



Broome County Council of Churches (BC3)  
3 Otseningo Street  
Binghamton, NY 13903

## Connecting Congregations

December 2014

Non-Profit Org.  
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Permit #86  
Binghamton, NY  
13903

# Connecting Congregations



December 2014

## BC3 Calendar of Events

### Monday, December 1

Peace with Justice — 12:00 noon

### Tuesday, December 2

CHOW Evaluation Meeting -- 10:00 a.m.

### Wednesday, December 3

Staff Meeting — 2:30 p.m.

### Thursday, December 4

FIACV Advisory Committee -- 12:00 noon

### Saturday, December 6

Choruses for CHOW -- 2:00 p.m.

### Thursday, December 11

The Food & Health Network -- 2:00 p.m.

### Thursday, December 18

Executive Committee — 12:00 noon  
Jail Ministry Wrapping Party -- 6:00 p.m.  
(RSVP only)

### Tuesday, December 23

Program Directors meeting — 8:30 a.m.

FIA Orientation — 12:00 noon

### Wednesday, November 24

Early CLOSING -- 12:00 p.m.

### Thursday, December 25

CLOSED

Christmas

### Friday, December 26

CLOSED

### Wednesday, December 31

Early CLOSING — 12:00 noon

## Jail Ministry - Volunteer Opportunities and Christmas Project

### Reentry Volunteer Opportunities

The Broome County Council of Churches' Jail Ministry Program is committed to addressing reentry in regards to spirituality, life skills, mental health, addiction and basic human needs in an effort to restore wholeness and wellbeing to the ex-offenders and their families. We have developed a reentry leadership team, staff and volunteer core to address these issues in a systematic fashion.

Our reentry program is in the process of becoming more decentralized with a growing number of area congregations offering support. Teams of three people, centered in local congregations, will be providing mentoring with the context of a friendship. Social work background is not required as our staff will handle any referrals above the abilities of the team. Ongoing training, and support is provided. If you, or your congregation, are interested in participating, please feel free to contact Chaplain Cris Mogenson at 607-778-6518

### Christmas Project

Each year area volunteers, businesses, civic groups and faith communities participate in our Jail Ministry Christmas project. We provide for some of the ongoing needs such as clothing, hygiene kits, food and shelter referrals and family intervention for inmates as they are discharged. We provide gifts of children's books to the families of inmates and we give a small gift bag to each inmate containing a few items. It is our way of telling the incarcerated and their families that their community has not completely given up all hope for their change.

If you could help in any way with donations of *playing cards, word puzzle books, full size hygiene items (we do have enough bar soap however), pocket packs of tissues, stamps, single trip bus passes, sweat suits, socks, underwear, hats, gloves, gently used or new children's books*, we would be most grateful. Volunteers are also needed to help decorate gift bags, sort items and wrap and/or deliver the children's books.

We are holding a Wrapping Party Thursday, December 18. RSVP required.

For participation in any of the above mentioned activities you may contact the Broome County Council of Churches at (607) 724-9130 or the Jail Chaplain's office at (607) 778-6518.

www.broomecouncil.net for updated calendar

## "Connecting compassion with needs; inspiring growth with dignity"

Please post this newsletter or pass it on to members of your congregation.

Secure donations can be made online at  
[www.broomecouncil.net](http://www.broomecouncil.net)

To submit items or to receive *Connecting Congregations*, contact:

Keating Wilson

Broome County Council of Churches,  
3 Otseningo Street, Binghamton, NY 13903

Fax: (607) 724-9148, E-mail: [kwilson@broomecouncil.net](mailto:kwilson@broomecouncil.net),

Phone: (607) 724-9130 x303

Congregations may submit items at no charge. All others will be asked for a \$10 donation per article, per month. If you are a non-congregational organization and would like to submit an item please send billing address and contact. Please do not prepay. You will be invoiced after the item has been placed in *Connecting Congregations*.

We reserve the right to edit and cut as space allows.

### Directions to BC3

Coming East from Vestal, Endicott or Endwell areas, take the Vestal Parkway East. Follow the signs for Conklin Avenue, go past the Crowley's plant. After you pass the Rite Aid Drug Store, the next street on your LEFT is Otseningo Street. Go to the end of Otseningo Street.

Coming East down Main Street in Binghamton, Main turns into Court Street. Stay on Court Street and turn right on Route 7 South over the Tompkins Street Bridge. The first light is Webster. Take a right onto Webster and continue to the T (a short block). Take a right onto Otseningo Street and there we are!

### Programs of the Broome County Council of Churches (BC3):

Broome Bounty  
CHOW Hunger Relief  
Encounter Weekly  
TV/Radio Program  
Faith in Action Volunteers



HOPE Ministry  
Hospital Ministry  
Jail Ministry  
Ramp It Up  
Senior Living Ministry



## Broome County Council of Churches

3 Otseningo Street  
Binghamton, NY 13903  
607-724-9130

[www.broomecouncil.net](http://www.broomecouncil.net)

### Follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@BCCouncil)

Due date to submit items for the  
January 2015 issue of  
*Connecting Congregations*:

12:00 noon on Monday, December 15

Please make certain the announcements are for the  
month of January or later.

Would you like to receive *Connecting Congregations*  
via e-mail? We can provide this to you in PDF format.

--We are beginning to work into full color --

Your emailed pdf document will spring to life!

Email Barbara at [bcook@broomecouncil.net](mailto:bcook@broomecouncil.net)

The items in this publication are provided as a service to the  
event organizers.

The Broome County Council of Churches  
is not responsible for the actual content of the activities  
nor do these notices necessarily reflect the opinions of the  
Broome County Council of Churches.

## Amnesty International Write for Rights Invitation

For fifty-three years the organization Amnesty International has supported people who are imprisoned unjustly. Using the name "prisoners of conscience" for people whose human rights are violated by governments, Amnesty International publicizes their cases worldwide and intervenes to win, for many, freedom, restoration of legal process, or an end to torture. We in the small local Quaker group (the Binghamton Community Friends Meeting) have participated in this campaign since 1987, sending letters to officials of repressive governments and cards to the prisoners themselves. For the 2014 "Write for Rights" campaign we offer letters, drafted by Amnesty International, which you can send to support prisoners of conscience around the world. We invite you to pick up as many as 17 letters and addressed envelopes at 5 PM on Sunday, December 7, at Sarah Jane Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church, 308 Main Street at Baldwin Street, Johnson City. Enter from the parking lot on the south side. Please call or email Ralph McGrew at 722 0467 or [mcgrewrv@sunybroome.edu](mailto:mcgrewrv@sunybroome.edu) to indicate your interest and the number of letters you would like to send, so that we can have a sufficient supply. If this time and place are not convenient for you, we will be happy to get your letters to you in another way. We supply the letters and envelopes free of charge. Sending all 17 letters would cost you about \$18 in postage; you may choose to send any smaller number. You may insert your signature and address to send the letters just as we supply them; you may add notes of your own; you may retype or rewrite letters in your own words, following Amnesty International's suggestions on format; or you may send messages electronically. We ask that you send letters promptly, to be most persuasive. The Write for Rights campaign website is [http://write.amnestyusa.org/?ac=none\\_r](http://write.amnestyusa.org/?ac=none_r). Thank you.

"I would like to thank Amnesty International for helping and supporting my community as well as myself and thank all of the people who devoted their time to write petition letters to the government to request for my release." - Yorm Bopha, Cambodia, a 2013 Write for Rights case, now released







## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Traditions Craft Show



### at Binghamton University's West Gym

Black Friday, November 28  
3:00 p.m. -- 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, November 29  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Over 150 Unique Arts & Craft Booths  
are to be found throughout the  
West Gym & Lobby Area  
2-Day Admission \$ 4

**A Food Donation for CHOW is Appreciated**

## Vestal Center United Methodist Church

478 West Hill Road, Vestal, NY — 748-0004 — vestalcenterumc@gmail.com

### Holiday Play & Dessert

"A Christmas Wedding at the Cricket County Cafe" "

Friday, December 5 -- 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, December 6 -- 3:00 p.m.

Join us for fun, fellowship and dessert!  
Goodwill donation accepted

### Holiday Movie Night

Friday, December 19 -- 7:00 p.m.  
"The Nativity Story"

Refreshments will be offered  
Free & Open to the public

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Wednesday, December 24 -- 7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.  
11:00 p.m. will include Communion

For more information on any of these events call 748-0004

## CHOW Needs

### CHOW

(Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse)

Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Meats, Tuna, Beef Stew,  
Instant Potatoes, Cereal, Canned Pasta, Canned Fruit

### HOPE

(Help Out People in Emergencies)

**!! DIAPERS !! ANY SIZE !!**

Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Toothpaste,  
Toothbrushes, Baby Formula, Baby Wipes.  
(anything that is used for personal hygiene)  
(Unopened items only, please.)

**The shelves are very bare out there.**

## Veterans of Modern Warfare

The local VMW - Veterans of Modern Warfare - meet on the first Saturday of the month at Owego's Historic First Baptist Church, Church & Main Streets, @ 11 AM. Use the back ramp entrance. All Vets are welcome ... especially those from Desert Storm and subsequent conflicts. See YOU on December 6th! Call Bill Reynolds @ (607) 644-5690 with questions/comments.

## Hanukkah House Museum of Temple Concord

9 Riverside Drive, Binghamton, NY

The Hanukkah House Museum of Temple Concord is a seasonal teaching museum, housed in the Kilmer Mansion. This is its 18<sup>th</sup> year of operation.

The museum is open to the public beginning Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 5 p.m. and closing Sunday, Dec. 28. Hours are Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. and Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. It is closed on Thanksgiving.

The theme for 2014 is **Kilmer Mansion and Family**. Highlighted will be different aspects of the Kilmer family, their homes and businesses. The Kilmer Mansion was designed and built in 1898 by local architect Edward Vosbury in the Italian Renaissance and Queen Anne style. The Kilmer family had diverse successful businesses in addition to the well-known Swamp Root, such as newspapers and horse racing. Pictures of the family, their mansion and other real estate will be displayed.

Organizers hope to give students and visitors a sense of the historic aspect of the Hanukkah story with tableaus and models, descriptive information and a sense of how the holiday is celebrated around the world. Also returning is a miniature recreation of living on the Lower East Side of New York at the turn of the century.

The story of Hanukkah is told in different mediums in the museum, fabric, written words, movies, diorama and hands on activities. There are displays of antique oil burning menorahs as well as traditional and contemporary menorahs. Dreidels, menorahs, and yamulkas displays are quite impressive.

Hands on activities delight guests of all ages. The "Kids Place" has hands on learning games, books and puzzles for kids of all ages.

The expanded Judaic Gift Shop features a wide selection of Judaica for Hanukkah and other life cycle celebrations. The gift shop is open during museum hours, except Saturdays.

If a club advisor/leader is looking for an interesting activity, he or she should schedule a field trip to the museum. Groups of all sizes are welcome.

TOURS CAN BE SCHEDULED MORNINGS, AFTERNOONS OR EVENINGS, ANY DAY OF THE WEEK. To schedule tours, call Carol Herz at (607)222-7144.

There is no admission fee to visit the museum. A non perishable food donation to CHOW would be greatly appreciated.

Email questions to Hanukkah.House.Museum@gmail.com

## Activities in Owego

### 'Lights On The River'

Friday, December 5 -- 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

'Reaching Owego For Jesus! Outreach' in Owego, NY  
A number of churches will be participating.  
Fireworks will conclude the evening.

For further information contact the First Baptist Church of Owego at office@fbcowego.org

## Healthcare Information

For anyone interested in learning more about involvement by individuals in creating a New York State that works for everyone, consider the following---

The Campaign for *New York Health* is a new coalition working to implement universal, single-payer health care in New York State. Contact me, Ursula Rozum, (315) 414-7720

### RSVP for a Single Payer hearing near you:

**Syracuse** Thursday, Dec. 4 (reply by Tuesday, Nov. 25)

**Rochester** Monday, Dec 8 (reply by Monday, Dec. 1)

**Buffalo** Wednesday, Dec. 10 (reply by Monday, Dec. 1)

**New York City** Tuesday, Dec. 16 (reply by Tuesday, Dec. 9)

**Mineola** Wednesday, Dec 17 (reply by Wednesday, Dec 10)

**Albany** Tuesday, Jan. 13 (reply by Tuesday, Jan. 6)

The Campaign for *New York Health* is a new coalition working to implement universal, single-payer health care in New York State. This will make health care a guaranteed right for all New Yorkers, not something available only to those who can afford it. We hope that Greens will participate in the hearings and get involved in single payer organizing in your area!

## Auxiliaries - Who are we?

We are the volunteers at Binghamton General Hospital who are there to assist staff and patients in various roles.

Our organization dates back to the late 1800's. We provide services such as manning the information desk, running the gift shop, assisting in the café, and by supporting families waiting in the surgical lounge. We have fundraiser sales at least monthly. These sales provide funds to the hospital for specialized equipment, renovations and scholarships.

We are looking for new members.

You can be an Associate Member with as little as \$10 per year. An associate member provides the financial support but does not need to volunteer. If you would like to volunteer and/or know someone who has some time to volunteer, we would welcome you or them as an Active Member (same \$10 membership fee).

Please call the Volunteer office at 607-762-2319 for more information.

Our organization is worthy of your support.

## St. Francis of Assisi Church

1051 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY



### Contemplative Installation and Labyrinth Walk

Saturday December 13 -- 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.,  
with opening prayer service at 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday December 14, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Saint Francis of Assisi Church, in School Gymnasium\*

Yvonne M. Lucia's contemporary icons of Mary will be installed surrounding a floor labyrinth, inviting contemplative reflection for the Advent season.

Free and open to the public  
Small icons, prayer and note cards are available for purchase

\*Use far set of doors between church and school

For information: [www.sacredartportal.com](http://www.sacredartportal.com) 607-727-5332

## House of Prayer (True Vine Ministries)

### Annual JesusFest Christmas Party

Saturday, December 20 -- 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
at VFW post 478, 65 Carroll Street.

Questions? Contact Barb Brown [revbarbrow@yahoo.com](mailto:revbarbrow@yahoo.com)

## Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous

### Having a hard time controlling the way you eat? Severely overweight? -- Underweight? -- Bulimic? Obsessed with food or weight?

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous, "FA", offers help and hope for people who suffer from food obsession, overeating, bulimia, and under-eating. The program is based on the Twelve Steps of AA.

Everyone is welcome to this FREE meeting, including those who think they may have a food problem or those who are concerned about someone who may. FA is open to all women, men, and teens who want to stop eating addictively.

Visit [www.foodaddicts.org](http://www.foodaddicts.org) or call 607-595-7381 for more information. FA meets locally:

### Mondays & Thursdays -- 7:00 p.m.

Wilson Hospital, Johnson City  
Picciano Building, 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room 2

### Fridays -- 10:00 a.m.

Union Presbyterian Church, 200 Main St, Endicott

## Samaritan Counseling Center - a non-profit counseling center

[www.samaritanendicott.com](http://www.samaritanendicott.com)

*Spiritually Sensitive Counseling Services for Individuals of all ages, Couples, Families & Groups*

Available for Group Presentations  
Call 607-754-2660 or  
Toll Free 1-877-825-0678

Offices in Endicott, Owego & Windsor  
Most Insurance, Visa/MC Accepted  
[www.SamaritanEndicott.com](http://www.SamaritanEndicott.com)