

# The Caller

## April 2016

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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#### Pastor Marraïne's Musings ~

As a lifelong member of the United Church of Christ, I am continually thankful for the network of the wider church that makes mission and ministry of the progressive church possible on local, national, and global levels. One of the great blessings of our denomination is that we are in partnership with the wider church who makes us greater than the sum of its parts. The wider church nurtures us, resources us, and embraces us the wider Body of Christ called to be bold and put our faith into action.

It seems that April 2016 is a banner month to be involved in the wider United Church of Christ. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities so that you can reaffirm your relationship with the denomination on a wider level. April 15<sup>th</sup> an installation service for the new General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ will be held at Riverside Church in New York City. April 23<sup>rd</sup> our Susquehanna Association Spring Meeting will be held at Homer Congregational United Church of Christ featuring a "Sacred Conversations on Race" with two phenomenal leaders from the UCC. April 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> the New York Conference Women's Annual Retreat will be held at Watson Homestead. Please join me for any of these events be it a bus ride to NYC, a road trip to Homer, or a short trek just up Route 415.

Also of note is that this year's New York Conference Annual meeting is in Rochester in June. It is close enough to come for part or all of the weekend. It is a valuable way to network with people from across the conference and to learn more about the denomination as a whole.

And finally, our very own youth will be attending the UCC National Youth Event in July. They have all been steeped in the UCC for most of their lives and are all looking forward to experiencing the gifts of the denomination on a national level. Indeed, the deacons offering for April will go to support their journey.

Please consider taking part in your own journey of the wider United Church of Christ through any of the opportunities listed here that you also may expand your vision and experience in the denomination.

*Blessings and honor, glory and power be unto you.*

*Pastor Marraïne*



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

*No matter who you are  
or where you are on life's  
journey, **you are welcome here!!***



#### Office hours:

Tuesday– Friday. 9:00 a.m. - noon

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Facebook.com/FCUCCC

**Pastor:** Rev. Marraine C. Kettell

**Secretary:** Brenda Passmore

## BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.  
Forgive often. **Reject racism.**  
**Fight for the powerless.**  
Share earthly and spiritual resources.  
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*

## Dates to Remember:

"Spotlight" Movie Night	April 6
"Selma" Movie Night	April 7
Make-Ahead Meals Group	April 7
Spaghetti Dinner	April 9
Called to Care	April 12
Women's Fellowship	April 13
Aging in Place	April 21
Blair- Bigler Concert	May 22

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

## Notes from the Deacons



Thanks to your generosity, we were able to contribute \$518 to Habitat for Humanity in March. In addition, our budgeted amount of \$1200 has been forwarded to the Salvation Army and \$1200 has been forwarded to the Corning Community Food Pantry.

April 10<sup>th</sup> is our next time to cook and serve at the Salvation Army kitchen. If you are interested in helping, please contact Tom Wilkinson. This is a very rewarding way to be part of the mission of our church, and you can volunteer to shop or to cook and serve in the kitchen for a few hours.

We are grateful for Jennifer Fais, Noel Sylvester and Tom Wilkinson for their concentrated efforts to create an up-to-date directory for us! Talk with them to be sure you are included.

Also in April, we will be donating the deacons' offering to help defray expenses for our youth to attend the UCC youth conference in Florida. We have six active teens and we are very thankful for the many contributions they have made to the life of our church. We want them to know that we are proud of the Christian adults they are becoming. We hope the national experience with others of our faith will help them grow on their spiritual journeys.

For the Deacons, Star Bright

## Office hours

### Office Hours:

Church Office: Brenda is in the office Tues.-Fri. 9am-12pm.

Pastor Marraine: **Monday:** quiet sermon, worship preparation.

**Tuesday-Thursday:** Available for appointments and visits.

**Friday and Saturday:** Days off unless there is a church event.

Accessible by cell phone at 607-368-6131. Please avoid calling before 9am or after 9pm unless it is an emergency.

(No home phone – there is a phone number in the local phone book and on [whitepages.com](http://whitepages.com) that is still listed from a cable package in 2010, but has never been connected.)

## Church Governance Study Update

In the 2015 Annual Report Advisory reported that:  
*... in 2016 Advisory will continue its efforts to define a long-term solution for our governance structure that will make sense for our church's size, mission, vision, and long-term goals. We envision this as a process similar to the Open and Affirming process, where we have a small working group that studies alternative structures and holds communication meetings and workshops with the congregation as needed. Since we've already done some of this work informally, we expect to have a new structure to propose for 2017.*

At our March Advisory meeting, we discussed how we should proceed with the governance study and came up with an overall Statement of Purpose as follows:

*.....We will propose and implement a more effective, efficient, and sustainable leadership structure in order to enhance & enliven the spiritual life of the church.*

How will we do this? We will start with a close review of the output of our past workshops, interviews, and congregational feedback to discern the specific meanings of the words "effective, efficient, and sustainable." We will then review 10-12 governance models of other churches in terms of fit with those criteria and our church's size and demographics. Then, we will pick the top few models (for broad overall structure) & specific implementation ideas for future review. We anticipate reaching out to some of these other churches to gain personal insight into what has worked and what hasn't, possibly scheduling a visit there or hosting their leaders in Corning. Then, we will draft a proposal for a new structure and implementation plan.

We will create opportunities for dialog with the congregation at every step of the way, and include articles in the Caller, posters in Fellowship Hall, printed items in bulletins or narthex, etc. We will also hold Open Forums held after each major step. The first one is scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup> (Pentecost) after church. This will include the timeline of the overall process, discussion of our goal statement and give an opportunity to agree on how church models should be evaluated. As always, Advisory meetings are open to all church members, so people who want to hear more or directly participate are always welcome to attend. Usually we meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 PM, but our April Advisory meeting is scheduled for April 13 due to several conflicts with the regular date.

Respectfully submitted, Advisory Committee  
 (Star Bright, Jeff DeMeritt, Jennifer Fais, Marraine Kettell, Tom Kowalik, Jim Nelson, Laurelyn Simons, Jill VanDewoestine, Pam Walker)

## Trustee's Report

Trustees are looking into secure, safe alternate investments for funds for which we do not have immediate needs. Currently these are in money market with nearly zero return. We have three alternatives we are evaluating.

Trustees approved supporting, as a loan, the youth conference travel plans for this summer.

Capital planning is looking at the Brisco Lounge upgrade for an interior project and the parking area this summer as an outside project.

## Called to Care Class

Do you enjoy visiting people? Want to learn a little more about visiting in the context of pastoral care? Pastor Marraine is scheduling another class to begin Tuesday, April 12th at 6pm before board meetings. The class will last for six weeks. It would be wonderful to add more people to the caring team.



## Community Office Hours

Pastor Marraine will be at Soulful Cup  
**Tuesday, April 26th, 9-11a.m. and**  
**Wednesday, April 27th, 3-5pm.**



*Come by for a warm drink and a visit. Bring a friend or colleague to meet her!*

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thank you to all who contribute prayer shawls. They really brighten people's days in moments of discomfort. Pictured are Matt H's toes under his prayer shawl after his appendix surgery in March.







## Youth Group

Thanks for the flowers!



The Youth Group thanks everyone who contributed to the tulip sale with pots and purchases! It was our biggest fundraiser to date. Over \$400 was raised toward our trip to National Youth Event to Disney World in July.

### Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

The Youth Group will serve spaghetti dinner at the church  
Saturday, April 9th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
\$5.00 includes dinner with dessert and water/tea/coffee.  
\$1.00 for soda. Invite your friends and join us!

### SPAGHETTI DINNER



## Music

### "33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Blair-Bigler Concert"

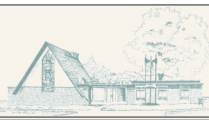
The First Congregational United Church of Christ, Corning is hosting its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Blair-Bigler concert, featuring Pat Kane and West O'Clare, at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 22. This concert is free and the public is invited. Free childcare is provided.

The Blair-Bigler Concert series is funded through generous bequests and donations made to the First Congregational United Church of Christ with the intent to offer free annual musical performances for the community. This year's performance includes jigs, reels, square dances, and ballads from Ireland and America.

### April Birthdays

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Andrew Barber	20 <sup>th</sup>	Pam Schmitt
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christian Bratti	21 <sup>st</sup>	Maxwell Joseph
4 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Walker		Jennings
11 <sup>th</sup>	Marraine Kettell	21 <sup>st</sup>	Matthew Hageman
12 <sup>th</sup>	Cathy Hogan	24 <sup>th</sup>	Todd Smith
13 <sup>th</sup>	Casey Davis	24 <sup>th</sup>	Nina Howard
14 <sup>th</sup>	Carole Fimlaid	26 <sup>th</sup>	Tess Barber
16 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Graf	28 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Carpenter





## Church Events

### Make-Ahead Meals

The Make-Ahead Meals Cooking Group will prepare Cottage Pie and Biscuit-Crusted Egg Pie in the church kitchen on

Thursday, April 7, at 10:30 am.

The purpose of Make-Ahead Meals is to enjoy fellowship, to gain cooking skills, and to take home nutritious entrees to reheat. No cooking experience is required. Required reservations are due by Wednesday, April 6. Contact Patricia Kapusta at 279-6849 to register or for more information.



### Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

The Youth Group will serve spaghetti dinner at the church

Saturday, April 9th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

\$5.00 includes dinner with dessert and water/tea/coffee.

\$1.00 for soda.

*Invite your friends and join us!*



## Women's Fellowship

### Women's Fellowship Meeting

Wednesday, April 13 at 11:30 AM.

The speaker will be Lucille Gorton talking about Rachel Carson author of the book "Silent Spring" Please bring a bag lunch.

*All women of the church are welcome.*

The Chemung Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

### Annual Member's Recital

Sunday April 17, 2016 4:00 PM

The Park Church, 208 W. Gray Street Elmira, NY.

Performers will be: Judy Aho, Barbara Garges, Claude Cornwall, David Jackson, Julia Peckham and Dan LaBar. Admission is Free. A free will offering will be taken.

Submitted By: Elizabeth Briggs Secretary Chemung Valley AGO  
101 Columbia Street Apt. 415 Corning, NY, phone: 607-377-5363



The First Congregational United Church  
of Christ, Corning presents...

# Pat Kane and West O'Clare



## **Annual Blair-Bigler Concert**

Sunday May 22, 3:00 p.m.  
171 W. Pulteney St. Corning  
Free admission  
Refreshments following  
Child care available



Admit One

Admit One

# Movie Nights

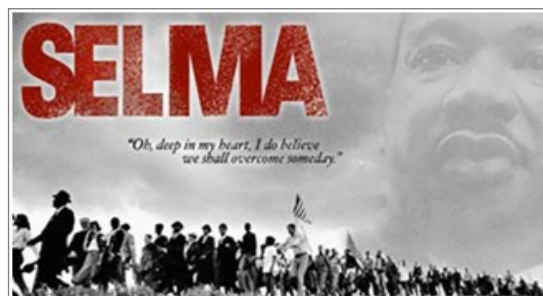
"Spotlight" Discussion – April 6<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm

*"The true story of how the Boston Globe uncovered the massive scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese, shaking the entire Catholic Church to its core."*



"Selma" Discussion – April 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm

*"A chronicle of Martin Luther King's campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965."*



## Photo Gallery

*NY State Youth Event*



*Troy Preston from  
Christ Episcopal Church*

*Stations of the City  
Good Friday, March 25th*





# UCC News



## New York Women of the United Church of Christ 2016 Annual Conference

**Thursday, April 28th, Friday, April 29th & Saturday, April 30th**  
**WATSON HOMESTEAD, 9602 Dry Run Road, Painted Post, NY 14870**

### **Daily Sub-themes:**

***Thursday: “God Calls Us”, Friday: “God Changes Us, Saturday: “God Uses Us”***

**Keynote Speaker & Preacher:** **Rev. Marraine Kettell** - *NY Conference Coordinator of Local Church Ministries and Pastor of First Congregational Corning UCC*

**Sacred Conversation on Race:** **Rev. Dr. Marsha William** - *Associate Conference Minister for Clergy and Authorized Ministry Concerns for the New York Conference.*

**Bible Studies:** **Rev. Jan Mahle**

### **Worship Leaders:**

Opening Worship – Thursday evening, April 28 – Pastor Susan Fast

Healing Service – Friday evening, April 29 – Rev. Brenda McCutcheon

Closing Worship - Saturday morning, April 30 – Joanne Nugent-Ward

### **Workshops:**

The Joy of Photography - Bonnie Connolly

The Green Bible – Pastor Susan Fast

A Time for Every Matter Under Heaven (*Loss, Transition, Change*) Pastor Joanne Lanfear

Starting Homeless Ministries in Your Church – Kimberly Everett

**Choir Director:** Rev. Dr. Ann Van Cleef

**Pianist/Accompanist:** Ms. Janet Herman

***For more information contact: Melva Victorino – [melva130@optonline.net](mailto:melva130@optonline.net)***

***For registration contact Sue Frost – [uccnywomen@gmail.com](mailto:uccnywomen@gmail.com)***

**KEEP IN MIND.....**For those who would love to attend but have a busy schedule and aren't able to commit for the entire weekend....there is a Friday only commuter rate of \$45 including meals!

Sacred Conversations about Race at the Susquehanna Association of the NY Conference UCC Spring Meeting

**Saturday, April 23, 2016 9am-4pm at First Congregational United Church of Christ Homer**

All members of the association clergy and laity are warmly invited to join the conversation featuring NY Associate Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams and Rev. Dominique Atchison who has done work with the CT Conference and the NY Conference. Registration begins at 8:30.

Just \$8 per person (includes coffee breaks and lunch).

*Please consider this opportunity to network with other people of faith and address the ways we can better live into God's gift of diversity in our churches and communities.*



We will car pool from our church parking lot.  
 Head out a little earlier and join Pastor Marraine for breakfast at the Ithaca Bakery.



## UCC shares open invitation to Dorhauer Installation in three-city service

*(Excerpts taken from article written by A.Moujaes)*

**Three locations.  
Three preachers at each service.  
An extravagant welcome  
to all who would like to attend.**

The Rev. John C. Dorhauer will be formally installed as the United Church of Christ's ninth general minister and president during a three-city worship service in mid-April. The three events, scheduled on April 15 in New York City, April 16 in Chicago and April 17 in Seattle, will include a trio of UCC pastors and leaders who have been invited to offer three brief "vision statements" at each worship location.



But as organizers point out, these three services are not just about the installation of one person; rather they are planned as a pivotal moment for the future and mission of the denomination. That's why everyone in the wider church is welcome to attend any of the three events or watch the proceedings online.

Installation planners also point out that the church is not centered in Cleveland where the national setting is located. "We are called to serve the wider setting," Dorhauer said. "Having this in three cities represents something symbolic — that we are all in this together — and allows us to open this amazing moment up to more people."

"One of the things about the Installation I am most excited about is this: instead of one preacher, we have nine voices sharing with us their vision of what a renewed and vital mission for the United Church of Christ looks like," Dorhauer said. "Each of them sees something different. We will leave this experience with a variety of voices having lifted up for us an inspiring, hopeful, and challenging vision. That has me very excited."

The Riverside Church in Manhattan, New York City, Trinity United Church of Christ on Chicago's South Side, and Plymouth Church United Church of Christ in downtown Seattle are the host congregations on April 15, 16 and 17. All three services will feature music by Mark A. Miller, the minister of music at Christ Church (a UCC and American Baptist Church) in Summit, N.J., who was commissioned for the occasion.

"It emerged out of conversations that John had with members of the UCC Board, and he sought from them wisdom on how to do this installation — how to conceive it and engage lots of people. Out of that conversation, this idea of a progressive service emerged," Blain said. "We will begin the celebration with greetings and welcoming guests at each location, covenanting and laying on of hands in New York and Chicago. We'll bring in communion offerings in New York with bread, and in Chicago with juice. In Seattle, we will bring the process to a formal conclusion, where people can partake in communion."

Dorhauer and his predecessor, former general minister and president the Rev. Geoffrey Black, will lead communion.

"Rather than envisioning three separate services in three locations, imagine that this weekend lifts up a single three-part continuing installation service celebrated in three regional locations across the country, a service that begins in New York, continues in Chicago, and culminates in Seattle," said Williams. "This is symbolic of a belief in God's continuing testament and affords a fresh invitation for the UCC to celebrate and live out a united and uniting UCC — a people of possibility."



# Community Events



Muds & Suds  
Saturday, May 7, 2016  
10:00am 2:00pm



A Family-Fun Day for children ages 5 to 12. This is a child friendly, age appropriate, non-competitive event to bring children together for some of their favorite Spring things: Being Active, Being Outside and Getting Dirty!

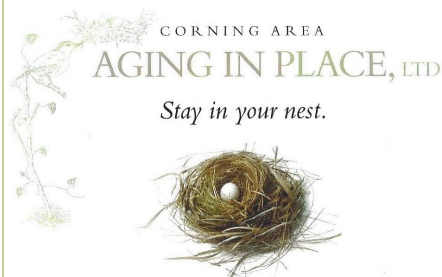
The Getting Dirty Obstacle Course is designed to give children over and under fun - wet, dry, slippery and some parts filled with mud! Other challenges will include soap suds, bubbles, slippery slide and athletic whimsies. Parents will be responsible for the getting clean part, so bring towels and a set of clean clothes, plus swim suits for the whole family to enjoy our heated swimming pool afterward. The fabulous fun kicks off with the first wave of 25 starting at 10 a.m. Additional waves will follow every ten minutes as needed.



All participants receive a t-shirt, participation ribbon and a picnic lunch: hamburger or hotdog, chips, watermelon, cookie & drink. Spectators are welcome and additional lunch tickets can be purchased for \$5 with child's registration. Cost is \$20 per child prior to May 1st and \$25 after May 1st. To register or for more information, contact Watson Homestead at 607-962-0541 or [whomestead@stny.rr.com](mailto:whomestead@stny.rr.com). For directions, go to our website at [www.watsonhomestead.com](http://www.watsonhomestead.com).

## Aging in Place Thursday, April 21st, 10am

Want to know more about a reverse home mortgage? The next Aging in Place discussion features Davis Walsh speaking about common misconceptions as well as specifics about what homeowners need to know to evaluate the potential value. Join us here at First Congregational UCC for this enlightening conversation.



## Spring Book Sale

*Sponsored by  
Friends of the Library*






**Beginning  
Saturday, April 30th,  
9am—7pm**

East Corning Fire Hall  
11873 E. Corning Road, Corning, NY





# April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am	2  7:00pm AA
3 10:00am Worship & Communion  4pm Ev Spir. Group 5-7pm Youth Group 5:30pm Strings 7:00pm Brassworks	4 Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am	5  Deacon's Mtg. 7:00pm	6 Movie Night 6:30pm	7 Make Ahead Meals 10am  6:00pm Bells 7:00 AA 7:15pm Choir  Movie Night 6:30pm	8 Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am	9 5-7pm Spaghetti Dinner  7:00pm AA
10 10:00am Worship Chris. Ed. Mtg.  5-7pm Youth Group 5:30pm Strings 7:00pm Brassworks	11 Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am	12 Called to Care 6:00pm  Trustee's Mtg. 7:00pm	13 Women's Fellowship 11:30 am  Advisory Mtg. 7:00pm	14  6:00pm Bells 7:00 AA 7:15pm Choir	15 Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am	16  7:00pm AA
17 10:00am Worship  5-7pm Youth Group 5:30pm Strings 7:00pm Brassworks	18 Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am  Nami 7:00pm	19 Called to Care 6:00pm 	20  	21 Aging in Place 9am-noon  6:00pm Bells 7:00 AA 7:15pm Choir	22 Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am  	23  7:00pm AA
24 10:00am Worship  5-7pm Youth Group 5:30pm Strings 7:00pm Brassworks	25 Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am	26 Called to Care 6:00pm  Community Office Hours at Soulful Cup 9-11am 	27 Movie Night 6:30pm  Community Office Hours at Soulful Cup 3-5pm 	28  6:00pm Bells 7:00 AA 7:15pm Choir	29 Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am	30  7:00pm AA



First Congregational United Church of Christ  
171 West Pulteney Street  
Corning, NY 14830



# The Caller

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**First Congregational**  
**United Church of Christ**

