

# The Shepherd's Messenger



Pastor Becky's Letter	1
Prayer List	2
January Celebrations	2
January Helping Hands	2
Statistics	2
Puzzle	3
Praying for our Churches	3
Recipe	3
"Your Obituary Has Not Yet Been Written"	4
"Dudley Tails"	5
January Calendar	7



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



Greetings in Christ,

I don't know about you, but I am ready to say good-bye to this year and start the New Year!

The Bible says in Jeremiah 29:11, **For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**

Now, I realize, of course, the context of this Scripture applies to the Nation of Israel, yet I do believe that we serve a God who is "the same yesterday, today and forever."

As we look ahead into the year 2021, there's not a person among us who can be sure of what the future holds. For that matter, there's not a person among us who can even say for sure that God will give them another breath to breathe!

Yet, for those of us who have put our full trust and hope in God, either way, we come out on the winning side! For those of us who know Jesus, we look forward to His return, and while it may sound a bit cliché, we've read the end of the book, and we win!

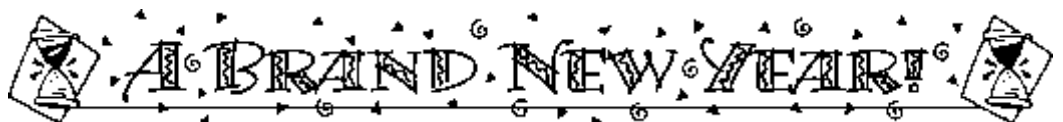
We must know and understand that God has great things planned for those who love Him and serve Him. We don't need to live in fear, even in those times we may not understand God's ways.

The Bible says in Matthew 6:33-34 <sup>33</sup> **Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.** <sup>34</sup> **"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.**

When Jesus gave these words, it wasn't for people who were living in the "lap of luxury." These words were for people who were under the oppression of Roman rule. They were often quite concerned about their safety and provision for their families. Yet, Jesus reminded them to put Him first, and He would take care of them.

God has great things for Cuba United Methodist Church in 2021! He also has great things for you and your loved ones in 2021! Yet, I believe it is vital that we look forward in faith, not in fear!

Continued on Page 4



PLEASE PRAY FOR:  
Our World situation

Others to keep in prayer:

- Norma Andrus
- Todd Baxter
- Bob & Sandy Beard
- Russell Brown
- Family & friends of Virginia Clayson
- Hazel Cornell
- David Edwards
- Nancy Frazier
- Brian Fries
- Tyler Griffin
- Don Hall
- David Halstead
- Donna Hart
- Bernie Hawks
- Bob Huddleston
- Katie Kellogg
- Sandy Lathrop
- Bruce Metler
- Mark Middaugh
- Nellie Moses
- Justin Murphy
- Keith Pierce
- Laroy Spateholts
- Mary Lou Sprague
- Donald Thompson
- Jessica Veiders
- JoAnn Viglietta
- Clint Wilder
- 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!*



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

**Call Ruth Holden at 968-1933**



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



**John Marcoux**, Mary Hupp's father and a former member of Cuba UMC, passed away on December 6. There were no services.

Statistics                      Needed: \$1,767

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
11/29	25		\$2,895.00
11/29		Gil's Hills	\$ 315.00
12/6	25		\$1,091.00
12/6		Gil's Hills	\$ 25.00
12/13	27		\$1,374.00
12/20	26		\$1,770.00
12/20		Gil's Hills	\$ 100.00
Christmas Eve	28	(\$291)	
12/27	24		\$3,530.00
12/27		Gil's Hills	\$ 340.00

January Hands



Greeter:  
Kevin Kranock

Power Point:  
Rob Cornell

Pianist:  
Christine Berardi

Altar Guild:  
Thela Snow



**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**.



You can watch **live videos of Sunday Services** on our website [www.cubaumc.org](http://www.cubaumc.org).

and also on the Cuba UMC Facebook page.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

**Mary Lou Sprague is on Hospice Care.** Please keep her in your prayers. If you would like to send a card, the address for the Spragues is:

Peter and Mary Lou Sprague  
37 Gifford Avenue  
Jamestown, NY 14701-2726

[Spraguepml@aol.com](mailto:Spraguepml@aol.com)

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

**January 3** Cherry Creek, Conewango Valley & Ellington UMCs. Pastor John Dedloff, his wife Liz and their family.

**January 10** Jamestown: Camp Street & Kennedy 1st UMCs. Pastor Jennifer Delahoy, her husband Brian and their family.

**January 17** Great Valley UMC. Pastor John Green, his wife Janet and their family.

**January 24** Rev. Molly Golando, serving in extension ministry with Literacy Ministry/Haiti and at Randolph Presbyterian Church.

**January 31** Jamestown: Christ 1st UMC. Rev. Sue Hadley, her husband Tim and their family.



# Puzzle!

Complete each saying below. Then place the words from those blanks in the correct order to complete Proverbs 23:4.

1. When the going gets tough, the tough going.
2. People who live in glass houses should throw stones.
3. If the shoe fits, \_\_\_\_\_ it.
4. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the kingdom of God."
5. Good things come \_\_\_\_\_ those who wait.
6. When in Rome, \_\_\_\_\_ as the Romans do.
7. Don't wear \_\_\_\_\_ your welcome.
8. If you want something done right, do it \_\_\_\_\_.

Write the unscrambled proverb here:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ PROVERBS 23:4

Answer: Do not wear yourself out to get rich; Proverbs 23:4

### FRIENDSHIP FUDGE

Sue Simmons

- 3 cups (18 oz) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 (14 oz) can condensed milk
- dash salt
- ½ - 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 ½ tsp. vanilla

In heavy saucepan, over low heat, melt chocolate chips, condensed milk and salt, stirring constantly. Remove from heat, stir in nuts and vanilla. Cover bottom of 9" square pan with wax paper. Pour in fudge. Chill until firm. Remove from pan. Cut into 1" squares. Makes 2# of fudge.



## Your Obituary Has Not Yet Been Written

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel awoke one morning to read his own obituary in the local newspaper:



*“Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, who died yesterday, devised a way for more people to be killed in a war than ever before, and he died a very rich man.”*

Actually, it was Alfred’s older brother who had died; a newspaper reporter had bungled the epitaph. But the account had a profound effect on Nobel. He decided he wanted to be known for something other than developing the means to kill people efficiently and for amassing a fortune in the process. So he initiated the Nobel Prize, the award for scientists and writers who foster peace. Today he is more widely known for the Nobel Peace Prize than he is for inventing dynamite. Nobel is quoted as saying, “Every man ought to have the chance to correct his epitaph in midstream and write a new one.”

As I read this quote, I was hit with a very arresting thought: My obituary has not yet been written. Whatever it is that men think of me, I still have the opportunity to make it better. Whatever mistakes I have made in the past, the possibility still exists for me to correct them. Whatever it is that I have yet not done, but should have, I still have time. As long as God gives me life and liberty, I can make of it something meaningful and lasting. As long as I have breath and desire, I can do my part to improve myself, my family, my neighborhood, the church, even the world.

Everyone still has the opportunity to correct his epitaph, up until the day he dies. Of course, the best thing that could ever be written in our obituary is that we were a faithful Christian. And certainly there are many wonderful things we can add to that. And if you awoke this morning and are able to read this, there’s still time to make sure that is the case.

*“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:15-17, ESV).*

Edd Sterchi  
Broadway Church of Christ  
Campbellsville, KY

*(Pastor Becky’s Letter - Continued from Front Page)*

2 Timothy 1:7 says, **For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**

If God knows the plans, then surely, He knows how to lead us in the days ahead! I would encourage you to listen for His “still, small voice” as you navigate the unknown future.

His plans for you are good!

May you have a vision-filled New Year!

Pastor Becky Worth



## DUDLEY TAILS

*Submitted by Cheryl Wildrick*

Where did he go? He's not behind me. He's not on the path. I called. He did not come. I retraced my steps, and kept looking into the old orchard. (We walked past the old orchard every day.)

Finally. There he was, a distance into the old orchard. I called. He did not come. he was "nose to the ground", and not paying any attention. Branches from the old trees had broken from the tree trunks and fallen to the ground. It was not easy going.

"Dudley! Dudley! Come here!" He looked up.

"Come on, Dud," I shouted as I continued deeper into the orchard.

"Who's a good boy? Look what I have. Do you want a treat?"

Silly question... he began trotting back toward me.

Why had he strayed? I Looked around. Oh, that's why...

The edge of the old orchard looked different. It used to have tall weeds and broken limbs. Those things were gone. But, the real difference was that a big item (which had been there for years) was missing. It was my first car (a 1970 Ford Mustang). It had been dragged from the edge of the old orchard, and loaded onto a flat-bed truck that was headed to the recycling facility.

That's it! Dudley had been exploring new territory. (Places where he had not been before.) He had never squeezed past the parked car before.

Dudley has had a number of new things happen this month. First, there was the new snow. Yes, Dudley has seen snow before, but he never quite knew when it would arrive. When it did arrive, it was always a surprise.

"What's that white stuff? What do I do with it" I can't carry it... and if I take it into my mouth, it just disappears."

Then, there was that new thing in the front window of our house. "It blocked my view as I sat on the back of the loveseat.

Later, the strangest thing happened after dark. The thing became covered with small colored dots that lit up. I hope it doesn't stay there long."

"Then, there are the new shiny bags with handles on top. Something different was put into each one. I could almost see what the things were, but then they were quickly covered with something called 'tissue paper.' I would like to pull it out and chew on it, but the bags have been placed out of my reach."

Dudley usually adapts well to new things. First, he will stand back and observe for a while. Then he will move closer. He knows he is safe if he is with his master. Similarly, we are safe if we are with Our Master. He will lead us into a new year and be there for us when we need Him.

God calls us to change... to embrace that which is holy. if someone has not accepted Jesus as Savior, God wants to give that person His gift. God also has a gift for Christians. It's called "growth" or "maturity" in their faith. But... what must Christians change in order to grow and mature? At least four things: 1. our heart, 2. our thoughts, 3. our words, and 4. our behavior.

Continued on Page 6

(“Dudley Tales”: Continued from Page 5)

### 1. CHANGE OUR HEART

Maturing in our faith is an on-going process. The psalmist asked God to create in him a “pure heart” and to renew a “steadfast spirit” within him. (Psalms 51:10) Our ‘heart’ represents our character. If a person does not have a pure heart, that person will be less like God. When the psalmist asked for a “steadfast spirit”, he was asking for renewal of his spirit when he failed to keep his heart pure. Ask. God will change your heart. (Ezekiel 36:26),

### 2. CHANGE OUR THOUGHTS

Our thoughts mature with us as we age. That does not mean that we become better people as we age. It means that a child will sin in personal thoughts that are child-like. For example: “I hate Ethan because he has a bike.” But, an adult will sin in personal thoughts that are adult-like. For example: “I gate Joe. He got the promotion that I deserved.”

When we seriously accept Christ into our lives, we may have to stop ourselves if a sinful thought enters our mind. Because, if someone accepts Christ... “he is a, ‘new creation:’ the old has gone, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Mature, Christians should pray that their words and their thoughts be pleasing to God. (Psalm 19:14)

### 3. CHANGE OUR WORDS

How do we know if our words are acceptable to God? One way is to consult the Bible. For example, it says that we should not take the name of the Lord in vain. (Exodus 20:7) That means, don’t say, “Oh God!” or “Jesus Christ!” unless you are praying reverently. A person’s words reflect what is in his heart. (no matter what age he is.) Christians should set an example in words... faith and purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)

### 4. CHANGE OUR BEHAVIOR

The Bible says that humans have an “Earthly nature”. This is the opposite of the holy nature of God. Our “earthly” nature” includes behaviors such as impurity, sexual immorality, and greed. (Ephesians 5:3). Why should we change them? Because they, “are improper for God’s holy people.” There also should not be obscenity, foolish talk, or course joking coming from our mouths. (Ephesians 5:4)

As we begin the new year, let us embrace our Lord’s plans for His followers. Let us change what is needed in our hearts, our thoughts, our words, and our behaviors. Let us become more like our Master.

The COVID19 pandemic dictated our November 7 church conference be limited to members of the Management Team only. If anyone would like information that was shared at that conference, specifically, the Pastor's Report and the Slate of Officers, please contact Jim at the church office or Pastor Becky. Also, if you would like the 2021 Church Budget and/or information on our church financial status, please contact the Church Treasurer, Rob Cornell at [cubanyumctreas@gmail.com](mailto:cubanyumctreas@gmail.com)

**From the Church  
Secretary:**

**Thank you** so much  
to all who gave me  
gifts.



Happy New Year to all!

Jim

No groups and activities are allowed to use the church at this time due to COVID-19.

# January 2020

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**  
 11:00 AM  
 Mask & Social Distancing Required

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 UMW Food Pantry Collection	4	5	6 Trustees Mtg. 6:00 pm Management Team Mtg. 6:45 pm	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Human Relations Day Offering	18 February Newsletter Deadline Noon	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Gil's Hills Offering						

# The Shepherd's Messenger

CUBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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JANUARY

2021

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