

July 2020

Beacon Online Copy

The Beacon – July 2020

OGDEN-HILLCREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Mixed Messages

For their summer offering, Sunday school students donated money to a missionary family. Before teachers sent a care package overseas, they asked students to write short notes, letting the recipients know they were in children's prayers.

"The family is pretty busy," one teacher mentioned, in case the kids hoped to become pen pals. "You might not get a response, but it's kind of you to write."

When teachers collected the messages, they chuckled at what one brutally honest child had written:



"We're praying for you, but we don't expect an answer."

PASTOR'S PAGE

“So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived! All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:16-18

Are you ready for a new thing that God is doing? We have been working and working to do all the tasks that must happen before we reopen. I am not willing to put people at risk by having in person worship yet, but we expect by August we'll be able to meet. On another page in this newsletter you will see some of the rules we need to follow to keep one another safe when we return. When you see everything we can and cannot do, you may want to throw in the towel on church. Don't.

Worship will be different but it will still be worship. We won't have coffee hour or pass the peace, but we will see one another and be together. We will also continue to have our “live at 10:45” Facebook live service, so you can watch from home. We will work to keep one another healthy. I do not want to take on the role of “Distance Police” or “Mask Monitor” but I may have to. Every colleague of mine in a church that has reopened, reports that folks won't follow the rules of six feet apart. We will. We know we can do it. We love one another and understand our cooperation might save someone else's life.

I love you and I have missed seeing you. If you decide in person church is not for you yet, let me know, and I will make sure you get a socially distant pastoral call. Watch the next newsletter for more news, but plan to come back in August if you can!

Peace,

Pastor Joyce



REOPENING PLAN

In accordance with the rules for reopening set down by Bishop Webb, and New York State, we have had a committee working on accomplishing the many tasks that must be done before we can open again. The carpets must be cleaned, there need to be log books to document everyone who enters the building, six feet distances have to be measured and marked. We have to look at traffic flow and find sanitizer dispensers to mount on the walls. We have to buy masks to have available. We have to figure out what 25 percent of our occupancy is and how folks can sit to ensure the most people can fit in our space. There is a lot to do. Maralena Dropp, Judy Clark and Pastor Joyce have been meeting to figure things out. We are announcing now, our plan to host in person worship will begin on Sunday August 2nd.

What else do we need to do and know before we come back to worship? There is a lot of information to give you. Some is found here and more will be in the next newsletter. We will continue to have our 10:45 service on Facebook and you may worship there. The entire sanctuary must be cleaned between services, so we will begin with just the one service but our plan is to go back to two as soon as we can. You will enter the sanctuary from the front, Chenango St door and you will leave via the back door. Masks will be available, if you did not bring your own, and must be worn by everyone, including the pastor.

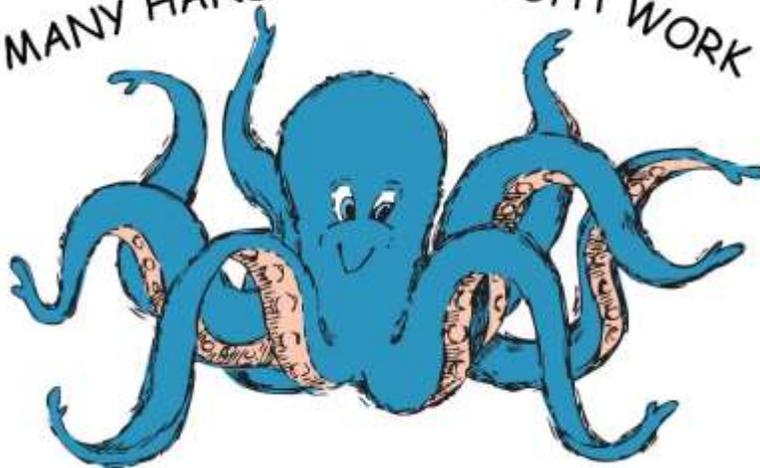
We have to close off the rest of the building, and we have to clean the bathroom between each use. You'll find cleaning wipes in each bathroom, and if you did a quick wipe down after using the bathroom, we can offer bathrooms for your use. You will need to bring your own Bible, if you want one to use. All hymnals and Bibles have been removed from the sanctuary. There won't be bulletins or singing. We are encouraged to have our service be no longer than 35 minutes.

High Risk Members

- Anyone who does not feel comfortable attending in person should continue to shelter in place and engage with online services.
- It is recommended that people who are immunocompromised to continue to shelter in place and engage with online services.
- Prayerfully consider not bringing children who are too young or people with special needs who can't be expected to wear a mask for the full length of the service to church. You may continue to watch online.
- People who work in essential services, such as health care, may want to continue to shelter in place and engage with online services depending on the level of contact they have with the general public.
- People who work in skilled nursing facilities, prisons, or meatpacking facilities are strongly encouraged to shelter in place and engage with online services due to the high rates of transmission within these facilities.

Our plan is to accomplish all that we need to and open on August 2nd. However, the infection rate around us increases, or we see evidence of local churches spreading the virus through worship services, we will put our plan on hold.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK



HELP NEEDED

If we are going to have worship in the building again we are going to need volunteers to help folks navigate their comings and goings. We'll need a volunteer out in the parking lot to direct people to the front door. We'll need helpers to hand out masks and answer questions. Will you help? Speak to Pastor Joyce if you can help.



Dinner Group

Hoping to meet in September!
We'll let you know.

hope to
SEE
YOU SOON!

CONFIRMATION AND KID'S CLUB



THE CHURCH MOUSE



Pastor and some other people had a meeting and I heard them say you're coming back to church. Hooray! It's been too long and I miss you all. I enjoy the people who show up on Sunday to help everyone worship on Facebook, but I know some of you can't see that. Greg Milunich likes animals and he knows how to make the online service happen, so I love him. Cindy Feyler is becoming famous online for her wonderful anthems each week. Jessica Feyler helps and sometimes sings. I love her because she is not only sweet, but she loves animals like me! Maralena helps lead the singing, but she's going to lose her job when there are more folks in church, because we can't sing together. I heard Pastor Joyce say we can hum with our masks on or bring our own tambourine or noisemakers. It's going to be weird for sure!

I'm happy to report that the only people from church who have been in the hospital that I know of were there to have a baby. Hooray! Ashely Hebbard Yount and her husband, Alex Yount had little Emery Ann, who is cute as a button. Emery is the apple of Grandma Peggy Hebbard's eye.



Nursery
News

Lauren Joanne Shepard was born to Julie Harrison Shepard and Robert Shepard. Lauren has a brother, Reed.

Continuing with baby news, little Georgiana Melissa Albino, daughter of Melissa Harrison Albino and Kevin Albino, was baptized on June 28th. After the online service, the family gathered behind the church for a unique outdoor baptism, in keeping with Covid 19 guidelines. All things are possible with God!

I'm hoping that when you come back to church you will consider bringing a little treat for me. Without coffee hour, there's not much food around. Lucky for me, Pastor Joyce has enough bird food over there and I am still making regular visits. I may be in trouble though because I chewed through her air filter one night and she had to get a new one. I hear she bought some peppermint oil to throw around her car in the hopes of keeping me out. We'll see.

Methodius Mouse

Cast & Crew

CINDY



(The only picture she would allow)



Singers
(on break)

Greg
Producer & Director



STEWARDSHIP NEWS



**Thanks
for Your
Support!**

Keep up your good work. God has to be pleased that we are keeping the faith, remembering our promises to God, and living out our faith in these tough times. We have been good stewards of all we have been given, keeping the church and grounds looking their best. Several folks have showed up to some weeding and maintenance. If you ever feel like pulling weeds around the front of the church, come on over.

Please remember your tithes and offerings, Please remember what God has done for you and what you want to do for God. You can use the mail, give on our web page or drop off your envelopes from 9am to 2pm Monday through Thursday in our office. I believe God is happy when we choose to give to God through the church of Jesus Christ.



Scriptures For July

July 5: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-13

July 12: Exodus 16:1-8

July 19: Leviticus 4:1-2, 27-31

July 26: Acts 2: 36-41

These scriptures are part of Pastor Joyce's Summer Sermon Series: **"Being the Church"**

"DECOMPOSING" TAKES TIME

Jesus, who often escaped to a deserted place with his disciples, knew that decomposition takes time. The making of good, rich, life-giving compost, for example, takes time. "You can't hurry compost for the same reason you can't hurry love and you can't hurry a soufflé," explains James Gleick, author of *Faster*. "The biochemistry has its own inherent pace." Likewise, grandchildren take time, learning a foreign language takes time, the testing of new drugs takes time, and vacations that truly enable us to rest, relax and recreate take time.

Disciples of Jesus today should recognize the need for the deserted place. It's a timeless place — a place in which long books can be read, epic movies can be watched, endless prayers can be offered, and deep thoughts can be pondered. It's a place of Sabbath-keeping and rest, renewal and relaxation, silence and inspiration. It's a place to be at ease, to become rich and fertile and mature.

—Adapted from Homiletics



Celebrate your achievement, your graduation is a special moment to enjoy all that you've done. Never stop learning, tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. We are so proud of you, as you move into the future!

Two classmates:

Ashleigh Nason, Graduated from Binghamton University with a Master of Arts of Social Work. She is the daughter of Kelly Hennessey and Joe Nason.

Erica Dropp, Graduated from Binghamton University with a Master of Arts of Social Work. She is the daughter of Maralena Dropp and Lyle Campbell.

Christopher Carey, graduated from CGP of Suny Oneonta with a Master of Arts in Museum Studies with an emphasis in History. He is the nephew of Maralena Dropp.

Grew up in our Sunday school and were leaders in our youth group:

Jessica Feyler, Graduated from Hartwick College Magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater and a minor in Criminal Justice. She is the daughter of Cindy and Bob Feyler, and granddaughter of Janet Rinker.

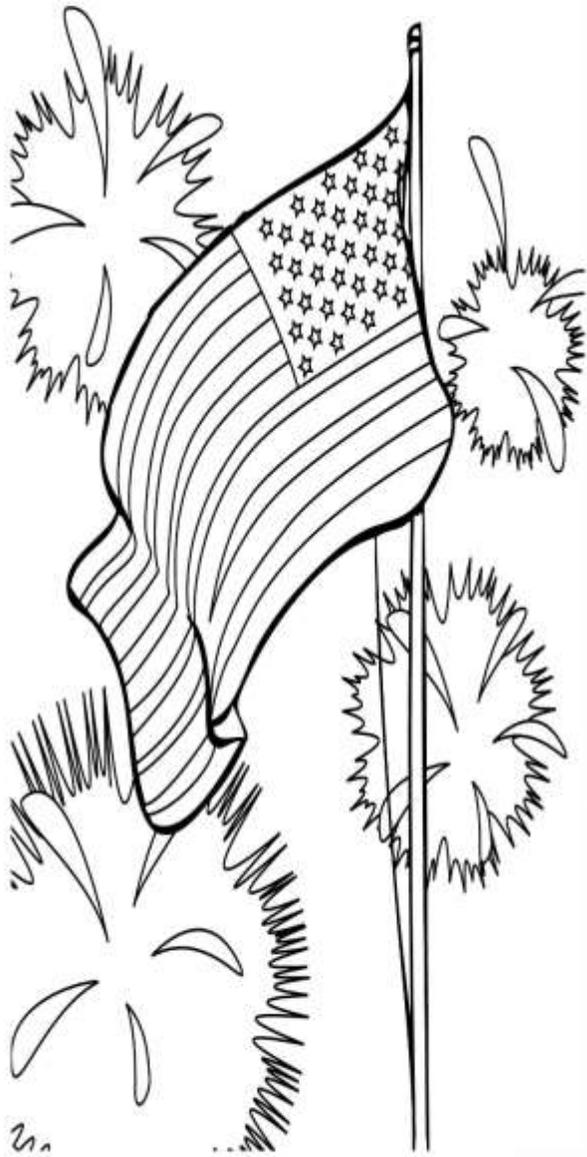
Kevin J. Taylor, Graduated from Cortland College with a Bachelor of Arts in History. He is the son of Mark and Karen Taylor.

DRIVE THROUGH GRADUATION PARTY

In the midst of this pandemic we had several people graduate from college; we will celebrate them in a special way. This evening at 6pm we are hosting a drive through graduation party for them. We'll space them ten feet or so from the edge of the parking lot apart and you can come in and drive by and greet them. You will enter on the St Francis side and follow directions from there. The church will be closed and you may not get out of your car. You can make a sign or throw a card out into the baskets we'll provide. You can decorate your car or not. You can dress up or come as you are. Let's make it fun and exciting. We don't get out much these days and these young folks deserve the best that we can give them. Have some fun and come on out to give them a toot and a salute!

Coloring Page?

HAVE A HAPPY 4TH



Bible Wordsearch

Plants of the Bible

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Puzzle #116



- ALGUM
- ALMOND
- ALMUG
- ALOES
- AMBER
- ANISE
- APPLE
- ASH
- BALM
- BARLEY
- BEANS
- BULRUSH
- CAMPHIRE
- CANE
- CASSIA
- CINNAMON
- COCKLE
- CORIANDER
- CUCUMBERS
- CUMMIN
- DATE
- FIG
- FITCHES
- GARLIC
- GOURD
- HAZEL
- HEATH
- HYSSOP
- LEEK
- LENTILES
- MANDRAKES
- MELONS
- MILLET
- MINT
- MULBERRY
- MUSTARD
- MYRRH
- MYRTLE
- NETTLE
- OLIVE
- ONION
- REED
- ROSE
- RUE
- RYE
- SAFFRON
- SPIKENARD
- THISTLE
- WILLOWS

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Psalm 57

MORE PUZZLES AT: <http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2005 PEACEFULL PUBLICATIONS

