



First Congregational United Church of Christ of Corning



Musings along the way

By Pastor Henry

Dear Church Family,
With the start of February, we prepare to move from Epiphany into the season of Lent. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18, these forty days lead us toward Easter. It is a sacred time for self-reflection and spiritual renewal, offering us a chance to refocus our hearts and grow closer to God.

While the Bible doesn't explicitly command us to observe Lent, the tradition is deeply rooted in scriptural themes of reflection and renewal, drawing inspiration from passages like Job (42:6), the prophets (Joel 2:12-13), and the teachings of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11, 6:16-18). The practice took shape in the fourth century, as the early church sought a meaningful way to help

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believers prepare their hearts for the joy of Easter Sunday.

As preparation for Easter, during Lent we ask Jesus to "walk with me," as the old spiritual I Want Jesus to Walk with Me suggests. But as we join him on the road to the cross, we realize it isn't an easy journey. While many of us focus on "giving up" a favorite food or a simple comfort, Lent is about so much more than a simple sacrifice. It is an intentional season of grounding ourselves in God's presence, and an invitation to move beyond the surface and enter into a deeper, more connected relationship with God.

To begin our Lenten journey together, please join us for an Ash Wednesday service on February 18 at 5:00 p.m. The service will be held at Community Mennonite Fellowship (290 Park Avenue, Corning.)

We are also looking forward to an ecumenical Lenten study at the same location; we will share more details as they become available. As you embark on your Lenten journey, I encourage you to lean into spiritual disciplines such as prayer, silent meditation, Bible reading, worship, giving, and even fasting (if you can). Whether through service or a Lenten devotional, this season is an opportune time to refocus on what truly matters.

... "walk with me," ...

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."

This Month Events



Jazz Sunday

February 15, 10 a.m. at
Christ Episcopal Church



Ash Wednesday

February 18, 5 p.m. at
Community Mennonite
Fellowship, 290 Park
Ave., Corning, NY 14830

Visit our website at corningucc.org for
Sermons, Events, and other Happenings at FCUCCC

The new March/April 2026 edition of The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide is available in the Narthex. Please help yourself.

Don't forget to sign-up for 2026 Flowers, Coffee Hour and Faith Formation Leaders. The sheets are located on the Bulletin Board.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



Ecumenical Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 4:00 - 7:00pm

First Congregational UCC
171 West Pulteney Street, Corning



Proceeds benefit:
Corning Community Food Pantry
Suggested donation: \$7/person, \$17/family, under 6 free!

Follow us



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February Birthdays

9th - Des Pascual

12th - Pam Walker

27th - Patrick McGrew

28th - Barbara Cooper





PLEASE JOIN US FOR
JAZZ
SUNDAY

FEATURING
**Three River City
Jazz Band**

**FEBRUARY 15
at 10:00 a.m.**

**Where All the Saints
Go Marching In!**

**Dancing in the Aisles
Strongly Encouraged!**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

*Participating Corning Churches Include: First Congregational United Church of Christ,
Emanuel Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church, & Christ Episcopal Church*



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

33 East First Street, Corning, NY • (607) 937-5449

The mission of Christ Church is to offer hospitality, healing, and hope in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our church has a history of building community and friendships through **Small Group Dinners** meant to foster feelings of genuine connection. Depending on the hosts' preference, the meal is usually a simple soup, bread, and salad with six to eight attendees. Someone volunteers to bring dessert.

- The dinners are open to everyone and anyone.
- There is often an "after dinner topic" for discussion.
- This is an ongoing outreach. We hope to schedule more as our long winter progresses.
- If you would like to host dinner, please let me know. (phone number below)
- Transportation is available if needed.

Signup at the bulletin board outside the kitchen and/or call Margo Brown at 607-725-0264.

Signup sheets will be up after the first of the year. Updates to follow.

Sponsored by the Church and Family Life Ministry Team



February Midday Fellowship Meeting

The February Midday Fellowship Meeting will be held Wednesday February 11, 2026 at 11:30 am, this month we will be meeting in the Choir Room. Please bring a Bag Lunch. We will be signing Valentines for our College Students and finalizing our Winter/Spring Plans. There is an option for attending Books Sandwiched in Fellowship Hall at noon.

Mission Project for February– Nonnie Hood Parent Resource Center

The Nonnie Hood Parent Resource Center helps families with young children play, learn and connect with others in a welcoming and encouraging environment. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving families. They offer a drop-in center for the whole family, special children's programs and parent education classes. Their vision is to connect strong, happy and playful families to their community. Donations may be made this month to our Church, if sending in a check please specify NHPRC in the memo line, or on our website corningucc.org/give

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!





ECUMENICAL LENTEN STUDY

“Making Our Way Forward: Lenten Wisdom from Remarkable Lives”

Thursdays, February 26–March 26

Join us as we explore the lives of remarkable people whose courage, compassion, and conviction help shape a more hopeful world. Each week, a different minister will guide us in reflecting on the wisdom these lives offer for our own Lenten journey.

Soup Supper at 6 p.m.

Study & Discussion at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Community Mennonite Fellowship

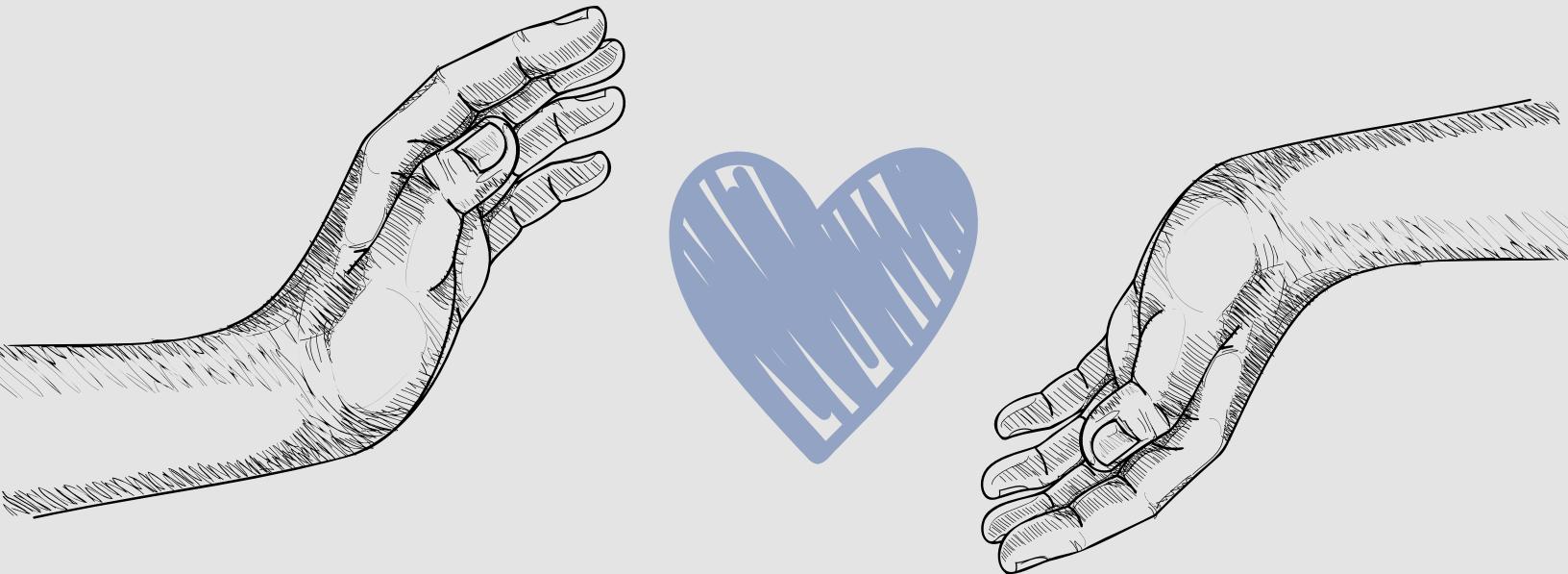
290 Park Avenue, Corning, NY (entrance on Hammond Street)

All are welcome!

Participating Churches: *Christ Episcopal Church, Community Mennonite Fellowship, Emanuel Lutheran Church, First Congregational United Church of Christ, First United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church of Painted Post, and United Church of Painted Post.*



KINDNESS STARTS *With you.*



PLEASE CONSIDER A 2026 PLEDGE.

WE LOOK TO CONTINUE SERVING
OUR CONGREGATION AND
COMMUNITY WITH CONTINUED
SUPPORT IN 2026.

YOU CAN MAIL-IN YOUR PLEDGE,
DROP IT IN THE CONTRIBUTIONS
BASKET, OR GO
CORNINGUCC.ORG/GIVE



If you are interested in learning more about our church, please visit our website at corningucc.org or scan the QR code on the right.



Contact us

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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.