

The Shepherd's Messenger



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



New Year's Resolutions

The New Year is a time for reflection and decision making. It is also a time for making resolutions.

People attempt to change habits, attitudes, and even the direction of their lives. Some will succeed, most will not.

It is crucial for us to be specific in setting goals that will bring us into a right relationship with God:

Be more God-like (Live a life of love).

Recognize the value of time (Do more for God).

Do not become a slave to the past (Let go and let God).

Establish Godly priorities (Big things first).

Shun the evil of this world (Let your light shine).

To be a Christian is to be part of an intentional and committed community. It is not enough for us to make resolutions at the beginning of the year. Christianity requires us to **"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."** 2 Peter 3:18.

We are doubly blessed because we have Christ as an example and God's inspired word to guide us. Christians should never stop learning and a frequent, consistent study of scripture is essential to our growth.

Finally, Peter instructs us to grow in our faith:

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:5-11

It is my prayer that all of us at Cuba United Methodist Church will grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and receive God's blessings of a happy and prosperous New Year!

See you Sunday (and bring a friend!),

Pastor Becky

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Our World situation
Naomi Scoville/Kosovo

Others to keep in prayer:

Norma Andrus
Bob & Sandy Beard
Russell Brown
Hazel Cornell
Missy Dabolt
David Edwards
Nancy Frazier
Brian Fries
Tyler Griffin
Don Hall
David Halstead
Donna Hart
Katie Kellogg
Sandy Lathrop
Lynn Manning
Mark Middaugh
Derek Morris family
Nellie Moses
Justin Murphy
Keith Pierce
Laroy Spateholts
JoAnn Viglietta
James Woodruff
Ken Wyant
Judy Zayac



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.
Thank you!



- 15 - Vanessa Clement
- 16 - Derek Edwards
- 17 - Amanda Clayson
Chris Berardi
- 18 - Janet Enderle
- 19 - Butch Holden
- 25 - Peter Simmons
- 30 - Pastor Becky Worth
- 31 - Bernie Hawks
Kimberly Sweet



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

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

Statistics Needed: \$1,659

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
12/1	40		\$1,257.00
12/1		Naomi	\$ 50.00
12/8	54		\$2,393.00
12/8		Naomi	\$ 25.00
12/15	41		\$1,332.00
12/22	53		\$2,408.00

January Helping Hands

Usher:
Jim Travis




Acolyte:
Chris Hupp

Pianist:
Christine Berardi

Altar Guild:
Thela Snow


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

Do you know of someone who needs a note of cheer? Someone who might be sick, in the hospital, has a birthday, or has a loved one who has passed away? If you do, please call **Sue Simmons at 585-968-1135**. She is the UMW's **Cheer person**. She sends out cards to those in need of some cheer, so please contact her to let her know.



Thank you Bell Ringers Extraordinaire for ringing the bell to collect funds in the red kettle for the Salvation Army:

Cindy Dutton, John and Mary Hupp, Sue Feldbauer and Jeanine Rose, Sharry Semans and Thela Snow!

UMW NEWS

Submitted by Peggy Pearce

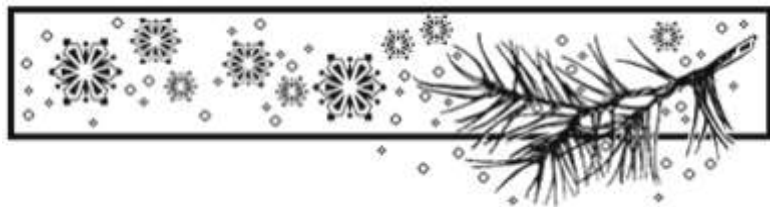


Six ladies braved the cold to meet in Wesley Hall On December 21st to conduct the business of the United Methodist Women. Everyone appreciated the refreshments provided by Ruth and Sue.

The UMW ...

- ... helped four local families have a happier Christmas by providing each with Walmart and Giant gift cards totaling \$250. These families were suggested by the Cuba Council of Churches Holiday Assistance coordinator, Megan Cusumano.
- ... voted to purchase a popcorn maker for the church.
- ... decided to forgo the January and February meetings.

The next meeting of the United Methodist Women will be Saturday, March 21 at 10 a.m. Janet and Ruth will provide refreshments.



Puzzle!

Use the word list to complete the crossword. Then fill in the numbered blanks to read God's promise to Noah — and to us.

as, and, the, day,
cold, long, heat,
will, earth, night,
never, cease, winter,
summer, harvest,
endures, seedtime

GENESIS 8:22, NIV

Answer: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." Genesis 8:22, NIV

LOW FAT CHICKEN AND GRAVY

Claire Morris



- 1 ¼ cup water
- ¼ cup chopped onion
- ¾ cup chopped celery

Bring above ingredients to a boil in a large skillet.

Then add:

- 2 cans healthy cream of chicken soup (low sodium/low fat), undiluted
- 1/3 cup powdered milk
- 1 to 2 cups of chopped (pre-cooked) chicken

Heat to a simmer. Use over mashed potatoes, corn bread or noodles.



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY 9:45 am

This month the Adult Class discussed the following questions, and searched scripture for the answers.

- 1) Was Satan alive before the earth was created?
- 2) Where was Satan originally, and how did he get on earth?
- 3) Why does God hate Satan?
- 4) Did Satan tempt people who lived in Old Testament times?
- 5) How did God treat non-Believers in Old Testament times?
- 6) Who were the Judges and Kings of the Old Testament?
- 7) Jewish people are descendants of Abraham and Sarah.
- 8) Arab people are descendants of Abraham and Hagar.
- 9) Jewish prophets predicted the birth of Jesus, the Savior.
- 10) Who tempted Jesus in the desert for forty days?
- 11) Who on earth is the cause of evil, suffering and temptation?
- 12) What do New Testament prophesies say about the future?
- 13) Why does the Bible sometimes capitalize the word "spirt"?
- 14) Why do young people commit suicide?
- 15) Does the Bible say anything about where suicide victims' spirits go?
- 16) Why do the relatives of suicide victims often feel guilt?
- 17) Are thoughts of suicide caused by physical, or by mental problems?
- 18) Who will go to heaven, according to the Bible?
- 19) Is Satan involved in persuading people to think negative thoughts?
- 20) How can we tell what to do with our negative thoughts?



Everyone is welcome to join our class. Our room is upstairs, down the hall, on the right, before the pastor's office.





DUDLEY TAILS

Submitted by Cheryl Wildrick

Once a year we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, and we think about our friends and family. (And, we might even do something for the less fortunate.) It is a season for loving and giving.

But, then, about a week later, we are again thinking about ourselves. What are we doing on New Years Eve? Where will we go? Who will we see? What (and how much) will we eat? The next morning, how late will we sleep? What time is the game on?

How quickly our thoughts are taken off of our Master.

In some ways, life is the same for Dudley. The day begins with Dudley waiting for his master. Soon he hears his master's voice... and he wiggles and woofs with joy. And oh! If he is touched by his master!! Usually our other dog, Tucker, is right there, and joins in on the celebration.

Dudley will follow his master everywhere. He can't wait to go downstairs and begin the day. Breakfast is provided for him. Some days he gobbles it down. But, other days, he sniffs it, and gives his master a look that says, "This is it?" (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Next, Dudley runs outside into his yard. This dash is accompanied by loud barking. Dudley's master does not care for this, and again tells him so. But Dudley goes farther from his master, and continues to do what he wants for a while. (2 Corinthians 7:15)

During the day, Dudley keeps his master apprised of things that are going on. He announces when a delivery truck pulls into the driveway. He announces when the neighbor's dog goes outdoors into its yard. He announces when a stray cat has come for a meal. Usually Dudley's master is aware of these things, but Dudley feels that he must tell his master what others are doing. (2 Corinthians 8:21)

Sometimes Dudley wants things that are not good for him. 'Like chocolate or bones that splinter. He keeps asking his master for them instead of trusting his master's judgement. (Psalms 103:5a)

Then, by the end of the day, Dudley has found some reason to argue with Tucker. Maybe Tucker has a toy that Dudley wants, or Tucker has a dog treat that Dudley wants, or Tucker is sitting on the loveseat next to Dudley's master. (Proverbs 30:33)

Are animals like people, or are people like animals? At Christmas time, are we focused more on decorations and music, or on what we can do for those who don't know Jesus?

On New Years Day are we more focused on our own enjoyment or on how we can make others happy? How often do we seek our Master... and how often do we listen to our Master?

Dudley was happy to start the day by hearing his master's voice and by spending time in his master's presence. But, then Dudley complained about his food, he ignored his master's request (to stop barking), Dudley told his master what others were doing outside of his house, he wanted things that were not good for him, and he argued with Tucker. What percentage of the day did Dudley do things that made his master pleased?

What percentage of the day do we spend with our Master... and what percentage of the day do we please Him?

TRUSTEES NOTES



- The kitchen door and pass-through window must be left open during the winter months to allow heat to properly enter this area.
- Four of our emergency lights did not come on when we experienced a power outage. New lights were purchased and installed.
- An electric heater was purchased to use for supplemental heat in Jim's office which gets cold when the outside temperature is very low.
- A mini blind will be installed in the Sunday School room.
- A retired sheriff's deputy will come and advise us regarding installation of the security cameras and to develop a security plan for our church.



CHURCH MOVIE NIGHT

Wed. Jan. 22, 2020
"THE LAST DAYS"

A Steven Spielberg & Shoah Foundation production: everything is true.

January is world-wide Holocaust Remembrance month. In this documentary, five survivors of Hitler's "war against the Jews" take their children/grandchildren on a trip back to the hometowns, ghettos, and the concentration camps where they were imprisoned. They share their memories of being stripped of their dignity, starved, overcrowded, and overworked. Yet, this true account is a "patent depiction of personal strength and courage, and a testament to the power of the human spirit."

Who should see this film:

- Those who lived through this time in world history.
- those who know little about this time in world history.
- those who lack empathy for the Jewish people.
- those who need to learn empathy.

Come visit with Dudley, and enjoy a bag of popcorn! Bring a friend.



We are planning to fill **UMCOR flood buckets** again this year, but are trying a different collection method.

Each month (January through May) we will collect specific items. Once we have collected all 14 required objects per bucket, we will fill the buckets and deliver them to the Conference Center. Please note the specific requirements for each thing; these guidelines must be followed for the bucket to be acceptable. Most items can be purchased at the dollar stores, but the dust masks have been found only at Gallman's in the past (and Walmart if you get in the right department). Also, the proper trash bags have been the most expensive item in the past, which is why it is the solo request for May.

The amounts listed are for a single bucket; obviously we will try to fill multiple ones. More specific information (where to put the donations and how many of each is needed) will be coming in the weekly bulletins.

JANUARY

One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
36-50 clothespins
One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic)
One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener

FEBRUARY

One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner (no spray cleaners)
One scrub brush (with or without handle)
Five scouring pads (no stainless steel with soap in them)
One pair work gloves (cotton with leather palm or all leather)

MARCH

One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap
Two pairs kitchen gloves (durable for multiple uses)
18 re-usable cleaning wipes (no terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels)

APRIL

Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks, 1-3 mm thickness (no surgical masks)
One 16-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (must have protective cover); pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable

MAY

24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags, 33-45 gallon size



**WORSHIP
SERVICE
SUNDAY
11:00 AM**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
for all Ages
10:45 AM**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Tai Chi Class 9 am Cub Scouts 6:00-7:30 pm	3	4 Kung Fu 6-8 am
5 Communion Naomi Mission Offering UMW Food Pantry Collection	6 Tai Chi Class 7 pm	7 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	8 Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm Management Team 6:45 pm	9 Tai Chi Class 9 am Cub Scouts 6:00-7:30 pm	10	11 Kung Fu 6-8 am
12	13 Tai Chi Class 7 pm	14 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	15	16 Tai Chi Class 9 am Cub Scouts 6:00-7:30 pm	17	18 Kung Fu 6-8 am
19 Coffee Hour	20 February Newsletter Deadline Noon Tai Chi Class 7 pm	21 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	22	23 Tai Chi Class 9 am Cub Scouts 6:00-7:30 pm	24	25 Kung Fu 6-8 am
26	27 Tai Chi Class 7 pm	28 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	29	30 Tai Chi Class 9 am Cub Scouts 6:00-7:30 pm	31	

The Shepherd's Messenger

CUBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
49 EAST MAIN ST. • CUBA, NY 14727
WWW.CUBAUMC.ORG • PASTOR BECKY WORTH



The Shepherd's Messenger is a publication of the Cuba United Methodist Church, and is published monthly to report news & keep members and friends informed of church programs and events. Deadline for article submission is the third Monday of each month at noon. Please email articles to Editor's email address, or drop articles off to the church office.

Editor/Secretary: Jim Travis

e-mail: cubasec@roadrunner.com

Office Hours:

Mon.-Thu. 8 am - 1 pm

Church Mailing address:

Cuba United Methodist Church

49 East Main Street, Cuba, NY 14727

(585) 968-1041

Please visit our Website:

www.cubaumc.org

Pastor Becky Worth:

Cell Phone: (716) 307-1768

Home: (716) 373-4332

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday 9 am - 3 pm

Wednesday 9 am - 11 am

«AddressBlock»

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Winter Land Delight
by Danette Kettwich



Winter is upon us
Our trees are flocked with snow
Snuggling by the hearth
As winter winds do blow

Snowflakes softly falling

Without a single sound

Like a million diamonds

Upon the crystal ground

Gathering up snow gear

To cover hands and feet

Children's laughter is heard

From street to snowy street

Sleds whiz down the park mound

Snowmen for all to see

A joy filled occasion

A winter day can be.

Moonlit evening's luster

Illuminates the night

This day God has given us

A winter land delight.