



The Shepherd's Messenger



For many people the start of a new year means making resolutions. About 45% of Americans take part in this tradition, and there is some logic to this practice. Making a resolution is about setting a goal to strive for. All goals must have a starting point, so the beginning of a new year is as good as any. People make all kinds of resolutions, but the majority of them are the same. The top three New Year's resolutions people make are to exercise more, lose weight, and save money.

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This month millions of people are trying to start new habits to pursue one of those three goals. There is nothing wrong with any of those goals, but I notice they all have something in common. Most New Year's resolutions are goals we make for ourselves to benefit ourselves. Perhaps there is a different way we can approach New Year's resolutions.

Most New Year's resolutions begin by asking the question, "What do I need to improve myself?" But what if our starting point was **"What do I need to do to make myself more Christ-like?"** Jesus gave us the two greatest commandments: To love God with all of our mind, heart, and soul as well as love our neighbor as ourselves. If we make those commandments our starting points for setting goals, then our resolutions begin to look different. By nature, they will not be focused on us, but they will be focused on God and on others.

What would resolutions based on the two great commandments look like? It really comes down to each individual person and where they are in their faith walk, but here are some ideas. If we are to love God with our whole being, then we have to be present to God. One possibility would be to be more intentional about spending time with God. Many believers are faithful at "sentence prayers" throughout the day, but we tend to struggle with taking a block of time and sitting in silence before God. Another option in this area also deals with how we use time. For some, Sunday morning is a struggle. After a long week, it is easy to rationalize that Sunday morning is "me time." Perhaps a resolution in this area could be to make attending church and worshipping God with the community of faith a bigger priority. Worship service begins at 11:00 am on Sunday at Cuba Methodist Church.

When it comes to loving our neighbor as ourselves, a potential resolution could be to commit time to serving others. There are a multitude of organizations we can volunteer with to serve nearly any population in need. We can be intentional in finding a place where we can sacrificially give of ourselves to love others.

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



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

Others to keep in prayer:

- Bob Beard
- Craig Buckley
- Sandy Burdick
- Frank Calcagno
- Hazel Cornell
- David Edwards
- Mary Jane Gerstung
- Don Hall
- Kim Hall
- Donna Hart
- Ruth Holden
- Bob Huddleston
- Katie Kellogg
- Kevin Kranock
- Ann Meehan
- Sandi Meyers
- Helen Middaugh
- Mark Middaugh
- Justin Murphy
- Keith Pierce
- Derwood Say
- JoAnn Viglietta
- Clint Wilder
- Doris Kellogg Wyant



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


Statistics Needed: \$1,837

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
12/1	32	9	\$3,057.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 50.00
12/8	40	9	\$1,638.00
12/15	40	9	\$2,081.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 80.00
12/22	43	5	\$1,143.00



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!



Wed. January 8, 2025
Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm
Management Team 6:45 pm



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

Also on our Facebook Page





Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Was streamed live. Watch on Facebook.

January Helping Hands

Power Point:
Rob Cornell

Pianist:
Holly Scoville

Altar Guild:
Claire Morris

Videos of Services are posted on our YouTube Channel



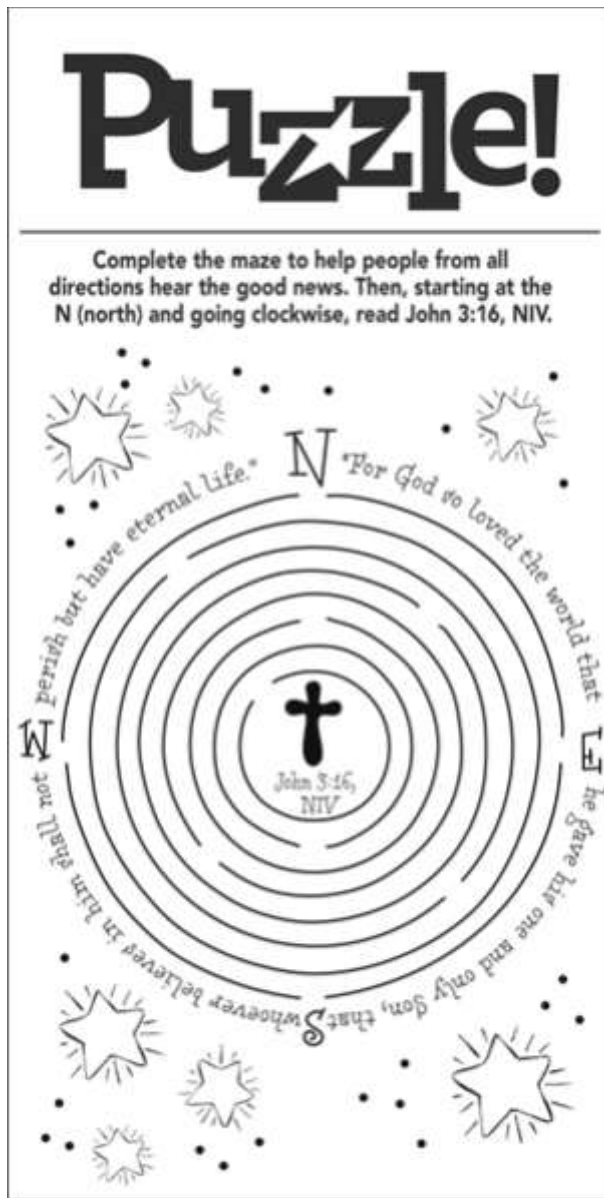
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One of the dangers of being a long time Christian is we tend to get in a church bubble, so a potential resolution could be to put ourselves in situations where we interact with and build relationships with non-Christians.

A life of Christian discipleship is meant to be one where we continually strive and grow to be more like Jesus in our thoughts and actions. As we begin 2025, perhaps a couple of goals to strive for throughout this year are exactly what some of us need to continue heading in the right direction in our faith walk. If that is you, then may you consider making some faith-based New Year's resolutions, and by the grace of God may you live them out throughout this entire year.

Blessings,

Pastor Becky



BROCCOLI BAKE

Fran Young



1 ½ bunches of broccoli (I use 2 bags of frozen chopped broccoli)

Mix together:

- 2 cups sour cream
- 1 cup regular Miracle Whip
- 1 cup cream cheese
- 1 bag fine shredded sharp cheese

Stir cheese mixture with broccoli

Topping:

- 1 ½ sleeves Ritz crackers
- 1 ½ stick butter

Crumble crackers, mix into melted butter. Brown together until the crackers have absorbed butter. Sprinkle on top of broccoli mixture. Bake 375° for 30 to 40 minutes.



We take an offering for Gil's Hills Ministry on the last Sunday of each month.



What is happening "Between the Hills" (from the Gil's Hills December 2024 Newsletter)

Wow, where has the time gone? I can't believe we are already entering the last month of the year. They say time flies when you're having fun, and we sure have been doing that! With many clubs, a couple field trips, and multiple hunting events, we haven't lacked for ways to enjoy all that God has had in store for us throughout the fall season!

Recently, we have been digging into God's word regarding Christ's love of the Church, that He gave all of Himself for it. We have discussed what the Church is (a people, not a place), and why the church should gather. In a younger boy's club, while we were gathered and going over scripture, one of the boys had a light bulb moment when he excitedly said, "we are the church right now!" "We are building each other up right now!" Let me tell you, if that doesn't grab your heart, I'm afraid you may not know Jesus and I hope these words inspire you to seek after Him!

Merry Christmas to you all and thank you all for your prayers and support. I hope you know that without you, we could not do what we do!!!

For His Glory,
Scott M. Szalay
Executive Director

Frequently needed items at Gil's Hills:

Ditaliano Bread	American cheese
Chicken Noodle Soup	Mac n Cheese
Pudding Cups	Ranch Dressing
Canned Peaches	Ketchup
Nacho Cheese Sauce	Hot Dogs
Mini Chocolate Chips	Oreos
Taco Seasoning	Tator Tots
Chicken Nuggets	Tomato soup
Pancake Mix (not bisquick or gluten free)	Syrup
Little Debbie Snacks	Taco Sauce
Breakfast Sausage	Plastic Silverware
Paper Products	Salsa
Butter	Dill Relish
Mayo (no miracle whip)	Spaghetti Sauce
Tostitos/Doritos	

Gift Cards to Tops or Giant




**SUNDAY
WORSHIP
SERVICE
11:00 AM**

All are welcome!

JANUARY 2025

Sunday School is at
9:30 am for both
Adults and Children.

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

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



2025

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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The Shepherd's Messenger is a publication of the Cuba 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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