



Pastor's Page

"Let's know, let's press on to know the Lord; whose appearing is as certain as the dawn; who will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that give drink to the earth."
Hosea 6:3

April's showers sometimes drag on into May. That's okay with me, we need the water. Some people complain that this is the season they have to do things, like mow the lawn and weed the flower beds. Others find this the time of year they see God's handiwork most. Who knew there were so many shades of green? Take a walk or a ride if you can, and find God in nature.



This verse from Hosea reminds us to look for God. We should look in the rain and in the flowers, but we need to look at one another too. Our church family is one way we see God in action on earth. The rain gives a drink to the earth. God blesses us too, but not only with food and water, but with people, made in God's image. Our newer members tell us that Ogden is filled with the most loving and kind people they've met in a church. If you need to see God, come and spend a little time with your church family. You will always find yourself welcomed and loved.



Welcome to Our Family

Peace, Pastor Joyce

MISSION NEWS



Thank you for your support with our winter projects. We collected \$675 for Blanket Sunday and \$473 for UMCOR Sunday. Your generous donations help many people in the world and the United States during emergency situations due to natural disasters.

The Mission Committee held its annual planning meeting on March 7 and we added several new members to our group. In addition to our annual drives, look for several new mission activities during the coming months. Our next drive will be on May 14. At this time you will have an opportunity to donate to Africa 360. Monies from this initiative are used to help eradicate Malaria deaths by supplying mosquito nets and providing education so people can help themselves with prevention of diseases.

The Mission Committee wishes to express their sympathy to the family of Barb McKane. Barb served as Mission Chairperson for many years and she will be missed.



NEWS FROM THE THRIFT SHOP



Happy Spring Everyone! By the time you are reading this we should have our shelves stocked with Spring and Summer clothing. We also have several prom dresses available. In addition, we recently received a donation of several children's DVD's.

I would like to thank all who helped in any way with the Easter Egg Hunt! We had people filling eggs, "hiding" eggs and helping during the hunt. I think we will be making this a yearly tradition here at Ogden!

If anyone has any questions regarding the shop, what type of donations we accept or would like to volunteer your time in any way, please give Maralena Dropp a call at 242-6829 or send an email to yafanelaram@gmail.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Folks move from time to time, new jobs, retirement, bigger house, smaller house and many other reasons. It's a chore but we have to notify family and friends, and lots of folks that we conduct business with. But we often forget about our Church and the Beacon along with other mailings from the Ogden Hillcrest UMC family.



Please let us know when you move. It saves us money too! It costs us 3 times the amount of the original postage if your newsletter is returned to us with a new address from the post office.

SUPPER CLUB

Have you been out with the Supper Club? It's a fun, ever-changing group of people who have two things in common; they love Ogden Hillcrest Church and they love to go out and eat. We always laugh and have a great time, and we go to some places we wouldn't try unless we were in a group. This month we'll meet at Grande's restaurant on Front St at 6pm on Friday May 19th. There is always room and a little extra money, so don't stay home if you'd like to join in.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS



We are only meeting one time in May due to vacations and holidays. We think it's important to be with our moms on their special day. On May 21st we will meet at the mini golf course on Route 12a at 3pm for a round of golf. Everyone in middle and high school is welcomed to join us!

PHOTO DIRECTORY

It's time for us to have a new photo directory. With two services and lots of new members and friends, we need a tool that will help us to know one another's names. We are doing a new photo directory with Lifetouch Directories, formerly known as Olan Mills. They are known for their free directories and for no pressure photo shoots. BUT, this whole project only works if people come and get their picture taken.



Photo Sessions: May 22nd & 23rd 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm. - Make an appointment Now!

Some people say they are alone and don't want a picture taken. Well, Pastor Joyce was the first person to sign up and she's single. Others say they don't attend church, so why bother? Your church family wants to know you! Help us.

You can sign up for a free photo session four ways:

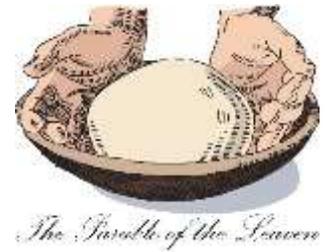
First Option: you can sign up at church.

Second Option: You can call 607 768-7301 and leave a message for Judy Clark

Third Option: Book online now! It's easy. Just click on the link below and follow the instructions. <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/9rzmssey/>

Fourth Option: Click on the link on the home page of our website.

Type: ogdenhillcrestumc.org hit <enter>



UMW.RETREAT

Sky Lake

“RISING HOPE”

Join your sisters in Christ and Pastor Joyce Allen on Wednesday May 17, 2017 at Founder's Lodge at Sky Lake in Windsor, NY. Rev. Joyce, the pastor of Ogden Hillcrest United Methodist Church in Binghamton, NY is delighted to be the facilitator of our retreat. You may arrive at Central at 8:00 am to join the car pool and leave Central at 8:15 am to arrive at Sky Lake by 9:00 am. You may also drive and meet us at the Conference Room in the Founder's Lodge at Sky Lake if you so desire. Plan to arrive at Founder's Lodge at 9 am. We will begin our retreat at 9:30 am with delicious refreshments and a meet and greet fellowship. Pastor Joyce will lead us all in understanding of "hope" and how it relates to our lives. The morning will include singing, activities, fellowship, and laughter. After a delicious lunch and singing some familiar camp songs with Matt, Kelly Crane will lead a jewelry making session. You will also have the opportunity to participate in a special activity with the focus on hope. The day will close with a communion service. You will be on your way home between 3:30 and 3:45 pm. It is a day that you will not want to miss.

The retreat is open to every woman. Every woman is invited. Feel free to invite your friends.

The cost is \$20 per woman and must accompany the short registration sheet (found below). The check is to be made to the order of the "UMW" and "retreat" on the memo line) and is to be included with the registration slip and must be received by Thursday May 4th.

The forms may be turned in or mailed-to:

Pat Breneman,
Central UMC
17 Nanticoke Ave., Endicott, NY 13760.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity!

REGISTRATION SLIP FOR THE UMW RETREAT 05/17/17

Name/Church:

Telephone Number:

Do you have any food allergies?

Special Food Needs:

THE CHURCH MOUSE



Did you come to church on Easter? I hope you were there for the special service and the excitement and the flowers. I am always very happy to see all the people, and especially the kids that morning. We also had important services on the Thursday and Friday before Easter. Of course, as a mouse, I am especially interested in the covered dish dinner that comes before the Thursday evening service. I know it's supposed to be like the meal Jesus shared with his friends, but I bet his friends couldn't cook like mine can! I have ham, salads, casseroles and desserts stacked up in my little house. Oh yum!



It's time for me to fill you in on who needs your prayers. There are always friends of mine to pray for. Kathy Case and Dick McKane need our prayers, as they each mourn the loss of their spouse.

Carol Harrison had some surgery as well, so pray for her. Janet Freeman Reynolds is having treatments for cancer, so lift her up a little with some prayers too.

My pal Norma Manning had surgery on her back and things were going well until she broke her ankle in physical therapy. That's some kind of therapy!



It's for me to hang out in the parsonage yard a little more. The youth were over there and had a bonfire with pizza. Soon, there will be summer pizza nights over there too. How wonderful! And good news for a mouse! The cat over there at the house is getting old and very slow. That makes my life just a little easier. For everything there is a time, you know. Even a time for mice.

The Church Mouse



In-carnation



The official flower of Mother's Day is the carnation, the favorite flower of the mom of the holiday's founder, Anna Jarvis. Over time, the custom arose of wearing a white carnation on Mother's Day if your mother has died and a red one if she's living.

In fact, many carnation colors have special meanings. Pink carries the richest Christian symbolism. According to legend, carnations first appeared on earth as Mary wept while watching Jesus carry his cross. Where her tears fell, there appeared pink carnations, symbolizing a mother's undying love.

According to one theory, the English word for carnation comes from *carnis*, Latin for flesh. From the same root comes *incarnation*, God's coming to earth in flesh. Thus, carnations remind us of our loving mothers as well as our loving Savior.

SOUJOURNERS

Our mission: When there is a funeral at Ogden and we offer a place and a meal in our facilities for grieving families to gather. The family pays the expenses.

Who we are: A group of women and men from the church that step up and make available the space, and arrangements.

Joan Wilbur normally coordinates these activities.

“There were two deaths at Ogden while I was away this winter. My sincere thanks goes out to the folks who took care of the arrangements in my absence. What I would ask is that someone or two folks would volunteer to assist me in this task when it happens in the future.”



There are always many volunteers who offer help and provide cakes but a CO-COORDINATOR would eliminate confusion about who to call during my absences.

Please consider your help in this mission.

Thank you. Joan Wilbur 724 8236.