

May 2020

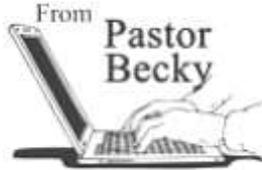
# The Shepherd's Messenger



Pastor Becky's Letter	1
Prayer List	2
May Celebrations	2
May Helping Hands	2
Statistics	2
Puzzle	3
Recipe	3
Adult Bible Study	4
"Dudley Tails"	5
Movie Night	6
May Calendar	7



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



When our world is shaken, it's easy for fear to spread. But God promises to be with us no matter what comes our way.

Now more than ever, we're reminded that the Church isn't about the building. It's the people gathering to worship our God who is faithful, in control, and with us wherever we are.

Well my friends, it has been six weeks since we have been able to worship together in our beautiful church. I miss every one of you more than you know, and I hope this article finds you all safe and healthy. I have found a way to video my sermons and devotions. You can access them through our Cuba United Methodist Church Facebook page or on our church website at [www.cubaumc.org](http://www.cubaumc.org).

Remember to reach out to friends and family and offer encouragement and aid, especially for those who live alone and/or are at higher risk. If you are able to continue your tithes and offerings, you are encouraged to give. To give by check, place your check in your offering envelope and mail your offering to the church at: **Cuba United Methodist Church**  
 49 East Main Street, Cuba, NY 14727.

As Christians, we shouldn't be surprised by the current chaos. Jesus himself predicted the increase of worldwide disaster as the time of His second coming draws closer, in Luke 21:11. We may be tempted to panic and become fearful but I am here to remind you that we have a hope that one day all sickness and pain will be washed away.

There might not seem to be any good in the midst of this chaos, but I have found that even during this pandemic there is a bright side. Many of us all over the world have been confined to our homes and all normal social functions have been either postponed or cancelled. Here are 4 ways Social Distancing can be good for your spiritual and mental health.

## 1. Time to spend in prayer

Many of us live very busy lives, and although we don't like to admit it, this busyness can be a distraction from our relationship with God. During this downtime, God is calling us back to Him. It's as if He has cancelled all of our distractions and made our schedule completely clear. Now we have no excuse for our lack of devotion and prayer.

(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



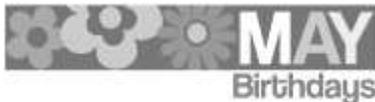
Please keep our prayer list up to date.

If someone should be added or removed from the prayer list, please submit their name in writing.  
*Thank you!*



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

**Call Ruth Holden at 968-1933**



- 3 - Kameron Pierce
- 5 - Andrew Clement
- 9 - Brandon Cornell  
Payton Nelson  
Mike Young
- 14 - Brenda Wyant
- 21 - Austin Clement
- 23 - Doris Wyant
- 24 - Zea Ann Dutton
- 27 - Kim Hall



- 13 - Pete & Sue Simmons
- 14 - Ken & Doris Wyant
- 20 - Jeremy & Dawn  
Wildrick-Cole
- 28 - Mark & Claire Morris



Do you know of someone who needs a note of cheer? Someone who might be sick, in the hospital, has a birthday, or has a loved one who has passed away?

If you do, please call **Sue Simmons at 585-968-1135**. She is the UMW's **Cheer person**. She sends out cards to those in need of some cheer, so please contact her to let her know.

Statistics      Needed: \$1,767

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
3/22			\$ 720.00
3/29			\$ 820.00
4/5			\$1,825.00
4/12			
4/19			
4/26			

May  
Helping  
Hands



Usher:  
Jim Travis

Acolyte:  
Chris Hupp

Pianist:  
Christine Berardi

Altar Guild:  
Claire Morris

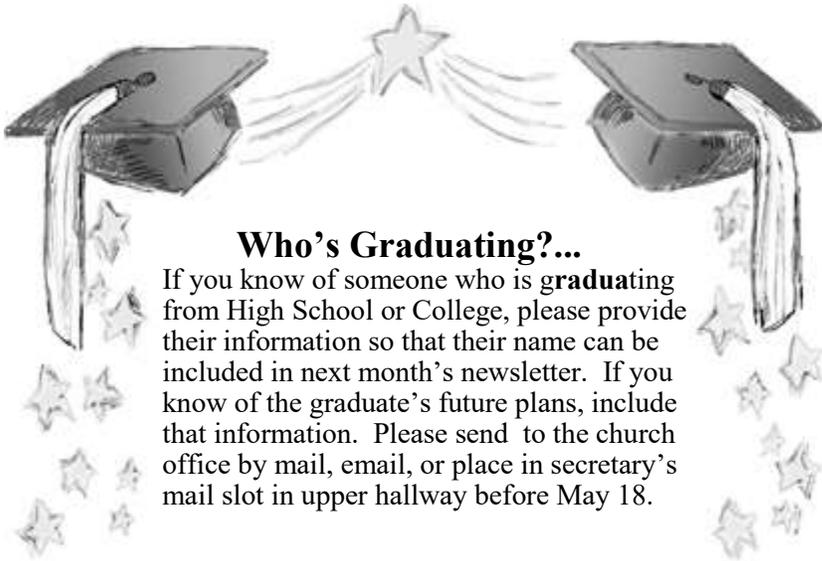


**Alice Sweet has three new great grandchildren:**

Brooke West had a boy born on April 6, 2020.

Jason Stadler and Janelle Goodrich had a girl born on April 7, 2020.

Jacob James and Courtney Goodley had a boy born on April 8, 2020.



### Who's Graduating?...

If you know of someone who is **graduating** from High School or College, please provide their information so that their name can be included in next month's newsletter. If you know of the graduate's future plans, include that information. Please send to the church office by mail, email, or place in secretary's mail slot in upper hallway before May 18.

### FRUIT PUNCH

Shirley Poore



- 1 (46 oz) unsweetened orange juice
- 1 (46 oz) unsweetened pineapple juice
- 1 (46 oz) pink grapefruit juice
- 2 qts. ginger ale
- 1 cup sugar

Blend juices and sugar. Add ginger ale just before serving. (This is a Cuba United Methodist recipe over 50 years old)



You can watch **video Devotions & Sunday Sermons from Pastor Becky** during the



Pandemic on our website, [www.cubaumc.org](http://www.cubaumc.org). Go to "Sermons" page for list of archived videos.

Her messages are also available on DVDs for people who are unable to view the videos on the website. Contact Jim.

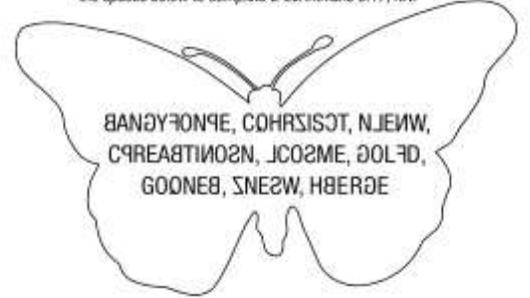
The videos are also posted on the Cuba UMC Facebook page.



## Transformation**POWER**

Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly, God transforms us from old to new.

Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, *NIV*.

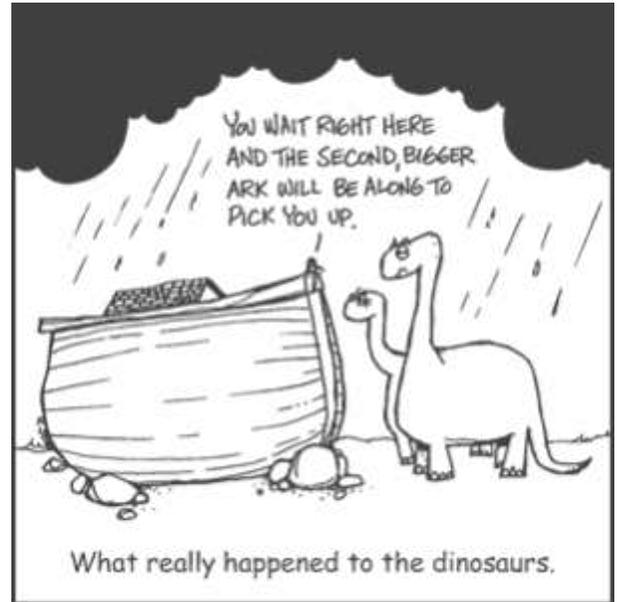


Therefore, if \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_:

The \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_!

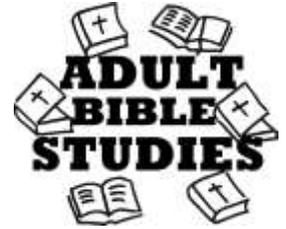
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, *NIV*

Answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here



## **SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

As I write this, we are in the middle of the Corona virus pandemic. Our church has been closed to meetings, Sunday School, and even church.



While we are not meeting, our class has been given the opportunity to borrow books for Christian reading. Choice of topics include: heaven, hell, near death experiences (NDE), miraculous answers to prayer, tough questions about suffering and evil, children's encounters with miracles, angels, and God, and miraculous events that happened to people in the ER. These books are available for reading by signing them out on the paper in the Adult Sunday School room. (Books are there also)

It is my hope that by the time you read this, the pandemic will be over. In the meantime, keep the faith, pray for others, and do acts of kindness (even if it is only making a phone call.) May God's blessing be upon you.

Cheryl

*(Pastor Becky's Letter - Continued from Page 1)*

### **2. Time to reflect on the goodness of God**

With our schedules completely or almost completely free we may be tempted to spend this time binge-watching television. However, I want to encourage you to take some time to reflect on the goodness of God. Many of us have not been hit with the coronavirus and therefore we have to thank God for our health. So many mercies God has bestowed upon us that we often take for granted but now is a great time to be grateful and draw closer to our Savior.

### **3. Time to spend with your family**

Our 21st-century lifestyle has so often been a destroyer of family life. Many of us are too busy trying to make ends meet that we forget to spend time with our loved ones. It's quite ironic that now, in the midst of our fast-paced lifestyle that God has very literally forced us to slow down. During this COVID-19 pandemic, while under lockdown, we can spend quality time with our families and begin to repair the bridges that might have been torn down.

### **4. Time to relax and reduce stress**

Stress is a huge contributor to ruined mental health. Usually, this stress comes from running back and forth to work or school or stress about financial problems. Although these stresses still remain during this pandemic, we can now take the time to relax, sleep in late and do less, which can increase our mental health.

In the midst of these uncertain, confusing, fast-changing, unsettled times, Christ doesn't change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He will not leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). He is your rock of refuge, a very certain help in time of need (Psalm 46).

This too will pass, and what joy we will have to be all together again when it does!

Blessings,

Pastor Becky



## DUDLEY TAILS

*Submitted by Cheryl Wildrick*

Miss Kitty arrived in early winter when the temperature had dropped and light snow had begun to fall. At first she was undetectable when WE exited our house and walked down the steps that were in the breezeway. After studying our routine, Miss Kitty became braver and would come out from under the steps to be petted.

My husband (who isn't usually a fan of cats) took pity on Miss Kitty as the weather got colder and put out a bowl of cat food. (She had access to water.) Long story short — by the time the temperature dipped lower and the snow became higher, Miss Kitty had her own apartment. She had a comfy “livingroom” under the steps, and she had her own “bedroom” (a covered heated wooden box with a blanket inside.)

Realization #1: Just as a master can provide for animals in his care, our Master can provide for our needs. Paul says, “put your hope in God who richly provides us with everything...” (1 Timothy 6:17)

The first time that Tucker and Dudley went bounding down the steps into the breezeway (and saw Miss Kitty)... all three stood deathly still. The boys were so surprised! And so was Miss Kitty. Each was frozen in place. Then, (at the exact same time), the boys ran, “full speed ahead”... and Miss Kitty took off like a shot. Dudley's mater shouted to get the attention of the boys... while Miss Kitty disappeared through the dense trees. As days went on... the behavior of these three, de-escalated. One day, when his master was carrying Dudley from the car to the house, Miss Kitty ran out from her livingroom. She saw Dudley (who was not barking) and stopped in her tracks. This was the time for introductions. Dudley's master leaned down until he and Miss Kitty were inches apart. Miss Kitty was curious, but as their eyes met, Dudley began to tremble. For some reason, Dudley was not so brave... even though he was in the arms of his master.

Realization #2: In times of perceived trouble, we may feel afraid, even though our Master is only a heartbeat away. The Psalmist said, “you (God) are my hiding place, you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.” (Psalms 32:7) Another psalm says, “God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.” (Psalms 46:1-2)

About a month after Miss Kitty arrived, Dudley finally realized that (about twice a day) his master was pouring milk into a bowl, and then adding some delightful-smelling food from a small round can. His anticipation grew until his master took the bowl outdoors. He ran as fast as he could toward the door, but it always closed just before he got there. When his master came back into the house, the bowl was no where to be seen.

After the realization of where the disappearing bowl went, Dudley began coming into the kitchen whenever he saw his master take out a small, round can. Or whenever he heard milk being poured into the bowl. He did his best to be noticed: he sat in the middle of the kitchen and whined. And, he was attached like glue whenever the master moved. Nothing he did worked.

Was Dudley hungry? No. Did Dudley need attention? He thought so. Was Dudley jealous that Miss Kitty was getting his master's attention? 'Most likely. What Dudley needed to remember was that no one could take his master's love from him.

Realization #3: Just as Dudley's master would not desert him for Miss Kitty... our Master will never forsake us for any reason. God said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Thank God who provides for our needs,  
 Thank God who protects us from trouble,  
 Thank God who never forsakes us!



## CHURCH MOVIE NIGHT

Wed. May 20, 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!



There is one relationship in this mortal life which effortlessly scores above all other known relationships on this Earth. Feeling confused?

Don't scratch your head too much as that extraordinary relationship is none other than that of the mother, which is truly priceless in terms of her countless love, dedication, and devotion towards her family. To acknowledge the presence of all mothers around the globe, Mother's Day is celebrated across more than 46 countries of the world. This is truly a special day for the mothers who are mostly underrated in this male-dominated society. Let us throw some light into the occasion with the help of various detailed information in the form of origin, the reason for celebration, modes of celebration and other essential facts.

### Origin of Mother's Day

The present-day celebration of Mother's Day began in the year 1908 when Anna Jarvis organized a memorial for her mother, Ann Jarvis, a peace activist who used to care the wounded soldiers of the American Civil War. The event was held at the St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, which currently holds the International Mother's Day Shrine. Anna Jarvis began the task of getting support for the celebration of Mother's Day in the United States in 1905 after her mother died the same year. She wanted to honor all the mothers of the world who have done a lot for their family and society.

Due to her continuous efforts, most of the US states by 1911 started celebrating Mother's Day as a local holiday and the West Virginia, the home state of Jarvis became the first state to declare the holiday for the occasion in the year 1910. Finally, the second Sunday of May was officially designated as Mother's Day in the USA and was declared as a national holiday after Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President of United States of America signed the proclamation in the year 1914. In this way, the present Mother's Day came into existence in the USA and the same date is also selected by countries like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Italy, Singapore, Belgium, and a lot more other countries.

### Why do we celebrate Mother's Day?

Mother's Day is an occasion which is celebrated in various parts of the world to express respect, honor, and love towards mothers. The day is an event to honor the contribution of mothers, acknowledge the efforts of maternal bonds and the role of mothers in our society. Although, different countries celebrate the occasion on different dates, the common months of the celebrations are March or May. Mother's Day is a similar effort like other celebrations like Father's Day, Siblings Day, Grandparents Day and others.

It is a day which makes people remember the importance and significance of mothers in their life and is observed as a day to give special emphasis to the motherly figures around the world.  
From "Ferns N Petals" website

**NO WORSHIP SERVICE UNTIL AT LEAST AFTER APRIL 15**



# 2020

Visit Church Website [www.cubaumc.org](http://www.cubaumc.org) for updates on status of Church services, meetings & activities.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Events may change due to the COVID-19 situation					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
HAPPY Mothers Day						UMW Meeting CANCELED
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	June Newsletter Deadline Noon Tai Chi Class 7 pm	Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am ?	Movie Night 6pm	Tai Chi Class 9 am		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Tai Chi Class 7 pm	Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am ?		Tai Chi Class 9 am		
31						
Gil's Hills Ministry Offering						

# The Shepherd's Messenger

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

«AddressBlock»

*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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Cell Phone: (716) 307-1768  
Home: (716) 373-4332

Pastor's Office Hours:  
Tuesday 9 am - 3 pm  
Wednesday 9 am - 11 am

**BE STRONG** and **COURAGEOUS.**  
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,  
for the Lord your God  
will be with you wherever  
you go  
*Psalm 138*