

April 2020

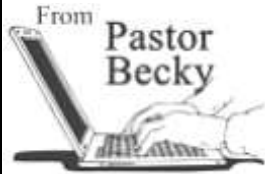
The Shepherd's Messenger



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



What Is the Purpose of Worship?

Why do we gather every Sunday, sit on wooden pews, stand up, sit down, sing songs, listen to a person talk for 25 minutes, eat a little piece of bread dipped in grape juice, and then give away our money? Why in the world would we spend precious time on a Sunday morning doing these things when we could be doing something productive?

Too often, worship is seen as "the thing you do" on Sunday because that's what you've always done. But worship done well is more than just an event to attend; it's a transformative experience, a period of time where God breaks into our lives to reveal something new to us about God and about ourselves.

So, let me say what my understanding of the purpose of worship is for Cuba United Methodist Church. But first, let me say what worship is NOT. One of the purposes of worship is not "to get your needs met." In our consumerist culture, that's an unspoken expectation we bring with us each Sunday. If we sing an unfamiliar hymn or the sermon falls flat, we feel like we've been let down. We are used to sending back meals that aren't cooked properly in restaurants or returning items to the store that don't meet our needs, so why should worship be any different? The somewhat funny but unspoken demand behind those feelings is, "Hey, I'm paying for this, it better be good!" But worship isn't about us; **it's about God.**

Therefore, I believe worship has two primary purposes. The first is praise. Worship is a time for us to come into God's presence and offer thanksgiving to God for all of our blessings, including the blessing of God being with us during our difficult times. It's a time to look around, see all the ways God is present with us, and then to tell God "thank you" through songs (even unfamiliar ones) and prayers and offering. In worship, you are not the audience. God is the audience and we are the actors, so one reason we come to worship is to "perform" our gratitude for God.

(Continued on Page 4)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Our World situation
Naomi Scoville/Kosovo

Others to keep in prayer:

Norma Andrus
Todd Baxter
Bob & Sandy Beard
Russell Brown
Virginia Clayson
Hazel Cornell
Missy Dabolt
David Edwards
Nancy Frazier
Brian Fries
Tyler Griffin
Don Hall
David Halstead
Donna Hart
Julia Hinkle
Bob Huddleston
Katie Kellogg
Sandy Lathrop
Mark Middaugh
Derek Morris family
Nellie Moses
Justin Murphy
Keith Pierce
Laroy Spateholts
Donald Thompson
JoAnn Viglietta
Clint Wilder
James Woodruff
Ken Wyant
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.

APRIL Birthdays

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

APRIL Anniversaries

- 14 - Kenneth & Brenda Wyant
- 27- Elroy & Kelly Brickey


Tithes & Offerings

Please continue to tithe to the church during the pandemic crisis by mailing it to:

Cuba United Methodist Church
49 East Main Street
Cuba, NY 14727

Thank you!

Statistics		Needed: \$1,767	
Date	Worship	SS	Offering
Ash Wed.	27		-
3/1	43		\$1,944.00
3/1	Naomi/Gil's Hills		\$15/\$15
3/8	53		\$1,968.00
3/15	45		\$1,228.00
3/15		Naomi	\$ 25.00
3/22	0		

April Helping Hands 

Usher:
Jim Travis

Acolyte:
Chris Hupp

Pianist:
Christine Berardi

Altar Guild:
Thela Snow



Thank you everyone for the prayers, notes and cards I have received. My surgery went well and I am recovering and being spoiled by my beautiful daughter, Laurie, and son-in-law John in New Virginia IA. My grand doggie, Reagan and kitty, Nicholas, are also spoiling me as I recover. I can't wait to get back to Cuba, but don't have a date yet. I look forward to seeing you all in church soon.

Love you and miss you all,

Judy



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

Call 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.



Thank you for supporting the UMCOR flood bucket project. To date we have filled 15 buckets thanks to your generosity.

Although the buckets lack three items (face masks, insect repellent and trash bags), we've decided to suspend donations for the time being. We'll try to complete the buckets at a later date.

EASY ORANGE ROLLS

Cindy Dutton



Unroll an 11 oz. can of French bread dough. Pat Flat.

Mix together:

4 oz. cream cheese

¼ cup brown sugar

2 tsp. orange zest

Spread on bread, leaving ¾ inch border.

Roll up. Cut 10-11 slices about 1¼ inches wide. Place cut side down in greased 8" round pan. Bake 25-30 minutes at 375°. While warm, drizzle with ¼ cup powdered sugar mixed with 1 Tbsp. orange juice.

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NEWS

The Council of Churches met at the North Park Wesleyan Church on Sunday, March 8. The Food Pantry had requests for food in January (six) and February (two), and for gas assistance in January (three). As of this date the pantry is well stocked, but Hamburger Helper and Macaroni and Cheese are always needed.

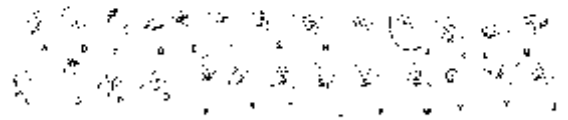


In light of COVID 19, temporary changes have been made to the Pantry policies. If you, or someone you know has been negatively affected by the virus and needs food assistance, please call either North Park Wesleyan Church (585) 968-2347 or First Baptist Church (585) 968-1531 for more information.

The next meeting of the Council will be May 3, at 5 p.m. at the United Methodist Church.

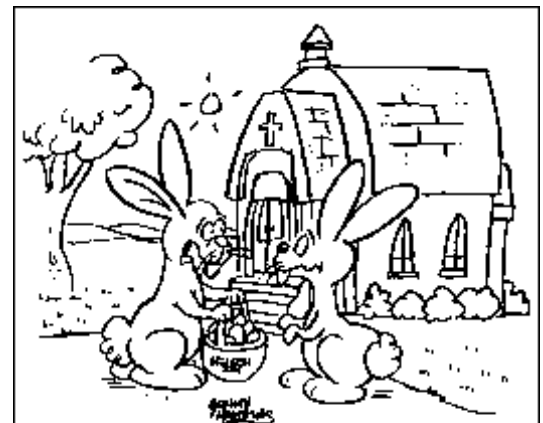
Puzzle!

Hands play a key role in the biblical accounts of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Use this sign-language alphabet to retell what happened.



Jesus' _____ were _____
 to the tree. Two criminals were also crucified,
 one on the _____
 and the other on the _____ of Jesus. Jesus
 cried out with a loud voice, " _____"
 into your _____ I commit my spirit."
 (Luke 23:46) Jesus' friends _____
 him from the cross to the tomb. Jesus showed
 _____ his _____ to prove
 he was Christ. Bring your _____ together
 in _____, and thank God for his
 Son, Jesus!

Answer hands, nailed, right, hand, left, Father, hands, carried, Thomas, hands, hands, prayer



"Here at the church, I only use Resurrection Eggs."

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY 9:45 am

This past month the Adult Class:

1. Watched the DVD: "The Great Deceiver". This is another name for Satan who is not a small red creature with a pointed tail, and carrying a pitchfork. Various theologians tell what the Bible says about Satan, and where to find the passages in scripture. We are told that, "Satan's approach is straight forward, and his objective is final: to separate every man, woman and child from God, using any means necessary." The presentation includes interviews with ordinary people who relate their stories about spiritual warfare. 49 minutes.
2. Watched the DVD: "Stephen's Test of Faith". Twelve year-old Stephen takes his grandfather's Bible to school for use in a classroom presentation. He is mocked and ridiculed for his faith, and discards the Bible. That night, Stephen dreams of traveling through history. He meets Jesus, Stephen the martyr, Christian families who were thrown into the Roman Coliseum, William Tyndale (who translated the Bible into newer languages), and others who share their faith, Stephen's view of the kingdom and his definition of "Christian" are broadened and clarified. Stephen finds his grandfather's Bible, and is now strong enough to witness to his world. 22 min.
3. Studied "The Whole Armor of God," which is explained in Ephesians 6:10-18a. The correlation between each piece of spiritual armor and what purpose it serves for Spiritual Warfare was discussed.
4. Were shown ten books that are recommended Christian reading. Topics included: death, afterlife, heaven, hell, eternal destiny, miraculous answers to prayer, questions about suffering and evil, miracles in the ER, and true stories of children's encounters with angels, miracles and God. (Books available to check out)

(Pastor Becky's letter continued from Page 1)

The second purpose of worship is call. In the course of a week, it's easy to lose sight of who we are, to lose our connection to the One who grounds us in our identity as God's children. So, worship is a time to quiet the noise around us and listen again for God's voice, as God calls us to go out into the world and be God's light in the darkness. God not only calls us but equips us with bread and cup, tangible reminders of the sacrificial lengths to which God has gone to show us we are loved. That divine love is so abundant that it should overflow from us to others, and worship reminds us of the call to share God's love.

The next time you're in worship, I hope you'll think about praise and call. How will you praise God on Sunday? How will you hear God's call to you in that specific time and place? And how will you respond to it? Even if the sermon falls flat - which we all know it will, at least from time to time - I want you to remember this: It's not about you. **It's about God.**

See you Sunday, (and bring a friend)

Pastor Becky



DUDLEY TAILS

Submitted by Cheryl Wildrick

Beep! Beep! Beep! The urgent noise woke me up from a warm slumber.

Beep! Beep! Beep! So insistent. So compelling.

Beep! Beep! Beep! Will it ever stop?

Then a light came on in the hall, and I heard my husband coming up the stairs.

Beep! Beep! Beep! What time was it? 5 am! 'Still dark. I realized that the loud urgent noise was our smoke alarm sounding off. Oh! Where was Dudley? He must be afraid. (Dudley no longer slept in his dog crate. He could be in any of the three rooms upstairs.)

Beep! Beep! Beep! The threat was unsettling. Where would Dudley go if he was afraid? I quickly ran some answers through my head.

Beep! Beep! Beep! My husband was locating a stool (to stand on) to reach the smoke alarm.

Of course! I think I know where Dudley is! Slowly I put my hand down, over the edge of the bed. I reached around, and soon felt soft fur and floppy ears. Immediately I felt a warm, wet tongue licking my hand. Dudley had found me!

The smoke alarm was disabled... and peace had returned to the cold winter night. Soon our air purifier would remove the smoke that had risen from the wood furnace in our basement.

Dudley stayed near, and was comforted by his master's presence. His confidence returned, and he again felt secure.

Unexpected alarms sometimes cause distress for us too. We may be alarmed on a cold winter day when our car doesn't start. We may be alarmed when our spouse or child has an accident, and must go to the Emergency Room. We may be alarmed when our bill for taxes is much higher than we expected. Many things can cause us to be alarmed, and even afraid. King David said to God, "when I am afraid, I will trust in you." (Psalm 56:3) We can follow his example.

When Dudley was alarmed, he sought release from his anxiety. People do this also. Sometimes we just can't get through a threatening experience without help. When the psalmist sought help for the cause of his anxiety, his Master told him to, "be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) Our Master tells us to calm down, because He is in charge, and His power can accomplish many things.

Dudley went to his master in his time of need and found protection and strength. We also, do not like to go through difficult times alone. We need the presence of our Master to calm and strengthen us. The psalmist testified that, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..." (Psalm 46:1-2)

When we are alone, or afraid, or anxious, our Master is our refuge. He invited us to come to Him. It is there that we will find calm for our fears, peace for our anxiety, and love for our longing.

Praise God!



CHURCH MOVIE NIGHT

Wed. April 15, 6 pm

Alan Jackson's "Precious Memories"

Taped live at the Ryman Auditorium, Nashville

Country music's Alan Jackson performs beloved old hymns that are important to him. (Some that he sang growing up in church.)

Some of the selections include:

Blessed Assurance, In the Garden, I Love to Tell the Story, Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus, When We All Get to Heaven, 'Tis So Sweet to Trust In Jesus...

And more: Softly and Tenderly (Jesus is Calling), Standing On the Promises, What a Friend We Have in Jesus, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, The Old Rugged Cross, and How Great Thou Art.

Interspersed among the hymns are interviews with Alan, his mother, and his wife. These memories reflect on Alan's musical roots and on his roots in faith.

Who should see this film:

- Those who enjoy Alan's low voice.
- Those who remember the old hymns.
- Those who like to sing.
- Those who enjoy country music.
- Those who enjoy Christian fellowship.

Come. Bring a friend (or spouse). Visit with Dudley, and enjoy a bag of popcorn. 'See you soon!

The United Methodist Lent quiz

- 1.) What does the term 'Lent,' which comes from 'lencten,' mean?
 - a.) Sacrifice
 - b.) Time
 - c.) Spring
 - d.) March madness
- 2.) How were ashes imposed in the early Church?
 - a.) The shape of the cross was drawn on the forehead
 - b.) Ashes were smeared across closed eyelids
 - c.) Ashes were sprinkled over the head
- 3.) Why do people give things up for Lent?
 - a.) To follow the example of Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness
 - b.) To help us focus on prayer and devotions
 - c.) To give acquired savings to the poor
 - d.) All of the above
- 4.) What snack food has significance during Lent?
 - a.) Chocolate
 - b.) Pretzels
 - c.) Popcorn
 - d.) All of the above
- 5.) Many people fast during Lent. How often did John Wesley fast?
 - a.) Twice a week
 - b.) Twice a month
 - c.) Twice a year
 - d.) Rarely
 - e.) He did not fast
- 6.) Why is Lent 40 days?
 - a.) To represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, tempted by Satan
 - b.) To remind us of the 40 years the Israelites wandered the desert
 - c.) To recall the 40 days and nights the earth was flooded in the Old Testament
- 7.) What do some United Methodists avoid singing at Lent?
 - a.) Doxologies
 - b.) Alleluia
 - c.) "In the Garden"
 - d.) The communion liturgy
- 8.) True or False—Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent?
 - a.) True
 - b.) False

Editor's Note: The answers are below. Rotate the bridge 180 degrees to view the answers right-side up.

Answer key: 1/c, 2/c, 3/d, 4/b, 5/a, 6/d, 7/b, 8/a

From March 2020 Issue I of *The Bridge*



WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY 11:00 AM



2020

SUNDAY SCHOOL for all Ages 10:45 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Events may change due to the COVID-19 situation			1	2 Tai Chi Class 9 am Cub Scouts 6:00-7:30 pm	3	4 Kung Fu 6-8 am
5 Palm Sunday Communion Naomi Mission Offering UMW Food Pantry Collection	6 Tai Chi Class 7 pm	7 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am	8	9 Tai Chi Class 9 am Cub Scouts 6:00-7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm	10	11 Kung Fu 6-8 am
12 	13 Tai Chi Class 7 pm	14 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	15 Movie Night 6 pm	16 Tai Chi Class 9 am Cub Scouts 6:00-7:30 pm	17	18 Kung Fu 6-8 am UMW Meeting 10 am
19 Coffee Hour	20 May Newsletter Deadline Noon Tai Chi Class 7 pm	21 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	22	23 Tai Chi Class 9 am Cub Scouts 6:00-7:30 pm	24	25 Kung Fu 6-8 am
26 Gil's Hills Ministry Offering	27 Tai Chi Class 7 pm	28 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	29	30 Tai Chi Class 9 am Cub Scouts 6:00-7:30 pm		

The Shepherd's Messenger

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**“Did I not tell you
that if you believed,
you would see
the glory of God?”**



John 11:40, NRSV

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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Wednesday 9 am - 11 am