

January 2019

The Shepherd's Messenger



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KNOWING JESUS AS THE
 GOOD SHEPHERD & SHARING
 THE RISEN CHRIST WITH ALL.



Trust God with the Future

As kids, it was easy for us to find out what the future would hold. We just asked the Magic 8-ball. The ball always seemed to know, although it didn't always give a clear word for moving forward. Sometimes, the answer was downright non-committal. No telling how many times I asked a question, and the same, aggravating response floated into the window: REPLY HAZY TRY AGAIN.

I've been alive long enough now to know that the future always looks hazy. You and I never know what will happen next. We can't know—and not knowing can make us anxious. Knowing how everything turns out would make all the difference, but that knowledge belongs only to God. The problem is, since I don't know what's going to happen next, I'm inclined to forget that God does know. He sees it all from beginning to end, like a magnificent parade from above, all at once. The future belongs to him, and he determines what happens next.

We can trust him with the future, because God is always and forever the same. His holiness, his perfection, his purposes never change. Even so, that doesn't make God predictable. He is beyond us, infinitely greater and wiser, and we'll never figure out his ways. We know he is always going to do something good, always going to rescue and bless us. Still one thing is for sure: God will surprise us every time. He'll always do something new, never being much for repeating himself. God loves to create and do new things— Why? Because he can.

A friend taught classes in country line dancing. She loved to teach dancing, but she had one major frustration. Whatever single dance she would teach first, that's the dance the class would want to do all night long. Apparently, rather than learn another new dance, people would rather do the one dance they know over and over again. Forever. The problem with sticking with what we know is that all we know is past; yet we serve a God who is ever calling us forward into a new future. God says, "Do not remember the former things. Forget all that. I am about to do something new!" (Isaiah 43)

(Continued on Page 4)

Wishing you a Blessed New Year!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Our World situation
The Rothfus Family
Naomi Scoville/Kosovo

For those at other residences...

PINES - OLEAN
Connie Battistoni

Others to keep in prayer:

- Norma Andrus
- Wayne Botens
- Hazel Cornell
- David Edwards
- Nancy Frazier
- Brian Fries
- Luke Fries
- Gabriella
- Tyler Griffin
- David Halstead
- Donna Hart
- Bernie Hawks
- Sandy Lathrop
- Mary McCarthy
- Mark Middaugh
- Mary Ellen Moriarty
- Justin Murphy
- Keith Pearce
- Laroy Spateholts
- Lon Sweet
- JoAnn Viglietta
- Ken Wyant



Please keep our prayer list up to date.

If someone should be added or removed from the prayer list, please submit their name in writing.

You can write prayer requests in the attendance pads on Sundays, or drop your request off at the office, or email. *Thank you!*

Praying for Our Churches, Pastors and Leadership in Cornerstone District:

January 6 Conewango Valley UMC. Mr. Carl Isler and his family.

January 13 Cornerstone District Office. Rev. Sherri Rood, her husband Bob and their family.

January 20 Cuba UMC. Pastor Becky Worth, her husband William and their family.

January 27 Delevan & St. Paul's (West Valley) UMCs. Pastor Dawn Quesenberry, her husband Mike and their family.

<u>Statistics</u>		<u>Needed: \$1,548</u>	
Date	Worship	SS	Offering
12/2	54	16	\$2,507.00
12/9	43	16	\$2,741.00
12/9		Naomi	\$ 25.00
12/16	52	17	\$1,801.00
12/23	52	16	\$1,195.00
Christmas Eve	87		



- 15- Vanessa Clement
- 17 - Chris Berardi
- 18 - Janet Enderle
- 19 - Butch Holden
- 25 - Peter Simmons
- 30 - Pastor Becky Worth
- 31 - Bernie Hawks

December Helping Hands



Usher:
Jim Travis

Pianist:
Christine Berardi

Organist:
Jonathan Denham

Acolyte:
Chris Hupp

Altar Guild:
Thela Snow

Coffee Hour:
1/20 Christine Berardi



Frederic Edwards, husband of Cuba UMC member, Betty Edwards, passed away on December 14, 2018 after a lengthy illness.

Graveside services will be held in Cuba Cemetery at the convenience of the family.



If you have a prayer request, call the prayer chain.

Call Sandra Allen at 968-2137 or Ruth Holden at 968-1933



Sue Simmons is the UMW's **Cheer Person.** If you know of someone who needs a note of cheer, please call her at **585-968-1135.**

HAM & CHEESE PUFFS

Doris Wyant

- 1 pkg. (2-½ oz.) sliced cooked ham, chopped
- 1-½ tsp. Dijon mustard
- ½ tsp. pepper
- 1 egg
- 1 small onion, chopped
- ½ cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 1 tube (8 oz.) refrigerated crescent rolls



In a bowl, combine the first six ingredients, set aside.

Divide crescent dough into 24 portions. Press into greased miniature muffin cups. Spoon one tablespoon of ham mixture into each cup. Bake at 350° for 13 to 15 minutes.

Puzzle!

The 10 words below are spelled correctly but are missing the letter O. Use them to complete the Bible verse below, where you'll find all the missing O's.

S, NE, JHN, ANTHER, GD,
 LVED, UGHT, T, ALS, LVE

Dear friends, since __O__ __O__
 __O__ __O__ us, we __O__ __O__
 O__ __O__ __O__ __O__
 O__ __O__ __O__
 1 __O__ __O__ 4:11, NIV

Answer: Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11, NIV

Notes from October 10, 2018 Trustee Meeting



◆ The two quotes for the stained glass project were discussed. The Trustees approved to accept the quote from ISH

Stained Glass from Panama, NY and to move forward with the segment to repair the Good Shepherd window. This repair will take approximately two months with a cost of \$9,861.

- ◆ Gary will contact another company to get a quote on installing our new security system.
- ◆ The eaves next to the ramp is full of holes. Marshall will get pricing to have this replaced.
- ◆ The furnaces have been serviced.

From the Church Secretary:

Thank you so much to all who gave me Christmas cards, gifts, and contributed toward the "Cuba Cash" Certificates.



Happy New Year to all!

Jim



ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES with Cheryl



We had planned to learn about “Near Death Experiences” this fall, but had a change in direction. Before looking at that study, it was decided that we first needed a background knowledge of the spiritual world. The class is laying a foundation of faith by understanding the spirits of evil that have opposed God and holiness throughout history... and are still at work today.

So far, the class has looked at: where evil came from, what it hopes to accomplish on earth, and who is leading this spiritual warfare (Satan) against a holy God. Later we will learn how this battle will end.

We are reading scripture that has to do with Satan. These include the many names that refer to Satan, such as his title of “Prince of this World”. Other scripture tells us how Jesus was tempted by Satan and how Jesus was able to use scripture against this evil. Jesus has set an example for us as to how we should respond to evil and temptation.

It is not too late to join our class. We meet at 9:45 am on Sundays in the classroom adjacent to the pastor’s study.

Future lessons will include: Satan perverts the scripture; Satan hinders the gospel; Christ opposes and destroys the works of Satan; Believers are supposed to resist Satan... and more.

Please join us. We welcome you.

“Pastor Becky’s Letter” (Continued from Front Page)

Are you ready for God to do something new in your life and in our life together as a church? Ready or not, if we’re going to walk with the Lord, he only leads us in one direction. Forward. We want to spur one another on toward living out of expectation (and not out of memory). We want to be a people released from the past and ready to receive every new thing God holds out to us in days yet to come.

After all, it’s a new year, the start of something we’ve never seen before. What does the future hold for you and me? New things. All new things. So, let’s join together, as forward we go.

Blessings,

Pastor Becky



Decorated for Christmas 2018



DUDLEY TAILS



Hi! This is Dudley. Here is my latest report from visiting residents at Cuba Memorial.

I had recently been given a haircut, and it was a cold and windy day. I shivered as my master carried me into the big home. The lady behind the glass enclosure said “hi” to us, and we headed to the elevator. Up we went, and when the big door opened, I ran out to visit friends.

My first friend turned down her TV’s volume, and gave me her attention. She likes to pet me, and I like to take dog treats from her. The lady talked with my master, and was happy to get a new copy of our church’s Messenger. My master left the coat (that she was wearing) in this lady’s room. We will go back to get it when we are finished visiting.

Several of the residents’ rooms that we passes, had neatly made beds, but no one was home. They could have been in the big gathering room, or at Physical Therapy, or gone for a treatment. We will see them another time.

My next friend was sitting in the TV room. He came here to live, about two months ago. He was not happy then. He would not leave his room, complained about his roommate, and kept asking to go home. Today, he smiled and waved at us. My master sat and talked with him while I checked the floor for small edibles. Then I was put onto my friends lap and I hunted for hidden treats. One was in his hand, another was in his sleeve, and a third one was on his chest. My friend smiled as I found each treat. I am glad that he is happy and making friends now.

Another friend was later wheeled into the TV room. She has lived here for over twelve years. I met her when I was a puppy. My master and I used to go into our friend’s room, and I would lay down on her bed with her. She would ask me if I liked her kitty. Kitty was... alright. She didn’t move, or make any noise. She just laid there on our friend’s bed. Sometimes I laid down on her bed too. Then she could pet me while I was still.

My friend is looking quite frail now. I don’t see her walking around the halls anymore. She just sits in her wheelchair, and hardly speaks. Her face and eyebrows are quite expressive though. When asked if she would like some molasses cookies for Christmas, her face lit up... her eyebrows lifted... and her mouth grinned. Before we moved on, my master asked our friend if she would like a prayer said for her, and she nodded “yes”. Afterward, the little lady looked very grateful.

When it was time for us to leave, my master and I went back to the first lady’s room. My master retrieved her coat and assured our friend that we would be back next week.

It sure is fun to visit my friends at the Cuba Memorial residence. They are always so happy to see me! I’m glad God gave us this assignment. What assignment has God given you?



UMW News: Notes from December 15, 2018 Meeting



- A revision was made to the November 17, 2018 Minutes – Thela suggested that we may want to consider hygiene kits, not “buckets”.
- Deb contacted Meghan Cusomano and received information for two families. Meghan was given two \$150 gift certificates for Walmart, and two \$100 gift certificates for the Giant which she will give to the families. Meghan was told to let us know if she has another family we can help.
- The Christmas Gift Tree has some homemade hats and gloves, and Janet received more donations from her bank.
- The Genesis House requested a donation. A motion was passed to buy two of their kits for \$20 as the donation.
- Thela gave an update on the Haiti project.
- Holly is looking for information on what to include in the hygiene/health kits we would make.
- The slate of officers for the January election are as follows:
 - President – Janet Calcagno
 - Vice President – Thela Snow
 - Treasurer – Holly Scoville
 - Secretary – Sharry Semans

The Meaning of Epiphany



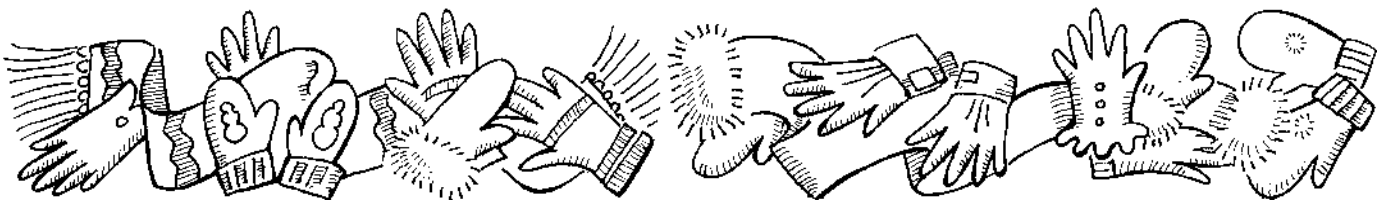
Epiphany begins on January 6 each year. It gets its name from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning “to appear, to show or to manifest.” The ending date of the Epiphany season is determined by Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

Traditionally, Epiphany Day marks the coming of the Magi to worship the infant Jesus. The significance of Epiphany for Christians is that it symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews.

The season of Epiphany emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus — a truth that justifies his perfection as the model of real life.

The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity, which are all characteristics of the Epiphany emphasis.

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**WORSHIP
SERVICE
SUNDAY
11:00 AM**

JANUARY 2019

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
For All Ages
9:45 AM**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 Bible Study 6 pm	3	4	5
6 Epiphany Communion Naomi Offering UMW Food Pantry Collection	7	8 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am	9 Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm Management Team Meeting 6:45 pm	10	11	12
13	14	15 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am	16 Bible Study 6 pm	17	18	19 UMW Meeting 10 am
20 Coffee Hour after worship	21 February Newsletter Deadline - Noon	22 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am	23 Bible Study 6 pm	24	25	26
27 Rothfus Offering	28	29 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am	30 Bible Study 6 pm	31		

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