

April 2021

# The Shepherd's Messenger



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



Hi Friends,

Happy Easter and Happy Spring! Christ is Victorious!

There is a hymn by the title of "Victory in Jesus," and the lyrics of the chorus are:

"Oh, victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He sought me, and He bought me with His redeeming blood. He loved me 'ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him. He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood!"

I doubt any of us would ever say we like to experience defeat in our lives. At least for me, I would rather be a part of a winning team than a losing team. My friend, I pray that you remember it is because of our Savior's Resurrection over 2,000 years ago that the victory WAS, IS, and WILL BE ours!

We live in a world right now that seems to have the upper hand, as we look around and see sin and its consequences in so many areas.

While knowledge has increased over the past 100 years, the capacity for sin has also been on the rise. We are confronted daily with this fact, and for those who know Christ, we often find ourselves crying out for the return of Christ.

Remember, the Old Testament promised the first coming of Jesus as prophecies often talked about one who was to come. The Father sent Jesus in the "fullness of time" to die on a cross and ultimately rise from the grave in victory!

This was more than a temporary victory but is one that will continue to reverberate throughout the endless ages of eternity! Jesus rose from the grave in victory, and because He lives, we live also!

John 14:19 says, "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also."

That scripture reminds me of another powerful song written by Bill Gaither with the title "Because He Lives," and the lyrics are as follows:

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone,  
Because I know, He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!"

(Continued on Page 6)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:  
Our World situation

Others to keep in prayer:

- Norma Andrus
- Todd Baxter
- Family & Friends of Sandy Beard
- Russell Brown
- Hazel Cornell
- David Edwards
- 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
- Family & Friends of Alice Sweet
- Donald Thompson
- Jessica Veiders
- 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.

*Thank you!*



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

**Call Ruth Holden at 968-1933**

APRIL



- 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



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

Statistics Needed: \$1,736

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
2/28	28		\$ 808.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 115.00
3/7	27		\$3,010.99
		Gil's Hills	50.00
3/14	30		\$1,286.00
		Gils Hills	\$ 15.00
		UMCOR	\$ 50.00
3/21	33		\$2,505.00
		Gil's Hills	60.00
3/28	38		

April Helping Hands



Greeter:  
Kevin Kranock

Power Point:  
Rob Cornell

Pianist:  
Christine Berardi

Altar Guild:  
Thela Snow



**Alice Sweet**, a long time member of Cuba UMC, passed away on February 25, 2021. Private family services were held.

**Sandy Beard**, wife of Rev. Bob Beard, passed away on March 2, 2021 at the Wellsville Manor Care Center. Her funeral was held at the Cuba Baptist Church on March 9, 2021.



**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 the Desk of Bishop Webb: Violence in our country

### March 23, 2021 / By Bishop Mark J. Webb



*Editor's Note: In response to the recent Atlanta shootings and other acts of violence throughout our country the past week, Upper New York (UNY) Area Resident Bishop, Mark J. Webb sent the following letter to the UNY Conference on March 23, 2021.*''

Last week, we witnessed the violent and senseless killing in Atlanta of eight individuals, six of whom were of Asian descent. Yesterday, the news reported another shooting in Boulder, Colorado that violently took 10 lives. Actually, in the days between the Atlanta and Boulder shootings, there were five additional acts of gun violence in California, Oregon, Texas, and Philadelphia.

We pray for the families of these victims as they mourn. We pray for those recovering from injuries. We pray for those first responders, giving thanks for their commitment to others and asking God to heal their mind and spirits.

We must continue to stand against all forms of violence in whatever form they take. As the Church of Jesus Christ, we know the good news of the Gospel transforms – it transforms lives, communities, and systems. May we continue to bold in our offering of Christ to the world, showing a different way than violence and hate. Let us continue to seek ways that work for change in systems within our society, with justice and peace being our aim.

While many conversations are occurring about the motive of the shooter, the reality is that violence destroyed innocent lives. The shooting in Atlanta also reminds us that too many times, sisters and brothers within the Asian community are subject to violence, harassment, and discrimination because of racism, prejudice, and bias.

We must continue to stand against the sin of racism and acts of violence in all forms, against all people. The elimination of racism is work that begins with me and all of us. Let us continue to boldly live our membership vows to “renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of the world, and repent of our sin - accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression - and boldly confess Jesus Christ as Savior, putting our whole trust in his grace, as we promise to serve him as our Lord.” Let us invite others to join with us in that invitation and way of living

In Upper New York, we are blessed to have many Asian-Americans and members of the Asian community serve among us as pastors and worship with us as members of our congregations. These are gifted, beloved sisters and brothers in Christ. We acknowledge the vulnerability, anxiety, and fear that events like last week create in their lives. We pledge to stand beside them and with them. We pledge to demonstrate in word and action that they and all in our midst bear the image of God and our deeply loved.

Our world needs the truth and hope of Jesus! May God's spirit move within us, among us, and through us. May God's spirit transform our world.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Mark J. Webb

## DUDLEY TAILS

*Submitted by Cheryl Wildrick*



It was another cold winter day. (slow and lazy) Dudley was following his usual routine:

1. Come downstairs, 2. Check his bowl, 3. Jump up and down by the sliding glass door, and 4. Run 'full speed ahead' when the door was opened. After Dudley finished running through the snow, barking to tell the neighbors that he was up, and sniffing where birds had been perching, he did what was required of him before coming into the house. Once indoors, Dudley's day slowed down. He waited for breakfast to be served in his bowl. Then he waited, hoping for something (that he liked better) to be put into his bowl.

The master was now busy getting Tucker's daily medications ready for him to take. Tucker had (long ago) decided that he did not like the fat brown pill... and, the smaller, tan pill was barely tolerable either. But Tucker's master had discovered that the pills would be gladly taken if they were wrapped in soft cream cheese. That was Dudley's signal. He saw the smooth, white pills and came running.

Dudley, of course, was not allowed to swallow the pills, but his master had also put a little cream cheese on three finger tips for Dudley. With that job accomplished, it was now time for his nap.

Dudley jogged to the livingroom, hopped up onto the loveseat, then onto the arm of the loveseat, and finally to the top of the loveseat's back. From this vantage point, Dudley was able to see cars going past his home. However, this was a slow day for cars, and Dudley fell asleep. Meanwhile, Dudley's master was preparing lots of food in the kitchen.

After a few hours, Tucker sensed that it was afternoon, and it must be time for the afternoon walk. He ran through the kitchen, to the sliding door, and began to bark. Dudley woke up and ran to the kitchen where he began to dance on his hind feet and move his front paws up and down.

But the master told Dudley and Tucker that there was not time for a walk this day. A suggestion was made that Dudley and Tucker could go out into the fenced yard. Dudley came bounding toward the sliding glass door, but Tucker didn't budge. So, Dudley changed his mind. By now, his master had put on a coat and was carrying items to the car. Neither Dudley nor Tucker was asked to come along. As the door closed, and the car drove away... Dudley and Tucker were left in the quiet. 'No walk. 'No run in the yard. No taste of the delicious food that was packed into the car. They were alone... and they did not know for how long. Or, when they would see their master again.

We sympathize with pets that are left alone. We sympathize with children who are left alone. We sympathize with people who are alone.

Jesus tried to break the news (of his impending death) gently to his disciples. After a time when he was teaching His followers, He said, "as you know, the Passover is two days away - and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified." (Matthew 26:2-5)

Then, there was the time when Jesus and His disciples were visiting a man named Simon (the Leper), in the town of Bethany. A woman, named Mary came with a jar of expensive perfume which she poured on the head of Jesus. When His disciples complained, Jesus said that she had done this, "to prepare me for burial."

It became frighteningly apparent (to Jesus' disciples) that Jesus was going to die... when He was arrested by the Jewish Temple Guard, (Matthew 26:47-50) and He was put on trial... with the Sanhedrin (a Jewish court) deciding His fate. (Matthew 26:57,59)

The court declared Jesus guilty, and decided that he should be sentenced to death. Jesus was bound, and taken to the Roman governor (Pilate) who had the authority to carry out the sentence. (Matthew 27:1-2)

(Continued on Page 6)

("Dudley Tales" Continued from Page 5)

After questioning Jesus, Pilate became convinced (by the demeanor of Jesus) that He was innocent. But the crowd of Angry Jews called for His death... so, after washing his hands of the matter and releasing a criminal, Pilate sentenced Jesus to death on a cross. (Matthew 27:1) (Matthew 27:11-26)

The Master was no longer with His followers. All that they could do was wait... (they did not know how long.) Would they see their Master again? How would they survive without their Master?

Hear the Good News: Christ is risen. He is alive!  
 Christ is a loving and forgiving Master. HE was and is, eternal.  
 Just accept Him as Savior, and you will have Life Eternal with Him.  
 Amen and Amen

My thoughts on Alice Sweet

When we started coming to the Cuba United Methodist Church, there was a family that impressed me - the Sweet family. They would come into church and file into the same pew every week. Then some years later, I taught a 1st and 2nd grade Sunday School class. There were two energetic boys that attended my class - Alice Sweet's grandsons. That started my "pen pal" relationship with Alice. In later years every holiday and birthday a beautiful card would arrive with a note of encouragement, prayers, update on family (especially the two grandsons) and asking about my family. Most of all, I learned of Alice's quiet gentle faith in Jesus Christ. I will miss you my dear friend - till we meet again.

Sandra Allen

(Pastor Becky's Letter continued from front page)

I would encourage you today to keep your eyes on Jesus as you move through this journey of life.

He is victorious still!

Blessings in Christ,  
 Pastor Becky

The **food pantry** is presently in need of paper products, boxed potatoes, Hamburger Helper, juices, baking mixes (cakes, brownies) and snack bars (like Nature Valley, Chewy, etc.). Also, cleaning supplies (dish detergent, laundry soap and rinse).



The UMW collects donations for the Food Pantry on the first Sunday of each month. Please leave donations in the bin in the Green Street Foyer.



Watch **Live Streaming of Sunday Worship Services**

on our website,

**www.cubaumc.org,**

(Go to "Sermons" page to watch archived videos.)



also watch on the **Cuba UMC Facebook page.**



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

**APRIL**

**2021**

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Service 6:00 pm.	2  Good Friday	3
4 UMW Food Pantry Collection 	5	6	7 Trustees Mtg. 6:00 pm Management Team Mtg. 6:45 pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 May Newsletter Deadline Noon	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
<b>Gil's Hills Offering</b>						

# The Shepherd's Messenger

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