

BC3 Calendar of Events

Monday, May 4
Peace with Justice — 12:00 noon

Wednesday, May 6
Staff Meeting — 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 7
Lives of Commitment Breakfast — 7:15 a.m.
COAD Meeting — 1:00 p.m.

Friday, May 15
COUNCIL CLOSED
Annual Staff Retreat

Monday, May 18
Bible Study — 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 20
Food Coalition Meeting — 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 21
Dining For Dollars Committee — 11:30 a.m.

Monday, May 25
COUNCIL CLOSED
Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 26
Program Directors — 8:30 a.m.
FIAV Orientation — 12:00 noon

Thursday, May 28
Board of Directors — 12:00 noon

www.broomecouncil.net for updated calendar

Ramp It Up — Now Taking Applications

Faith in Action Volunteers' Ramp It Up initiative is now taking applications for both **ramps** and **ramp building teams** for the 2015 construction season. Our building season is from May through October and we hope to build 20 ramps this season, which will include our 100th ramp.

To learn more about Ramp It Up, go to our website www.broomecouncil.net, select Faith in Action from the ribbon and Ramp It Up from the dropdown menu.

If you are in need of a ramp: Ramp It Up is seeking applicants for our Ramp Program. If you have issues getting in or out of your home safely, please apply. The application is available for download on our website (www.broomecouncil.net) or you may request an application by calling the Council at 607.724.9130.

If you would like to volunteer to build a ramp: Ramp It Up still has lots of slots for volunteer teams to help us build a record 20 ramps this season. Most builds are on Friday afternoon or evening (adults) and all day Saturday (adults and teens ages 13-18). If interested please contact Ron Wenzinger in the Ramp It Up office at 607.724.9130 ext 323, by email at rwenzinger@broomecouncil.net or find the team application information on our website (www.broomecouncil.net).

Volunteer Spotlight

We would like to honor two of our wonderful and greatly appreciated volunteers this month, Don Carlin and Clara Noldy



Don has been a dedicated volunteer in the CHOW warehouse for over two years. He plays an extremely important role in our Broome Bounty program and has helped feed count-

less people in Broome County. Don puts in long days pulling orders, loading vehicles and helping with inventory. He has an incredible attitude and a great sense of humor and we are honored to have him as part of our team.

Clara started as an employee of the Broome County Council of Churches Faith in Action program. She retired several years ago but has continued to volunteer in many ways. Clara currently helps in the office sched-

uling volunteers to transport care receivers to their appointments, helping with new care receiver intakes and assigning assessors to do assessments. Clara is always available to help out and is a great asset to the *Faith in Action* program that she cares so deeply about.



If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else – Booker T. Washington

Children of Abraham

Children of Abraham Interfaith Conversations 7 Session Groups start in May

The Children of Abraham Group of the Southern Tier is pleased to invite you to participate in our Sunday afternoon or Tuesday evening discussion series. We will be using the study guide "For One Great Peace" from the Abrahamic Faiths Peacemaking Initiative group. There will be two facilitators for each group. Participants are asked to commit to the series.

Our purpose continues to be building relationships among persons of all three of the Abrahamic faith traditions; Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The Sunday group will meet at the Islamic Organization of the Southern Tier in Johnson City at 3:00 p.m. on Sundays: May 17, June 7, August 9, September 27, October 18 or 25, November 15 and December 13. Child care can be available upon request.

The Tuesday evening group will meet at Temple Concord from 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.: May 19, June 2, August 18, September 29, October 20 or 27, November 17 and December 15.

There is no charge for this program, but donations will be accepted to cover the costs of the program materials.

For more information, check out our Facebook page "Children of Abraham Southern Tier NY," our website http://www.interfaithbroomecounty.com/Children_of_Abraham.html or contact Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell at Temple Concord at 607.723.7355.



CHOW Needs

CHOW

(Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse)

Peanut Butter and Jelly, Instant potatoes, Mac & Cheese, Canned Fruit, Tuna Fish, Canned Meats, Soup, Canned Fruit

HOPE

(Help Out People in Emergencies)

DIAPERS ! ANY SIZE !

Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Deodorant, Baby wipes, Baby Formula

(anything that is used for personal hygiene)
(Unopened items only, please.)

The Sophia Center for Spirituality

Spiritual Sampler Series—Inter-Spiritual Exploration presented by Rev. Matthew Wright

Monday, April 20 ~ 6:30 p.m.
The Sophia Center for Spirituality

Explore the commonality between religions.

The Rev. Matthew Wright is an Episcopal priest working to renew the Christian Wisdom tradition within a wider inter-spiritual framework. Alongside his practice of Christianity, he draws deeply from the sacred worlds of Islamic Sufism and Vedanta.

In an essay he wrote for the website ContemplativeJournal.com, Wright says:

"We know today more than ever that we belong—to our planet and to one another. At the same time, as old dividing lines rapidly erode, we are less certain than ever about how to belong. How do we live one faith while opening deeply to another? Is it possible to belong to multiple traditions? Can we have roots without boundaries?"

"My own starting point is as a Christian priest and a student of the world's wisdom traditions, with particular roots in Sufism and Vedanta. I find myself endlessly grateful to live in a time that allows deep, open, and creative interaction between traditions."

First Congregational Church
30 Main St., Binghamton
(Park in Front Street Lot, use side entrance)

Suggested Donation: \$10

Jail Needs

At the jail ministry we have ongoing needs for single trip bus passes, first class stamps and hygiene products. We could also use more sweat suits as well as some jigsaw puzzles. Inspirational paperback books and modern English Bible translations in paper back are always helpful.

It may seem early to write about our Christmas project, but we could use small tissue packs, playing cards and paperback word puzzle books which go into the inmate gift bags at Christmas. The small bags we distribute to the inmates at Christmas also need to be decorated. As VBS and Summer camps are right around the corner, this would be a wonderful activity for the kids (or even adult small group missions projects). Bags can be picked up at the Council.

We also need interfaith materials for our non-Christian inmates (please call the chaplain at 607.778.6518 to find out what is acceptable).

Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church

918 Front Street, Binghamton, NY — 607.724.5421

Shoe Collection Drive Extended to May 15th

Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church

Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church (NUMC) has extended its *gently worn* Shoe Collection Drive for one additional month through May 15th, so you still have time to gather shoes from your workplace, family, neighbors and friends and drop them off at the Church at 918 Upper Front Street in Binghamton (across from SUNY Broome). There is a large tote outside the front door for collection of shoes, or you can call 607.724.5421 if you need them picked up.

These shoes will be sent to people in impoverished nations to learn how to run a small business selling shoes. They are given a free training program and a FREE supply of shoes to get their business started. Once their business is established, they can return and purchase additional shoes at a very low cost. This enables them to become self-sufficient and feed, clothe, house and educate their families.

We are excited about this Shoe Drive and know that most people have extra shoes in their closets that they could donate to help those less fortunate become self-sufficient. It's a win-win for everyone!

By donating shoes to NUMC, the shoes will be given a second chance and make a difference in people's lives.



Hospital Ministry — We are there if you need us

If you are going to be a patient in the UHS Hospitals please tell people when you check in what faith group you believe in. — Chaplain Rev. John Koopman

Veterans of Modern Warfare

Local VMW (Veterans of Modern Warfare) Meeting
Saturday, May 2 — 11:00 a.m.
(and the first Saturday of every month)

at *The Church Commons Community Center* (little white Church building just east of Price Chopper), 28 Main Street, Owego. All Vets are welcome ... especially those from Desert Storm and subsequent conflicts. Call Bill Reynolds at 607.644.5690 with questions/comments.

See YOU on May 2nd!

Hearing Loss Association of America



The Lord said to me, gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words. Deut 4:9.

Help Needed! The Binghamton Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America is compiling a list of area churches with assisted listening devices for those with hearing loss. For example: PA, Loop, Infrared, FM, visual signing etc.

Please provide this information to: Binghamton Chapter HLA. Lynn Finch, 843 St Rte 369, Port Crane, NY 13833, or 607.648.4533, or lmfin@citlink.net

A copy of the compiled list will be available.

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA)

Are you a food addict?

To find out, ask yourself the following questions and answer them as honestly as you can:

- Has a doctor or family member ever approached you with concern about your eating habits?
- Do you eat large quantities of food at one time?
- Is your weight problem due to "nibbling" all day long?
- Do you eat to escape from your feelings?
- Do you eat when you're not hungry?

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 —

Visit 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, 4th floor conference room 2

Fridays — 10:00 a.m.

Union Presbyterian Church, 200 Main St., Endicott

Samaritan Counseling Center

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



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

Connecting Congregations

May 2015

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

“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

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

E-mail: 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.

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

Follow us on Facebook

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

12:00 noon on Monday, May 18
*Please make certain the announcements are for the
month of June 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 with color–
Your emailed pdf document will spring to life!
Email Barbara at bcCook@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.