



The Caller

First Congregational
United Church of Christ

June
2025

MUSINGS ALONG THE WAY

Dear Friends,

In my previous “Musings Along the Way,” I shared, perhaps with a touch of bias, my hope that the next pope would be Filipino Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle. As we now know, that hope didn’t come to pass. Instead, the conclave elected American Cardinal Robert Prevost, who has taken the name Pope Leo XIV.

Though at first disappointed, I soon found comfort—and even renewed hope—in the new pontiff’s first words to the world, spoken just hours after he stepped out onto the balcony: “Peace be with you all.”

Simple words. Words that echo the voice of Jesus greeting his disciples in his post-resurrection appearances (John 20:19, 21). Pope Leo could have chosen words that assert authority and power. He could have announced major reforms or policies, as many leaders do—promising a rosy picture of greatness and success. He could have given assurances in a time of uncertainty. But he didn’t.

Instead, he chose peace. And it was the right choice. It’s a word “steeped in tradition. A liturgical greeting. A scriptural echo, but also—a prayer. A plea. A hope,” as Cameron Trimble wrote in her daily devotional (*Piloting Faith*, May 9, 2025). In a world full of turmoil, chaos, and fear, it’s a powerful reminder that peace remains a choice we can still make.

But let us be clear: this peace is not passive or naive. It does not come cheaply. It calls us to be vulnerable. It asks us to make sacrifices. It invites risk. It’s not peace secured through conquest, domination, or intimidation. Instead, it’s peace founded on justice, humility, service, and love.

(cont. on page 2)



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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Pastor's Pondering..... | 1-2 |
| Birthdays..... | 3 |
| Team Reports..... | 3-6 |
| Calendar | 7 |

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.corningucc.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.

This is God's peace—the peace Jesus brings. When others demand or insist, peace listens. It whispers when others shout. It's not disrespectful, but honors each person's sacred dignity, recognizing that genuine respect is the foundation of authentic relationships and true friendship. One wonders what happens when peace is the first word we speak? What unfolds when we pause and make space for stillness? For mindfulness? For the reverence and gratitude that comes from just being alive and present?

And so, as we enter the beautiful month of June that marks the start of summer, I wish you *peace*. Peace at home. Peace at work. Peace in the neighborhood. Peace in the church. Last but not least—peace in your hearts.

Peace be with you all!

Yours for the Journey, Pastor Henry



A note from Pastor Henry.....

A key part of my role as your pastor is to offer care and support. Whether you're going through a difficult time or simply want someone to talk to, I'm here for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out—you're always welcome to stop by the office or contact me by email or phone. I'm usually available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, but I'm happy to meet with you at any time that works best—at the office, your home, or wherever you feel most comfortable.

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@corningucc.org.





Mid Day Fellowship Meeting
Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 11:30 am
 in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited.

All meetings will
 be held at First
 Congregational
 UCC Church
 (Corner of
 171 W. Pulteney St.
 and Pritchard Ave.,
 Corning, NY)

CORNING AREA
AGING IN PLACE, LTD
Upcoming CAAIP Programs



Corning Area Aging in Place
Thursday, June 19, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Kitty Erlacher and Jeanne Greger
*Do you have a treasured item you'd like
 evaluated, just like the TV program
 "Antiques Roadshow"? Bring it!*
*Theres a luncheon catered by Fran's Landing
 too, so reservations are appreciated.*
*Kitty and Jeanne have been in business on
 Market Street for many years.*



Take Me Out to the 'Ol Ball Game!!

Who? Everyone is invited. Bring the family. Invite a friend!

What? An afternoon event outing to enjoy friends and local semi professional baseball

When? Sunday June 8th. Game time 4:00pm

Where? The Elmira Pioneers vs. Geneva Red Wings
 Dunn Field, Elmira

How? We will meet in the church parking lot at 2:30pm to divide into carpools.

Cost? Tickets: \$7.00 each. Pay at the event

Contact? Please sign up at the bulletin board outside the kitchen and/or email Tom W.
 at twilkins2504@gmail.com to reserve a seat. We will reserve a block of seats together.

Sponsored by the Church Family Life Team

CRITICAL POSITIONS TO FILL FOR THE 2025-2026 CHURCH PROGRAM YEAR

The following Church Leadership Positions are open for the coming year.

We need folks to carefully consider assuming these jobs in order for our church to continue to function in its many important endeavors.

- Moderator – The Moderator presides at all congregational meetings, chairs the Administrative Board, and cooperates with the Pastor in the administration of the church. He or she schedules monthly joint Ministry Team and Administrative Board meetings. This position has a maximum of two consecutive terms.
- Assistant Moderator – The Assistant Moderator fulfills the duties of the Moderator in the latter's absence and is a member of the Administrative Board. The Assistant Moderator may serve on other Ministry Teams. This position has a maximum of two consecutive terms. The traditional view is that the Assistant Moderator is in training to be Moderator.
- Church Clerk – The Church Clerk is a member of the Administrative Board and creates and maintains church records with the assistance of the Administrative Assistant as needed. This includes recording, preserving, and distributing to the congregation the minutes of congregational meetings. The Church Clerk is not responsible for recording the minutes at the monthly Administrative Board/Ministry Team meeting, but may elect to do so.

In addition to these Board positions, we have a great need for people to join the Faith Formation Ministry Team. Help is particularly needed in organizing weekly Sunday School, choosing a new curriculum for Elementary Sunday School, teaching Sunday School, producing the Christmas pageant, and organizing Adult Education and Discussions.

Thank you for considering being a part of church leadership! Please contact Nominating Committee members Judy Graf (607) 368-7178 or Maria Quintal (607) 684-0766 to discuss any of these positions.

6th Annual Pride Festival

Organized by Southern Finger Lakes Pride, this year's Pride Festival will occur in downtown Corning on June 13-14. From soflxpride.org: This festival "is many things. It is a celebration of all identities. Of all genders. Of all sexualities. Of rights for all. It is a time to learn. It is a time to educate ourselves on those who stood before us. Those who had their lives taken. It is for those who continue to fear for their lives. Fear for their safety and have lost loved ones."



This year's festival is intentionally smaller to reflect the need for safety, vigilance, and the importance of caring for one another. It is a close embrace of support for the queer community. And it will be joyful!

Please consider supporting this celebration by volunteering at either our UCC table or with the larger event. A sign up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall, or you may contact SoFLX Pride directly. The festival also welcomes sponsorship and individual monetary support.

Thank you from the Missions team: Lynn Decher, Rachel Gustina, and Pauletta O'Donnell

June is Pride Month

The 6th annual Southern Finger Lakes Pride Street Festival *Blissfully Queer* takes place downtown on June 14 from 11am – 4pm between Walnut and Cedar Streets. The festival is a joyful celebration as well as a safe place for everyone to gather. Our church will again have a table presence with handouts and craft-making. If you would like to help, please sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or contact Lynn Decher. The festival includes a dance party at the Civic Plaza Union Hall on Friday, June 13 from 7-10pm. The event schedule can be found at soflxpride.org.



= SCHOLARSHIP =

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

Please find scholarship information and the application form at our church website under the Resources Tab.

Applications are to be emailed to Margo Brown by **Sunday, June 28th**. Please contact Margo Brown or Judy Garrett if you have questions.



Please join us for Youth Sunday on June 15th!

Our children and youth will take part in the service, and we will recognize all who have supported our 2024-2025 Sunday School program.

This service will be the culminating event for Sunday School this year. Sunday School will resume again in September.

Faith Formation wishes a wonderful summer to all!

*Jan Passmore and
Emily, Adam, Thomas & Adeline Sarafian
became new members on
Sunday, May 18, 2025.
Welcome!!!!*



June 8th is Pentecost Sunday,
so don't forget to
wear something red!



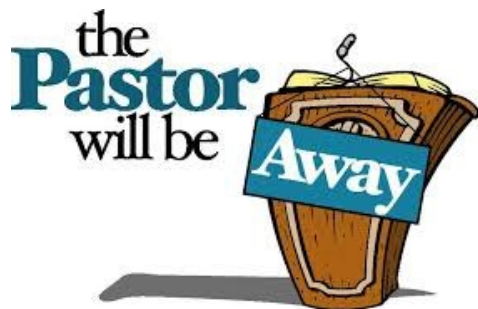
GRADUATION NEWS

Is anyone in your family graduating this year?
Would you like to have it honored in the summer
edition of *The Caller*?

Please inform the office of who, with what, and
from where so we can share the good news!



Pastor Henry will be attending the
New York Conference UCC, but he will be
back for worship on Sunday, June 8th.



SAVE THE DATE!!

**New York Conference UCC
Annual Meeting 2025**

June 5 -7

CROWNE PLAZA ALBANY - THE DESMOND HOTEL



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 |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| <div>1</div> <div>10am - Worship - in</div> <div>2pm - Starlite Band @</div> <div>7pm - Corning Brass</div> | <div>2</div> <div>8am - Cleaning Service</div> <div>9am - Bone Builders</div> | <div>3</div> <div>7pm - Chorus of the</div> | <div>4</div> <div>6pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>7pm - Choir</div> | <div>5</div> <div>9am - Office Hours</div> | <div>6</div> <div>9am - Bone Builders @</div> <div>9am - Office Hours</div> | <div>7</div> <div>6:30pm - AA</div> |
| <div>8</div> <div>10am - Worship - in</div> <div>1:15pm - Piano Recital</div> <div>4pm - Ballgame</div> <div>7pm - Corning Brass</div> | <div>9</div> <div>8am - Cleaning Service</div> <div>9am - Bone Builders</div> | <div>10</div> <div>11:30am - Mid Day</div> <div>1pm - Scottish American</div> <div>2pm - Worship team</div> <div>6:30pm - Zoom</div> <div>7pm - Chorus of the</div> | <div>11</div> <div>6pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>7pm - Choir</div> | <div>12</div> <div>9am - Office Hours</div> | <div>13</div> <div>9am - Bone Builders @</div> <div>9am - Office Hours</div> | <div>14</div> <div>12:30pm - DAR</div> <div>6:30pm - AA</div> |
| <div>15</div> <div>Youth Sunday</div> <div>10am - Worship - in</div> <div>7pm - Corning Brass</div> | <div>16</div> <div>8am - Cleaning Service</div> <div>9am - Bone Builders</div> | <div>17</div> <div>7pm - Chorus of the</div> | <div>18</div> <div>6pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>7pm - Choir</div> | <div>19</div> <div>9am - Corning Area Aging</div> <div>9am - Office Hours</div> | <div>20</div> <div>9am - Bone Builders @</div> <div>9am - Office Hours</div> | <div>21</div> <div>6:30pm - AA</div> |
| <div>22</div> <div>10am - Worship - in</div> <div>7pm - Corning Brass</div> | <div>23</div> <div>8am - Cleaning Service</div> <div>9am - Bone Builders</div> | <div>24</div> <div>6:30pm - Membership</div> <div>7pm - Chorus of the</div> | <div>25</div> <div>9am - Caller deadline</div> <div>6pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>7pm - Choir</div> | <div>26</div> <div>9am - Office Hours</div> | <div>27</div> <div>9am - Bone Builders @</div> <div>9am - Office Hours</div> | <div>28</div> <div>6:30pm - AA</div> |
| <div>29</div> <div>10am - Worship - in</div> <div>7pm - Corning Brass</div> | <div>30</div> <div>8am - Cleaning Service</div> <div>9am - Bone Builders</div> | <div>1</div> <div>7pm - Chorus of the</div> | <div>2</div> <div>6pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>7pm - Choir</div> | <div>3</div> <div>9am - Office Hours</div> | <div>4</div> <div>9am - Bone Builders @</div> <div>9am - Office Hours</div> | <div>5</div> <div>6:30pm - AA</div> |



First Congregational United Church of Christ
171 West Pulteney Street
Corning, NY 14830



The Caller

First Congregational
United Church of Christ

