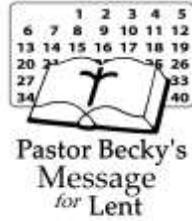


The Shepherd's Messenger



Hi Friends,

As you stroll through the local stores, you will see an abundance of bunnies, baskets, and candy for sale, and those may be the only signs of Easter you'll find outside of church. Unlike its Christmas counterpart, Easter is mostly uncommercialized, which is pretty remarkable: the day that we celebrate the glory of Christ's resurrection remains untainted by retailers.

However, just because we are not receiving Easter ad upon Easter ad in our newspapers and inboxes doesn't mean we should pigeonhole the holiday as a minor celebration. Easter is perhaps the most crucial holiday on the Christian calendar—even the word crucial has its roots in Christianity, stemming from the term for crucify.

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the Good News of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the Good News."— Mark 1:12-15.

The season we call Lent, the forty days before Easter, represents the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, continually tempted by Satan.

When He emerged from the wilderness, He knew it was time for the prophesy of His death and resurrection to be fulfilled.

As believers, we remember this. We look to this time of Lent as a way to go into our own 'wilderness' of sorts; we pray, we fast, we meditate, we worship, we focus on God. We ready ourselves for the grief of Christ's death, and we take joy in the gospel of His rising again. We are granted eternal life through Christ; the Messiah lifted up.

I invite you to join us at Cuba United Methodist Church, whether in person or live online, as we take a closer look at the life of Christ these next few weeks as we recall what this season is all about.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Becky



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

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Our World situation

Others to keep in prayer:

- Norma Andrus
- Todd Baxter
- Bob & Sandy Beard
- Russell Brown
- Hazel Cornell
- David Edwards
- Family & friends of 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



- 2 - Gary Enderle
- 3 - Casi Lockwood
Desi Burdick
Elisabeth Lockwood
- 4 - Claire Morris
- 8 - Shirley Poore
- Lori Sweet
- 12 - Helen Middaugh
- 14 - Peggy Pearce
- Lyncoln Nelson
- 15 - Jeffery Zeh
- 17 - Cindy Dutton
- 19 - Derwood Say
- 21 - Rachel Holden
- 23 - Rob Cornell
- 25 - Todd Young
- 26 - Pete Sprague
- 27 - Jean Higby



- 18- Arnold & Linda Nelson
- 28 - Mike & Fran Young

Statistics		Needed: \$1,736	
Date	Worship	SS	Offering
1/31	25		\$2,038.00
1/31		Gil's Hills	\$ 135.00
2/7	34		\$1,500.00
2/7		Gil's Hills	\$ 50.00
2/14	27		\$1,565.00
2/14		Gil's Hills	\$ 100.00
2/21	28		\$1,264.00
2/21		Gil's Hills	\$ 200.00

March
Helping
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**.

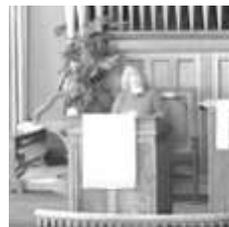


If you have a prayer request, call the prayer chain.

Call Ruth Holden at 968-1933



Clifford "Kip" Karn, Chloe Karn's grandfather and Kendal Karn's father, passed away on Feb. 3, 2021. A private family memorial service was held.



Live Streaming of Worship Services is on our website, www.cubaumc.org, and also on the Cuba UMC Facebook page.

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

March 7 North Harmony UMC. Pastor Joe Osborne, his wife Kelly and their family.

March 14 Dewittville-Hartfield & Mayville UMCs. Rev. Mark Parsons, his wife Jan and their family.

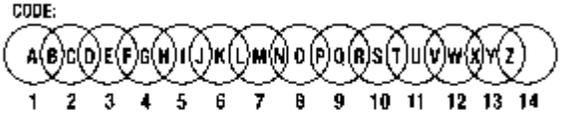
March 21 Frewsburg:Trinity UMC. Pastor PJ Pasioka, his wife Lindsey and their children Peter & Leah.

March 28 Westfield 1st UMC. Rev. Nick Perry, his wife Carmen and their children Nathan & Nadia.



Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11

EPHESIANS 4:32, N V

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV

EASY VEGGIE SOUP

Deb Battistoni

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 pound ground beef | 1 tablespoon parsley flakes |
| 1 cup sliced carrots | 1 cup frozen green beans |
| 1 cup sliced onion | ¼ cup uncooked regular rice |
| 1 cup sliced celery | 2 16 ounce cans stewed tomatoes |
| 1 cove garlic, minced | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 1 15 ounce can kidney beans | ¼ teaspoon basil |
| 3 ½ cups water | 1/8 teaspoon pepper |
| 5 beef bouillon cubes | |



Range top – 55 minutes cooking time. Makes 3 quarts.
 Cook ground beef, onion and garlic until beef is browned. Drain off any fat. Add remaining ingredients except green beans. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, 40 minutes. Add green beans. Continue simmering 10 minutes, until vegetables are tender.



Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

We continue to navigate one of the most challenging and unique seasons within our lives. COVID-19 continues to impact every area of daily life. We continue to pray for those who have been devastated by this disease physically, emotionally, and financially. We continue to give thanks to God for the front-line workers who have offered the best of who they are in our fight against this pandemic. I continue to give thanks to God for your faithfulness in ministry and mission throughout these days. The witness to your faith in the God who offers hope and your commitment to God's call to offer the good news of Jesus Christ in all circumstances continues to be an inspiration.

I especially want to celebrate and thank you for your gift of stewardship and generosity during this unprecedented season. Despite the challenges that you have experienced in the past year, the leaders, members, and congregations of Upper New York trusted God and continued to reach beyond ourselves through our connectional giving known as Ministry Shares.

Because of your generosity and faithfulness, our Conference has been able to remain in ministry, equipping and linking churches for Christ. Your sacrificial giving helped our conference provide congregations with the guidance and encouragement needed to move worship from the sanctuary to the internet and, when conditions improved, safely return to the sanctuary for limited in-person services again. Your generosity enabled our five camp and retreat centers to remain open and find new ways to safely offer guests hospitality and spiritual refreshment. Your faithfulness helped us continue to mail out Sunday School resources from our Media Resource Center, offer licensing school for new local pastors, and host literally hundreds of remote gatherings for learning, planning and prayer.

Once again, Upper New York was a witness to our commitment and covenant together as the people of the United Methodist Church around the globe as your giving allowed us to pay 100% of our General Church apportionments. We join others in our connection in offering resources for ministry that we could never do alone. Through your generosity and sacrifice the lives of countless people have been changed because of an encounter with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the hands and feet of His Church. You continue to be a beacon of hope in the midst of a despairing world.

Thank you!

To God be the glory for all that God has done and is doing in each of our lives and the lives of those around us! To God be the glory for your continued willingness to say yes to God's call to be passionate followers of Jesus Christ. I am blessed to share this journey of ministry and mission with you.

My prayers continue for each of you, as together we trust the power of the Holy Spirit to encourage, strengthen, equip, and lead us in the days ahead.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Mark J. Webb

DUDLEY TAILS

Submitted by Cheryl Wildrick



Winter had come with a passion. After three days of snow falling (around the clock)... about a foot or more of snow covered the ground.

Dudley and Tucker were pretty well equipped for the cold. Both had a very thick coat of fur, and a few extra pounds, to keep them warm. Miss Kitty, a stray, who had originally showed up in the summer (looking for room and board), was now battling the cold. She was still small... and her coat was not thick. She wasn't prepared for a long winter.

It was mid afternoon when Tucker came over and stood in front of his master. (Dudley was still napping on the loveseat.) Tucker just stared. His master looked up. It became a staring contest, and Tucker was winning. Finally his master looked at the clock, and knew what Tucker was saying. It was time for the afternoon walk.

As soon as his master stood up, Dudley was awake, and he bounded to the floor. Both dogs sped to the back door of the house, where they waited. Their master had to put on a winter hat, boots, mittens, and a coat. (The coat pocket was full of dog treats.)

When the door to the breezeway was opened, the two dogs ran down the steps and headed toward the sliding door. Dudley managed to squeeze out through a five inch gap. But Tucker did not fit... so he waited for help.

Miss Kitty's condo had been vacant for much of the summer. Summer was the time when Miss Kitty liked to lay out in the sun, and stay up late at night, to hunt by the light of the moon. But now Miss Kitty was seeking shelter from the cold temperatures, and blowing wind. The floor of her Condo was heated... and a thick blanket covered the canopy, to keep the heat inside.

When Miss Kitty wanted to do it, she could curl up at the rear of her condo, and most passersby could not even tell that she was in there. Except, of course, if the passerby was a dog.

By this time, Tucker had been distracted by the sent of, "cat". He retraced his steps back to Miss Kitty's condo, and stuck his long Collie nose into the front of the abode. Miss Kitty was in the back, and waited to see what Tucker intended to do. Tucker's master said not to scare her, and so, Tucker backed off.

'Not so, with Dudley who returned. Dudley wanted to see what was detaining Tucker. He stuck his smaller, black nose into the condo, and sniffed. All was quiet until Dudley began barking, and shattered the quiet.

"Woof!!!" "Woof, woof, woof, woof, woof!!!" barked Dudley. Dudley's master stepped in, and lifted Dudley away from the problem. He was carried outside, with Tucker following. They were going for a walk.

After the exit of Dudley and Tucker, Miss Kitty settled back down, "for a cold winter's nap."

From that day, onward, Miss Kitty allowed Tucker to stand next to her condo, and eat her cat food. But, Dudley had to keep moving, or risk the swipe of a cat's paw.

We can learn several things from the (above) true story.

(Continued on Page 6)

("Dudley Tales" Continued from Page 5)

#1. Every person can belong to our Heavenly Master.

Tucker and Dudley each had their pictures posted on NextDayPets.com (years apart) when they were puppies... and their master chose them. None of the puppies had a choice of a master. People have a choice. We can choose to accept Jesus as our Master. Our Master can never have too many people belonging to him. We are called to belong to Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:6)

#2. Every person can communicate with his Master.

When Tucker and Dudley were brought to their new home as puppies, they had to learn communication with their master. They learned the master's voice, touch, and demonstrations of love. They began to communicate in return: wiggle, wag the tail, bark, curl up close on the loveseat.

Jesus, our Master, knows every language. He will hear and understand prayers from all over the world. (1 Peter 3:12) If we want to hear our Master speak to us, we should try finding a quiet place with no interruptions. Then tell Him that we are listening. And then listen. More than our ears may become involved in the communication.

#3. Every person should obey his Master.

Tucker and Dudley, as puppies, had a lot to learn. If they were to avoid accidents, or avoid getting lost, or avoid being afraid... they had to do what their master said. They had to be obedient.

What is obedience? It is doing what we are told... even if we don't want to do it. Jesus, our Master, would not tell us to do something if it wasn't good for us. And... if we love our Master, we will, "walk in obedience to his commands." (2 John, verse 6) So let it be. Selah.



Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night, March 13.
_Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 am on Sunday March 14.



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

MARCH 2021

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

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

The Shepherd's Messenger

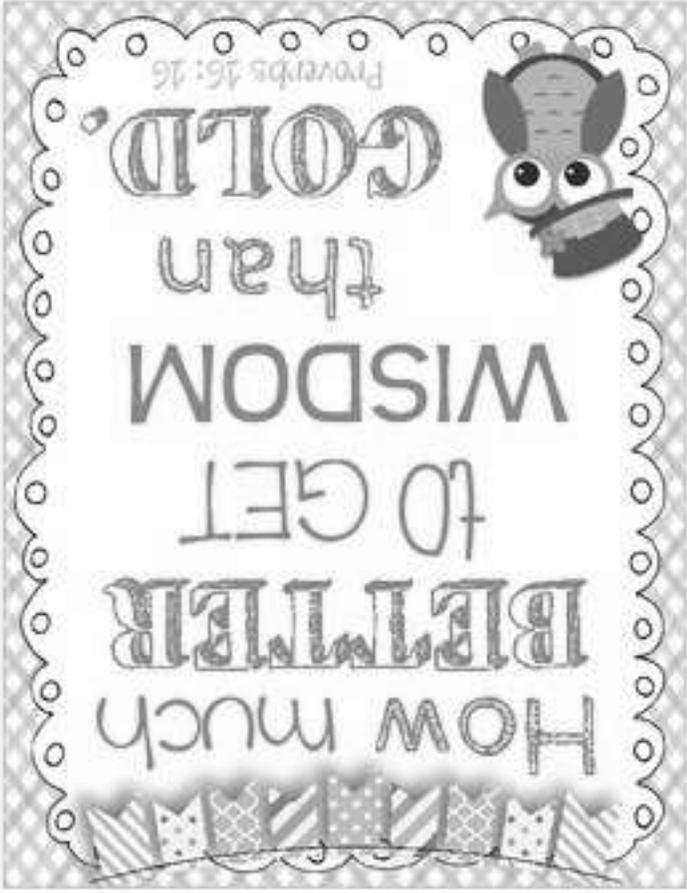
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2021

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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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