

BC3 Calendar of Events

Wednesday, December 2
C.P.E. Class — 12:00 noon

Thursday, December 3
CPE Class — 9:30 a.m.
FIAV Advisory — 12:00 noon

Friday, December 4
Vestal High School Visit — 10:00 a.m.

Monday, December 7
Peace with Justice — 12:00 noon

Tuesday, December 8
CHOW/Broome Bounty — 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 9
C.P.E. Class — 12:00 noon

Thursday, December 10
CPE Class — 9:30 a.m.

Friday, December 11
Office Christmas Party — 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 16
Multidisciplinary Case Review — 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 17
Executive Meeting — 12:00 noon

Monday, December 21
Bible Study Group — 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 22
Program Directors — 8:30 a.m.
FIAV Orientation — 12:00 noon

**Thursday & Friday,
December 24 & 25**
CLOSED

Christmas Eve/Christmas

**Thursday & Friday,
December 31 & January 1**
CLOSED

New Year's Eve/New Year's Day

Amnesty International "Write for Rights" Invitation

For fifty-four 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 2015 "Write for Rights" campaign we offer letters, drafted by Amnesty International, which you can send to support as many as twelve prisoners of conscience around the world.

We invite you to pick up letters with envelopes at 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 6, 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 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 12 letters would cost you \$12.98 in postage; you may choose to send a 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 post cards or electronic messages to the prisoners themselves. We ask that you send letters promptly, to be most persuasive. The Write for Rights campaign website is <http://write.amnestyusa.org/>. Thank you.

"I am overwhelmed. I thank Amnesty International and their activist for the great support that made me a conqueror in this situation. Amnesty International members and activist are my Heroes."

-Moses Akatugba, included in the 2014 "Write for Rights" campaign and now released from death row

www.broomecouncil.net for updated calendar

Volunteer Spotlight

We would like to honor all of our wonderful and greatly appreciated volunteers this month.

Nancy Sweeney and Jean Smith



Nancy always has a smile on her face when she comes into the office to order food for St. Patrick's pantry. Nancy's flexibility works well with the CHOW office and her statistics are in on time! That is the greatest help when we record the monthly figures for the CHOW pantries. We are certain that everywhere she volunteers she is treasured as we treasure her.

Jean is a delight, friendly and cheerful when she comes to place her orders for the Conklin Avenue Baptist Church. She has a great personality and cares greatly for the people she serves. Despite a very busy schedule, Jean is good about picking up her food from the CHOW Warehouse and doing shopping for her pantry. She always has time for CHOW and for that we are thankful.





Jail Ministry Christmas Project

Each year we provide gifts of children's books to the families of the inmates at Christmas and give a small gift bag to each inmate containing a few items. Donations of *playing cards, word puzzle books, full size hygiene items, pocket packs of tissues, stamps, single-trip bus passes, sweat suits, socks, underwear, hats, gloves, gently used or new children's books* will help with this project.

Volunteers are also needed to help decorate gift bags, sort items and wrap and/or deliver the children's books.

You may contact the Broome County Council of Churches at 607.724.9130 or the Jail Chaplain's office at 607.778.6518.

Veterans of Modern Warfare

Local VMW (Veterans of Modern Warfare) Meeting
Saturday, December 5 — 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 December 5th!

Hospital Ministry — Looking for Volunteers

Hospital Thoughts

I am asking local religious groups to make sure you have a phone number-answering machine that patients or family members can actively contact you on. I encourage patients and family members to tell their religious groups, churches and others that they are in the hospital. If a person can't reach their religious body, it often adds to their stress and depression. Hospitalization is a very trying time. God and His Instruments are strengths for many. To God's Glory, Chaplain John Koopman

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.)

United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton

42 Chenango Street, Binghamton, NY- 607.722.4219 – www.unitedpresbyterian.org

Employment Opportunity

Community Meal Coordinator (CMC) needed

(part time – 12 hrs/week)

Position: The Community Meal Coordinator is responsible for the organization's weekly meal, which involves functioning as a liaison, keeper of inventory, trainer, record keeper and maintainer of kitchen safety standards.

Education and/or Experience

High school graduate, or the equivalent, with at least one year of experience in meal preparation. Knowledgeable in Microsoft Office Suite, including Excel.

Physical Demands:

Regularly required to stand, sit, talk, see, hear, walk, handle objects and tools, reach with arms and hands, frequently lift 10 pounds and occasionally lift 40 pounds.

Send resume, cover letter and names and contact information for three references to: office@upcbgm.org.

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, December 29

(and the last Tuesday of every month)

doors open 5:00 p.m.

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

The frequency of our meal offerings will increase as we gather in visitors. If you have any questions, please call 222.5616.

Jail Ministry

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

In addressing this need we are reaching out to congregations and 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.

Endwell United Methodist Church

3301 Watson Boulevard, Endwell, NY 607.754.5735



**Breakfast with Santa
to benefit Mom's House**
Saturday, December 5
8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



Breakfast Buffet:

Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Pastries,
Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Orange Juice

Adults — \$6.00 / Children 5 -12 — \$4.00 / Under 5 — Free

Christmas Bake Sale & Gifts



Christmas Eve Services

Thursday, December 24



6:30 p.m. — Children's Christmas Musical
"Arrest These Merry Gentlemen"

8:30 p.m. — Traditional Candlelight Service

Tabernacle United Methodist Church

83 Main St, Binghamton



VENDOR CRAFT FAIR
Food, Crafts, Fun & Music!!

Hosted by:
I'm Dope Without Dope
and individuals who are in recovery



Saturday, December 5 — 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

All proceeds will support a future sober leisure club.

Vendors can apply by phone or email.

For more information, call 607.727.8066

First Congregational Church

30 Main Street Binghamton — 607-723-8981

Organ Concert

Nancy Wildoner, organist*
Sunday, December 6 — 2:00 p.m.

Celebrating
the repair of
our 3 manual
Aeolian-Skinner organ.

Selections by:

Searle Wright
J.S. Bach
Cesar Franck
Leroy Anderson

Pop Hits of 2015and more



*member of BCMEA, ATOS, Blng Theater Organ Society

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," 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

December 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
broomecouncil.net

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

E-mail: 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.

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
broomecouncil.net

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

4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11
*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 with color–
Your emailed pdf document will spring to life!
Email Barbara at bcook@broomecouncil.net

The items in this publication are provided as a service
to the event organizers.
The Broome County Council of Churches
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Broome County Council of Churches.