



THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2014



“Markings of Peace”

On the first Sunday of October, World Communion Sunday is observed. Along with it, the Peacemaking Offering is received.

Fifty years ago, a book was published which was written by a noted peacemaker: a man who was the Secretary General of the UN, Dag Hammarskjöld. The book, entitled *Markings*, could be described as a spiritual journal—perhaps not what one would immediately expect from a top diplomat.

It was published three years after his death in an airplane crash, which occurred under suspicious conditions. He was traveling to Congo to negotiate a settlement in the conflict brewing in the southern region of Katanga. Hammarskjöld seemed to blend together both the political and even mystical sensibilities. A quote from his book tries to get at that:

“The ‘mystical experience.’ Always *here* and *now*—in that freedom which is one with distance, in that stillness which is born of silence. But—this is a freedom in the midst of action, a stillness in the midst of other human beings. The mystery is a constant reality to him [or her] who, in this world, is free from self-concern, a reality that grows peaceful and mature before the receptive attention of assent.

“In our era, the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action.”

One of my favorite quotes, however, is a bit more ethereal: “In a dream I walked with God through the deep places of creation; past walls that receded and gates that opened, through hall after hall of silence, darkness and refreshment—the dwelling place of souls acquainted with light and warmth—until, around me, was an infinity into which we all flowed together and lived anew, like the rings made by raindrops falling upon wide expanses of calm dark waters.”

Imagine having today’s political dialogue with such a person!

As we enter into fall with all its majesty and beauty, we continue to walk with God, both as individuals and as a community. Much joy and grace fill our community with the hope of new thresholds. As God prepares you and your new pastor to meet in the near future, we ask that you hold the Pastor Nominating Committee and its work in diligent prayer. The leader God is preparing to be your next pastor will indeed be blessed with the awesome gifts and the servanthood you bring to the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Still, the work of transition also continues. The season of fall is a good time to ask, “What are the things holding us back reaching our full potential in Jesus Christ?” May our discernment be blessed by the gentle touch of God’s love and mercy.

Grace and peace,
Pastors James and Banu



CORNERS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MISSION & OUTREACH

Food Pantry

The hot summer days quickly disappeared, and fall begins to show its colors! But the numbers at the Corning Community Food Pantry continue to increase as individuals come into the Pantry for food. The statistics for the month of August were: 581 households served, 723 children served, 1,263 adults served, and 134 elderly served.

Please continue to donate clean plastic bags to the Pantry for packing. This month we could use tuna and canned fruit. Dish soap and toilet paper are always requested by our clients.

We are quickly approaching the Holiday Season. Please consider making a contribution to the Annual Pantry Thanksgiving Basket distribution. Our goal this year is 375+ baskets. There are so many in our area who need our help to enjoy a healthy, nutritious, Thanksgiving meal this year. You can help make this happen. Send a donation to: CCFP, P.O. Box 1255, Corning, NY 14830. Your check should be earmarked specifically for the "Thanksgiving Project."

Thank you all for your help and support of the Pantry.



PARISH LIFE

Ladies' Night Out

Ladies' Night Out is coming up on Wednesday, October 1st, at 6:30 p.m. at Jelly Beans Restaurant. Reservations are needed by September 29th. Carpooling is available. Just let the church office know if you need a ride.

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Fellowship Time

The PL&M team would like to thank the groups and individuals for hosting Fellowship Times over the summer. We really couldn't do it without everyone's help!

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.

MAJOR GIFTS & ENDOWMENTS

Music Support Fund

The purpose of the Music Support Fund is to enhance and enlarge the music program beyond what the annual budget is able to support, with emphasis on special events and needs. The fund was established April 16, 1991, with a bequest of \$5,000 from William Bong. In April 2004 a bequest of \$5,000 from Jean McKinley Waaland was added.

The Fund is an endowment. No part of the principal may be expended. Income from the Fund shall be used for any area of the church music program. It shall be for purposes not covered by the annual budget or to supplement needs not fully met by the budget.

TRUSTEES

Church Work Day

A "Church Work Day" has been scheduled for Saturday morning, October 18th, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. There are a variety of inside and outside chores that need to be done. We would appreciate your help for the three hours or any part of it. Remember, "many hands make light work."



HIGHLIGHTS FROM STATED SESSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

- It was reported by Faith Formation Team that all Sunday School classes now have teachers. Thank you for all our volunteers. Background checks for all working with children will be under way shortly.
- The session approved the use of our facility by The Southern Tier CASH program, a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. The following provides detailed information about the program: <http://www.STcash.org>.
- The session elected two new members to the Personnel Committee — Jennifer McEwen and John Keech.
- Parish Life and Fellowship is planning our annual Harvest Dinner... It is a joyous time, please remember to sign up.
- The session discussed the process for election of the new clerk of session.
- By-laws were given a second reading after consultation with the Stated Clerk Pro-Tem Rev. Val Fowler and our lawyer Rick Rossettie.
- The session continues its work on Manual of Administrative Operations (G-3.0106). Sexual Misconduct, Financial Misconduct, Safe Church and Social Media Policies will be completed and implemented before year end.
- The session approved the interim pastors' contract for another 12 months beginning October, 2014. When the new pastor is called within the 12 months, the interim pastors will complete their work and the new pastor will be installed.
- Pastor James and Elder Kirk Allen reported on the Presbytery meeting held on Tuesday, September 16.
- Pastors James and Banu reported on their continuing education activities. Through their study and research they will provide the following events and activities in the coming months:
 - Conflict Transformation Bible Studies
 - Cultivating a Life of Discernment — Online Retreat and Study
 - Exploring Christian Spirituality throughout the Ages
 - Collaging for the Soul: Drawing from Art's Transformative Powers for Healing and Wholeness

PRAYER CORNER



Giving thanks always for all things -
Ephesians 5:20

Interruptions are nothing new. Rarely does a day go by as planned. Life is filled with inconveniences and our plans are constantly thwarted by forces beyond our control.

However, the other side of inconvenience could be God's way of protecting us from some unseen danger. It could be an opportunity to demonstrate God's grace and forgiveness or it could be a test to see how we respond to adversity. Whatever it is, we can be assured of His motive - to make us more like Jesus and to further His kingdom on earth.

To say that God's followers throughout history have been "inconvenienced" would be an understatement but God has a purpose. Knowing this, we can thank Him, being confident that He is giving us an opportunity to redeem the time.

Lord, so often it's the little things in life that get to me, and there seem to be so many of them. Whenever I'm tempted to lose my temper, blame someone, or just give up, help me see You.

Our Daily Bread

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who assisted me on Sunday, June 15th. I am doing well after my three-way bypass on June 20th and appreciate the calls, concerns, prayers, and cards that were sent my way during my recovery. It was comforting to know how many were "in my corner."

Lloyd Young

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY Southeast Steuben County Book Sale



The book sale starts Saturday, October 4, 2014, at the East Corning Fire Hall (next to the Corning Animal Hospital).

Thousands of hard cover books, paperbacks, CD's, DVD's, puzzles, audio books, games, and other bargains are arranged for browsing. Most items priced \$1.00 to \$3.00 excluding specials. Cash or check only.

For more information, call 607-562-3781.

MONTH OF OCTOBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

- 1 Jennifer McEwen
*Leah Palmesano
- 6 Lynda Oakden
Lisa Morrisey
- 8 Bernice Dates
- 11 Jake Hayes
- 17 Denise Reppert
Teresa Danforth
- 20 Don Creath
Kimberly Holmes
- 21 Mark Landin
*Owen Fisher
- 22 Scott Sheldon
- 27 *Elyssa DeRosa
- 30 Mary Beth Costantino
- 31 Irene Pattison

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

- 2 Phil & Laura Palmesano
- 4 George & Susan McLaren
- 9 Gary & Anna Jean Yoggy
Chet & Patty Chang
- 17 John & Andrea Fisher
- 22 Mike & Shari Koval
- 23 Robert & Bernice Dates
- 27 Eric & Monica Meek



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

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
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.



2014

The Messenger is published monthly.

DEADLINE for November Messenger articles is October 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 December issue.