

May 2018

Beacon

Free
Copy

The Beacon

May 2018

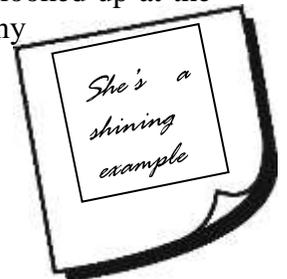
OGDEN-HILLCREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1061 CHENANGO STREET, BINGHAMTON NY 13901
ogdenadmin@ogdenhillcrestumc.org (607) 723-2637

Joyce K. Allen, Pastor



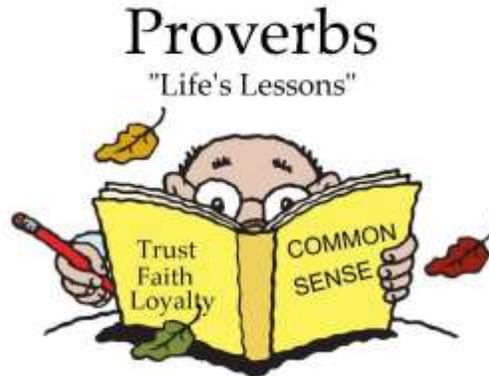
At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. “I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life,” he said. “She’s a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice.”

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. “It’s really hard to read my mom’s handwriting,” he said.



PASTOR'S PAGE

"Don't forget my instruction. Let your heart guard my commands, because they will help you live a long time and provide you with well-being. Don't let loyalty and faithfulness leave you. Bind them on your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will find favor and approval in the eyes of God and humanity. Trust in the Lord with all your heart; don't rely on your own intelligence. Know him in all your paths, and he will keep your ways straight". Proverbs 3:1-6



The Book of Proverbs may as well be called, The Book of Common Sense. That's what it contains, the kind of information your mom or dad might try to give you as you head out the door to meet your friends. You know, a small dose, administered every day for eighteen or so years. In this case, it's the word of God, coming to us through the culture and context of ancient Palestine. Still, the kind of common sense information that God wants us to know.

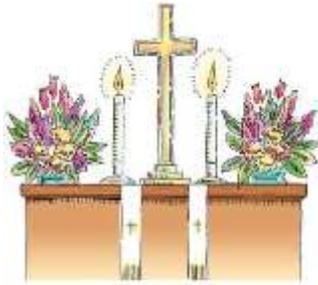
What does God wants us to know? In this edition of common sense news, it's that we ought to trust God and let God help our faith to grow. God reminds us that when we choose a lifestyle based on the love and trust of God, we find that we are loyal to God, faithful to God, and this kind of lifestyle brings the approval of both God and humans. It's that same old paradox. Giving ourselves to God makes us free. When we give ourselves to God's use we find ourselves feeling pretty blessed.

I remember a time when I wanted my life to be about what I wanted, not what God wanted. I wanted to have some fun, not be hanging around a church all the time. Ha! When I came back to church I found true family and friends who care about me, who love me. When I allow God to use some of my time and my talents, I find that I am way more blessed than the person who received my gifts. My prayer for you in the days and weeks ahead, is that you may find your faith growing and that you will be looking for ways to let God use you.

Peace,

Pastor Joyce

*In Loving Memory of:
In Honor of:*



Altar Flowers

Would you like to have flowers on the altar some Sunday morning in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person or occasion? The Altar Guild would be glad to make these arrangements for you. The cost for two bouquets is \$30.00 or, if you would like to share a Sunday with another family that is \$15.00. Please call me at 723-2115 to make the arrangements as soon as you can, as we do have standing orders for some Sundays

Calling all volunteers – Do you have four hours a month that you can spare? We are in need of someone to work in the **THRIFT SHOP** the third Saturday of each month. It's not hard work and we have a good time. If you are interested or would like more information contact Maralena at 242-6829.



Thrift Shop News

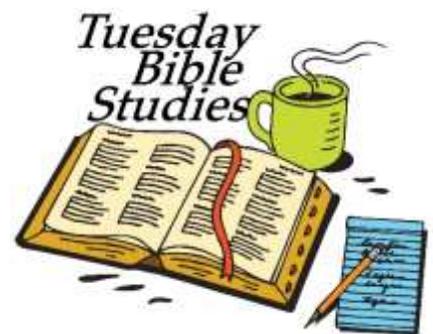


In need of prom dress or something for a special occasion? Stop in and check our selection. We also have a wedding gown in stock.

Spring & Summer stock is out on the racks, so stop in, see what we have and say hello.

We are accepting donations on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00 am – 1:30 pm.

Our Tuesday study meets at 11am in the Parish House for about an hour. Ask anyone who attends and they'll tell you this study makes them laugh, makes them think and helps bond them with the other Christians around the table. Almost everyone comes from our church, but folks from any church are welcome.

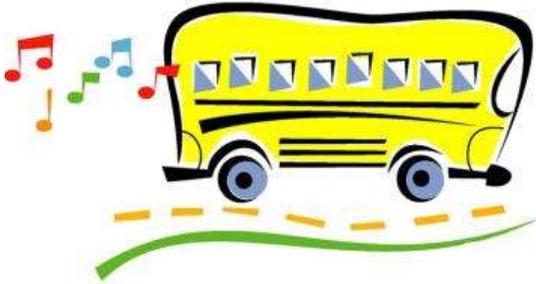


If you are interested in an evening Bible study, please speak to Pastor Joyce.

Grandson: "Why do you keep reading your Bible all day long?"

Grandfather: "Well" he exclaimed, "you might say I 'm cramming for my final examinations."

"Most people are bothered by those passages of scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand." – Mark Twain



Youth Group Traveling Party

Youth group wraps up another year with a traveling party on May 13th. We will leave from church at 4pm and return around 7pm. We'll be heading to Chuckster's and then out for dinner afterward. You must let Pastor Joyce know if you plan to come and whether you are bringing a friend with you. Come and celebrate another fun year of youth group. For this meeting, we are welcoming kids who will be entering middle school next year, and inviting them to bring a friend too!



Dinner Group



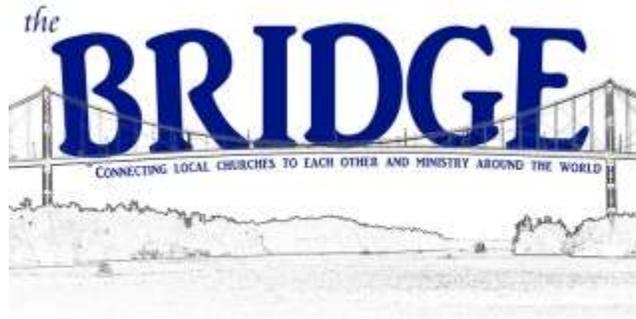
This month we return to the place we went to on our very first outing, Cracker Barrel. We will meet on **May 18th** at 6pm. There may be a short wait time, so arrive right about 6pm and we can wander through the store before we eat.

REMEMBER THIS GROUP IS OPEN TO ANYONE AND EVERYONE. YOU JUST HAVE TO ENJOY EATING.

You either have to be able to pay for your own meal, or accept God's grace and let the church pay if you cannot. Come and get to know folks from church a little more. We always have a great time."

Mark your calendar now for June's gathering on the 22nd at Tony's Italian restaurant in Endwell. Remember we have picnics at the parsonage in July and August every other Wednesday, instead of our Friday jaunts.





The Upper New York Conference's vision is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

From the April edition

Mission of Peace—An amazing experience for youth

Mission of Peace (MOP) is an annual journey of discovery and shalom to naons in our global community sponsored by the Northeastern Jurisdiction Council on Youth Ministries. The most recent MOP trip was to Cuba, Dec. 28, 2017- Jan. 12, 2018. Fourteen youth went on the trip, of which four were from Upper New York. Next year, MOP will be going to the Philippines. Read in their own words, what two Upper New York youth experienced in their MOP trip to Cuba.

My faith transformation during my Mission of Peace trip to Cuba

By Gavin Hill, Eden UMC

The day before we left for Cuba, I felt super scared and I made this prayer that was inspired from Psalm 91:1-12. I wrote, "Lord. My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust. I ask that you deliver me from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. I ask that you cover me, and I will find refuge; your faithfulness is a shield and buckler. I ask that I not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day. Thank you." This prayer made me feel very comforted. And this, was only the beginning of my faith transformation. Upon arriving to Cuba, I was nervous because we walked out of the airport and a crowd of people were staring at us. I immediately had a bad feeling. Then, we walked to the parking lot and my emotions completely changed. Our transportation was a painted school bus with wring that said, "Love," and "End the blockade on Cuba."

On the way to the house of Farfan (the place we stayed), I saw the immense beauty God had created in Cuba with the vast fields and palm trees. Also, the crystal clear blue ocean. When we arrived, the owner, Ricardo, made us popcorn and told us about the house. He was so friendly, and right then, I knew that Cuba was a place of community and love. Throughout the trip, we visited pastors and churches. One of the days, we were visited by a professor by the name of Daniel Montoya. He told us about the history of Christianity in Cuba and asked us a very deep question. He started by quoting the Rev. Martin Luther King Junior. "I have a dream but with open eyes." He then proceeded to ask, "what is your dream?" I was completely stumped. I thought my dream at that moment was to go to the Olympics for track and field. I was then proven wrong over the course of the trip. My dream is to go to the Olympics when I am a senior, so I can show people the great things God has done to me. However, that is not the end of my dream. God has been calling me to be a pastor for quite some time and this trip helped me accept it. I hope to go to the Olympics one to three times; however, my true dream is to be a pastor and change people's lives.

Visit <http://bit.ly/GavinsMOPstory> to continue reading Gavin's story.



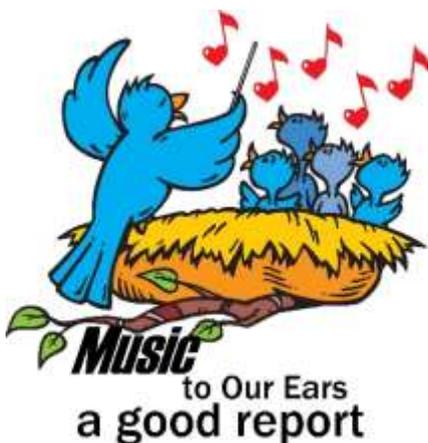
MISSION NEWS

Thank you for your generous donation of \$480 to UMCOR . Our church is very blessed with your continuous support for missions. This donation given on UMCOR Sunday is used to cover administrative costs for UMCOR. Any other donations given to UMCOR throughout the year go entirely to the disaster mission in need.

COME AND JOIN THE FUN FOR A SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR BETWEEN THE TWO CHURCH SERVICES ON MAY 20.

This is a great time for members of both services to get together. 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.

We will be requesting donations for supplies which will be used to fill the Hygiene Kits. A list of supplies was included in the April Beacon and there will be copies of the list in the church.



Cindy Feyler reports that the choir year is winding down. The voice and bell choirs are doing well. **The last day the choir will sing is June 17, Special Summer music begins on June 24th.**

We Were Blessed

The music department held a spaghetti dinner on April 15.

With your help and support the spaghetti dinner was a success. We would like to thank all the volunteers, who worked in the kitchen, who helped setup and cleanup. To those who donated all the delicious baked goods, we thank you. And of course we thank everyone who bought a dinner and supported our efforts.

The money raised will be split between the Music Department and church apportionments.

Thank you again from Cindy and the entire music department!

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

May Friendship Day luncheon

Saturday, May 5, 2018, 11 am

The price is \$12.00

Choconut Center UMC

Lewis and Airport Roads, Binghamton.

Theme: "In Gratitude for God's Presence."

Reservations only contact Beverly Emmett ph 775-0169

CLEAN UP DAY

Will be May 12 to coincide with the Town of Fenton Clean Up day. Volunteers will meet at the church at 9:00 am. Help needed, *many hands make light work*. I bet we can accomplish a lot have some fun and fellowship too!



NEWS FLASH: JUNE FEST DATE SET FOR JUNE 16th



Ascension
Sunday

Always With Us

Forty days after Easter, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. This occurred 10 days before Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' followers, as he had promised.

Jesus' ascension reminds Christians that although his body couldn't remain present everywhere, we can universally experience his spiritual presence. In fact, Jesus' final words to his disciples — and to us — contain this key promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV).

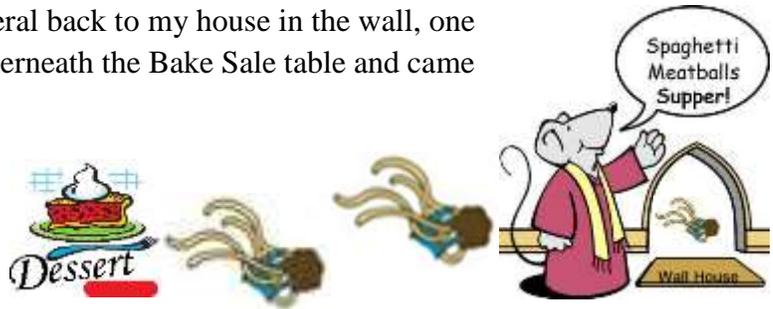


Pentecost Power

Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit descended onto Jesus' disciples. While they were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish festival of Pentecost, the disciples saw flames among and on them, heard a rushing wind and began talking in many languages. As a result, the disciples were able to share the good news of Jesus in the native tongues of all the pilgrims assembled in the city.

THE CHURCH MOUSE

Did you get out to the Music Department's Spaghetti dinner? I loved it! Mice find spaghetti difficult to eat, since a piece is longer than we are. But, if we find a human, especially a young one, they just might help a mouse out by cutting some up. I did get some spaghetti, but it was the meatballs I really went for. I carried several back to my house in the wall, one at a time, of course. And I wandered underneath the Bake Sale table and came up with dessert for a week. Yum.



Several of my friends are enjoying sweets again after Easter. I see you at Coffee Hour and Bible study. You gave up those treats for Lent so go ahead now, and have a little bit. Good job!



Speaking of my friends, Carol Harrison is still in rehab down in Endicott but she'll be coming home this month, we hope and pray. Bev and Tom Knopick have been under the weather with the respiratory stuff that's been going around. It hit them hard, so say a prayer for them too. My friends Roger and Betty Savidge are leaving Chenango St for a new home at Good Shepherd Village in Endwell. We wish them well but want them to come to church with us as often as they can. Grete Dodson, up in Oxford, first celebrated her 97th birthday and then got pneumonia. I'm praying she's feeling better now.

I've suffered
a disaster...
Lost everything!



If you missed church last week, then you missed a good skit by our Mission Chair, Brenda Rhodes. Dressed as someone who had been through a disaster, she explained how we can make hygiene kits for folks who have been through disasters themselves. The best part is people from both worship services are going to work together to make the kits on the 20th. She had me at mission project, and then she said special coffee hour. I wouldn't miss it and I hope you won't either!

Methodius
Your Church Mouse