

## OGDEN HILLCREST UMC

### The Beacon

### November 2018



OGDEN-HILLCREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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(607) 723-2637

**Joyce K. Allen, Pastor**

Three Pastors were having lunch in a diner. One of them said, "You know, since summer started I've been having trouble with them flying bats in my loft and attic at church. I've tried everything, but nothing seems to scare them off.

Another pastor said "Yes, me too. I've got hundreds living in my belfry and in the narthex attic. I've even had the place fumigated, and they won't go away!"

The third pastor said, "I baptized all mine, made them members of the church, and we haven't seen one back since!"



## PASTOR'S PAGE

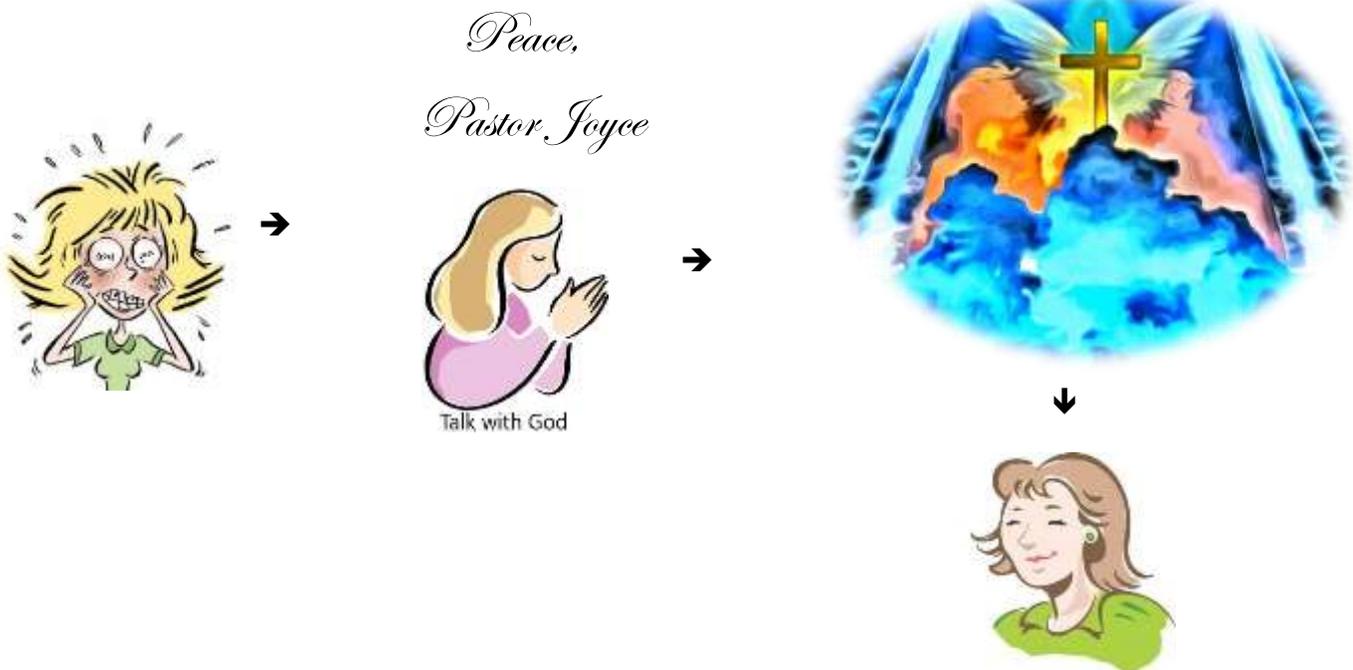
*“Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus”.*      Philippians 4:4-7

There is so much stress in the world today, so much anxiety. For some folks, the arrival of November sets off a season of stress that lasts well into the New Year. They look at the scripture saying, “don't be anxious” and think, that is much easier said than done. After all, Saint Paul didn't have company coming for Thanksgiving, he wasn't worried about the menu for a feast, decorating for season or making a list and checking it twice. He also wasn't worried about family issues, finances, or his health. That's not to say he didn't have those and other problems, like people who wanted him dead, for example.

In this scripture we hear Paul's answer to all the things that weighed him down. Don't ignore your stressors and don't live in denial. Paul says choose to be glad in the midst of it all. When we start with a glad feeling, a gladness of heart, we may be able to move beyond the things that trouble us, and begin to enjoy life a little. Certainly, if there is a holiday list to be made, doing that today rather than the day before Thanksgiving may help. We have to do our part in cutting our anxiety level. To that end, Paul gives us two actions that will help us.

First, take everything to God. The good, the bad, and the ugly, all of it. God wants a relationship in which both can be open and honest. God wants to hear about your thoughts, your feelings and yes, the things that make you stressed out. Tell God about it. Take time alone with God and watch how your life changes.

Then, give thanks. Not just on that day set aside for it, but every day and multiple times during the day. Practice being thankful. Couple that with being glad in the Lord and peace and love is going to flow right out of you and into others. Paul says that's when we find ourselves filled with God's peace. I don't know about you, but that's how I want to live this November and December and on into the next year.



## ALL SAINTS SERVICE

All Saints (November 1 or the first Sunday in November) is a day of remembrance for the saints, with the New Testament meaning of all Christian people of every time and place. We celebrate the communion of saints as we remember the dead, both of the Church universal and of our local congregations. For this reason, the names of persons in the congregation who have died during the past year may be solemnly read as a Response to the Word. At Ogden Hillcrest UMC we will remember our saints in worship at both services on **Sunday, November 4.**



## CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our annual church Conference will be held at **2pm on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**, in the sanctuary of our church. Our District Superintendent, Dave Kofahl, will lead our church meeting along with those of several of our neighboring United Methodist churches. We need folks to come and vote on the lay leaders for 2019, about the pastor's salary for 2019 and to approve our lay servant, Maralena Dropp. Every church member may vote! Everyone is welcome!



**WE  
HONOR  
OUR VETERANS**

## COFFEE HOUR TO HONOR OUR VETERANS

Last month seven members of Ogden traveled up to the Oxford Veteran's Home to deliver 115 items for our veterans. They were very grateful to receive our donations. While we were there we toured the Oxford Veteran's Home and we were able to visit with Elmer Minor.

Now it's time to honor our veterans at church. The Mission Committee would like to invite you to coffee hour on **Sunday, November 11.** There will be coffee and cake after both services and all are welcome. Please join us for cake and conversation. Bring a veteran if you know one!



Our Bishop, Mark Webb, will be speaking about the future of the United Methodist Church at the Chenango Bridge church on **Sunday afternoon, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6pm.** Bishop Webb is a good speaker and very personable. Pastor Joyce says you would enjoy meeting him, so please think about going.



## DINNER GROUP



Don't eat at home again, instead, consider joining our dinner group. We meet one Friday night a month just to eat and laugh together. Our requirements are: you must like to eat out and you must be able to pay for your meal or signal to the pastor to pay it for you. Other than that, singles, couples and families are all invited.

On **November 16th**, we are heading to Red Lobster on the Vestal Parkway. You can order from the menu, which includes endless shrimp!! Yes, I said endless shrimp. You can meet us there at 6pm or join a car pool from the church at **5:30pm**.

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

By now you have received a letter inviting you to pledge for next year's giving. We'll celebrate Stewardship **Sunday on November 18<sup>th</sup>**. You are invited to bring your pledge card or special offering to place in the collection plates in worship that day. You can also mail it into the office. Each of us is asked to consider how God has blessed us and then return a portion of those blessings to God.



Join your friends, family and neighbors as our community gather to give thanks together. We will meet for a service of worship at St. Francis of Assisi church at **5pm on Sunday November 18<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a combined choir performing and Rev. Joe Sellepack from the County Council of Churches will be speaking. Pastor Joe also serves the Sanitaria Springs UMC. Don't miss the special service. Many of us look forward to hearing the choir each year!



### “Time To Thank, Time To Share”

Thanksgiving is a time to share.  
A roasted turkey stuffed with care,  
potatoes, yams and buttered rolls  
are passed around in festive bowls.  
But first we thank our God above  
and share with others his great love.  
The dish served last is always best —  
a slice of pie for every guest.  
—MaryAnn Sundby



*a slice of pie  
for every guest*



## YOUTH GROUP

Our youth group is open to everyone in middle and high school. Friends are always invited! In November youth are invited to the Community Thanksgiving Service at St. Francis at 5pm.



*Carry decorations*

**On the 25<sup>th</sup>** we'll be leaving right after church to do something fun and have lunch together. First, we'll need all hands to help get the Christmas decorations down in the church and the Thrift shop sale items down in the Parish House. That usually takes us fifteen minutes and then off we go to Blaze pizza.



## Thrift Shop News



Calling all Volunteers! Do you have 4 hours a month that you could spare? If you do, we need you! We are in need of someone to volunteer from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm on the first and third Thursday of each month and the third Saturday. You do not need to be able to do any lifting. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Maralena Dropp at 242-6829 or [yafanelaram@gmail.com](mailto:yafanelaram@gmail.com).

This year's Holiday Sale is fast approaching. The sale this year will include **6 days of shopping**. Stop by on **November 29, 30, December 1, 6, 7 & 8** and see what wonderful items we have. Come do your Christmas shopping with us! You might also consider volunteering to work a 2-hour shift at the sale. We always have a good time!

The Thrift Shop will be **closed December 20, 22, 27 & 29** and reopen on January 3, 2019. As we reopen, new pricing will be in effect. Items will be \$5.00 per bag or \$1.00 per item unless otherwise marked.

This past year our Thrift Shop has paid for our youth to attend Sky Lake Camp, donated for Turkey's at Thanksgiving, Blankets for Blanket Sunday, desserts and drinks for the church Christmas Party, paper supplies for Coffee Hour on Sunday's just to name a few.

If you have never been in the shop, stop by and say hello! You never know what you might find on our shelves and racks!

## NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES:

In August, in the bulletin we informed you that a plan was in the works for replacing the offering envelopes. A short explanation of our plan follows:

We are not going to send offering envelopes through a service any longer. It has become too expensive. Instead, if you'd like offering envelopes please sign up for them or call the office to sign up. Please do not simply tell someone to continue with your current order; too often those types of messages are easily forgotten.

The new envelopes will look like pew envelopes, but a different color. Your name and envelope number will be on the new envelopes. Your envelope number will not change. You may get **weekly or monthly envelopes**. We will mail them to the homebound. All others who are able may pick them up at the church or office. We will let you know you when they are available.

In your packet you will receive the appropriate number of offering envelopes, a change of address card and a return envelope. If you change your address you may mail the change of address card to the office or simply include it with your offering.

We will start using this new system the first Sunday in January 2019. This means there is not a lot of time to get this process working. You may begin ordering envelopes now. Signup sheets are in the church and the office.

Please call the office with your questions. (607) 723-2637

Signup sheets are available now, in the front and back of the church and also in the EverReady Room.

There is a column for your envelope number (if you don't remember it we will look it up). There is a column for your name, as you would like it to appear on your envelope and a column for your phone number in case we have a question.

Example:

Weekly

Monthly

Ogden-Hillcrest United Methodist Church 1065 Chenango Street Binghamton NY 13901	Current Expense .....\$ _____ Benevolence .....\$ _____ Other .....\$ _____ TOTAL.....\$ _____
	Jan 6 2019 999
Mrs. Jane Doe	

Ogden-Hillcrest United Methodist Church 1065 Chenango Street Binghamton NY 13901	Current Expense .....\$ _____ Benevolence .....\$ _____ Other .....\$ _____ TOTAL.....\$ _____
	April 2019 999
Mr. John Doe	

## THE CHURCH MOUSE



Oh how I love our chicken and biscuit dinner! The food is so yummy. The church is warm and cozy and the Pine Room and kitchen are filled with people. I love all of those things, heat, food, and company. I sampled everything and came back for more. You are such good cooks and bakers. I am lucky I wasn't spotted this time like I was back at Pizza night.



author mouse

Which reminds me, several people commented on a dead mouse in our parking lot. Obviously that was not me, since I am writing my monthly installment, but I will tell you that was my cousin Milton, who was visiting from Port Dickinson and he died of natural causes. Don't worry! There have been no mouse murders!

I have had a couple of friends in and out of the hospital and we've had several friends die since I last wrote. Put Rick Hatch in your prayers, for some breathing troubles. He is home after his hospitalization.



Nancy Enright's dad, Harry Sayer died last month. Bertha Perkins did too, and Paul Iversen, my friend, died too. Paul wasn't a member of our church for that long, but he sang in the choir, came to the studies and was a trustee. He often joked about me and whether he would find me in the church. Bertha came to the first service for years, but then switched to the second service. You could always find her in the last pew near the elevator, another faithful friend.

Pastor Joyce took some time off in October and ran all over the world, but was home every night with those silly cats of hers. She went to the Hudson River valley, Syracuse, Scranton, and the Finger Lakes. I thought she'd leave for a night or two and I would go over and tease those cats a little. I'll wait till next time. I'm not afraid of cats.



I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you have the opportunity to spend some time with your family and your friends. I will be going next door to St Francis church to have dinner with my family, but then I will be back on the prowl at Ogden, looking for your crumbs and leftovers.

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

*Methodius Mouse*