

Pastor's Message for May 2020



Orpheus, by Peter Paul Reubens, 1636-38, Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, Spain

Let me tell you a story that was old when Greece was young. Long, long ago there lived a man named Orpheus, son of the god Apollo and the muse Calliope, who was the greatest musician that ever lived. His songs were so powerful that they charmed gods, humans, and beasts alike. Orpheus fell passionately in love with Eurydice, a woman of beauty and grace, and the happiest moment of his life was when she became his wife. Sadly, not long after they were married, Eurydice was bitten by a poisonous snake and died. Orpheus' grief was inconsolable. Finally, he resolved to journey to the land of the dead in the hope of seeing her once again.

After enduring many trials, Orpheus stood before Hades himself, god and ruler of the land of the dead, and his wife and queen, Persephone. There, he sang a song of such power and beauty that Hades agreed to give Orpheus his heart's desire; the return to life of his beloved Eurydice. However, Hades tells Orpheus that he can take Eurydice with him only under one condition: she would have to follow behind him while he walked out to the light from the caves of the underworld, but if he should turn back to look at her before coming out to the light, he would lose her forever. If Orpheus is patient, he will have Eurydice alive again by his side.

Orpheus is delighted; he thanks Hades and Persephone and begins his ascent back into the world of the living. He is unable to hear Eurydice's footsteps behind him, however, and as he walks his doubts and fears increase; perhaps the gods have played a cruel trick upon him. Only a few feet away from the exit, Orpheus loses his faith completely and turns to see Eurydice behind him, but in that instant her spirit is whisked back among the dead, where she must now remain forever.

It is a tragic story, but one with an important moral: Do not lose faith and turn back when your goal is in sight.

Pastor's Message for May 2020 (con't)

Of all the forms of strength with which God our creator has endowed us, the most important is the strength to persevere. It is mentioned no less than 15 times in the New Testament. My favorite passage is Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV):

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with *perseverance* the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he *endured* the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart (emphasis added).

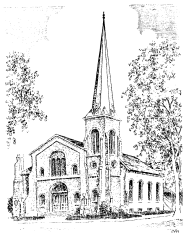
We are all growing weary of the limitations and restrictions we have been living under in order to halt the deadly spread of the coronavirus, the cause of the COVID-19 illness that has sadly claimed the lives of so many. I am weary too. But according to what is being reported in the news and in the daily briefings of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, our sacrifice has been effective in turning the tide. Statewide, the number of reported new cases is down. Hospitalizations are down. The number of deaths per day is down. Thanks be to God! We are in sight of the light of day and plans are being made for a phased relaxation of the strictures we have been living with for the past two months. But for this progress to continue we must be patient, we must persevere even as the end of at least this phase of the pandemic is in sight. For if we turn back too quickly to our pre-pandemic ways, like Orpheus we will tragically lose what we desire most when our goal is almost achieved.

As followers of Jesus Christ, let us model the perseverance of Jesus and the saints who have gone before us for those around us. When other people look at us, let us conscientiously reflect that our trust is in the Lord, who made heaven and earth and us included, in whose loving hands we are held safe for all eternity. This is an important way that we can witness to our neighbors, friends, and family as to the truth of our faith and God's power to transform human life for the better. Let us keep our eyes focused on "the pioneer and perfecter of faith." Jesus Himself, that we all may cross the finishing line together in triumph, never looking back but pressing forward to our goal.

Better days are coming, and we will get there as a community if we persevere together. In the words of an old Latin proverb: "It is done quickly enough if it is done well."

God bless and keep you all healthy and safe.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Jeff



CORNERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERI- AN CHURCH

* * * * *

CARING CALLS

If you know of someone who would like to be contacted regularly by our Congregational Care Group, like a friend or neighbor, please let the church office know so we can take the appropriate action.



**Me after I eat all of
my quarantine
snacks in one night**



MAJOR GIFTS AND ENDOWMENTS INVESTMENT UPDATE

The first quarter of 2020 will go down as one of the most-volatile three months in the history of the stock market. Everything was going well for the first 33 days of the quarter, as the S&P 500 moved higher in extremely steady and quiet fashion. The index was on its way for a pretty good three-month stretch, rising 4.8% to the all-time high of 3,386.15 on February 19. But the last 29 days of the quarter were something to behold. In just 23 days, the “500” dropped 33.9% to 2,237.40 by March 23. In the next three days, the S&P soared 17.6% and then wobbled sideways the last couple of days. At the end, the “500” had given up 20% in the first three months of the year, the worst quarter since the financial crisis in 2008 and the worst first quarter since 1938.

Our Balanced Growth Fund was down - 12.25%.

As of today, April 20; the Funds have recovered some of the March losses.

Frank Hamm
MG&E Committee

Saturday, May 16



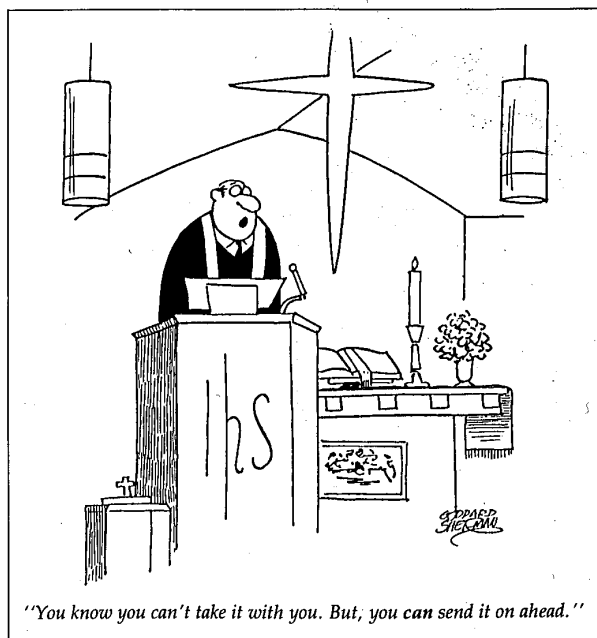
PLANNED GIVING, LEGACY GIFTS, BEQUESTS, WILLS & ESTATE DONATIONS

What will your legacy be?

Please consider remembering First Presbyterian Church in your estate planning. Thank you on behalf of the Major Gifts and Endowments Committee.

WHY GIVE TO OUR ENDOWMENT FUNDS?

The purpose of our endowment funds is to financially sustain the mission and work of our church. The principal of an endowment is kept intact and only the annual earnings, typically income and a portion of the capital growth, are used to fund current needs. This is an easy and meaningful way we can thank God for the many blessings we have received.



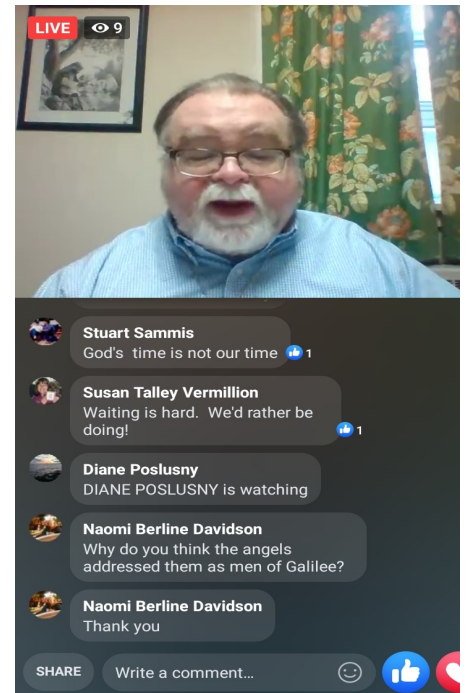
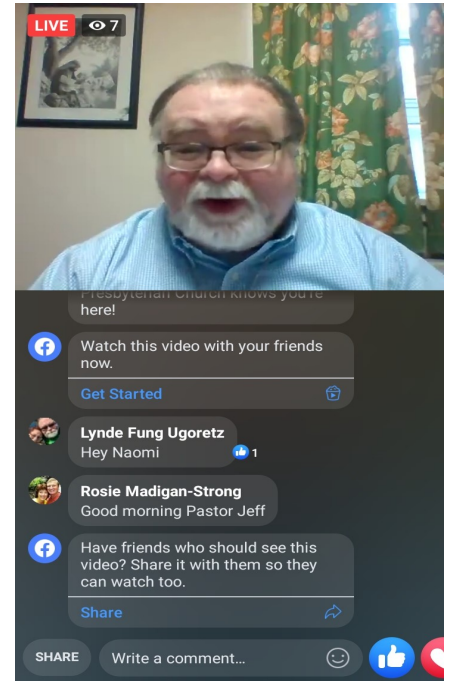
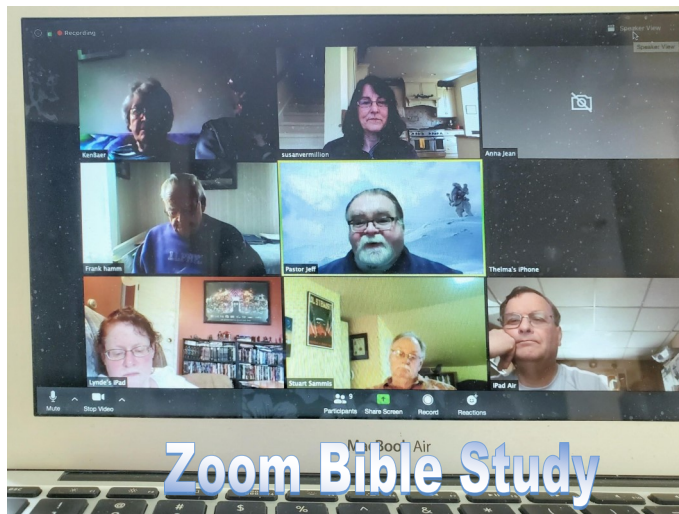
Sunday, May 10



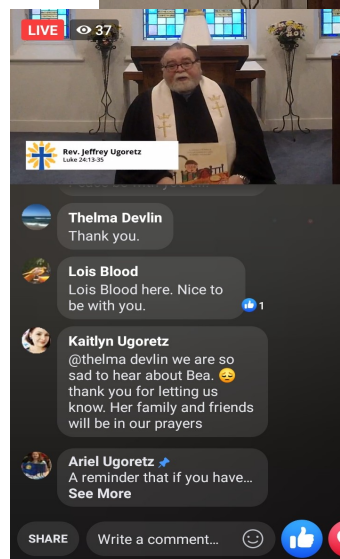
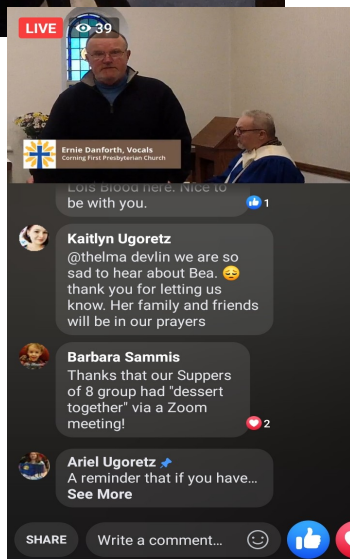
THE OPERATING EXPENSE FUND MAJOR GIFTS AND ENDOWMENTS

The Operating Expense Fund, established September 2017 from a bequest of \$50,000, is invested to support the annual budget of our church. 90% of its annual earnings go directly to the church budget. 10% of its annual earnings are retained for inflation and growth. No part of the principal may be expended. Through growth and additional contributions, the fund had grown to \$79,184 by the end of 2019, and provided \$2,960 for the church's 2020 budget. The purpose of the fund is to encourage members and friends of the church to consider leaving funds through a will, or making donations at any time. This fund represents an ideal opportunity for us to respond to God's blessings for our lives and to support His church now, and in the future, far beyond our lifetimes.

FELLOWSHIP TIME



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE





Our Community •GARDENS•

Plant a seed.... Change a life

- Grow fresh produce
- Connect with nature
- Reduce personal stress
- Meet the neighbors
- Exchange gardening knowledge
- Encourage outdoor physical activity



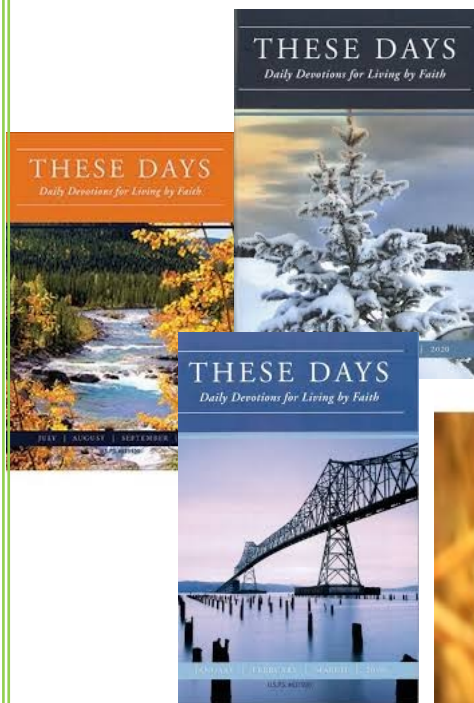
Interested? Contact us today!

E-mail - ourcommunitygardens6@gmail.com

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Our-Community-Gardens>
-698421793672878/

Maundy Thursday





THESE DAYS

Daily Devotions for Living by Faith

The New THESE DAYS
Daily Devotions for Living by Faith
have arrived for

APRIL MAY JUNE
2020

The Daily Devotionals are available
in the office entryway, along with
copies of The Messenger, next to
the Red Book Shelves. Please stop
by and pick one up or let us know if
you would like a copy mailed to
your home.



HELP PROVIDE FOOD TO OUR FRIENDS IN NEED

So many of our neighbors have lost their jobs and are finding it harder to feed their families. Like many food pantries across the country, the Salvation Army Food Pantry has seen an increase in business and is challenged with keeping it stocked. The next time you are at the grocery store, consider picking up a few extra items. They are in need of: pancake mix, milk, canned beans, rice, macaroni & cheese, canned soup, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, meat, eggs, margarine, canned fruit and vegetables. Additional items include small and large to-go boxes, forks, spoons, knives, napkins, and plastic bags, toiletry products, diapers, baby formulas, and baby food. Leave your donations at the Salvation Army back door in the alley during their business hours, Mon-Fri 9:00am-4:30pm. Staff can see on their security camera when a donation is made.

Thank you,
Mission & Outreach Committee



DOING
THE MOST
GOOD®





When Spring arrives, we always feel more energetic. Fresh winds blow the cobwebs away and we can start on new tasks with a spring in our step. Please enjoy the foliage pictures from the Memorial Garden and around the church. Thank you for your presence and your glory Lord.

DAY OF PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 31

During this Pentecost season, we join together to build a life of faith and build the household of God with our children, youth and young adults.

It is now possible to donate online by going to the church website at www.corningpresby.org and clicking the Online Giving on the front page of our website.



CHURCH HISTORY FACTS & TIDBITS...

The church bell was cast in West Troy NY in 1845, used in the church located on the courthouse property, then moved to the present church when it was built in 1867.

Our present church was built in 1867 at a cost of \$36,000. Today it would cost more than that just to replace the doors.

In April of 1927 our church had no steeple. When the L-2 men's club across the church burned; sparks flew across the street and entered the steeple through the louvered area, setting the wood framework of the steeple on fire.



When our church was built in 1867 it had no basement except the front under the Narthex where there was room for a furnace and coal bin. The basement excavation was completed in 1918 and a concrete floor was poured.

The original lighting for the sanctuary was by gas lights, later converted to electricity. Some of the gas pipes can be seen if you go above the sanctuary ceiling.

Financial giving to support the church was originally done by families renting their pews. When this practice became inadequate and unsatisfactory, the envelope system of church giving was authorized by the Trustees and put into effect on January 1, 1897.

In 1949 the present stained glass windows in the Sanctuary, depicting 12 scenes from the life of Christ, were installed.

The Weekday Nursery School Program began in 1959.

Renovation of the Sanctuary took place in 1970, consisting of painting, new carpet, restyling of the pulpit area, and replacing the pew cushions.

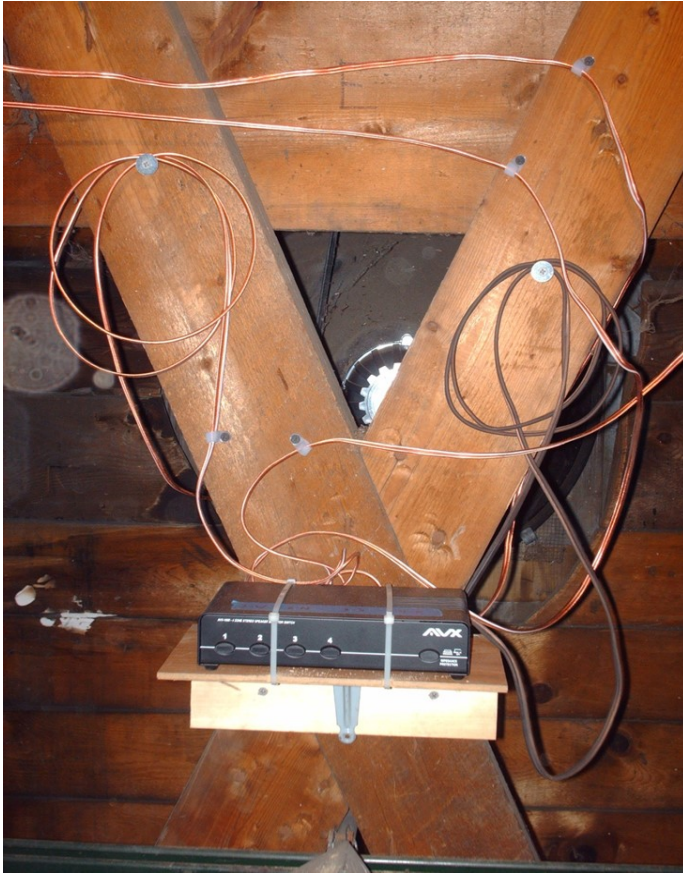
The manse at 14 Grannan Drive was purchased in 1975. Prior to that the manse was located at the corner of First Street and Cedar Street.

The celtic cross at the front of our Sanctuary was made and donated by C. Robert Crede in 1962 in memory of his infant son.

On New Year's Eve, 1963 fire destroyed Westminster House on the site of our present Memorial Garden. The Westminster House had been used for additional Sunday School classes.

In November, 1963 the Disciples Window was dedicated. It was a memorial by Edwin P. James in memory of his wife.

The first issue of **The Messenger** was in December 1951.



First Presbyterian Church Building Trivia #1

Can you guess where in the church I can be found? What is it I do?

Check out next month's Messenger for the answer and another bit of Church Building Trivia.

Please submit your guess to Trivia #1 to Curt Neuner at the church office via email today!

Thursday, May 7



A Bit About the Weather...

One of our former pastors, Bob Boell was the official weather observer for the city of Corning until he retired in 2005. Bob gave me all his records and I have been reporting ever since. Kate and I received a 10 year recognition before she passed away in 2016. So there are some in the congregation who may be interested in the following.

With the snowfall last weekend we are now the 2nd snowiest April since April of 1990 with 5.5 inches. The snowiest was April of 2016 when we had 9.2 inches, 8 of which were on the ground for Easter Sunday.

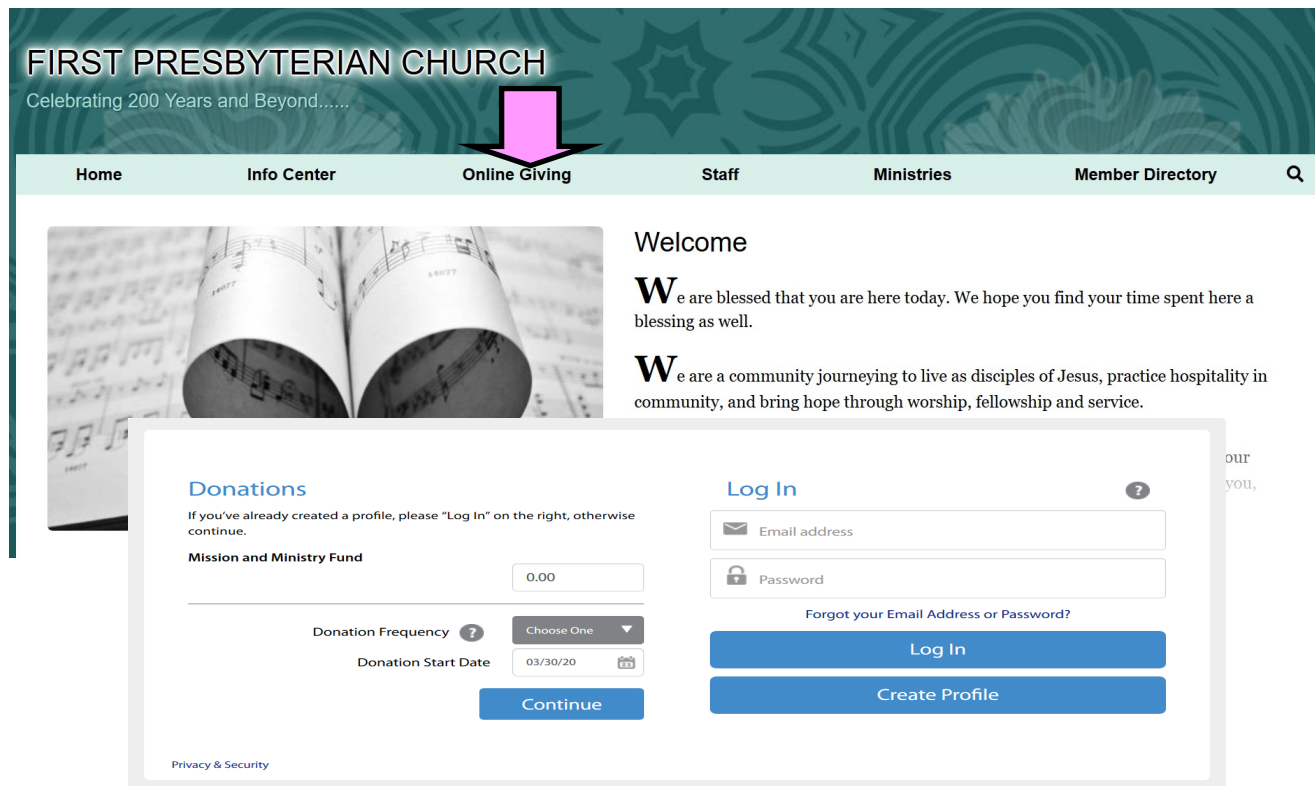
Ernest Danforth
Weather Observer, City of Corning

**Day 2 without
sports. Found
a lady sitting
on my couch.
Apparently
she's my wife.
She seems
nice. 😎**

OUR WEBSITE NOW HAS NEW ONLINE GIVING CAPABILITIES

The basic sequence of tasks to make an online donation to the Church are as follows –

► Go to the Church's website (www.corningpresby.org) and click the button that says “Online Giving” (see the screen shot that follows). This will direct you to a new page with a box that has two (2) options – “Donations” or “Log In” (see the second screenshot)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Celebrating 200 Years and Beyond.....

Home Info Center **Online Giving** Staff Ministries Member Directory

Welcome

We are blessed that you are here today. We hope you find your time spent here a blessing as well.

We are a community journeying to live as disciples of Jesus, practice hospitality in community, and bring hope through worship, fellowship and service.

Donations

If you've already created a profile, please "Log In" on the right, otherwise continue.

Mission and Ministry Fund

0.00

Donation Frequency ? Choose One

Donation Start Date 03/30/20

Continue

Log In

Email address

Password

Forgot your Email Address or Password?

Log In

Create Profile

Privacy & Security

► To make an immediate donation, enter a dollar amount, payment frequency (one time, weekly, etc.), start date (current date or another) and then click on “Continue”.

► To set up an account (for future log-in, donation tracking, address, etc.), click on “Create Profile” (Note: By creating your profile, you will be able to “Log In” in the future with a password you select). If you do not set up an account, you will have to enter name, address, email address, etc. each time you log in to make a donation. Once you “Continue” (either by doing the direct donation or by setting up an account now), you will be forwarded to a page to “Create Account Payment”.

► Payment can be done by entering checking or savings account information, or by registering a current credit card (if you set up an account, this information will be saved for future use). Once done, you will be directed to “Process” the payment amount.

► Note that the online payment service does charge 2% for any online payments. You will be asked if you want to add the 2% to your total (this would allow the Church to get the entire amount of your desired donation), which you can either agree to do or not,

► Then you will be asked to confirm your final amount (including the 2% if you agree to add that amount to your donation) and payment method, and the transaction will be completed.

► You can print out a receipt if desired, but you will receive confirmation by email immediately after the donation to your email address (which you are asked to enter earlier in the process whether you set up an account or not). Note: By setting up an account, you will be able to track your donations online, and print out a full record at any time.

PHASE TWO C-PP FOOD PLAN

April 8, 10:30am

C-PP Food Distribution Plan - UPDATE

NOTE: Food distribution moving to DELIVERY ONLY.

C-PP will CLOSE food pick-up sites and begin a DELIVERY ONLY system in the coming weeks. The final in-person food site pickups will be the week of April 20-23. See below on how to register for food delivery!

In an effort to promote safety and increase social distancing, the C-PP Food Service and Transportation departments will transition to a full home delivery system for meals – **we will deliver bags of food right to your home.**

All families in need are encouraged to call the emergency meal program hotline number – **(607) 962-2493** to sign up for the weekly home delivery as soon as possible; **CALL NOW, CALL ONCE** – it is a one-time signup for the duration of the program.

Please refer to the chart below for details on the last distribution at each food site and the delivery dates for your location/town. **Upon return to school, this program will be discontinued.** If you have ANY questions, please call the bus garage –our team will be happy to assist you.

	Group 1 sites: Erwin Valley Lindley	Group 2 sites: Calvin U. Smith C-PP Middle School Coopers BOCES Watson Homestead	Group 3 sites: Hugh Gregg Winfield Hornby Grace Lee Wesleyan	Group 4 sites: Gibson Carder C-PP High School Severn
Call no later than:	Friday, 4/17	Monday, April 20	Tuesday, April 21	Weds., April 22
Final in-person food site pickup is:	Monday, 4/20	Tuesday, 4/21	Wednesday, 4/22	Thursday, 4/23
Home deliveries on...	Tuesdays 4/21 & 4/28	Wednesdays 4/22 & 4/29	Thursdays 4/23 & 4/30	Fridays 4/24 & 5/1

Again, there is a one-time phone call needed to register for this delivery service. Please call **(607) 962-2493** to speak with a staff member who will be able to answer your questions.

Additional details:

- Each box of food will include five breakfasts and five lunches for one student – order enough for all students in your home.
- Delivery drivers will **begin at 8:30 a.m.** on delivery days in your town
- Meal deliveries **will include perishable & frozen items** – it will be important to get your items stored and refrigerated soon after delivery
- We will no longer be offering two options for lunch, however there will be an increase in the variety of items

Get Ready!

To minimize face-to-face interactions and maintain social distancing, we ask each family to set up a **delivery spot and container** at your home. This could be a plastic tote, large cardboard box, or other container at the end of your driveway, on your front steps, or in an appropriate place near your home – thank you for your help!

For ongoing updates:

CorningAreaSchools.com

@CPPSchools  

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

MONTH OF MAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

- 3 Dorothy West
Bethany Rudolph
- 7 Robert Brill
* Jackson Smith
- 10 Martha Saunders
- 14 Bob Behrens
Laura Palmesano
- 18 Rose Houper
Susan McLaren
- 19 Ernie Danforth
Diane Rudy
- 23 Carol Lapham
- 24 * Matthew MacDougall
- 31 Denise Allen

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

- 2 Al & Michele Johnson
- 8 Curt & Diana Neuner
- 17 Rick & Susan Vermillion
- 22 Kirk & Denise Allen
- 23 Galer & Karen Perreault



If we miss your special day, please
let us know so we can include the
information on our calendar.



JOIN US ON ZOOM!

**BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAYS
AT 11:00 AM**

**FELLOWSHIP TIME
THURSDAYS
AT 11:00 AM**



WORSHIP WHILE YOU WASH!

Here are some ways you can
praise God in 20-30 seconds
while you wash your hands!



SING A VERSE OF A HYMN!
THE DOXOLOGY
MORNING HAS BROKEN
BE THOU MY VISION

SING THE CHORUS OF
HERE I AM LORD
HOW GREAT THOU ART
GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

SAY THE LORD'S PRAYER



HERITAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5323 BELLS FERRY ROAD, ACWORTH, GA 30102

MAY 2020

First Presbyterian Church
1 East First Street
Corning, NY 14830



Jesus is our focus in
all that we do.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 10:30a Facebook Live Communion Worship Service 10 10:30a Facebook Live Worship Service <i>Mother's Day</i>  17 10:30a Facebook Live Worship Service 24 10:30a Facebook Live Worship Service 31 10:30a Facebook Live Worship Service  <i>Day of Pentecost Special Offering</i>	4 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails 11 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails 18 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails 25 <i>Church Office Closed for Memorial Day</i> 	5 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails 12 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails 19 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails 26 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails	6 11:00a Zoom Bible Study 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails 13 11:00a Zoom Bible Study 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails 20 11:00a Zoom Bible Study 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails 27 11:00a Zoom Bible Study 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails	7 11:00a Zoom Fellowship Time <i>National Day of Prayer</i>  9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails 14 11:00a Zoom Fellowship Time 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails 21 11:00a Zoom Fellowship Time <i>Ascension Day</i> 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails 28 11:00a Zoom Fellowship Time 9:00a-3:00p Church Office Calls & Emails	1 Church Office Closed 8 Church Office Closed 15 Church Office Closed 22 Church Office Closed 29 Church Office Closed	2 9 16 <i>Armed Forces Day</i>  23 30

THE MESSENGER

First Presbyterian Church

1 East First Street

Corning, New York 14830

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Facebook Live Worship Service

I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'

Isaiah 41:13

Reverend Jeffrey Ugoretz, Pastor

E-Mail: pastorjeff@corningpresby.org

Church Phone: 607-937-5419

Church Office Hours:

**Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(closed 12 - 1 for lunch)**

Church E-Mail: office@corningpresby.org

Web Page: www.corningpresby.org



[Fb.me/CorningFirstPresby](https://fb.me/CorningFirstPresby)

May

2020

The Messenger is published monthly.

DEADLINE for Messenger articles is the 15th of the prior month. Articles may be emailed to the church or left in the church office.