

The Beacon

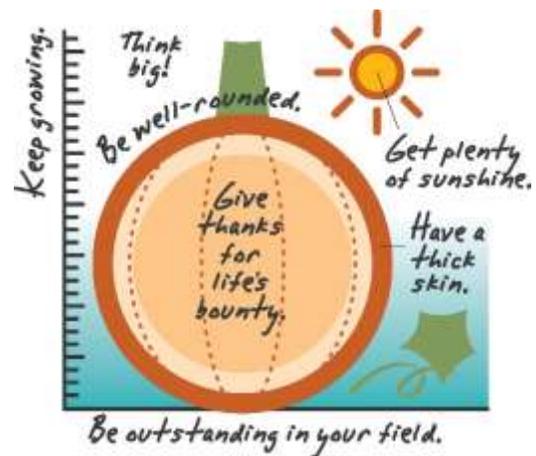
October 2017

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

Joyce K. Allen, Pastor

*Be well-rounded.
Get plenty of sunshine.
Give thanks for life's bounty.
Have a thick skin.
Keep growing.
Be outstanding in your field.
Think big!*

*—Ilan Shamir
Advice From a Pumpkin*

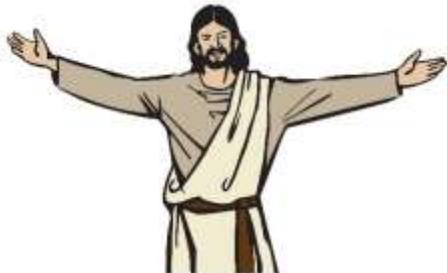


PASTOR'S PAGE

“Leave all things you have and come and follow me”. I love this chorus from the song “Two Fishermen” by Susan Toolan. It echoes the words of Jesus as he calls people to be his disciples. Leave all things you have and come and follow me. I used to think of money and possessions as the subjects Jesus was speaking about, but perhaps, like so often, there is a deeper meaning to his words.

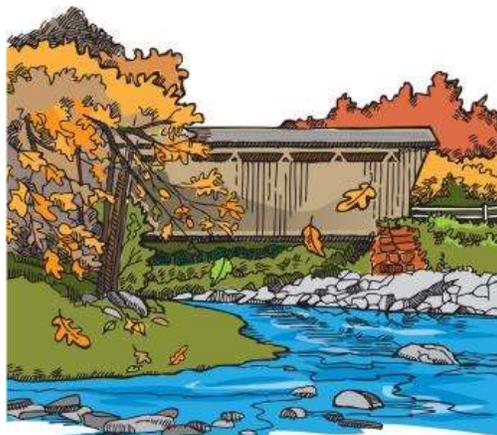
What if Jesus was asking us to give up the things that make us worry, our low self-esteem, our inability to speak out when we know we should, our fears for ourselves, our family, our world? Does Jesus think we can let all those things go so that we can be free to expend our energy on more positive thoughts and actions? I believe he does. I believe the power of the Holy Spirit can free us from anything and everything that keeps us apart from God. Maybe those things are money and possessions, but I think more of us struggle with other issues.

Perhaps the trees can remind us of God's presence and power this fall. We see their joyful colors and we're called to think about our Creator. And then the trees do something that is so very difficult for humans. They let go. The old saying, let go and let God, sounds a bit trite, but maybe there is a message for us anyway. Why not take a moment or two to relax and look at the beauty of the fall colors? And then, think about what keeps you from fully following Jesus. Is that something or things that you can let go? Fall is the most incredible time of year and it's a wonderful time to reconnect with God. Come and join in at church.



Peace,

Pastor Joyce



FALL STUDY

We've just started our class about being intentional disciples of Jesus Christ, but there's still time for you to join in. We meet at the Parish House on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. There is a book that may be downloaded at 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.

BLESSING OF THE PETS

COME TO THIS BLESSING ON SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 7 AT 11:00 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.



Are you breathing? Do you like to go out to eat? If you answered yes to both questions you are eligible to be a part of our Dinner Group. We meet once a month for a meal and some time together. This month is **The Park Diner on October 20th at 6pm**. 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! Please join us!

Coming in November: Cortese Restaurant on the 17th!

And mark your calendars now for the Second Annual Dinner Group Christmas Party! Everyone is invited for Phil's Chicken on December 15th.

CRAFT SATURDAY

Join us for a craft party on Saturday, October 21st at 1:00pm. We will be painting some decorations for Halloween. Cost is \$10 and includes all supplies. Space is limited, so please email Julie Shepard at jmharrison14@yahoo.com if you would like to attend. All are welcome!



COVERED DISH DINNER AND BAKE OFF

We are having a covered dish dinner right after church on the 29th of October. If you can, bring a dish to pass and your table setting. Ovens in the kitchen can be used to keep things warm during worship. Following dinner there will be a bake off competition. Bring any dessert you'd like to enter and everyone will be invited to pay one dollar to vote for their favorite dessert. All proceeds will go to the Pastor's discretionary fund, which helps people in need. There will be prizes! Don't miss out on the fun as it's sure to be the talk of the town!!



HALLOWEEN MINISTRIES

Do you run away from home to avoid trick or treaters? Do you live on a hill where no one comes asking for candy? We've got a ministry for you, and for anyone else who would like to join in! On Halloween, Tuesday October 31st we'll be greeting our neighbors and handing out candy and glow-in-the-dark necklaces in front of the Parish House. It's one opportunity for us to show our neighbors that we care about their children's safety. Bring a lawn chair and any candy you'd like to give out; come for all or part of the evening. If you have questions, speak to Pastor Joyce, otherwise, just show up.



REFORMATION MILESTONE: CELEBRATION AND REPENTANCE



October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his “95 Theses” on a church door in Germany. This wasn’t an unusual act at the time; Luther was simply welcoming scholarly debate. But his ideas opposing certain teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church led to a monumental shift in Christianity.

Along with other reformers, Luther taught that Scripture is the supreme authority for the believer; that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone; and that baptism gives all full access to God in Christ (“the priesthood of all believers”), so there’s no need for an intermediary such as a pope, priest or saint.

Initially, the reformers intended not to leave the Catholic Church but to reform it. But those who protested church practices became known as Protestants, and eventually, multiple denominations arose — Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism and others — and did, in fact, separate from the Roman tradition.

Sadly, woven amid the good intentions to rightly teach and live the faith were sins on all sides: Luther hurled insults “with the best of them”; the pope excommunicated him and had other reformers executed; the beliefs and faith of theological opponents were regularly disparaged. As Heinz Josef Algermissen, a present-day Roman Catholic bishop in Germany, states: “In commemorating the Reformation, we cannot just see it as a jubilee, but should also admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years.”

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 18th. Please plan to attend to show your commitment to Ogden Hillcrest UMC.

MISSION NEWS

The Mission Committee has completed our summer campaigns. The generosity of the members of Ogden is so amazing. This summer we collected over 200 toiletry items for Robby's Pantry. We also raised \$172 with the pound auction. This money will be used for apportions. Part of our annual apportions is used for mission work. Thank you for your continued support of our missions.

Currently we are taking donations for flood victims in Texas and Florida.

It is time to think about our Autumn/Winter missions which will include the following activities: We will distribute "glow in the dark" necklaces to the community children on October 31, Look for articles in this month's and November's Beacon and the weekly bulletins.

PROVIDE FOOD FOR THANKSGIVING

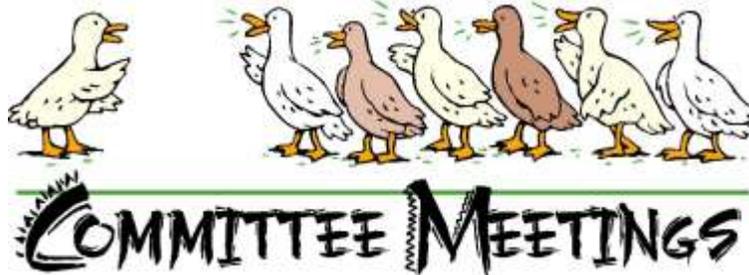
Through the ecumenical effort of local churches and coordinated by Catholic Charities, our church can help provide holiday food for the needy at Thanksgiving. Last year, Ogden donated 57 bags of food and \$1430 for turkey vouchers.

The Mission Committee has reusable grocery bags, along with a list of grocery items. Sign-up sheets indicating your level of participation are in the sanctuary. You have three options:

- **Furnish a complete basket of food, including a turkey voucher**
- **Furnish food items only**
- **Donate money for turkey voucher(s) (\$10 each)**

On Sunday, October 22, the Thanksgiving bags will be available to those who wish to furnish food.

On Sunday, November 5, an envelope marked "Turkey Donation" will be inserted in each bulletin. If paying by check, make the check payable to "Ogden Hillcrest UMC," and put "turkey" on the memo line. Drop the envelope in the offering plate by November 12. **All donations are due by November 12.**



Monday, October 2 Administrative Board 7:00 (ER)

Sat. October 7, Thrift Shop, Committee 10:00 am (PH)

Monday, Oct. 9, PPR 7:00 pm (PH)

Tuesday, Oct. 10, Lay Leadership PH)

Monday Oct. 16, Trustees (PH)

Tuesday, Oct. 17 Finance Committee

Saturday, Oct. 21, Altar Guild (PH)



SPECIAL WORSHIPS & EVENTS

October is a month filled with special worship opportunities. Please plan to come to church!

Oct.

1st Sunday Don't miss World Communion,

2nd Monday, 7:00 pm Administrative Board Meeting

4th Wednesday, Fall Study begins "Intentional Discipleship"

7th Saturday, 11:00 am, Blessing Of the Pets, Parish House front yard.

7th Saturday, 10:00 am Thrift Shop Meeting

8th Sunday, Honoring our Fifty Year Members

9th Monday, 7:00 pm PPR Meeting

10th Tuesday, 6:30 pm Lay Leadership Meeting

14th Saturday, 4:30 – 6:30 pm Chicken & Biscuit Dinner

15th Sunday, 2:00 pm Elizabeth Church Manor Service

16th Monday, 7:00 pm Trustee's Meeting

17th Tuesday, 7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting

20th Friday, 6:00 pm Supper Club at The Park Diner

21st Saturday, 9:30 am Altar Guild Meeting

21st Saturday, 1:00pm Craft Party in the Pine Room

22nd Sunday, Thanksgiving Mission begins

22nd Sunday, 5:30 pm Youth Group

29th Sunday, we will commemorate the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation.

29th Sunday, Covered Dish Dinner and Bake Off right after church

31st Tuesday Halloween Ministry



CHICKEN N' BISCUIT DINNER,

Saturday, October 28, 2017,

4:30 - 6:30 pm.

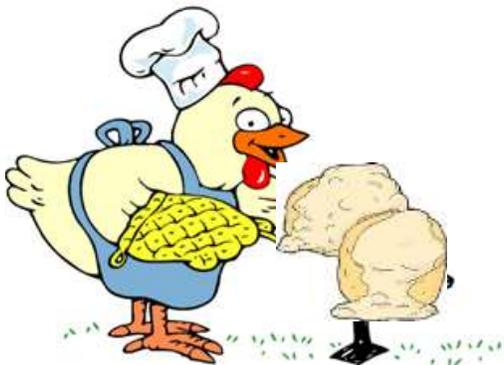
\$9.00

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!

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 265

Matt. 14:1-15

Death of John the Baptist

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BOAT BAPTIST
 BODY BEHEADED
 BOUND BIRTHDAY
 BURIED BROTHER
 CROWD CARRIED
 DANCED DAUGHTER
 DINNER DISCIPLES
 GUESTS GRANTED
 HEALED LAWFUL
 HEROD MOTHER
 JESUS ORDERED
 JOHN PLATTER
 KING PLEASED
 OATH POWERS
 PEOPLE PROPHET
 PLACE REMOTE
 PRISON REQUEST
 RISEN SAYING
 TOWNS WANTED
 WORK

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

MORE PUZZLES AT: <http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2017 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

