

The Shepherd's Messenger



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

For All the Saints

Pastor Becky's All Saints Day
Message



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. -Hebrews 12:1-2

During the month of November, our thoughts literally turn heavenward. On November 5th, the church celebrates All Saints Day, a time when we rejoice in the hope we have as Christians that those who die in the faith still live in Christ. As the month of November continues, we start to move into a time of the church year in which we hear readings about the end of time and the return of Christ. During November our minds are indeed turned heavenward, but we can also look to the saints all around us right here on earth.

The scriptures say we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses in the faith (Hebrews 12). During Sunday morning worship, this is literally true. You are seated with Christians in front of you, behind you, and next to you. Consider one group of Christians in particular – our elderly members. Many of our elderly members may not physically be with us on Sunday. Many may be homebound, in a hospital, or in a care facility; but that does not mean they are any less with us in the faith of Christ. These members are truly saints whom we should desire to emulate and respect.

In the United States we live in a relatively youth-obsessed culture. We like our bodies to look and feel youthful. We generally look down on the aging process. Most of us groan when the wrinkles appear, and we moan when the aches get worse. But why should we look down on aging even with all its wrinkles and aches? Those lines and wrinkles are not signs of depleted youth. As Christians, we should see every line and wrinkle as the beauty mark of someone Christ has sustained in the faith over many years. As our bodies slow down, we don't have to grow angry that we can't do the things we want to do. On the contrary, we can give thanks that Christ is drawing us closer to what He wants to do – give us eternal life.

We have living saints among us who emulate faithfulness to Christ on a daily basis. Our elderly members are fellow Christians who have seen life, lived through what many of us are just now going through, and have come out the other end sustained by faith in Christ. We should strive to be like these living saints. After all, as Christians, shouldn't we want to live lives of faith right now in this world, and ones that will be celebrated for all eternity with our living Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Blessings,

Pastor Becky

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



- 5 - Clayton Reed Torrey
- 8 - Tom Krott
- 9 - Sue Simmons
- 14 - Judy Krott
- 17 - Joyce Amundson
- 20 - Suzanne Huddleston
- 22 - Ryan Morris
- 23 - Kelly Brickey
David Battistoni
- 30 - Linda Murphy

| Statistics | | Needed: \$1,970 | |
|------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Date | Worship | SS | Offering |
| 10/1 | 32 | 4 | \$2,765.00 |
| 10/8 | 29 | 4 | \$1,908.00 |
| | | Gil's Hills | \$ 50.00 |
| | | World Communion | \$ 5.00 |
| 10/15 | 33 | | \$1,143.00 |
| UMCORE | Israel Palestine Conflict | | \$200 |
| 10/22 | 31 | 4 | \$1,453.00 |
| | | CROP walk Total | \$580.00 |

Others to keep in prayer:

- Brad Allen
- Bob Beard
- 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
- Shirley Poore
- JoAnn Viglietta
- Clint Wilder
- Doris Kellogg Wyant



TRUSTEES NOTES

- The carpet in the nursery has been cleaned



**CHURCH KEYS
2nd request**

If you have an entrance key to the church and no longer need it, **please return it to the church secretary office.** At the time this is published, there are **still only two extra keys to the church left in my office.** (No one responded to last month's request.)

Thank you!
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!

Prayer List is as of 10/24/23



Daylight Savings Time ends 2:00 am Sunday morning, Nov. 5. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour Saturday night, Nov. 4.



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.**

November Helping Hands



Power Point:
Rob Cornell

Pianist:
Holly Scoville

Altar Guild:
Holly Scoville
Deb Battistoni



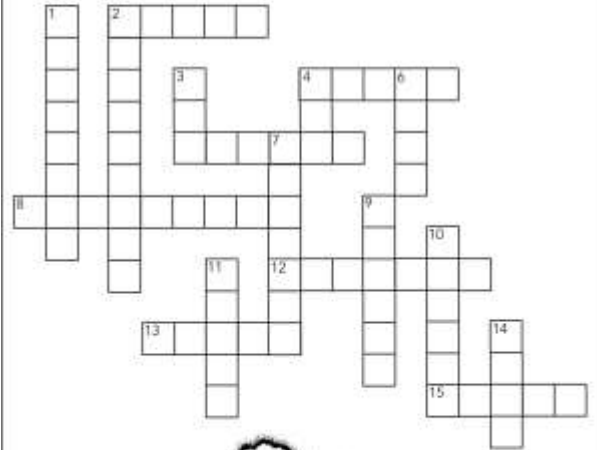

meeting
 NOTICE

Wed. November 1, 2023
 Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm
 Management Team 6:45 pm

Sat. November 11, 2023
 UMW 10:00 am



Puzzle!



ACROSS

- 2. cause of Job's trouble
- 4. twinkling, heavenly lights
- 6. the Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
- 8. creature of the deep (41:1)
- 12. the Temanite, a friend (2:13)
- 13. sores
- 15. Job had 7,000

DOWN

- 1. the One who ever lives (19:25)
- 2. affliction
- 3. had seven sons
- 4. ocean
- 5. precipitation
- 7. Job had 500
- 9. the Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
- 10. Job had 3,000
- 11. Job's fourth friend (32:2)
- 12. Job had 500 yoke



Answer: Across 2. Sore; 4. star; 6. Balaak; 8. Leviathan; 12. Eliphaz; 13. boils; 15. sheep.
 Down 1. Redeemer; 2. suffering; 3. Job; 4. sea; 5. rain; 7. dollops; 9. Zaphed; 10. camels; 11. Elhan; 12. oxen

TUNA CASSEROLE

Sandy LaFever

- 4 cups thinly sliced potatoes
- 3 TBS oleo
- ¼ cup flour
- 2 TBS prepared mustard
- 1 can tuna
- 1 tsp salt, pepper to taste
- 2 cups milk
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1 cup sliced onions

Cook potatoes in salted water for 10 minutes. Drain. Melt oleo in pan and stir in flour, mustard, salt, and pepper. Add milk gradually while stirring. Cook over low heat until thick. Stir in lemon juice. Arrange potatoes, tuna and onion in alternate layers in greased quart casserole. Pour sauce over all. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes. Serves 4.



Adult Sunday School Update!



Our class has chosen A Call to Prayer, a Season of Harvest compiled by David Butts as a guide to studying –PRAYER. It is” a challenge to covenant, or promise, to pray especially about awakening and world evangelization.” Although the first chapter of the book was only 11 pages, we did not finish looking at verses, reflecting on Scriptures introduced in the chapter and sharing our observations and personal journey as we looked at the questions at the end until October 22nd! We have started on the next chapter, “The Power of Prayer” a reflective looking at the Lord’s Prayer....considering what the word ‘Father’ should mean to us. The author of this chapter referred to the story of the Prodigal Son and how the meaning of the word ‘Father’ developed for him ...and how do we think of God as Father.

We pray together, share with each other as we are reminded of the necessity of continual awareness of God as “Our Father.” Join us at 9:30 Sunday morning to reflect, learn together and grow in our daily Christian walk!

In Christ’s love and service, Holly Scoville

The In-Between

By Bishop Mark J. Webb

Bishop Webb is the former Bishop of the United Methodist Upper New York Annual Conference and is now a Bishop in the Global Methodist Church.

Recently I was in an airport with some time to kill and found myself perusing books on a store shelf. There was one book that got my attention. The title is *The In-Between: Embracing the Tension Between Now and the Next Big Thing*, by Jeff Goins. While I didn’t purchase the book, (so I’m not making a recommendation) I “googled” and found this summary:



“Moments of breakthrough are not where life’s greatest transformation happens; the stuff that God uses to shape us often lies in the in-between. It is the bus stops and layovers and DMV lines and moments of unintentional pause that force us to become better people. That’s not to say there aren’t moments of epiphany. There are. It’s just that most of us find ourselves living somewhere in the in-between. Learning to live in this tension, to be content in these moments of waiting, may be our greatest struggle – and our greatest opportunity to grow.”

There is another book I strongly recommend that has a lot to say about living in “the in-between.” In the Bible we read the accounts of God’s people experiencing seasons of wandering, waiting, and wondering. Sometimes these in-between times led to confusion, fear, wallowing in self-pity, and murmuring against God, while other times they created a spirit of expectation and a season of preparation. No matter the response, every in-between time led to a new movement of God in the lives of those willing to surrender in faith and follow.

Many faithful United Methodist Christians and congregations reading this article have been through a time of spiritual discernment and have made the decision to disaffiliate from the UM Church. You have chosen or are prayerfully discerning your next faithful step. You are ready to move into God’s future, yet instead you are experiencing “the in-between.” The reasons for this are varied and some are very unfair. I know it is resulting in frustration, uncertainty, impatience, and discouragement. This is a difficult season, but I believe it is a season of forming and transforming us. There is hope for “the in-between!”

How might we position ourselves for what God will do now and, in the days, ahead? Let me offer just a few things for your consideration.

Continued on Page 5

“The In-Between” Continued from Page 4

First, don't forget your purpose. The communities we serve, the people who are our neighbors need the good news of Jesus Christ. We need to continue to find ways to move beyond our walls and serve the least, the last and the lost. The ministry God has called you to has not changed – if anything the opportunities and the possibilities grow greater every day. Keep looking for ways to be the Church going boldly into the world and offering Jesus! Meet people where they are with the hands and feet of Christ. Use this time to recommit being a church that keeps the main thing the main thing.

Second, tend to your spiritual life, individually and as a congregation. Worship passionately. Gather in small groups to study God's word, encourage one another in the faith and hold one another accountable to following the way of Christ. Practice the spiritual disciplines individually and together – go deeper with God than you ever have before.

Third, be people of prayer. Pray unceasingly – pray in small groups, hold prayer services, conduct prayer vigils. Pray for God to shape you and reveal His plan for the future of your congregation. Pray for your community. Pray for God to give you His eyes and heart for those around you. Pray for opportunities to meet needs and share your faith in Christ with others. As you encounter barriers to the path forward you believe God has for you, are you boldly and expectantly praying for those barriers to be removed?

Fourth, prepare for the next movement of God in and through you. Talk together about what you do well as a church and ask God to show you how to increase it. Discover what is missing for you to be the church God desires you to be and ask God to equip you with the necessary gifts to accomplish it. Be honest about the things you need to let go of and stop doing so that you will be fully intent on doing only what is necessary for at least one more person to know the love of God through Jesus Christ and become a disciple.

I'm excited to be a part of the Global Methodist Church. Many around the world have already become a part of this movement. The Global Methodist Church offers a Wesleyan expression of following Jesus that is at the core of who we long to be and want to be. The Global Methodist Church is committed to the core tenets of the Christian faith, submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, guided by the primacy and authority of Scripture, and dependent upon the leading and power of the Holy Spirit. As a denomination, the Global Methodist Church is a connection of laity, clergy and congregations who understand the need for one another, to encourage and equip, as together we live more deeply into following Jesus Christ and carry out more effectively our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly.

I'm praying that God will lead you to be a part of the Global Methodist Church and I will be blessed to walk alongside you. No matter your ultimate discernment, I encourage you to trust anew the faithfulness of your God and trust the path He will ultimately provide.

In some ways, I grieve this season in which we find ourselves, but I am trusting the God who works in “the in-between.” As the disaffiliation process continues to play out in the UM Church, let's keep praying that all involved in conversations and decisions will be gracious and seek to help one another move into the next faithful season of ministry and mission. May we always be witnesses to the grace of God through Jesus Christ in all our actions and conversations.

Let's encourage one another every day and remind one another that we serve a God who proclaims. “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29.11).

I'm praying for you!

Bishop Mark J. Webb is an episcopal leader in the Global Methodist Church.

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 Hills this month:

- Canned Peaches
- Nacho Cheese Sauce
- Hot Dogs
- Tater Tota
- Chicken Nuggets
- Little Debbie snacks
- Oreo's
- Paper Bowls
- Chips
- Mini chocolate chips
- Breakfast sausage
- Crystal Light Drink Mix
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Taco Sauce
- Plastic Cutlery
- Tuna fish
- Gift Cards to Tops or Giant



CROP WALK REPORT

Together we raised \$6,153 which makes this our best year ever. The food pantry will receive over \$1,500 and Church World Service will receive more than \$4,500 for their good works.

A huge thank you to everyone who walked and sought out sponsors and to all those who contributed financially.

Ann Gross
Chairperson



Save the date, November 26th, when you are invited to join with your brothers and sisters from all of our Cuba churches. North Park Wesleyan will host this year's **Thanksgiving/ Advent Community Service**. Worship will start at 6 pm and Father John Cullen will provide the message this year. Please plan to stay for light refreshments and fellowship following.

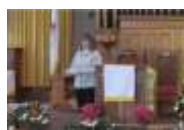
The **Holiday Assistance Program** will be collecting donations of food, clothing, toys, and monetary gifts. Any checks should be made out to "Holiday Assistance Program" and given to First Baptist Church or to Bill Beck program director. Volunteer help is also a way many find to support the program, and your hands are always welcome. Donation day will be Monday, December 4th between 9 am and 6 pm at First Baptist. Sorting and packing will take place on the 6th from 10 am till done, and distribution will be on the 7th. All volunteers are welcome.



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!

November 2023

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|-----------|--|
| 5 Daylight Saving ends Communion UMW Food Pantry Collection Sunday School 9:30 am All Saints Sunday | 6 Tai Chi 7:00 pm | 7 Prayer Group 10:00 am | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Kung Fu 6-8 am  UMW Meeting 10:00 am |
| 12 Sunday School 9:30 am | 13 Tai Chi 7:00 pm | 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 December Newsletter Deadline Noon | 21 Prayer Group 10:00 am | 22 | 23  | 24 | 25 Kung Fu 6:00-8:00 am |
| 26 Sunday School 9:30 am Gil's Hills Offering Thanks-Vent Service 6pm N Park Wesleyan | 27 Tai Chi 7:00 pm | 28 Prayer Group 10:00 am | 29 | 30 | | |
| | | | 1 Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm Management Team 6:45 pm | 2 | 3 | 4 Kung Fu 6:00-8:00 am |

The Shepherd's Messenger

CUBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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WWW.CUBAUMC.ORG • PASTOR BECKY WORTH



2023

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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED