

The Beacon

January 2018

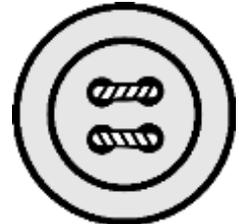
OGDEN-HILLCREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1061 CHENANGO STREET, BINGHAMTON NY 13901

Joyce K. Allen, Pastor

LifeSaver



The sermons were always just 20 minutes in length. One day the preacher went on an hour and 20 minutes. When asked why, he explained, "I always put a LifeSaver in my mouth and when it melts, I know the 20 minutes are up. But in my hurry, I put a button in my mouth by mistake!"



PASTOR'S PAGE

Happy New Year! Each of us has been given a new start and a fresh calendar. Right now you may have a few things on your new calendar. When you read this newsletter you can add several more. Each of us has 8,760 hours of time to spend in this New Year. So, what will you do with your time?



Sometimes work and family time come first, but how about God? When is God's time? When does God come first? As you begin filling in your new calendar, schedule some time for worship and study and mission opportunities. If you do it now, you are making a plan to offer your time to God. If you don't pencil God in, you know what happens, everything else fills in the time and space that you meant to give to God.

When we joined the church we made promises to God that included giving our time, talents, gifts and services. If you make a plan to give ten percent of your time to God this year, you will find yourself growing and feeling blessed in ways you never imagined. I know that's a bold plan, but if you can't give ten percent of your time, try increasing it a little bit. That ten percent would include worship, study and Christian action. You could find time to volunteer at the Thrift Shop or to carry tables and chairs outside for pizza night. You could be on the prayer chain or you could ask the pastor what needs doing. I always have a list!

Each of us has been given a new 8,760 hours to fill with the things we have to do and the things we want to do. What will you do with your time?

Peace,

Pastor Joyce

You'll never miss it – A Story from farm country USA

Frustrated that income never covered expenses, a longtime church treasurer resigned. Another member, who owned the town's grain elevator, volunteered to take over with one stipulation: He wouldn't submit a report for the first year.

The puzzled board members agreed because they knew he was an honest man. After all, they trusted him to process their grain.

By year's end, the new treasurer gave a glowing report. The church's building debt had been erased. Staff salaries had increased 15 percent. And the budget showed a healthy balance.

When the shocked but delighted congregation asked for an explanation, the treasurer said, "Most of you bring your grain to my elevator. When I paid you, I simply withheld 10 percent on your behalf and gave it to the church in your name. You never missed it!"

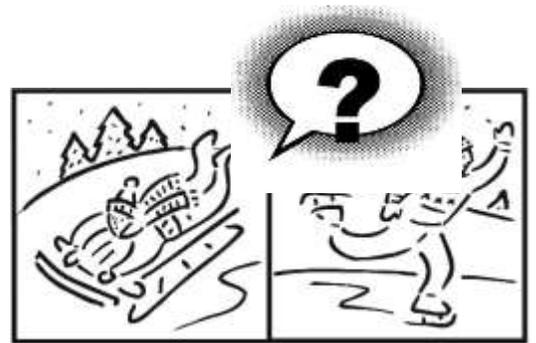
Imagine what we could do for God if we willingly returned the first tenth of his gifts back to him.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Youth Group kicks off the New Year with a meeting and planning session on January 7th from 5:30 till 7pm. Come and plan the spring semester of fun, missions, games and activities. Bring your calendar! We will also have time for games and snacks that evening.

On January 21st we will meet at the church at 5:30 to go to an activity that we'll choose at our meeting on the 7th.



I don't like to think about taking the Christmas decorations down. It means the season is over and we go back to whatever normal is. But, we do have to take things down and maybe you can come and help. We'll meet at the church at 9:30a, on January 10th. Please come and be some of the many hands that will make the work light.

DINNER GROUP

How about trying out our dinner group this month? We had our big Christmas party last month and now we are on the road again. For the next couple of months we'll stay close to home in case it snows. On January 19th we'll meet at 6pm at Denny's on Front St. Each person orders whatever they want and pays their own bill, but there is some money available if you need it. It is a fun group and everyone is invited. Come alone and meet us there or bring a friend.



Coming next month: Uncles Place on February 16.

Binghamton District Workshop

For all pastors and laity. Our theme this year will be
Grow Your Church NOW: Nurture - Outreach - Witness
using *The Three L's: LOVING, LEARNING, and LEADING*



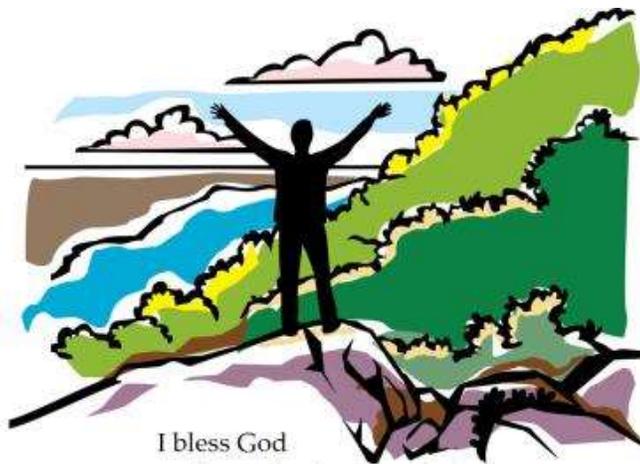
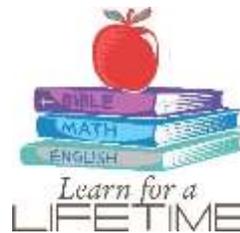
We will share how this theme will impact every area of our personal and church lives.

Date: January 27, 2018

Place: Central UMC, Nanticoke Avenue, Endicott, NY

Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm registration to begin at 8:00 am

More information to follow in upcoming Weekly Bulletins.



I bless God
every chance I get;
my lungs expand with his praise.

PRAISE GOD SUNDAY

Just about the time the winter doldrums set in our church is going to heat up for a fantastic day of praise and worship and food and fun. Mark your calendar now for January 28th. In worship we'll have Praise God Sunday. Pastor Joyce is asking people to think about the reasons they are praising God right now, and for those who choose, to speak about them.

After our second worship service we'll have covered dish dinner in the Pine Room, and then we'll have our dessert Bake Off. You are asked to bring your table setting and a dish to pass. If you want to enter the Bake Off, you'll be asked to fill out a form and place your entry on the Bake Off table. We'll all get to vote and there will be prizes for the winners!

If you know you would like to speak at either worship service, please speak to Pastor Joyce. Folks will also have the opportunity to decide that day and nobody will be pressured. It's just another chance for us to praise God together and have a little mid-winter fun.



A NEW VIEW

The New Year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

—C. Neil Strait

MISSION NEWS



The Mission Committee would like to thank the people at Ogden Hillcrest United Methodist Church for their generosity and support throughout the Autumn months. Over \$2087 was donated to UMCOR for hurricane and flood relief for Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. One hundred percent of this money goes to storm victims.

Many families and children throughout the Greater Binghamton area enjoyed a brighter holiday season because of your generous donations. We donated 51 bags of groceries and \$1175 for turkeys to the annual Thanksgiving food drive which was organized by Catholic Charities. A special thanks to Wegman's Grocery for the donation of 50 food totes that we used to pack our groceries for this mission.

In October we distributed 70 glow in the dark necklaces to local trick-or-treaters. Ogden Hillcrest also sent a team of 12 individuals to Endwell United Methodist Church to pack food bags for the Southern Tier Mobile Pack, a mission to feed the hungry.

God has blessed Ogden Hillcrest United Methodist Church with a giving spirit!

If you are interested in joining our Mission Committee please contact Brenda Rhodes (607-238-7054). We usually have 2 to 3 meetings per year and the missions are fairly easy to plan and put into action. If you would like to suggest a new mission and are willing to help initiate it, please let me know as well. Happy New Year and many blessings in 2018.

2018 SCHEDULE

OGDEN HILLCREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THRIFT SHOP

Hours of Operation

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

Closed the following days in 2018

March 31, May 26, September 1, November 22, 24, December 20, 22, 27, 29

Bag Sales - \$3.00 per bag

January 18 & 20, February 15, 17, 22 & 24, March 22, 24 & 29,

May 17 & 19, June 21 & 23, July 19 & 21,

August 23, 25 & 30, October 18 & 20, November 29

December 1, 6 & 8

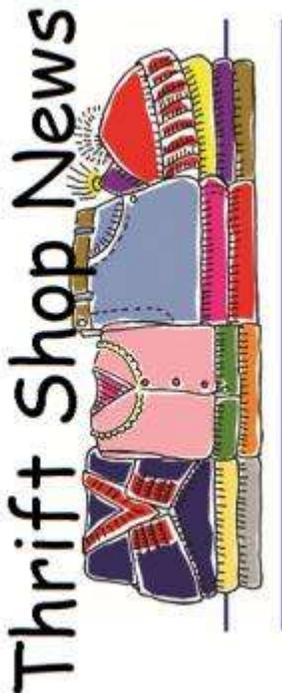
Annual Holiday Sale – 2018

November 29

December 1, 6 & 8

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!



THE CHURCH MOUSE

Did you come to church on Christmas Eve? And, did you see the children's Christmas pageant on the 17th? For me, those were the defining moments of my Christmas celebration. Mice don't get out to shop for presents, we don't bake cookies and we don't send Christmas cards. Mainly we celebrate alongside of our human friends and eat whatever you leave around for us. The worship services left me in tears. That happens whenever I see children teaching the rest of us about Christmas and it happens every time we turn down the lights and sing Silent Night. Then, there was the food! I love Phil's chicken and Christmas cookies!!



In the midst of the holiday season some of my friends left for Florida. Can you imagine that? At press time Heather Judd was still pregnant and the twin's arrival has been successfully delayed by her doctors. Riley and Kyla are due this month, so Bill and Linda Judd are down south and ready to spring into grandparent duty ASAP. Nancy Keyes is on the other coast of Florida for the winter, but the Savages are staying up north with the rest of us poor souls this year.



My pal Doris Slater is just feeling worn out and tired. Carol Harrison is making decisions about her health as she battles the cancer in her Esophagus. I miss both of those ladies at church. Our ladies with broken legs, Judy Clark and Julia Fagan, are both on the mend and getting around slowly. Have you noticed that our choir is using at least two walkers and a couple of canes as they assemble to sing each week? God bless them for their beautiful singing that helps us to worship God together.



During these dark winter months I spend more time in prayer and study. When you're praying, please think of our friends in nursing homes and our shut in folks too. Pray for our pastor, that she stays strong while she serves God at our church. And pray for this little mouse too, who lives in your church and keeps track of everyone's comings and goings! Happy New Year!!



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

Thank you to each and every one for your Christmas cards and gifts. I would especially like to thank the Memorial Committee and the Thrift Shop for providing the funds to spruce up the Parish House foyer and meeting room. I wish you all a Blest New Year and look forward to serving the Ogden Hillcrest UMC family in 2018.

Jim

PLANNING MEETING

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 8, at the Parish House**. Come and let your voice and your ideas be heard. You may be the one God wants to speak through!



SKY LAKE

We're getting down to the wire. Our Sky Lake Winter Weekend is coming soon, Feb. 2nd – 4th, 2018. 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

Entire Weekend –Lodging & Food **2nights & 5 meals**

Adult	\$121.50
Youth (12-17)	\$85.50
Child (4-11)	\$53.50
Under 3	Free

Day visitor:

Day fee (liability ins.) \$6.50

