

## OGDEN HILLCREST UMC

**The Beacon**

**February 2019**

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

**Joyce K. Allen, Pastor**

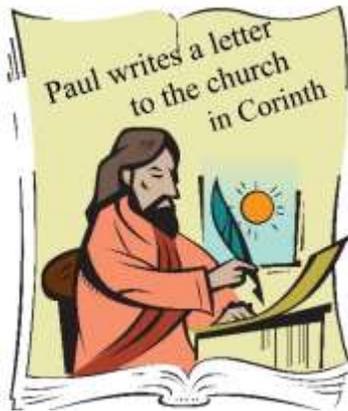
For Times such as these:

Got love?

Love asks nothing in return but seeks those who need it. And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and utterly devoid of love?

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## PASTOR'S PAGE



*“If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don’t have love, I’m a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have such complete faith that I can move mountains but I don’t have love, I’m nothing. If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I’ve done but I don’t have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever. Love is patient, love is kind, it isn’t jealous, it doesn’t brag, it isn’t arrogant, it isn’t rude, it doesn’t seek its own advantage, it isn’t irritable, it doesn’t keep a record of complaints, it isn’t happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things. Love never fails.” 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a*

Many of us are familiar with these words from Saint Paul. Some of us had them read at our weddings, as a way of inviting God into our marriages, and as a way of reminding ourselves of some of love’s characteristics. For the first five years after I finished seminary, I preached in a church in front of a stained glass window that proclaimed that “GOD IS LOVE”. I believed it then and I believe it now. God is love, and in this month of love, it behooves us to think about that just a little bit.

St Valentine was a martyr for his faith in God. Somehow, we’ve taken his beliefs and twisted them around so that his day is about making sure our sweetheart knows that we love them. If you have a significant other, you ought to tell them and show them that you love them more often than every February 14<sup>th</sup>. But certainly, don’t forget to do it that day! At the same time, that is true about our relationship with God. It takes some investment; both time and love, for God to impact our lives. God’s love needs to work in us and through us and make us more like Jesus.

I invite you to read the scripture from Corinthians again, and then, if you believe that God is love, substitute the word God in there every time it says love. Hopefully as you read it, you will grow in your understanding of how much God means to you and how much you mean to God. God never fails. Happy Valentine’s Day! I love you!

*Peace,  
Pastor Joyce*

Through Paul’s work, the church at Corinth, was established. Corinth was one of the most important cities of Greece. In the first letter from Paul to the church there was concern that doctrine and ethical problems were disturbing different factions in the church. Among other issues in settling these local problems was the premise of Christian love which is one of the cores of the universal church.



## BIBLE STUDY

Come and join us at the Parish House at 11am on Tuesdays for a fun and faith filled time of study. Ask anyone who goes and they will tell you that we both learn and laugh at every session. We've been working on the Book of Esther, but we'll need a suggestion soon, about which book we'll work on next. If you have an idea speak to the pastor.



Editor's note: *King Xerxes, of Persia marries a beautiful Jewish girl, Esther. Haman, a powerful man plots to murder Esther's cousin Mordecai and all the Jews. Risking her own life, Esther appealed to the King and rescued the Jews. The rescue is celebrated annually during the feast of Purim. Exciting stuff, you should attend!*

## SUPER BOWL SUNDAY WORSHIP



At Ogden we like to have a little fun and to meet our culture where it's at on Super Bowl Sunday. We know that Jesus had a great sense of humor and that he used what was common to people to illustrate his message. On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, we'll celebrate this uniquely American event in worship by wearing team clothing (for any team you like, football or not). We'll hear God's word proclaimed in a sermon called "Breaking the Grip" and we'll sing hymns that just may be football related, like Pass it On. It's a fun day at church and it's a great chance for you to invite a friend, relative, or neighbor to come to church with you.

## YOUTH GROUP

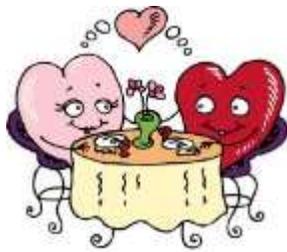
We will meet for a Super Bowl party on February 3<sup>rd</sup> after coffee hour. We'll play games and have a short lesson along with having lunch. And you know we'll play everyone's favorite game, Manhunt. On February 24<sup>th</sup> we will try to go sledding, which is weather dependent, so listen for more details at church.



## DINNER GROUP

# Wait!

Maybe you should tell your Valentine to wait one day!



Valentines  
Dinner

Join us as we meet on February 15<sup>th</sup> at The Spot on Front St for a get together and dinner. It's Dutch treat, unless the price would keep you home, pastor has some funds available for you if you need them. This is simply a group of people who like to socialize and eat together, and it is fun group. All are welcomed to join.



## LAUNDROMAT OUTREACH

In December three groups went to local Laundromats with quarters, detergent, pizza, soda and snacks. We simply asked people to enjoy the gifts and to let our church pay for their laundry. At first, people were hesitant, but then smiles came and although we never said anything about God, people were praising God and blessing us in God's name. It was fun and it touched out hearts and made us want to do it again. You are invited to join a group that will go out on February 17<sup>th</sup> to do it again. If you would like to join in, please speak to the pastor.

## UMC TO HOLD SPECIAL SESSION

The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32-member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.



If you are interested you may speak to Pastor Joyce or go to [umc.org](http://umc.org) for more information. I invite you to join with me in prayer for this special session. I am praying that our church may find unity and inclusivity that will help us minister with and to all persons.



## Mission Reports

Happy New Year! We collected 144 warm mittens, scarves, hats, and gloves this past Christmas. The children in the Chenango Forks and Chenango Valley School Districts will benefit from your generosity. Thank you for your continuous support.

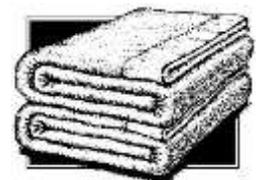
We will be collecting donations for Blanket Sunday on February 17, 2019. This program is sponsored by Church World Service and we have supported this mission for many years. Last year we donated \$700. A donation of 5 dollars will supply blankets and emergency kits to people in need throughout the world and the United States.

Our next Mission Meeting will be on March 5 at 4:00 in the Parish House.

Please feel free to join us or offer suggestions for missions.

## “Blanket Sunday” is February 17

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.



## YOU CAN HELP

If you know of a church member or friend in the hospital please let the pastor know. She wants to visit every member and church friend who is hospitalized, but sometimes folks are in and home before she finds out they were there. In the past hospitals would call church offices and let them know if parishioners were there, but current HIPPA laws now prohibit that. Please be a helper. Pastor Joyce says she would rather hear from ten people than none!



## *In Appreciation*

Dear Cindy,

To you and to each member of your very talented Hand Bell Choir; please express our greatest appreciation for the beautiful music which set the tone for Our Advent Vigil Mass back on December 15th. I do hope you will come back again soon!!!

From Fr. Tim,

From Saint Francis of Assisi Parish

From Me

Merry Christmas and a Happy & Blessed-New Year!

Music Director, "E.

1-3-2019



## *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 wish you all a Blest New Year and look forward to serving the Ogden Hillcrest UMC family in 2019.*

*Jim*



## THE CHURCH MOUSE

Since the last newsletter was a two month edition. I've had time off. And, since January tends to be a slower time around here, I took myself a little trip to sunny



Florida. When Nancy Keyes was here for Christmas I stowed away in the car and waited for her family to head south. When we got there I found another ride over to Saint Pete beach and spent a week laying on the beach and scrounging for food at hotels nearby. I had a great time but it took me longer to get home. I waited until Brenna King and her college classmates came to Florida to study the ecology, and then I hopped aboard the van for a ride home. It was nice to see the sun and sand, but it was nice to get back to Ogden Hillcrest, my home sweet home.

Back at home I found that a couple of my friends have been going through a rough time. Diane Weber is having chemo and trying to shrink a tumor in her pancreas so it can be removed. So far, it's working so keep praying! Carol Harrison has taken a couple of falls at Absolute Care, so she's staying a bit longer. Pray that she begins feeling well enough to come home. Janet Freeman-Kerr has gone home to heaven, she battled cancer for a long time. We will all miss her and her beautiful smile.

If you come to the second service you see how excited the children are for their time up front with Pastor Joyce. They shriek and run and get to the front as fast as they can. It always warms my heart to see them and hear them. They bring us such joy. Imagine how God feels when they share their joy. That's how mice and adult humans should come to God too. Let's get excited about God's love and grace!

Travelin' Mouse



Miranda Rogers n- Troop 30966

Fundraising: Ongoing Can and Bottle Drive

To support Miranda's Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Miranda's project is to provide an AED for Ogden Hillcrest UMC.

Education classes will be offered to the community.

Please drop your cans and bottles at the back entrance of the church.



Or contact Miranda for pickup

(607) 245-9911

[mirandasgoldawardproject@gmail.com](mailto:mirandasgoldawardproject@gmail.com)