



# The Caller

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ

## MUSINGS ALONG THE WAY

Dear Church Family,

As you may know, November is recognized as *National Gratitude Month*, a time set aside to practice and celebrate gratitude in daily life—at home, in communities, and in workplaces. It's also the season when we gather for *Thanksgiving*, observed on the fourth Thursday of the month. This beloved holiday, deeply woven into the American story, traces its roots to the 1621 harvest feast shared by about fifty Plymouth colonists who arrived on the *Mayflower* and ninety members of the Wampanoag tribe.

That first Thanksgiving was a celebration for a bountiful autumn harvest after a harsh winter in which nearly half of the settlers had perished from illness, starvation, and the harsh New England winter. The event itself was not a religious “thanksgiving” in the Pilgrims’ tradition, but a harvest celebration—a diplomatic and hopeful moment of cooperation between two distinct peoples, different cultures, languages, and faith traditions. The alliance was made possible, in part, by Squanto, a Wampanoag who spoke English and taught the Pilgrims how to plant crops, fish, and other vital skills for survival.

**(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.



## November

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Musings along the Way.... 1-2

Birthdays..... 3

Church & Community News

..... 3-7

**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!**



*(cont. from page 1)*

I apologize for recounting what you all probably know about this major national holiday since elementary school. But I share this story to express how deeply it moves me—even as someone who didn't grow up in the United States. The spirit of the first Thanksgiving continues to inspire us—a witness to human goodness and generosity, a reminder of what can be achieved when people extend compassion and work together despite their differences, and a reflection of what we all long to see in our country today.

In its essence, Thanksgiving reminds us of the life we share in Christ—rooted in *faith, hope, and love* (1 Corinthians 13:13), bearing witness as *ambassadors of Christ* in the *ministry of reconciliation* (2 Corinthians 5:18-20), drawing hearts together, and nurturing community in the spirit of the Apostle Paul's message.

May this season of bright hues, blessings, and grace around the table fill your hearts and homes with gratitude, love, joy, and peace.

**Happy Thanksgiving to all!**

Yours for the journey,  
Pastor Henry



**ZOOM IS NEW AND IMPROVED!**

Over the past year, we have been updating our equipment, which has changed the way we communicate with Zoom participants. We are finally working through those "hiccups" and invite previous Zoom users to try us again.

You should be able to participate in announcements, "concerns and celebrations" and stay online after the service to chat with other Zoom participants. If you are having trouble, please hit the "chat" button in the menu at the bottom of your screen and tell us what is up.

We'll be happy to send you the link to the weekly service if you are not currently receiving it from the church office.

Hoping to see you again!

**HINTS FOR ZOOM USERS**

Being on Zoom may be a new experience for you, but there are a few things you can do to get the most out of the experience. After you have clicked on the link that the church office sends you, you will probably see at the bottom of your screen some Images/icons of a microphone, a camera, a "chat" button and a few more.

During the service, please be sure to have a red line through the microphone to "mute" yourself. Please click on the microphone to "unmute" when you share concerns and celebrations. You are welcome to click in the video button to show your face during that time, too. After worship, you may continue talking with other Zoom participants.

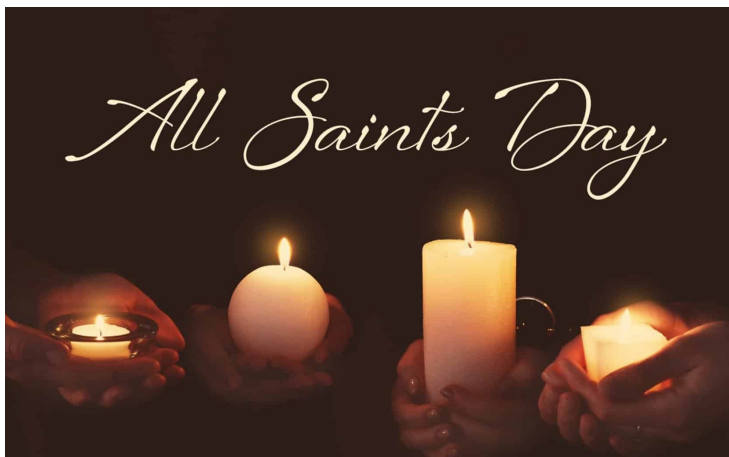
The Worship Tech will be the host. Members of the congregation may also join you! Thank you again for being with us Sunday mornings when you cannot be here in person.

**The Worship Team: Judy Garrett, Jennifer Fais,  
Maria Quintal**



**Stewardship Reminder**

We are in the midst of our Church's Stewardship Campaign. Your pledge can be mailed to the church office or put in the collection plate any Sunday before November 9th. If it is more convenient, you can also give your pledge cards to Bruce Graf or Star Bright and they will ensure that it is recorded. Thank you,



**\*\*\*\* In Remembrance \*\*\*\***

- Florence Ann Cecce**
- Joyce Ann Dunnivant**
- Marilyn Jean Chrisman Fais**
- Robert Arthur "Bob" Garrett**
- Jeanette Marine Harrell**
- Thomas Raymond McGrew, Jr.**
- Ruth Rennie Nelson**
- Thomas "Tom" Palmer**
- Martin A. Poole**
- Sven Peter Walker**
- Constance "Connie" Zehr**

### Brenda's going away

Please join us Sunday, November 9th, 2025 after worship for reception to say farewell to our wonderful church secretary, Brenda Passmore.

Brenda is leaving to spend more time with her family and her own church, Emanuel Lutheran.

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before church on November 3rd!



November Birthdays  
2nd Judy Garrett  
2nd Laura Nelson  
3rd Paul Schmitt  
6th Nicolette Wagoner  
8th Dick Perry  
8th Janet Dillenbeck  
15th Ken Watson  
17th Alex Bennitt  
17th Liberty Cancel  
17th Diane Haskins  
19th Annie McCaslin  
24th Evie Lewis  
28th Jeff DeMeritt  
30th Dominic Cancel



### Bridge to Hope Center

Several church members, including Pastor Henry, attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Bridge to Hope Center, our Northside neighbor, on Friday, October 24. Located on the corner of Bridge and West William Streets, formerly the Lando's site, this relatively new non-profit is addressing issues of homelessness, addiction, unemployment, and mental health. The Center collaborates with numerous area human service agencies and our county's Department of Social Services to provide ongoing case management under one roof until an individual's or a family's stability is achieved. The Center welcomes additional community partners and volunteers.

On the Center's West William Street wall, the 17th Alley Art Project mural Colorscape was completed in August by the school district's High School Learning Center students and their supervisors in collaboration with Rochester mural teaching artist Shawnee Hill and The Rockwell Museum.

Collaboration strengthens and beautifies our community and invites our participation.

Bible Study continues in the Lewis Lounge, Tuesdays at lunch time.



The format is from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm 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!

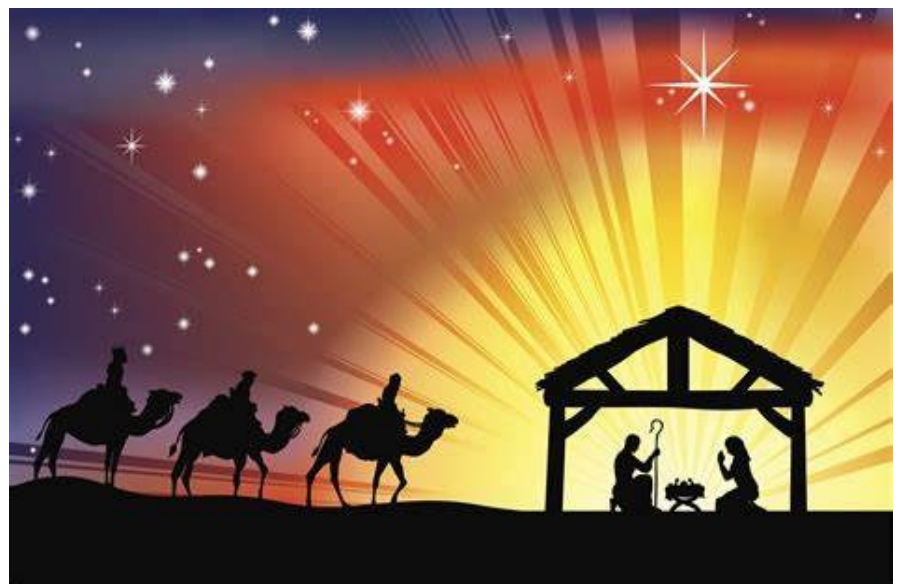
**Getting ready for Christmas!!!**

On the 7th, during or after worship, we will pull out all kinds of wonderful costumes for everyone to try on. We will need a few readers and a lot of special characters - angels, shepherds, wise men, among others.

December 14th, we will have our "no rehearsal" Christmas pageant.

We will announce more specifics as the time gets closer. In the meantime, see Star Bright if interested in helping or if you have additional questions.

Please plan to join the in the Spirit of the Holiday!



Mission and Outreach

**Holiday Giving**

Midday Fellowship and Mission/ Outreach have together organized several ways for our church community to bring smiles to others this holiday season. In addition to our traditional collection of food items for the Salvation Army's Christmas baskets, we are hosting a mini Red Kettle!



DOING THE MOST GOOD

And.....for those of you who love to shop, please consider "adopting" a Christmas wish list for a Pathways' care recipient. We are extending our recent Pathways connection with a little outreach help from their new friends...us! Wish lists can be found in the red envelopes on our familiar "Mitten Tree." Please see the posted notices for all details.



Pathways, Inc.

we put people first

Thank you for your thoughtful generosity this Holiday season!

Ellis Wilken will be hosting an opportunity to create bags for Meals for Wheels this November! During the traditional Sunday School time, children are welcome to join Ellis and her parents in the Sunday School classroom to decorate bags, enjoy some music, and have fun on the following dates Sundays November 2nd, 9th, and 16th.



“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:**

Tues./Fri.: 9:00am-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  
Admin Assistant: Charlette Smith  
Keyboardist: Katie Klawitter  
Choir Director: Mike Flanagan

## Office hours

**Church Office Hours:**

Tuesday and Friday mornings from  
9:00 a.m. – noon. Please feel free to  
leave a message other days and we will  
return your call as soon as we can.

**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 he is 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.

“Thanks to **Tom Kowalik** for making, painting  
and installing our replacement cemetery sign.  
The original sign, part of an Eagle Scout project  
several years ago, had badly deteriorated.”



A special “**Thank you**” to Edward McLaughlin  
of Hammondsport. Mr. McLaughlin recently  
noticed a house being torn down in  
Hammondsport and huge dumpsters with  
books in the front yard. He inquired and was  
told he could rummage through and take  
whatever he wanted. He noticed an old book  
and within documentation of wedding,  
confirmations, deaths, etc. In the front of the  
book a note to donate to First Congregational  
United Church of Christ in Corning.

Mr. McLaughlin drove down late one night  
to return to us and make sure this history and  
archival documents are with their  
cherished owner.

**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.  
The office voice mail is checked regularly,  
and the pastor can be reached directly at  
pastor@corningucc.org.



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