

## Council Calendar of Events

## Jail Ministry — Reentry Program

### Friday, April 1

75th Ann. Visibility Committee  
12:00 noon

### Monday, April 4

Peace with Justice — 12:00 noon

### Wednesday, April 6

75th Ann. Planning Committee  
12:00 noon

Staff Meeting — 2:30 p.m.

### Thursday, April 7

FIAV Advisory — 12:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, April 12

Dining for Dollars Committee  
12:00 noon

### Monday, April 18

Bible Study Group — 10:00 a.m.

### Wednesday, April 20

Multidisciplinary Case Review Team  
8:30 a.m.

### Tuesday, April 26

Program Directors — 8:30 a.m.  
FIAV Orientation — 12:00 noon

### Thursday, April 28

Executive Committee — 12:00 noon

### Lunch & Learn Coaching Ministry

The Broome County Reentry Program and the Cornerstone Faith Group have partnered to curb the rate of reincarceration for individuals. Over the past three years we have seen amazing success when a returning citizen is partnered with a fully trained Prison Reentry Coach. The goal of the Coaching Program is to give individuals returning from a NYS correctional facility the opportunity to make different choices leading to a productive life, “incarceration-free,” in our community.

Do you think you would like to have a positive influence on another life?

If you are interested in learning more about what it would take to become a part of the most successful Reentry Coaching Program in NYS, please join us for a one hour Lunch & Learn.

**WHERE:** Tabernacle United Methodist Church. 83 Main St, Binghamton, NY 13905

**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 26 — 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.  
OR Tuesday, April 26 — 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

We are offering two identical educational events to accommodate those that have a 30 minute lunch.

Kindly RSVP for either event.

We want to ensure an accurate amount of food is ordered. Please call and reserve your space today.

Jeffrey Pryor, Broome County Reentry Coordinator  
607.743.1790 or 607.778.1364

broomecouncil.net for updated calendar

## Volunteer Spotlight

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

### George DeMarco and Kerrie Fisher



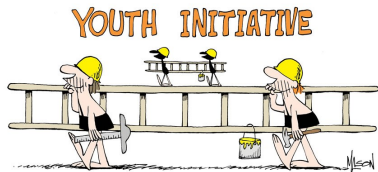
George has been volunteering for approximately 3 months. During this time he has gone above and beyond expectation by repairing various equipment and appliances for the Council. These include, but are not limited to, vehicles, lighting fixtures, garage doors and plumbing. This is in addition to the day to day warehouse tasks he performs with equal skill.



Kerrie began volunteering at the Broome County Council of Churches in December 2015, in the capacity of receptionist. The working hours were a few in the afternoon a few days a week. Now, when there are volunteer staff shortages, she is the go-to person for help in any capacity with any program. Always willing to take on a new task, Kerrie does the work with cheerfulness and with effortless efficiency.

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.” ~Author Unknown

### Ramp It Up



**Spring is here!  
It's time to  
Ramp It Up!!**

Applications and team packets are available on the Council website <http://broomecouncil.net/>

### Faith in Action – Volunteers Needed

**Volunteers needed:** Here at *Faith in Action* we believe that a few hours spent helping someone else is one of the richest investments of time. Our clients are people who are able to remain independent with a little help. Please consider supporting this valuable program either by volunteering or making a gift.

If your congregation would like more information, we would be happy to give a presentation at your church. For more information, contact Sue at 724-9130 ext. 304 or [sspencer@broomecouncil.net](mailto:sspencer@broomecouncil.net)

*Faith in Action Volunteers... a nonprofit network of volunteers helping adults 60 and over maintain quality of life and independence*

### Hospital Ministry

I am looking for volunteers to visit General on Saturdays and to be substitute visitors at Wilson. If you would like to volunteer at General please call Chaplain Barb at 762-2446. A tip for patients: Make sure when you are admitted that you have a designated, in-writing, advocate (local family member or friend) who knows your desires in case an emergency comes up and that your other friends and family know who this advocate is. This can save a lot of confusion and strife should an unexpected emergency arise.  
Chaplain John Koopman – 763-6003 or 765-6269

### CHOW Needs

#### CHOW

(Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse)

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

#### 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.)

### BLI Fundraiser to Benefit the CHOW Farm



**Bowling Fundraiser at Midway Lanes**  
Saturday, April 2 — 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Check in starts at 1:30 p.m.



The cost is \$25 a person and includes 3 games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, wings, salad and soda. There will also be 20 awesome gift baskets (all valued between \$50-\$200) raffled off and a bake sale.

Our class project for this year is to install a fence around the CHOW Farm's Garden. Last year over 50% of the crops were lost to animals. We will be installing the fence ourselves in mid-April but need to raise funds to purchase the fence and to rent the equipment needed to install it. We are also hoping to purchase a storage trailer for the farm equipment and erect a shade shelter for the volunteers to get a break from the sun.

Sponsored by BLI Class of 2016  
(Broome Leadership Institute)

See flyer insert for more details or call 607.724.9130

### Jail Ministry

The Jail Ministry program is working to curb the cycle of incarceration, which often has intergenerational effects. Many reentrant needs are addressed by social service agencies; the two areas which are often overlooked are spiritual care and friendship.

In addressing these needs we are reaching out to congregation members who would be open to coming alongside former jail inmates who would like to attend your church services. With a new network of support, people may find a new life in fellowship and a relationship with the Lord. All that is asked is that you be a friend; social work needs may be referred back to our office.

If you or your congregation are interested in this program, contact: Rev. Cris H. Mogenson, Coordinating Chaplain 607.778.6518  
[bcjchaplain@juno.com](mailto:bcjchaplain@juno.com) or [cmogenson@co.broome.ny.us](mailto:cmogenson@co.broome.ny.us)

### National Volunteer Week — Conference & Recognition

The National Volunteer Week Conference & Recognition Reception is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at the DoubleTree by Hilton at 225 Water Street in Binghamton. Info at [www.uwbroome.org/2016-volunteer-conference](http://www.uwbroome.org/2016-volunteer-conference).

Consider attending the Kick-Off Presentation and two blocks of workshop sessions from 12:45 p.m. to 4:55 p.m. The Volunteer Recognition Reception follows immediately, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This is a VERY low-cost way to gain knowledge and improve volunteer management skills as well as to recognize one or two volunteers from your organization.

### Vestal Center United Methodist Church

478 West Hill Road, Vestal, NY



#### Chicken & Biscuits Dinner

Saturday, April 9 – 4:30 p.m.

Adults - \$8.50 –

Children (6-12) - \$5.00 – 5 & under FREE

All You Can Eat

Chicken & Biscuits, including Desert!!!

Take Out Available



### First Presbyterian Church of Johnson City

2 Main Street, Johnson City

#### Empowering Parents Group

Begins Saturday, April 2 – 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Free 8 week course held on consecutive Saturdays

Parents, grandparents and caregivers will get tips on:

- Values-Based Parenting Skills
- Better Ways to Communicate
- Creating a Peaceful Home

And much more

To register by phone call Tryntje Keesler at 723.3200 ext. 118 or email [tryntje@cvac.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:tryntje@cvac.onmicrosoft.com)

Presented by:

Crime Victims Assistance Center Inc.

377 Robinson Street, Binghamton, NY 13904

Business office: 607.723.3200

Crisis Line: 607.722.4256

### Children of Abraham

On Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> the Children of Abraham will be sponsoring an interfaith community effort to pack food for refugees in camps fleeing the violence in the Middle East. Adults and youth are encouraged to attend.

If you plan to attend, please use SignUp genius to commit to one or more specific time slots between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will help us get the continuous coverage we will need to package the 30,000 meals. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4aafaf2aa2fc1-children>

The flyer insert and our website, <http://www.interfaithbroomecounty.com> have more information about the event.

Let me know if you are willing to commit to two hours to facilitate the event, if you have additional questions, or have difficulty with either of the websites.

Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell – 607.723.7355

We look forward to seeing you on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and also encourage you to bring food for CHOW.

Salaam, Peace, Shalom

Children of Abraham Steering Committee

### Endwell United Methodist Church

3301 Watson Boulevard, Endwell, NY 607.754.5735

#### Fruitful Game Plans for Implementing Children Ministries

Saturday, April 30 – 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Welcome and registration 8:30 a.m.

Sponsored by The Binghamton District Leadership Team  
Workshop facilitator - Lynne Kimpland

This workshop will include:

God's Expectations, Bearing Fruit while Keeping it Fun, Why Children Ministries is Important, Leadership Essentials, Casting a Vision, Creating Momentum, Implementing Programs, Choosing Curriculum, Providing Safety, Keeping in Touch, Using Big Events, and more.

Register by Monday, April 25 by calling Endwell UMC church office 607.754.5735 or fill in a reservation form (forms on [endwellumc.org](http://endwellumc.org)). Send to: Endwell UMC, 3301 Watson Blvd, Endwell, NY 13760

### Our Lady of Sorrows

801 Main Street, Vestal, NY – 222.5616

#### Mary's Meal

A free community meal for those in need of food or companionship.



Tuesday, March 29

(and the last Tuesday of every month)

doors open 5:00 p.m.

meal served 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call 222.5616.

### Veterans of Modern Warfare

#### Local VMW (Veterans of Modern Warfare) Meeting

Saturday, April 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 April 2nd!**

### Samaritan 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)



75 Years of Service

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## Connecting Congregations – April 2016

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



**Council of  
Churches**

**75 Years of Service**

**Follow us on Facebook**

Secure donations can be made online at  
[broomecouncil.net](http://broomecouncil.net)  
607.724.9130

### Programs of the Broome County Council of Churches:

Broome Bount  
CHOW Hunger Relief  
Encounter Weekly  
TV/Radio Program  
*Faith in Action* Volunteers  
HOPE Ministry  
Hospital Ministry  
Jail Ministry  
Ramp It Up  
Senior Living Ministry

**“Connecting compassion with needs; inspiring growth with dignity”**

To submit items or to receive *Connecting Congregations*,  
contact Keating Wilson:  
E-mail: [kwilson@broomecouncil.net](mailto:kwilson@broomecouncil.net)  
Phone: 607.724.9130 x 303

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.**

Deadline for the May 2016 issue  
4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 15  
*announcements must be for May or later.*

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