

THE CALLER

May 2015

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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"Where'd we find this guy?"

Rev. James K. Boodley

Now that Pastor Marraine is off on her adventure, I thought it might be helpful to tell you a bit about my own life / faith / career journey. As you've seen in the bulletins, I'm in Ithaca. I was born and raised there, went to Cornell, then began a career in advertising and promotion. After four years, a new job brought me to Binghamton where I worked in the promotion department at WSKG Public TV & Radio. There I created the station program guide as well as helped with the on-air pledge drives.

Another job brought me back to Ithaca after four years at WSKG, this time doing advertising and promotion for the Dow Jones marketing magazine, *American Demographics*. Downsizing came to AD in the mid-'90s and mine was one of five positions eliminated from the company. In talking about my new employment status with the minister of my home church, First Congregational Church of Ithaca, Rev. Doug Greene said, "J.K., I want you to go to seminary." "That's an interesting idea," I thought. Eventually, I enrolled in and graduated from Colgate Rochester Divinity School (CRDS) in Rochester. Someone from my church remarked, "Going from advertising to ministry must have been quite a change for you." "No, not really," I replied. "Now I have a better boss, a better product, and hopefully a really good long-term retirement plan." To make ends meet after AD, I had my own graphic design business. Even now, I tell folks, "If my sermons don't make sense, at least my bulletins look really good."

On graduating from CRDS, my first assignment was filling in for Rev. Leslie Smith at McLean Community Church for her summer sabbatical. That started the ball rolling for me to do intentional interim / sabbatical work, both in community churches and at Ithaca College. During that time, I was also the chaplain at Wells College in Aurora for four years and a volunteer on-call chaplain at Cayuga Medical Center (CMC) in Ithaca for ten. A colleague at IC once remarked, "Your time at WSKG had a huge effect on how you approach preaching." My interim work and my time at CMC had similar effects on how I do ministry. If my Sunday morning messages aren't memorable, then I'm wasting your time and mine. If my approach to ministry isn't sincere and straight-forward, then I'm wasting God's time.

This summer, my hope is that we'll do some good and memorable ministry together. Thanks in advance for helping to make that hope a reality.

Peace be with you,

J.K.



"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!!*



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Sabbatical Clergy: Rev. James K. Boodley

Secretary: Brenda Passmore



Dates to Remember:

<i>Roof Discussion</i>	<i>May 3</i>
<i>Women's Fellowship Mtg.</i>	<i>May 13</i>
<i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	<i>May 23</i>
<i>Roof Vote</i>	<i>June 7</i>
<i>Children's Sunday</i>	<i>June 14</i>
<i>Choir Sunday</i>	<i>June 21</i>
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	<i>Aug. 14-16</i>
<i>The Flea Market</i>	<i>Sept. 12</i>
<i>Anniversary Celebration</i>	<i>Oct. 18</i>

NEWS FROM TRUSTEES

. On May 3rd we will have a 2nd discussion regarding the status of the flat roof of our church. On June 7th a Congregational vote will take place to decide on two issues. First we will vote on the funding mechanism for the roof and secondly we will vote on a change to our By-Laws. The By-Law change is necessitated by the changing situation with our Treasurer. Following a discussion with Advisory, a written statement regarding these By-Law changes will be available two weeks prior to the vote in June.

. Trustee have agreed to purchase an accounting software package from Church Windows. It should tie in nicely with the software from Church Windows that we presently use in our office. We also agreed to purchase a new computer dedicated primarily for tracking financial information which will be networked with the present computer and Church Windows software. Approximately \$550 for the software and networking will come from the Trustee's maintenance line item and the computer purchase will come from the Capital Improvement Fund. While it will take a bit of time and patience to learn to use the new accounting software, we feel in the long run this will make the job more appealing.

. Items for the bi-annual fund raiser may be brought to the church beginning Sunday, August 16th. Please do not bring items before that as it will interfere with the planned Vacation Bible School.

Picnic table – Plans are underway to replace the rather dilapidated picnic table that greets us as we enter the back entrance. While we may not be able to build the patio we envisioned just yet, this will be a start. A fund in memory of Cheryl Jobe will be used for this purpose. Cheryl Jobe was very active in our church, especially as Chair of Deacons. She was a wonderful gardener and we feel it is time to honor her memory with this enhancement of our landscape.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

Receipts through March, 2015:	\$124,238
Receipts through April 26, 2015:	<u>4,500</u>
Total receipts:	\$128,738

Expenses paid through December 2014:	
Dishwasher	4,350
Windows (100%)	52,427
Sidewalk replacement	10,900
Paint/painting supplies	229
Painter (windows)	1,000
Total expenses:	<u>\$68,906</u>

Cash on hand that is available for other projects: \$59,832

Good news: a new custom-made back entrance door that is handicap accessible should be arriving the first part of May. Look for some construction work to begin soon.

The Capital Campaign is now in the 2nd year. *Our original pledged amount was \$170,000. We have received over 75% of the pledged amount.* Thank you to everyone who has paid their pledge in full or is continuing to make timely payments. If you are unsure where you stand with the capital campaign, please contact Pam Schmitt, our Chief Collector, who keeps those records.

Sabbatical Details

Pastor Marrison will be away on sabbatical from April 20th -August 3rd. Though she won't be in touch by phone or e-mail, you can follow her journey on her blog at

<http://revmarrison.wordpress.com>.

In her absence Rev. James "J.K." Boodley will be our sabbatical pastor. You can contact him at boods@bluefrog.com. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact Deacon Maria Quintal first at (607)962-8018. Because J.K. is from Ithaca, she'll confer with him about how to respond effectively.

Scholarship News



Are you a participant in the church family and beginning or continuing your higher education at an accredited institution? The Ruth Ann Hooley and Ruth Burritt Scholarship applications are available to you if you pursue

study at a two- or four-year college, technical school, business or nursing school, pursue graduate work or undertake retraining activities.

You can find details of the scholarships along with the applications in the Narthex as well as in the church office. To apply, your applications must be addressed to the Scholarship Committee and received in the church office by **Sat., June 13, 2015**.

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 that we can share the good news!

Strengthen The Church



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 on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2015.

HELLO
my name is

Name Tags, Name Tags, Please Wear Your Name Tags!

To help our Sabbatical Pastor, Rev. J.K.

Boodley, please wear your nametags throughout his time with us. It will be difficult to master all of our names in the

short time he is here. It will reduce the awkwardness of repeatedly asking names.

SAVE
the DATE

SATURDAY
9.12.15

The 2015 Flea & Farmer's Market is coming!

Start saving your **stuff**, but please no drop-offs until **August 16th!**

Your help is needed.



Please sign up on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall - to help offer a friendly greeting, to host coffee hour, or to "float" for Sunday School. Thanks.



Children's Sunday

Children's Sunday is June 14. The theme is "Small Kids, Big Faith." Rehearsals are during worship on May 3, May 31, and June 7 for school-age children; and on June 14 at 9 a.m. for all children. Please bring your school-age children to worship next Sunday to choose what they will do. If you cannot attend rehearsal on May 3, but your children will participate in Children's Sunday, please contact Patricia Edgecomb at 607.279.6849 or patricia.edgecomb@outlook.com.

Book Club

At its April gathering, the book club unanimously decided to read biographies for awhile. The next book club will meet in June to discuss the next book. When? You decide! Let Patricia Edgecomb know your preferences at church on May 3 or 607.279.6849 or patricia.edgecomb@outlook.com, or use the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Patricia will announce the date and time soon.

The June biography is #1 New York Times bestseller *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand. The book is available in print, Kindle, Nook, Audible, and CD formats. Unbroken is the true story of Louis Zamperini, who was born in 1917 in Olean, New York. Zamperini competed in the 1936 Summer Olympic Games. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1941 and became a bombardier. When his plane crashed in the Pacific Ocean on May 23, 1943, he survived 47 days at sea and as a POW of the Japanese until 1945. He became a Christian in 1949, which led him to a career as an inspirational speaker. He died in 2014.

Weekend VBS



Mark your calendar! Weekend VBS is Friday to Sunday, August 14 to 16.

Friday evening is a family event for all ages. Saturday is a children's event with lunch.

Sunday worship includes a closing program.

Sign Up for Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School is offered for school-age children from June 21 through September 13, including holidays. The theme through July is "Where on El Camino is Pastor Marrison?" A different lesson each Sunday connects in some way with Pastor Marrison's sabbatical pilgrimage.

Our children need a caring adult every Sunday to guide them after Kinder Tinner. Please help our children learn about God and El Camino (you might learn something, too). Add your name and contact information to the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, or contact Patricia Edgecomb at 607.279.6849 or patricia.edgecomb@outlook.com. All lessons, supplies, and DVDs (if any) are provided.



Mark Your Calendars:

Silent Auction for items and services after worship on **June 14.**

Help to send our youth group with Pastor Marrison to National Youth Event in

Disney World in July 2016!

The Community Garden Moves Forward



The community garden plans are moving forward. Jennifer Fais, Noel Sylvester, Joyce Nelson, and Judy Garrett met with Boy Scout Weston Carmack and his father, Grant, on April 23rd. For his Eagle Scout project, Weston will be designing and building the beds for our garden in collaboration with our committee and other scouts from Weston’s troop.

Representatives from our church and Emanuel Lutheran Church will meet with Weston again on May 6th to review plans. Our goal is to have two beds, each approximately 4’x12’, made and placed on the east side of our building – clearly visible from Fellowship Hall. We hope to have them in place and ready to dedicate on May 31st with planting to begin the first week in June – provided we have no more snow!

We are grateful to members of Emanuel Lutheran Church that have contributed \$200 plus a \$200 debit card that helped with the purchase of food for our very successful Shrove Pancake Supper. We netted a profit of \$700. As of this writing, we have learned that the wood (white oak) will be donated by a local lumber company. With nearly \$1,000 towards this project we feel that we can get started and perhaps in future years other churches or organizations may want to get involved.

May Birthdays

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 2 nd | Tom Seward | 17 th | Ginny Deneka |
| 3 rd | Nathaniel Jennings | 17 th | Emily Navarro |
| 4 th | Dave Lambert | 18 th | Erin Hogan |
| 4 th | Nicholas Davis | 20 th | Margo Brown |
| 4 th | Casey Brown | 20 th | Bob Cooper |
| 7 th | Benjamin Mahon | 22 nd | Clara (Star) Bright |
| 11 th | Kaley Bennitt | 24 th | Jan Kostolansky |
| 13 th | Shauna Schieber | 26 th | John Brown |
| 13 th | Mira Simons | 27 th | Bonnie Grinnell |
| 14 th | Janet Klane | 27 th | Michael Bratti |
| 14 th | Nadine Kohnke | 28 th | Quentin Brown |
| 15 th | Francie Nelson | 28 th | Jill Palmer |
| 15 th | Sue Roll | 29 th | Ed Reif |
| 16 th | Matt Farwell | | |



Photo Gallery

A Sabbatical Send-off for Pastor Marraine.



A going-away gift from Women's Fellowship.



A blessing from our youth and Patricia Edgecomb.

Celebrating the arrival of J.K. Boodley, our Sabbatical Pastor!



Bob Lester, our former 2-term interim pastor, Tess Barber, J.K., and Maria Quintal.



A little help cutting the cake from Tess, the birthday girl!



Sending Pastor Marrison off on Sabbatical

We had a wonderful worship service on April 19th to welcome our sabbatical pastor J.K. Boodley and to wish Pastor Marrison a fond farewell as she departs for her sabbatical journey. We enjoyed great worship, music, fellowship, food and even a poetry surprise during the service - the poem below was written and read by Ed Reif during worship.

“Owed” to Marrison

Like other institutions, we give time off for good behavior,
but in your case it is to rest, refresh, recharge
and even grow closer to our savior.

You have shared in our joys and were there during our grief,
it certainly is time you enjoyed some much needed relief.

You have chosen something unusual that you might grow to like.
It isn't very often the deacons get to tell their pastor to “Go take a hike”!

As some of you know, two of my neighbors took this very same trip.
They came back very exhilarated, and then one went in for a new hip!!

As your plane lifts you up into the wild blue yonder,
you will finally have time to relax, unwind
and find new things to ponder.

We wish you a great journey, one that will be hard to beat,
but please tread carefully and be kind to your feet.

Upon your return we hope you will have a new refrain
that the “rain in Spain does not fall mainly on Marrison”.

Think how glorious it will be to reach the
Holy Shrine of a Saint long since departed,
but it is there that you will find out
that you must walk back to the place where you started!

So go in peace knowing that it has been a wonderful five years
and much has been accomplished through hard work,
prayer, and some tears.

We will be with you in spirit, we want you to succeed
on this journey of your choosing,
we wish you Godspeed!

By Ed Reif



Church Events



Roof Discussion
Sunday, May 3rd

Roof Vote—Sunday, June 3rd

We will discuss the status of the flat roof portion of our church and meet after worship on June 3rd to vote on our course of action.

Women's Fellowship Meeting

Wed., May 13th at noon

Please join us for a dish-to-pass luncheon followed by a meeting to elect officers.



Sunday, May 24th

Don't forget to wear red! We will take our annual group photo and also collect for Strengthen the Church.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY
JUNE 14th



CHOIR SUNDAY
JUNE 21st



Anniversary Sunday ~ October 18, 2015

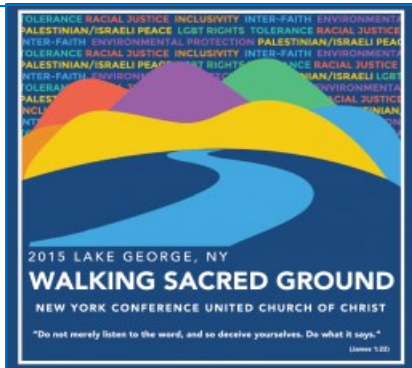
*Our church will celebrate it's 125th Anniversary this fall on **Sunday, October 18th, 2015.***



The First Congregational Church of Corning, NY was incorporated on October 13th, 1890.

First Congregational Church of Corning, the brick structure at the junction of Ontario with Bridge street, was dedicated May 13, 1897. It cost about \$21,000; the auditorium will seat 1,000 persons, and separated from the Sunday School room by folding doors. The society was organized September 25, 1890, by Rev. Ethan Curtis. The Building Committee included Walter J. Blair and Albert Pritchard.

UCC News



The 2015 New York Conference of the UCC Annual Meeting Friday, June 5 - Sunday, June 7th, 2015

The Annual Meeting is one of those unique opportunities to gather together with brothers and sisters of faith from places beyond our local church homes. It is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with friends, for the conversations, the worship, fellowship, and the business of the Conference.

The 2015 Annual Meeting speaker is distinguished author Dr. Reza Aslan. Dr. Aslan is an internationally acclaimed writer and scholar of world religions. His recent book, *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*, has received outstanding reviews.

Gina Burdick will represent our church this year at the meeting. She will enjoy a wonderful opportunity to learn and be inspired by some dynamic preaching.

Scenes from Silver Bay





Community Events



Mother's Day Brunch
May 10th, 10am-2pm

Brunch selections include scrambled eggs, home fries, sausage, bacon, French toast, carving station, stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetables, chicken & biscuits, yams, wild rice, ziti, soups, mac n' cheese, casserole, and salad bar. Many dessert choices as well.

Cost is \$15 per person, \$7 for ages 6-12, under 5 are free. Reservations are required at 607-962-0541.

Corning Area Aging in Place
Thursday, May 21st, 10am
First Congregational UCC



**"Managing
Transportation in Steuben
County"**

Our speaker will be Kelly Duby, Director and Mobility Manager, Institute for Human Service. Learn how to navigate public transportation in Steuben County so that you can be mobile and have freedom to go where you want. All are welcome!

Sharing Recovery Stories Dinner
Monday, May 11th 4:30-6:30pm
Steele Memorial Library



Members of the community will come together to share dinner and stories of personal recovery. This uplifting event will celebrate what is possible in the midst of adversity.

Dinner is free and open to anyone, however registration is necessary. Please call 733-9173 or 733-8606 to register.

Sponsored by the Chemung County Library District, the Elmira Psychiatric Center, and the Social Connection.



The 6th annual GlassFest is a celebration of glass and the fine arts in America's Crystal City featuring live hot glass shows, artist demonstrations, live music and entertainment, and shopping & dining.




**Friends of the
Library
Book Sale**

The last days for the sale are
Friday, May 1st,
9am-5pm &
Saturday, May 2nd,
9am-3pm.

East Corning Fire
Hall
Rte. 352
Corning

May 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
						7:00pm AA
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:00am Worship Roof Discussion 5-7pm Youth Group 5:30pm Strings 7:00pm Brassworks	Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am	Deacon's Mtg. 7:00pm			Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am 6:00pm Bells 7:00 AA 7:15pm Choir	7:00pm AA
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00am Worship Mother's Day 5-7pm Youth Group 5:30pm Strings 7:00pm Brassworks	Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am	Trustee's Mtg. 7:00pm	Women's Fellowship noon		Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am 6:00pm Bells 7:00 AA 7:15pm Choir	7:00pm AA
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00am Worship 5-7pm Youth Group 5:30pm Strings 7:00pm Brassworks	Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am NAMI Mtg. 7pm	Christian Ed. Mtg. 7pm	Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am	10am CAAIP 6:00pm Bells 7:00 AA 7:15pm Choir		7:00pm AA
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:00am Worship Pentecost Sunday Strengthen the Church Offering 5-7pm Youth Group		Advisory Mtg. 7pm		Bone Builders 9:30-10:30am 6:00pm Bells 7:00 AA 7:15pm Choir		7:00pm AA
31						
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