



OGDEN HILLCREST UMC

The Beacon

October 2018

OGDEN-HILLCREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1061 CHENANGO STREET, BINGHAMTON NY 13901
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Joyce K. Allen, Pastor

SERMONS AROUND US

William Shakespeare wrote of times when "our life ... finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything."

The month of October can preach breathtaking sermons. It speaks in the glorious colors of leaves, the splendor of the abundant harvest, the grass whitened by the first frost, the honking birds flying to their winter haven and busy squirrels gathering nuts before snow covers their feeding ground.

How wonderful October's sermons are, and how they bless us. Thank you, Lord!



PASTOR'S PAGE

And yet the people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; they turn and go their own way. They don't say in their hearts, let's fear the Lord our God, who provides rain in autumn and spring.....and who assures us of a harvest in its season. Jeremiah 5:23-24

*Let's fear the Lord our God,
who provides rain in autumn and spring
and who assures us of a harvest
in its season.
Jeremiah 5:23-24*



As I write this article in September, the stores are full of Halloween decorations and candy. Back to school is old news and the Christmas displays will be out any minute now. It is fall. The season of pumpkins and cider and all the wonderful fruits and vegetables that arrive with the harvest. And, even though it isn't November yet, it is the season of giving thanks for the wonderful blessings God has given us.



God says, while you enjoy all the blessings you've been given, don't forget me. That word, fear, in the old English means "to be in awe of".

That's one of the things God enjoys most, provoking awe in us. When you look up and see orange and yellow and red in the trees, God hopes you stop for a moment to be grateful. When you feel someone's love, when you get a special note or a visit from a friend, God wants your heart to sing in praise. We need to be different than the people Jeremiah pointed out as ungrateful and rebellious.



Being grateful not only makes God happy, but it makes us happier too. If you want to see for yourself, take a minute each day in October to write down two or three things that you thank God for. On November 1st, take time to look back at the things God has done or placed in your life. You will be amazed and you'll carry that appreciation all the way to Thanksgiving. This year, it will be more than a day, you can make it a whole season of giving thanks to God. If you try it, I guarantee your fall will be blessed. Don't be stubborn, says the prophet. Invite God in.



Peace,

Pastor Joyce



This is a fun group of men and women who like to study the Bible together. You can be a Bible scholar or never have opened it before. Our discussions are fun and we laugh an awful lot. It's good for the soul. We meet Tuesdays at 11am in the Parish House. All you need to bring is a Bible, but we even have some of those if you need one.

OUTREACH STUDY

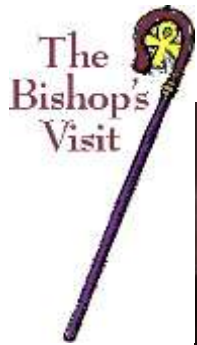
We continue studying what outreach means and how we should be doing it. We know God wants us to love our neighbors, but we need to know who they are and what they need. We have a book we're reading from but our time together on Wednesdays is mostly conversation. We meet at the Parish House from 6:30 to about 7:30 and everyone is welcome to attend.



CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our annual church meeting will be on **Saturday November 10th** in our sanctuary. We will be voting on our pastor's salary, lay leaders for the coming year, and yearly business. Our District Superintendent will lead our church meeting in a group with several neighboring churches.

It's a great way to meet other United Methodists, worship together, hear about what works for other church's ministry and even brag a little about our own ministries. And, frankly, it looks better for us if more people attend. We'll meet at 2pm on November 10.



Bishop Mark Webb is coming to visit the Binghamton District and everyone is invited. He will be at the Chenango Bridge UMC **on November 11th, from 4-6pm**. The United Methodist Church will have a special General Conference in 2019 to talk about some potential changes to our Book of Discipline, or perhaps even, to our church structure. Our resident bishop will come and talk to us about these possibilities and he'll answer some questions. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet your bishop and hear the latest church news.



LOOKING FOR A MISSION PROJECT?

Recent flooding in Seneca County and throughout Pennsylvania has caused a shortage of UMCOR flood buckets within the Upper New York Conference. UNY Mission Central HUB is in great need of **UMCOR cleaning kit** supplies and help assembling and verifying buckets. While some of these buckets are used to help our own area, they're also used around the world. According to Mike Block, Director of Missional Engagement, and Joe Auslander, UNY Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, warehouse contents are limited, and help is critical at this time. If you or a few friends can help assemble kits in the very near future at the UNY Mission Central HUB in Liverpool, please contact Mike Block at (315) 898-2066 or mikeblock@unyumc.org.





On **Saturday October 6th** Pastor Joyce will hold a blessing of the animals at 11am at the Parish House. All pets are welcome! The blessings for all is at 11, but Pastor can walk to your car or even visit your pet at home if needed. Just show up on the 6th or speak to the pastor to make other arrangements.

YOUTH GROUP

Our youth group is open to everyone in middle and high school. Friends are always invited! In October, youth and anyone feeling young, are invited to join us for a couple of hours of leaf raking and fall cleanup for some of our shut-ins. We'll meet at the church on **Sunday October 7th** at 3pm. After our work, we'll return to the church for dinner.



On **October 28th** we will leave from church to go to a local pumpkin farm. We'll have lunch along the way and return to church around 3pm.



DINNER GROUP

It's time to go out to dinner together. This group is simply for people who like to have time with their church family while having supper. We meet once a month and you are invited. **October 19th** we'll dine at **Grande's on Front Street** at 6pm. We will meet there, or you can carpool at the church at 5:30.

You can mark your calendar now for Friday November 16th

Then our Christmas party on December 14!





MISSION PROJECTS

The Mission Committee has almost completed our summer campaigns. Thank you for your generosity and continuous support. This summer we raised \$225 at the pound auction. This money will be used for apportions since part of our annual apportions is used for mission work. We also collected suitcases and purses which have been delivered to RISE.

On September 25 we traveled to Oxford Veteran's Home to deliver our summer collection of items for the veterans. We collected several boxes of items for this mission.

It is time to think about our Autumn/Winter missions which will include the following activities: On **October 21st**, 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 31st**, Halloween night.

On **November 11th**, 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 November's Beacon and the weekly bulletins.

HALLOWEEN MISSION AND OUTREACH PROJECT



Wednesday, October 31. Gather round the fire and watch the Ghosts parade down Chenango St.! The fire pit will be in front of the Parish House to keep us warm, but we get up and walk to our visitors so they don't get too near it. This is the one night hundreds of people walk right by our church, so we want to have some folks available to greet them and give them glow-in-the-dark necklaces and candy. Can you come join us? This is a great mission project, especially for folks who live in where few trick-or-treaters visit. Let Pastor Joyce know if you can come and help.

THE MOUSE

Oh my! This church went from the quiet of summer right into the busyness of fall. All programs are up and running with a few new twists here and there. And speaking of twists, did you come to the ice cream social? I had to pay a kid to get in line and get my ice cream for me because you know they aren't going to serve a mouse. That was a fun afternoon and an opportunity to get to know our neighbors.



I had a great time at the pizza parties all summer. Did you hear that I was spotted one night? I was shimmying up the pipe in the far corner of the Pine Room when Joan Wilber saw me. I love how nonchalant you all are. She just pointed me out, there was not a scream to be heard, and several people said I was just there for the party. I really do love you all. Thanks for the welcome.

There was a beautiful candlelight wedding at our church last month, when Charlie Saam married Cindy Lord. I stayed hidden away but I cried a few tears, as I always do at a wedding. It was beautiful.

There have been a couple of my friends in and out of the hospital. I'll ask you to pray for them as they continue to heal: Roger Throup, Norma Jean Throup, Bertha Perkins and Paul Iversen. Paul has not had good news and we are all continuing to hold him in our prayers.

I heard the kids are going raking. I'm wondering if I might hitch a ride with them and come out to visit some of my friends at home. We'll see whether or not I can work that out. For now, I'll stay in your church, where I know I will be able to join you for worship and eat a bunch of your food. Thanks again!

The Church Mouse



Ogden Hillcrest UMC,
1061 Chenango St. Binghamton
Invites You, To Join Us

CHICKEN N' BISCUIT DINNER,

Saturday, October 20, 2018,

4:30 - 6:30 pm.

\$9.00

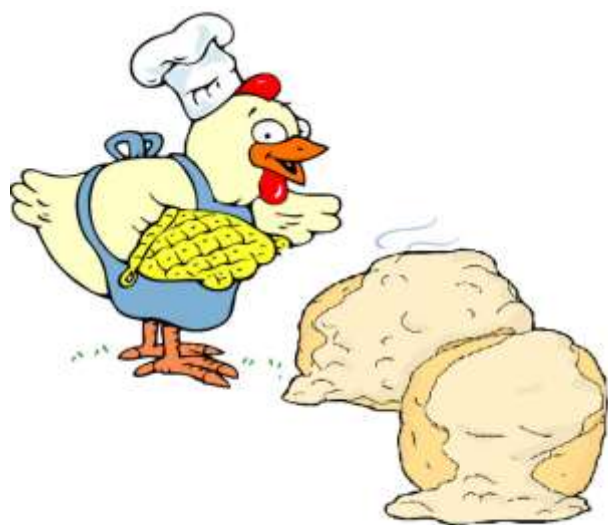
Children 6-11 \$5.00

Children 5 & under Free
Chicken & Biscuits, Gravy

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!

BISHOP'S REGIONAL GATHERINGS ON A WAY FORWARD

Commission on a Way Forward

Following the 2016 General Conference, the Commission on a Way Forward was formed to deliberate and help the General Conference address the issue of sexuality in The United Methodist Church. The Commission was made up of 32 individuals, including eight bishops, 13 other clergy members, and 11 lay members. They will present a report during a Special Session of the 2019 General Conference, which will be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. To learn more about the mission, vision, and scope on the Commission on a Way Forward:

<http://www.unyumc.org/news/article/the-commission-on-a-way-forward>

This fall, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb is hosting six gatherings around the Conference in preparation for Special Session of General Conference to talk about the report of the Commission on a Way Forward for The United Methodist Church.

The Commission on a Way Forward has released series of videos that the Commission hopes will inform The United Methodist Church on its processes and work done during the 18-month period of its meetings and deliberations. The videos can be viewed on Facebook or YouTube and can be downloaded for viewing offline. The videos can be found here.

<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward-releases-final-videos-for-2019-general-conferen>

WHAT'S A CHRISTIAN TO DO WITH HALLOWEEN?

These days, children associate Halloween with trick-or-treating and candy. But centuries ago, Christians named the night before All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day) "All Hallows' Eve." As the faithful prepared to remember people who were entrusted to resurrection life, they adopted various traditions to poke fun at death.

Around the world, Christians observe Halloween differently: In Poland, kids pray aloud while walking through forests to comfort souls of the dead. In Spain, tolling church bells remind people to remember the saints. In Finland, so many people light candles in cemeteries that the observance is called "seas of light." Although some Christians steer clear of Halloween, others use it as an evangelism opportunity and provide entertainment alternatives such as harvest parties.

No matter your views, you can remind children that though it's fun to pretend, we can always be ourselves with God. Whatever our features and flaws, we need not and cannot hide from God behind masks. God made us in his holy image and loves us as his holy — *hallowed!* — children.