



Musings along the way

By Pastor Henry

Dear Church Family,
In her 2014 book *Real Good Church: How Our Church Came Back from the Dead and Yours Can, Too*, Molly Baskette describes a worship practice that helped bring new life to her congregation, First Church Somerville in Massachusetts: people sharing personal testimonies. It turned worship into a shared experience, making

visitors and young adults feel welcome right away. Honest conversations removed the pressure to appear perfect, creating an authentic community where newcomers could truly belong.

Baskette explores this idea further in her 2015 book, *Standing Naked Before God: The Art of Public Confession*. She redefines confession as a

UCC to celebrate 70th

What's Your Welcome Story?

Page 3

Fall Fest & Bazaar

Information and details about the bazaar and T-shirts

Page 4 & 5

Church happenings

Welcome new members

Page 6

path to freedom rather than guilt. Drawing on the traditions of 12-step recovery, she separates sin from struggles like trauma, addiction, mental illness, and grief, arguing that shedding the mask of perfection breaks isolation, breaks through the shame, and enables true healing.

Ultimately, Baskette sees this kind of vulnerability as an act of service. When we hear others speak truth about their flaws and pain, we realize we no longer have to hide behind masks. Church becomes what it was always meant to be: a refuge where people can show up exactly as they are and know they are not alone.

With that in mind, we will begin inviting personal testimonies into worship at First Congregational once a month, starting this September. Two of our members have already offered to share their stories, and I want to encourage each of you to

pray about sharing yours as well.

As we try this new practice together, Paul reminds us to “carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). He says something similar in 2 Corinthians 1:3–4: God comforts us in our troubles so that we can offer that same comfort to others. May our stories help us become a community where we can speak honestly, listen with compassion, and remember that none of us has to carry our joys, struggles, or heartaches alone.

Yours for the journey,
Pastor Henry

“carry each
other’s burdens,
and in this way
you will fulfill the
law of Christ”
(Galatians 6:2)...

Don’t forget to check out Pastor Henry’s Sermon Teasers posted to our Social Media sites on Fridays. And as always, join us for Worship Service Sundays at 10am followed by Coffee Hour/Reception afterwards.



WHAT'S **your** WELCOME STORY?



As we approach our 70th anniversary, we invite you to share your story of welcome. Your experience could be the sign someone else needs to know they belong.

We're ready to listen, click start when you're ready to share

- ☐ Write your story
- ☐ Make a short video
- ☐ Share a photo or two
- ☐ Share this post with others
- ☐ Help lift up UCC's extravagant welcome!

**SHARE
YOUR
STORY**



<http://NMUCC.memfox.io/yourwelcomestory>

 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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!



**FALL FEST
& BAZAAR**

**Saturday
SEPT. 12**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

**ANTIQUES - STUFF
BAKED GOODS
PRODUCE
MUSIC AND MORE!**

 **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
171 WEST PULTENEY ST.
CORNING, NEW YORK 14830

www.corningucc.org • (607) 962-7423

 **corningucc**  **First Congregational
UCC, Corning NY**

The 2026 FALL FEST AND BAZAAR is Coming

Our Fall Fest & Bazaar is coming up quickly, **Saturday, September 12th from 9:00am-3:00pm**, rain or shine. If you are planning to donate items please check drop off date and times. Drop offs have begun and go through Sunday, September 6th. The last week will be for final sorting and pricing.

We are using on-line sale as well as the sale day, September 12th. If you have items that would be of higher value than items to be sold at the bazaar/rummage portion of the sale, please contact Bruce Graf, Rachel Hofstetter, or Joyce Nelson to determine when the items could be dropped off.

There are some additional sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall for plants - outdoor & indoor, produce, jam/jellies, and baked goods. If you plan to donate any of these items could you sign-up so we have an idea of how much table space will be needed.

Don't forget the sign-up sheets to help with the sale day and for the days after for clean-up.

Midday Fellowship will meet Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 11:30 am. Please bring a Bag Lunch.

We will be making final preparations for our Fall Fest and Bazaar.

TIME TO ORDER T-SHIRTS!

NAME: _____

TOTAL: _____

SIZE : S M L XL \$18 each
 XXL \$21 each

You can either include this order form or indicate on a sheet of paper; your name, t-shirt size(s) and quantity, total and your check and mail it to First Congregational UCC, 171 W Pulteney Street, Corning, NY 14830.

Please make your check out to **First Congregational UCC** with "**t-shirt**" in the memo line. Orders are due by September 1st. T-shirts will be available in time for the Fall Fest and Bazaar on September 12th.



It's that time of year!

The **Finance Team** is planning for **2027** and we need your help. Our goal is to send pledge cards in October in hopes that they will be completed and returned by November 1st. Budgeting is so much easier and more accurate if we understand your plans for giving and your teams' 2027 goals.

We will announce the results of the stewardship campaign in November and will be putting together the proposed budget by our annual financial meeting in January.

Thank you all for your careful consideration of your financial support of our church.
Your Finance Team: Star Bright, Jennifer Fais, Bruce Graf

On August 23rd, our
Congregation
welcomed two new
members; **Louis and
Jane Kolowski.**

Pastor Henry led
Children's Moment,
on his Sermon; "More
Than Words." The kids
enjoyed the
message along with
the adults.

Follow us



@OfficeUCCCorning



@FCUCCC



@corningucc





"The Caller"

is published by the First
Congregational United
Church of Christ
171 West Pulteney Street
Corning, NY 14830

*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.

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.



Sunday Service

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

Contact us

Pastor: Rev. Henry Pascual
e-mail: pastor@corningucc.org

Church Phone: (607)962-7423
E-mail: office@corningucc.org
Web: www.corningucc.org
Facebook.com/FCUCCC
Instagram: @corningucc
Admin Assistant: Charlette Smith
Choir Director: Mike Flanagan
Keyboardist: Melody Flanagan



Nursery

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