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Please join us for this day of renewal, revitalization and..........  

- Swimming in Watson Homestead’s heated swimming pool
- Climbing the Edsall Climbing Tower - the 36 ft. high, three-sided climbing and rappelling tower is available for our enjoyment
- Meditating through the sacred labyrinth - the seven-circuit pattern is created out of creek stone and is located behind the pool building. Walking the labyrinth is a moving meditation engaging body, mind and spirit.
- Hiking the beautiful trails - take a hike or walk to a waterfall. The hiking trails at Watson Homestead are part of the Finger Lakes trail system!
- How about a round of Miniature Golf?
- A Cook-out & Potluck Dinner
- Closing Worship

All are welcome and encouraged to join us!
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
Phone:  (607)962-7423
E-mail:  ucc-corning@verizon.net
Web: www.corningucc.org
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:

Guest Preacher  May 7
Women’s Fellowship  May 10
All Church Retreat  May 20
Youth Sunday  May 21
Strengthen the Church  June 4
Blair Bigler Concert  June 11
Bi-annual Church Sale  Sept. 9

The deadline for submitting articles for “The Caller” is the 25th of each month.

Invest in the Vision
The Strengthen the Church Offering
Pentecost Sunday, June 4th

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the "church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking," message.

We will receive the STC offering
Pentecost Sunday,
June 4, 2017.

Office Hours:
Church Office: Brenda is in the office Tues.-Fri. 9am-12pm.
Tuesday-Thursday: Mornings in the office, appointments appreciated.
Friday and Saturday: Days off unless there is a church event.
Emergency Number: (607)438-2634
May 21st Youth Meetings

Middle School Youth: 5-7pm, dinner, fun, youth service debrief, and family discussion about confirmation 2017-2018

High School Youth: 7-9pm, a special dinner and evening celebration for outgoing seniors.

Church Office Updates
Are you receiving this newsletter via the US Postal Service but have an email address we could send it to? If so we would love to add it to our address book. It saves us postage, and you will receive The Caller on the day it’s published and in color!

How about your birthday? If we haven’t wished you a happy birthday in The Caller, chances are we don’t have it on file. Please call or e-mail Brenda in the office and let her know.

Has your address, phone number or e-mail changed? Please notify the office of any changes. How about college students? Do we have your campus address? Our records stay current only when you keep us updated of the changes.

Graduation News
Is anyone in your family graduating this year? Would you like to have it honored in The Caller? Please inform the office of who, with what, and from where so we can share the good news!

Community Office Hours
Pastor Marraine will be at Soulful Cup

Tuesday, May 16th, 9-11am
Wednesday, May 17th, 3-5pm

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

Our 2017 Flea & Farmers’ Market
Start sorting for the sale! We will begin collecting items at the church on Aug. 16th.
Please join the Advisory Committee on Sunday, May 21 after worship

We will have a working session to review more details on the 2017 Ministry Plan and our proposed new governance structure. We have been working on organizing church activities and structure into a more efficient, effective, and sustainable structure. We’re excited to hear your feedback on the work to date. We will be distributing discussion materials by email before the meeting and will have printed copies available as well. All are invited!

The Women’s Fellowship meeting in April -
Our women’s group heard a presentation about Full Circle America presented by Kate Patterson from Steuben Senior Services Fund.

From their website: “Full Circle America brings hope to many older individuals. FCA offers new choices and rebuilds community connections. Full Circle America supports elders living in the comfort of their own homes, living their lives to the fullest using technology, social networking, life management, and expansive volunteering.”

For more information reach out to Judy Garrett or consult their website http://fullcircleamerica.com/

Mark your calendar for June 15th when she will visit the Aging in Place meeting here at our church at 10am.

The Community Garden
From Judy Garrett-
“Thank you everyone who came out today [April 23rd] to help get things started. Special thanks to John Rector [of Emanuel Lutheran Church] for using his very clever roto-tiller to turn the soil and add the peat moss and manure. I think the Lutheran Church gets the prize for the most participants today.”

Interested in helping out with the garden?
Sign up for a week during the growing season to weed, water, and harvest.

Blair Bigler Concert June 11th, 4pm
The Women’s Chorale at 171 Cedar Arts
Laura Cooper and Rachel Hageman Go to Germany!

Laura will be a UCC delegate at the World Communion of Reformed Churches General Council (WCRC) in Leipzig from June 25-July 7, 2017. Laura will attend the Youth Gathering, which is the young adult pre-council, for the first few days. Our theme is "Living God, renew and transform us." We will discuss globalization, and its environmental and social impacts and how we can live in ways that benefit the Earth and each other. Here is a link to some more information! There have been three webinars so far and one more scheduled for May. The leader of the group is Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson. All travel, lodging, and meals are paid for by the organizations who invited her. For more information about the gathering, check out the website. http://wcrc.ch/gc2017/basics

Rachel Hageman was invited by the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ to participate in a two week trip to Germany to connect with our ecumenical partner, the EKHN (the Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau), to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther beginning the reformation.

They will be participate in an international youth conference in Wittenberg, Germany. The remaining time will be spent developing our relationship with the EKHN, the German church. To learn more about the EKHN visit their website, available in English at http://www.ekhn.de/meta/english.html

We’re still looking for a Faith Formation Coordinator—

The First Congregational United Church of Christ in Corning, NY family is ready to welcome an energetic, empathetic, and creative part-time Faith Formation (Christian Education) Coordinator to serve our church. We are seeking someone who can use their gifts to work with children and their families, to plan and organize curriculum and volunteers, and to communicate effectively through a variety of media. Our church is searching for an individual who will not just maintain our current level of programming, but help a thriving, progressive congregation grow. The average weekly commitment is six hours including roughly two hours most Sunday mornings. Job descriptions are available through Pastor Marraine. Letters of inquiry and resumes may be e-mailed to uccpastorcorning@gmail.com. Position is currently open; starting date ASAP.
May Worship Themes

May 7:  Mark 7:24-30 “Full Menu of Rights”  
       Rev. Loren McGrail, UCC Global Missionary, preaching

May 14: John 14:1-14; Theme – A House With Many Rooms

May 21: Philippians 4:4-9 Theme Transitions Youth / Children Sunday

May 28: John 17:1-11; Theme Witnesses to Hope

May 7th – Guest Preacher

We have the honor of welcoming the Rev. Loren McGrail to our pulpit on Sunday, May 7th following the UCCNY Women’s Retreat at Watson Homestead. Loren is a Global Ministries Missionary serving in Palestine. Learn more about Loren at http://www.globalministries.org/loren_mcgrail and her blog can be found at http://agarmentofdestiny.blogspot.com/.

From her blog: “I am a Christian minister sojourning in Israel and Palestine. I write about what I see, what I am wrestling with in my heart and soul hence my posts are both theological and political. I spent three months as an ecumenical accompanier and am now returning to be with and work with women. I identify with the story of Ruth and Naomi for I am a woman who has chosen to give up her home and travel to another land where I will be an outsider. I have chosen to live and work with the women of Palestine and Israel. I am following a God who has worked through many women before me including Miriam, Rachel, Sara, Leah, and Miryam of Nazareth. I am a pilgrim, a sojourner on a perpetual journey.”

Join us after worship for a presentation of her work at the YWCA in Palestine

May 21st Youth Sunday

Mark your calendars, bring your family, invite your neighbors. The Senior High Youth have planned worship for May 21st – including writing the liturgy. The Middle School Youth and Elementary school kids will all have parts in the service. Come join us for a fun filled service!
From the Mailbag....

On behalf of the Corning Community Food Pantry, the Board of Directors and the people we serve, we would like to thank you for the recent donation of $281 from the ecumenical Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Unfortunately, the need to assist our neighbors with food continues to be steady in our area. In 2016 we served nearly 26,000 individuals and distributed nearly 272,000 pounds of food. According to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier which serves Broome, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins Counties we are the #2 pantry in terms of people served, and we are #1 in Steuben County.

Please share our thanks with your congregation and also with the members of the other churches. We are grateful for the continued support of our mission.

Sincerely, Cheri Crozier

Dear Family and Friends,

John and I continue to be uplifted by your thoughts, prayers, kindness and support throughout my cancer journey. I am grateful to be home after a successful surgery, and just in time to enjoy the glorious spring weather! Recovery and adjustments to new routines will be gradual, but we are strengthened each day by your love and encouragement.

Much Love,
Kate and John

Thank you for attending First Congregational United Church of Christ!

Please accept our sincere thanks for volunteering your time with us here at the Food bank of the Southern Tier.

We appreciate your commitment to helping our neighbors in need. Each year, 1 in 4 Southern Tier residents receive services from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier – many of whom are children. Your contribution will have a far reaching and significant impact throughout the six counties we serve as we work to build and sustain hunger-free communities.

If you would like to know more about ways to help, please visit our website www.foodbankst.org and LIKE us on Facebook.

Questions? See our FAQ page at www.foodbankst.volunteerhub.com or call 607.796.6061 x4043.

We hope to see you again soon at the Food Bank!

Jen Burbank, Volunteer Coordinator

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3rd  Nathaniel Jennings  20th  Margo Brown
4th  Dave Lambert  20th  Bob Cooper
6th  Laurelyn Simons  22nd  Clara (Star) Bright
11th  Kaley Bennitt  24th  Jan Kostolansky
13th  Shauna Schieber  26th  John Brown
13th  Mira Simons  27th  Bonnie Grinnell
14th  Nadine Kohnke  27th  Michael Bratti
15th  Sue Roll  28th  Jill Palmer
16th  Matt Farwell  29th  Ed Reif
Holy Week Photo Gallery

Pizza & Palms - April 7th

Stations of the City - April 14th

Easter Sunday - April 16th

Pastor Marraine’s birthday cake!
New York Women of the United Church of Christ
2017 Annual Conference
Thursday, May 4th, Friday, May 5th & Saturday, May 6th
at Watson Homestead Conference and Retreat Center
9602 Dry Run Road, Painted Post, NY 14870
Rev. Loren McGrail, Keynote Speaker
For more information, please talk to Pastor Marraine or check this webpage:
http://www.uccny.org/ministries/women-of-ny-conference/

General Synod 31
June 30 - July 4, 2017 | Baltimore, MD
In June 2017, thousands from across the country (and abroad) will gather for General Synod 31 in Baltimore, Maryland. Together, we will discern resolutions of witness, church structure, and function. We will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness. And we will join together in worship each day to lift up the Stillspeaking God. http://synod.uccpages.org/
Abraham Path Walk - 6th Annual STIC Walk ~
Faiths Walking Together Celebrating the Three Abrahamic Faiths
**Sunday, May 14, 2017 @ 2:00 PM**

Walk begins at Congregation Kol Ami (1008 West Water St., Elmira);
Walk with someone of another faith/denomination to the The Park Church (208 W. Gray St., Elmira) …. 1.4 miles …. (water & Restroom) and then returns to Kol Ami….

Then participants are invited to a culminating reception at: The IAFL Islamic Center (62 Main St., Big Flats).

The Walk is based on the story of Abraham, a prophet common to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

**Contact:**
- Imam Zaman Marwat (Islamic Center), (607) 731-3858  *sufizaman@yahoo.com*
- Jenny Monroe (Park Church), (607) 738-5069  *jmonroe@stny.rr.com*
- Rabbi Oren Steinitz (Kol Ami), (607) 333-4400  *oren.steinitz@gmail.com*

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Organized & Sponsored by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition (STIC)

Support the 9th Annual **Steps To End Poverty in Steuben**
1 Mile Walk-a-thon
Saturday, May 20th
Centerway Square, Corning
Registration 9am, Walk begins 10am

Funds Raised Here Stay Here - 100% of proceeds benefit Turning Point poverty services, which serves all communities in Steuben County from Canisteo( Steuben County Rural Ministry), Hornell, Bath and Corning. You choose where the funds you raise go.

The United Church of Painted Post, North Hamilton Street, is having its **ANNUAL SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**
Friday, May 5, and Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
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