



Musings along the way

By Pastor Henry

Dear Friends,
As June begins, the sanctuary's altar cloths and the pastor's stole turn green, marking the start of the second period of Ordinary Time. This season, lasting until Advent, isn't "ordinary" because it is mundane. Instead, it refers to the "ordinal numbers" used to name and count the Sundays (such as the Fifth Sunday

after Epiphany). This term comes from the Latin ordinalis, meaning "numbered" and tempus ordinarium, "measured time."

Beyond a mere counting, it is a season of growth, when the seeds of faith planted throughout the previous liturgical seasons take root in daily life.

Church Teams

June Special Mission
Faith in Action STNY

Page 3

Message from

The Worship, Music and
Faith Formation Teams

Page 5

Application information

Ruth Ann Hooey/Ruth
Burritt Scholarships

Pages 6-7

As the weather warms, our rhythm naturally changes. Sunday mornings may feel emptier as families travel, visit loved ones, or head to the lake. It is tempting to view this shift as a slowdown, but I invite you to see it as holy rest. We often associate worship with a flurry of activity—singing, praying, serving, and doing. Yet, intentional rest is a spiritual practice as well. It honors the Creator who rested on the seventh day (Gen. 2:2-3) and expresses trust in divine providence.

Whether staying home or traveling this season, keep God at the center of your life. Pray on a morning walk. Meditate. Read scripture or a devotional. Pause to give thanks for a bright morning or a crimson sunset. Let this green season of Ordinary Time renew your spirit.

Yours for the journey,
Pastor Henry

...”the Creator
who rested on
the seventh day
(Gen. 2:2-3)”...



ALTAR FLOWERS FOR WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

Northside Floral that has provided our altar flowers for many years, has closed their business on Friday, May 22nd. Starting June 1, 2026, the altar flowers for our weekly worship service will be ordered from House of Flowers on Market Street. The costs for regular weekly flowers will now be \$35.00. It will also be great if you would like to give an altar arrangement from your garden. There are many Sundays available during summer and fall. If you do plan to bring the flowers please note you will be furnishing when you sign up.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Many thanks to everyone for giving flowers for our worship services.
Joyce Nelson, **Flower Committee**

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



Midday Fellowship

The June Midday Fellowship Meeting will be held Wednesday June 10th, at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall.

Please bring a Bag Lunch along with tissue paper and sharp scissors. We will be making colorful flower “kits” for the Pride Festival, so people can make pretty headbands, bracelets, etc. We will also be discussing our Fall Sale in September.

June Special Mission: Faith in Action STNY

You might recall this name: Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program, Faith in Action STNY's origins dating back to 1995 when a group of dedicated community members in the Hornell area launched this non-profit with the help of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant. Today this non-profit serves the 60+ population in all of Steuben and Chemung counties with a compassionate team of 80 volunteers (thoroughly back-ground checked and trained.)Its mission? Aging in Place! All services are free of charge!

Services provided include transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores, the hairdresser, and the usual errand stops; light housework and yard work; minor home repairs; and friendly visiting. Last year 3265 services were provided to 493 clients. Miles driven: 29,194. Because transportation is such a challenge in our area, this service has the greatest demand. A Faith in Action volunteer driver might even be available for a medical trip as far away as Rochester or Sayre and will bring you safely home.

Faith in Action STNY is funded in partnership with United Way, Steuben County Office for the Aging, and Chemung County Department of Aging and Long-Term Care. Additional funding is provided by various dedicated faith entities and civic groups, grants, fund raisers, and individual donations. Revenue is a continuing need for this important organization to remain strong and to meet the needs of our growing aging population. Thank you for your interest in and support of Faith in Action STNY!

To donate through our Church, please note FIASTNY on the memo line of your check written to FCUCC. For online donations: www.corningucc.org/give
For more information online, please enjoy Faith in Action's updated website www.fiaSTNY.com. Or call 607-324-1138 or 607-936-0941.

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June Birthdays



3rd- Kristen Bennitt

8th - Christine McGrew

10th - Grace Cooper

Jeff Nelson

18th - Nicholas Reif

20th - Raymond Ignaszewski
Darlene Schieber

22nd - Owen Watson

23rd - Rachel Hageman

26th - Maria Quintal

27th - Pauline Lewis

June is Pride Month! Southern Finger Lakes (SoFLX) Pride is once again celebrating in Corning with its 7th annual downtown street festival on Saturday, June 13th from 11am-5pm.

Our church will have a table presence with relevant literature, give-a-ways, and fun flower making crafts. This year's festival theme is **We Bloomed Anyway**. Please be proud that we are a festival sponsor! Come brightly dressed, as we join in this festive celebration of gender diversity, inclusion, love and support of one another and our increasingly vulnerable neighbors!

If you would like to help at our table, please see the posted sign-up! There is also a **Bloom Under the Moon** dance party from 6-9pm in Centerway Square on Friday, June 12th. All are welcome!



Strengthen the Church

This year's 5 for 5 "Strengthen the Church" theme is Sent Forth in Love. This past May offering "reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to build up the UCC cooperatively. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

You build up the Body of Christ with your generosity to this offering."

In June, \$200 will be sent to the NY Conference as our budgeted contribution which reflects our Church's collective generosity. **Thank you!**

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!

Lenten Worship Experiment

As you may recall during Lent our Church explored a change in the order of the Sunday Service. The purpose of the change was to address an idea/concern from a church member to create a quieter environment conducive to deep reflection, prayer and appreciation of the music; so important to many people during the more somber season of Lent. Suggestions included encouraging silence during the prelude, moving greetings and conversations into the Narthex, and using bulletin notes to raise awareness about maintaining a more contemplative atmosphere.

In response, church leadership and ministry teams held several discussions to consider the

concerns and possible solutions. Conversations highlighted the need to balance reverence and reflection with the congregation's long-standing culture of warmth, fellowship, and accessibility. Concerns were also raised about how changes might affect worshipers who are hard of hearing and whether requesting quieter conversation or preferred seating could unintentionally create discomfort or stigma.

Several ideas were considered, including beginning quiet time once the prelude starts, repositioning ushers to reduce back-of-sanctuary noise, and experimenting with a more reflective order of worship during Lent. Feedback from the congregation showed

appreciation for the quieter atmosphere but also strong support for maintaining opportunities for fellowship before worship.

Ultimately, the Worship and Music Team decided to return to the traditional order of worship while recognizing the value of thoughtful experimentation, open dialogue, and collaborative decision-making within our Church. We value each one of our members and welcome ideas, suggestions and the sharing of concerns.

Respectfully Yours,
The Worship, Music and Faith Formation Teams: Jennifer Fais, Joyce Nelson, Judy Garrett and Maria Quintal; Beth Briggs and Mike Flanagan; Chris Wilken and Judy Graf

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee **thanks** everyone who has signed up for a position for the **2026-2027 Program Year!**

We still have the following positions that need to be filled:

Assistant Moderator – The Assistant Moderator fulfills the duties of the Moderator in the latter's absence and is a member of the Administrative Board. The Assistant Moderator may serve on other Ministry Teams. This position has a maximum of two consecutive terms. The traditional view is that the Assistant Moderator is in training to be Moderator.

In addition to this Board position, the **Personnel Ministry Team** is understaffed, could use another elected member.

Thank you for considering being a part of church leadership! Please contact Nominating Committee members Judy Graf (607) 368-7178 or Maria Quintal (607) 684-0766 to discuss any of these positions.

	<p>Join us ... @ Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon Pine Creek Rail Trail for an outing of cycling, hiking, walking or just sitting in a lawn chair enjoying the gorgeous scenery, colors, and Spring air.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>When? Saturday June 20th 2:30-5:30pm (Sunday June 21st rain date) Hot dog picnic and refreshments at 4:30pm</p> <p>Who? Everyone is invited - an emphasis on "bring the kids or grandkids."</p> <p>Where? We will meet at the Northern access point "Darling Run" just south of Ansonia (a little west of Westboro - google maps for directions) There are bathrooms and picnic tables.</p>
<p>Bring What? Your own water, snacks, warm clothes, if necessary, bikes, hiking shoes and/or lawn chair. Depending on need, a trailer will be available to transport bicycles. Carpooling is encouraged.</p> <p>Contact Who? Signup sheet posted outside the Kitchen. Call Tom Wilkinson at 607-316-2504 to arrange a ride or for more information</p> <p>Rain Date? Sunday June 21st</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sponsored by the Church Family Life Ministry Team</i></p>	

Ruth Ann Hooey/Ruth Burritt Scholarships

Applications for the Ruth Ann Hooey/Ruth Burritt Scholarships are now available on the Church website, corningucc.org. Completed applications should be emailed by July 4, 2026, to margokbrown1940@gmail.com. Scholarships will be awarded to members of the Church family of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Corning, NY.

The Scholarship Committee will receive applications and consider personal goals, financial need, academic performance, and service to school, church, and community in awarding the scholarships.

The Scholarship Committee solicits applications from those participants in the Church family who are beginning or continuing their study at an accredited institution, e.g., two-or-four-year colleges, technical schools, business or nursing schools, or graduate work. Individuals undertaking retraining activities, part-time, or full-time, are invited to apply. Students may apply if they are already in college/university and if they have applied in the past.

The scholarship will be paid directly to the student(s).
All candidates will be informed by July 15, 2026, as to their status regarding the scholarships.

**Thank you,
Scholarship Committee**

First Congregational Church of Christ, Corning, NY

Ruth Ann Hooley/Ruth Burritt Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

School you will/or currently attend _____

How do you plan to finance your education

High School GPA, or if in college, your most recent grades

Community/Volunteer/Church activities

School activities, such as Clubs, Organizations, Sports

How has the Church influenced your life or your educational choices (200 words or less, use a separate sheet of paper if needed)

What do you consider the role of the Church in our current society?

Please email by Noon, Sunday, July 4, 2026, to margokbrown1940@gmail.com. If you have any questions, feel free to email.

Thank you,
Margo Brown, Judy Garrett, and David Lambert; Scholarship Committee



**2026
BLAIR-BIGLER-
PERRY CONCERT**

FEATURING

**CORNING BRASS WORKS
&**

THREE RIVERS JAZZ BAND

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2 PM

**FREE ADMISSION
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
171 W PULTENEY STREET, CORNING
WWW.CORNINGUCC.ORG**





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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.

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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Instagram: @corningucc
Admin Assistant: Charlette Smith
Choir Director: Mike Flanagan

