

The Shepherd's Messenger



Christmas, the season of gifts.

Sure, yeah, I know...it's the season of love. But let's get real. I mean, it's not like gifts aren't a huge part of it. And, actually, that's ok. Gifts were part of Christ's advent on earth since the very beginning. Even the idea of God sharing His Son with the world was the idea of giving the world the greatest gift it had ever received. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (1 Corinthians 9:15) It's good to remember who the giver of all good gifts is. "Every good thing given, and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights..." (James 1:17). The coming of Christ that we celebrate during the Christmas season was an incredible gift. And how should we respond to this gift?

The wise men responded with gifts of their own, gifts that represented their understanding of who this King was, who had been born. This Christmas season, we'll be examining those gifts and thinking of our own response to our Savior. What gifts should we bring, in response to the gift of God's Son?

This Christmas, as you give and receive gifts, remember who originated the giving of gifts at Christmas time. God gave the perfect gift. When we give good gifts, we think about the person and try to imagine what they would need most. That's what God did for us! Let's remember His gifts to us, and how we should respond to him, as we give and receive gifts this year.

Christmas is one of my favorite times of year at Cuba United Methodist Church and I hope that you and your family are already making plans to join us throughout Advent. It is a terrific time to prepare our hearts for Christmas. Bring your friends and family as we celebrate together the Savior of the World!

Blessings,

Pastor Becky



Pastor Becky's Letter	1
Prayer List	2
December Celebrations	2
December Helping Hands	2
Statistics	2
Deaths	2
UMW News	3
UMW Gil's Hills Project	3
Recipe	4
Adult Bible Study	4
"Dudley Tails"	5
Council of Churches News	6
Puzzle	6
December Calendar	7



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

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Our World situation
Naomi Scoville /Kosovo

Others to keep in prayer:



Norma Andrus
Family & fiends of Connie Battistoni
Bob & Sandy Beard
Hazel Cornell
Missy Dabolt
David Edwards
Family & friends of Bill Fraser
Nancy Frazier
Brian Fries
Tyler Griffin
Don Hall
David Halstead
Donna Hart
Katie Kellogg
Sandy Lathrop
Lynn Manning
Mark Middaugh
Nellie Moses
Justin Murphy
Keith Pierce
Laroy Spateholts
Alice Sweet
JoAnn Viglietta
James Woodruff
Ken Wyant
Family & friends of Timothy 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!



- 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



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



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

**Call Sandra Allen
at 968-2137
or Ruth Holden
at 968-1933**

Statistics Needed: \$1,659

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
11/3	53		\$2,913.00
11/3		Naomi	\$ 809.00
11/10	48		\$1,317.00
11/17	61		\$1,202.25
11/24	44		\$ 587.00
11/24	U.M. Student Day		\$ 25.00

December Helping Hands

Usher:
Jim Travis



Acolyte:
Chris Hupp

Pianist:
Christine Berardi

Altar Guild:
Cindy Dutton
Thela Snow



Thank you everyone for the prayers, cards, and well wishes! I am doing well.

Judy Zayac



William Fraser, Companion of Sue Feldbauer, passed away at his home on Nov.13, 2019. A Celebration of Life Service was held at the Cuba UMC on November 22. Pastor Becky officiated.

Timothy J. Wyant, Son of Kenneth (Doris) Wyant, and brother of Kenneth (Brenda) Wyant Passed away on Nov. 6, 2019. There was a private family gathering.

Concetta "Connie" Battistoni, Mother of David (Deb) Battistoni, passed away on November 11, 2019 at the Pines of Olean. There was a private family celebration of Connie's life.

UMW NEWS

Submitted by Sharry Semans



The UMW met on November 16, 2019. Nominations for officers will be taken and voted upon at our next meeting, which is December 21, 2019, at 10:00 AM. If anyone is interested, please see Janet Calcagno, and/or attend the next meeting.

Each year, the UMW is asked by organizations for assistance and/or donations. As you are most likely aware, the UMW has spearheaded fundraising, and given much of their time to support those organizations. However, we could not have done it without you! At this time, the UMW would like to thank the congregation for their generosity in helping us reach those goals.

The UMW would like to end the year, and begin 2020 by supporting Gil's Hills. Gil's Hills is a nondenominational Christian children and youth organization which is located in Wellsville. Peggy Pierce will be furnishing the congregation with more information, including a "Needs List" from the organization. UMW intends to support the organization by donating to the Needs List and, again, will also ask for your contributions. Look for upcoming information on this project.

In addition to Gil's Hills, UMW will continue their Christmas Holiday tradition by giving gift certificates from the Giant and Walmart for as many as four families this year. UMW will work with Megan Cusomano to determine which families will receive the gifts.

UMW sincerely thanks all the congregation for their assistance and generosity throughout the year. Because of you, UMW is able to continue to assist and support these many worthwhile causes.

UMW wishes everyone a Joyful and Happy Holiday Season.

UMW Gil's Hills Project

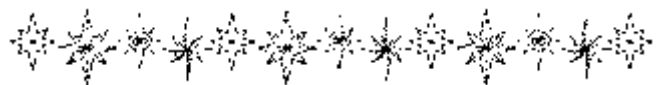
In the early 1950s Gil Parker purchased 50 acres of land in the Wellsville area to create a place for youth camping. Over time this ministry grew and now a variety of ministries are offered by this 501(c)(3) non-for-profit organization. Their mission statement reads: "Reaching children and youth with the gospel of Jesus Christ by communicating the love of God through **friendship, counseling and service.**"

The United Methodist Women are gathering supplies for the ministry. If you would like to help, collection boxes are located in the church foyer. Listed below are **some of the items on Gil's Hills' current wish list:**

Kitchen Supplies: paper towels, **9" sectional Styrofoam plates, 10 oz.** drinking cups (hot/cold), cake mixes, brownie mixes, packaged cookies, Crystal Lite (fruit punch or lemonade), gift certificates to Giant/Tops/Save-a-Lot for perishable items.

Office Supplies: manila folders, 20-lb. bright white copy paper.

Craft Supplies: masking tape, inexpensive paper plates, scotch tape, cardboard egg cartons, Walmart/Dollar Tree gift certificates.



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

The Cuba UMC Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service is at
6:00 pm.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY 9:45 am

During the months of October and November, the adult class looked at Biblical answers to the following questions:

1. How does what you believe, affect you when you die?
2. Why are many Christians not motivated to share their faith?
3. Does a “place of punishment” exist (after death) for evil doers?
4. What does heaven look like, and what will we do there?
5. In heaven, how will we know our friends and relatives?
6. In the Bible, why is the word “spirit” sometimes capitalized and some times not capitalized?
7. In Exodus 31:3, what are craftsmen filled with?
8. Gideon, a Jewish judge, led the Jews in battle. What came upon him? (Judges 6:34)
9. What were the last words of David? (2Samuel 23:2)
10. Who made Job’s friend Elihu? (Job 33:4)
11. What did David’s confession ask God to do? (Psalm 51:10)
12. What did David’s confession ask God not to do? (Psalm 51:11)



The **Salvation Army's Cuba Service Unit Red Kettle Campaign has begun.** Last year, this unit raised almost \$5,000 and provided Cuba and Friendship households with food, clothing, rent, utility bills and medical expenses. 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 10, in two hour shifts from 10am through 7pm. The sign up sheet is in the back of the Church. It's never too early to sign up!

The first person on the day gets the stand and bells from the Service Desk at Giant. The last person returns the stand and bells to the Service Desk.

Thank you so much!

Cindy Dutton, CUMC, and Suzanne Krull, Cuba Cultural Center

SWEDISH CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Doris Wyant

Cream:

1 cup butter or margarine

¾ cup sugar

Add:

2 egg yolks

1 tsp. almond extract

Mix together and add to creamed mixture:

2½ -2¾ cups flour

dash salt

also: 4 TBS chopped almonds,



Mix all and chill 30 minutes. Divid dough into six portions. Roll each portion to make a rope about 24” long. Cut each rope into 2” pieces. Place on cookie sheets.

Brush with:

1 egg white, slightly beaten. Sprinkle with sugar and almonds. Bake 375° for 10 minutes or until cookies are firm and slightly brown at edges. Let cool on pan 2 minutes before removing to wire racks.



DUDLEY TAILS

Submitted by Cheryl Wildrick

Last winter I suffered with allergies. After I finally went to an allergist, I was told to do a number of things to my bedroom. One suggestion was to buy an air purifier.

Up to that point, Tucker slept in his dog bed at the foot of my bed. And Dudley had been crated in the bedroom at night since he was a puppy. I purchased a small air purifier for the bedroom, and the best location for it... was next to Dudley's crate. This new air purifier had a nice feature on it: a nightlight (that could change to four different colors) When I went to bed that night, I put Dudley safely into his crate. Then I crawled into bed and closed my eyes.

It wasn't long before I was awakened by whining. This was unusual. What could be the matter? (Dudley had been given his usual snack in the evening, and he had been outdoors before bedtime.) I got up, and reassured Dudley that he was fine, and there was nothing to worry about. Things were well until I crawled back into bed. Then, there was more whining.

I would have to be creative. 'Go down stairs and relax on the sofa? 'Take Dudley outdoors for a few minutes? 'Maybe bring him into bed with me? What? No. What was I thinking?

I opened the crate door for Dudley to come out. We spent several minutes sitting close together, and I petted him as I spoke softly. Then, back into the crate for him, and back into bed for me.

As I was drifting back to sleep, it began again. The whining. Now what? I'm tired. What might work? I finally decided to leave the crate door open. Dudley happily trotted out, and laid down on the carpet.

The next morning, there was Dudley – next to Tucker's bed. This new, "Open Door Policy" worked well for about a week.

One night I got out of bed and I didn't see Dudley anywhere. 'Not in the bedroom. 'Not in the hall. In the following days, I noticed that each morning something different (downstairs) was out of place. It turned out that Dudley had been sneaking downstairs (in the middle of the night) and doing things that he should not do.

If Dudley had stayed in the bedroom (like he was supposed to do)... if he had stayed close to his master, there would not have been a problem. But, Dudley, in his new-found freedom, chose to push the limits. He chose to go where he should not have gone. And, he chose to do things that he should not have done.

Sometimes we too, do not stay close to our Master. When given the opportunity, we may go where we should not go, and do what we should not do. Jesus has called us to obey Him. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Luke 1:28). Jesus said, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching." (John 14:23). And, Jesus said, "You are my friends if you obey what I command." (John 15:14)

This Christmas season may we accept God's Gift to us: Jesus Christ our Lord... and may we give our gift to God: obedience to our Savior. Amen.





Submitted by Peggy Pearce

Clergy and laity met at Christ Episcopal Church November 10 as the Council of Churches. Representatives from the Allegany County Office for the Aging were on hand to speak about their services. There are currently over 300 volunteers involved in the various programs offered, including Meals on Wheels. Cuba's participation in the Meals on Wheels program is unique in that the churches assume responsibility for delivering meals within the village.

The Thanksgiving/Advent Service will be held at our church starting at 6 p.m. on December 1st. Pastor Jonathan Ward of North Park Wesleyan Church will deliver the message and there will be music from an **adult choir (and hopefully, a children's choir)**. Anyone wishing to sing in the adult choir should be at the church at 5 p.m. for rehearsal with director Nettie White.

Small Town Christmas, December 7, is sponsored by the Cuba Chamber of Commerce. They have requested the Cuba Council of Churches Jail be on hand for the holiday celebration since it was such a hit during June Dairy Days. The jail will be parked near the flagpole. You can pay to put someone in jail, and you can pay to get someone out of jail. All money raised is earmarked for the Holiday Assistance Program.

The Cuba Council of Churches is again providing Holiday Assistance for those in need. The Baptist Church congregation generously allows their meeting hall to be used for this ministry, and there are three opportunities for you to lend a hand. On Tuesday, December 10, from 8-10:30 a.m. volunteers are needed to help sort food donations. On Thursday, December 12, donated food, store vouchers and toys will be distributed from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and from 4-6 p.m. Clean up of the hall begins at 6 p.m. on the 12th. Please consider volunteering any or all of these days/times.

The Baptist rummage rooms are in need of winter clothing for all ages. You can drop your donations at the Baptist church between 9 a.m. and noon on Fridays and Saturdays when the rummage rooms are open, or on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If the side door on South Street isn't open, ring the bell to let them know you are there. People in need are helped regardless of their ability to pay.

Puzzle!

Unscramble the Christmas-themed words below, writing each extra letter on the blank to the right. Then place those extra letters in the correct spots below to discover what we receive at Christmas.

1. TGLBEHHEME _____
2. NEAGLO _____
3. NRMEDAG _____
4. ODEKSNY _____
5. AMGYR _____
6. OHESJIP _____
7. EFJUSS _____
8. ITEENMSW _____
9. SPHHDSREEO _____
10. EMCFAL _____
11. TJSRA _____
12. CSSNUEO _____
13. HEVSPE _____
14. ENIN _____

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9		10		11		12	
13		14					

Answers: Bethlehem (?), angel (?), manger (D), donkey (S), Mary (C), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), wise men (T), shepherds (O), earned (F), star (L), census (O), sheep (V), inn (E), God's gift of love




WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY 11:00 AM



2019

SUNDAY SCHOOL for all Ages 10:45 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Naomi Mission Offering UMW Food Pantry Collection Poinsettia Order Deadline	2 Tai Chi Class 7 pm	3 Prayer Group 10 am -11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	4	5 Tai Chi Class 9 am Cub Scouts 6:00-7:30 pm	6	7 Kung Fu 6-8 am Small Town Christmas
8	9 Tai Chi Class 7 pm	10 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Food Sorting @ Baptist Church 8:30-11:30 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	11	12 Tai Chi Class 9 a Food Distribution @ Baptist Church 8:30-11:30 am and 4-6 pm Clean up 6-7:30 Cub Scouts 6-7:30 pm	13	14 Kung Fu 6-8 am
15 Coffee Hour	16 January Newsletter Deadline - Noon Tai Chi Class 7 pm	17 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am Violin Lessons 3-6 pm	18	19 Tai Chi Class 9 am Cub Scouts 6:00-7:30 pm	20	21 Kung Fu 6-8 am UMW Meeting 10 am
22	23 Tai Chi Class 7 pm	24 Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm	 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 Tai Chi Class 9 am Cub Scouts 6:00-7:30 pm	27	28 Kung Fu 6-8 am
29	30 Tai Chi Class 7 pm	31				

The Shepherd's Messenger

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



December 2019

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.

Editor/Secretary: Jim Travis

e-mail: cubasec@roadrunner.com

Office Hours:

Mon.-Thu. 8 am - 1 pm

Church Mailing address:

Cuba United Methodist Church

49 East Main Street, Cuba, NY 14727

(585) 968-1041

Please visit our Website:

www.cubaumc.org

Pastor Becky Worth:

Cell Phone: (716) 307-1768

Home: (716) 373-4332

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday 9 am - 3 pm

Wednesday 9 am - 11 am



Romans 15:12, ESV

Steps

“The root of Jesse will come ...
in him will the Gentiles

«AddressBlock»

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED