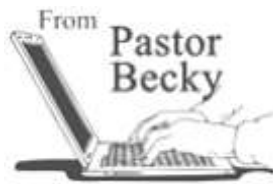


February 2024

The Shepherd's Messenger



Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:13

On February 14th we will begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. We begin the season wearing ashes, confessing we are nothing but “dust and to dust we will return.” How humbling for all of us. Many people will start to make sure they don’t eat meat on Fridays, fish only. Others will decide to give something up for 40 days. In and of themselves there is nothing wrong with doing these things. This type of self-denial can be good for our souls. So long as one thing occurs; we dwell more upon Christ and His sufferings rather than focusing upon our own and what we are giving up. If we end up thinking more about ourselves than Christ, then we have destroyed the season of Lent.

On Ash Wednesday we begin the season wearing ashes, confessing we are nothing but “dust and to dust we will return.” How humbling for all of us. The question is, what now? Since we confess we are dust and to dust we will return, where do we go from there? After all, that is a pretty serious confession. If we truly believe we are dust and one day our bodies will return to dust, who can save us from this tragic fate? You know who. Jesus, and Jesus alone, can rescue us from our dusty fate. Thanks to His death, our sins, which turn us to dust, have been removed. And thanks to Christ’s resurrection from the dead, we have the promise that our dusty bodies will be resurrected one day.

Lent is an invitation for us, and for all people, to return to the Lord our God. As the prophet Joel said, **“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love”** (Joel 2:13). God is indeed very gracious to us. God is not gracious because we refrain from eating meat on Fridays. God is gracious to you because of Christ. God is merciful to you not because you gave something up for 40 days. God is merciful to you because Christ gave up His very life for you on Good Friday. May this coming season of Lent be a time that we rejoice in God’s graciousness and mercy shown toward us all because of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Becky



Pastor Becky's Letter	1
Prayer List	2
February Celebrations	2
February Helping Hands	2
Statistics	2
Cheer Person	2
Cartoon	3
Puzzle	3
Recipe	3
“Acting Like My Dog”	3
Gil's Hills News	4
February Calendar	5



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

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Our World situation
Gil's Hills Ministries

Others to keep in prayer:

- Brad Allen
- Wayne Botens
- Frank Calcagno
- Hazel Cornell
- David Edwards
- Mary Jane Gerstung
- Kim Hall
- Don Hall
- David Halstead
- Donna Hart
- Bernie Hawks
- Andrew James
- Katie Kellogg
- Kevin Kranock
- Helen Middaugh
- Mark Middaugh
- Nellie Moses
- Justin Murphy
- Keith Pierce
- JoAnn Viglietta
- Clint Wilder
- Doris Kellogg Wyant



- 2 - Richard Pierce
- 14 - Elroy Brickey III
- 15 - Kerigan Pierce
- 18 - John Hupp
- Linda Nelson
- 19 - Mark Morris
- 23 - Christopher Hupp

Statistics		Needed: \$1,837	
Date	Worship	SS	Offering
12/17	33	4	\$2,133.00
12/24	33	-	880.00
Christmas Eve Service	42		\$ 120.00
12/31	32	-	\$2,645.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 265.00
1/7	29	4	\$2,250.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 50.00
1/14	32	-	\$1,415.00
		Human Relations Day	\$ 20.00
1/21	31	2	

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!



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

Ash WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 14, 2024
6:00 pm

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**.



From Dean & Cheryl Wildrick

Our New address:
Eden Heights
161 S 25th St
Olean, NY 14760

February Helping Hands

HELPING HAND MINISTRY

Power Point:
Rob Cornell

Pianist:
Holly Scoville

Altar Guild:
Holly Scoville

Acting Like My Dog

We're dog people. For the past thirty plus years we've had a dog or dogs living with us. They have been mostly house dogs, a Beagle, multiple Chihuahuas, and Terriers. We enjoy our dogs (most of the time) and they entertain us and keep us company. Though all dogs have different traits, habits and personalities, most dogs have some good traits in common. In many ways Christians should act more like their dogs, for example...



- ◆ Dogs are always glad to see you when you come home. "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another" (Romans 12:10)
- ◆ Dogs are satisfied with a little something to eat and a place to lay down. "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content" (Philippians 4:11)
- ◆ If you're sick and feeling bad, dogs will lie in your lap or at your feet and give you quite comfort. "Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." (1 Thes. 5:11)
- ◆ Dogs are forgiving. Even after you scold, discipline or hurt them accidentally, they still love you. "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)

Jay Launius 2020
Maud church of Christ
Maud, Texas

Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 14 - 7 = ___ Father | 10 + 15 = ___ in |
| 10 + 9 = ___ heavenly | 10 - 5 = ___ God |
| 9 + 9 = ___ the | 6 - 3 = ___ to |
| 12 + 12 = ___ blessing | 12 - 6 = ___ and |
| 2 - 1 = ___ Praise | 6 + 6 = ___ Christ |
| 7 + 7 = ___ has | 18 - 9 = ___ our |
| 11 + 11 = ___ every | 22 - 11 = ___ Jesus |
| 13 + 13 = ___ Christ | 1 + 1 = ___ be |
| 8 + 8 = ___ us | 7 + 6 = ___ who |
| 10 + 10 = ___ realms | 2 + 2 = ___ the |
| 8 + 9 = ___ in | 10 + 5 = ___ blessed |
| 5 + 5 = ___ Lord | 4 + 4 = ___ of |
| 10 + 11 = ___ with | 10 + 13 = ___ spiritual |

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Prayer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3, NIV)

SWEET & SOUR PORK SAUSAGE BALLS

Sue Simmons

Meatballs:

- 1 pound bulk pork sausage
- 1 slightly beaten egg
- 1/3 cup fine bread crumbs
- 1/2 tsp sage



Mix sausage, egg, bread crumbs and sage. Shape into about 2 dozen 1 1/2" balls. In ungreased skillet, brown balls slowly on all sides, about 15 minutes. Pour off grease. Prepare sauce and pour over meatballs. Cover and simmer 30 minutes, stirring occasionally to coat meatballs. Make smaller meatballs if using them as appetizers.



We take an offering for Gil’s Hills Ministry on the last Sunday of each month.



Located in Wellsville, **Gil’s Hills** specializes in serving children and youth who are in need of special attention in some way. The staff & volunteers at Gil’s Hills are serious about helping kids by communicating the love of God while providing friendship, counseling, and service.

Their website is: www.gilshills.org

What is happening “Between the Hills”

Christmas cheer was in full force at Gil’s Hills in the season we celebrate the birth of our Savior. The Older Girl’s club decided to surprise Ken and Londa Jordan by showing up at their home to sing Christmas carols. Oh, what a beautiful sound it was to hear these young ladies fill that home with songs of our Savior’s birth.

At the December board meeting we had the privilege of awarding, Aleeya, a Gil’s Hills camper since she was 6 or 7 years old, the first ever official Gil’s Hills scholarship. We are so excited to be able to give this financial gift to one of the King’s Kids. She has grown so much in her faith while being involved in this ministry. We pray for Aleeya’s future as she goes out into the world.

As we look to 2024, we envision the many ways God will move in our midst. We have a gracious God who loves us so much that he allows us to choose Him!

Frequently needed items:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Chicken Noodle Soup | Mac n Cheese |
| Pudding Cups | Ranch Dressing |
| Canned Peaches | Ketchup |
| Nacho Cheese Sauce | Hot Dogs |
| Mini Chocolate Chips | Oreos |
| Crystal Light Drink Mix | Tator Tots |
| Chicken Nuggets | Pancake Mix |
| Little Debbie Snacks | Syrup |
| Breakfast Sausage | Taco Sauce |
| Paper Products | Plastic Silverware |
| Chips | Butter |

Gift Cards to Tops or Giant



Sunday Worship Services are streamed live at 11:00 am on our website, www.cubaumc.org



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




Services are archived on our website and on Facebook.

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP
SERVICE
11:00 AM**

All are welcome!

February 2024

Sunday School is at
9:30 am in the Adult
Sunday School room.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Kung Fu 6-8 am
4 Comunion UMW Food Pantry Collection Sunday School 9:30 am	5 Tai Chi 7:00 pm	6 Prayer Group 10:00 am	7	8	9	10 Kung Fu 6:00 - 8:00 am
11 Sunday School 9:30 am	12 Tai Chi 7:00 pm	13 Prayer Group 10:00 am	14 	15	16	17 Kung Fu 6:00-8:00 am
18 1st Sunday in lent Sunday School 9:30 am	19 March Newsletter Deadline - Noon Tai Chi 7:00 pm	20 Prayer Group 10:00 am	21	22	23	24 Kung Fu 6:00-8:00 am
25 Sunday School 9:30 am Gil's Hills Offering	26 Tai Chi 7:00 pm	27 Prayer Group 10:00 am	28	29		

The Shepherd's Messenger

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



2024

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

«AddressBlock»

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

