

# The Shepherd's Messenger



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



Dear Church Family,

Luke 2:12,16 says, **This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. So, they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.**

In all of the activities and events of this Christmas season, the verses above give us a sense of the very first Christmas morning. A time of excitement, yet serenity, a time of anticipation, the realization of the most blessed Gift that could ever come to humanity, Jesus Christ, the Son of God!

We are living in a day when it seems that the word "Christmas" is constantly under attack as we as Christians are encouraged to feel somehow "guilty" when it comes to this particular time. Well, let me say in as loud a "voice" as I can type... **"I'M NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL."** Romans 1:16 says, **For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.**

I want to sincerely encourage you to remember to keep Christ pre-eminent (first) in all you do and say while going through your Christmas activities.

It is important to remember that great ministry opportunities exist at this time of year. Many people struggle with depression and loneliness as memories of what "used to be" fill their minds.

By keeping Christ first, we can be sure to reach out to those around us (yes, even those who are rude) with the true message of Christmas, and that is that Jesus Christ came to earth to seek and to save that which was lost. He came to serve, not be served!

Take time as well to be faithful to Church, as well as remember to pray and read the Word, and you will be ready in ways you never dreamed possible.

Be sure to invite a friend to church! Christmas is one of the best times of the year to invite someone to attend church with you. Ask the Lord to help you think of a few people right now to invite so they too can hear the message of Christ at Christmas!

May God richly bless you at Christmas!

Pastor Becky



Wishing you a **B**lessed  
Christmas!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:  
Our World situation

Others to keep in prayer:

Norma Andrus  
Todd Baxter  
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  
James Woodruff  
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!*



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



12 John & Mary Hupp  
28 Dean & Cheryl Wildrick

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

**December 5 Clymer & North Clymer UMCs.** Pastor Kevin Costner, his wife Heather and their sons Caleb & Joshua.

**December 12 Cuba & Friendship UMCs.** Pastor Becky Worth, her husband William and their family.

**December 19 Delevan & West Valley:St. Paul's UMCs.** Pastor Candy Scarem, her husband Shannon and their family.

**December 26 Dewittville-Hartfield & Mayville UMCs** Rev. Mark Parsons, his wife Jan and their family.

<u>Statistics</u>		<u>Needed: \$1,736</u>	
Date	Worship	SS	Offering
10/24	35		\$ 922.00
10/31	42		\$1,251.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 335.00
11/7	34		\$2,793.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 50.00
11/14	48		\$1,143.00
11/21	38		\$1,510.00



December  
Helping  
Hands



Power Point:  
Rob Cornell

Pianist:  
Christine Berardi

Altar Guild:  
Cindy Dutton  
Thela Snow



**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**.



**F M K N L A D E G S C E J A T S**  
**H** → → →  
**M** ↑ **What's in a name?** ↓  
**V** ↑ An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby.  
**S** ↑ Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.  
**R** ↑ *Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the*  
**B** ↑ *arrows. Circle every other letter, and then*  
**O** ↑ *place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.*  
**L** ↑  
**Y** ↑ "S\_e w\_ll \_ \_ve b ir \_ \_  
**Q** ↑ to \_ s\_n, and \_ \_u a\_e to  
**O** ↑ gi\_e \_i\_ the \_ \_me J \_ \_us,  
**X** ↑ b\_c\_u \_ \_ he \_ill s\_e his  
**A** ↑ \_ \_op\_e f\_o\_ t\_ ir s\_n."  
**V** ↑  
**H** ↑ MATTHEW 1:21, NIV  
**R** ↑ START HERE.  
**T** ← ← ←  
**A I N G F I P H S C I B E J H A**

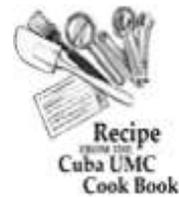
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**SWEDISH CHRISTMAS COOKIES**

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,  
 2 TSB sugar & 1 egg white



Mix all and chill 30 minutes. Divide dough into six equal portions. Roll each portion to make a rope 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*

It was morning. (Although partially obscured by gray clouds in the autumn sky) the sun could be seen above the horizon. Dudley was walking with his master through limpy grass that grew along the old orchard.

A nippy breeze blew through the orchard, causing the few remaining leaves, on the old apple trees, to detach and flutter to the ground. The autumn air was nippy... so Dudley's master grabbed the collar of the worn denim jacket that was always worn (for outdoor fall walks), and hurried ahead...

On their left, a faded, rusty pickup truck (with a load of evergreen trees in the back) rumbled up the climbing road... while on their right, a cottontail rabbit dove into the old orchard.

Up ahead, in the distance, the straight white tail of a jumping deer could be seen as it headed into a more heavily wooded area... while in the sky, a few lone geese still flew toward their destination (farther south) for the winter.

Dudley's master took a few moments to contemplate he beauty and serenity of the season.

"Dudley, isn't Gold's creation beautiful! We are so blessed! Later this evening a bright moon will rise, and we will be reminded of the birth of our Savior."

"Dudley?"

"Dudley!"

Looking downward, Dudley's master saw Dudley (at a distance) with his nose to the ground. Dudley had not looked up.

Many of us are a lot like Dudley. We spend a long time looking down and around... but not enough time looking upward.

This holy season, let us determine to look upward. Let us give thanks for God's gift of His Son, our Savior!

We Wish you a Blessed Christmas and Lots of Love,

Cheryl and Dudley

### TRUSTEE NOTES

- ◆ New LED Lights have been installed in Wesley Hall, the kitchen, and the sanctuary.



## COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NEWS

*Submitted by Peggy Pearce*



We hosted the Cuba Council of Churches meeting on November 14 with all Cuba churches represented. Anita Mattison, Allegany County Office for the Aging (OFA) Director was present, and Karen Chamberlain of the same agency attended via telephone. The OFA representatives were on hand to discuss the Meals on Wheels (MOW) program. Recent resignations, lower church attendance, and aging congregations have all impacted our present system where church members voluntarily deliver meals in the village. OFA wanted to be certain the Cuba churches were not feeling burdened by the present program. They were willing to undertake coordination of the entire weekly schedule, in cooperation with the churches, if needed. Council members felt we can continue to work under the present structure at this time. *(See related article)*

The recent CROP Walk raised a total of \$4,560 for Church World Service, a percentage of which is returned to Cuba.

The Food Pantry report for September, October and November indicated requests for food assistance each month, gas assistance in September and October, as well as requests for diapers for a COVID-quarantined family. In December, all the pantry shelves will be cleared and the food made available for families participating in the Holiday Assistance Program.

There were 27 applications for Holiday Assistance at the time of the meeting; more are expected before the deadline. Donations of \$3,945 towards the \$14,000 goal have been received to date. Help is needed on Wednesday, December 8, to get the Baptist Church fellowship hall ready for distribution day (Thursday, December 9). Volunteers will sort donations of food and other items. If you can lend a hand with this, be at the Baptist Church at 8:30 a.m. on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Council will meet again on Sunday, January 9, 2022 at the North Park Wesleyan Church starting at 5 p.m.



Cuba Council of Churches **Thanksgiving-Advent Service** will be held at our church on Sunday, November 28 at 6:00 pm.

The **service will be live streamed** to our website, [cubaumc.org](http://cubaumc.org) as well as our Cuba United Methodist Church Facebook Page.



The Meals on Wheels program in the village of Cuba relies on church congregations to deliver meals to about nine households (at this time). On Mondays Our Lady of Angels delivers; Tuesdays First Baptist Church; Wednesdays North Park Wesleyan; Fridays United Methodist. On Thursdays volunteers from various churches deliver. The route takes about an hour. Meals are picked up at the Cuba Luncheon Center at the fire hall at 11 a.m. and containers are returned to the Center at the end of the run. The volunteer receives a meal on the day they deliver and can be reimbursed for their mileage.

Retirements, resignations, aging congregations, "snow birds" all impact the success of this valuable ministry. Do you have about an hour to spare around the noon hour? Are you willing to deliver meals to your elderly neighbors? Why not contact our church coordinator, Cindy Dutton (585-307-1874) with your questions and for more information. You can also contact Karen Chamberlain from the Allegany County Office for the Aging at (585) 268-9390 or toll free 1-866-268-9390.



## Some Christmas Reminders

- \* May the Christmas GIFTS remind us of God's greatest gift, His only Son.
- \* May the Christmas CANDLES remind us of Him who is the "Light of the world."
- \* May the Christmas TREES remind us of another tree upon which he died.
- \* May the Christmas CHEER remind us of Him who said, "Be of good cheer."
- \* May the Christmas FEAST remind us of Him who is "the Bread of Life."
- \* May the Christmas BELLS remind us of the glorious proclamation of His birth.
- \* May the Christmas CAROLS remind us of the son the angels sang, "Glory to God in the Highest!"
- \* May the Christmas SEASON remind us in every way of Jesus Christ our King!



**Trustees Meeting** Wednesday, January 12, 2022  
6:00 pm

**Management Team Meeting** January 12, 2022  
6:45 pm

**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>



Go to "Sermons" page on our website  
to watch archived videos.

# December 2021

SUNDAY  
WORSHIP  
SERVICE  
11:00 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 UMW Food Pantry Collection Bible Study 9:30 am	6	7 Prayer Group 10:00 am	8 Holiday Assistance set- up at Baptist Church 8:30 am	9 Holiday Assistance Distribution at assigned times Baptist Church	10	11
12 Bible Study 9:40 am	13	14 Prayer Group 10:00 am	15	16	17	18
19 Bible Study 9:40 am	20 January Newsletter Deadline Noon	21 Prayer Group 10:00 am	22	23	24 	25 
26 Bible Study 9:40 am Gil's Hills Offering	27	28 Prayer Group 10:00 am	29	30	31	

# The Shepherd's Messenger

CUBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
49 EAST MAIN ST. • CUBA, NY 14727



*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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