

The Beacon

January 2017

OGDEN-HILLCREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1061 CHENANGO STREET, BINGHAMTON NY 13901

Joyce K. Allen, Pastor

for•give /fər'gɪv/ **to Love**

- stop feeling angry or resentful toward (someone) for an offense, flaw or mistake.
- cancel (a debt)

We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies. —Martin Luther King Jr.



LESSONS FROM A SNOWMAN



- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- We're all made mostly of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!



**Pastor's
Message
for the
New Year**



“I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen”.

This was the prayer John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, asked his followers to pray in the New Year. It was a way then, as it is now, for Methodists to begin their year with God at the center. This “Wesley’s Covenant Prayer” is found in our hymnal and we use it every year on the first Sunday of the year. I am publishing it in our newsletter so you can look it over before you come to church on New Year’s Day. Perhaps you might choose to come because you want to start your year off with a new covenant with God.

I know there are lots of people out there who are trying to make it through this world on their own. I know that’s something I cannot do. I need God and I need God’s people around me. Jesus told us to be with one another and not to neglect worship. January is the perfect time for a fresh start. If you are one of those people who plans to start going to church one day, this is your time. Our calendars are fresh and it’s time for us to schedule the important events in, so that everything else can fall into place. Make worshipping God a major event on your new calendar and you’ll find yourself filled with blessings in this New Year.

Happy New Year!

Peace,

Pastor Joyce



We will have both the 8:30 and the 10:45 services on January 1st. There will not be adult Sunday school that day.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Sunday January 8th from 5:30-7pm. We will meet at the church for some Bible study, games and planning. We have to plan our calendars for the rest of the school year and more specifically, what we will do at our next meeting on January 22nd. We will be going out for an activity that day, either immediately after church or at 5:30, depending on what the youth choose.



Here's one idea: does anyone have a good sledding hill? Come out on the 8th and we'll figure out our next steps.



Winter Planning Session

Let's get together and plan for the future. We'll be planning out our meetings and activities but it's a good time to pray and think about our ministries. We'll meet at **7pm on January 9**. We will begin in the sanctuary around 6:50 with silent prayer and then we'll move into the Eveready Room for our planning session. Come and let your voice and your ideas be heard. You may be the one God wants to speak through!



DINNER GROUP

Have you ever tried going out with our group? Individuals, couples and families are all welcome. The only requirement is that you like to go out and eat. That's most of us! In January we'll stay close to home and return to My Uncle's Place in the plaza on the Service Road.. We will meet there at 6pm on Friday January 13th. Don't have the "bad luck" of staying home that night!



We're getting down to the wire. Our Sky Lake Winter Weekend is this month – Jan. 20-22nd. If you haven't filled out a registration form, please do so. You may pay that weekend. Aren't you ready to relax after the busyness of our holiday season? A warm fire, good friends, commune with nature, no need to cook, and time to refresh and restore our bodies and minds. Come join us. Brochures are available on the table in the sanctuary or in the church office. Or contact Vicki Milunich, 648-4584, VRMilunich@stny.rr.com



MONDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 7:00 PM, (PH)

Thrift Shop News



2017 SCHEDULE

Hours of Operation

Thursday & Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Closed The Following Days In 2017

April 15, May 27, July 1, September 2, November 23 & 25 December 21,23,28 & 30

Bag Sales - \$3.00 per Bag - Please Bring Your Own Grocery Bag

January 19 & 21, February 16 & 18, March 16 & 18,

May 18 & 20, June 15 & 17, July 20 & 22,

August 17 & 19, October 19 & 21, November 30, December 2, 7 & 9

Annual Holiday Sale - 2017

November 30 December 2, 7 & 9

We do accept donations during our normal hours of operation. Please see signs posted in the Thrift Shop for what are acceptable donations.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE!

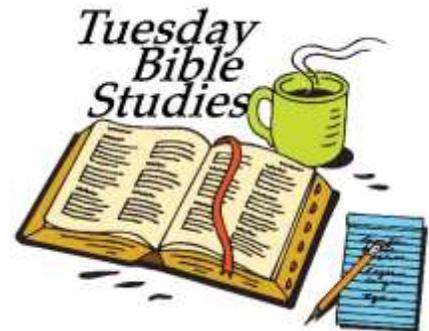
MISSION NEWS



Many families and children throughout the Greater Binghamton area enjoyed a brighter holiday season because of your generous donations. We donated 59 bags of groceries and \$1430 for turkeys to the annual Thanksgiving food drive which was organized by Catholic Charities. A special thanks go to Wegman's Grocery for the donation of 50 food totes that we used to pack our groceries for this mission. God has blessed Ogden Hillcrest United Methodist Church with a giving spirit! Thank you for your continual support of our missions.



Come to the Parish House for a fun study. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 11am and we usually finish up at noon. We are going to read the book of Proverbs. Talk to Pastor Joyce if you have questions.



Thank You:

Thank you for all of your Christmas cards, gifts and greetings. You make me feel appreciated and you brightened my Christmas. Thank you so very much.

Pastor Joyce

Me Too!

Thank you to each and every one for your Christmas cards and gifts. I would especially like to thank the Memorial Committee for their support in replacing our copier. I wish you all a Blest New Year and look forward to serving the Ogden Hillcrest UMC family in 2017.

Jim



THE CHURCH MOUSE

I am ready to hibernate for the month of January! December really tired me out. There were parties and pageants and mission projects. There was decorating and getting things ready for Christmas and now, I am tired. Thanks to the youth group and the church Christmas parties I am stocked up with enough food to last me a good long time. A couple of my church lady friends gave me some Phil's chicken and those teenagers are always grabbing handful of something and leaving food for me all over the place. Oh, how I love all of my church family.

Just as I am ready to sleep off the holidays Pastor Joyce says Christmas lasts all the way to Epiphany, which is January 6th. We'll celebrate that in church on January 8th though, so we get two whole extra days of Christmastime and who doesn't love that? Then we have to take all the decorations down and then there are youth group meetings and worship and a planning sessions and bible study and well, I guess I don't have time to hibernate.



I am hoping and praying that when you are reading this newsletter Barb McKane is finally home. She would like to spend 2017 at her own house and I don't blame her. My little hole in the wall at Ogden is quite cozy and I feel best when I am there. Both John and Kathy Case can still use your prayers. ALS is a horrible disease but Pastor Joyce said John always has a big smile when she sees him. Doris Slater has had several health issues lately so keep her in your prayers too. It's hard for all of us to get older, but it's especially difficult for my friends who live alone. You are all in my prayers.

Here's to a new year filled with good health, happiness, and a growing relationship with our church family, our families and friends and most of all, with God. Happy New Year!



Methodius Mouse

Favorite Recipes

By Popular Demand:

Carrot Coin Salad

Serves 10 people

2 cans of sliced carrots
1 small diced onion
small amount of green pepper

Dressing

1 can of tomato soup
½ cup salad oil
1 cup sugar
¾ cup apple cider vinegar
¾ teaspoon salt
dash of pepper
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce

Mix together. Layer and pour over veggies. Cover and let stand over night. – Recipe shared by Brenda Rhodes

Suggestion for a Cold Winter Day:

Hamburger Soup

1 lb. ground beef, browned
3 c. beef stock
1 can tomatoes
1 c. celery
1 c. potatoes
1 c. carrots
1 c. red wine
2 tbsp. parsley
½ tsp. basil
½ tsp. thyme

Brown meat in kettle. Add stock and veggies, wine and spices. Cook all day in crockpot or simmer several hours until vegetables are cooked through. – Sandy Cincebox from Ogden Hillcrest UMC cook book, *Bounties from the Earth Are Ours to Share*.