

The Shepherd's Messenger



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

Our New Year's Resolution



I recently saw this quote, "No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending" (Unknown). I really began to think about that statement. The conclusion was that we don't start over; but we begin again right where we are, making things better in our lives.

As a believer in Christ, it is not about saying I will do this, and I won't do that and then dropping the idea or falling short. It is more about asking the Lord to help us each day, to fall deeper and deeper in love with Him. This way our focus will be set on the things of heaven and not on all this earthly stuff.

If I were to make a New Year resolution, it would be to have a deeper commitment, a deeper love, and a deeper worship for the Lord. This year I am determined to make Him my all and all. He wants our undivided attention in spite of the distractions and temptations that lie waiting around the corner. He has to be our main focus. How we will end this year will be determined by how we started it. Did we want to get more "INTIMATE" with the lover of our soul? I looked up the word intimate and the meaning is to be close, familiar, very personal and private. God wants to be all of those things with each of you.

Do you want a new ending this year? Please know that this could be the best New Year of your life. Your life can be filled with hope and peace. To know what the ending will be is an extra bonus. Why should every year be the same as the one before with nothing really changing? If you're feeling stagnate in your relationship with the Lord, then now is the time to rekindle the love affair with Him. He calls us to Himself and says, "Come away my beloved." Can you hear Him? He is tugging at your heart.

The real ending in our life will be when Jesus says well done my good and faithful servant. That statement will be for someone who took the time to get to know Him, love Him, and then obediently followed Him. Let's be resolute in creating the ending that will please the Lord. Happy New Year to my beloved Cuba United Methodist Church Family.

Blessings,

Pastor Becky

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Our World situation

Others to keep in prayer:

- Brad Allen
- Norma Andrus
- Todd Baxter
- Bob Beard
- Wayne Botens
- Frank Calcagno
- Gary Carlson
- Hazel Cornell
- David Edwards
- Don Hall
- David Halstead
- Donna Hart
- Bernie Hawks
- Jean Higby
- Andrew James
- Katie Kellogg
- Kevin Kranock
- Bruce Metler
- Helen Middaugh
- Mark Middaugh
- Nellie Moses
- Justin Murphy
- Keith Pierce
- Shirley Poore
- Laroy Spateholts
- Jessica Veiders
- JoAnn Viglietta
- Clint Wilder
- Judy Zayac



January BIRTHDAYS

- 15 - Vanessa Clement
- 16 - Rev. Bob Beard
- 17 - Amanda (Clayson) Ryder
Chris Berardi
- 18 - Janet Enderle
- 19 - Butch Holden
- 23 - Jessica (Clayson) Veiders
- 25 - Peter Simmons
- 30 - Pastor Becky Worth
- 31 - Bernie Hawks



Statistics		Needed: \$1,798	
Date	Worship	SS	Offering
12/4	33	5	\$2,475.00
12/11	30	2	\$1,030.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 50.00
12/18	27	-	\$1,040.00
12/24	38	-	\$ 150.00
12/25	12	-	\$4,731.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 75.00

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!



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.

January
Helping
Hands



Power Point:
Rob Cornell

Pianist:
Holly Scoville

Altar Guild:
Thela Snow

Experience faith, fun — and a deeper meaning of Christ’s birth

By Traci Smith

I’ll never understand why poinsettias are 50% off in the store on Dec. 26. Why have we decided that their red and green glory is only half as valuable on that day as the day before? I’ve long had a soft spot for these poinsettias, throwing them in the cart after Christmas Day and rescuing them from church dumpsters. I keep them around as long as I can. The same is true of the Christmas lights, the tree and all of the decorations. Christmas isn’t over on Dec. 26.



In the Christian liturgical calendar, Christmas is celebrated from Dec. 25 until Jan. 6, the day of Epiphany. The days in between are what we call the 12 Days of Christmas. For many Presbyterians, though, the only connection we have to the 12 days of Christmas is the song about all of the things “my true love gave to me,” including the drummers drumming, the pipers piping, the golden rings and, of course, the partridge in a pear tree. “The Twelve Days of Christmas” song has a long and complicated history, with some historians citing that each “gift” represents some aspect of the Christian faith. Many, though, think the song was designed as a sort of game for singers to test memory and recall. It’s a fun song, to be sure, but what if the 12 days of Christmas meant much more than a song? What if we could allow these days of Christmas to be holy time to celebrate after the rest of society has decided to pack it up, discount it and move on to something else?

As a pastor and a parent, I’ve come to relish the 12 days of Christmas. Teaching my children that there are 12 days of Christmas allows me precious time to create and build family traditions after the hustle and bustle of Christmas Day. The busiest season of the church year is over, and now we have time and space to continue to celebrate Christ’s birth as a family — not late, but right on time. It’s during the 12 days of Christmas that we drive around and look at the lights, enjoy the nativity scene and sit around in our pajamas drinking hot chocolate.

If you’ve never had a “12 days of Christmas” practice before, I encourage you to give it a try this year. Consider Christmas Day to be the beginning of your celebration. Spend time not cleaning up and moving on, but lingering for a while in the holiness of Christ’s birth.

One of the things we do as a family is to hold back some of the gifts and give them to each other on the days between Dec. 25 and Jan. 6. Nobody has been given a turtledove or a French hen yet, but my children have been delighted to unwrap boxes of chocolate and Matchbox cars on those days. I daresay they’ve appreciated them more than they might have if they had been thrown under the tree with all the rest on Christmas morning.

Little trinkets sprinkled throughout the 12 days of Christmas are reminders that each gift we give is precious. Most precious, of course, are the nonmaterial gifts we share during these days — time to enjoy God’s blessing of family and friendship, and the Advent gifts of hope, peace, joy and love. Making Christmas a season will give yourself and your family the gift of time and reflection. You might even find a poinsettia or two, discarded by others, to bring Christmas joy into your home.

Tips for Living liturgically

Celebrate the season with a “12 Days of Christmas Togetherness Challenge,” where your family decides on something special to do together each day during the 12 days of Christmas.

Throughout the season of Advent, make a list of all of the Christmas activities you’d like to do, such as driving around to see Christmas lights, watching Christmas movies or making Christmas cookies. Do one of the activities on each of the 12 days of Christmas, rather than trying to cram them all in during Advent.

Surprise a neighbor with a homemade treat or gift on one of the days of Christmas and delight them with a card that reads “Happy First Day of Christmas ... Happy Second Day of Christmas” and so forth.

**Sunday School with
Pastor Bob** is at
9:30 am in the Adult
Sunday School room.

2023



**SUNDAY
WORSHIP
SERVICE
11:00 AM**

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

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WWW.CUBAUMC.ORG • PASTOR BECKY WORTH



2023

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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.

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