



# The Caller

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ

## MUSINGS ALONG THE WAY

I really enjoyed our three-part sermon series on Ecclesiastes this summer. The Q&A portion was especially fun for me—even if some of those tough questions caught me a little off guard. Ecclesiastes, as you’ve learned, is such an intriguing and complex wisdom book, and I appreciate your thoughtful questions and patience when my answers got a bit long-winded or worse, inadequate. But the informal, lively interaction was a delight, and I wish we had more time for it this summer.

Speaking of sermon series, I’m seriously considering doing more throughout the year. I believe they offer real benefits: continuity of theme, the chance to explore topics that matter most to you as a congregation, and opportunities to address pressing issues in our world today. For instance, someone asked me during the Ecclesiastes sermon series if I could also preach on suffering and evil (or *theodicy*, if you want a technical term for it)—an age-old concern that continues to weigh heavily on many hearts. It’s a complex subject, and I’m not sure I can fully do it justice, but I’m willing to try.

So why do a sermon series on selected topics? Because, as the Rev. Susan Cartmel points out in her book *Uncommon Preaching: An Alternative to the Lectionary*, the lectionary isn’t always “the best way to communicate the life-giving messages of faith that people are searching for” (p.1). While the lectionary is valuable, guiding us through Scripture over a three-year cycle and connecting us with the wider church in the ecumenical community through shared readings, it doesn’t always speak directly to our personal struggles or the pressing issues of our world today.

(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.



September  
2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Pastor's Pondering..... 1-2
- Birthdays..... 3
- Team Reports..... 3-7
- Photo Gallery..... 4-5
- Calendar ..... 8

**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](mailto:pastor@corningucc.org)  
Pastor’s phone: (908)801-7007  
Church Phone: (607)962-7423  
E-mail: [office@corningucc.org](mailto:office@corningucc.org)  
Web: [www.corningucc.org](http://www.corningucc.org)  
Facebook.com/FCUCCC  
Instagram: @corningucc  
Secretary: Brenda Passmore  
Keyboardist: Katie Klawitter  
Choir Director: Mike Flanagan

## 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.

(cont. from page 1)

I will, of course, continue to preach from the lectionary for most of the year, while also making room for sermon series that meet your needs and address the questions that weigh on our hearts and minds right now.

So, on that note, I warmly welcome your suggestions for sermon themes or topics. I may not be able to cover everything, but I will do my best. My hope is that these sermons will bring fresh inspiration and deeper meaning to our worship this year.

Yours for the journey,  
Pastor Henry

Welcome Katie Klawitter!

The Personnel team is pleased to announce that Katie Klawitter will be our new church Keyboardist, starting this September.



Katie is a Corning native and a 2nd-grade teacher for the Addison Central School District.

She has been playing the organ since she was a teenager, and has played organ, piano, and led music at churches in the Corning area and in Virginia for almost 30 years.

She holds a BA from Keuka College in Childhood and Special Education, and an MA from Walden University in Literacy. Katie lives in Corning with her husband and children.

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@uccorning.org](mailto:office@uccorning.org). The office voice mail is checked regularly, and the pastor can be reached directly at [pastor@corningucc.org](mailto:pastor@corningucc.org).



Ministry Plan Discussion:  
September 28

Mark your calendars for an after-worship discussion of the Ministry Plan and what our Ministry Teams are planning to follow that plan to engage our church family and attract new members.

The Ministry Teams would also like to hear from you – what would you like to do? What do you think would engage the community? Enjoy coffee and snacks while we do the work of the church.

Any questions please contact an Admin Board or Ministry Team member.



Family Dinner: Sunday evening,  
October 26, 5-7:00 pm hosted at  
Josh and Chris Wilken's home.  
All with children are welcome to join,  
details to follow.



**September Birthdays**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Beth Briggs
	Jim Katt
	Noel Sylvester
15 <sup>th</sup>	Joyce Nelson
17 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Reif
21 <sup>st</sup>	Tom Breslin
21 <sup>st</sup>	Sylvia Brown
29 <sup>th</sup>	Joanne Reif




Mid Day Fellowship meets  
Wednesday, September 10th, 11:30 a.m.

We are mixing it up again and will be meeting on the second Wednesday of the month from here on out. All are welcome to take a break in their day and join us from 11:30 to about 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a bag lunch.

**BLANKET COLLECTION BEGINS:** Time to look ahead to fall and winter! (Already??)

The Midday Fellowship is collecting new or gently used blankets of all sizes to give to the Corning Community Food Bank to distribute to those in need in our area.

**You may bring in your blankets through October 8,** the date of the October Midday Fellowship.

Thank you for your generosity and caring, Your friends in the Mid Day Fellowship

# Photo Gallery

July 17th Mid Day Fellowship Mystery Trip  
Mud Creek Bison Ranch in Savona



Enjoying our first luncheon on the new pergola!



# Worship TOGETHER

We gathered for worship on July 13th at Emanuel and August 3rd at FCUCC!

*Emanuel decided to hold worship in their Fellowship Hall to take advantage of the air-conditioning.*



*Pastor Henry gets a great review on his Ecclesiastes sermon!*

*Corning Brass Works blessed us with great music for both services.*

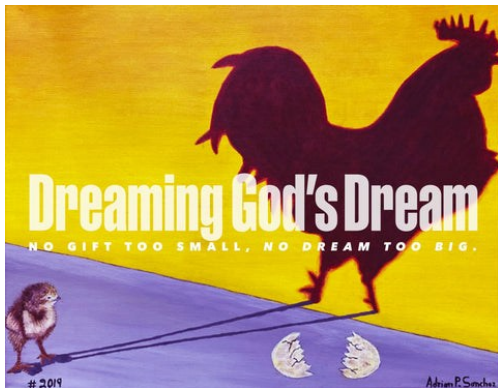




Fall Harvest & Bake Sale  
Saturday, Sept 6, 9am-1pm  
at the church

It will not be our usual “every other year” sale. This will be only fresh produce, plants, bake sale and hopefully jams/jellies, honey, & maple syrup.

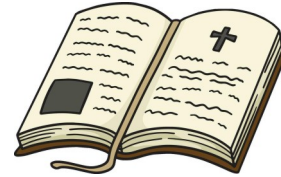
We will need help with the sale - there are sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall for donations and times you could work the sale. Drop off dates & times are on the sign-up sheets. Any questions please contact Rachel Hofstetter, Bruce Graf, or Joyce Nelson.



### Stewardship Season

Our 2025 Stewardship Season will begin this month. Letters and pledge cards will be mailed, and our Stewardship Kickoff Sunday is on the 28th. The entire process will run through October with Consecration Sunday on November 2. Our pledges are our primary source of income for the Church and costs are expected to go up slightly because of inflation. Please be generous.

Bible Study starting September 9th in the Lewis Lounge, Tuesdays at lunch time.



The format will be 12:00 to 1:00 for study, discussion and prayer with no homework. Bob Walker and Henry will co-lead this study. Please feel free to bring a brown bag lunch and your favorite Bible.

Note that this study will be in person only (no Zoom). Please join us!

Name Tags are in!

If you are one of the people who requested a name tag, and even if you're not but are a newer member, you may have a new name tag on the magnetic name tag board. Look for it next time you worship. They're easy to find - they're the ones inside a plastic bag! Questions, concerns, or wish you had one, please contact the office.



Fall Family Kickoff  
Sunday, September 14

The service will include prayers for students, teachers and family.

There will be a hot dog cookout and ice cream treats during coffee hour!

Need help with house cleaning?

Gabriela Aranguren (of the family we have welcomed to Corning) is offering her services.



If you're interested in her help, please contact the office for her contact information. Thanks.

## Mission and Outreach



September Mission: Corning Salvation Army  
Salvation Army News-

The Salvation Army has two new captains, Brittany and Bryan Bender. Major Anita Stewart has relocated. A new Social Services Coordinator is also on staff. The Missions team met Scott on August 17, our commitment date for the Shepherd's Table meal. Pauletta O'Donnell, Rachel Gustina, and Lynn Decher prepared ham and a variety of homemade summer side dishes and dessert.

The Salvation Army continues to provide backpacks for students in need. Empty backpacks may be dropped off at the 32 Denison Parkway East office front door between 9am and 4pm, Monday through Friday throughout the year. According to Scott, the school district provides the necessary classroom supplies such as notebooks, pens and crayons.

The weekly food pantry continues to operate Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 11:45am at the same Denison Parkway location, in addition to other support services and programs.

The Long Point Camp for children and families is located on the western side of Seneca Lake near Penn Yan for summer fun.

Thank you for your support of the Salvation Army in Corning!

Donations may be made by check payable to the First Congregational UCC with "Corning Salvation Army" on the memo line. You may also donate at our church website [www.corningucc.org](http://www.corningucc.org).

## Administrative Board & Ministry Team Notes: August 2025

Here are some highlights from the last Admin Board & Ministry Team meeting:

- We are still looking for Nursery staffers to start this September. Please contact Judy Graf or visit [www.corningucc.org/jobs](http://www.corningucc.org/jobs) to find out more or refer a candidate.
- We reviewed the shared drive and website structure, and where different types of information can be found. Church members may access reports, meeting minutes, and other information by visiting [www.corningucc.org/resources](http://www.corningucc.org/resources) and clicking the squares marked "Church Bylaws", "Annual Reports," "Church Leadership Team" or "Church Records Shared Drive." You will have Viewer access to the shared drive files. If you need help with this, please contact Bruce Graf or Jill VanDewoestine.
- We reviewed the church governance structure and noted that it was designed to be flexible and enable us to pursue new ministries while maintaining the necessary financial, physical, and staffing structures. When we implemented this structure in 2017, our hope was that we would spend more time on activities that would attract new members. However, membership has not grown significantly since then. We will be looking at ways that we can emphasize attracting and retaining church members during this program year. We will start by holding a church discussion to review the Ministry Plan and hear what Ministry Teams are doing. Everyone will have the chance to contribute ideas and get involved. See our note in this newsletter for more information.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 9 at 6:45 PM by Zoom. We hope to have future meetings in person but are still figuring out the best day of the month to do that. All are welcome to our meetings – if you would like to attend, please contact Jill VanDewoestine for the link.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill VanDewoestine, Moderator, [jill.vandewoestine@proton.me](mailto:jill.vandewoestine@proton.me), 607-765-1837

Our church calendar changes all the time, so please check our website [www.corningucc.org](http://www.corningucc.org) for the most up-to-date version.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10am - Worship - in	1 9am - Bone Builders	2 7pm - Chorus of the	3 6pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Choir	4 9am - Office Hours 9am - Set Up for Harvest &	5 9am - Bone Builders @ 9am - Office Hours 11am - Set Up for Harvest	6 7:30am - Set up for sale 7: 9am - Fall Harvest & Bake 6:30pm - AA
7 7am - Cleaning Service 10am - Worship - in 2pm - Starlite Band @	8 9am - Bone Builders	9 12pm - Bible Study 1pm - Scottish American 6:30pm - Zoom 7pm - Chorus of the	10 11:30am - Mid Day 6pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Choir	11 9am - Office Hours	12 9am - Bone Builders @ 9am - Office Hours	13 9am - Cleaning Service 12:30pm - DAR 6:30pm - AA
14 Fall Family Kick-Off 10am - Worship - in	15 9am - Bone Builders	16 7pm - Chorus of the	17 6pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Choir	18 9am - Office Hours	19 9am - Bone Builders @ 9am - Office Hours	20 9am - Cleaning Service 6:30pm - AA
21 10am - Worship - in	22 9am - Bone Builders	23 7pm - Chorus of the	24 6pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Choir	25 9am - Caller deadline 9am - Corning Area Aging 9am - Office Hours	26 9am - Bone Builders @ 9am - Office Hours	27 6:30pm - AA
28 Stewardship Kick-Off 10am - Worship - in	29 8am - Cleaning Service 9am - Bone Builders	30 7pm - Chorus of the	1 6pm - Bell Choir 7pm - Choir	2 9am - Office Hours	3 9am - Bone Builders @ 9am - Office Hours	4 6:30pm - AA



*The Caller*



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



# The Caller

---

**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

