

May 2018

The Shepherd's Messenger



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

God Is Love

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another."

1 John 4:7-11 (NRSV translation)

These are beautiful verses to hear. They spell out the basics of the Christian faith. God sent Jesus into the world so that we might know true love. Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, and shared the good news of God. Jesus declared grace to us on the cross. God cares for us like a parent cares for a child.

In the original Greek, the word used for "love" here is agape. This is more than a love based on superficial or physical things. Agape is a deep affection; it is something that you cherish and hold close to your heart. God cherishes you.

Notice, too, how often 1 John says the word "love" in this passage. I count at least eleven! Not to mention, the author refers to the reader as "beloved" as well. It almost begins to sound repetitive. If the author of 1 John submitted this as an essay in high school, I am guessing that his teacher would have written across the top in red ink: "use a thesaurus."

But 1 John repeats this word for a reason. The author does not want you to miss the point. Love is the focus of our lives. It is like the refrain of a song that plays over and over again. God loved us first, so now we love others. This is the foundation of our faith and the guide for our actions.

If you are looking for a Bible passage to memorize, 1 John 4:11 is a good one. "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another." You are loved; God holds you as someone dear. Carried by God's compassion, may we open our arms to others, and live out the example Christ set for us.

Blessings,

Pastor Becky



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Our World situation
The Rothfus Family
to those at other residences...

PINES - OLEAN

Connie Battistoni



3 - Kameron Pierce
5 - Andrew Clement
9 - Brandon Cornell
Payton Nelson
Mike Young
21- Austin Clement
23 - Doris Wyant
24 - Zea Ann Dutton

Statistics**Needed: \$1,548**

Date	Worship	SS	Offering
Maundy Thu. 19			
4/1	72	-	\$3,119.25
4/1	Naomi/Rothfus		\$175.00/20.00
4/8	43	9	\$1,486.00
4/8	Naomi		\$ 20.00
4/15	44	14	\$ 1,272.00
4/15	Naomi/Rothfus		\$10.00/\$10.00
4/22	52	18	\$1,697.00

Others to keep in prayer:

Norma Andrus
Family of Audine Ashline
Hazel Cornell
David Edwards
Luke Fries
Carol Halstead
Family of Diane Karle
Sandy Lathrop
Jim Maxim
Mark Middaugh
Mary Ellen Moriarty
Katie Morris
Keith Pearce
Laroy Spateholts
Heidi Sturdevant
Lon Sweet
David Taylor
JoAnn Viglietta
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.

You can write prayer requests in the attendance pads on Sundays, or drop your request off at the office, or email. *Thank you!*



13 - Pete & Sue Simmons
14 - Ken & Doris Wyant
20- Jeremy & Dawn
Wildrick-Cole
28 - Mark & Claire Morris



Audine Ashline,
Derwood Say's sister,
passed away on April 2,
2018 . A private graveside
service was held in
Genesee, Pa.

Diane Karle, a former
member of Cuba UMC,
passed away on April 19,
2018. A memorial service
will be held later this
summer at Bushnell
Veterans Cemetery in
Florida.

May Helping HandsUsher:

Jim Travis

Pianist:

Christine Berardi

Organist:

Jonathan Denham

Altar Guild:

Claire Morris

Altar Flowers:

May 6 Claire Morris



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

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



Sue Sim-

mons is the

UMW's

Cheer Person. If you know of
someone who needs a note of
cheer, please call her at
585-968-1135.

SUPREME SEAFOOD PASTA SALAD

Cindy Dutton

- 1 (12 oz.) package Crab or Lobster Delights
 ½ cup finely diced celery
 ¼ cup red or green bell pepper, finely diced
 1 small onion, finely diced
 1 TBS. fresh lemon juice
 2 cups cooked small shell macaroni (1 cup uncooked)
 Sour cream and mayonnaise



Combine all and mix with equal parts sour cream and mayonnaise. Refrigerate several hours for flavors to blend.



WORTHY OF RESPECT

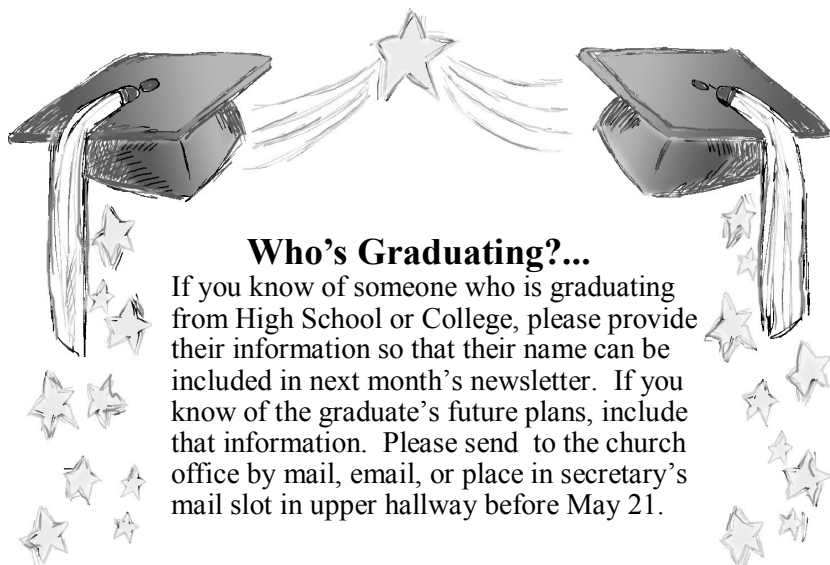
On Mother's Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?

Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.

A	C	D	M*	N*	O*
E	F	G	P*	R*	S*
H	I	L	T*	U*	Y*

" _____ your _____
 _____ and your _____,
 the _____ your _____ has
 _____."
 _____ 5:16, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV

**Who's Graduating?...**

If you know of someone who is graduating from High School or College, please provide their information so that their name can be included in next month's newsletter. If you know of the graduate's future plans, include that information. Please send to the church office by mail, email, or place in secretary's mail slot in upper hallway before May 21.



Adult Sunday School Studies with Cheryl

37 Major Bible Prophecies

PROPHECY #29: The Great Tribulation



Tribulation (trouble) has existed in our world ever since sin entered into it. But the future “Great Tribulation” will be a time of unprecedented trouble. The world has not seen anything like it before.

The Great Tribulation is also referred to as, “the time of Jacob’s Trouble”. Jacob was a patriarch in the Old Testament who loved and served the Lord. The name “Jacob” also is a synonym for “Israel” and for the Jewish people. The Old Testament contains prophesy of these future years of trouble. The prophet Jeremiah described this time as a time of fear and terror, even for strong men. (Jeremiah 30:5-7) It will be directed at the Jews, but it will extend to the entire world. When it is over, the Jews will be saved out of the trouble and will serve the Lord. (Jeremiah 30:8-9)

When will this occur? After the future (Roman) World Leader makes a peace treaty with Israel. The peace is to last seven years, but will end prematurely after only three and a half years. Then the World Leader will be revealed as the World Dictator and the Anti Christ. He will place an image of himself in the Jewish temple and force everyone (who wants to live) to worship it. (Daniel 12:11-12) This time is also called the “Time of the Saints’ Oppression.” Believers who will not worship or follow the Anti Christ will be persecuted and put to death.

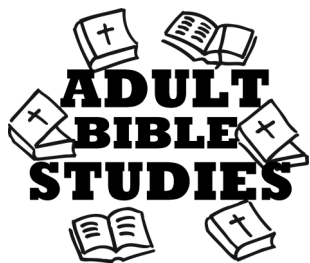
During the Great Tribulation, Israel is the center of Satan’s hatred and of Roman wrath. The whole world will suffer. It will be a time of unprecedented world-wide distress. The coming, “Day of the Lord” will include judgments. Two thirds of Israel will perish (Zechariah 13:8) and one forth of the people in the world will die by sword, famine, plague, or wild beasts. (Revelation 6:7)

The Great Tribulation will last three and a half years. During that time, the Associate of the Anti Christ will magically make the image in the temple speak... and cause all people who refuse to worship the image to be killed. (Revelation 13:15) The Associate will force everyone to receive a mark on his hand or forehead. Without that mark, no one will be able to buy things or to sell things, including food. (Revelation 13:16-17)

What else will the ‘trouble’ and distress include? Other horrors prophesied include: 1) one third of the earth will be burned up, one third of the trees will be burned up, and the green grass will be burned up. (Revelation 8:7) 2) one third of the sea will turn into blood, one third of the living creatures in the sea will die, and one third of all the ships will be destroyed. (Revelation 8:8-9) 3) one third of the waters will turn bitter and many will die from drinking it. (Revelation 8:10-11) 4) one third of the day will be without light and one third of the night will be without light. 5) Stinging locusts will torture (for five months) everyone who does not have the seal of God (intended for life). (Revelation 9:3-5)

Finally, the Great Tribulation will end, and the Lord Jesus will return to earth. He will send His angels to gather all Believers. (Matthew 24:29-31)

God’s prophecies came true in the past. God’s prophecies will come true in the future also.



LET'S TALK ABOUT HEAVEN

Let's Talk About Heaven is the title of the Adult Bible Studies this year. We completed the study on prophesy last spring, although not all of those lessons have been printed in the Shepherd's Messenger yet.

So far, the adult class has talked about: 1) what we were taught about heaven in the past... 2) what we believe now... 3) the definition of heaven according to the Bible, 4) the location of heaven... 5) the characteristics of heaven... 6) the activities that we will find in heaven... 7) how we qualify to enter the Kingdom of Heaven... and 8) what we will receive in heaven. All the above questions were answered using a Bible concordance. We have also talked about the New Heaven and the New Earth that God will create in the future for believers. There will be no evil, no Curse, no disrespect of God or Jesus, no suffering, no death and no sin. There WILL BE: righteousness, abundant food, praise for God and Jesus, good health, eternal life, love and care for each other, worship of God and Jesus, reunion with loved ones who are believers, and appreciation for all that has been created, including colors, and new discoveries that are not yet known by people on earth.

We are beginning to look at a book by Randy Alcorn which answers common questions about heaven, using Biblical references.

We welcome you to join us in our study. We gather in the church sanctuary at 9:45 am on Sundays, and then go to our classroom down the hall.

Please come!

Cheryl Wildrick

Fur Babies and God's lesson

by Toni Rittenhouse

We all think that our furry little pets were put here so we could have a best friend. Perhaps that is a good way to think about it. Personally, I believe they were put here to teach us unconditional love, patience and sacrifice.



Pets may not understand us when we talk, at least not completely. But we understand our need to hold, cuddle and talk with them. We buy them toys and special treats because they hold the key to our hearts. They, in return, teach us unconditional love. We allow them to take the paint off the walls, shred our furniture and keep us up all night whining. Yet we continue to love them.

They teach us patience as we attempt to correct their bad behavior, which normally doesn't change. Yet, we continue to love them.

Now for the biggie, they teach us sacrifice. When they are missing we will sacrifice our comfort for their safety. We wander around in knee deep snow or frigid temperatures calling out their names. When they are sick, our budget goes out the door, it's whatever it takes to make them feel better. We sit with them in our arms and tell them how precious they are until we can't keep our eyes open.

Our sweet little fur babies are being used by God to teach us a lesson that man can't teach each other. He is saying, "Unconditional love does exist and you yourself have proven it over and over." God doesn't waste anything. He uses it all!



DUDLEY TAILS

Submitted by Cheryl Wildrick

Lately I've noticed that Dudley has developed selective hearing. He is almost three years old (at the end of May), so he has just passed his teenage years and may feel that he can make his own decisions.

His selective hearing is most evident when he goes outside into his fenced yard. Dudley knows that he should come when he is called, but sometimes he just doesn't. There may be several answers why.

First, Dudley may have found something interesting that has grabbed his attention. Sometimes it may be leaves being blown in the wind.

Second, Dudley may not be able to hear me. It is not unusual for the louder sounds of neighbor canines to overpower the sound of my voice.

Third, Dudley may be too busy barking to listen. (How frustrating for his master!)

As Christians, we sometimes have selective hearing. We may not hear our Master's voice because something else has grabbed our attention... like sports, movies or TV. Sometimes we can't hear our Master's voice because the voices of friends, politicians or musical artists are louder. And sometimes... we are too busy talking, to listen to our master.

The Lord Jesus is our Master and he loves us. He deserves our attention more than anything. He deserves our attention more than the interests that grab our attention. He deserves our attention more than friends, politicians, or musical artists. He wants us to stop constantly talking... and start listening to Him. We can listen to Him through prayer, through reading the Bible, and through "being still" in a quiet place.

Maybe we should practice having "selective hearing" for our Master.

Upper Room Daily

Devotionals are placed on the window sill near the front door of the sanctuary every two months. Limited quantity, so "first come, first served".

THE **UPPER ROOM**
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



UMW Spring Rummage Sale

Thursday May 3, 6 - 8 pm
Friday May 4, 11 am - 2 pm
Saturday May 5, 9 am - Noon

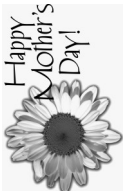


Church Clean-Up Day to clean outside
the church on May 19, 2018 from 9 am - Noon.
All are welcome. "Many Hands Make Light Work"

WORSHIP
SERVICE
SUNDAY
11:00 AM

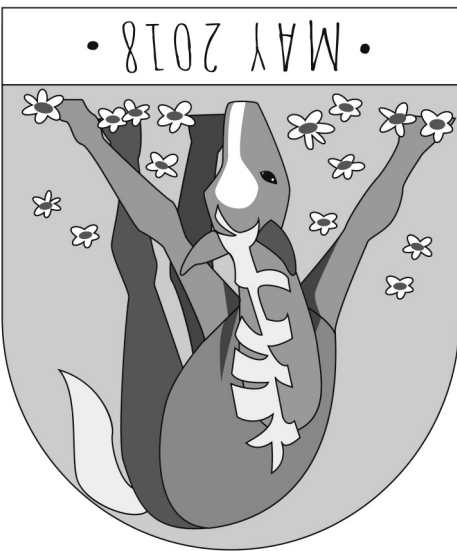
MAY 2018

SUNDAY SCHOOL
For All Ages
9:45 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Prayer Group 10 am - 11 am	2 Trustees meeting 6:00 pm Management Team Meeting 6:45 pm	3 UMW Rummage Sale 6-8 pm	4 UMW Rummage Sale 11 am-2pm	5 UMW Rummage Sale 9 am - Noon
6 Communion Naomi Mission Offering UMW Food Pantry Collection	7	8 Prayer Group 10 am - 11 am	9	10	11	12
13 	14	15 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am	16	17	18	19 UMW Meeting 10 am Clean Outside church 9 am - Noon
20 Coffee Hour	21 June Newsletter Deadline - Noon	22 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am	23	24	25	26
27 Rothfus Offering	28	29 Prayer Group 10 am- 11 am	30	31		

The Shepherd's Messenger

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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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www.cubaumc.org

Pastor Becky Worth:
Cell Phone: (716) 307-1768
Home: (716) 373-4332
Pastor's Office Hours:
Tuesday & Wednesday
9 am - 3 pm



I have been reminded of your sincere faith,
which first lived in your grandmother...
and in your mother...and...now lives in you also.