

The Shepherd's Messenger



Pastor Becky's Letter	1
Prayer List	2
January Celebrations	2
January Helping Hands	2
Statistics	2
Death	2
Cheer Person	2
Cartoon	3
Puzzle	3
Recipe	3
Gil's Hills	3
Holiday Assistance 2023	4
January Calendar	5



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



What Will Grow This New Year

With the New Year celebrations come the inevitable challenges to make a “new you” for yourself. Whether it be new fitness routines or vitamin supplements, this time of year is always so predictable. We are told that it is time to remake ourselves in our own image; whatever image that may be.

It's amazing how that drive to remake ourselves goes back to Adam & Eve. Even though they were made in God's own image and likeness, they desired to remake themselves and, as the devil promised, become like their own little gods. It's a good thing for us that the celebration of New Year's (and everything that often gets dragged along with it) comes on the heels of Christmas. During Christmas we sing all of our favorite Christmas carols that remind us of what Christ came to do in this world. One of those hymns, Joy to the World, has this very relevant stanza for us:

**No more let sins and sorrows grow
 nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make His blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as the curse is found,
 far as, far as the curse is found.**

This singular stanza reaches all the way back to Genesis. It speaks of the “curse” of the Fall into Sin. It speaks of “thorns” infesting the cursed ground. But this stanza also speaks of something wonderful. This stanza speaks of the Christ coming and bringing blessings; blessings that continually flow over His church from His pierced side. It is from out of this sacrifice of Jesus that the greatest blessing occurs which this stanza also speaks of. The stanza says, “No more let sins and sorrows grow.”

We have no idea what will “grow” in this new year. We hope it is filled with good days, but I bet it is safe to say there will be trying times. Thanks to Christ though, what will grow in this new year are not our sins, but the forgiveness of our sins. Thanks to Christ, what will grow this new year are not sorrows, but a grief that is mingled with the precious hope of the resurrection of the dead which provides us the greatest of comforts.

As we begin this new year, may all of us rally together around the promises of Christ, trusting Him in all times no matter what may befall us this coming year. May we now, and always, give thanks to Christ who continually “comes to make His blessings flow”!

Blessings,
 Pastor Becky

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Our World situation
Gil's Hills Ministries



- 15- Vanessa Clement
- 16 - Rev. Bob Beard
- 17 - Amanda (Clayson) Ryder
- 18 - Janet Enderle
- 19 - Butch Holden
- 25 - Peter Simmons
- 30 - Pastor Becky Worth
- 31 - Bernie Hawks

Statistics		Needed: \$1,970	
Date	Worship	SS	Offering
12/3	30	4	\$1,992.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 50.00
12/10	34	4	\$2,050.00
		UM Student Day	\$ 10.00
12/17	33	4	\$2,133.00
12/24	33	-	
Christmas Eve Service 42			

Others to keep in prayer:

- Brad Allen
- Wayne Botens
- Frank Calcagno
- Hazel Cornell
- David Edwards
- Mary Jane Gerstung
- Don Hall
- David Halstead
- Donna Hart
- Bernie Hawks
- Andrew James
- Katie Kellogg
- Family & friends of Gabby Kranock
- Kevin Kranock
- Helen Middaugh
- Mark Middaugh
- Nellie Moses
- Justin Murphy
- Keith Pierce
- JoAnn Viglietta
- Clint Wilder
- Doris Kellogg Wyant



From the Church Secretary:

Thank you so much to all my church family for the Christmas cards and gifts.

Happy New Year to all!

Jim



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!



Gabriel "Gabby" Kranock, passed away on, December 12, 2023. Funeral Services were held on December 16, 2023 at Mark F. Rinker Funeral home & Memorial Service in Cuba.

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**.

January Helping Hands

HELPING HAND MINISTRY

Power Point:
Rob Cornell

Pianist:
Holly Scoville

Altar Guild:
Holly Scoville

Holiday Assistance 2023

The Holiday Assistance program, sponsored by the Cuba Council of Churches, assisted 43 families which included over 100 children this year. In addition, three families who were not able to be served by the program were referred to the Cuba UMW for assistance. Generous contributions to the Food Pantry from you and others in the community allowed each family to receive three bags of groceries and a few families with a larger number of children received additional bags (up to 5)! Members of the congregation from Our Lady of Angels R.C Church contributed hats and mittens for the families to select as needed. The Toys for Kids campaign allowed for gifts of new toys and clothing. A charitable ‘angel’ provided new socks, slippers and other footwear that families could select if there was a need.



On December 6th, six community volunteers arrived at the Baptist Church to help prepare for the food distribution and arrangements of the tables/gifts in the fellowship hall. They then joined the ‘bucket brigade’ with the selected 5th grade students and school staff to help bring in the food contributions from the Cuba-Rushford School population. This food helped to supplement the packed bags of groceries, as well as beginning to restock the empty food pantry shelves. The well-mannered students were treated to hot chocolate donated by the Perfect Blend as well as home baked cookies. Because of a funeral in the Church sanctuary that Wednesday afternoon, the C-R middle/high school girls’ cheer team members worked quickly and quietly to move the numbered packed bags from the stage area to the tables for distribution. They, too, were treated to some cookies.

On Thursday, Pastors Bill Beck and Jon Ward completed the paper work for the vouchers to Giant, Cuba Pharmacy and Family Dollar with the families as they came at their appointed times. “Ms. Santa Claus” and other helpers assisted families in carrying grocery bags and toy bags to their various transportation conveyances. Many hands working together helped 43 families have a merrier Christmas.

Peggy Pearce and Holly Scoville



Sunday Worship Services are streamed live at 11:00 am
on our website, www.cubaumc.org



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




Services are archived on our website and on Facebook.

Sunday School is at
9:30 am in the Adult
Sunday School room.

January 2024

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP
SERVICE
11:00 AM**

All are welcome!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 Prayer Group 10:00 am	3	4	5	6 Kung Fu 6-8 am
7 Epiphany Sunday Communion UMW Food Pantry Collection Sunday School 9:30 am	8 Tai Chi 7:00 pm	9 Prayer Group 10:00 am	10	11	12	13 Kung Fu 6:00 - 8:00 am
14 Sunday School 9:30 am	15 Tai Chi 7:00 pm Tai Chi 7:00 pm February Newsletter Deadline Noon	16 Prayer Group 10:00 am	17	18	19	20 Kung Fu 6:00-8:00 am
21 Sunday School 9:30 am	22 Tai Chi 7:00 pm	23 Prayer Group 10:00 am	24	25	26	27 Kung Fu 6:00-8:00 am
28 Sunday School 9:30 am Gil's Hills Offering	29 Tai Chi 7:00 pm	30 Prayer Group 10:00 am	31			

The Shepherd's Messenger

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2024

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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