



Council Calendar of Events

Friday, December 1
Vestal IB Students — 10:00 a.m.

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

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

Friday, December 8
EARLY CLOSING — 12:00 noon
Council Christmas Party — 12:00 noon

Monday, December 11
FIAV Gift Wrapping — 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 12
FIAV Gift Wrapping — 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 13
Lives of Commitment Meeting — 1:30 p.m.

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

Wednesday, December 20
Multidisciplinary Case Review — 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 21
Executive Committee — 12:00 noon

Monday & Tuesday, December 25 & 26
COUNCIL CLOSED
Christmas Holiday



Faith in Action Volunteers

Help Spread Holiday Cheer to Local Seniors!



We have some exciting news for the holiday season this year. Every December, *I Heart Radio* holds their **"Gifts for Golden"** event in the Oakdale Mall. This event allows mall shoppers to take a tag from a tree and purchase a Christmas gift for a local senior citizen. This year, they are partnering with Fox 40 and *Faith in Action!* We will have 75 tags with names of our clients

on the tree. What a great opportunity to reach out to our care receivers who are isolated and have no family in the area and remember them during the holidays! Our office staff and volunteers are busy making calls and gathering gift requests. **Gifts for Golden**s started with 80 names in 2012 and has grown to over 200. Join us at the Oakdale Mall, pick a tag off the tree and spread some holiday cheer to the seniors in our community.

We hope to see you there!

Gifts For Golden - Oakdale Mall

Fri. Dec. 8th - 5pm - 9pm

Sat. Dec. 9th - 9am - 9pm

Sun. Dec. 10th - 9 am - 6 pm



broomecouncil.net for updated calendar

Food-A-Bago

That is one full truck of food!



Food-A-Bago and all who donated this year did CHOW® proud! 13,331 pounds of non-perishable food were collected. The previous record was 8,010 pounds. Thank you all!

Southern Tier Mobile Pack extends its thanks



We would like to thank each and every donor and volunteer for making Southern Tier MobilePack (STMP) a success!

Together, we lovingly packed a total of 104,760 meals - feeding 287 children for an entire year. We also delivered 328 canned goods to Chow and the Open Door Mission in Owego to help local families that are struggling with hunger.

Are you interested in continuing this vital mission project in 2018? Each life saving meal costs 22 cents. In order to make this event happen again, we must raise over \$22,000 to pay for the meal ingredients. We need people, community groups & churches willing to help with fundraising. If you are interested in lending a hand, please send us an e-mail to nhrustich@stny.rr.com to let us know. Then join us on **January 18, 2018 at 7:00pm** at Whittemore Hill United Methodist Church to discuss financing a future event.

Nimmonsburg United Methodist Church

918 Front Street, Binghamton, NY — 607.724.5421

Annual Holiday Bazaar

Saturdays, December 2 & 9
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Beautiful holiday gifts and decorations,
Hand-crafted items and jewelry
White elephant sale
Bake sale



This is a great time to do your holiday shopping!



*Kids Movie Night *

Saturday, December 16 — 6:00 p.m.

featuring *The Polar Express*



A young boy embarks on a magical adventure to the North Pole on the Polar Express. During his adventure, he learns about friendship, bravery and the spirit of Christmas.

Wear your Pajamas!

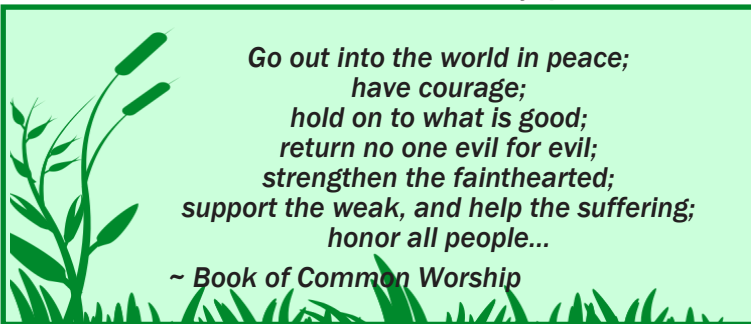
Snacks will be served (popcorn, cookies, hot chocolate)

\$1 per person or \$5 per family



We are located at 918 Upper Front Street in Binghamton,
across from SUNY-Broome.

Please call 607-724-5421 with any questions.



*Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people...*

~ Book of Common Worship

CHOW® Needs

CHOW®

(Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse)
Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit,
Canned Meat, Hot Cereal, Cold Cereal,
Soup, Peanut Butter, Pasta, Pasta Sauce,
Healthy Snacks (Granola, Trail Mix etc.)

HOPE

(Help Out People in Emergencies)

DIAPERS ! ANY SIZE !

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

Vestal Assembly of God



Musician Needed for Sunday Worship



Vestal Assembly of God
is looking for a guitarist
or keyboardist

to accompany their Sunday worship.

If interested contact Larry Griffin at 607.729.1605

Vestal Center United Methodist Church

478 West Hill Road, Vestal, NY — 607.748.0004



Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve
7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

All are welcome
to come and celebrate
the Birth of the Lord.

Trinity Memorial Church

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

The Men of Trinity Choir will sing "Candle Chant"

Friday, December 1 — 7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

This service is based on the monastic office of "Compline" and is sung entirely by the men of the choir, including prayers, scripture and anthems. The Church Sanctuary is lit entirely in candlelight. All are invited to attend this quiet time of reflection in today's increasingly challenging world.



The Cayuga Vocal Ensemble — Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 10 — 4:00 p.m.

This group of expert singers comes out of Ithaca and will give an exciting program of choral music perfect to get you in the Holiday mood!



The Trinity Choir will present
Charpentier's *Midnight Mass*

Christmas Eve — 10:30 p.m.

Worship service follows at 11:00 p.m.



All are invited to attend!

All programs are held in the Sanctuary.
The Church is across from Binghamton High School.
Parking lot behind the church off Oak Street.

For more information you may check the church's website at www.trinitymemorial.org or call (607) 723-3593 or contact Rayleen Kie, Assistant for Outreach and Pastoral Care at caring.tmc@gmail.com.

The Dr. Garabed A. Fattal Community Free Clinic

225 Front Street, Binghamton — 607.778.3938 or 607.772.3519

The Dr. Garabed A. Fattal Community Free Clinic
is **OPEN** — **Thursdays 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

Primary Health Care:

Exams, Medications, Labs, X-rays and Referrals
Health Insurance Information and Assistance
Services available to uninsured adults at no cost.

No appointment necessary!

Southern Tier American Red Cross

Know a Hero?

The Southern Tier American Red Cross needs your help in finding local heroes for its 9th Annual Real Heroes Breakfast in May, 2018. This event honors those who have in the past year exhibited extraordinary courage to save the life of another.

There are 12 Hero Categories: Blood Donor, Good Samaritan (Adult and Youth), Good Neighbor, Education, Lifeline, Fire Rescue, Workplace Safety, Law Enforcement, Medical, Military and Animal Rescue (for an animal that helped to save a life).

For more information or to receive a nomination form,
email Susie.Chadwick@RedCross.org
or call 607.785.7207.

Submission deadline is February 16, 2018.
Thanks!!!

BlueRock Solar Farm

New Community Solar Farm Opening in Our Area

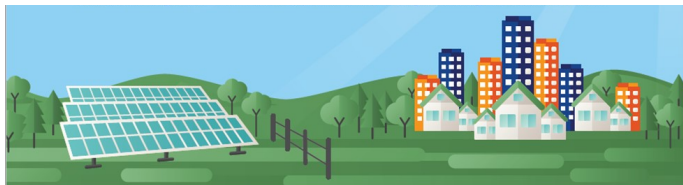
What is Community Solar?

Local, centrally located large solar energy system near you, serving many households. Anyone paying a NYSEG electric bill, including renters, can enroll.

What are the details of the Community Solar project?

This project is located in Ithaca, NY. It is under construction and is anticipated to be complete in December 2017, with customers able to begin subscription and savings in early 2018.

For more information on how to subscribe go to:
<http://info.bluerockenergy.com/solarfarm>



No roof top panels. No investment. Pay as you go.
Going green has never been easier.

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 26

(and the last Tuesday of every month)

doors open 5:00 p.m. — meal served 5:30 - 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 2 — 11:00 a.m.

(and the first Saturday of every month)

at *The Church Commons Community Center* (in the 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 2nd!

Hospital Ministry — We are there when you need us



Hospital stays are hard on the patients and their families. There is spiritual help available from the chaplains that serve in the hospital ministries. If you, or a loved one are admitted to Wilson Hospital, let admissions

know what church you attend and if you would like a visit from the Chaplain Services. They are there for your spiritual support in your time of need.

May the peace the Wise Men found
live in all of you this Christmas season.

Your hospital team

Samaritan Counseling Center

3001 E. Main St., Endwell, NY - 607.754.2660 or toll free 1.877.825.0678

Spiritually Sensitive Mental Health Counseling for
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Binghamton, NY 13903

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Connecting Congregations December 2017

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
607.724.9130

Programs of the Broome County Council of Churches:

- 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

“Connecting compassion with needs; inspiring growth with dignity”

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.

Deadline for the January 2018 issue
4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 1
Announcements must be for January or later.

Subscribe to our colorful email edition of the **Connecting Congregations!**
We can provide this to you in PDF format.
Send your email address with your request to 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 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.