

The Shepherd's Messenger



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



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Hymn # 211

There is something unique about the Season of Advent. For example, imagine being a faithful Jew 2,000 years ago. For thousands of years your people prayed to God for deliverance. God told you that a Messiah, the Christ, would come to save you. You believe God's promise and you wait, and you wait, and you wait for that day to come. You pray, and you pray, and you pray for that day to come. There were probably many times you would have thought God forgot about you, or that maybe God changed His mind. But then all of a sudden, an angel appears to a young virgin, a star leads wiseman, shepherds see more angels than they can count, and there in a stable lies a little baby. In that manger rests everyone's prayers they prayed for thousands of years. In that manger rests all the promises God made to His people for thousands of years.

The season of Advent is unique. It is a season of longing. Advent is a time when our prayers focus upon that First coming of Jesus as well as the Second coming of Jesus. Like the Jews of thousands of years ago, we can also pray for the Christ to come, but this time to come again. Sometimes we may feel like saying to God, and maybe even do say to God, "How long do I have to wait? Where is my deliverance?" Maybe we really aren't too different from the faithful who waited for the First coming of Jesus. There is one difference though, a very large difference.

In many ways, we are more blessed than the Jews of thousands of years ago. We are more blessed because we have much more than a promise; we have the promise's fulfillment in Jesus. Do we still wait? Of course, we do!

Do we still wrestle with our daily lives and in tears sometimes cry to God? Of course, and that will not change in this life. But what has changed is this - you actually get to hold your Deliverer in your hands every time you have the Lord's Supper and be reassured your deliverance has come. You have Jesus. Advent is a time to long for Jesus to return again and to redeem all of heaven and earth. This is God's promise to you. He fulfilled this promise in Christ and one day, you will see it with your own two eyes when He returns again. Until that day comes, may our hearts always pray, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel."

Blessings,

Pastor Becky

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



- 3 Robert Amundson
- 4 Rhonda Cornell
- 9 Jared Battistoni
- 20 Janet Calcagno
- 25 **Jesus Christ**
- 28 Sandra Allen

Statistics Needed: \$1,970

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
10/29	31	4	\$ 937.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 235.00
11/5	35	4	\$3,225.00
		UMCORE Earthquakes	\$ 200.00
11/12	25	3	\$1,170.00
11/19	31	-	\$1,448.00
		Gil's Hills	50.00
11/26	31		\$1,170.00
		Gil's Hills	\$ 325.00
		Student Day	\$ 10.00

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
- Kevin Kranock
- Helen Middaugh
- Mark Middaugh
- Nellie Moses
- Justin Murphy
- Keith Pierce
- Family & friends of Shirley Poore
- JoAnn Viglietta
- Clint Wilder
- Doris Kellogg Wyant



- 12 John & Mary Hupp
- 28 Dean & Cheryl Wildrick



The Cuba UMC Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service is at
6:00 pm. Sunday, Dec. 24

Worship Service will be at
11:00 in the morning as usual.

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!



Randy & Theo Crane became members of Cuba UMC at the worship service on October 29, 2023. They transferred from the First United Methodist Church of Friendship.



Shirley Poore, long time CubaUMC member, passed away 10/24/2023 at the Cuba Skilled Nursing Facility. Her Funeral was held on Oct. 31, 2023 at Cuba UMC.



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**.

December
Helping
Hands



Power Point:
Rob Cornell

Pianist:
Holly Scoville

Altar Guild:
Holly Scoville



UMW NEWS

Submitted by Peggy Pearce



The Green Street foyer provided a warm, welcoming space for the November 11th meeting of the United Methodist Women. Seven ladies were present.

The successful rummage sale brought in about \$1,525 for the group, and this, plus the existing balance in the treasury, allowed the group to make the following Christmas donations: \$200 to Henderson Settlement and \$150 to Toys for Kids. In addition, the group decided to follow the guidelines set last year in assisting local families: gift cards to Giant and Walmart. The group plans to help three to four families with these gifts.

There was no future meeting date set at this time.

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NEWS*Submitted by Peggy Pearce*

Members of the Cuba Council of Churches met on November 12th at the North Park Wesleyan Church. Reports were given as follows:

- ◆ The recent **CROP Walk** chaired by Ann Gross was very successful. Thank you to all who donated.
- ◆ **Food Pantry** requests for September 10th through October were 17 for food assistance (6 September, 11 October) and five for gas assistance (October). The majority of the food presently in the Pantry will be distributed through the Holiday Assistance Program (HAP), so congregations are asked to continue contributions, both to augment the HAP and to restock the shelves for the end of December and into 2024.
- ◆ An offering taken at the **Thanksgiving-Advent Service** will also go toward the HAP. The service will be held at the North Park Wesleyan Church starting at 6 p.m. on November 26th. Father John Cullen of Our Lady of Angels RC Church will offer the message. A time of refreshment and fellowship will follow the service.
- ◆ The Council members voted to support the Cuba Rushford Elementary PTO 'snack drive' request. Two hundred dollars will be given to the teachers to purchase snack items for those children who do not bring something from home.

Area church news included:

- ◆ The **First Baptist Church** has called the Rev. Tenorris 'TJ' Davis to the pulpit; he will preach on November 26th. Pastor Davis will be traveling between Cuba and his home in Indiana for up to a year while his wife completes her medical residency. The annual Holiday Market will be held on December 2nd and a dinner theater on December 17th. Initial roof repairs have been made with more repairs planned for spring.
- ◆ **North Park Wesleyan** has received two new members and held one infant dedication since September. The Wild Wednesday program has 37 students enrolled and is under the leadership of Brandt Hall. The Youth Group has 23 members, with an average attendance of 18. The Harvest Dinner maxed out the fellowship space with 140 attending! The foyer has been successfully and beautifully remodeled.
- ◆ **Our Lady of Angels** congregation is doing several in-house programs, including watching "The Chosen". The chicken barbeque held earlier in the year was a success.

The Council will meet again on January 14, 2024 at the First Baptist Church starting at 5 p.m.



Sunday School Class News - A Call to Prayer

We have come close to the end of..... (only) the second chapter in the book! In this section we are looking at the portion of the Lord's Prayer "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Hmm... it is worth thinking about and praying about. And then "lead us not into temptation" ... Sometimes we think of temptation as being something HUGE but really it can be rather small, something that keeps us from spending time with God. The Lord's prayer "reminds us who we are. We are the children of a powerful God, members of a powerful support group called the church, responsible persons with others relying on us, and temples of the Holy Spirit of God himself." (p.29 A Call to Prayer).

It is never too late to join the adult Sunday School class; we would enjoy growing with you in our understanding of "prayer" and its importance in our daily lives.

In Christ's love and service,

Holly Scoville

ATTENTION ALTAR GUILDERS and ALTAR GUILD WANNABES!

The Altar Guild assists in preparing the physical church sanctuary-the altar area- to reflect the seasons of the church calendar and provide the elements for the communion service. In the past we have tried to pair up 2 people to be responsible for a month at a time- and provided a calendar showing that. So for those who have volunteered already and anyone who may not have been present on the Sunday it was announced but would like to serve, please let me know. I would like to have the calendar of servers prepared for the start of 2024! Thank you so much for those who have answered that call to service and to anyone else who may feel the Holy Spirit's prompting. Let me know ... and "thank you!" Holly Scoville



A Miracle Site

Catherine Pulsifer

Oh Savior of the world so true,
Your light was lit one Holy night,
The star that shined so very bright.
Led people to a miracle site.

So early morn they did obey,
The heavens told them of this day,
Angels made songs so loud and clear,
Jesus in a manger filled with cheer.

Each Christmas your miracle is felt
Thousands on their knees do knelt
The Nativity reflects where love is found
Peace on earth and a Savior crowned.

Christmas Morning

Mary Bissell Waterman

The milk-white sheep looked up one night,
And there stood an angel all in white.
But though he spoke no word to them,
They were there on the hills of Bethlehem,
That very first Christmas morning.

And the lowing cattle meekly stood.
Near to a manager, rough and rude;
Their manger, where upon softest hay,
A wonderful, new born baby lay,
That beautiful Christmas morning.

Oh! Christmas day is the day for all,
For the flocks in the field and the beasts in the stall;
And the time will come, so the wise men say,
When the wolf and the lamb together shall play,
And a little child shall lead the way.
The Child of the Christmas morning.

MISSIONS

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

Located in Wellsville, **Gil's Hills** specializes in serving children and youth who are in need of special attention in some way. The staff & volunteers at Gil's Hills are serious about helping kids by communicating the love of God while providing friendship, counseling, and service.

Their website is: www.gilshills.org



Things they could use at Gil's this month:

- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Pudding Cups
- Canned Peaches
- Nacho Cheese Sauce
- Hot Dogs
- Tater Tots
- Chicken Nuggets
- Little Debbie snacks
- Oreos
- Pawer Bowls
- Chips
- Doritos/Tostitos
- Mac n Cheese
- Ranching Dressing
- Ketchup
- Mini chocolate chips
- Breakfast sausage
- Crystal Light Drink Mix
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Taco Sauce
- Plastic Cutlery
- Tuna fish

Gift cards to Tops or Giant

What's Happening "Between the Hills"

October has been an exciting month with the after-School clubs starting up and youth hunts taking place. Two of the "King's Kids" were successful in harvesting their first white-tailed deer during the Columbus Day Weekend youth hunt. They were able to experience firsthand God's provision through His creation.

Clubs are off to an incredible start with many new faces as kids invite friends. The weather has been good, and we have spent much of our time exploring between the hills, as we dug into scripture studies on brokenness.

We thank you for your prayers and support!

For His Glory,

Scott M. Szalay
Executive Director
Gil's Hills Ministries



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
WORSHIP
SERVICE
11:00 AM**

All are welcome!

December 2023

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Communion UMW Food Pantry Collection Sunday School 9:30 am 1st Sunday of Advent	4 Tai Chi 7:00 pm Holiday Assistance Donation Day 9am - 6pm Baptist Church	5 Prayer Group 10:00 am	6 Holiday Assistance Sorting & Packing 10am until done - Baptist Church	7 Holiday Assistance Distribution Baptist Church	1	2 Decorate Church 9:00 am - Noon
10 Sunday School 9:30 am Polinsettia Order Deadline	11 Tai Chi 7:00 pm	12 Prayer Group 10:00 am	13	14	15	16 Kung Fu 6:00-8:00 am
17 Sunday School 9:30 am	18 Tai Chi 7:00 pm January Newsletter Deadline Noon	19 Prayer Group 10:00 am	20	21	22	23 Kung Fu 6:00-8:00 am
24 Worship 11am Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm		26	27	28	29	30 Kung Fu 6:00-8:00 am
31 Sunday School 9:30 a Gil's Hills Offering						

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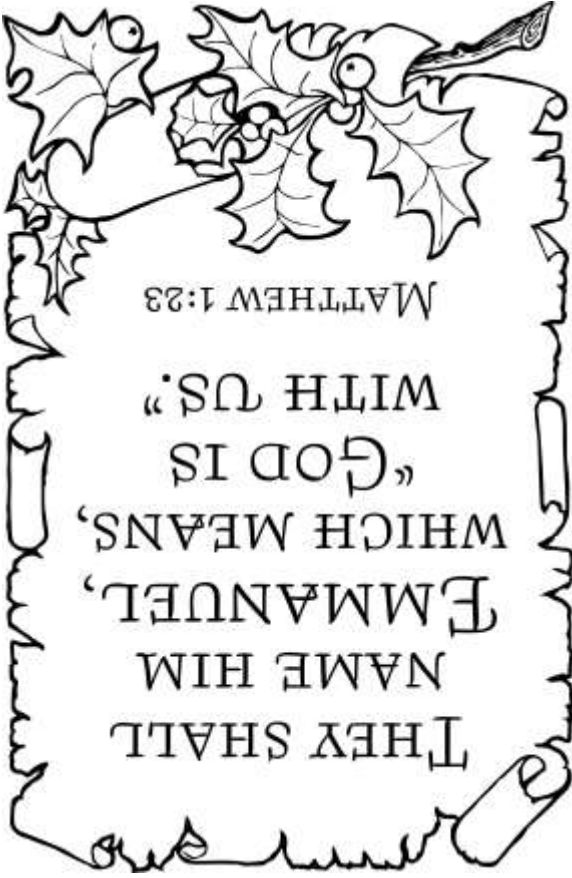
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2023

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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