

## Council Calendar of Events

**Thursday, December 1**  
 CHOW® Coordinators Meeting — 9:00 a.m.  
 FIAV Advisory — 12:00 noon

**Monday, December 5**  
 Peace with Justice — 12:00 noon

**Wednesday, December 7**  
 AmeriCorps Training — 8:30 a.m.  
 Staff Meeting — 2:30 p.m.  
 Jail Ministry Children's Gift Wrapping —  
 3:00 p.m.

**Thursday, December 8**  
 Vestal High School Students — 10:00 a.m.

**Friday, December 16**  
 Council Christmas Party — 12:00 noon  
**EARLY CLOSING — 12:00 NOON**

**Monday, December 19**  
 Bible Study Group — 10:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, December 21**  
 Multidisciplinary Case Review — 8:30 a.m.

**Thursday, December 22**  
 Executive Committee — 12:00 noon

**Friday & Monday, December 23 & 26**  
**CLOSED**  
 Christmas Holidays

**Tuesday, December 27**  
 Program Directors Meeting — 8:30 a.m.

## Jail Ministry

**Financial Support Needed** — Please consider donating to the Jail Ministry Program. With increases in reentry and inmate program needs, we are running desperately low on funding for the last 3 months of this year. Jail Ministry serves the people of your community: they may be neighbors, coworkers, classmates, friends or family members, all of whom will be returning home to your neighborhood. These citizens are part of your own church parish.

**Reentry** — The Jail Ministry is attempting to curb the cycle of incarceration. Although many reentrants have needs which are addressed by social service agencies, the one area often overlooked is that of spiritual care and friendship. In trying to address this need we are reaching out to congregation members who are open to mentoring former jail inmates who would like to attend your church services. With a new network of support, reentrants may find a new life in fellowship and in a relationship with the Lord. All that is asked is that you be a friend.

**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. White bags for decorating are available at the front desk at 3 Otsenigo Street.

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

broomecouncil.net for updated calendar

## Amnesty International Write for Rights invitation

For fifty-five years the organization Amnesty International has supported people whose human rights are violated by governments. Using the name "prisoners of conscience" for people who are imprisoned unjustly, 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 2016 "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 5:15 p.m. on Sunday, December 4, at Sarah Jane Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church, 308 Main Street at Baldwin Street, Johnson City. To enter, climb the steps 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 is inconvenient, 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 \$12.14 in postage; you may choose to send a smaller number. You may insert your signature and address to the letters we supply; 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 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.

"Thank you very much each and every one of you. Not just for campaigning for my release, and the release of other prisoners, but for helping to keep our hope and our beliefs alive." – Phyo Phyo Aung, leader of a student union in Myanmar, included in the 2015 Write for Rights campaign and now released from prison.

## Ross Memorial Presbyterian Church

6 Morris Street, Binghamton, NY — Southside — corner of Mitchell Ave & Morris St



### Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service

Saturday, December 24 — 7:00 p.m.  
Cookies and Coffee  
6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.



## Calvary United Methodist Church

3505 Vestal Pkwy East, Vestal, NY — 607.729.0938



### Ugly Sweater Covered Dish

Saturday, December 3  
Beginning at 12:00 noon



Everyone is invited for food and fellowship!

## Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church

918 Front Street, Binghamton, NY — 607.724.5421



### Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 3  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Holiday Decorations & Gifts  
Hand-Crafted Items — Jewelry  
White Elephant Sale — Bake Sale



### Movie Night

Free Movie — Adults Only  
Monday, November 28  
6:30 p.m.



“When the Game Stands Tall”

A tale of a winning high school football team and how they learn to handle losing.

(Refreshments are available for purchase)  
Donations Accepted

## 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.)

## Trinity Memorial Church

44 Main Street, Binghamton, NY — email - trinity@trinitymemorial.org

### Peiyou Chang, playing the Chinese qin



First Friday, December 2  
8:30 p.m.  
at Trinity Memorial Church  
in the Common Room  
(Enter from 118 Oak Street)

Free Admission



### CandleChant

A Service of Choral Compline  
in the candlelit church.

Sunday, December 11  
7:30 p.m.

Sung by the Women of Trinity Church Choir  
Enjoy 30 minutes of peace and quiet in the midst of  
holiday preparations.



## Greene's Central Baptist Church

37 South Chenango Street — 607.656.4512

### Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, November 27  
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Candor Fire Station-Hall  
74 Owego Road, Candor

\$5/person OR \$17/family of 4  
Julie @ 280.2910 — Joyce @ 972.4426



## Greene's Central Baptist Church

37 South Chenango Street — 607.656.4512

### Annual Christmas Craft Day

Saturday, December 3

A fun day for children of all ages.

After you have had breakfast with Santa, join the elves  
at Central Baptist Church to work on crafts to take home.

Two Surprise Door-Prize Gifts!  
(One for a boy and one for a girl)

**Crafts** — 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Craft supplies are provided and there will be someone at  
teach table to assist you. Parents may help their child if  
they wish. There will be four or five tables and you may  
do a craft at each one.

**Story Time** — 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

You can take a break and listen to the story in the  
sanctuary.

**Free Lunch** — 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Take a break for pizza, chips, fruit, and a beverage. You  
may finish up any craft you were unable to finish before  
lunch during this time as well.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hanukkah House Museum

This year, 2016, is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hanukkah House Museum held in the Kilmer Mansion at Temple Concord, 9 Riverside Drive, Binghamton. To celebrate, museum founder Rabbi Lance Sussman, Ph.D., will be speaking at the Temple Concord Social Hall at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 30. He will discuss "The Eternal Miracle, Hanukkah and its Adaptations." Refreshments and a question and answer period will follow. A tour of the museum will be included. All are open to the public.



Rabbi Sussman, who came to Temple Concord from Beth El in Endicott, is now in his 15th year as senior rabbi at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park, PA. Reservations for November 30 will be appreciated; call 723.7355. The fee for his presentation is \$5 payable at the door. His talk will include the Americanization of Hanukkah plus some history of Hanukkah House Museum. The seasonal teaching museum will open at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 29. The museum is free and non perishable food donations to CHOW® will be appreciated.

A renowned author and dynamic lecturer, Rabbi Sussman has published numerous books and articles and has served as an editor of Reform Judaism in America: A Biographical Dictionary and Sourcebook.

**Hanukkah House Museum** will be open starting at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 29, on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.; on Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., and it will be closed on Thanksgiving. The museum will close Thursday, Dec. 29.



The theme for 2016 is Yad Vashem Righteous Among the Nations. These are non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews from the Holocaust. Several are famous like Oskar Schindler, Miep Gies and Raoul Wallenberg but most are unknown to most people. In a separate exhibit, the 20 years of Hanukkah House Museum will be celebrated. Also information from the 2014 exhibit on the Kilmer Mansion and family will be on display. The mansion was purchased shortly after Temple Concord was established in 1950. The Kilmer Mansion was designed and built in 1898 by local architect Edward Vosbury in the Italian renaissance and Queen Anne style.

Other Hanukkah House Museum exhibits will give students and visitors a sense of the historical aspect of how Hanukkah is celebrated around the world. Bobbie King's doll houses will be returning this year.

The Judaic Gift shop featuring a wide selection of Judaica for Hanukkah needs and gifts plus other life cycle celebrations will be open during museum hours except Saturdays.

Club leaders and teachers are encouraged to 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 by contacting Carol Herz at 222.7144. Questions may be sent to Hanukkah.House.Museum@gmail.com

### 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 27  
(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 607.222.5616.

### Veterans of Modern Warfare

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

Saturday, December 3rd — 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 3rd !**

### Hospital Ministry — *We are there when you need us*

Hospital Ministry Clergy Leaders and Lay people.

If you are in or know of a person that is in Wilson Hospital and would like prayer or a spiritual visit please let the hospital chaplain know by calling 763-6003. God always offers hope while our minds and bodies would see darkness.

Chaplain John

### Samaritan Counseling Center

www.samaritanendicott.com - 3001 E. Main St., Endwell, NY - 607.754.2660

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

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Call 607.754.2660 or  
Toll Free 1.877.825.0678

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75 Years of Service

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# Connecting Congregations December 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 January 2017 issue  
4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 16  
*Announcements must be for January 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.