

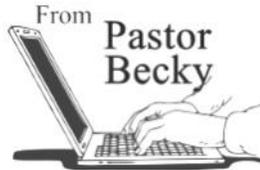
The Shepherd's Messenger



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



Choose Today

In one of the most familiar passages in the Old Testament, Joshua tells the people, "Choose today whom you will serve. ... But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24.15). With these words, he draws a line in the sand and tells the people that it's time to step across. It's the line called commitment.

It's an ancient problem, but it remains pervasive in our day. Most people simply refuse to step across the line. Like us, Joshua's tribe seems faithful, as long as he is there with his passion and his line in the sand. But soon after he issues this challenge for them to choose, they bury him, and then they're on their own. The people must take responsibility for their own spiritual lives. Truly, the faithfulness and devotion of others can only take you so far. Sooner or later, it's up to you, whether or not you serve the Lord, whether or not you grow into maturity. Nobody else can do this for you. Nobody can feed you if you won't eat.

The question is, when it comes to your spiritual life, are you getting anywhere? Have you stepped across it yourself, that line called commitment? Have you taken any steps at all? To be honest, church can be a place where people move round in a pious circle, following habits, mistaking religious activity for spiritual growth. Going to church doesn't necessarily add up to living for Christ. To some degree it depends on the church—without a doubt—but to a large degree it depends on you. A healthy church produces disciples, seeing people grow with a desire to be with and become like Jesus. That's why, if you want to examine the overall health of a congregation (like ours), you need only to look at the members (like you). Look for individual, personal commitment to Christ.

In our day and culture, people often go to church because they expect some reward—they go in order to get something out of it. However, that's not the way Christian life works. When it comes to spiritual growth, reward follows commitment. You don't get much of anything out of it, as long as you're not putting much of anything into it. The spiritual life is a matter of personal commitment before it is a matter of personal reward.

(Continued on Page 6)



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
- Hazel Cornell
- David Edwards
- Nancy Frazier
- Brian Fries
- Luke Fries
- Tyler Griffin
- Don Hall
- 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:

February 3 Dunkirk 1st UMC. Rev. Jim Bailey, his wife Linda and their family.

February 10 Dewittville-Hartfield & Mayville UMCs. Rev. Mark Parsons, his wife Jan and their family.

February 17 Edwards Chapel & Watts Flats UMCs. Pastor Warren VanDewark, his wife Diane and their family.

February 24 Ellington UMC. Rev. Gordon Damsteegt, his wife Elaine and their family.

Statistics

Needed: \$1,659

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
12/30	43	-	\$1,945.00
1/6	43	16	\$3,034.00
1/6	Naomi/Rothfus		\$160/\$40
1/13	39	13	\$1,480.00
1/20	-	-	
1/27	43	13	\$1,864.00
1/27		Rothfus	\$ 70.00

February Helping Hands

Usher:

Jim Travis



Pianist:

Christine Berardi

Organist:

Jonathan Denham

Acolyte:

Chris Hupp

Altar Guild:



- 2 - Richard Pierce
- 10- Dominic Berardi
- 15- Kerigan Pierce
- 18 - John Hupp
- Linda Nelson
- 19 - Mark Morris
- 20 - Chloe Karn
- 23 - Christopher Hupp



- 8 - Bill & Joyce Amundson
- 16- Marshall & Sandra Allen
- 22 -Bernie & Julie Hawks



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**.

BEEF VEGGIE SOUP

Sue Simmons

- 1 pound ground beef
- ½ cup chopped onions
- ½ cup chopped celery
- 6 cups beef broth or stock
- 1 8 oz. can tomato sauce
- 1 can chili beans
- 1 ½ to 2 tsp chili powder
- ½ to 2 tsp paprika
- 1 ½ cup macaroni



Sauté beef, onions and celery. Drain fat. Add broth, beans, tomato sauce, paprika, chili powder, salt, and pepper. Bring to a boil and simmer 20 minutes. Add frozen or fresh vegetables of your choice. Cook macaroni separately, drain and add to soup.



• In regard to this great Book, the Bible, I have but to say it is the best gift God has given... All the good Savior gave to the world was communicated through this Book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it.

—Abraham Lincoln

• I don't like to hear cut-and-dried sermons. When I hear a man preach, I like to see him act as if he were fighting bees.

—Abraham Lincoln

• A man must be worse than an infidel who does not see the goodness of God, nor has gratitude enough to acknowledge it.

—George Washington



We thank all of our " Church Family" for your prayers, cards, and beautiful flowers during Bernie's recent illness. It all means so much to us. We wish all of you a blessed new year. Love, Julie and Bernie Hawks

Puzzle!

Love is a fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Identify another fruit that can make Valentine's Day — and every day — special. First, write a word that fits each clue below. Then unscramble the letters from the bold, vertical column to find another fruit of the Spirit.

Write it on the blanks below.

LEAVE

CHAPEAU

TRANQUILITY

BECOME MATURE

RESPOND

SPHERE

OLD TESTAMENT QUEEN

DISCOVER

CONFIDENCE

ALWAYS



Answer: depart, hat, peace, grow, answer, ball, Esther, find, trust, ever, gentleness



ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES with Cheryl



Our Study about Spiritual Warfare has begun. Spiritual Warfare can mean: the fight between good and evil... the fight between God and Satan... and the fight between angels and evil spirits. Spiritual warfare began in heaven (before Creation) when Satan (who was an “angel of light” originally) (2 Corinthians 11:13-15) rebelled against God. Satan and his angel followers were expelled from heaven, and fell to earth, (Luke 10:18) where they tried to recruit humans to the evil side of the battle. (which began with Eve and Adam in the Garden of Eden.) (Genesis 3:2-4) Satan did not succeed in recruiting Adam and Eve because God intervened. However, years later when they had two sons... (Cain and Able) the battle for the souls of mankind began again. God did not accept Cain’s offering because Cain did not do “what was right.” And, in his anger, Cain killed his brother Able (whose offering had been accepted by God.) (Genesis 4:5-8) So... Cain’s choice not to do “what was right” resulted in sin, and God said to Cain that sin (Satan) “desires to have you.” (verse 7) The descendants of Cain became the enemies of the Jews generations later.

In the years during the Old Testament, Satan was at work gathering who he could, to join his evil army. As early as the story of The Flood, God saw how wicked mankind had become and saw that the thoughts of mankind were always evil. (Genesis 6:5-6) (Wickedness and evil come from Satan.) The Flood destroyed all the wicked people, and only Noah and his family (the righteous) were saved to repopulate the earth.

In the Old Testament book of Exodus, we find the story of Moses (a Jew). At that time, the Jews were slaves in the land of Egypt. Moses was chosen to lead God’s people back to Israel. The Egyptians were cruel to the Jewish slaves (beating and whipping them as they worked.) Moses led the Jews out of Egypt and toward Israel. But instead of praising God for parting the water of the Red Sea for the Israelites to escape, they feared for their lives. (Exodus 14:13-16) Instead of trusting God to provide food for His people, the Jews grumbled that things had been better in Egypt. There they ate all the food they wanted. (Exodus 16:2-3) But God did provide food (manna) everyday for the Israelites to eat during their travels. As the Israelites moved through the desert, they also grumbled about not having water to drink. Moses, who became very frustrated, said to God, “What am I going to do with these people?” (The Israelites kept testing God.) But God, in His goodness, provided water from a rock in the desert. (Exodus 17:3-7) When they reached Mt. Sinai, Moses went up the mountain to meet with God. His brother Aaron, the priest, was left in charge. But, without their strong spiritual leader (Moses), the Jews convinced Aaron to help them make an idol to worship. When Moses returned from the mountain, he found his people worshipping a golden calf. (Exodus 32:7-8) This occurred because the Jews had rejected their holy God and fell under the influence of Satan. Then Moses called for those Jews who were “for the Lord” to come to him. Only the Levites went. And they were told to take a sword and destroy the sinners who had worshipped the golden calf. Three thousand disobedient Jews died. The faithful followers moved on.

When people first read the scripture, they often become confused or even angry. They say that a loving God would not kill people who are supposed to be His own. They say that God is a liar, because He says that He loves people, but then becomes angry with them, and may even kill them. This misinterpretation is sad.

Our God is holy (morally and ethically perfect) (Leviticus 11:44, 19:2),
He is righteous (morally always doing what is right), (Psalms 11:7, 119:137, 145:17)

He is eternal (He always existed and always will exist), Genesis 21:33, Deuteronomy 33:27, Jeremiah 10:10)
He is powerful (having authority and producing great physical effects), (Jeremiah 32:18, Psalms 77:14, Romans 1:20)

Continued on Page 6



DUDLEY TAILS

Submitted by Cheryl Wildrick

During hunting season my husband got a doe. He hung it in the garage and began removing the hide and inner organs. There it remained for days. When Dudley and I went out to get into the car, I had to carry him. Evidently the scent was enticing, and he wanted to check it out.

The following week, the venison was cut into roasts and strips for jerky. Then the carcass was taken to the yard for the birds to strip bits of meat from the bones. That day the weather turned cold and everything froze.

When the temperature finally rose, the meat-covered bones thawed... and when Dudley went outside in his yard, he found them. Most dogs love a juicy bone, and Dudley was no exception. But, it was weeks, before he could pull apart the rib cage and other areas.

One day, when Dudley came into the house from his outdoor yard, a chunk of bones (with bits of meat attached) came in also. He walked quickly past me. I called him, but he would not come. It took two laps around the livingroom for me to get a hand on the bone mass. I told Dudley to let go, but he wouldn't. I tugged. He tugged. I told him that the bones needed to stay outside. He pretended not to hear, and held on tightly. Still holding the bone mass, I walked it outdoors with Dudley attached. Then I went back inside the house. Eventually Dudley returned - alone.

The next day Dudley tried again. When he got past me (and into the house), our other dog (Tucker) joined the rebellion. He even encouraged Dudley to keep it up. The two ran in circles through our livingroom and kitchen. Neither would listen to my voice or obey my command to, "bring it here." When the bone was finally put down on our carpet, I was able to take it away, and the disobedience ended.

Dudley did not listen to his master's voice that called him. Dudley disobeyed his master's voice that said, "let go of it." Dudley struggled with his master to get his own way... but his master prevailed in the end.

God is our Master.* He knows what is good for us. Often we do not hear His voice because we are not listening.** Often we disobey our Master because we don't want to, "let go of" something that we desire.*** Often we struggle with our Master because we want our own way.****

Our Master will prevail in the end. It would be better if we listen to Him, obey Him, and do not demand our own way. Then we can enjoy fellowship with Him now and forever.

* Matthew 23:8, Colossians 4:1, 2 Timothy 2:21

** Isaiah 51:7, Jeremiah 5:21, Matthew 11:15

*** Romans 7:18-19

**** Psalms 119:33-36

And now these three remain:

FAITH,.....
& HOPE
Love.

..... But the greatest
of these is love.

I Corinthians 13:13

Pastor Becky's Letter (Continued from front page)

This month, I'd like to challenge you to step up to a new level of ongoing personal commitment to Jesus. I'm asking you to invest more, to take more responsibility for your own spiritual growth. As your pastor and friend, I'll be alongside you with all the other encouragers in the church family. But at some point, it's up to you. You must choose to learn and grow and change. You'll need a new start, with new ideas, new habits, new resources—and that's what I'd like us to offer one another. None of us ever intends to backslide; nobody seeks spiritual stagnation intentionally. We don't say we're never going to get our spiritual lives together. We simply tell ourselves we'll do it later. But time slips away, and later never comes.

That's why it's good to return to the words of Joshua, when he says, "Choose today." Let today be the day you make the choice that leads you into a different kind of life in Christ. Once and for all, let today be the day you step across the line called commitment.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Becky

"Adult Bible Studies" (Continued from Page 4)

He is truthful (has the facts; conforms to reality; has integrity), (1 Kings 17:24, Psalms 31:5, Isaiah 45:19)
 He is Worthy (of praise, worship, laud, homage, glory, honor), (1 Chronicles 16:25-29, Psalms 95:6, Psalms 100:2)

He is just (lawful, unbiased, principled, correct, faire, impartial), (Deuteronomy 32:4, 2 Chronicles 12:6), Daniel 4:37)

He is merciful (compassionate, benevolent, granting clemency), (Deuteronomy 4:31, Jeremiah 3:12), Daniel 9:9)
 He is forgiving (grants pardon, grants remission for an offense, ceases to feel resentment against people.)
 (Numbers 14:18, Nehemiah 9:17, Psalms 86:5)

So, why did God get angry? Because God hates sin. God is worthy of praise and adoration. Yet the people chose to be disobedient and disrespectful. Mankind chose sin. Mankind was deceived by Satan.

So, why did God kill the Israelites who worshipped the golden calf? When the Israelites said that the golden calf was their god, (and began to worship it,) that was an insult to their holy God. God looked at the "idol - worshippers" and saw evil. He had to destroy it. If God's people had honestly repented of their sin, they could have received forgiveness. (Ezekiel 18:27-28) But evil was too much a part of them. That was a victory for Satan. Yet, the faithful went with God.

To be continued...



**WORSHIP
SERVICE
SUNDAY
11:00 AM**



2019

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Communion Naomi Offering UMW Food Pantry Collection	4	5 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am	6 Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm Management Team Meeting 6:45 pm	7	8	9
10	11	12 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am	13	14 	15	16 UMW Meeting 10 am
17 Coffee Hour after worship	18 March Newsletter Deadline - Noon	19 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am	20	21	22	23
24 Rothfus Offering	25	26 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am	27	28		

The Shepherd's Messenger

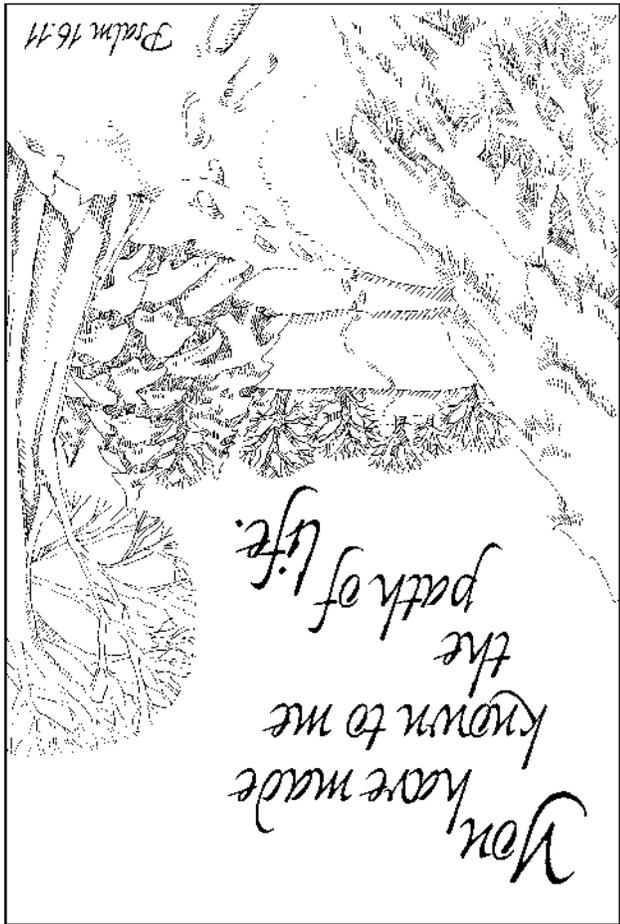
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February 2019

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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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9 am - 3 pm