



# THE MESSENGER

## NOVEMBER 2014



### “Great Expectations”

The Pastor Nominating Committee is busy at work, completing the Ministry Information Form (the MIF). For those who don't already know, this is the document that is basically the first contact with pastors searching for a call.

There are a variety of things that go into it. Some questions to be answered are the congregation's vision for ministry, ways you feel called to reach out to the community, and desired characteristics of the new pastor (or co-pastors).

A few years ago, when we were searching for a church, I noticed a comment that one congregation put on their form. They asked, “Are you perfect? If so, then you're the right fit for us.” I'm afraid that they were only half-joking! Of course, it is an exciting time when a church anticipates welcoming a new pastor. Perhaps some humorous bits of advice from a colleague in ministry might be helpful:

*We might ask, “What makes a perfect pastor?” Fortunately for us, someone figured this out—once and for all—a few years ago. The perfect pastor...*

*...uncovers and simplifies all of the mysteries of each scripture passage, and includes stories and examples that will reach each and every person present in worship.*

*...is a he, heterosexual, married, has a friendly dog, and two or three very well-behaved children.*

*...is busy out in the community evangelizing and bringing in new members, yet is always in the office whenever anyone decides to stop by.*

*...agrees completely with our theological views on controversial issues, while ignoring the fact that the member sitting in the pew across from us is as strongly attached to the opposite conviction as we are to ours.*

*...will be an expert at both contemporary and traditional worship (and will love both equally), and, of course, will sing and play at least one instrument—don't **all** pastors?*

*So whomever the Pastor Nominating Committee will choose to present as your new pastor from the candidates God will send your way, he or she will bring many gifts—but will need time to develop new skills in some areas of ministry, and will be, frankly, not greatly suited for **some** things, no matter what.*

There are some tongue-in-cheek reflections that were passed along to us! But remember, your new pastor will have strengths and weaknesses, just like all of us. Blessings on the great and humble expectations we all have for each other.

Grace and peace,  
Pastors Banu and James



# CORNERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## MAJOR GIFTS & ENDOWMENTS

### Program Support Fund

To support and enhance the internal program of First Presbyterian Church beyond the ability of the pledge budget to support and to provide programs interpreting the broader mission of the church.

The fund was established January 1, 1996 with monies from a bequest from Althea Overmyer (February 1994) and monies from the merger into the Program Support Fund of the former Speaker/Interpretation Fund, which was initially funded from a bequest from William Bong (September 1990). The purposes of the Speaker/Interpretation Fund were included in this broader endowment.

## WORSHIP & LITURGICAL LIFE

### Harvest In-Gathering

Our Harvest In-Gathering will begin on Sunday, November 2nd, and will continue each Sunday through November 23rd.

We will be collecting non-perishable food items (soups, cereals, tuna fish, and pasta), paper products, personal care items, and cash donations to assist the Corning Community Food Pantry. Please prayerfully consider helping us help the Corning Community Food Pantry.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A Celebration For All Ages Sunday November 30th at 4:00 p.m.



An annual tradition for all ages, Hanging of the Greens, is a time for joining our hands and hearts preparing the church for Jesus -- Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

At 4:00 p.m. we will gather for a family time

with activities for children and youth and hanging the greens throughout the church.

We will also have a pizza dinner followed by a worship service with songs and images in the Fellowship Hall. There will be opportunities to make wreaths, Chrismons, dabble in fun art, and surprises. So mark your calendars and join us for a feast-filled time of community in fellowship and action.

## PARISH LIFE

### Harvest Dinner

Please join us on Sunday, November 2nd, following worship for good food and fellowship at this year's Harvest Dinner.

Each family should bring a dish-to-pass and their own table service. Beverages will be provided.

Reservations would be helpful in order to have enough seating for everyone.

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Join us on Saturday, November 15th, at 7:00 p.m. to see *The Producers* at Corning-Painted Post High School. Dinner will be at The Gaffer Restaurant at 5:15 p.m.

Tickets will be available for purchase at fellowship time on October 26th and at the Harvest Dinner on November 2nd. If you missed the ticket sales, you are welcome to buy your own ticket directly from the high school box office and join us for dinner.

Dinner reservations are due by November 12th. This promises to be a most enjoyable evening.

## MISSION & OUTREACH

### Food Pantry

The hills are aglow with fall colors and cooler nights prevail. Activity at the Corning Community Food Pantry is heating up. September monthly statistics indicate that our Pantry has surpassed last September's statistics. This means that 2014 could be our busiest year since we opened in 1973.

September statistics were: 690 households served, 1,389 adults served, 834 children served, and 177 elderly served.

We could use canned tuna and Hamburg or Tuna Helper.

Holidays are drawing near. For the last three decades we have distributed a Thanksgiving Basket to our established clients. Please consider a monetary contribution to help cover the cost of this project. Help to insure that a food insecure household enjoys a healthy and nutritious Thanksgiving meal. Mail your donation to: CCFP, P.O. Box 1255, Corning, NY 14830.

A special recognition goes out to our 85+ volunteers who keep the Pantry functioning on a daily basis. They help to fulfill the mission of CCFP which is to feed and educate those who come to our Pantry.



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### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is alive and active. We rejoice with those who rejoice and have enjoyed giving prayer shawls to welcome new babies. The majority of our prayer shawls are given to encourage those in need of prayer and to give them a tangible reminder of God's love for them.

The process is bathed in prayer. During the creation of the shawl, the maker of the shawl

prays for the recipient. At this time, the knitter or crocheter probably does not know who will receive the shawl. Before the shawls are delivered, members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry gather together to pray for the recipient by name. Since the group's beginning in October 2010, we have given away more than 80 shawls.

We try as best we can to be aware of needs in our congregation. If you know of someone in need who would benefit from a prayer shawl, please contact any member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, or contact Michele Johnson at 962-0831 or by email at: [montessorimama@gmail.com](mailto:montessorimama@gmail.com)

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On Saturday, November 1st, the Hope Cemetery on Park Avenue in Corning will be hosting an open house from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Come learn the history of the cemetery. There will be activities and refreshments. All ages are invited to attend!

This is a part of Natalie Rogus' Girl Scout Gold Award project. We hope you can come. Thanks!

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### NEW ADDRESS

Ray Hampson  
1073 Sing Sing Rd. Apt. D5  
Horseheads, NY 14845

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Don't forget to turn your clocks back one (1) hour on Saturday night, November 1st, as daylight saving time ends.

## JOY GIRLS

*The joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10b*

In August of this year, 9 women from First Presbyterian attended the Women of Faith conference in Rochester. The Joy Girls group was formed to bring a little of what we experienced at the conference back to Corning by deepening our relationship with God and one another.

One of the highlights of the conference was the music. Matthew West and his song "Hello My Name Is" moved us all. This song is based on the true story of a former drug addict and speaks about the labels that society puts upon us or that we put upon ourselves. God is in the business of transformation. We are not defined by these worldly labels but by what God says about us. The Joy Girls group will continue to explore what God says about us and encourage one another as we allow God to transform us.

Our first study book is *Unstoppable* written by Christine Caine who was one of the speakers at the conference. Christine compares life to a relay race and reminds us that we are all runners on the relay team. It is a group effort – not a solo race that leaves us feeling isolated and alone. We must be ready to take up the batons that are passed to us and in turn hand them off to those who come after us. We run not in our own strength but by God's incomparable great power (also translated as unending energy and boundless strength in *The Message*) at work in and for us (see Ephesians 1: 18-19).

Are you weary and discouraged? Don't run alone. The Joy Girls meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month from 6:30 until 8:00pm and rotates between homes. We invite you to join with us and share in the joy and encouragement as we seek to run the race laid out for us.

See Michele Johnson or Denise Allen for more information or contact the church office and a member of the group will get back to you. We hope to see you soon!

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## PRAYER CORNER

*"Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God."* - Ecclesiastes 5:2



God gave you two ears and one mouth for a reason, the saying goes. The ability to listen is an essential life skill. Counselors tell us to listen to each other. Spiritual leaders tell us to listen to God. But hardly anyone says, "listen to yourself." It is not suggested that our inner voice always knows the right thing to say; nor should we listen to ourselves instead of to God and others. We need to listen to ourselves in order to learn how others might be receiving our words.

Whenever we speak out of fear, anger, ignorance, or pride - even if what we say is true - those who listen will hear more than the words. They hear emotion. But they don't know whether the emotion comes from love and concern or disdain and disrespect, so we risk misunderstanding. If we listen to ourselves before speaking out loud, we can judge our hearts before our careless words harm others or sadden our God.

*Lord, help me to think before I speak, to check my heart. Help me to control my tongue and to express myself clearly so that I won't cause dissension. Set a guard on my lips.*

Our Daily Bread

# MONTH OF NOVEMBER

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

- 4 Doris Shanahan
- 8 David Powers
- 11 Marty Coates  
Jimma Powers
- 12 Maxwell SáPereira  
\*Trey Smith
- 15 Ann Howland
- 17 Dee Wightman
- 21 Meredith Watts
- 22 Robert Lull  
\*Joshua Beres
- 27 Gail Bardhan

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

- 7 Bill & Lisa Sebelle
- 20 Gil & Marcia Creelman
- 24 Lloyd & Barb Young



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

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.

# November



# 2014

*The Messenger* is published monthly.

**DEADLINE for December Messenger articles is November 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 January issue.