



First Congregational United Church of Christ of Corning



## Musings along the way

By Pastor Henry

Dear church family,  
Ah, Advent—what a beautiful season! A time of quiet anticipation and joyful expectation for the coming of Christ, the child of Bethlehem. For churches, it's also one of the busiest times of the year: hanging the greens, lighting the Advent candles, preparing the choir cantata, the Christmas pageant, and finally,

the Christmas Eve service—the culmination of all we await: the birth of our Savior.

Advent is an intriguing season. Though it marks the beginning of the church year, it looks both backward and forward—back to God's promise of a Messiah, and forward to the day when God's reign of justice and peace will be realized.

### Mission for December

Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Page 3

### Poinsettias for Advent

Order Form

Page 4

### News and Notes

Thank you from Brenda  
Midday Fellowship

Page 5

As the days grow shorter and darker (at least here in the northern hemisphere), we light candles each week to remind us that Christ enters a world of darkness, hatred, and pain—and brings light. As John's Gospel declares, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5.) What a powerful witness! This is our hope: that even amid the world's turmoil, the light of Christ continues to shine—revealing God's promise of a better world.

It's easy, I know, to wallow in the mud of despair and feel discouraged by all we see—division, conflict, injustice, suffering. Yet Advent reminds us: there is hope.

God's promise still stands. In the third week of Advent, we hear Mary's song—the Magnificat—celebrating how God scatters the proud, brings down the powerful, lifts the lowly, and fills the hungry with good things (Luke 1:51–53.)

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This season, I invite you to hope and believe with me in these promises through the worship experiences of Advent. While others offer acts of kindness, charity, and advocacy for justice—we do our share of these, too—worship is our gift to the world—a sacred act that proclaims hope, peace, joy, and love to all who long for a more compassionate world.

May your Advent be filled with meaning, and your Christmas be blessed with joy.

Yours for the Journey,  
Pastor Henry

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

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## This Month Events

Visit our website at [corningucc.org](http://corningucc.org) for  
Sermons, Events, and other Happenings at FCUCCC



### Poinsettia for Advent

See Page 4



### Christmas Decorating

December 7th  
after Worship



### Christmas Pageant

December 14, 2025

**Lots of Advent activity!**

On the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, we will have the Advent wreath ready to light our first candle.

The following Sunday, December 7th, we need lots of help! Please stay after church to help us decorate, hang our Christmas banners, add wreaths, bows and candles to our sanctuary. While we are busy decorating, have your children come to the Lewis lounge where they will be fitted for pageant costumes.

We need sheep and angels and lots more characters to tell the wonderful story. Thank you! - Church and Family Life Team

**Mission For December - Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund**

The Christmas Fund has been a beacon of love and care for more than a century - providing direct financial assistance to the healers in our lives. This includes retired and active UCC ministers, faithful church workers and their families.

In 2024 alone The Christmas Fund offered more than \$1.7 million in support, touching the lives of 766 individuals across the UCC.

**Our 2025 theme is simple yet profound: “When they saw the Star,”** they were filled with joy.” - Matthew 2:10. May that same joy fill our congregation as we receive and share this offering. Let us ensure that more families experience the love of the Church in their hour of need. Donations made be made by check payable to the First Congregational UCC with “The Christmas Fund” on the memo line.

You may also donate at our website [www.corningucc.org](http://www.corningucc.org).

We will be accepting donations throughout the month of December

**“When they saw the Star”**

**Follow us**

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# *Poinsettias for the 2025 Advent Season*



PRICE: \$20.00

COLOR: Red

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ or

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ or

In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

Ordered by \_\_\_\_\_

Orders, **with check**, payable to **First Congregational Church Flower Fund** can be mailed to Joyce Nelson at 104 Pritchard Avenue, Corning, NY 14830 or placed in the offering plate. Massi's is no longer offering poinsettias. We will order from our florist, Northside Floral. Red is the only color choice this year.

**Orders must be placed by December 7, 2025.**

*Plants may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service.*

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!





Dear FCUCC Friends,

Thank you so much for the tasty good-bye lunch and the generous gift! When Jill presented the gift, she mentioned what an interesting 12 years we've had together - a pandemic, beginning zoom worship, a few pastors, etc. In my personal life, I moved to a new house, lost 3 parents, my kids became real grown-ups, and I became a grandma!

Through it all, I've been so blessed to share that journey with you. Thank you. But over the last year, I've felt that God may be calling me out from behind the computer to serve in new ways.

I'm not a great listener, but perhaps I'll try harder to hear what else God's saying....after I enjoy Advent and Christmas!

Best Wishes for a Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and more.

Brenda Passmore



The **December Midday Fellowship** Meeting will be held Wednesday December 10, 2025 @11:30 am in Fellowship Hall.

Please bring a bag Lunch. We have decided to try something new this year. We will be preparing Treats for the Homebound and Staff.

We will be packaging quarts of Soup and Mini Loaves of Bread and delivering it. We will also be working on Holiday Napkins.

All are welcome!



The **Holiday Giving Spirit** is once again Overflowing with Kindness and support.

We have filled many, many boxes with canned and box food items, for the Salvation Army's Christmas baskets, and we hosted a mini Red Kettle campaign, thank you for your generous donations.

In addition, we also "adopted" a Christmas wish list for a Pathways' care recipients. The Wish lists were on our familiar "Mitten Tree," which we filled bags and bags of warm hat and mittens to help give warmth and comfort this Winter Season.

**Thank you** to everyone for their generosity and giving!



**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
Wednesday,  
December 24<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00pm  
Join us for Carols,  
Candles, and Bells!**



**Christmas Pageant  
December 14th**





If you are interested in learning more about our church, please visit our website at [corningucc.org](http://corningucc.org) or scan the QR code on the right.



## Contact us

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### *"The Caller"*

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*The deadline for submitting articles is the 25th of each month.*

### Office hours:

Tues/Fri: 9:00am-Noon

### Pastor Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday:

9:00am - 2:00pm

His visitations are scheduled on Tues - Fri afternoons. Mondays and Saturdays he is off.

### Sunday Service

In-person worship and Zoom worship every Sunday at 10 AM  
<https://www.corningucc.org/>

### Nursery

Nursery provided from 9:30am-11:30am for children under 4.