



## Musings along the way

By Pastor Henry

Dear Church Family,  
Earlier this year, I shared with the Administrative Board my plans to retire next year. In this final year of ministry, my heart is overflowing—not just with memories, but with gratitude and bright hope for what lies ahead. Looking back, I am proud of how we lived our faith—moving beyond words to listen deeply to the Spirit and to

one another in honest conversations. We have not shied away from the complexities of our world, but have met them with the transformative power of the Gospel.

As you continue envisioning the next chapter for First Congregational, I hold three specific hopes for our community:

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- **Clarity of Purpose:**  
to be a sanctuary for the weary, the marginalized, and a voice for the silenced. Strategies and ministry plans may change, but our mission doesn't: to love God with our whole being and our neighbors—even the difficult ones—as ourselves (Matt. 22:37-39).

- **The Courage to Listen:**  
to choose people over political labels amidst shifting "culture wars," listening deeply to the lived experiences of those on the margins with compassion.

- **Extravagant Welcome:**  
to maintain a space where everyone is truly known, valued, and invited, not just "fit in." "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here," as we love to say.

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...”I hold three specific hopes for our community:” ...

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Pastors come and go, but the path you continue with the next person remains the same: the way of justice, peace, love, and kindness. Thank you for walking this road with me. While the journey may not always be easy, this one thing I'm certain of: the God who is at work within you “is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all [you] can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20).

Yours for the journey,  
Pastor Henry

## This Month's Events

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



**April Mission Follow-up**  
Arbor Housing and Development, the Net Domestic Violence Services, see pg. 5



**Midday Fellowship**  
The May Midday Fellowship Meeting will be held Wednesday May 13, 2026, at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall.

Please bring a bag lunch. We will be finalizing plans for our Mother's Day Tea, Blair-Bigler-Perry Concert Reception, looking ahead to our Fall Sale and how we can contribute to the Pride Festival held in June. All are welcome.



### Staff Update from the Personnel Team

Due to personal circumstances, Katie Klawitter is resigning from her keyboardist role. We wish her all the best and are sorry that she has to leave us so soon.

In the meantime, Melody Flanagan and Claire Smock will be covering most Sundays. We do welcome others who would like to provide worship music, as we still have some openings in our schedule! If you are interested or know someone who might be, please talk with Mike Flanagan or Beth Briggs.

### Follow us



@FCUCCC



@corningucc

### May Birthdays

4 <sup>th</sup> - David Lambert	24 <sup>th</sup> - Jan Kostolansky
7 <sup>th</sup> - Rachel Hofstetter	26 <sup>th</sup> - John Brown
20 <sup>th</sup> - Margo Brown	28 <sup>th</sup> - Jill Palmer
22 <sup>nd</sup> - Star Bright	29 <sup>th</sup> - Ed Reif



**Strengthen  
the Church**

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

SENT FORTH IN  
**LOVE**



A Special Mission Offering of  
the United Church of Christ  
supporting new church,  
leadership, and youth  
cultivation through our  
Conferences and  
National Ministries.

UCC.ORG/STC



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

**Arbor Housing and Development The Net Domestic Violence Services**

Thank you for your interest in this domestic violence support program which the Mission and Outreach team highlighted in April. Unfortunately, we were not able to secure a speaker. We offer additional information here:



Arbor Housing and Development, located at 26 Bridge Street in Corning, has been a non-profit community partner for over 55 years, enhancing the lives of individuals and families through secure housing options. This includes home ownership, rental assistance and supportive housing for those with special needs.

Domestic violence occurs in all socio-economic classes. It can manifest as physical, mental and/or emotional abuse, financial manipulation, threats to ones well-being, and isolation from family and friends.

About 35 years ago domestic violence support services were initiated by Arbor in Steuben County to assist victims by providing: safe, temporary shelter; counseling; legal services; and advocacy pertaining to employment, childcare, financial management, referrals to other service providers, and permanent housing. The end goal is always stability, security, and independence. To that end, The Net accepts donations of new and used household furnishings, and monetary contributions.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1 to connect with police. Otherwise, call the Domestic Violence 24-Hour Crisis Hotline 1-800-286-3407 to begin this crucial life-changing journey. The Net is there for you.

[www.arbordevelopment.org](http://www.arbordevelopment.org)  
[info@ArborDevelopment.org](mailto:info@ArborDevelopment.org)  
607-654-7487




**Have you checked out Pastor Henry's Sermon Teasers? Posted on our socials every Friday!**

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  
**Women's  
Chorale**  
of Corning

*All the Beautiful years*



**Free Concert | Saturday, May 16 | 2pm**  
**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
171 W Pulteney St, Corning



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 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.