

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.

The CALLER February 2019



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EVOLUTION SUNDAY • February 10

The Epic of Evolution is the biggest of all pictures, the narrative context for all our thinking about who we are, where we have come from, and how we should live. It is the ultimate account of how things are, and it is therefore the essential foundation for discourse about which things matter. The more we learn about the Epic of Evolution, the more we are motivated to repay the generosity of the past by seeding hope for the future. ~

Loyal Rue, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Religion, Luther College



February 12 is the birthday of the British naturalist Charles Darwin. During his lifetime, many people believed the rich variety of creatures on Earth were all created by God “In the beginning...” Darwin presented a new explanation for the tremendous variety of life on our Earth when he published his book *Origin of the Species* on which he worked for over twenty years before its publication in 1859. Darwin hesitated because he knew his work would be a problem for devout Christians because it contradicted Bible teachings.

Even today, there are those who would say science has taken all the mystery out of our lives and eternal questions have simply been replaced by facts. At the same time, there are those who say our spiritual lives can be reborn with a story that celebrates the knowledge known for the first time in almost 14 billion years. Celebrating Evolution Sunday is an opportunity to acknowledge the former and explore the wonder of the latter.

Evolution Sundays began fourteen years ago with a simple question *Can a Christian believe that the timeless truths of the Bible and the discoveries of modern science may comfortably coexist?*

Come to church on February 10, bring a friend whom you feel might be interested in a church that discusses topics like science and evolution and plan to stay for the talkback immediately following worship. Our goal is to provide a safe space for these questions to be asked and explored.

Peace,



"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:

Tues./Thurs./Fri.: 9:00 a.m. - noon

Phone: (607)962-7423

E-mail: office@corningucc.org

Web: www.corningucc.org

Facebook.com/FCUCCC

Supply Pastor: Rev. Gary McCaslin

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:

<i>Love Thy Neighbor</i>	<i>February 9</i>
<i>Evolution Sunday</i>	<i>February 10</i>
<i>Bampa's House Speaker</i>	<i>February 10</i>
<i>Women's Fellowship</i>	<i>February 13</i>
<i>Small Group Dinner</i>	<i>February 15</i>
<i>Amanda - Speaker</i>	<i>February 19</i>
<i>Jazz Sunday</i>	<i>March 3</i>
<i>Pancake Supper</i>	<i>March 5</i>



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



TWO QUOTES to PONDER ~

Tell me a creation story more wondrous than that of a living cell forged from the residue of exploding stars. Tell me a story of transformation more magical than that of a fish hauling out onto land and becoming amphibian, or a reptile taking to the air and becoming bird, or a mammal slipping back into the sea and becoming whale. Surely this science-based culture of all cultures can find meaning and cause for celebration in its very own cosmic creation story.

Connie Barlow, award winning science writer

To be alive in this beautiful, self-organizing Universe ~ to participate in the dance of life with senses to perceive it, lungs that breathe it, organs that draw nourishment from it ~ is a wonder beyond words.

Joanna Macy, environmental activist and Buddhist scholar



Office hours

Office Hours:

Church Office: Brenda is in the office Tu./Th./Fri. 9am-12pm

Emergency Number: (607)438-2634

Evolution Shabbat
Saturday, February 9th at 9 a.m.

If you would like to see how Jewish congregants celebrate Evolution Weekend, please join Rev. Gary McCaslin and travel to Temple Kol Ami, 1008 West Water Street in Elmira for an Evolution Shabbat on Saturday, February 9th at 9 a.m.

Jewish Center & Federation

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9
9:00 AM**

**SHABBAT RUACH
EVOLUTION SHABBAT**

Guest Speaker

Dr. Sandra Michael
Distinguished Service Professor Emerita
Biological Sciences
Binghamton University

Lunch following the service

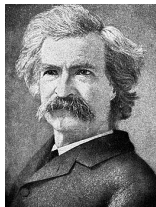
Congregation Kol Ami
1008 West Water Street
Elmira, NY 14905



**CORNING AREA
AGING IN PLACE**

Corning Area Aging in Place Meeting
Thursday, February 21st at 10 a.m.

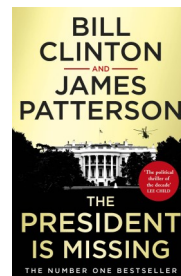
Jenny Monroe, arts educator, thespian by training, and Road Scholar Coordinator at Watson Homestead will present a collection of remembrances by local friends of Mark Twain. Monroe will challenge the audience with some trivial pursuits regarding the Langdon-Beecher-Clemens legacy in Elmira.



*Women's
Fellowship*

Women's Fellowship
**Wednesday February 13th,
11:30 a.m.**

Please bring a bag lunch.
Our program will be "Books Sandwiched In". The book is entitled "The President is Missing" by Bill Clinton and James Patterson. All women are invited!



Coming in March:

Sunday, March 3 Jazz Sunday, 10 a.m.
Christ Episcopal Church
Tuesday, March 5 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
Emanuel Lutheran Church

FUN FACT: Talking about Death will not kill you!

DEATH CAFÉ
CORNING, NY



TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2019

6:00 – 7:45pm

@ Carey's Brew House
58 Bridge Street
Corning NY 14830

**** FREE AND OPEN ****

At a DEATH CAFE people
~ who are often strangers ~
gather to share conversations about death.

The primary objective is
**to increase awareness of death
with a view to helping people make
the most of their finite lives.**

A Death Cafe is a group directed
discussion of death with no agenda
or themes. It is a discussion group rather
than a grief support or counselling session.



For further information contact
deathcafecorningny@gmail.com
or see **deathcafe.com**

Church Family Life



Small Group Dinner - Friday, February 15th at 6pm
Hosted by Tom Wilkinson & Mary Daly

9 Fox Lane West, Painted Post, NY

The purpose of the dinners is for congregation members and non-members to get to know each other better in a friendly, "home" atmosphere. They're open to everyone: married, single, widowed, divorced, married and spouse unable to attend, young, old, in-between...and if you would like to bring a guest, that's okay too! There is often an "after-dinner topic" for discussion. The dinner menu is simple, and the only obligation is to show. Transportation is available if needed. **(Bring a dessert if you would like - there's never too much dessert!)**

Mission and Outreach

February Offering

February 10th - worship speaker
Charlotte Dugan, Bampa's House

If you've heard the name Bampa's House and wondered what it is, Charlotte Dugan, a founding member, will speak at the beginning of worship on February 10.



Bampa's House is a Comfort Care Home providing an alternative to a traditional nursing home or a hospital. For those at the end of life, it provides care in a home-like setting and gives the resident's family and friends a break from the strain of providing care. The home on 170 East First Street is estimated to be open by this fall. There will be no charge to the resident or the family. This will be a two-bedroom home, whereas a Hospice House has more than two beds.

Tuesday, February 19th, 7 p.m.

Please plan to join us in Fellowship Hall to hear Amanda McCaslin speak about her many and varied experiences interacting and attempting to meet the needs of people in several countries.

Your Mission and Outreach Team: Star Bright, Gina Burdick, Evie Lewis, and Margo Brown

Love Thy Neighbor: A Ministry of Meals

February is a cold month when we could all use a little extra warmth. This February, we will be warming our friends and neighbors from within with a special meal ministry. We will make and deliver soup. Just before Valentine's Day, we want to reach out to all who make up our church family, especially those who cannot attend often or who might need a spiritual "lift," by delivering some warming soup, a message of friendship, and an offer of support.



Won't you join us in this ministry?

When: Saturday, February 9, starting at 10:00 am

What: Make and pack soup, add Valentine's Day cards and special messages, enjoy lunch together, deliver soup (beginning at 1:00 p.m.)

Other opportunities to help: If you can't join us on February 9, consider helping in one of these ways:

- Make a small donation to help purchase ingredients and supplies
- Offer to help shut-ins and older members with light handyman projects
- Be available to give rides to church to those who cannot drive
- Add names to our list of recipients. It is twenty-strong and growing.

To sign up, contact Pam Walker at pamwalker62@gmail.com. Help us show our love!



The complete slate of officers and team leaders is as follows:

Worship Team Leaders: Jan Kostolansky, Annie McCaslin
 Faith Formation Team Leaders: Chris Wilkin and Judy Graf
 Church Family/Community Life Team Leaders: Mary Daly, Tom Wilkinson, Dave Lambert
 Mission and Outreach Team Leaders: Star Bright, Margo Brown, Gina Burdick
 Facilities Team Leaders: Judy Garrett, Jim Nelson
 Administrative Support Team Members:
 Moderator: Pam Walker and Assistant Moderator: Jill VanDewoestine
 Clerk: Maria Quintal
 Treasurer: Jennifer Fais (ex officio)
 John Brown (Finance)
 Barbara Cooper
 Bruce Graf (Stewardship, Finance)
 Rachel Hofstetter (Personnel)
 Delegate to Susquehanna Association: John Sands



FCUCCC volunteer opportunities abound! Several of our Ministry Teams are looking for volunteers to help with special projects and ongoing activities:

- Sunday School teachers – Faith Formation would like two additional folks to help, for any class (Pre-K through 1st, 2nd-5th, and Middle School). All materials are provided, and the commitment is shared with current teachers. See [Chris Wilkin](#) for more details.
- Worship Team would welcome more folks to help with planning services and recruiting volunteers for liturgists. See [Jan Kostolansky](#) or [Annie McCaslin](#) for more information.
- Membership – the membership team would like some additional volunteers to help generate ideas for identifying and encouraging new attendees and members. See [Bruce Graf](#) or [Karen Madison](#) for more information.

African American Read-In of the Southern Tier

Looking for a way to connect with your community during the cold of February? The annual Black History Month Read-In starts on February 1st and goes through February 20th. Volunteers are needed to read books in



classrooms all over the Southern Tier. Learn about our country's history and spend time with kids, all at the same time! To learn more and sign up, visit www.readinsoutherntiery.com.



The Mailbag!

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the cookies. They were good. See you all soon.
Pat Iddings

December 31, 2018

Dear UCC church members,

I want to thank you for your very generous gift and for your continued support of my efforts to contribute to your worship service - it is my privilege to do so.

Sincerely, Eleanor Perry

Birthdays!



6 th	Ted Fellows
10 th	Victoria Hogan
12 th	Pam Walker
23 rd	Pat Smith
27 th	Patrick McGrew
28 th	Barbara Cooper
29 th	Abigail Copp

Dear Neighbor,

If you've ever heard our brass band perform, you've seen how much we believe in the power of working together, each playing an important part to create the greater good. **That's why we're so inspired by your wonderful gift of \$216.00.**

You are playing a big part in making our community a better place—helping children, hardworking neighbors, veterans, seniors, anyone here who needs a little help and something to believe in. Right now, your gift is easing someone's pain, transforming someone's life and answering someone's prayers.

Thank you for all you've shared, doing more good for more people in more ways.
With warm wishes and gratitude,

Captains Francisco and Wanda Rivera, Corps Officers
The Salvation Army, Steuben County



*It seems
that Grace
and Sylvia
got the
message for
appropriate
dress.*



Please mark your calendars because there will be **no worship service here at First Congregational UCC on Sunday, March 3rd.**
We will join our brothers and sisters in faith from Emanuel Lutheran and First United Methodist at Christ Episcopal for Jazz Sunday!



Please join us for

Jazz

SUNDAY

Featuring:
The Joe Cavallaro
Dixieland Band

MARCH 3
at 10a.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 calendar changes all the time, so please check our website www.corningucc.org under the Calendar/Events tab for the most up-to-date version.

Office UCC Corning, Administrative Support Team, Church Family & Community Life, Community Groups, Facilities, Faith Formation, Mission & Outreach, Music, Office, Worship, Pastor Marraine Public							Feb 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
27	28	29	30	31	1	2		
10am - Worship & 11am - Annual 5:30pm - God Squad 7pm - Brass Works	9am - Bone Builders	9am - Office Hours	12pm - Books 8pm - Choir 7pm - Women's	9am - Office Hours 6pm - AA @ Hall and 6pm - Bell Choir	9am - Office Hours 9:15am - Bone 1pm - Scottish	7pm - AA @ Hall,		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10am - Worship & 3pm - TGFE Thank 7pm - Brass Works	9am - Bone Builders 2pm - CAAIP Annual		12pm - Books 8pm - Choir 7pm - Parents With 7pm - Women's	9am - Office Hours 6pm - AA @ Hall and 6pm - Bell Choir	9am - Office Hours 9:15am - Bone	10am - Love Thy 7pm - AA @ Hall,		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
Mission Offering 10am - Worship & 7pm - Brass Works	9am - Bone Builders	9am - Office Hours	11:30am - Women's 12pm - Books 8pm - AA Business 8pm - Choir 7pm - Women's	9am - Office Hours 6pm - AA @ Hall and 6pm - Bell Choir	9am - Office Hours 9:15am - Bone 8pm - Small Group	7pm - AA @ Hall,		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
10am - Worship & 6pm - AA Board 7pm - Brass Works	9am - Bone Builders 7pm - Caregivers for	9am - Office Hours 7pm - Speaker Visit	8pm - Choir 7pm - Women's	9am - Office Hours 10am - Corning Area 6pm - AA @ Hall and 6pm - Bell Choir	9am - Office Hours 9:15am - Bone	7pm - AA @ Hall,		
24	25	26	27	28	1	2		
10am - Worship & 7pm - Brass Works	9am - Bone Builders 9am - Caller	9am - Office Hours	12pm - Books 8pm - Choir 7pm - Women's	9am - Office Hours 6pm - AA @ Hall and 6pm - Bell Choir	9am - Office Hours 9:15am - Bone 1pm - Scottish	7pm - AA @ Hall,		

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