

# The Beacon

# April 2017

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

**Joyce K. Allen, Pastor**

## Amaryllis

Early one spring, I planted a couple of dozen amaryllis bulbs. With great anticipation, I watched for blooms. But weeks turned into months before the first sign of life appeared. By the end of summer, the bed of pink flowers I'd envisioned was nothing more than a scattering of green leaves.

So I pulled them all up to make room for other plants. I wasn't about to waste another growing season.

Imagine my surprise the following spring, when a single delicate amaryllis blossom appeared. My delight quickly turned to dismay – for I realized I'd given up too soon. Had I the least bit of patience or a little faith, I might have had a glorious garden.

Then I wondered: Are there other things or people I give up on too soon? What might a little patience and faith do for a difficult relationship or troublesome circumstances?

—Kari Myers (adapted from Homiletics)



**Directory Photography:** Be a part of our new family directory program. Our goal is to include everyone. Lifetouch will photograph at our location. Each family will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating. There will be two photo sessions, May 22 & 23 from 1:00 pm – 8:00pm. You may schedule your photo session with Judy Clark at 607 768-7301 or you may go online here:

<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/9rzmssey/>



Jesus  
on Trial  
Before  
Pilate

*“Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king. So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “You have said so,” Jesus replied.” Luke 23: 1-3*

We read these words on Holy week and we ask, why didn't the people get it? Why couldn't they see that Jesus was the messiah? Surely if we had been there we would have recognized him and we would have worshipped him. But

here's the thing, Jesus is still the Messiah. He still brings us abundant life, here and now, and the promise of eternal life later. He still calls, “come follow me” because he wants a personal relationship with us and because he wants us to be part of our family business, sharing God's love, grace and forgiveness.

It's easy for us to say people should have recognized Jesus as the King of kings, but if we have seen his glory, do we act like it? Do we worship God within a church community as we have been told to do? Folks who have a relationship with God say their lives are more joy-filled and more purposeful. At our church, folks tell me it's the feeling of family that keeps them coming back here. Each of us know that we are not alone and that we are a part of something bigger than ourselves. We are working together to share the love we have found here.

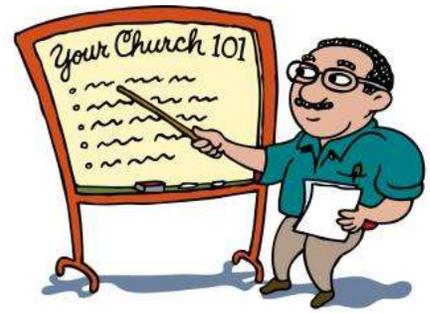
Now is the time to come and join us. You'll find lots of Holy Week and Easter worship opportunities as well as those for study and fellowship. God is asking you to enter into a relationship with God, or if you've done that, to build on what you've started. This Lent and Easter season is the best time to jump in.

*Peace, Pastor Joyce*

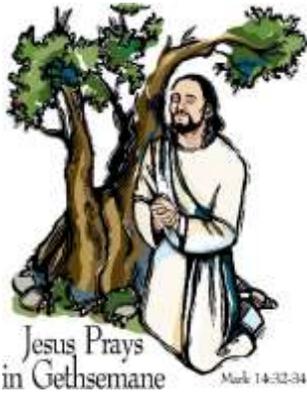


## MEMBERSHIP CLASS

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 April.



## Membership Class



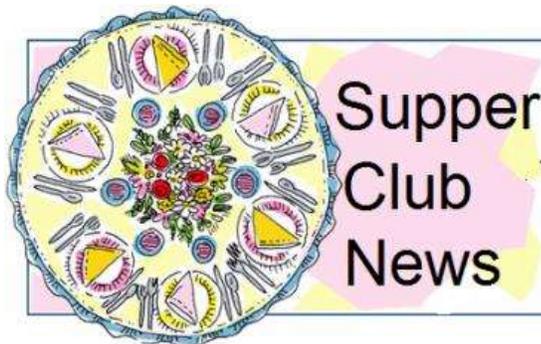
## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

In March we read part of the creation story and the story of Jesus in the garden. We sculpted images the scripture raised for us in special clay that can be baked into a permanent piece. Many of us made horses and penguins but there were a couple of snakes in there too!

This month we meet at the church on April 2 at 5:30 for a regular meeting. There will be snack, craft, bible study and games. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be a bonfire and pizza party in the parsonage back yard at 5:30. If you are in middle or high school, please join us.



## Bonfire Pizza Party



"Dutch treat"

After your Easter travels are over, come out to dinner with a group of your church family members. This month we'll meet at Ground Round restaurant, near the Oakdale mall. We'll dine at 6pm on April 21<sup>st</sup>. We go "Dutch treat" but if someone needs a little help, Pastor Joyce has a fund to help you. If you want a ride, be at church at 5:30.

## *THE CHURCH MOUSE (aka Parish House Mouse)*

What a wonderful service of worship and celebration we had for John Case. I know he was watching from heaven as the choir sang and as all those teenagers joined in. It was magnificent. And, I know it's not nice to bring it up, but I am a mouse so, boy, that funeral dinner was good. Lots of people made cakes that were delicious!



With the huge snow storm in March, I found myself trapped in the Parish House. Paul worked for hours to clear the walks and Judy Clark helped a lot too. When Pastor Joyce was out shoveling she actually saw me run across the snow and down into a hole in the snow at the side of a big tree. I try so hard to NOT be seen, but when the snow is almost three feet deep it's tough.



A very good friend of ours has gone home to heaven. Barbara McKane has been active at Ogden Church for many many years. She was a friend to the adults, kids and animals of this world. She really loved God too, and that's why I know where she is now, with God in heaven. Please pray for Dick and the sons and families.

I am asking you to keep some of my other friends in prayer too. Doris Slater is at home and could use prayer. Dave Durgin is home from Sweden, which is great for us, but that means Kicki is missing him there. All of our shut-ins and nursing home residents need prayer too. All that praying makes us busy and faithful. It also makes me take my mind off things that suddenly seem not-so-bad.



There will be lots of chances to see me over the next couple of weeks. I wouldn't miss the covered dish dinner and worship service on Holy Thursday. I love the Good Friday and Easter services too. I believe that a mouse can't begin to understand what Jesus did for us unless we journey with him through Holy Week AND Easter. I wonder if the same is true for humans?

## *Methodius Mouse*



I'm just glad it was the Pastor and not a hungry hawk who saw me!

# Beacom Classified Ads

## HELP WANTED

What is God calling you to do? Perhaps your call matches up with one of these jobs. If so, please speak to Pastor Joyce. As our church grows there is a need for more people to be doing ministry. If you feel led to help with any of these jobs, what seems small to you would be a huge relief to Pastor Joyce and our church family.

**Sign Changer:** the sign out front of our church stays pretty current while Bill Judd is around to change it. But, when Bill heads south the sign keeps the Christmas message all the way through Easter. If there was someone willing to share the job with Bill, it would be a perfect time to learn now.

**Funeral Coordinator:** This person would arrive just before the grieving family to help get the church set up for calling hours and/or a funeral. It doesn't happen often but when there are calling hours or a funeral at our church, it would be wonderful to have someone help the family know where to set up easels, where to find water and bathrooms. This is a basic hospitality job and perhaps it would be best as a shared job between two friends.

**Photo Session Greeters:** When we work on our photo directory we will need folks who are willing to be at the church during the photography sessions to greet people and to help them with the photo paperwork. You might be serving coffee and cookies too!

**Dinner Group Coordinator:** This person would choose the restaurant for each month's dinner group and make the reservation.

## FOR SALE

Clothes for sale, bargain prices. Ladies high and low fashion, many to choose from. Hardly used children's clothes. Men's clothes, work & dress.

## USED AUTOS

Call: BR549

## CHURCH SERVICES

### The Ogden-Hillcrest United Methodist Church

1061 Chenango Street, Binghamton,

Email:

[ogdenhillcrest@ogdenhillcrestumc.org](mailto:ogdenhillcrest@ogdenhillcrestumc.org)

Office: 723-2637

Pastor's Cell Phone: 287-7552

Joyce K. Allen, Pastor

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Worship 8:30 & 10:45

Adult Sunday School 9:30

Junior Church 11:00

Coffee Hour 11:45

Chapel/Youth Choir Noon

Daily Schedule

Church Office Open

Mon. - Thur. 9-2 P.M.

Pastor's Hours

Various or By Appointment

## TOURS

### Holy Land Tour with Bishop Webb, January 2018

Everyone is invited to Join Bishop Mark J. Webb and his wife, Jodi Webb, on an 11-day trip (January 9-19, 2018) to the Holy Land through Educational Opportunities Tours. This journey will deepen your experience and bring to life the Scriptures. You will have the opportunity to explore Jericho and Qumran; Bethlehem; Caesarea, Mount Carmel, and Megiddo; The Galilee; Cana, Nazareth, Samaria, and Jacob's Well; Jerusalem; and Ein Karem, Nebi Samuel, Emmaus, and the Valley of Elah.

# HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Maundy or Holy Thursday is April 13<sup>th</sup>. That's the night Jesus ate with his disciples and then gave them a new commandment. We will eat together at a covered dish dinner at 5:30 that evening. Please bring your table service and beverage. If you can, bring a covered dish. If you can't, come anyway.

At 7pm we will meet in the sanctuary for a service of worship that will include communion and a washing. Don't worry, it's not a foot washing! Trust and come and see.

## GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is the day Jesus was put to death and buried in a tomb. We honor his time on the cross by having our church open for personal meditation during the traditional hours of noon until three pm. At 7pm we will have a service of worship which will include an unburdening. Again, you are invited to come and see.

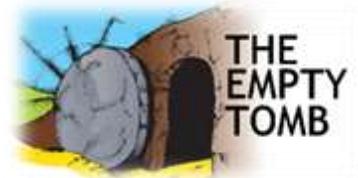


## EASTER



Easter is the day that Jesus arose from the dead. The Bible tells us that people found out early in the morning, when the women went to the tomb and found it empty. We celebrate at sunrise in the Chenango Valley cemetery at 6:30am. You can find us near the cannons to the left of the entrance.

We will also celebrate Easter with our two worship services at 8:30 and 10:45. Easter is always a special day with lots of people and music and flowers. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to worship God on this day of victory!



# THIS & THAT:

## Mark the evangelist

The church knows Mark primarily as the author of the second New Testament book. Penned around A.D. 70, it was the first gospel written. He may be the Mark mentioned in Acts 12:12, also called John and to whose mother's house Peter went after being miraculously freed from prison. This same John-Mark of Jerusalem went on missionary journeys with Paul and Barnabas (Mark's cousin, according to Colossians 4:10). Though Paul had a disagreement with Mark early on, he later called Mark "useful in my ministry" (2 Timothy 4:11) and wanted to see him.

It's thought that Mark served the church in Rome for a time, and that as Peter's scribe he wrote down the lead disciple's firsthand accounts of Jesus, resulting in the gospel that bears Mark's name.

One tradition, though uncertain, dubs Mark the father of the Coptic (Egyptian Christian) church. Martyred in Alexandria on an Easter Sunday, he's commemorated by the church on April 25.

## +Christian Symbol+

### Agnus Dei

This image is known as the Agnus Dei, Latin for "Lamb of God." When pictured standing and with a banner, it represents the risen Christ, victorious over death. John the Baptist, seeing Jesus approach, famously declared, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29, NIV). In Revelation, too, Jesus is portrayed as a lamb who was slain but now reigns triumphant.



## Spring fever

Four high school students afflicted with spring fever skipped their morning classes. After lunch, the boys told their teacher they'd had a flat tire.

Much to the boys' relief, the teacher smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test, so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper."

Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said, "First question: Which tire was flat?"