

April 2018

Beacon

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**The Beacon**

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OGDEN-HILLCREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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**Joyce K. Allen, Pastor**

### **The best medicine**

Although the Bible never refers to Jesus laughing, he clearly had a sense of humor — and needed one to deal with his critics and even his disciples. James Martin, S.J., author of *Between Heaven and Mirth* (HarperOne), writes, “If we accept the idea of [Jesus] as a human being, we must accept all human attributes for him — laughing as well as suffering.”

The ancient church marked the Sunday after Easter with humor and laughter to celebrate Jesus’ triumph over death. Today some congregations designate their post-Easter worship as Hilarity Sunday or Bright Sunday. Faith is serious business, but that doesn’t mean Christians must always be serious!



## PASTOR'S PAGE

But the angel said to the women, *“Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn't here, because he's been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, 'He's been raised from the dead. He's going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' I've given the message to you.”* Matthew 28:5-7



*“Do not be afraid...  
he has risen as he said”*

Don't be afraid the angel says. The same thing the angel told Mary, the same thing angels seem to say to all humans. It must be that God understands how scared we really are here on earth. We worry about everything from school shootings to politics, from social security and our health to our children and their children and their lives. When we start out afraid it's difficult to hear what God is trying to say to us.

Don't be afraid. I think only a mature relationship with God can keep us from being afraid. Each of us need to take some time to listen to what God or God's messengers might be saying to us. Some folks look for a time or a sign for when they ought to start listening to God. Easter is a perfect time for that because Easter is a time of new beginnings. That's why bunnies and eggs and chicks are a part of it. They remind us of resurrection and new life.

We cannot expect growth and change if we remain mired in our old ways. Easter reminds us to start over again. Put on your Easter outfit or wear your jeans to church. It matters not to our Lord. Even if you've been hurt by somebody in the church in the past it's time to start over again. We aren't the same people we were either. We are all growing. Let's do it together.

*Easter Blessings!  
Pastor Joyce*

### **EASTER SERVICES**

On Easter morning we will greet the sunrise with a 6:30am service at the Chenango Valley cemetery. We will be near the offices and the cannons. Our regular Sunday services will be held at 8:30 and 10:45 on Easter morning, April 1. Come and celebrate the Risen Christ with music, flowers and God's Word proclaimed. It's a perfect day to remember God's love is more powerful than our foolishness!

## PASTORAL PLANS

Pastor Joyce will be having a bit of a stay at home vacation the week after Easter. Any needs that are not emergencies that week should be directed to Jim in the office, Monday through Thursday 9am till 2pm.



*Stay at home*

*Rest and Relaxation*

## BIBLE STUDY

Our Tuesday morning will take off the week after Easter, but then we'll be back to meeting every week. You ought to consider joining us. Ask anyone who attends if they think its fun! Right now we are reading the book of Judges, but we are always open to suggestions. We meet in the Parish House at 11am.



Our Conference is starting a new program aimed at educating ourselves about issues of justice and equality about race. On Saturday, April 21st is the Imagine No Racism Launch Day. The Imagine No Racism Launch Day will be held at our district communication hub which is Endwell UMC from 12:30 pm until 4:00 pm. Each clergy person must attend and is asked to bring one or more laity who are passionate about racial justice. If you would like to be included in the group going from Ogden, please speak to Pastor Joyce.

## NEW NEIGHBOR

We welcome the Reverend Doug Clark as the Chaplain of the Children's Home. Our church has a long history of supporting the home and it is good for us to know we have a UM pastor there. Doug recently moved to Hillcrest from Windsor UMC. He is originally from Connecticut and like Pastor Joyce and the Kings before her, he is a Red Sox fan.



*Thank You!*

*I'd like to convey my deep gratitude to Ogden Hillcrest Methodist Church family for their wonderful kindness and generosity after my house fire last month. You all helped me to recover from the ordeal in many ways including warming my heart and giving me hope for the future. Thank-you each and every one!*

*Donna Throup Lockett*

## MISSION NEWS

Thank you for your generous donation of \$700 to Church World Service for Blanket Sunday. Our church is very blessed with your continuous support for missions.

Come and join the fun for a special coffee hour between the two church services on May 20. During this time we will assemble emergency Hygiene Kits for UMCOR. Pastor Joyce and Bill Judd will take these kits to Annual Conference in June. The Hygiene Kits will be donated to Mission Central, our local UMCOR warehouse in Syracuse.

In April we will be requesting donations for supplies which will be used to fill the Hygiene Kits. A list of supplies will be provided at church in April.



Value: \$12.00 per kit  
Hygiene Kit Materials

1 Hand towel

15 x25 inches to 17 x 27 inches

Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable

1 Washcloth

Toothbrush

Adult size only

Do not remove from original packaging

6 Adhesive bandages

¾ inch to 1 inch-size

Common household Band-Aids

1 Bath-size soap

3 oz. and larger sizes only

No Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content

Do not remove from original packaging

1 Comb

Comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches long

No pocket combs or picks, please

Rattail combs and combs without handle are acceptable with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth

1 Metal nail file or nail clippers

No emery boards, please

1 plastic bag

One-gallon size sealable bag only

\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

### **Assembly Directions:**

Set the \$1.00 for toothpaste aside to be included in a separate envelope. Lay out the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the hand towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly

## THE CHURCH MOUSE

You've got to love Easter. I mean, there's spring weather (or it's soon to come), there are egg hunts and bunnies and baskets full of candy. Families gather together and celebrate. It's important for us to remember that Easter is about Jesus and that the bunny is just a helper. It's Jesus who lived again on Easter, and it's up to you and I to remember it, celebrate it, and live like we believe it. That being said, I did enjoy the covered dish dinner on Maundy Thursday. There is always enough food for me to have an Easter celebration after you've all gone home. And, I want you to know I heard that one group say, "We'll leave that on the floor for the church mouse". Thank you.



The youth group made popcorn and I was able to make off with a bowl of that too. They also made Easter cards for our members in nursing homes. I heard Pastor say she would deliver them as she made her rounds. We've got a couple of my friends in nursing homes for rehab stays. Betty Savidge got a new pacemaker and spent some time at Fairview before heading home. Carol Harrison is at Absolute Care in Endicott for a stay that will, hopefully, get her feeling well enough to be home soon. She is a real animal lover so I have a soft spot in my heart for her. Francis Sandwick would like everyone to know she enjoys visitors. She is a great conversationalist, but she can't walk anymore, so the talk needs to come to her. Pastor Joyce can tell you how to find her.



Bill Judd made a quick visit from Florida, mainly to attend the funeral of Ernie Styles in Maryland. Ernie was very involved and a great trustee at Ogden before he retired to the Ocean City, MD area. We send condolences to his family. Bill says he'll be back for the summer and Linda will eventually put the grandbabies down long enough to join him for a while. We look forward to seeing them, but also to the day we get to meet those twin granddaughters, Riley and Kyla. Shirley Christoff and Joan Wilbur made it back from Florida in time for Easter. We're waiting for Nancy Keyes to join us again this month, so we'll wish her safe travels and say our prayers too.

Now that spring has sprung, I will go outside a little more often. I enjoy the church grounds and the flowers. There's nothing like sitting in the sun on a warm afternoon and just listening to what God has to say. Humans have an advantage over mice; you don't have to watch for Hawks and Bald Eagles around here like I do. Take my advice this month and find some time to sit in the sun and let the Son warm you too.



*Methodius*





## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Youth group will meet on Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the church for some fun, games and snacks. Bring your calendars so we can plan the rest of the school year and discuss our next outing.

## DINNER GROUP

We're heading back to Ground Round this month. We enjoy the food, the atmosphere and the way we are set up for conversation there. We'll meet at 6pm on Friday April 20<sup>th</sup>. We go "Dutch Treat" and everyone is welcome. We are getting around twenty people out each month and it's wonderful. Many folks comment on how this helps them know people from the other worship service. **Why not join us?**

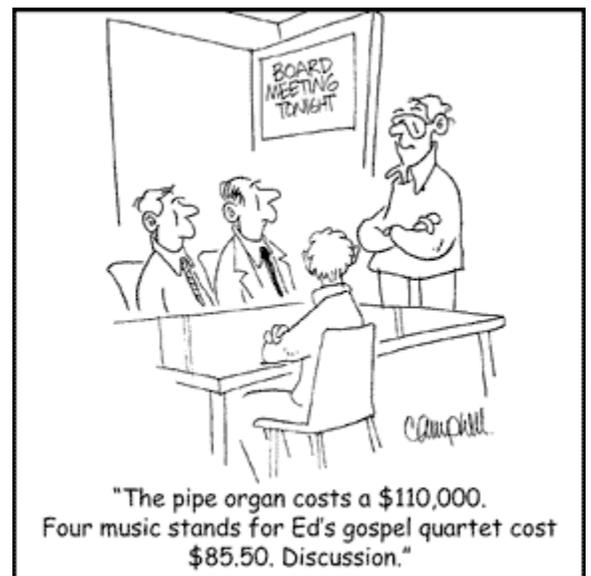


Mark your calendar for May 18th when we'll meet at Cracker Barrel.



Monday, April 9 – Administrative Board

Monday, April 16 – Trustees



**STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
AKA PPR**

Have you heard of us? We meet with our pastor about six times each year and we meet with our other staff once a year. We are an elected group who help our congregation relate to our pastor and staff. We do job reviews with each of our staff, Jim, Cindy, Paul, and Pastor Joyce and we try to make sure both congregation and staff are happy.

Our committee wants you to know we are at your service. We are the committee that you speak to if you have a compliment or a concern about our staff. Our Safe Sanctuaries policy tells us to go to an SPR member if we feel someone is being abused in any way. A copy of that policy is found in the back of the sanctuary as well as in the Parish House.

We wanted you to know we are here to make our church family as open and as welcoming as we can for all people. Our committee members are: Judy Clark, Joanne Stanley, Tom Jones, Nancy Enright, Peggy Hebbard, Shirley Christoff, Cathy Goodstal, Dean Masland and Amy Manning. We are always ready to hear your opinions!

***Benefit Ogden Choirs:***

**Spaghetti Dinner**

Sunday, April 15, 4-6pm

\$ 8.00 adults  
\$ 6.00 age 4 -10  
Under 3 Free

Spaghetti & Meatballs  
Tossed Salad,  
Drink

Baked goods also available

