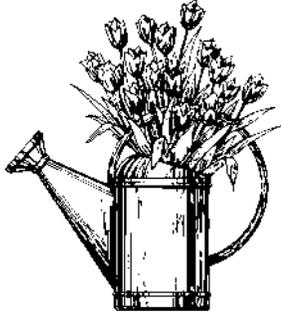


April 2019

The Shepherd's Messenger



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

Easter Message
from Pastor
Becky



Come As You Are This Easter

Hi friends!

There's a myth that says you've got to clean up your act before you can come to God: "I've got to get it all together. There are a few things I've got to get right in my life first, and then I'll come to God."

It's like brushing your teeth before going to the dentist to have your teeth cleaned or washing the dishes before you put them in the dishwasher or picking up the house before the maid gets there! Why do we do this?

The truth is, God doesn't expect us to clean up our act before we approach him. The death and Resurrection of Jesus is God's statement on that. Jesus spread out his arms and said, "I love you this much. Now, just come as you are."

In Psalm 57:3, the Bible says, "He will send down help from heaven to save me because of his love". That's what Jesus did on Easter. And that's why we can bring our messes and failures to God.

There are people you know who think God will never love them because they've made such a mess of their lives. But you know God wants them to come as they are. Help them hear the Good News from Jesus. Invite them to come to Cuba United Methodist Church with you this Easter.

"...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). The most important piece of information you could ever share with another individual is that Jesus paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross and that he overcame death by resurrecting on the third day. Easter is a day when Jesus followers celebrate Jesus' victory over death and reflect on the resurrection. Jesus' sacrifice was **real**, and Easter provides an opportunity to refocus on the most important part of our faith.

If you desire to spread God's love to those around you, consider extending a church invitation this Easter. What better time to spread God's love and the Gospel message? It's such a simple thing to do, but it can make a difference that will last for eternity.

Service begins at 11:00am every Sunday. Our doors are open to all! Come as you are!

See you Sunday,

Pastor Becky

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Our World situation
 The Rothfus Family
 Naomi Scoville/Kosovo
 Butch Holden (in Kuwait)

For those at other residences...

PINES - OLEAN
 Connie Battistoni

Others to keep in prayer:

Norma Andrus
 Bob & Sandy Beard
 Sally Brinkmann
 Hazel Cornell
 David Edwards
 Roberta Farrell
 Nancy Frazier
 Brian Fries
 Luke Fries
 Family & Friends of Mary Ellen
 Graham-Katchmark
 Tyler Griffin
 Don Hall
 David Halstead
 Donna Hart
 Bernie Hawks
 Sandy Lathrop
 Mary McCarthy
 Mark Middaugh
 Mary Ellen Moriarty
 Justin Murphy
 Keith Pearce
 Barbara Rasmusson
 Laroy Spateholts
 Lon Sweet
 JoAnn Viglietta
 Ken Wyant
 David Yonaka
 Judy Zayac



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!



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**.

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

April 7 Frewsburg: Wheeler Hill UMC. Pastor Carol Becker and her family.

April 14 Great Valley UMC. Pastor John Green, his wife Janet and their family.

April 21 Hamlet & South Dayton UMCs. Pastor Carol Dill, her husband Jim and their family.

April 28 Hurlbut Memorial Community UMC (Chautauqua). Rev. Carmen Perry, her husband Nick and their children Nathan & Nadia and Pastor John Jackson, his wife Juanita and their family.



- 4 - Jeremy Zeh
- 6 - Marshall Allen
 Jonnie Rothfus
 Jennie Rothfus
- 9 - Keith Pierce
- 10- Christine Berardi
 Ed Rothfus
- 15 - Sandra LaFever
 Mark Middaugh
- 18 - Dale Dutton
- 19 - Thela Snow
- 22 - Sue Feldbauer
- 27 - Brian Hawks
- 28 - Mary Hupp



Mary Ellen Graham-Katchmark
 Mary Hupp's mother, passed away on March 15, 2019. A Memorial Service will be held on July 5, 2019 at 11 AM at the Cuba Cemetery.

<u>Statistics</u>		<u>Needed: \$1,659</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Offering</u>
3/3	48	13	\$2,339.00
3/3	Naomi/Rothfus		\$95/\$20
3/6 Ash Wednesday 26			
3/10	49	13	\$1,824.00
3/17	52	13	\$1,734.00
3/24	68	12	\$1,999.00
3/24	Naomi/Rothfus		\$25/\$25

April Helping Hands

Usher:
 Jim Travis



Pianist:
 Christine Berardi

Organist:
 Jonathan Denham

Acolyte:
 Chris Hupp

Altar Guild:
 Thela Snow & Sharry Semans



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

Call Sandra Allen at 968-2137 or Ruth Holden at 968-1933

WELCOME
New Members

The following people have transferred their membership to Cuba UMC:

Linda Murphy
 Judy and Alan Zayac

ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES with Cheryl



Spiritual Warfare: Job

God, our Father who loves us, wants us to love Him back. He gave mankind freedom of choice. He will not force us to love Him or follow Him. Satan takes advantage of this fact and is constantly lying about God's love, to convince people to follow Him.

The book of Job tells of a man who "feared God and shunned evil." Job was richly blessed by God. He had seven sons and three daughters. He had thousands of sheep, camels, oxen, donkeys, and a large number of servants. Job worshipped regularly and gave sacrifices to God for his children, in case they sinned. (Job 1:1-5)

One day Satan presented himself before the Lord. And the Lord told Satan that Job was "blameless and upright." Satan however, said that God was protecting Job, and protecting Job's children and his wealth. Satan challenged God to take away everything from Job, and see that Job would curse God bitterly. (Job 1:8-12) So, God allowed Satan to assault Job. The battle was on.

Satan hoped that Job would turn away from God. But when Job's wealth and children were gone, Job said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." Job did not charge God with wrongdoing. (Job 1:13-22)

Another day, Satan spoke with God. Satan said that any man will give up his family and possessions for his own life. But, ... "strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you..." So, God allowed Satan to assault Job a second time. Job was covered from the top of his head, to the soles of his feet with painful sores. Job's wife's advice was to "Curse God and die!" But Job said, "Shall we accept good from God, and not (accept) trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said. (Job 2:4-10)

The story of Job goes on, and takes another twist... But just from the first two chapters of this book, we see that:

- 1) God blesses those who live an honorable life, who fear God's power, and who walk away from evil.
- 2) God honors those who worship Him in spite of their troubles, who do not accuse God of wrongdoing, and who humbly accept the pain (physical, mental, or emotional) of an imperfect world.

What we need to see now is the "big picture."

PAST: God desired fellowship with mankind whom He created in his own image. Satan and sin entered the world. PRESENT: The battle of God vs. Satan for the souls of mankind continues. But we can choose to be on God's holy side, and use prayer to keep the temptations from controlling us. FUTURE: at Christ's return to earth, Satan will be judged, and Believers will no longer have to battle temptation and sin. There will be no sickness or sorrow. Only love, worship, and service. Satan may be winning the war now, but God will be undefeated for eternity. Amen!

(Continued on Page 6)





DUDLEY TAILS

Submitted by Cheryl Wildrick

Sometimes when I am not expecting it, I hear a loud, “BARK!” and I am startled. After relaxing my tense body, I look around to see what’s happening. Since it was only a single bark, I know it’s not Fed Ex delivering a package, and it’s not neighbor dogs walking through our yard.

I don’t have to look far before I see the problem. Tucker has a treat that Dudley wants, and Dudley is demanding it.

It’s not that I gave Tucker the treat and didn’t give one to Dudley. They always get the same number of treats. But, Dudley always goes over to take what Tucker has. I tell Dudley that he has his own treat. “Leave it Dudley. That is not years.” But Dudley is already eating Tucker’s Treat. Tucker does not retaliate.

Dogs have personalities just like humans do. And some breeds have characteristics that are different from others.

God did not design humans to be “cookie cutter” look-alikes either. He did not give us all the same personalities. Sometimes opposites attract, and other times people like to be around those who have similar skills and interests.

During their upbringing, people may have been taught to: obey parents, respect authority, believe words spoken from the pulpit, develop a good work ethic and help others in need. At the same time, other children were learning to hate their parents, rebel from authority, challenge the teachings of the Bible, avoid work when ever possible, and to look out only for themselves.

Just like Dudley and Tucker, when people of different backgrounds and temperaments spend time together (at home, at work, at church) they will not always agree. They may argue, they may ignore, and may hurt each other.

People may intimidate you, demand something from you, or bully you. (Like Dudley demands Tucker’s treat) Defusing a situation takes calmness, patience, and a non-judgmental attitude. If we have been wronged... we must forgive. ‘Not because the other person deserves it, but because the Bible says so:

1. “... love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44)
2. “forgive us... as we forgive those who trespass against us.” (Matthew 6:12)
3. “forgive what ever grievances you may have against one another... (Colossians 3:13)
4. “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other... (Ephesians 4:32)

But, most of all... forgive others because our Lord Jesus forgives OUR sins when we ask. Christ set the example of forgiving our enemies. His enemies included: those who physically hurt Him, those who verbally hurt Him, those who demeaned and belittled Him, and those who attempted to make Him sin. May we grow to be more like Jesus: loving forgiving, enduring pain, and sacrificing for others. ’Blessings.



ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY (Continued from Page 4)

Spiritual Warfare: David

Anytime a person chooses not to do the will of God, then Satan advances in the battle of good vs. evil. Anytime a person uses his power for selfish reasons, then Satan advances in the battle of good vs. evil.

In the book of 2 Samuel (in the Old Testament) we read about King David.. This is the same David who had been a shepherd boy, who had defeated the giant Goliath, who had played music for King Saul, who had led the Jewish armies into battle, who had brought the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem, and who had married Saul's daughter. He was a beloved leader. But even a man that God loves, can fall into sin.

David was a married man. David was king at Jerusalem. David usually led his soldiers into battle. But, one time he sent his troops out to fight the Ammonites, and he stayed in the city. While on the palace roof, David saw a beautiful woman bathing, and asked a messenger to find out about her. It was reported that the woman's name was Bathsheba and that she was the wife of Uriah who was fighting in the army. David sent messengers to get her.

David slept with Bathsheba and then sent her home. Bathsheba conceived, and later sent word to David. Did David confess or apologize to Uriah? No. Now began the "cover up."

First, David called Uriah back from battle and David told him to go to his house and wife. David was hoping that Uriah would sleep with Bathsheba and believe the baby was his. But, Uriah was a honorable man, and would not enjoy comfort and pleasure in his home while the soldiers were camped in rough open fields.

Second, Uriah was sent back to battle, and took a letter from David to the Israelite general (Joab.) It read: "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die." The general complied, and Uriah died.

When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. "But the thing David had done displeased the Lord." (2 Samuel 11:1-27)

What made David do such dishonorable deeds? He knew God's law. He knew God's justice. He knew God's punishment for sin. Was he overcome by power? Did he believe that he deserved anything that he wanted? Did he forget that God hates evil?

Where had this evil in David's life come from? Perhaps he had been spending more time thinking about his own desires (and how to achieve them), instead of thinking about God and God's desires.

In a time of weakness, David forgot about serving God's purposes and instead, sought his own desires. In the new testament, we are told that evil thoughts, sexual immorality and envy come from within (Mark 7:21-23). David was under attack. Satan was influencing David's thoughts. We are told that (as humans) our struggle is against, "the powers of this dark world". These powers are Satan and his followers. (Ephesians 6:12) This is Spiritual Warfare. One defense for us is to quote scripture, telling Satan that he has been defeated by the death of Jesus.

To be continued...

Cuba Council of Churches News

Submitted by Peggy Pearce



A meeting of the full Council of Churches (clergy and laity) was held March 10th at the Cuba First Baptist Church. In the absence of the Council treasurer, no written report was available; however, Pastor Cusumano indicated a checking account balance of \$849.51.

Our Lady of Angels delegate Mary Nease spoke about the **Meals on Wheels** program. There needs to be a minimum of seven people attending the Monday-Thursday lunches at the community center to keep the program in place. There have been a couple times recently where the number has dropped to seven.

The **Food Pantry** report was presented by Pastor Cusumano: food requests January to March 10 were eight; gas assistance for the same period was four. The Food Pantry program received awards and recognition lately from the Cuba Chamber of Commerce (along with a check of \$500) as well as recognition certificates from the offices of Senator Cathy Young and Congressman Tom Reed.

A “locker” of **hygiene items** is available to Cuba Rushford Middle-High School students and they are making use of the items at a rapid clip. Donations of personal care items such as deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap are solicited and can be taken to the Cuba Library where a collection box is in place. Travel-sized items are best (please no jumbo or large packages).

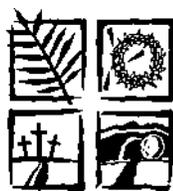
The Council is planning a “**Coats for Kids**” collection during the months of April and May. Clean, gently used coats and snow pants can be dropped off at the Baptist Church.

Blood bank volunteers are needed to register donors. Contact Ann Gross for information and to volunteer.

A progressive dinner was discussed with regard to locations and options; it was decided to try to hold this Council event every other year, skipping 2019.

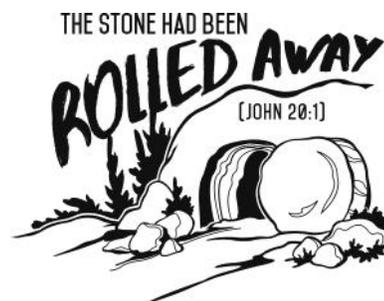
“**Songs of Faith, Hope and Inspiration**” will be held on June 2nd at the Palmer Opera House. Nettie White is in charge of lining up acts and ice cream will be served. This annual event helps raise support for the CRCS scholarship presented by the Council.

The next full Council meeting will be in May (date TBA) at Christ Episcopal Church.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday	April 14	11:00 AM
Maundy Thursday	April 18	7:00 PM
Easter Sunday	April 21	11:00 AM



The Romans Sent a Message; God Sent One, Too



The rulers of the Roman Empire wanted everyone under their power to understand clearly that it would be very costly to try to overthrow their government. They conceived the idea of crucifixion as a way of sending an unforgettable message to all people under their control. Death on a cross would be a slow excruciatingly painful death. The cross would be put in a very public place so as many as possible would get the message: Don't even think of defying Roman rule!

That is why Christ was crucified on Golgatha hill close to a busy road where no passerby could miss the shocking scene. Christ was guilty of nothing. Yet His enemies hated Him so much that they told Pilate, Rome's representative in Jerusalem, that Jesus was a danger to Roman rule. Christ's enemies said to Pilate, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar" (John 19:12). Pilate caved into the clamor of the crowd and allowed Jesus to be crucified.

But those who saw to it that Jesus suffered death on the cross did not know that God had a message to send as well. God victoriously raised Christ from the dead!

God touched the precious body of His Son and infused it with life, glorious, dynamic life, life in all of its fullness.

God turned the cross, the executioner's tool of death, into a dramatic symbol of victory. The empty cross and the empty tomb, along with the resurrected body of Christ, reveal God's victory over the worst deed humans might do – the assassination of the Holy.

That is why we put crosses everywhere: boldly, proudly, joyously, and triumphantly. It is why we glory in the cross always. It stands eternally "towering o'er the wrecks of time" (John Bowring).

After resurrection, Jesus' friend, Peter, explained God's message to all of Christ's enemies with these bold and certain words; "This Jesus, you crucified and killed... But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it ... This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses...Therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:23-24,32,36). That is what Easter is all about. All praise to the living Lord!

From: *The Newsletter Newsletter* Vol. 22, No. 4



Words can not explain and handshakes can not reveal the gratitude and thanks for all the prayers, cards and support!

Thank you and God Bless.

Keith Pierce & Family

MISSIONS

What has Naomi been up to in Kosovo?
Follow her adventures on her blog:

[https://
naomisalbanianadventures.wordpress.com/](https://naomisalbanianadventures.wordpress.com/)



We take a special offering for Naomi on the first Sunday of each month.

**WORSHIP
SERVICE
SUNDAY
11:00 AM**



2019

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	3 Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm Management Team Meeting 6:45 pm	4 Cub Scouts Evening	5	6 Kung Fu 6-8 am
7 Easter Flower Order Deadline Naomi Offering UMW Food Pantry Collection	8	9 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	10	11 Cub Scouts Evening	12	13 Kung Fu 6-8 am
14  Palm Sunday	15 May Newsletter Deadline - Noon	16 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	17	18  Service 7:00 pm Cub Scouts - Evening	19	20 Kung Fu 6-8 am UMW Meeting 10 am
21  Happy EASTER!	22	23 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	24	25 Cub Scouts Evening	26	27 Kung Fu 6-8 am
28 Rothfus Offering	29	30 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm				

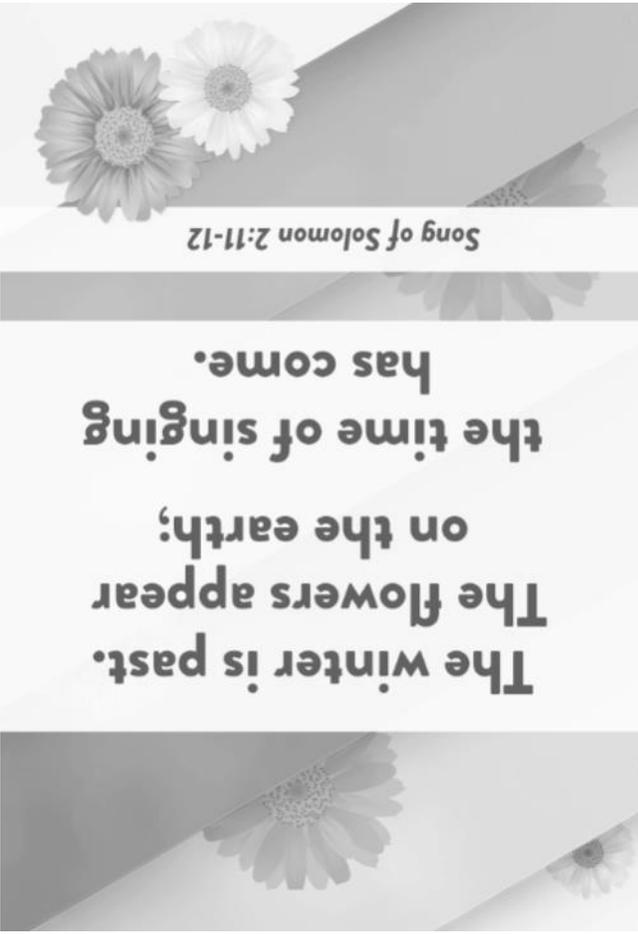
The Shepherd's Messenger

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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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Home: (716) 373-4332

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Tuesday & Wednesday
9 am - 3 pm