

December 2018

The Shepherd's Messenger



Peace

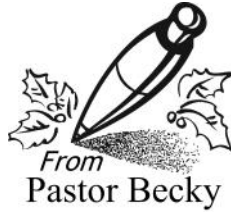


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KNOWING JESUS AS THE
 GOOD SHEPHERD & SHARING
 THE RISEN CHRIST WITH ALL.

Keep Jesus at the Center of Your Celebration



From
 Pastor Becky

It's beginning to look (and sound) a lot like Christmas! Advent and Christmas festivities are in full swing. People are heading to the shops and stores looking for that perfect gift for those they love. Neighbors are donning their homes with lights and colorful Christmas characters. The sights and sounds remind us that the Christmas (Advent) season is upon us.

Christmas preparations fill our time with decorating, purchasing, wrapping, traveling, and celebrating. Christmas parties, special events, and gatherings help us experience the joy and good cheer of the season, but also make a full schedule even fuller. Sometimes we might wonder if we will have the time to get everything done before December 25th. We may even start looking past Christmas, yearning for Christmas to be over so we can finally rest and relax.

Those of us who follow Jesus want to make sure that all the Christmas celebrations and preparations don't crowd out the true reason for the season; Jesus. In our pursuit to celebrate Christmas, Jesus sometimes gets left out.

With all the hustle and bustle, we have to be intentional to keep Jesus at the center of our celebration. If we don't pay attention, Jesus can slip out of focus and we might not even notice.

There were many who looked past Jesus the faithful morning of his birth. People were busy going about their day and living their lives. They weren't concerned about Christmas trees or making Eggnog, but they had other tasks keeping them busy.

Only a few discovered what God was doing in that feeding trough in Bethlehem. The shepherds heard the Good News of Jesus' birth from angels and went to see God's gift of love, then went back praising God and sharing the Good News of great joy with all. The Magi were far away following a star when Jesus was born. They were actively seeking the true King but would arrive about two years after Jesus' birth.

Those who encountered Jesus would never be the same. The world would never be the same. God loved the world so much that he gave...he gave his one and only son. While celebrating the miracle of Jesus' birth may we not miss the reality of his life.

May you keep Jesus at the center of your celebration and may he bring you hope, love, joy, and peace.

Blessings,
Pastor Becky

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Our World situation
The Rothfus Family
Naomi Scoville/Kosovo

For those at other residences...

PINES - OLEAN
Connie Battistoni

Others to keep in prayer:

Norma Andrus
Wayne Botens
Hazel Cornell
David Edwards
Linda Enderle
Nancy Frazier
Luke Fries
Gabriella
Tyler Griffin
David Halstead
Donna Hart
Bernie Hawks
Sandy Lathrop
Jim Maxim
Mary McCarthy
Mark Middaugh
Mary Ellen Moriarty
Justin Murphy
Keith Pearce
Laroy Spateholts
Lon Sweet
JoAnn Viglietta
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.

You can write prayer requests in the attendance pads on Sundays, or drop your request off at the office, or email. *Thank you!*

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

December 2 Brocton Tri-Church Parish. Pastor Barb Brewer and her family.

December 9 Busti Federated Church. Pastor Lee O'Brien, his wife Carol and their family.

December 16 Centerville UMC. Mr. Bob Schooley, his wife Karen and their family.

December 23 Charlotte Center & Pleasant Valley UMCs. Mr. Chuck Wittenbrook, his wife Kelly and their family.

December 30 Cherry Creek UMC. Pastor John Dedloff, his wife Liz and their family.

Statistics

Needed: \$1,548

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
10/28	52	18	\$2,575.00
10/28		Rothfus	\$ 70.00
11/4	44	12	\$1,861.00
11/4	Naomi/Rothfus		\$75/\$20
11/11	49	13	
11/11	Nomi/Rothfus		\$50/\$25
11/18	43	13	\$1,375.00
11/25	43	15	\$1,150.00
11/25	Rothfus		\$ 45.00

December Helping Hands

Usher:

Jim Travis



Pianist:

Christine Berardi

Organist:

Jonathan Denham

Acolyte:

Chris Hupp

Altar Guild:

Cindy Dutton
Thela Snow

Coffee Hour:

12/16 JoAnn & Mary Hupp



3 Robert Amundson
4 Rhonda Cornell
9 Jared Battistoni
15 Pamela Higby
16 Virginia Clayson
20 Janet Calcagno
25 Jesus Christ
28 Sandra Allen
Andy Nelson



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

Call Sandra Allen at 968-2137 or 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.**



12 John & Mary Hupp
15 Alan & Judy Zayac
28 Dean & Cheryl Wildrick



DATE DROP COOKIES

Deb Battistoni

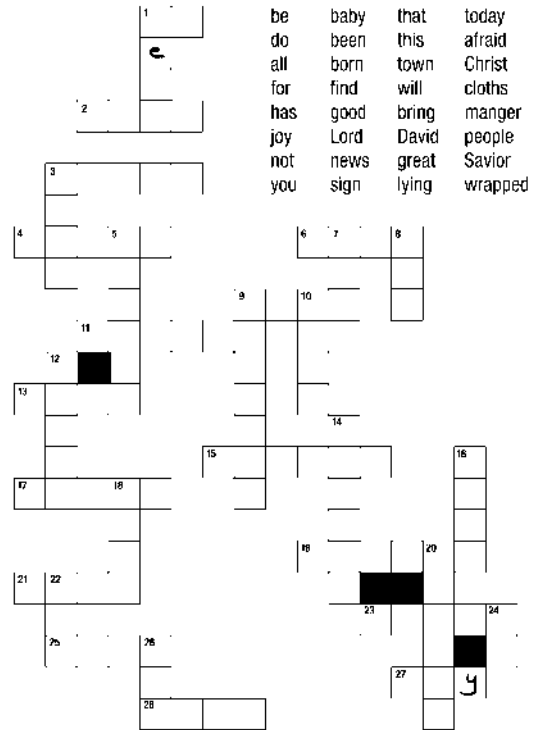


- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 cups cut up dates
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Mix cookie dough and chill. Shape into 1 inch balls. Bake on greased cookie sheets at 375° for 12 minutes. Frost while still warm. I recommend these as Christmas cookies, with red or green frosting.

Puzzle!

The word list contains the angel's Christmas message to the shepherds. Fit those words into the crossword squares. Then write them on the correct lines below to complete Luke 2:10-11, NIV.



24 _____ 26 _____ 1A _____ 5 _____ 3A _____ 8 _____ 13 _____ 18 _____
of _____ the _____
_____ in the _____ of _____ a _____ 20 _____ 22 _____ 1C _____
_____ to _____; he is _____ the _____." Luke 2:10-11, NIV
3D _____ 8 _____ 19 _____ 10 _____

Answer: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

Thanks for your help, 18 flood buckets, including six from the United Methodist Women, were assembled for the Upper New York Conference. Special thanks to Jim Daly for his help in transporting the buckets. Working together, we *can* make a difference!

There is an article entitled "Journey of a Bucket" that can be accessed on the web. You can google it by searching "Journey of a Bucket"



Photo by Peggy Pearce

UMW News: Notes from November 17, 2018 Meeting



- Janet advised the new coffee maker had been purchased and is up and running.
- Peg indicated that 18 flood buckets had been sent out. She informed us how the flood buckets were handled from origin to destination. Thela suggested that we may want to consider hygiene buckets for our next project.
- Mission work was discussed. We discussed many options including \$100 gift certificates from the Giant and \$150 gift certificates from Walmart. Someone will check with Megan Cusomano about families in need.
- Officer election will be in January.
- The Christmas gift tree will be put up on November 25, 2018.
- Thela provided a talk with pictures about her very interesting trip to Haiti.

ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES with Cheryl



October 20, 2018 changed my life forever. It also changed the lives of my husband, our daughter, our son-in-law and our two grandsons. It was the night that our fifteen-year-old grandson took his own life.

Shock, confusion and tears filled the days ahead. There seemed to be a hole in our hearts that could not be filled. 'But, with time, God is filling and mending our hearts.

At the Remembrance Service, we sang Hymn of Promise (P.707) which I later shared with the Adult Sunday Class. Verse four says, "In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

Yes, when our earthly life ends, it will truly be a new beginning. Yes, when our time comes, we will experience infinity. Yes, when we doubt, it can be turned into believing through faith. Yes, in our life, we can have the hope of eternity in our hearts through Jesus. Yes, in our death there is a resurrection for Believers. Yes, in the Believer's last breath there is victory, because the Lord has overcome Death. All these things are unrevealed to the Christian now, but will be revealed when it is time. Only God can see all things now. But we can believe what God's word tells us... and the Bible says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31)

Our class also looked up Bible verses of comfort and hope. I share them with you here:

"May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise" (Psalm 119:76)

"I will wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope" (Psalm 130:5)

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in Prayer" (Romans 12:12)

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13)

"Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13:6-7)

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1)

I believe I will see Charlie again, in the future. For now, I rest upon the promises of God. And I am grateful for my Christian friends who have been the arms and hands of Jesus, supporting our extended family in our time of sorrow.

Thank you. And God bless you.

Love, Cheryl



The Salvation Army's Cuba Service Unit Red Kettle Campaign has begun. Last year, this unit raised over \$5,000 and provided 30 Cuba households with almost \$4,200 of assistance. The program helped with food, clothing, rent, utility bills and medical expenses! Without the support of the local community charity organizations, agencies and individuals, this never benefit could never be as successful as it is. And a special thank you to the Berardi family, and the managers and employees of the Cuba Giant for allowing us to ring there through the season!

Members and Friends of the Cuba United Methodist Church are asked to ring the bell on **Tuesday December 11 and Wednesday December 19, in two hour shifts from 9am through 6pm. Sign up sheets are in the back of the Church.** The first person on the day gets the stand and bells from the Service Desk at Giant. The last shift returns the stand and bells to the Service Desk. Thank you so much! Suzanne Krull, Cuba Cultural Center and Cindy Dutton, CUMC



DUDLEY TAILS

Submitted by Cheryl Wildrick

Dudley has been behaving differently lately. Usually he is rather predictable: first thing in the morning he wants out... then breakfast, and then a short nap on the loveseat. Later he will "woof" to go out... and in... and out... On days that we visit at the hospital, he gets well brushed and taken to the car. He finds all this predictable. Other predictable routines are: watching me feed the chickens, giving him supper, and taking him for a walk. But, the routine that he doesn't like is when I hurry to the door, go start the car, and drive away. He never

knows how long I will be gone.

If I have been gone a long time, or (especially) if I have been gone somewhere each day for several days in a row, Dudley becomes clingy. He doesn't like me to be out of his sight. If I get up, he gets up. If I go upstairs, he follows me upstairs. If I am moving about the kitchen, he is always under-foot. He seems to fear a separation from his master, but doesn't know what to do about it. He becomes uneasy, and sometimes depressed.

Many of us have experienced something similar. We feel at a distance from our Master. We haven't experienced His presence for a while. We long for His voice and His touch. We also, may become uneasy or depressed.

Do not expect your Master to drive back to your house, enter, and call your name, like I do with Dudley. But, there are things that we can do, to feel our Master's presence with us, and to become calm and secure. They are:

1. Be still (Psalm 46:10) Just be still. No talking. No background noise. No napping.
2. Call upon Him. (Psalm 145:18) Use His name. Jesus, Lord, Savior, Redeemer, Good Shepard, Counselor, Lover of my soul.
3. Cast your anxieties on Him. (1 Peter 5:7) (Philippians 4:6) Don't hold them in. Let Him carry your burdens. Let Him give you relief.

Earth is not perfect. At sometime in our lives we will feel discouraged, lonely, overworked, overwhelmed, or unloved. Do not give in to despair. Our Lord Jesus came to give us life. And life abundantly. Amen!

Offering Envelopes

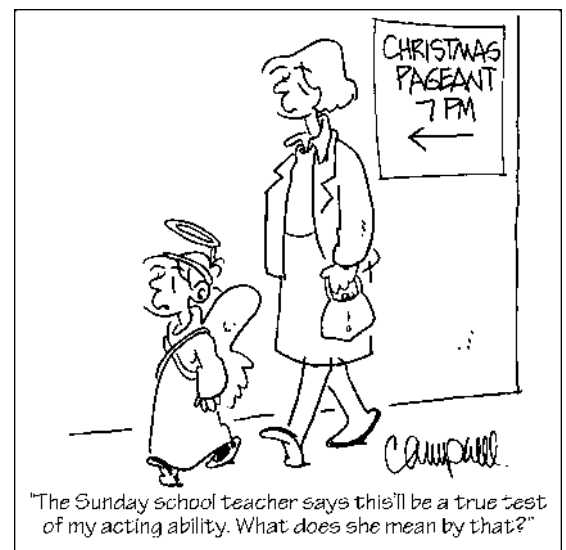


Please see Sylvia Clement Financial Sec. if you would like the assigned numbered weekly offering envelopes for 2019. Anyone who already has assigned envelopes, they will be ready for pickup in back of church Dec. 9th.



Christmas Eve Service

The Cuba UMC Christmas Eve Candle Light Service is at 7:00 pm.



News from the Cuba Council of Churches:

Submitted by: Cindy Dutton



The Crop Walk earned a total of \$4245.18. Some goes to World hunger projects, much of it stays here.

Food Pantry Report. Food assistance was given twice in Sept., six times in Oct., and twice so far in Nov. Gas assistance was only used once in the three month period. Since the Food Pantry is very full now but will be emptied on Distribution Day, people were asked to continue to remind congregations of food needs throughout the winter.

Holiday Assistance Report. The goal of \$14,000 necessary has almost been reached. Family Dollar, Cuba Pharmacy Gift Nook and Cuba Giant Food Mart will participate in the program this year by accepting gift vouchers. November 23 is the firm cutoff date for families to apply for Holiday Assistance. Drop off Day for new toys and new and gently used clothes is Dec. 10 at the First Baptist Church. CRCS Elementary School students will bring their donations to the Church on the 10th at 8:45am. The CRCS football team will move food pantry items from the basement up to the Church Hall on the 10th. Sorting day is the following day, Dec. 11. **All churches are asked to send helpers from 8am-10:30. Distribution Day is Thursday Dec. 13, from 8:30-11:30, and again from 6-7:30. Again, volunteers from all churches are needed.** All who donate to the Holiday Assistance Fund are in a drawing for a free family portrait by Williamson Photography. The winner will be drawn at the Thanksgiving-Advent Service on Nov. 25. Also new this year is a gift of a tote bag from White Imprints to all who donate a nonperishable item to the Food Pantry.

The Escroban Family Concert on Oct. 21 earned a love offering of \$912 for the refugee family. About 40 were in attendance at NPWC.

The Thanksgiving Advent (ThankVent) Service on Nov 25 will be hosted by First Baptist and Rev. Sullivan will give the message. Other churches will participate in parts of the service. Nettie White will direct the choir, hopefully with members from all Cuba churches' choirs.

New members were elected for the Scholarship Committee, which will give a \$500 college scholarship in June. Mary Hupp agreed to accept the nominations from High School Seniors who live or worship in the CR School District. A committee of Hupp, Sullivan and Cusumano, will review applications and recommend a recipient.

Church families are invited to participate in the Chamber of Commerce sponsored Small Town Christmas on Dec 1 in several ways: by making cookies for Santa's arrival at Genesee Park at 5pm...and for families to loan unusual Nativity Scenes to the Chamber to have on display at their Office all day on Dec. 1st.

North Park Wesleyan will be participating in a **Small Town Christmas on Dec. 1** by providing a Living Nativity at Chamberlain Park from 6-8pm. Several scenes from the Nativity Story will be depicted throughout the Park. The narration will be broadcast on the internet which can be accessed from a smart phone as you drive around the Park.



Council of Churches officer positions for the 2019/2020 term: President, Nettie White; VP, Rev. Jon Ward; Secretary, Cindy Dutton; Treas., Mike Kunz.

WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY 11:00 AM

DECEMBER

2018

SUNDAY SCHOOL For All Ages 9:45 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion Naomi Offering UMW Food Pantry Collection	3 Charge Conference 7 pm at our church	4 Prayer Group 10 am - 11 am	5 Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm Management Team Meeting 6:45 pm	6	7	8
9 Brunch after Worship Service	10	11 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Sorting Day at First Baptist 8am-10:30 am Ring Bell @ Giant 9 am - 6 pm	12 Bible Study 6 pm	13 Distribution Day at First Baptist 8:30am - 11:30 6pm-7:30pm	14	15 UMW Meeting 10 am
16 Coffee Hour after worship	17 January Newsletter Deadline - Noon	18 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am	19 Bible Study 6 pm Ring Bell @ Giant 9 am - 6 pm,	20	21	22
23	 Candlelight Service Christmas Eve Service 7 pm	 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 Bible Study 6 pm	27	28	29
30 Rothfus Offering	31					

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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 office. email address, or drop articles off to the church office.

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