

April 2022

# The Shepherd's Messenger



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



Greetings Friends!

As we come to the beautiful time of year called "Easter" or, as some may refer to it, "Resurrection Sunday," I want to remind you that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is available to us today.

The Bible tells us in Romans 8:11, <sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

I believe this life given to us is not only eternal life, but it is also life for NOW! We are truly living in very challenging days as so many lust after power and use all means of force and manipulation to obtain it.

Yet, Jesus said the following in Matthew 20:26, <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.

Think of it. The most amazing person to ever live on the face of this earth was Jesus Christ. He did nothing to force Himself on anyone, yet people willingly follow His teaching and example down through the ages and continue today.

He laid His life down willingly so that you and I would have the example of willing sacrifice and love for others.

We have seen the evils of "wars and rumors of wars" happening today as untold thousands of people have been displaced from one country to another. While that is another kind of "power" that will one day be dealt with by a just Judge, there is little doubt this kind of power produces anything but disdain and hatred for the oppressor.

Jesus came that we might have life and that it would be abundant life! We may not have all the answers of "why" on this earth, but we do know that Jesus understands the beginning to the end. He is Alpha and Omega!

Without the Resurrection, we have nothing, but WITH the power of the Resurrection, the Christian will ultimately prevail and overcome!

I want to encourage you to take advantage of the fact we can and will gather together for Easter and celebrate His Resurrection. It's more than ritual or tradition, but it's our living HOPE, and it is POWER!

Be sure to attend on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am and invite a friend to attend with you!

Blessings,  
Pastor Becky

PLEASE PRAY FOR:  
Our World situation

Others to keep in prayer:



Norma Andrus  
Todd Baxter  
Wayne Botens  
Russell Brown  
Gary Carlson  
Hazel Cornell  
David Edwards  
Brian Fries  
Don Hall  
David Halstead  
Donna Hart  
Bernie Hawks  
Jean Higby  
Bob Huddleston  
Andrew James  
Katie Kellogg  
Bruce Metler  
Helen Middaugh  
Mark Middaugh  
Nellie Moses  
Justin Murphy  
Keith Pierce  
Laroy Spateholts  
Donald Thompson  
Jessica Veiders  
JoAnn Viglietta  
Clint Wilder  
Ken Wyant

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!*



- 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



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

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

**April 3 Laona Emmanuel UMC.** Pastor Mike Spell, his wife Jaimee and their daughter Allyson.

**April 10 Little Valley UMC.**

**April 17 Machias UMC.** Pastor Cindy Hulll, her husband Vince and their family.

**April 23 North Harmony UMC.** Pastor Joe Osborne, his wife Kelly and their family.

**April 30 Olean:Christ UMC.** Rev. Chad Sayers, his wife Jessica and their sons Isaiah & Micah.

Statistics Needed: \$1,798

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
2/27	36		\$1,270.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 275.00
3/2	Ash Wednesday	22	
3/6	40		\$3,610.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 150.00
		UMCOR Ukraine	\$ 25.00
		UMCOR Advance 982450	\$ 25.00
3/13	31		\$1,327.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 50.00
		Ukraine 982450	\$1,500.00
		Ukraine 14053A	\$ 100.00
3/20	50		\$1,117.00
		UMCOR Ukraine	\$ 225.00
2/27	37		\$1,587.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 269.00
		UMCOR Sunday	\$ 59.00



**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.**

April Helping Hands



Power Point:  
Rob Cornell

Pianist/Organist:  
Christine Berardi

Altar Guild:  
Thela Snow  
Holly Scoville



**Barbara L. Johnston**, a Cuba UMC member, passed away on March 11, 2022. Funeral was held on March 15, 2022 at Letro-McIntosh-Spink Funeral Home. Pastor Becky officiated. Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Smethport, PA.



Bible Study on Moses is held on Sundays at 9:30 am in the Adult Sunday School Room.

# Puzzle!

Using the code, complete this passage based on Ezekiel 34.

**CODE**  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
 Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

"As a \_\_\_\_\_ looks after his  
 \_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_ is  
 \_\_\_\_\_ them, so will I \_\_\_\_\_ after my \_\_\_\_\_  
 I will \_\_\_\_\_ them and \_\_\_\_\_ them.  
 I will \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ and bring back  
 the \_\_\_\_\_ I will \_\_\_\_\_ up the \_\_\_\_\_  
 and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. You are my  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and I am your \_\_\_\_\_."



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## FRENCH TOAST WITH PEACHES

Deb Battistoni

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 cup brown sugar | ½ cup butter                            |
| 2 TBS. water      | 1-29 oz. can sliced peaches, drained    |
| 5 eggs            | 1 TBS. vanilla                          |
| Pinch of cinnamon | 12-(¾ inch) slices day old French bread |



In a saucepan, stir together the brown sugar, butter and water. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low and simmer for 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Pour the brown sugar mixture into a 9x13" baking dish, and tilt the dish to cover the entire bottom. Place peaches in a layer over the sugar coating, then top with slices of bread. In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs and vanilla. Slowly pour over the bread slices to coat evenly. Sprinkle cinnamon over the top. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight. Remove the dish from the refrigerator about 30 minutes before baking to bring to room temperature. Bake at 350° for 25 to 30 minutes, or until the bread is golden brown. Spoon out portions to serve.



## DUDLEY TAILS

*Submitted by Cheryl Wildrick*

Through the glass door, the winter weather looked windy and cold. The birdfeeder swung back and forth, as sparrows and cardinals tried to stop by for lunch. The flower pot that had been forgotten last fall, sat quietly on the deck... covered in a five inch blanket of snow.

Dudley was curious as he watched the birds in the snow, through the glass. He would like to run out there and scatter the birds all directions... but the door was closed, and no one inside wanted to open it.

After a while the wind died down. A slender man, bundled in a winter coat, boots, and a hat (with ear flaps down) opened the door and went outside. He had a shovel in his hand, and he made a path to the steps on the far side of the deck. Then he went back to the door... went inside.... and Dudley went outside.

As Dudley sat on the deck, other birds arrived: Blue Jays, Juncos, Woodpeckers, and Morning Doves. Some perched on the handrail that surrounded the deck. Some perched on the branches of a nearby tree, and some headed for the feeder. Dudley sprang into action: running and barking. Then someone opened the door to the house, and called Dudley inside.

Dudley checked his dish before heading to the loveseat for a nap. Although unknown to Dudley, a different creature, outside, was hungry and eyeing the feeder. Soon it ran along the deck railing and took a flying leap onto the feeder (which jerked back and forth) and frightened the birds away. Now the bird feed was being eaten by a squirrel.

After Dudley woke up from his nap, he walked over to the glass door and saw a few birds on the deck eating spilled bird seed. What he did NOT see was a squirrel perched on the feeder, motionless.

Someone opened the door for Dudley to go outside, and he ran toward the birds (who scattered in all directions). Dudley did not observe the squirrel jump to the deck railing (where he again sat like a statue.)

When Dudley turned toward the feeder, the squirrel jumped up to the crotch of a nearby tree. But Dudley was now running in circles. "Dudley! Pay attention! What you are looking for is not down there."  
"Look up!"

In many ways, we humans are much like Dudley. We spend our time on earth, chasing things that catch our eye... or, we run in circles reaching for elusive desires. We are not paying attention. We are not looking in the right direction. What we really need to do... is to, "look up."

Dudley wanted the squirrel, but it was not down on the ground... it was up in the tree. People want love, and acceptance, and to be appreciated. But, often those things are not found on earth. We need to look up. God's word says, "Call to me and I will answer you." (Jeremiah 33:3)





### COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NEWS

*Submitted by Peggy Pearce*



The Cuba Council of Churches met on March 13<sup>th</sup> at the First Baptist Church. Theresa Heinz joined the meeting to discuss the possibility of church walking tours being part of the Cuba Bicentennial celebration. Several possible dates were discussed and the weekend of July 15 and 16 chosen. Many details have yet to be worked out, but in general, Council members agreed to move forward with the idea.

Assistance was provided in February: four food requests from the Pantry and one gasoline request. At this time the Pantry needs include: cereal, jam/jelly, boxed meals (i.e. Hamburger Helper, etc.), snack items (i.e. crackers, etc.) personal care items (i.e. toothpaste, deodorant, etc.), cleaning supplies (i.e. dish soap, etc.) and paper towels.

Bill Beck will coordinate the Easter video wherein participants from each church record the same scripture that will, in turn, be compiled into one short video.

Church representatives shared information from their congregations:

- Christ Episcopal—The first in-person service since reopening was held on March 13 with the Rev. Michael McCune, a supply priest from Greece, NY. The church will continue in-person services the second and fourth Sundays through April.
- Cuba First Baptist—Summer programming has begun.
- North Park Wesleyan—Easter activities include the April 16 “Eggstravaganza” and a drama on Easter Sunday.
- Our Lady of Angels—Father Dennis Mancuso has responsibility for St. Mary Byzantine Church in Olean as well as the Catholic parishes. Some parishioners at that church have family in Ukraine.

The next meeting of the Council is Sunday, May 15 at Cuba United Methodist Church.

## *Perfect Love*

In his book *Written in Blood*, Robert Coleman tells the story of a little boy whose sister needed a blood transfusion. The doctor had explained that she had the same disease the boy had recovered from two years earlier. Her only chance for recovery was a transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the disease. Since the two children had the same rare blood type, the boy was the ideal donor.

“Would you give your blood to Mary?” the doctor asked.

Johnny hesitated. His lower lip started to tremble. Then he smiled and said, “Sure, for my sister.”

Soon the two children were wheeled into the hospital room—Mary, pale and thin; Johnny, robust and healthy. Neither spoke, but when they met, Johnny grinned. As the nurse inserted the needle into his arm, Johnny's smile faded. He watched the blood flow through the tube.

With the ordeal almost over, his voice slightly shaky, broke the silence. “Doctor, when do I die?” Only then did the doctor realize why Johnny had hesitated, why his lip had trembled when he'd agreed to donate his blood. He'd thought giving his blood to his sister meant giving up his life. In that brief moment, he'd made his great decision.

Johnny, fortunately, didn't have to die to save his sister. Each of us however, has a condition more serious than Mary's, and it required Jesus to give not just his blood, but his life.

— Thomas Lindberg, Stevens Point, Wisconsin. *Leadership*, Vol. 5, no. 1.



  
**meeting**  
 NOTICE

**Combined Trustees & Management Team**  
**Meeting** Wednesday, April 6, 2022  
 6:00 pm in Wesley Hall

*Live Stream*  
  
*Ministry*

**Sunday Worship Services**  
**are streamed live**  
 on our website,  
[www.cubaumc.org](http://www.cubaumc.org)



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



**Past Services are Archived**  
 DVDs are available





**SUNDAY  
WORSHIP  
SERVICE  
11:00 AM**



**2022**

**Bible Study on  
Moses**

**Sundays at 9:30 am  
in Adult Sunday  
School Room**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 UMW Food Pantry Collection Bible Study 9:30 am	4	5 Prayer Group 10:00 am	6	7	8	9
10  Bible Study 9:30 am Money for Flower orders due	11	12 Prayer Group 10:00 am	13	14  Service 6:00 pm	15 	16
17  Bible Study 9:30 am	18 May Newsletter Deadline Noon	19 Prayer Group 10:00 am	20	21	22	23
24 Bible Study 9:30 am Gil's Hills Offering	25	26 Prayer Group 10:00 am	27	28	29	30

# The Shepherd's Messenger

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## 2022

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