy Sebelle  
Kelly Reppert
- 11 Bill Sebelle  
Ashley Taylor
- 12 Tom Speciale
- 13 Bonita Coates
- 19 Kyle Landin
- 20 John Fisher
- 21 Bob Boell  
Bill Sebelle, Jr.
- 23 Skye Tubbs
- 27 \* Abby Chang
- 28 April Millhollen

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

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 15 Mona & Bob Behrens



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

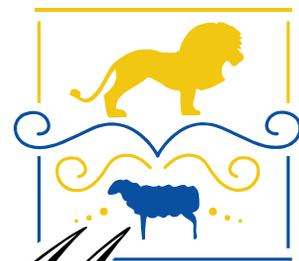
Interim Pastors' Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - noon

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](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.



March  
2013

*The Messenger* is published monthly.

**DEADLINE for April *Messenger* articles is March 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 May issue.