

OGDEN HILLCREST UMC

The Beacon **December 2018 & January 2019**

OGDEN-HILLCREST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Joyce K. Allen, Pastor



PASTOR'S PAGE

December is my favorite month of the year. Preachers have to caution people not to run on ahead to Christmas, but to stop and enjoy the season of advent along the way. Advent is a season of preparation and of waiting. Most of us do not do that very well. We want Christmas right now. Maybe that's one of the reasons God came to us as a baby. Babies usually mean waiting and preparing for nine months.



I love December because I love the preparing. There are cards to write and special sermons, the tree, outdoor lights, baking, and all of the parties. Those are the outside preparations. My favorite part, though, are the interior preparations as I get

my soul ready for Christmas. I love the advent readings I do, the advent wreath I keep at home and the quiet prayers by the light of the Christmas tree.



*For the grace of
God has appeared,
bringing salvation
for all people.*
Titus 2:11-12

I also love December because it seems as though the world is readying itself for Jesus too. People seem a little more loving and giving at this time of year. I think we all feel that.



I wonder what would happen if each of us tried to live all year long as we do in December, giving just a little more love and grace to people. They say if you do something for a month it becomes a habit. Well, to save some time and money, we've made this a December and January newsletter. How about if each one of us tries to carry our Christmastime loving kindness into the New Year. How about if you give it a try just until the next newsletter comes along, and see how it works!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Joyce

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year



THRIFT SHOP



Holiday Sale

This year's Holiday Sale is in progress:

The sale this year, including the two days in November is, **6 days of shopping**. Stop by on **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.

14TH ANNUAL CHORUSES FOR CHOW BENEFIT CONCERT.

The Southerntiersmen Barbershop Chorus will present the 14th Annual Choruses for CHOW benefit concert of Sunday, December 2, at 2:00 PM at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 148 Clinton Street in Binghamton. Participants include: the Southerntiersmen, The Endwell Community Chorus and the Binghamton Crosbys. All proceeds go to help CHOW stop hunger. Tickets are \$10.00 advanced and \$12.00 at the door. Call Ed at 607-372-1730 for tickets.

CHILDREN'S HOME TREE LIGHTING

Kick off the Advent/Christmas season by joining our neighbor's at The Children's Home as they light their Christmas tree on December 6 from 5-6pm. There will be a little entertainment, singing, crafts, hot chocolate, and snacks. Best of all, there will be boys and girls with the light of Christmas in their eyes. They need adults and families to come and help them celebrate.



THIRD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join your church family for a night of food, fellowship, and fun! We'll have Phil's chicken, roasted potatoes, cabbage salad, fruit, and a chocolate fountain with all kinds of skewered goodies to run that chocolate over. There are sure to be a couple of surprises and much fun. All of this is only eleven dollars per person. You can sign up in the sanctuary or by phone, and you must pay ahead. Cash or checks can be placed into the collection plate with a note about who the cash is for. You may pay at the office during office hours too.



DINNER GROUP

In December our group will meet at the Christmas party on the 14th. In January we like to stay near home, so My Uncle's Place on the Service Road is saving us their front room on January 18th to meet at 6pm. Uncle's has a nice variety and has great specials. Their front room is easily accessible from the parking lot, so you don't have to go into the main restaurant. We always have a good meal there.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

Do not miss our annual Christmas Pageant presented by our Sunday school. It's just not Christmas without it. This year you can see the pageant on Sunday December 16th at both of our services.



On December 16th, all middle and high school students are invited to Pastor Joyce's Traveling Christmas party. We'll be making several stops around town for food, fund, and fellowship. It's always a great party, so don't miss it. If you want to come, just let Pastor Joyce know, so she can plan on rides for everyone.



Christmas Eve SERVICE

Our choir and bell choir have been practicing. The poinsettias are on order, the nativity set and Christmas tree are up. All is being readied for one of the most important nights of the year, when we gather to rejoice again, in the greatest gift of all, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Plan now to arrive early and get a seat. It will be a full church and an evening of sights and sounds we will remember for the rest of our lives. Come for the service at **7pm on December 24th** to truly celebrate the birth of Jesus.





YOUTH GROUP

On January 6, 2019, we'll have a regular meeting in our church from 5:30-7pm. There will be a craft, snack, games, and fun. Again, this group is open to anyone in middle or high school.

Snacks



CHURCH LEADER MEETING



Church Leadership Training

If you are part of a committee at Ogden, you're invited to some "beginning the year" training for our Binghamton District. The meeting is at Central UMC in Endicott on January 26th. We'll have more information in upcoming bulletins, but mark your calendar now, please.

The Mission Committee would like to thank the people at Ogden Hillcrest United Methodist Church for their generosity and support. Over \$320 was donated to UMCOR for hurricane and flood relief for Florida and North Carolina. One hundred percent of this money goes to storm victims.



MISSIONS REPORT

Many families and children throughout the Greater Binghamton area enjoyed a brighter holiday season because of your generous donations. We donated 43 bags of groceries and \$1070 for turkeys to the annual Thanksgiving food drive which was organized by Catholic Charities. A special thanks to Wegmans Grocery for the donation of 50 food totes that we used to pack our groceries for this mission.



GOD Blesses Your Giving Spirit

In October we distributed 90 glow in the dark necklaces to local trick-or-treaters. Ogden Hillcrest also sent a team of 20 individuals to Endwell United Methodist Church to pack food bags for the Southern Tier Mobile Pack, a mission to feed the hungry.

We donated 10 suitcases at RISE in November.

The hat and mitten tree is filling up quickly. The donations will go to the local school children in need of warm clothing.

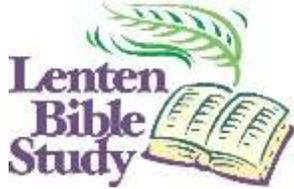
God has blessed Ogden Hillcrest United Methodist Church with a giving spirit! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

MAINES GIVES BACK

Ogden participates in Maines Cash & Carry program which donates a portion of your spending to the church if you show a Mainesaver card to the cashier when you check out. The church receives a check once a year from Maines. To get a card, fill out a form which can be found in the sanctuary, or at the office. Turn it in to the office. Jim will order your card.



BIBLE STUDY



Our Wednesday evening study will start up again in Lent so watch for that. Our Tuesday morning study is growing and going strong and there is always room for one more. Right now we are studying the Book of Hebrews, but that will soon change. We'll be meeting in the church for the first week of December, due to the Christmas Sale in the Parish House, but after that, we'll be back in our regular spot there. Come and join us. We guarantee you will enjoy it!

ADDENDUM:

Sunday, December 23rd is Christmas Sunday. There will be only one service at 9:30 am.
We hope to see you.



JANUARY UPCOMING MEETINGS

Trustees on January 7 at 7pm
Administrative Board on January 14th at 7pm

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



The star of Bethlehem is often shown as a five-pointed star. Roughly shaped like a human being, it symbolizes Christ's incarnation. It also calls to mind the wise men's journey: "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him'" (Matthew 2:1-2, NIV).

THE CHURCH MOUSE

We've passed the best food holiday, Thanksgiving, now and we are moving toward what I consider the best Heart Holiday. It makes my heart happy when the Christmas tree goes up, when the kids show us what Christmas is all about, and when we light our candles on Christmas Eve. Oh boy, my heart is about a quarter of the way full now, just thinking about it. I hope you come to church this month and look around for me. I'll be there.



I've noticed Don Crampton and another man working around the church a lot. They said the outdoor work is done and that water should stay outdoors this winter. Just to make sure, they will do the plastering and the painting in the spring. I heard them say the insurance company was paying for it. That's a great thing! You know, Don does a lot of work around the church, keeping the furnace running and all kinds of things you'd never even know about. I only know because I live there, but I'm sure thankful he's around.

Our friend Dave Durgin has gone to Sweden for the winter. It's a wonderful place for him to go because his wife, Kiki is there and they can spend the holidays together. Our friend Diane Weber has done some traveling as well, but not for good reasons. She's been to Sloan Kettering hospital to see how they can treat her cancer. I'm hoping and praying that any treatments can be done in the Binghamton area, and that Diane will be feeling better very soon. Let's all pray for those of our friends in nursing homes and those who don't get out of their homes much these days.



I am always hanging around the church, waiting to see who drops by or what important projects are going on, Last month, there were forty three bags of Thanksgiving dinner right on the floor in the sanctuary and I didn't touch one of them. I'd like a little credit for that please and I'd also like

to wish you and yours a very *Merry Christmas!*

The Church Mouse



ps. Look for me

