

# The Beacon

# September 2017

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

**Joyce K. Allen, Pastor**

## God's time

A young man once asked God how long a million years was to him. God replied, "A million years to me is just like a single second in your time." Then the young man asked God what a million dollars was to him. God replied, "A million dollars to me is like a single penny to you." Then the young man got up the courage and asked, "God, could I have one of your pennies?" God smiled and replied, "Certainly, just a second."

-The Cumberland Presbyterian, September 1997



## PASTOR'S PAGE

*“There’s a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens: a time for giving birth and a time for dying, a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted, a time for killing and a time for healing, a time for tearing down and a time for building up, a time for crying and a time for laughing, a time for mourning and a time for dancing, a time for throwing stones and a time for gathering stones, a time for embracing and a time for avoiding embraces, a time for searching and a time for losing, a time for keeping and a time for throwing away, a time for tearing and a time for repairing, a time for keeping silent and a time for speaking, a time for loving and a time for hating, a time for war and a time for peace.” Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

If you're around my age, you might sing these words to yourself. I grew up hearing these words on the radio more than I did in church. They served as a reminder for us to make the most of the time we are given. Often, we read this scripture at the start of a new year to remind us to set our priorities and keep ourselves on the right path as we begin planning for the new season ahead. I think these words speak to us in September too, as we begin a new school year, we also begin a new programming year in our church. We must plan out our time or we may find ourselves throwing away the precious gift that time can be.



Perhaps you have seen the illustration of a large jar, large and small stones, gravel and water. If we put everything but the large stones in first, there won't be room for them. However, if we begin with the large stones, and then add the small stones and gravel, we find that even the water fits in among the crevices and cracks. The same is true with our time. We have to block out time for the things that matter most and we will have room for them in our lives. We have to have time with our families and friends. We have to make time for work and school. We need time for God and church too. As you plan your new school year and new church year, make time for Christian education and worship. There are lots of opportunities in this Beacon. Make time for God and to be with God's people. God has made you a top priority. Will you do the same for God?

*Peace,*

*Pastor Joyce*





## PASTOR'S VACATION TIME



Pastor Joyce is going to take some time to charge her batteries this fall. She will officially be off from September 11 through the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, when she'll meet with the dinner group. If you need anything during her vacation, please call Jim at our office. If pastoral care is needed, please call Pastor Jenni Piatt at (607) 560-4400



## THINKING ABOUT LABOR DAY

The Bible affirms the importance of work. Adam was put in the garden to work and take care of it.

In the fourth commandment we are told to "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy." Then we read: "Six days you shall labor and do all your work" (Exodus 20:8-9 NIV).

Work is important for us. It allows us to use our talent, our minds and our strength to create and bring forth the "fruits" of our labor. Work satisfies an inner need to make a positive contribution to the world. Work helps to bring satisfaction and fulfillment to us as we use our lives for good and uplifting purposes. It is a way of exercising good stewardship of the personal gifts God has given to us: our brain power, our physical strength, our special talents.

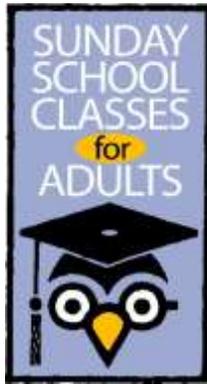


Since we have the privilege of being "workers together with God" it seems fitting that we set aside one day a year to think about the goodness and dignity of work. Therefore, let us joyfully celebrate Labor Day.



On September 10, we begin a new year of youth group. We'll meet from 5:30-7pm that evening to make some fall plans. Please be thinking of activities and things you might want to do this year, as well as potential mission projects. On the 10<sup>th</sup> we'll play games, do a craft, have Bible study and we will, no doubt, play "Manhunt" in the church. Please join us and invite some friends too!

On September 24<sup>th</sup> we'll leave from church to do an activity that we chose on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Be there to help decide!



We will begin our Adult Sunday School on September 10, at 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome! This fall we will be studying Moses a book written by Adam Hamilton about the life of Moses. Books have been ordered. If you are "new" to the class, please call Bill Judd@ 723-2991 to make sure there enough books. We can order more. We will look forward to seeing you.



### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, September 10, after the second worship service.

Teen & Children's Choirs

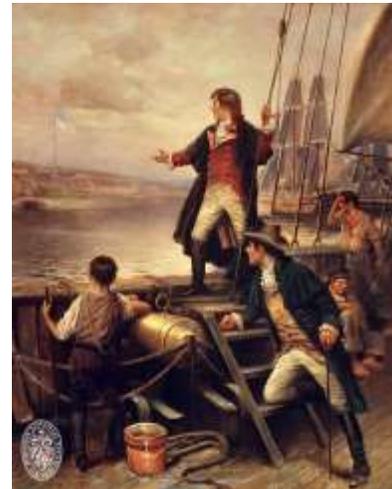
We would like start a choir for the younger children, ages 4 through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Please attend if your child would like to sing in a choir.

## **An Anniversary: Unexpected results from a mission of mercy**

Daring to love and serve both God and country with integrity was a risk that lawyer/poet Francis Scott Key was willing to take.

It was in the midst of the highly unpopular War of 1812 ... that Key stepped out of obscurity and into American history. On the night bridging September 13 and 14, 1814, Key found himself sloshing about in a boat on Chesapeake Bay on a mission of benevolence. Key had volunteered to take part in a not-very optimistic prisoner exchange attempt - trading a captured British officer for the release of an aged, but highly respected American physician, Dr. William Beane



Key's negotiating abilities were apparently quite good, for he duly returned with Dr. Beane, and "The Star Spangled Banner," an almost completed poem he had composed during his mission of mercy. Originally intended to be sung as a hymn of thanks for the rescue of the city of Baltimore from bombardment from the British fleet, its hymn-like qualities are still quite evident. Unlike other national anthems, "The Star Spangled Banner" does not extol the glories of battle or the nobility of soldiering, instead it offers up gratitude for the event of an unexpected salvation. - Homiletics

## FINE DINING GROUP

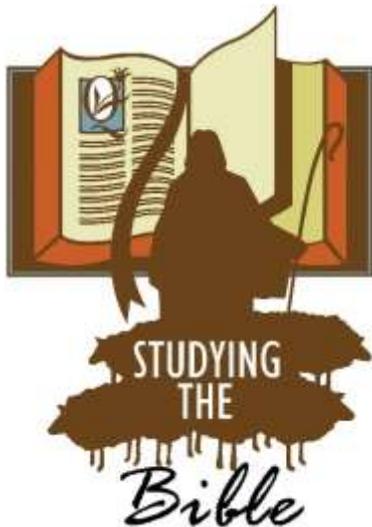
We're back! After taking the summer off we are headed back to one of our favorite places. Folks keep asking to go back to the Red Oak, so we will. Let's meet there at 6pm on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Each one pays their own way, but Pastor always has a little money tucked away to help, so don't stay home because you're low on money. That's when you need a good meal! As we say, the only qualification for our dinner group is that you like to go out and eat.



Don't stay home!

Coming in October: Park Diner on the 20<sup>th</sup>!

## FALL STUDY



This fall Pastor Joyce is willing to offer two options, one a definite class and the other to be held if folks show that they want it. Please think and pray about how you might respond to this offer.

The first option is a study of discipleship and how we can be intentional in being disciples of Jesus Christ. This class begins on Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup>, runs for about six or eight weeks, depending on what the class decides, and runs about an hour each week. There is a book that may be downloaded at [seeallthepeople.org](http://seeallthepeople.org) (click on free resource), or you can get a copy at class. There is no cost and very little homework. This class will help us as individuals and as a church, as we grow our faith. Please let the office know if you want to take this class.

The second option is a class called Disciple Bible Study. This class will take effort and commitment, but you will know the Bible as you never have before. The class runs for 34 weeks and meets for 2.5 hours each week. There is a book that costs about \$40, but scholarships are available. There are assignments in the Bible and the book. If you must miss a class you still do the homework. It's not easy, but the reward cannot be put into words. You will be challenged and you will grow. It's a class that changes lives and changes churches. The time and day of the class would be decided upon by the group. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Joyce.

## CHURCH CONFERENCE IS COMING!

We're getting the word out early so lots of people can attend our annual meeting. At church conference, we elect leaders for the coming year, we set the pastor's salary for next year and we vote on any candidates for ministry we may have. Our meeting will be held along with the meetings of our neighboring UMC's, over at Chenango Bridge UMC at 10am on Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to attend to show your commitment to Ogden Hillcrest UMC.



## THE CHURCH MOUSE

It was an interesting summer around here. I loved the pizza parties on the lawn and all the food people brought in. There was enough for everyone who attended plus some for me to carry home. The falcons continue to hang around the Maple tree in front of the parsonage, so I am careful not to stray far from the church building. I do not want to be their lunch! I caught rides back and forth to Vacation Bible School so I could see all the children singing and dancing and praising God. They had some Alpacas for the kids to pet. Did you know Alpacas and mice get along? I don't know if that's a fact, really, but those two were quite nice to me.



Early in the summer I heard a rumor about the parsonage cat. She was sick and then the Pastor took her to the vet and did not bring her home. I was so excited and I was singing, "Ding dong, the cat is dead" and the area mice were planning to move into the parsonage for the winter. Then, guess what that pastor did, she went to the Humane Society and brought home two cats! Two cats!! Here I was so excited to get rid of one and now there are twice as many. If you like cats, you'll want to know that the new ones are named Leah and Simon. Personally, I don't care.

I am ready for the kids to be back for Sunday school and for youth group. I love it when fall comes and the church is full! There are some of my friends who wish they could come to church, but just can't anymore. Please pray for our members and friends who are in nursing homes or shut in at home. I've been happy to see Dick McKane, Kathy Case and Doris Slater at church. I know it takes an effort to get here, but we are always so happy to see you come in the door. Frances Sandwick wants you to know she is still at the Fairview Good Shepherd home and she would like more visitors. Thank you Roger and Norma Jean, Nancy T, Joe, Pastor Joyce and Gladys for your visits. I'm going to miss my friend Al Clough, who passed away in August. He always attended the first service and was a friend to all animals.

Some of our friends went off to Sky Lake this summer, two of them for the first time. Thanks for supporting our Thrift Shop and our bottle and can collection. Our friends didn't have to pay for camp because you helped. The kids you sent are: Tyler Adams, Ali Masland, Natalie St. John and Kylie Masland. If you see them around ask them about their camp experience. You'll be delighted at their stories.

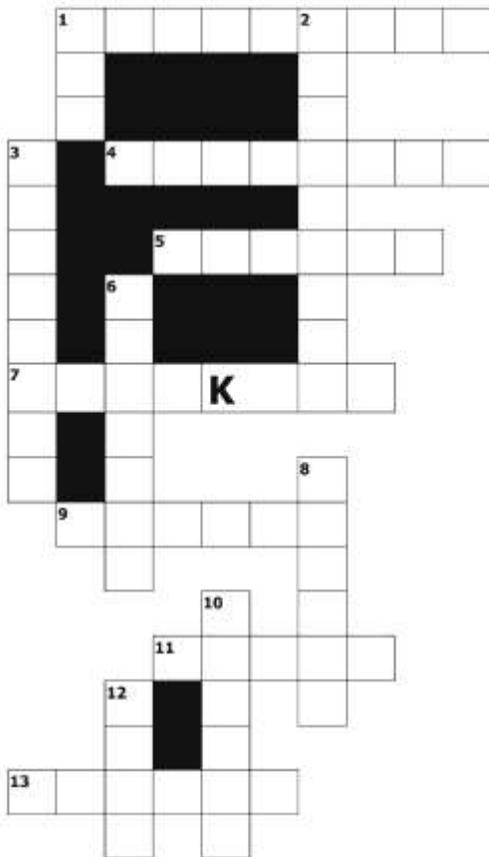
I have lots of friends who I see in church, but I know there are lots of you who get the newsletter, but never come and see me. Please consider joining in this fall. You will find a welcoming family of people who will accept you and love you just the way you are. Just think, if they welcome a mouse, they'll certainly welcome a person even more!

*Scaredy Mouse*



# Puzzle!

Use the clues to complete this crossword about women in the Bible.



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. (across) Cousin of Mary (Luke 1:36)                                  | 7. Mother of Esau (Genesis 25:21, 25)               |
| 1. (down) Mother of Abel (Genesis 4:1-2)                                | 8. The wife Jacob loved (Genesis 29:20)             |
| 2. Mother of Solomon (2 Samuel 12:24)                                   | 9. Sister of Mary (John 11:1)                       |
| 3. Moses' wife (Exodus 2:21)  | 10. Sewed clothes (Acts 9:39)                       |
| 4. Lied about her giving to the church (Acts 5:1)                       | 11. Hosea's wife (Hosea 1:3)                        |
| 5. Saved her people from destruction in Persia (also a Bible book name) | 12. Sat at Jesus' feet in conversation (Luke 10:39) |
| 6. A judge in Israel (Judges 4)   | 13. Sister of Moses and Aaron (Exodus 15:20)        |



## A SMALL LAUGH

“God warned a man named Lot to take his wife and flee out of the city,” said the Sunday school teacher, “but Lot’s wife looked back and was turned to salt.”

A curious boy then asked, “What happened to the flea?”

# September 2017

September 4<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day, Office Closed



September 6<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm Finance Committee meets (PH)



Finance Committee

September 7<sup>th</sup> – Choir Practices Resume

6:15 pm Bellaires

7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir



Choir Practice

BELLAIRES



September 10<sup>th</sup> – Fall Schedule Begins

Choir Returns

Adult & Children's Sunday School Resume

Organizational Meeting – Teen & Children's Choir – after 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service

5:30 pm Youth Group

September 11<sup>th</sup> – Patriot Day – Remember 9/11

Remember...



September 11<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Begins Vacation



September 17<sup>th</sup> – CHOW Walk



September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 pm Dinner Group Meets at the Red Oak Restaurant

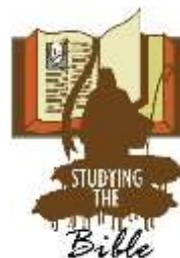
Pastor Returns



September 24<sup>th</sup> 12:30 Youth Group, Plans TBA



September 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Fall Study begins



after-church activity???