

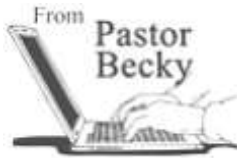
The Shepherd's Messenger



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



Greetings in Christ!

1 Corinthians 13:13 says, **And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.**

Jesus says in Matthew 22:39, **"Love your neighbor as yourself."** But we know that it's preceded by another and greater commandment. **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."**

While we realize Valentine's Day's primary purpose is the expression of love between each other, the foundation for the kind of love God wants us to have is in the Word of God!

"Love your neighbor as yourself" is far more than an overused statement; it is something that we as God's people should take the lead on. We live in a world that needs the love of God expressed through His people more than ever before.

It seems we live in a world that is more divided than ever. Even without sharing examples in this letter, you have probably already thought of many in your own mind.

Sadly, many churches across our Nation and around the World have often become battle stations instead of "hospitals for the hurting". I pray that God will help Cuba United Methodist Church to set the tone in our community by being a people who love people! Loving people even when we may not fully and completely agree about everything is the way we need to be!

There should be one thing that unites us: the love that Jesus Christ had for us by coming to this World and dying on the cross for you and me. John 15:13 says, **Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.**

In reality, Jesus laid down His life for not only His friends but also those who treated Him with disdain and outright hatred. We can learn so much from His example if we are open to learning more about the kind of love God wants us to have.

Continued on Page 6

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Our World situation

Others to keep in prayer:



Norma Andrus
Todd Baxter
Russell Brown
Gary Carlson
Family & friends of Donald Coast
Hazel Cornell
David Edwards
Brian Fries
Don Hall
David Halstead
Donna Hart
Bernie Hawks
Jean Higby
Bob Huddleston
Andrew James
Katie Kellogg
Bruce Metler
Helen Middaugh
Mark Middaugh
Nellie Moses
Justin Murphy
Keith Pierce
Laroy Spateholts
Donald Thompson
Jessica Veiders
JoAnn Viglietta
Clint Wilder
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.

Thank you!



- 2 - Richard Pierce
- 10 - Dominic Berardi
- 14 - Elroy Brickey III
- 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
- Robert & Suzanne Huddleston
- 22 - Bernie & Julie Hawks

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

February 6 Frewsburg: Trinity UMC.
Pastor P.J. Pasieka, his wife Lindsey and their children Peter & Leah.

February 13 Great Valley UMC.
Pastor John Green, his wife Janet and their family.

February 20 Hamlet UMC.

February 27 Hinsdale & Ischua UMCs.

Statistics Needed: \$1,798

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
1/2	28		\$2,950.00
1/2		Gil's Hills	\$ 50.00
1/9	33		\$2,052.89
1/16	29		\$ 757.00
1/16	Human Relations Day		25.00
1/23	43		\$1,715.00



Donald Coast, Pastor Becky's father, passed away on January 19, 2022 at Olean General Hospital. Funeral services were held at Guenther Funeral Home on January 22, 2022.

February Helping Hands



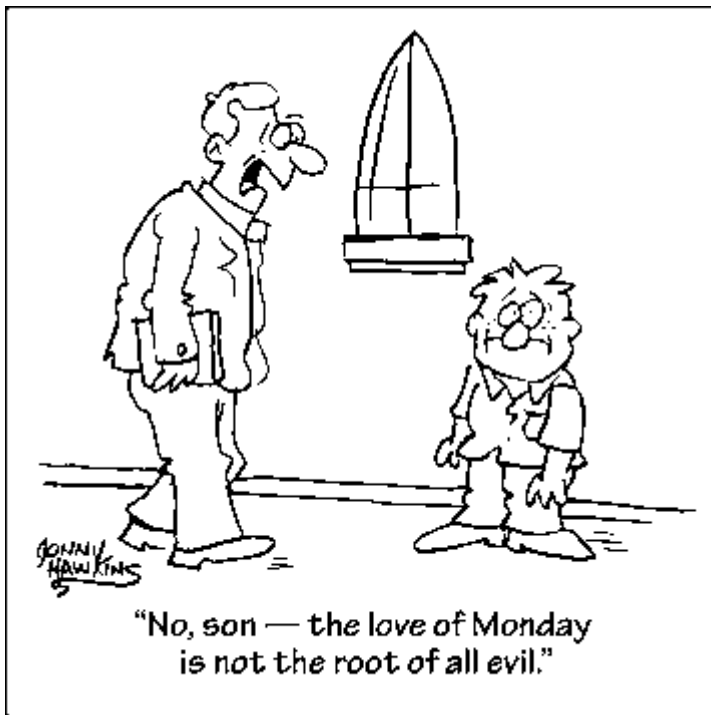
Power Point:
Rob Cornell

Pianist/Organist:
Christine Berardi

Altar Guild:
Thela Snow
Holly Scoville



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.



Food
Pantry
Needs

At this time the **items most needed at the Food Pantry** are cereal, pancake mix, pancake syrup, Hamburger Helper and cleaning supplies. The UMW

collects for the Food Pantry on the 1st Sunday of each month. Please place donations in the bin in the Green St. Foyer.



CHEESY BUFFALO CHICKEN DIP

Sue Simmons

- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup blue cheese crumbles
- ½ cup blue cheese dressing
- ½ cup Frank's Redhot sauce or cayenne pepper sauce
- 2 cups cooked chicken, diced into small pieces



Mix and put in 9" pan. Back at 350° for 20 minutes. Serve with crackers. Makes 3 cups.

Puzzle!

Answer each statement (based on Matthew's gospel) True or False by circling the letter in the correct column. Then write each circled letter on the appropriately numbered line below to discover why Jesus died.

	TRUE	FALSE							
1. Jesus healed Peter's wife <i>(Matthew 8:14).</i>	E	N							
2. Jesus fed the 5,000 with two loaves and five fish <i>(14:17).</i>	R	A							
3. At Jesus' Transfiguration, Peter saw Jonah and Elijah <i>(17:3).</i>	M	S							
4. The rich, young ruler decided not to follow Jesus <i>(19:22).</i>	T	C							
5. Jesus said the temple had become a "den of robbers" <i>(21:13).</i>	I	G							
6. Famines and earthquakes are signs of the end of the age <i>(24:7).</i>	V	D							
7. Jesus tells a story of the six wise and six foolish maidens <i>(25:1-13).</i>	F	A							
8. Judas betrayed Jesus with a secret handshake <i>(26:48).</i>	P	L							
9. The Roman governor Polonius interrogated Jesus <i>(27:11-14).</i>	W	O							
		N							
	3	2	8	6	7	4	5	9	1

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Bible Study on Moses is held on Sundays at 9:30 am in the Adult Sunday School Room.



DUDLEY TAILS

Submitted by Cheryl Wildrick

The month of February celebrates love. A poet once said, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." Dudley's master loves him in many ways... like these:

1. Dudley, you were the last puppy of the litter... and your master chose you to come home.
2. Dudley, your master paid a price for you... and said, "you belong to me."
3. Dudley, your master delights in you... from the way you wiggle, to the nudge of your nose.
4. Dudley, your master loves you... and wants you to be of good character: kind, gentle, helpful and obedient.
5. Dudley, if you truly belong to your master, you will know your master's voice and what you are being asked to do.
6. Dudley, when you have an unbreakable bond with your master, you have the assurance that your master will never leave you or forsake you.

On another level... we too have a Master who wants a relationship with us. 1. In the second book of Thessalonians, chapter 2, verse 13, we are told that, "God chose you to be saved through... belief in the truth." Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth..." (John 14:6)

2. Our Master paid a price for us. He paid with his life. Therefore, He has the right to say, "you belong to me." In the book of Romans, chapter 14, (at the end of verse 8) it says, "whether we live or die, we (who acknowledge Jesus as our Master) belong to the Lord.

3. Something that is delightful makes us smile. Something that we experience may be delightful if it lifts our spirits. So, when the Psalmist says, (in Psalms 149:4) "the Lord takes delight in his people," it means that when God's people sing his praises and acknowledge his greatness, he is pleased.

4. Our Master wants us to be of good character too. If we are to be called Christians, then everything that we say and do must reflect the loving nature of our Lord. People should see that we are different... in a good way. And when we fail... (and we will fail sometimes) we should reflect the love and patience of our Lord. "Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." (Colossians 3:12)

5. A dog knows his master's voice. Others may try to imitate it, but the dog will not be fooled. A happy dog will hear and respond to his master's voice. Likewise, a Christian will (at times) hear God or his Master speak. The Master would not ask the Believer to do anything wrong. In the New Testament book of John we read: "He who belongs to God hears what God says." (John 8:47)

6. A loving master would never abandon his dog and move away. Nor would a loving master take care of his own wants and needs, but neglect the health and safety of his dependent. Our Master will never leave us or forsake us. The book of Matthew, chapter 28, verse 20, concludes by quoting the last words of the risen Christ: "I am with you always, to the very end of the age." What a wonderful Master we have!

From the Cornerstone District Superintendent



Visioning into the New Year

Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: **‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**”

The year of 2022 has begun! How many of us have made New Year’s resolutions? Resolutions are the promises we make to lose weight, exercise regularly, eat healthier, offer random acts of kindness, to laugh daily and to begin or return to church.

What if we changed our way of thinking and change our resolutions to practicing spiritual disciplines in order to grow in faith individually, as a family, as a church, as a district, and as a conference? The spiritual disciplines I follow are Wesley’s Five Means of Grace: Prayer, Searching the Scriptures, The Lord’s Supper, Fasting and Christian Conferencing.

During my times of prayer, I seek God’s leading for the Cornerstone District, the Upper New York Conference, and the United Methodist Church, by asking the questions, “what is God’s will and what is God’s vision, for 2022 as we continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? And living the Gospel of Jesus Christ and being God’s love with our neighbors in all places.” (The Upper New York Conference)

So, what is a vision?

- “A vision is developed with the tension between what is and what could be. (We currently pay our Shared Ministries in full but not on time.)
- There is a moral element and a sense of conviction. (Shared Ministries is our first benevolence and a desire to do good to others as a United Methodist Church.)
- A vision is a preferred future and destination. (Paying our Shared Ministries in full and on time).
- A vision always stands in contrast to the world as it is. (As a connectional church we can do more good together than we can do alone. We accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone.)
- A vision sets our direction and it serves as a road map.” (We combine our prayers, presence, gifts and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God’s people. Our Shared Ministries reach people locally, nationally and globally.)

(Each bullet: “Visioneering,” by Stanley and (UMC.Org)

I am grateful for all of the churches who were able to pay their 2020 shared ministries in full. I am grateful for all of the churches who are able to pay their shared ministries in full or are making significant strides in 2021 toward paying 100% of their share ministries in full.

The last two years have been a challenge in so many ways as we continue to live in and through the pandemic. I am reminded that all things are possible with God and from Ephesians 3:20-21 “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

I prayerfully challenge us together, to make 2022 a year of paying our Shared Ministries in full, and on time and in doing so making a significant difference in the lives of God’s people, sharing the hope that is found only in Jesus Christ. Remembering that we can do more together than we ever could alone and truly being God’s love with our neighbors in all places. Trusting that God can do more than we ask or imagine!

With joy, peace, and gentleness,

Pastor Suzanne

(Pastor Becky's letter continued from front page)

This kind of love leads us to pray as He did: Luke 23:34 says,

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

I want to invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 11:00 as we learn more of this excellent example of love Jesus lived.

Hope to see you in church!

In Christ,

Pastor Becky

Did You Know That Groundhog Day Has Christian Origins?

Meg Bucher | Writer and Author



Groundhog Day is the celebratory holiday in American when Punxsutawney Phil's shadow tells us how much more of winter we have left to endure. If the Northwestern Pennsylvanian groundhog sees his shadow, legend states that we will experience six more weeks of winter. Tens of thousands gather annually to witness the animal emerge, in hopes that he will not see his shadow, signaling that spring will arrive early.

But that's not all there is to this holiday. Its origins actually rest in the hands of Christians in celebration of The Feast of Candlemas. German settlers of the Pennsylvania area brought the tradition of predicting the length of winter via hedgehog across the ocean. Groundhogs were so common to the area they settled in, that they eventually started to consult what we can only assume to be Punxsutawney Phil's ancestors.

In Germany, candles were distributed in the wintertime, and blessed by clergy on Candlemas Day. The celebration, also referred to as the Feast of Christ's Presentation in the Temple, is symbolically associated with a special blessing of candles to represent Simeon's proclamation of Jesus as "the light of the Gentiles." Daniel Lattier writes that, "it commemorates the day when 40 days after his birth, according to Jewish custom, Jesus Christ would have been brought to the Jerusalem Temple so that his mother could be ritually purified and he offered to God."

How did this religious commemoration become a staple of weather forecasting? Intellectual Takeout quoted The Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs, which states, "Popular belief claims that bad weather and cloudy skies of February 2 mean an early and prosperous summer. If the sun shines through the greater part of Candlemas Day, there will be forty more days of snow."



Trustees Meeting Wednesday, February 2, 2022
6:00 pm

Management Team Meeting Wednesday,
February 2, 2022 6:45 pm

Sunday Worship Services
are streamed live
on our website,
www.cubaumc.org



and also on our Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/Cuba-United-Methodist-Church-533879670015081>



SUNDAY
WORSHIP
SERVICE
11:00 AM

FEBRUARY 2022

Bible Study on
Moses
Sundays at 9:30 am
in Adult Sunday
School Room

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Prayer Group 10:00 am	2 Trustees meeting 6 pm Management Team Meeting 6:45 pm	3	4	5
6 UMW Food Pantry Collection Bible Study 9:30 am	7	8 Prayer Group 10:00 am	9	10	11	12
13 Bible Study 9:30 am	14	15 Prayer Group 10:00 am	16	17	18	19
20 Bible Study 9:30 am	21 March Newsletter Deadline Noon	22 Prayer Group 10:00 am	23	24	25	26
27 Bible Study 9:30 am Gil's Hills Offering	28					

The Shepherd's Messenger

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*Like the cold of snow
in the time of harvest
is a faithful messenger
to those who bend him.*

PROVERBS 25:13

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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