

The Beacon

October 2016

OGDEN-HILLCREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1061 CHENANGO STREET, BINGHAMTON NY 13901

Joyce K. Allen, Pastor

“We proclaim God’s word to the world according to the Gospel of our

Lord Jesus Christ and strive to be Christ-like in all we do.”

He's everywhere

A mother asked her little boy to please get the broom from the back porch. “But it’s dark out there!” he protested.

“Don’t be scared,” Mom said. “Jesus is out there. He’ll take care of you.” When the child looked skeptical, his mother continued, “Jesus is everywhere. You’ll be safe.”

After a moment, the boy went to the back door and cracked it open. Peering into the dark, he called, “Jesus, if you’re out there, will you please hand me the broom?”



PASTOR'S PAGE

“Let the people thank you, God! Let all the people thank you! The earth has yielded its harvest. God blesses us—our God blesses us! Let God continue to bless us; let the far ends of the earth honor him”. Psalm 67:5-7

Has God blessed you? Can you think of two or three blessings you believe are gifts from God? When I asked the children that question, they told me they were most thankful for their family and their friends. They also added toys and computers and a few other things. Once upon a time in another church, a little boy told me he was thankful for the “babes on Baywatch”. Everybody has something to be thankful for.

An Abundance of Thanks



be to God

October is my favorite month. God's blessings are so abundant. Take a drive, if you can, and look at the trees and the pumpkin farms. Check out the mums for sale and all the vibrant colors that shout God's praises. The earth instinctively gives thanks in return for God's gifts. Humans need to develop that instinctive response too. Our first response is normally self-protection. Sometimes we think we better save all the blessings we have, just in case hard times come. God asks us to think differently and when we are in a relationship with God, we move toward trusting God and we find that some of our blessings come from sharing with others.

Ogden has long been known as a mission church. We give and we collect supplies and we participate in a lot of mission work. In September we delivered about \$800 worth of gifts for the residents at the VA Home in Oxford. We are a giving and growing church. The one problem we have is that we fall short of paying our bills every year. It's usually about \$6000.

I don't often talk about money, but it is one blessing we have and one that God asks us to share with the church. All around us we have United Methodist Churches that were in a similar situation but they didn't have the growth of people we've had. Now they share one pastor with another church and they don't have the programs they used to. We have remained one church with one pastor and two services. If we want to keep things the way they are, we have to find a way to pay all of our bills. Please pray for our church. If you have it to give, and can find your way to give it to Our Church; it will truly be a blessing for Ogden. If you don't, then keep praying and find other ways to thank God. There are many. God has richly blessed us and I believe that will continue at Ogden Hillcrest for many years to come.



Peace,

Pastor Joyce

BLESSING OF THE PETS

Come to this Blessing on Saturday, October 1 at 9:30 am. We will be in the front yard of the Parish House (or if it rains, on the porch). If you have pets that bless you, bring them to the church for a special blessing from God. Everyone is welcome, whether you walk, fly or slither.



In 1936, a group of pastors launched World-Wide Communion Day. Amid the Great Depression, they were looking for a way to meet people's spiritual needs and unite Christians in their dedication to Christ.

The observance, now known as World Communion Sunday, is held on the first Sunday of October. For eight decades, it has served as a reminder that Christians around the globe share the same meal in remembrance of Jesus.

GAME NIGHT

There are a lot of folks at Ogden who like to play games. I mean board games and dominos and group participation type games. A couple of times a year we get together for an evening of games. Everyone is invited to simply show up, or to bring a favorite game or snack to share. There is always pizza and lots of other good food, so you don't even need to make dinner. Our next get together is Friday night, October 7th at 6pm down stairs in the Pine Room. Come on out.



FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS TO BE RECOGNIZED



Have you been a member at Ogden Hillcrest for fifty years or more? If you haven't reached that milestone yet, you surely know someone who has. Come and celebrate on Sunday October 9th as we welcome new members to the group, and as we honor those already members.

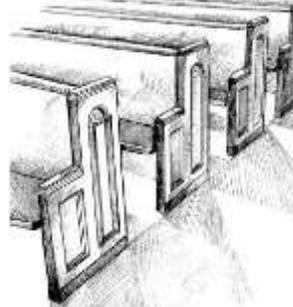
YOUTH GROUP NEWS

We are continuing our pattern of one meeting outside the church building and one inside. In September we learned about the way Christians are supposed to treat others, we played BINGO for school supplies and chased one another around the dark church. (I know, but it's their favorite part). We had a blast at Chuckster's. We played mini golf, shoot and shower, aero-ball, and used the batting cages. Not one of us wanted to climb the rock wall. We thank our benefactors who provided us this wonderful opportunity!



On October 9th we'll hit the road again, right after the second service. This time we are off to the Corn Maze at Stoughton Farms in Berkshire. Youth group will pay admission to the maze, but if you want pumpkins, gourds etc, please bring a little bit of money along.

On October 23rd, we'll be back at church for a "choose your own youth group meeting". Youth can choose crafts or games or both, and we'll study our Bibles and, no doubt, chase one another around a dark church. God finds the most amazing ways to get us interested!



PASTOR'S VACATION

Pastor Joyce will be on vacation from October 10th through the afternoon of October 21. She'll be traveling some of the time and having a fall cleaning and "stay-cation" for some of the time. Please call the church office, 723-2637, if you need to speak to the Pastor. If you need pastoral care, please call Rev. Roger Fredericks at Chenango Bridge UMC, 648-4339

PINE ROOM CLEANING DAY

Come join us on October 12, from 10:00 am through Noon, to help wash and polish the pine paneling in the Pine Room. Many hands will make light work! We will enjoy a soup and sandwich lunch after our work is done. Let us know if you can make it so we know how much food to plan. If you are unable to help with cleaning we could use some help with serving lunch. All are welcome. Please contact Brenda Rhodes or Joan Wilbur if you have questions.



What's Cook'n?



Join Us for Supper Club

Have you ever tried going out with our group? Individuals, couples and families are all welcome. The only requirement is that you like to go out and eat. That's most of us! In October we return to another favorite restaurant, Denny's on Front Street. We will meet there at 6pm on October 21st. We get separate checks, but if you need help paying your bill, let the pastor know. Money isn't as important as the time we spend together.



CHICKEN N' BISCUIT DINNER,

Saturday, October 22, 2016,

4:30 - 6:30 pm.

\$9.00

Biscuits, Gravy & Chicken

Mashed Potatoes

Vegetables

Pies, Pies, Pies!

Ogden Hillcrest UMC
1061 Chenango St.
Binghamton, NY 13901
(607) 723-2637 M-Th 9-2



We Look Forward to Seeing You!

HALLOWEEN TRICKS AND TREATS

Rain or shine, a whole group of people are going to walk right by our church. Let's welcome them with glow in the dark necklaces and an invitation to join our family. If you want to help, head to church that evening. We'll be starting a bon fire and setting up our chairs around 5:30 and we plan to be out until around 8:30. You can join us any time or stop by to get your necklace. If you want to donate candy, bring that along any time before Halloween or that evening.



MISSION NEWS

The Mission Committee has completed our summer campaign to provide donations for the veterans at the Oxford Veteran's Home. We received a large donation of items which included baseball caps, sweat pants and shirts, puzzles, coloring and word puzzle books, electric razors, many wooden crafts, and craft kits. Thank you for your generous donations.

It is time to think about our Autumn/Winter missions which will include the following activities:



On October 13, we will begin our annual Thanksgiving drive. The bags and lists of food will be available on that Sunday.

We will distribute "glow in the dark" necklaces to the community children on October 31, Halloween night.



On November 1n 3, we will honor our veterans with special coffee hours after both services.



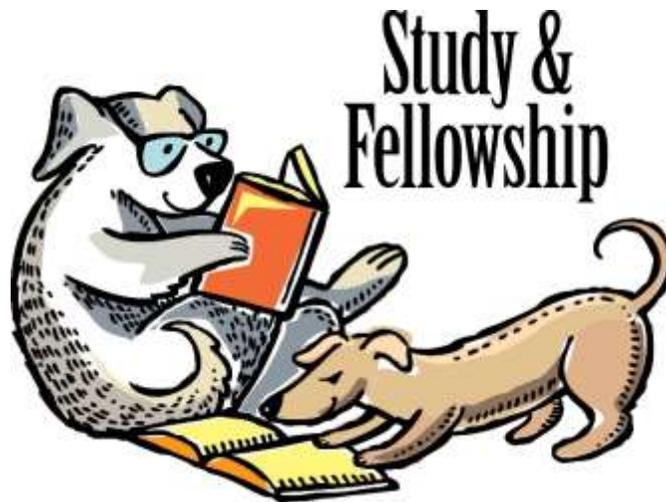
For our Christmas mission, we will collect hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. These donations will be distributed to our local schools for children. The "hat, mitten, scarf" tree will be ready in late November to pin your donations.

Look for articles in this month's and November's Beacon and the weekly bulletins.

CHOW Hunger Walk

On Sunday, September 18th, the 34th Annual CHOW Hunger Walk took place at Binghamton University. Bill Judd delivered our donation of \$785 to CHOW, and had wonderful afternoon walking. Thank you to everyone who contributed to Ogden's record-breaking donation. - Bill





😊 Free Tuition! 😊

(Books not included)

Snacks usually available

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

We are always looking for Bible study members. This Tuesday group is the kind of study where folks come when they can. Whether it's every week or you drop in from time to time, **you will learn something, you will find new friends and you will laugh.** Come to the meeting room in the Parish House in time to start at 11.

FALL STUDY

We are in the midst of our study, but there's still time for you to join in. The book is called "Three Simple Rules" by Bishop Reuben Job. It is an insightful work that calls us to mutual respect, unity and a deeper daily relationship with God. It is a simple but challenging look at three commands, "do no harm, do good, stay in love with God." Methodists have tried to live by those rules since our denomination began.

Join us at the Parish House on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Let God guide you in your daily living and watch your life bloom and grow.

THE CHURCH MOUSE



Oh boy, everybody's back! Sunday school classes are in session for every age group. On Sunday I have to work my way from the adults in the Eveready room to the Junior and Senior High folks upstairs to see what they are learning and what they are eating. Then, after the children's sermon the kids go downstairs and I go along to check out what their class is up to. Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Goodstal and Mr. Judd are sure great teachers. Thanks for teaching!



The Pine Room got some trim painted and the Nursery room (Sunday school room) on that floor got a paint job too. Fridays are usually a rest day around here but I had to get up early to help. Actually I got a little bit of that darker colored paint and my own little brush and fixed up my little mouse house. Well, now that I am confessing, I took a whole piece of that Ooey Gooey Butter cake that was there too. Wow!



Snacks for Volunteers

A couple of my friends have been in the hospital. Now today, while I am writing this they are home and I am hoping it stays that way. Barbara McKane was at Wilson and Doris Slater was at Lourdes. I pray that they both feel better. Dick McKane can use a little prayer too, as well as my friends John and Cathy Case.



Youth group started up again so I have watch out. When they play Hide and Seek they get a little too close to me sometimes. And those Tuesday Bible study folks are back too. I heard Pastor Joyce say she missed seeing them in August. It got a little too quiet there for a minute but now we are all back together again. I will be around but I hope to keep out of sight!



Invisible Mouse

