

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

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February 2018

Beacon

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**The Beacon**

**February 2018**

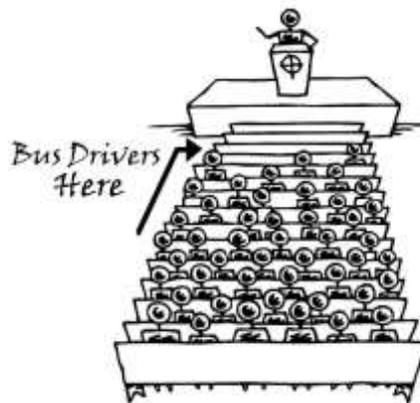
OGDEN-HILLCREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1061 CHENANGO STREET, BINGHAMTON NY 13901

**Joyce K. Allen, Pastor**

**First Row**

In a church where everybody sat toward the rear, a stranger walked in and took a front row seat. After the service, the minister greeted the stranger and asked why he sat up front.

“I’m a bus driver,” he replied, “and I came to learn how you succeed in getting people to move to the back.”



## PASTOR'S PAGE

*"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life". John 3:16 CEB version*

John 3:16 is a foundational bible verse. If we believe God loves us that should change our life. If we believe Jesus came to bring us the gift of salvation and eternal life that should change our life too. Everything God does is based on love. All of the good gifts God wants us to have are based on love. The Beatles said, "Love is all you need". They were right.

We all need love, but sometimes we forget that it is God's love that sustains us. It is God's love that created us and it is God's love that will carry us out into eternity. Yes, we need the love of friends and family too, but it is God who set all the rest of our lives into motion. We ought to stop and give our thanks and praise.

I think it's wonderful that Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are on the same day this year. I hope it will be an opportunity for each of us to live out our love for God and for family and friends. The day, really, is not about how much we spend or how well we fulfill the commercial expectations for flowers and candy. While nobody would turn those gifts down, the day ought to be more about living out our love. Combined with Ash Wednesday it can become an opportunity for us to reflect on God's love and how we will share that in is Lenten season. And, maybe you could take your Sweetheart to dinner and then to the Ash Wednesday service. Let's begin the season of lent by spending time with God and pondering again how much God loves the world.



*Peace,*

*Pastor Joyce*



*February 14, 2018*



## SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

We get caught up in the Super Bowl frenzy on **February 4<sup>th</sup>**, but we do it in a way that honors God first. Come to worship at 8:30 or 10:45 ready for some fun. Wear anything that honors your team, whatever sport your team plays. It's casual dress day, so invite your friends who only do casual! Our sermon will be "Go, Go, Go" and our hymns will echo the sports theme as we sing, **On Eagle's Wings**, **Guide My Feet** and **Pass It On**. Super Bowl Sunday has become a day we look forward to at Ogden, when we pray and play at the same time. Mark your calendar and come to church!



## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

On **February 25<sup>th</sup>** we are going to try to go sledding. Obviously this depends on the weather, so listen in church for details and for another plan if there isn't snow.



### Craft Day

Join us for a craft party on **Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm**. We will be painting a wooden sign for Valentine's Day. Cost is \$10 and includes all supplies. Space is limited, so please email Julie Shepard at [simply.creativecrafts@yahoo.com](mailto:simply.creativecrafts@yahoo.com) if you would like to attend. All are welcome!

## BLANKETS OF, WARMTH, COMFORT, & HOPE

### "Blanket Sunday" is February 11

Through the "**Blankets Plus**" program, Church World Service distributes blankets, life-saving tools, family size tents, and other emergency assistance to people displaced from their homes in the aftermath of war, natural disasters, or other emergency situations. CWS works to eradicate illiteracy, hunger and poverty, to provide clean drinking water, and refugee assistance.

A \$5 donation purchases a warm wool blanket. Last year, Ogden Hillcrest donated \$675. We will have an opportunity to share in this mission again on February 25 when a "Blanket Sunday" envelope will be inserted into each bulletin. Use these envelopes for your donation, and drop them in the offering plate. If paying by check, make the check payable to "Ogden Hillcrest UMC" and put "blankets" in the memo. Thanks for reaching out those who are hurting and needy.



## SO MANY LENTEN ACTIVITIES:

(hint: read carefully)

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

There are two Ash Wednesday Services being offered again this year. At Ogden, On **February 14<sup>th</sup>**, Pastor Joyce will meet folks **at noon** for a short service which will include ashes. **At 7pm** that evening we will meet with our neighbors at **St Francis of Assisi Church** for a prayer service which will also include ashes.

St Francis church has also invited us to a **soup supper** which they are hosting **at 5:30 that evening** in their dining room.



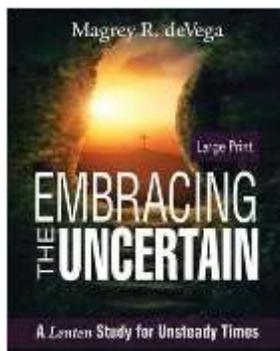
### WEDNESDAY LENTEN WORSHIP (Wednesday Evenings)

Try something different this lent! We will have a mid-week service on **Wednesday nights at 7pm**. Our services will be very casual, so come as you are! They will last about thirty five minutes or so. We will sing and pray and hear the stories of people who saw Jesus in Jerusalem. There will be two dramatic readings each week, and you know what that means! We need volunteers to make this work. Speak to Pastor Joyce if you are willing to read one of the scripts. It is easy and there is no memorization involved, yet God uses these simple stories to touch our hearts. Lent is a season for us to reflect, pray and ponder what Jesus did for us. These services are one opportunity to have a blessed lent.



**We will be at St Francis on Ash Wed, so our services will begin on the 21st of February and run through March 21st.** If you don't like to drive at night and want to attend, talk to the pastor. She is going to try to match up drivers and riders.

### LENTEN STUDY (Sunday Mornings)



Just turning the news on reminds us that we are living in uncertain times. In our fast changing, unpredictable world there are few guarantees. Those who are willing to embrace uncertainty and follow Jesus will reap the greatest rewards. Our church offers a special study opportunity during lent, and this year we will study a book called, Embracing the Uncertain, a Lenten Study for Unsteady Times.

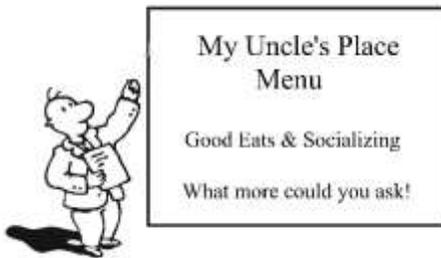
Pastor Joyce will lead the study and it will be held on Sunday mornings between the two worship services. We will get underway just about 9:30am and be together for about an hour. Books will be handed out the first week or you can pick yours up in the church office the week before if you want to get started. All of the books are in large print.

## MISSION NEWS

Thank you for supporting our annual Christmas mission with your donations of hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves. This year we collected over 90 warm items to donate to children in the Chenango Valley School district and Broome-Tioga BOCES. The schools are very appreciative of our donations. This is a very worthwhile mission.



## DINNER GROUP



**Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.** Have you thought about coming out for dinner with our group? We have a great time every month. All we do is meet at a restaurant and have dinner. Some of us come alone, others are part of a couple, and some share a ride together with a friend. There is always someone at the church at 5:30 in case you would like a ride and Pastor Joyce has been given a little money to cover the cost for someone who may need it. So, you don't have many excuses left. Come join us.

In February we are staying close to home and visiting our neighbor, My Uncle's Place. We have a reservation for their private room. If you come in the front door and walk half way through the restaurant, you'll see the left hand turn that leads to our room. Please come!

Coming next month: March 16th at Wilson and Johnny's Diner on upper Court Street.



## LIGHT BULB CHANGING



How many Episcopalians does it take to change a lightbulb? - Three. One to do it, one to bless the element and one to pour the sherry.

How many Nazarenes does it take to change a lightbulb? - Eleven. One to change it and ten to organize the fellowship supper that follows.

How many Presbyterians does it take to change a lightbulb? - They're not sure, but there are several committees studying the issue.

How many Methodists does it take to change a lightbulb? - Only one, but first they want to make sure no one will be offended by the change.

## THE CHURCH MOUSE



Ah, the month of love and here I am, a single mouse living a great big church. It gets kind of cold and lonely around here during the week during the winter. I heard we are invited next door to St Francis on Ash Wednesday. Maybe I'll go to have soup and worship, but with my eyes wide open for a female mouse who may have taken up residence over there. I don't care whether she's Catholic or Methodist or something else, as long as she loves God.

By now you've probably heard that my friend Doris Slater has gone home to heaven. She was a member at Ogden Hillcrest UMC for 67 years and had a lot of friends and family around here. She was one of those people that comes to events here, and she was here for church pretty much every week too. I'll miss seeing her but I know she's gone to be with God and she's not in pain any longer.



It's "All Hands on Deck" for the Judd family right now as Heather Judd Kneble has given birth to twin girls! Riley and Kyla were born on January 15<sup>th</sup> in Florida and everyone is doing well. Its twin time around here, because Joan Wilbur has new twins in her family too, great grandchildren Juliette and Micah started off with a few health problems but are doing better now and gaining well.



Did you come to the covered dish dinner and bake off? That was not only fun but filling and since you were so kind to bring in all that food, my larder is now filled for the rest of the winter. Things are pretty good around here in the food department. I'm sure if I lived in another church I may have a different opinion, but I think United Methodists are the best cooks in the world. Thanks for letting me live here.

*Methodius Mouse*

Ps: I saw those mouse traps you've put out. I just avoid them



## LARK

Birds became prominent in Christian art during the Medieval and Renaissance eras. The lark came to symbolize the humility of the priesthood because it flies high and sings only when flying upward.



**Editor's note...**continuing the stories and legends regarding the Easter lily and its popular use in American Churches. **Here's another one:**

The pure white lily has been closely associated with the Virgin Mary. In early paintings, the Angel Gabriel is pictured extending to Mary a branch of pure white lilies, announcing that she is to be the Mother of the Christ child. In other paintings, saints are pictured bringing vases full of white lilies to Mary and the Infant Jesus.

## DONATIONS FOR EASTER FLOWERS

It's that time of year to think about gracing our altar area with beautiful spring flowers to celebrate Easter Sunday and our Risen Lord. We are asking for donations of \$10 to in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Please understand this donation does not purchase a plant, but is a contribution to our fund from which we purchase flowers for our shut-ins. Volunteers will be needed to deliver the plants to our shut-ins on Easter day or the day after.

If you have any questions, contact Sandy Cincebox (723-2115) or call the church office (723-2637).

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### EASTER FLOWERS FOR SHUT INS

**Donation: \$10.00**

**Make check payable to: "Altar Guild"**

Presented by:

\_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory :

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

**For additional donation:**

Presented by

\_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERING FLOWERS – SUNDAY, March 18th**

# Puzzle!

Search in all directions to find these words from the first seven chapters of Proverbs.

**WORD LIST:** covenant, delight, discipline, evil, father, fool, forsake, fountain, fruit, heart, honest, humble, insight, listen, Lord, love, neighbor, path, pleasant, poverty, protect, rebuke, sleep, son, teaching, tongue, walk, wisdom, youth

M I C W L O O F Y C C M N C T  
D S K A C X J X H M K I P P N  
E N I L P I C S I D A Y R E A  
E J H K T O T R N T W O Y K S  
D E L I G H T E N O T U R A A  
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O E R E Y P Y H E K U B E R M  
L F R K S L E E P H C N P N R

## You Did This:

### Southern Tier MobilePack



Remember last November when we sent a team to pack meals for the hungry? Now we know where those meals went and who they fed. Isn't that exciting?

On 11/13/2017, 17 boxes were shipped to Salesian Missions in Sierra Leone and on 12/13/2017, 468 boxes were shipped to LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry in Burkina Faso.

Salesian Missions focuses on rebuilding lives and helping young people become self-sufficient by learning a trade, which in turn builds communities. FMSC meals are used in their program that offers shelter and food to street children to help reverse the effects of a 10-year civil war. If you would like to see more information about them their website is: <http://www.salesianmissions.org>

LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry is dedicated to feeding the poor and hungry around the world, empowering the church worldwide and sharing the hope that comes through Jesus Christ. FMSC meals are used in their EveryChild EveryDay program that works with primary schools. If you would like to see more information about them their website is: <https://feedthehungry.org>

### Who Are We?

#### THE UPPER NY CONFERENCE

With more than 168,000 members, the Upper New York Annual (Regional) Conference of The United Methodist Church comprises 867 local churches and 65 new faith communities in 12 districts, covering 48,000 square miles in 49 of the 62 counties in New York state. Our mission is to "live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places."

#### FEBRUARY AT A GLANCE:

Feb. 2-4 Winer Retreat Sky Lake

Mon. Feb. 5, 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting (PH)

Tues. Feb. 6 4:00 pm Missions Committee Meeting (PH)

Sun. Feb. 11 Blanket Sunday both services

Sun. Feb. 11 6:00 pm Family Game Night (PR)

Sun. Feb. 12 7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting (PH)

Wed. Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday Noon Service OHUMC

Wed. Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday 5:30 Soup Supper, 7:00 pm Worship at St Francis

Fri. Feb. 16, Dinner Group -6:00 pm My Uncle's Place

Sun. Feb. 25, 12:00 pm Youth Group Sledding – weather cooperating!