

# The Beacon

# November 2016

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

**Joyce K. Allen, Pastor**

## The Bible according to kids

- “In the first book of the Bible, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.”
- “Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.”
- “The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterward, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments.”
- “The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.”
- “When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.”



January 20th is right around the corner. Imagine the winter doldrums hitting your soul... wake it up and enjoy the carefree weekend with your church family. Our Sky Lake Winter Weekend is Jan. 20-22<sup>nd</sup>. A warm fire to ward off the winter's cold. Games to challenge the bored mind. A natural setting to commune with God. And the company of good friends and church family members. What more would help you rejoice in God's blessings. And where else can you enjoy a full weekend for such a reasonable price. Brochures are available on the table in the sanctuary or from the church office. Or contact Vicki Milunich, 648-4584, [VRMilunich@stny.rr.com](mailto:VRMilunich@stny.rr.com)

## PASTOR'S PAGE

*Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make his deeds known to all people! Sing to God, sing praises to him; dwell on all his wondrous works! Give praise to God's holy name! Let the hearts rejoice of all those seeking the Lord! Pursue the Lord and his strength; seek his face always! Remember the wondrous works he has done, all his marvelous works, and the justice he declared—you who are the offspring of Israel, his servant, and the children of Jacob, his chosen ones. 1 Chronicles 16: 8-13*

A few years back I wondered if Thanksgiving was going to make it. Halloween grew in importance and people are spending more and more money on it. Christmas ads have begun to appear, and they begin just a little earlier every year. I thought perhaps the frenzied shopping season just might overshadow giving thanks to God. People were being encouraged to have a quick meal on turkey day and then get out there and begin Christmas shopping.

That's not what Thanksgiving Day is all about. In America, we have a declaration setting aside this day to thanking God. It began as a community celebration, with folks giving thanks for the harvest which had been gathered up and stored. It was giving thanks for God's blessings that not only brought us this far, but also giving thanks for future, thanking God for the life the crops would provide over a cold New England winter.

I've read several articles about retailers closing on Thanksgiving Day. I am glad. It tells me that even though our culture has changed so much over the years, there is a movement back to stopping and thanking God for all of our blessings. It doesn't have to be a Martha Stewart meal or a decorated "table-scape". The potatoes can be a little lumpy and there really doesn't have to be pie to make it a day of giving thanks. God cares more about our hearts and souls anyway. So take some time to tell God all the things you're thankful for this year. At Ogden we have lots of opportunities to give thanks together. Watch for some of them in this newsletter!

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Pastor Joyce*



## ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Choirs are already practicing, the altar guild is already decorating and churches from around our area are planning to join together for worship. Every year the local churches sponsor a thanksgiving service and this year it's our turn. The service is on **November 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**. Invite everyone you know, so they don't miss the beautiful music from the combined choirs and the opportunity to worship together with our local Protestant and Roman Catholic churches.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

Friday, November 4, 10:00 am – Noon, 2015, World Community Day, Ogden Hillcrest UMC



THEME: "SHARING GIFTS AT THE TABLE"

Installation of Officers, Proposed Budget, ask Beryl Schumacher for more information.

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6:**



Don't be late! or Early as the case maybe!

**"Fall Back"**

We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshiped you...



**For All the Saints**

Turkey Voucher day



After Church Youth Group  
Laser Tag & Skating at  
Skateland





ADMIN. BOARD

MEETING

Monday, November 7, 7:00 pm (ER)

## SAFE SANCTUARY WORKSHOP

Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Sarah Jane Johnson Memorial UMC

Main Street, Johnson City, NY 13790

**Call the church to register at 797-3938**



## SUPPER CLUB

This group is for anyone who likes to go out and eat. We meet once a month for a Dutch treat style dinner. People say this group is the like medicine to their souls. We eat together but it's the laughter and the fellowship that keeps us coming back. This month we'll meet on **November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** at The Ground Round. If you would like to carpool, come to the church at 5:30.

Mark your calendar now for the **December meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>**. We decided to eat in and have Phil's Chicken House bring us our meal. We will meet at **6:00 pm** in the Pine Room. More information and sign-up sheets.



**Ogden Hillcrest UMC HOSTS: Saturday, Novmber 19, 2:00 pm**



## MISSION NEWS

## VETERANS DAY



WE  
HONOR  
OUR VETERANS

Join our Mission Committee for two special coffee hours on **Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**! Our church family prays for our servicemen and women every week, but sometimes we forget to thank the ones we see in church every week. After each service on the 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be a coffee hour. We want to offer up our thanks and a piece of cake too. Everyone should plan to attend one of the coffee hours.



### Thanksgiving Mission

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 49 bags of food and \$1167 for turkey vouchers. The Mission Committee would like to thank all of you who make this such a successful mission.

We have three options of support:

- **Furnish a complete basket of food, & a turkey voucher**
- **Furnish food items only**
- **Donate money for turkey voucher(s) (\$10 each)**
- **Dates: Sunday, November 6, "Turkey Donation" envelopes available.**



**Sunday, November 13.** All donations, including food are due.

Sign-up sheets indicating your level of participation will be in the sanctuary. Food lists were available in October; but we have more, just ask

## CHRISTMAS MISSION

This year, once again, we will collect winter hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves for children and young adults. These items will be donated to the local schools for children in need. Look for the Hat and Mitten Christmas tree beginning in November. You may place your donations under or on the tree.



## YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE



## MORE

### YOUTH GROUP NEWS

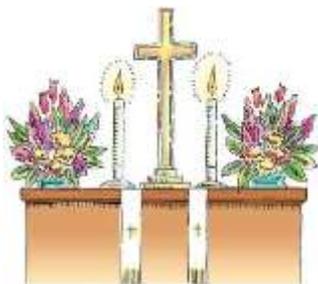
We meet twice a month. In **November it's on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup>**. On the 6<sup>th</sup> we will leave the church at noon to go to Skate Estate for Laser Tag and roller skating. Thanks to generous donors, our trip, including lunch at Nirchi's, is paid for! Thank you for your gifts!

On the 27<sup>th</sup> we will have a regular meeting at the church at 5:30pm. Our meetings always include games and Bible study, and sometimes we do a craft too. Everyone in middle or high school is welcome to join us.

The youth would like to thank the church family for not only inviting us to serve at the dinner, but expecting us to because we are part of the family. We realize that not every church lets people our age do stuff.



If you can come to church on **Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>** at 9:30 am we will be decorating our church for Christmas. We'll be hauling out the holly, and everything else we have. We need folks with different abilities to help. We need tree haulers and ornament hangers. We need candle trimmers and people who know where things plug in. It takes a good crew to decorate our church. Please don't think there's no place for you, we need everyone who can come that day.



Altar Flowers

Would you like to have flowers on the altar some Sunday morning in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person or occasion? The Altar Guild would be glad to make these arrangements for you. The cost for two bouquets is \$30.00 or, if you would like to share a Sunday with another family that is \$15.00. Please call me at 723-2115 to make the arrangements as soon as you can, as we do have standing orders for some Sundays.

## THE CHURCH MOUSE



Oh, the pie! The pie was everywhere! They cut it in the nursery area. They set it out on a table in the Pine Room. They carried some upstairs for Sunday's coffee hour and the adult Sunday school class ate a little too. The ones I managed to get a crumb from were strawberry rhubarb, pecan, peanut butter, red raspberry, coconut cream, and pumpkin. You are all such a kind and generous church family to have a church dinner right in my home. I know the side dishes were all great too and the chicken and biscuits were fantastic, but I am mouse after all, so it really is about the pie. I hope you got to the dinner. I liked seeing all the different people work together. Did you see all the men working in the kitchen? It amazed me to see so many!

Pastor Joyce said that when she goes out visiting lots of you ask about me. It's nice to think that I have fans. I'll try not to let it get to my head. I do love my church family and I am sad whenever one of them is sick. I miss John and Cathy Case, who could use a little prayer as John deals with ALS. Barb McKane and Janet Rinker are both getting better over at Susquehanna Nursing Home. They are doing lots of PT work so they can get home soon. Francis Sandwick was out for the church dinner and it was nice to see her.



Yea! Methodius Mouse



Pastor Joyce took a little vacation in October and that silly cat can't even be left alone in the parsonage. I fend for myself over here in the church just fine. So, off the cat went to Nancy Keyes' house to be pampered and treated like a queen. Doesn't that just get you? The dumb thing ought to be over here looking for me.

I hope your little house is filled up with food like mine is. I hope you will have family and friends to give thanks with this year. Most of all I hope you have a little idea about how blessed you really are. How blessed we really all are, to have God and one another.



*Happy Thanksgiving!*

*Methodius Mouse*



### HILLCREST TREE LIGHTING

The Children's Home is having a tree lighting and we are invited. On **Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup>** from 4:00-6:00 pm a Christmas celebration and tree lighting will be held on the front lawn at the Children's Home on Chenango Street. Our church is talking about reaching out more to our community. Coincidentally (or maybe not) the Children's Home has the same idea, so they've asked us to join them. God is doing a new thing. Let's get out there together and let the world know that Hillcrest is full of people who celebrate Christmas!