

The Beacon

March 2017

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

Joyce K. Allen, Pastor

Wonder of wonders

The world is filled with wonders, writes Nathaniel Olson. Consider chemistry: Salt is formed by two poisonous substances (sodium and chlorine). The alnico magnet, the world's strongest, contains three nonmagnetic substances (aluminum, nickel and cobalt). And water consists of oxygen (which is flammable) and hydrogen (which burns easily); yet water puts out fires!

That pales in comparison to the wonder of salvation through Jesus.

Our God is the true Wonder of wonders. "None can compare" (Psalm 40:5).

(paraphrased from "Bible Says" facebook page)

PASTOR'S PAGE

*“Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. The **tempter** came to him and said, “Since you are God’s Son, command these stones to become bread”. Jesus replied, “It’s written, People won’t live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.”
Matthew 4:1-3*

For two thousand years people have begun the season of Lent with the story of Jesus being **tempted** by Satan. Satan offered worldly things to try to get Jesus to turn away from God, but Jesus could not be moved.

We too, begin the season with these words as a reminder that we have the same struggles Jesus had. Satan, the world, and society, **tempt** us too. Everywhere we turn we find the **temptation** to follow some other path, to do some other thing that really takes us in the opposite direction of where God would have us be. Don’t fall for it.



Temptation

Lent is a counter cultural season. It asks us to be more involved in our relationship with God. It used to be more popular but it has fallen out of style for most folks. People like Easter, with its promise of new life and forgiveness, but we don’t much like a season that asks us to repent and consider the way we live our lives. We don’t care for a season that asks us to check our moral compass and to turn around the way we live. We are **tempted** to walk away and continue doing our own thing. Don’t fall for it.



Let this season of Lent be for you, the gift that God intended it to be. Take some time to grow in your faith. Your church family will gather for Lenten studies and special services. You are always invited and always welcome. I know you are **tempted** to think God is not important. I know you are **tempted** to think you don’t fit in, that there is no place for you in the kingdom of God. I know you are **tempted** to think your time is better spent following after money and things. Don’t fall for it. God thinks you are important.

Your church thinks you are important. Come and let us worship and learn together.

Peace,

Pastor Joyce

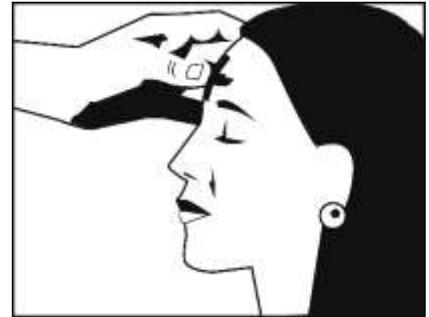


SOUP SUPPER

On Wednesday March 1st you are invited to a soup supper at 5:30 at St. Catherine's. We've timed it out so you can share dinner with friends and then head to the Ogden sanctuary for the 7pm service.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Ash Wednesday, March 1st, there will be two opportunities for worship at Ogden. There will be a short service at noon, with scripture and ashes. At 7pm, we will worship with our friends from St Francis of Assisi in our sanctuary. There will be a sermon and singing as well as the imposition of ashes. Please attend the service of your choosing as a way to begin your season of Lent.



LENTEN

A logo for the Lenten Study Group. It consists of three square icons in a row: a palm frond, a bunch of grapes, and a cross with a nail. Below the icons is the text 'STUDY GROUP' in a bold, sans-serif font.

STUDY GROUP

How's your relationship with God? Do you think Jesus is separate from God or is he part of God? Did Jesus send the Holy Spirit or was the Spirit always here? Our Lenten study is going to help us answer some questions like this and to consider what we believe. Pastor Joyce is teaching the study two times each week. You can be at the Parish house at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings, starting March 8th or in the Eveready Room at 9:30am on Sundays beginning March 5th. Its mix and match, so if evening works best one week and morning works best the following week, that's fine. If you plan to attend, let Pastor Joyce know so she can order a book for you.

SUPPER CLUB



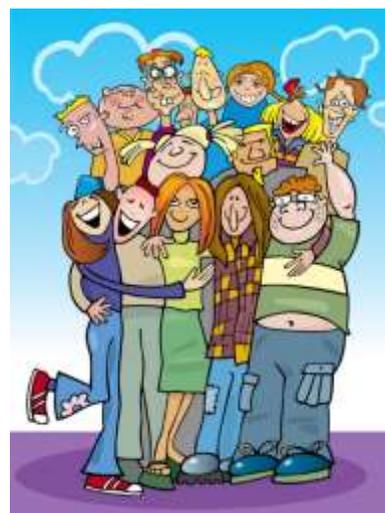
This month we'll have a St Patrick's Day party at the Red Oak Restaurant. They'll be having all your favorite St Patty's food, plus the regular menu. You can have your corned beef and cabbage or breakfast or spaghetti. One good thing about the Red Oak is that you can order anything any time. We will meet there at 6pm on March 17th. Let Pastor Joyce know if you need a ride.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

We collected \$302 for CHOW on Super Bowl Sunday. Thank you for helping!

We will meet twice in March, the first, a regular meeting, is at 5:30 on the 12th here at church. On the 19th we are having a movie day. Pastor Joyce will watch movie times and let everyone know the time and place to meet on the 19th. Everyone in middle or high school is welcome!

FYI: Our new schedule can be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Are you ready to become a member here at Ogden Hillcrest? Are you curious about what membership in the church means? Speak to Pastor Joyce and she will help you. If folks want to become members, we'll have a class in March.

NEWS FROM THE THRIFT SHOP

Infants and children's clothing are in short supply. If you have any clothing that you are sorting out and are no longer in need of, your donations would be greatly appreciated. Prom season will be coming up and if anyone has any gowns that you no longer are using please consider passing them our way!

We will once again be holding an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8th at 11:00am for children 12 and under. Mark your calendars and come join us!

We are always looking for people willing to be on-call if we need some extra help during the Holiday Sale, June Fest or someone is unable to work their shift. If you would like to lend a hand or have any questions give Maralena Dropp at call at 242-6829.

We are open on Thursday and Saturday from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Stop by, take a look around and say hello to our volunteers!

Prom Gown



Children's Clothes



BAG SALE DATES - MARCH 16 & 18 \$ 3.00 PER BAG

Please bring your own bag.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FACTS

Thousands of Years

Believe it or not, the first St Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City on March 17, 1762. Irish Americans were not the first, however, to celebrate the feast of St Patrick. Irish families have traditionally celebrated the feast of St Patrick as a religious holiday for thousands of years—a great pause during the Christian season of Lent when prohibitions were lifted for one day of dancing, drinking and feasting on meat. Corned beef and cabbage anyone?

Shamrock

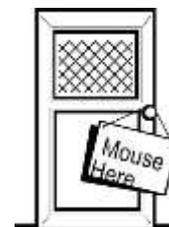
St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.



PARISH HOUSE MOUSE
(aka) THE CHURCH MOUSE

Oh, it's so grey and cold all the time. Maybe March will come in like a lamb and give us some sunny days. I am still staying at the Parish House where it's warmer during the week, but I wouldn't miss my weekends at the church. During the week, folks come to the Parish House for meetings and Bible study. I love the Tuesday morning group. They pray, they laugh, they eat, they laugh some more. Some weeks they have those little donut holes or some other kind of goodie. A mouse could climb on the table at night and have quite a little feast.

Come Saturday afternoon, I am ready to get back into the church. If I time things right, I can get back into the church when the flowers arrive and some nice altar guild member brings them in the back door. Then I am ready for the whole day Sunday. It works best for me when there's worship and Sunday school and Coffee Hour and Youth Group on the same day. I get to see all of my friends, although they may not see me! And, have I mentioned Melanie St John's baked goods at coffee hour? They are worth my being spotted!



Speaking of my friends, a good friend to many of us, John Case went home to be with God last month. John suffered for too long with ALS and as much as we will miss him, we wouldn't wish him to stay longer here. We know that he is running and laughing with God and the family members he already had waiting for him in heaven.



I will ask you to keep praying for our friends. Doris Slater and Kathy Case are at home and Barb McKane is back in the hospital, this time at Binghamton General. Fran Sandwick is still in the rehab unit at Fairview Good Shepherd, but she would like us to pray her back to her regular room. Her regular room is a single and has lots of room for her to paint and do the things she enjoys. I heard Pastor Joyce say she had a nice visit with Jean Saam over at Ideal Senior Living Center. Jean is happy and enjoys watching somebody else set and clear the table and do all the housework she used to do.



Perhaps the weather will warm up now and I will move back into my pad in the church building. Make sure you watch for me. I never miss worship. The music and the people and being together is so very good for all of us. God made us to be together.

The Church Mouse



USHERS NEEDED



_____ We need to replace several ushers who for _____ health and other reasons can no longer serve. Ushers serve approximately six times a year at the late service. Talk to Head Usher Dan St. John if you would like to help your church in this capacity.

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).

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, APRIL 2ND

Late donations may not be listed in Bulletins or the Beacon

Editor's note...I found several stories and legends regarding the Easter Lily and its popular use in American Churches. **Here's one:**

The blood of Jesus, as it fell from the cross, was by a miracle transformed into flowers which filled heaven and earth. The popular Easter lily we use today to celebrate the holiday is referred to as *'the white-robed apostles of hope.'* These beautiful trumpet shaped white flowers were brought to the United States in 1875 from Japan by an American tourist and named after the florist who made it popular. The flower retells the resurrection story with its life cycle. These snow white flowers symbolize new life and hope.



The Sunday Paper



Begins **Sunday, March 5, 9:30 am**

Wednesday Evening class begins March 8, 6:30 pm



Sunday, March 12

Day Light Savings Time Begins



Girl Scouts

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Girl Scout Spaghetti Dinner



5:30 pm Youth Group



Sunday March 19



Time to be announced

Sunday March 26

