



The Caller

First Congregational
United Church of Christ

March
2025



Our mission is to
create and nurture a
family of faith
to do God's work,
modeling the gospel
of Jesus Christ.



MUSINGS ALONG THE WAY

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe Lent is here. We know because, in a few days, it'll be Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Lent season. And this "marking" is what happens on this special Wednesday. We get our foreheads or arms marked with ashes as we hear the words, *You are dust, and to dust you shall return* (Genesis 3:19). Some pastors add the words "God's beloved" to the biblical reminder of our human frailty as they say, "You are God's beloved dust, and to God's beloved dust you shall return." I often use them as I apply ashes to the foreheads or arms of parishioners. There's sweetness and intimacy with those words, a solemn reminder of who and whose we are. It also reminds me, as a pastor, of the finitude of everyone I touch, how fragile life really is, and that only God is immortal.

All of us share the same destiny and the same journey, no matter who we are. What a sobering thought to face the reality that our mortality is the great equalizer. Someday, we will all return to God, our Creator, the time and manner of which are known only to God.

As stark as the reminder is, I think it's good to welcome the gift of this Ash Wednesday. It's a perfect reminder that we don't have forever; therefore, we must take advantage of every moment, seize the day, as it were, and cherish life as a precious, fragile gift.

So, with that, I encourage everyone to come to the Ash Wednesday service on March 5 here at our church at 5 p.m.

We will be joined by our friends from the other churches in our ecumenical circle here in Corning. It will be a time of meditation, self-examination, prayer, and hearing the Scriptures proclaimed as we embark on a journey with Christ to the cross, starting with the imposition of ashes.

Yours for the Journey, Pastor Henry

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The First Congregational United Church of Christ of Corning, NY believes we are all made in the image of God and we are called to celebrate our God-given identities regardless of age, class, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, marital status, race, ethnicity, or mental ability. Jesus calls us to love each other as we are loved by God, and we welcome, affirm, and support all people into our full life and ministry.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



“The Caller” is published by the
First Congregational
United Church of Christ
171 West Pulteney Street
Corning, NY 14830

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life’s
journey, you are welcome here!!* 

Office hours:

Thurs./Fri.: 9:00 a.m. - noon

Pastor: Rev. Henry Pascual
Pastor’s e-mail: pastor@corningucc.org
Pastor’s phone: (908)801-7007
Church Phone: (607)962-7423
E-mail: office@corningucc.org
Web: www.cornngucc.org
Facebook.com/FCUCCC
Instagram: @corningucc
Secretary: Brenda Passmore

Office hours

Church Office: Brenda is in the office on Thursday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. – noon. Please leave a message if she’s not there to answer the phone, and she will return your call.

Pastor Henry’s Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
His visitations are scheduled on Tues. - Fri. afternoons. **Mondays and Saturdays are his days off.**

BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Forgive often. Reject racism.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*



The deadline for submitting articles for “The Caller” is the 25th of each month.

Mission and Outreach

March Mission: Corning Community Food Pantry



The Corning Community Food Pantry (CCFP) is a member of the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. The Food Bank provides food and grocery items to a network of over 155 agencies throughout six counties.

The CCFP, which serves the Southern Tier, is one of the busiest pantries and they rely on volunteers for all aspects of their work. Last year they assisted over 21,000 individuals. They provided approximately 300,000 lbs. of food including over 45,000 lbs. of produce.

In addition to providing food the CCFP offers nutrition education as well as other basic human needs such as the clothing closet, lending library, homeless assistance and numerous other types of support.

As you can see by the number of people with food insecurity there is a great need for the Food Pantry in our area. This organization makes a huge impact in our community and we ask that you please support this worthwhile cause by donating or even volunteering.

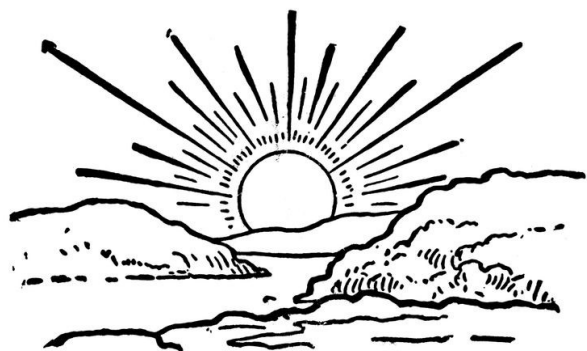
Donations may be made during the entire month of March. Check donation may be made out to the First Congregational UCC with "Corning Community Food Pantry" in the memo line. You may also donate at our website www.corningucc.org.

Thank you from our Mission Team,
Lynn Decher, Pauletta O'Donnell and Rachel Gustina

Looking for help?

If you are sick, have a problem, or just want to talk with the Pastor or one of our Tender Loving Care (TLC) Responders, or if you know someone who does, please contact the church office. You can call and leave a message at 607-962-7423, or email office@ucccorning.org. The office voice mail is checked regularly, and the pastor can be reached directly at pastor@ucccorning.org.





Mid Day Fellowship Meeting
 Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 11:30 am
 in Fellowship Hall.
 Please bring a bag lunch.
 We will work on the Underwear Project and
 make plans for the Blair-Bigler-Perry Concert
 Reception on May 17, 2025. We'll also be
 planning future projects.
 Everyone is welcome.



March Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 3 rd | Brynn Simons |
| 7 th | Tom McGrew |
| 7 th | Dean Simons |
| 11 th | Geoffrey Tennent |
| 12 th | Joey Hogan |
| 13 th | Joseph Reif |
| 15 th | Pauletta O'Donnell |
| 23 rd | Lucy Breslin |
| 28 th | Charles Hogan |
| 29 th | Grace Lubold |
| 29 th | Aidan Wilken |

Happy Birthday!



If you joined us on Valentine's Day to welcome the Herrera family, thank you!

It was a joyous occasion that demonstrated the depth and warmth of this community of support.

Adding to the festivities was a special celebration of the Herrera children's birthdays. If you couldn't make it, we'll keep you posted about other opportunities to welcome the family to Corning.

Thanks, Bob




The 2025 Meta and John Spiegler
 Holocaust Remembrance Lecture
Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 7 PM
at the Corning Museum of Glass.

Our speaker is Tova Friedman, who, as a 5 year old child, was imprisoned with her mother in Auschwitz. She will share her story and describe how she survived.

Tova Friedman was featured on the front page of the Leader on January 28, 2025, and she was on national news speaking at the ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. She is a powerful speaker and has a crucial story to tell.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR
**JAZZ
SUNDAY**

FEATURING
**Three River City
Jazz Band**

**MARCH 2, 2025
at 10:00 a.m.**

**Where All the Saints
Go Marching In!**

**Dancing in the Aisles
Strongly Encouraged!**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Participating Corning Churches Include: First Congregational United Church of Christ, Emanuel Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church, & Christ Episcopal Church



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

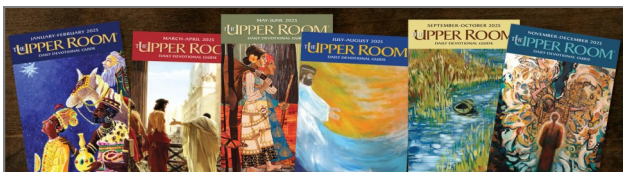
33 East First Street, Corning, NY • (607) 937-5449

The mission of Christ Church is to offer hospitality, healing, and hope in the name of Jesus Christ.

There is no worship service here at
First Congregational UCC
Sunday, March 2nd.

We'll be at Christ Episcopal Church for
the Jazz Sunday Worship Service.

The March/April edition of the Upper Room
Devotionals are available in the narthex.
Help Yourself!



Ecumenical
**SHROVE
TUESDAY**

at Emanuel

Pancake Supper
Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 4:30 - 7:00pm

Emanuel Lutheran Church
149 West William Street, Corning
www.emanuelcorning.org

Suggested donation:
\$5/person, \$15/family under 6 free!
Proceeds benefit Corning Salvation Army & Steuben Habitat for Humanity



**Altar
Flowers**

Don't forget, you can sign-up to give
Sunday altar flowers on the bulletin board
in Fellowship Hall.

The flowers can be given to
honor or in memory of a special
person, celebrate a special event,
wedding, birthday, anniversary,
or any other occasion
you wish.



ASH WEDNESDAY
Ecumenical Worship Service
with Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
All are welcome.
First Congregational United Church of Christ
171 West Pulteney Street, Corning, NY
www.corningucc.org

Sermons Available on Website

Did you know? We have a dedicated place for Sermons on our website! Visit corningucc.org/sermons to see sermons by date, speaker, and topic. Click on the sermon title to see the Bible reference and read the text. Look for the film strip icon (highlighted in the screen shot below) to see a video of that week's sermon! You can also find our sermons on Facebook. Please share them with friends and family!

By Date By Series



God's Promised Future

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 6:17-26



Henry Pascual
Pastor
February 16, 2025



Filters

Ephesians

Henry Pascual

33

Guest Speaker

1



Grace Over Credentials

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 5:1-11



Henry Pascual
Pastor
February 15, 2025



2025

7

2024

27

All



ECUMENICAL LENTEN STUDY

“The Hardest Part: Hurt We Carry, Hope We Find”

Thursdays, March 13th - April 10th

Soup Supper at 6 p.m., Study & Discussion at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Community Mennonite Fellowship Church

290 Park Avenue, Corning, NY

(entrance on Hammond Street)

Life is a strange, tender mix. Joy and sorrow. Love and loss. Wins and failures.

Lent is a season that invites us to acknowledge and explore
the heaviness of this tension.

Our Lenten Study offers an opportunity to practice honesty, and acknowledge how heavy the world can feel, but where, bit by bit, we might also hold out hope for what might still be possible and let God meet us in the hardest parts of our lives - a program designed by Kate Bowler, four-time New York Times bestselling author, award-winning podcast host, and Professor of Religious History at Duke University.

**All are welcome to join us as we pause, reflect,
and find the courage to stay with the hard part,
trusting that the good part is still coming.**

(No materials required.)

Our church calendar changes all the time, so please check our website www.corningucc.org under the Calendar/Events tab for the most up-to-date version.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| 26 10am - Worship - in 11am - Annual Financial 7pm - Corning Brass | 27 8am - Cleaning Service 9:30am - Bone Builders | 28 6:30pm - Membership 7pm - Chorus of the | 29 11:30am - Books 6pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Choir | 30 9am - Office Hours 7pm - Women's Chorale | 31 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Bone Builders @ | 1 1pm - Women's Chorale 6:30pm - AA |
| 2 10am - Worship - in 1pm - Women's Chorale 2pm - Starlite Band @ 7pm - Corning Brass | 3 8am - Cleaning Service 9:30am - Bone Builders | 4 7pm - Chorus of the | 5 11:30am - Books 6pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Choir | 6 9am - Office Hours | 7 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Bone Builders @ | 8 12:30pm - DAR 6:30pm - AA |
| 9 10am - Worship - in 7pm - Corning Brass | 10 8am - Cleaning Service 9:30am - Bone Builders | 11 11:30am - Mid Day 1pm - Scottish American 6:30pm - Zoom 7pm - Chorus of the | 12 11:30am - Books 6pm - Bell Choir 7pm - NO CHOIR | 13 9am - Office Hours | 14 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Bone Builders @ | 15 6:30pm - AA |
| 16 10am - Worship - in 2pm - Refugee 7pm - Corning Brass | 17 8am - Cleaning Service 9:30am - Bone Builders | 18 7pm - Chorus of the | 19 6pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Choir | 20 9am - Corning Area Aging 9am - Office Hours | 21 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Bone Builders @ | 22 6:30pm - AA |
| 23 10am - Worship - in 7pm - Corning Brass | 24 8am - Cleaning Service 9:30am - Bone Builders | 25 9am - Caller deadline 6:30pm - Membership 7pm - Chorus of the | 26 6pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Choir | 27 9am - Office Hours 5pm - Public Meeting | 28 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Bone Builders @ | 1 6:30pm - AA |



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