

2024-25 Ministry Plan and Program Review
 First Congregational United Church of Christ, Corning, NY
 Sunday, June 30, 2025

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Moderator's Message 2025

Administrative Board Ministry Plan

Administrative Board Report

Nominations for Administrative Board, Committees, and Ministry Teams 2025-2026 Program year

Administrative Board

Moderator	Jill VanDewoestine	1st year of 2 possible
Assistant Moderator	Emily Sarafian	1st year of 2 possible
Clerk	Bruce Graf	No term limits
Co-Treasurer	Jennifer Fais	No term limits
Co-Treasurer	Allison Zimmerman	No term limits
Board Members	Pam Schmitt	6th year of 6 possible
	Judy Garrett	5th year of 6 possible
	Joyce Nelson	1st year of 6 possible
	Star Bright	1st year of 6 possible

Committees reporting directly to the Administration Board:

Finance	Bruce Graf, Jill Palmer, Star Bright	
Personnel	Jill VanDewoestine, Bob Walker, Adam Sarafian	
Membership	Beth Briggs, Margo Brown, Mary Daly, Bruce Graf	
Collectors	Jill Palmer, Chief Collector Weekly Collectors: Margo Brown, Star Bright, Pam Walker	
	Judy Garrett, Rachel Hofstetter, Noel Sylvester, Rachel Gustina, Lynn Decher	
	Maria Quintal, Chair	1st year of 1 possible
	Judy Graf, Assistant Chair	1st year of 1 possible
Nominating	Judy Garrett	No term limits
	Jennifer Fais, John Brown, Pam Schmitt	
	Rachel Hofstetter, Joyce Nelson, Bruce Graf, Diane Haskins	
By-laws	Joyce Nelson, Margo Brown	
Fundraising	Noel Sylvester	
Audit	Tom Wilkinson	
Historian	Barbara Cooper	2nd year of 3 possible
	John Brown	1st year of 3 possible
	Mary Daly	1st year of 3 possible
	Pam Schmitt	1st year of 3 possible
	Pam Schmitt	1st year of 3 possible

Ministry Teams:

Faith Formation	Chris Wilken	1st year of 6 possible
	Judy Graf	2nd year of 6 possible
Worship/Music	Maria Quintal	5th year of 6 possible
	Judy Garrett	4th year of 6 possible
	Beth Briggs, Music	4th year of 6 possible
Church Family	Tom Wilkinson	2nd year of 6 possible
	Margo Brown	2nd year of 6 possible
	John Brown	2nd year of 6 possible
	Star Bright	1st year of 6 possible
	Bob Walker	1st year of 6 possible

Mission & Outreach	Lynn Decher	3rd year of 6 possible
	Pauletta O'Donnell	3rd year of 6 possible
	Rachel Gustina	2nd year of 6 possible
Building & Grounds	Rachel Hofstetter	5th year of 6 possible
	Joyce Nelson	3rd year of 6 possible
	Peter Reif – Heating and Thermostat Systems	
Memorial	Margo Brown	6th year of 6 possible
	Jan Kostolansky	6th year of 6 possible
Scholarship	Dave Lambert	5th year of 6 possible
	Judy Garrett	3rd year of 6 possible
	Margo Brown	3rd year of 6 possible
Mid-Day Fellowship	Diane Haskins	1st year of 6 possible
Delegate to	Lourdes Pascual	3rd year of 6 possible
Susquehanna Association and N.Y. Conference		

First Congregational United Church of Christ Corning, NY
Congregational Meeting Minutes - June 30, 2024

Buildings & Grounds Report July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Building & Grounds Ministry

Purpose:

- Create a welcoming, safe, and comfortable internal and external facility/environment.
- Care and custody of all church property, ensuring safe and proper use of the building and proper maintenance of the grounds.
- Develop buildings and grounds use protocols
- Recommend funding for repairs and capital improvements as needed

Accomplishments

- Our building continues to have many community groups holding their meetings. There have been 26 community groups using our church building. There have been 9 one-time users, 5 two -4 times used, 6 weekly, and 9 monthly.
- The Building Usage Form was revised and approved for use. It can be found on the church website, from our Administrative Secretary or directly from Joyce Nelson or Rachel Hofstetter.
- Lorraine from our cleaning service was contacted to review areas they clean, their schedule for cleaning, and the need to have invoices submitted so that payment can be made.
- Al Baccile Paving, LLC. , Horseheads, fulfilled their contract September 2024 to hot tar all cracks, apply a coat of commercial sealer and restripe the parking lot.
- Inspections of all fire extinguishers in the church building and garage were completed by the United Fire Equipment Company June 2025. All are good working order.
- Corning Fire Department completed their annual Fire Inspection for the church June 2025, no issues found.
- Boilers were inspected by the boiler inspection company and are functioning properly.
- The Flea & Farm Market (F&FM) was held on 9/7/24 and all groups using the church building were notified of room being used for collection of items, so they could make alternate arrangements if necessary.
- A beehive was noted by the back door of the church. Joyce Nelson's son removed the hive without incident.
- Mike Belushi, electrician, was contacted to inquire about suggestions to upgrade lighting in the Sanctuary due to complaints that the old lighting was not sufficient to see well in the evening. He provided information as to what could be done to improve the lighting. One spotlight behind the choir loft was noted to be not functioning and he researched a replacement and was able to replace the non-functioning light. It was decided to replace the remainder of the light bulbs in the lights over the congregation with energy efficient LED bulbs – this was done in-house. The upgrade in lighting was completed by Tom Kowalik, Bob Walker, Joyce Nelson, and Rachel Hofstetter.
- Parking Lot lights - the west end light was working ok, but the east end light remained on 24/7. Bob Walker reset the timer several times but unfortunately that didn't take care of the problem. Since we'd rented the lift for sanctuary light change, both parking lot lights were replaced with new dusk on/dawn off energy efficient lights by Tom and Shirley Kowalik, Bob Walker, Rachel Hofstetter and Joyce Nelson.
- Tom Kowalik replaced the light fixture and bulb at end of sidewalk at back entrance. The lights at back entrance are motion sensor lights.
- Peter Reif continues to oversee the boiler operation and all thermostats. Fortunately, there have been no issues with heating system this winter.
- Updates and upgrades to the technology used in the Sanctuary by Josh & Patrick Wilken. An additional microphone was added in front of the Sanctuary to improve pickup from the choir. Over the years new computers for Zooming Sunday worship were purchased, a proper locking desk to house the tech equipment and replace the white table was purchased, new cameras have been purchased and attached to

the wall in the back of the Sanctuary and all cables/wires have been replaced. All updates and upgrades will soon be completed.

- The raised beds on the church grounds had deteriorated and were removed by Green & Clean Lawn Care, our lawn maintenance provider.
- A pergola will soon be part of the church grounds. Estimates were obtained from several businesses, discussion of colors and timing of installation was completed. The installation of the pergolas has just begun. It will be white in color and placed on our 20 feet by 30 feet patio and will be 14 feet by 28 feet. It will have a lattice roof for extra sun protection. The location & size will allow for roof access if needed.
- Copy Room Clean-up - the old heavy metal desk was disassembled and disposed of. Review of documents, books, pamphlets, etc. was done. Reorganization of committee documents and meeting minutes was begun to ensure things were in one place. Items no longer used/needed were put out in Fellowship Hall for anyone interested. Most of the clean-up has been done and the remainder will be completed in the near future.
- Annual problem with ants in the kitchen, Fellowship Hall and some in the bathrooms, however, a much larger problem in kitchen corner by boiler room, required a pest control company to take care of it. Ehrlich Pest Control Company was contacted and, due to seriousness of problem, a contract for bi-annual treatment was signed and the first treatment both inside and out has been done. The initial treatment in the kitchen did not take care of the problem and the company has returned three times for additional treatments. This will be monitored.

Future projects

- Organize and clean youth room.
- Continue organization of copy room.
- Date/time for window cleaning/sprucing up the outside of the church building, is being worked on.
- Inside painting of doorframes and wall touch up will be scheduled
- Installation of the pergolas will continue.

Thank You

- Our building is well known in the community and is greatly used for meetings, concerts, recitals and other activities by outside groups along with our own activities. We strive very hard to keep all in good order for everyone. We want to thank everyone that contributes in any way possible that assists with various needs of the building and grounds.
- A big Thank you to Peter Reif for the care & monitoring of the heating system.
- We also want to thank Tom Kowalik, Bob Walker, and Josh & Patrick Wilken for the work they have done update/upgrading things at the church.

Respectfully submitted from Rachel Hofstetter and Joyce Nelson 6/19/25

Our team is Tom Wilkinson, Des Pasqual, John and Margo Brown. Our objective is to plan multi-generational activities for our congregation.

Our activities (2024-25) have included:

- October 19 – A picnic/potluck at Ives Run. We visited, took short hikes, and played games such as corn hole. 25 to 30 people attended.
- January & February – Two small group dinners were enjoyed at the Browns and the Meeks.
- April – Celebrated Earth Day by doing trash pickup at the rest area on route 15 just south of Painted Post.
- June – Enjoyed an outing to Dunn Field to watch the Elmira Pioneers play the team from Geneva, NY. 25 members enjoyed the game until the rain sent us all home in the 4th inning.

Team Plans for the 2025-26 year include expanding on what we did this past year. This summer we hope to introduce a weekly cooking session in August for the younger bakers in our church school. More small group dinners and a winter game night are some ideas.

Faith Formation Ministry Plan for 2025-2026

Purpose:

- Help the congregation learn about and deepen faith through multiple opportunities
- Develop and carry out programs that impact the next generation
- Determine the allocation of funds to support Faith Formation activities

Objectives:

Nursery:

1. Assist Personnel to hire the nursery caregiver
2. Check on the cleanliness and safety of the environment, and that the toys in nursery are appropriate for babies and toddlers
3. Purchase supplies for the nursery as they are needed

Children:

1. Determine the best configuration of a Faith Formation program for children, including when it should be held and what age levels should be included
2. Choose and purchase appropriate materials for this program, including crafts and supplies
3. Secure adults to facilitate activities
4. Order Bibles for elementary children when appropriate

Middle School and High School Youth:

1. Hold a confirmation class with adult mentors from the congregation
2. Plan and lead youth mission trips, ideally every two years

Special Youth Worship Opportunities:

1. Plan the Kick-off Sunday for children's Faith Formation, to be held in September
2. Choose and purchase a Christmas pageant play, to be held in December
3. Hold an Easter egg hunt
4. Facilitate Youth Sunday, to be held in June
5. Present glass eggs to those graduating from high school

Child Safety:

1. Conduct background checks for everyone who works with children
2. Implement child abuse prevention training for all adults who work with children

- Adults:
3. Ensure a 2-adult policy whenever children are present
 1. Hold Coffee Hour forums
 2. Hold small group discussions, with the possibility of using a variety of media
 3. Encourage Lenten study participation with other churches

Faith Formation Proposed Projects:

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Finance Team

2025 - 2026 Objectives

Team Members: Bruce Graf, Star Bright, Jennifer Fais (Co-Treasurer), and Allison Zimmerman (Co-Treasurer), Jill Palmer (Chief Collector)

Meetings: A few times a year, mostly in the Fall for Stewardship and Budgeting processes.

2025-2026 Objectives:

1) A New Way to Handle the Treasurer's Job

Allison Zimmermann and Jennifer Fais, as Co-Treasurers, have divvied up the Treasurer responsibilities in a new way for the 2025-2026 Program Year:

Allison is now the go-to Treasurer for anyone with financial questions. Please continue to address your questions/concerns to the treasurer@corningucc.org email and Allison will be the one with your answer. Allison will continue to pay bills that come in online, and Jennifer will continue to handle paper copies that end up in the Treasurer's folder in the office. Both will work together on the other Treasurer jobs including reconciling the bank accounts and reporting to the Admin. Board and Financial Team.

And here is a handy tip (and a safe way for the church to handle money): If it is **income**, please be in touch with Jill Palmer or Rachel Gustina who are the Chief Collectors. If it is an **expense**: it's the Treasurers' job.

- 2) The Finance Team will continue managing the Stewardship Process. On June 22, the Finance Team is meeting to outline the process, choose dates, and assign responsibilities, September and October. We should be finished by the end of October.
- 3) Our Budgeting process runs from October through the end of January (our Annual meeting). The Annual Meeting is likely to held on the last Sunday in January: January 25th, 2026.

2024 - 2025 Accomplishments

Team Members: John Brown, Pam Schmitt, Bruce Graf, Star Bright (Breeze consultant), Jennifer Fais (Treasurer), and Allison Zimmerman (Assistant Treasurer), Jill Palmer (Chief Collector)

Meetings: A few times a year, mostly in the Fall for Stewardship and Budgeting processes.

What we have done:

- 1) The Treasurers' activities are too numerous to mention. A short list includes, but is not limited to: entering the budget into QuickBooks and maintaining it all year, paying all the church's bills, managing the outsourced payroll, managing the church's accounts at the Credit Union (including our CD management), managing all the funds in the Balance Sheet, tracking all the income to the Church (mostly comes through Breeze), producing the monthly Treasurers' Reports, etc. Special kudos for tracking the funds for the Refugee Project. All the fine details can be found in our January Financial Report.
- 2) The Finance Team manages the Stewardship in September and October. Gathering all the pledges and determining our basis for the next year's budget. Our pledge total for 2026 was \$148,085.
- 3) Our Budgeting process runs from October through the end of January (our Annual meeting). We produce a draft Budget that continually gets updated until we produce the Proposed Budget that is presented to the Board in early December. The Proposed Budget gets updated through January. The

Final, Approved Budget is the product of the January Annual Meeting. The Income/Expense total for the 2026 Budget was \$174,839.

- 4) Special attention was given to our CD portfolio this year, as several of the CDs matured.

Fundraising Program Report July 2024 – June 2025

Fundraising Ministry

Responsibilities:

- Develop and recommend fundraising ideas to raise funds to meet the budget.
- Undertake/coordinate fundraisers in cooperation with the Chief Collector and Treasurer.

Accomplishments

- The Flea and Farmer's Market was held on 9/7/24. An additional format was used this year along with the traditional sale of items on 9/7. The use of Craig's List and Facebook Marketplace was used to sell items. There was quite a bit of work & time involved in listing items on Marketplace, but it was felt that it was well worth it as far as income from the sales. The F&FM profit was \$7623.60 after costs were subtracted. There could be additional funds raised from the sale of items that occurred after the actual F&FM date. We ensured that 2 members of the team were present when items sold on Marketplace & /or Craigs Lst were being picked up and paid for by the potential buyer. There was also income from the hotdog sales which was given to the Youth Group for their programs. Music was again provided by the Corning Brassworks in the am and Art Hofstetter in the pm. Both were very positively received.

Future Plans

- There is a September 6, 2025 mini-flea and farmers market being planned. Toys, baked goods, plants, produce and possible items for Marketplace will be the focus of the sales. Marketplace site will be started up soon.
- Continue discussion regarding future fundraising ideas.

6/19/25 Respectively Submitted by Rachel Hofstetter, Bruce Graf, Joyce Nelson

Membership Team 2024-2025

2025 - 2026 Objectives:

Team Members: Margo Brown, John Brown, Bruce Graf, Beth Briggs, Mary Daly (new), and Pastor Henry.

Meetings: 7 or 8 times over the year. Summers off.

2025-2026 Objectives:

1) Each meeting, we will continue to have discussions about membership - anybody noticeably absent?, visitors?, should we send a card?, etc. Do we need to update our Breeze/Membership/Church Family data? In the past, we have done things like deliver homemade bread to shut-ins.

2) In November and May we will review our Active Membership list and make sure all additions or deletions are current. This process produces our official Active Membership List that is used for our annual meetings. Also our count for UCC membership dues. Update Breeze.

3) This year we want to tighten up our attendance monitoring, including our Zoom participants. TBD.

Accomplishments:

Team Members: Margo Brown, John Brown, Bruce Graf, Beth Briggs, and Pastor Henry.

Meetings: 7 or 8 times a year. Summers off.

What we have done:

Each meeting, we have a discussion about membership - anybody noticeably absent?, visitors?, should we send a card?, etc. Do we need to update our Breeze/Membership/Church Family data? In the past, we have done things like deliver homemade bread to shut-ins.

- 1) Twice a year (May and November) we review our Active Membership list and make sure all additions or deletions are current. This process produces our official Active Membership List that is used for our annual meetings. Also our count for UCC membership dues.
- 2) This year we reviewed and edited the Caller List and then updated Breeze. The Caller can now be sent via Breeze. Last year we updated the Church Directory, and it is now generated out of Breeze.

Midday Fellowship Program Report 2024-2025

- June 2024 we went through our church directory and discussed a possible name change.
- September 2024 we finalized plans for The Fall Flea and Farmer's Market and made future plans.
- In October we all met for lunch @Bob Evans in Riverside. We discussed the results of the Fall Flea and Farmer's Market and future plans.
- Our November meeting was Tuesday, November 12. We decided to move our meetings from the 1st Tuesday of the month to the 2nd Tuesday. We also began using our new name "Midday Fellowship". We had a Fall Harvest Dish-to-Pass. We also planned our Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange and Packing.
- In December we held our Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange and Packing for our homebound members. We began collecting mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for the elementary school children.
- At our January meeting we began making our 2025 plans. We also gathered the hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to be distributed to the local elementary schools.
- In February we decided to begin collecting children's underwear for the elementary schools.
- In March we continued to work on our Underwear Project, began making plans for the Blair-Bigler-Perry Concert Reception to be held on Saturday, May 17.
- In April we continued working on the Underwear Project, we began our Blankets & Throws Project for the Corning Area Food Pantry and discussed the May 17th Blair-Bigler-Perry Concert Reception.
- In May we had a Dish-to-Pass Luncheon and our special guest was The Rev. Henry Pascual. We finalized the Blair-Bigler-Perry Concert.
- In June we met and discussed an Annual Mystery Trip to be held Thursday July 17, 2025. All are invited. Also at our June 10th Meeting, the group officially changed the Meeting Date to the 2nd Monday of each month beginning with our August 11th Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Beth Briggs

Outreach Report for 2024-2025 Program Year

We fulfilled our commitment to provide two meals annually for the Salvation Army Sunday Shepherd's Table, in August and March, in addition to organizing a Christmas food basket drive within our church at the request of

the Salvation Army. Our congregation was very generous! We were also asked to recruit bell ringers for the Christmas season Red Kettles, a major fundraiser for the Salvation Army.

After the September Flea and Farmer's Market which we supported, our team put into place the mobile literature display rack in Fellowship Hall to kick off the new program year. The rack holds various promotional materials from the non-profits we highlight as special missions. In addition, we provided literature in support of the LGBTQIA+ community to foster our understanding, awareness, and growth as an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation. All materials are available for church users to take.

Our church's new undertaking, the Corning Refugee Welcome Project, includes one M/O team member on its core team of seven to assist with the refugee family's resettlement, specifically with healthcare needs and benefits through Steuben County Social Services.

The M/O guidelines were updated, with a separate written summary suitable for public review on the church website. Other web descriptive information about our purpose was also updated. Materials were prepared for the Job Fair.

We organized our church's booth at the 6th annual Pride Festival in Corning on June 14. Sincere thanks to all who participated!

A spreadsheet was created to track all missions donations since 2018 to look for trends in congregant giving and, thereby, guide our future appeals. Below is listed the giving opportunities for this program year and the dollar amounts collected.

September	Corning Meals on Wheels \$360
October	Hawks Thrive (free food pantry at CPP high school) \$177
November	Salvation Army \$200
December	Christmas Fund* \$123
January	Corning Refugee Welcome Project \$1596
February	Neighbors in Need* \$119
March	Corning Community Food Pantry \$155
April	Southern Finger Lakes Pride (Corning based) \$355
May	One Great Hour of Sharing* \$125
June	Strengthen the Church*
*UCC Five for Five annual appeals (Our Church's Wider Mission is budgeted)	

Mission and Outreach 2025-2026 Ministry Plan

This team will continue to support our community commitments as described above, and raise funds for various local humanitarian efforts yet to be determined. We will propose that all five of the UCC appeals be considered as budgeted items, as had once been done in the past. We will review how often we present speakers from local non-profits. While we recognize the educational and volunteer opportunity importance of such presentations, continuing monthly donation requests might not be prudent or welcome at this time. Given the success of the literature display rack, it has become apparent that additional display space is needed to support important issues and events. We have begun collaboration with Buildings and Grounds to expand to the back entrance bulletin board area and create an overall updated, appealing look. We would like to feature Aging services, the Alzheimer's Association, local wellness support materials, and have a dedicated space on

the wall for an Open and Affirming/LGBTQIA+ “library.” Lastly, given these uncertain and fractured times, it makes sense to add our energy to the efforts of other churches and community groups to foster respectful dialog, diversity, inclusion, human rights, and the message of Love. We are also open to leading the charge. As always, we welcome your suggestions and thank you for your support!

Respectfully, Lynn Decher, Rachel Gustina and Pauletta O’Donnell

Mission and Outreach Guidelines

Revised April 2025 and edited for the church website as an “overview”

Through the years our church participants have faithfully supported the humanitarian work of local organizations monetarily and as volunteers. Historically, food and shelter insecurity have been a major outreach focus involving the Salvation Army, the Corning Community Food Pantry, Corning Meals on Wheels, and Steuben County Habitat for Humanity.

As new initiatives emerge in response to changing individual, family and societal challenges, our local outreach expands. The need for basic provisions, companionship, mentoring, personal safety and support become potential mission opportunities beyond our church doors.

Our Current Activities

1. Represent our church at the Shepard’s Table afternoon meal at the Salvation Army on the third Sunday in March and August. We plan the menu, purchase groceries, cook, serve, and clean up the kitchen afterwards. Request help from the congregation as needed.
2. Promote/organize the Salvation Army holiday food drive when requested.
3. Organize our church’s booth at the annual June Pride Festival* in Corning which includes scheduling coverage for set up, break down, public presence; children’s activities; an opportunity to write to our elected officials; church promotional material and educational handouts. Keep our festival organizing records. *Host: Southern Finger Lakes Pride
4. Promote four* of the 5 For 5 collections in the calendar year to support the wider UCC: Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM)- This is budgeted.

*Neighbors in Need

*One Great Hour of Sharing

*The Christmas Fund

*Strengthen the Church

5. Promote (six) local non-profit organizations during the program year September-June. Establish this schedule in June or July. Each organization provides a Sunday speaker in addition to a brief descriptive paragraph for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin and monthly newsletter. Donations are collected for each mission focus during that specific month. Notify designated tech support for this information to appear on the church website with a donation button for that month.

6. Keep current our literature display rack for the continued promotion of organizations we have highlighted. LGBTQIA+ material is included to further our church’s designation as ONA, Open and Affirming.

7. Initiate or extend support to other mission/outreach endeavors in the community or within our church as time and interest allow.

Mission and Outreach Guidelines cont’d

(April 2025 revision)

Financial and Reporting Duties

1. Submit a budget proposal each fall for expenses anticipated during the upcoming program year.
2. Submit incurred activity expenses for reimbursement to reflect actual program costs for budgeting purposes.
3. Provide a written summary of the concluding program year's activities for the annual report in June, which includes the monthly mission collection totals for that program year.

Reference

Special Monthly Missions Education/Giving Focus
2017 to the present

Corning Community Food Pantry
Corning Meals on Wheels
Salvation Army Corning
Habitat for Humanity Steuben County
Youth Center with Family Service Society
Hawks Thrive (high school food pantry)
Hawks Threads (clothing for high school students)
Twin Tiers Baby Bank (diapers, etc.)
Potter's Hands (trafficking)
Planned Parenthood
Bampa's House (end of life)
Ukraine "Come Back Alive"
COVID Discretionary Fund for church members
Corning Refugee Welcome Project
Southern Finger Lakes Pride

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee hosted a Job Fair on two consecutive Sundays, April 27th and May 4th to highlight the opportunities that are available to serve in our church. The Administrative Board, Committees, and Ministry Teams hosted tables to explain their purpose and enlist members. This was successful in helping to fill the many of the Committees and Teams, when follow-up inquiries were made by the Nominating Committee. The members of the Congregation were then approached as a group and individually as to their desire and availability to take on leadership positions.

This Committee is pleased to present the slate of nominations that follows.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Graf, Chair

Pastor Parish Relations Committee Report (2024-2025)

Our committee consists of Star Bright, Tom Wilkinson, Pam Walker, and Margo Brown

Quarterly meetings are held, and additional meetings can be called if needed. We encourage Pastor Henry to share his thoughts and concerns in total confidence. In turn, our committee may share comments or concerns coming from our congregation.

With Pastor Henry's overwhelming approval, we introduced a five-question survey related to his sermons. Three straight Sundays in January, the survey was folded inside the bulletin. Members were asked to complete and place in a box at the rear of the sanctuary that same day. Over 20 people thoughtfully completed the survey anonymously. We compiled and shared with Pastor Henry. The few criticisms were appreciated as well.

Future Plans – Another survey will be used with a different emphasis.

Personnel Team Report – June 2025

Committee members: Barb Cooper, Jill VanDewoestine, Bob Walker

2025 Personnel Activities

- Personnel team met with staff to check in on performance and concerns and ensured all staff completed NYS-required Sexual Harassment training.
- Personnel team met with all paid staff to check in on objectives, performance, communications, and other issues.
- Personnel reviewed pastor's benefits and made recommendations on staff salaries.
- A social media/website consultant was hired to help with events, sermons, and other website updates. She resigned in June due to personal commitments.
- Faith Formation hired a nursery staffer, who quit and was replaced by volunteers for the rest of the choir season.
- Eleanor Perry, the church organist, retired after 20 years of service. At her request, no formal recognition will be held but the choir showed their appreciation to her at their last rehearsal of the season.
- Our Zoom coordinator, Patrick Wilken, resigned as of the end of June. At least two replacements are being sought.

Upcoming 2025-26 Activities

- Assist Faith Formation in hiring at least 2 nursery staffers.
- Hire at least two Zoom coordinators.
- Hire one or more keyboardists to start in September.
- Begin the process to replace Church Secretary as she will retire before the end of 2025. The new candidate will fulfill Brenda's current responsibilities and those of the social media/website consultant.
- Maintain personnel processes (salary recommendations, staff evaluations and concerns, training, etc.) and files
- Work with pastor and staff on personnel-related issues as they arise.

Scholarship Committee Program Report (2024-25)

Committee consists of Judy Garrett, Dave Lambert, and Margo Brown

Scholarships were given to:

Pearl Cooper, Matthew Hageman, Sophia McMaster, and Peter Zimmerman

During the process of cleaning out the copy room, all past Scholarship history (back to 1987) was compiled, condensed, and summarized in one report from 1987 through 2024. There were some years scholarships were not given especially during COVID. An occasional year was missing information.

Technology Team Report – June 2025

Worship/Music Team Report 2025

In 2024/2025, we continued meeting as a team with the pastor, Faith Formation, and others to develop shared worship plans and keep a spreadsheet of dates and worship participants. We held two such meetings before Christmas, but we were not able to schedule meetings in 2025. We do plan to continue this coordination in the next program year.

We held several after-church discussions and activities to help enrich the spiritual life of the church. The first was in June to discuss “difficult” Bible passages and how we can view them in the context of our modern beliefs. For World Communion Sunday, we asked people to bring in “breads and spreads” that represented their family heritage or traditions to remind us that people around the world were celebrating communion. We also helped people make a paper prayer chain that was hung in the sanctuary. We held an after-church discussion on the separation of church and state and why it was important to our community. We recognized people in the wider church family that passed on All Saints Sunday, and held the Hanging of the Greens in early December to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.

This year’s music program included the Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir, and the Blair-Bigler-Perry Concert. This year, the Women’s Choir of Corning performed “Celebrating Women Composers.” We continue to participate in ecumenical programs, such as the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition’s Thanksgiving service, Ash Wednesday at Emanuel Lutheran, Jazz Sunday at Christ Episcopal, and Lenten Book Study at Community Mennonite Fellowship. Our long-time organist, Eleanore Perry, has retired at the end of June, and we recognize her contributions to the music program over the last 20 years.

In the next program year, we will continue to work with the Pastor and Faith Formation to coordinate schedules and explore opportunities to delve into faith topics. We would like to hold additional after-church discussions on current topics such as political divisions and LGBTQ+ relations.

We will continue to support the worship calendar and make sure that we have ushers, communion servers, and liturgists. If you would like to volunteer, have ideas for worship or after-church discussions, please contact any of the members of this team! And when we call you to be an usher or reader, please say YES, right away!

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Briggs, Judy Garret, Joyce Nelson, Maria Quintal, & Jill VanDewoestine

Worship & Music Ministry Plan - 2025

- Partner with the Pastor, Faith Formation, and others to create and offer worship services that
- serve member needs and encourage membership growth.
- Maintain an inclusive, strong music program.

- Make efficient use of human and financial resources to sustain weekly worship.