

December 2014

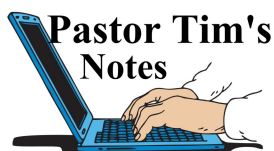
# The Shepherd's Messenger



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



## Pastor Tim's Notes

Advent is a strange and wonderful time in the life of our worshipping community: strange, because we seem to be holding back when the culture is going wild; wonderful, because we know that a night is coming when we will join together in singing “Gloria in excelsis Deo” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful” with candles blazing everywhere.

Advent is not a penitential period like Lent. But, like Lent, Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation. There is a reason for restraint. Liturgically speaking, if you can't hold back, you can't celebrate. Christians know about fasting and feasting – or we would know about it if we used the means of grace and let the Christian calendar discipline us. Our culture is geared to instant everything, and “right now” is our demand. Yet the gospel's wisdom is that we do not live according to our timetable. We live by the Lord of time who is coming, but who never seems to be on our time schedule; who came long ago when no one was ready except a few shepherds who didn't know what to make of it.

So we do odd things in the church. We use purple or blue to suggest a state of unfulfilled readiness. Then, at Christmas, we bring on the joyful white and gold; and the contrast with the somber color of purple or blue sets it off with greater effect. The tone of Advent music and texts is more restrained so that the sound of the angels' song may resound with greater freshness on Christmas Eve! We use the Advent wreath in worship.

Does this mean we need to be deprived during Advent? Absolutely not! Not if we enter into the character of the season and feel the tension pulling us and surfacing in us all our yearnings and longings for One who is like us in our suffering and struggle in the flesh and who comes from beyond death to bring justice and establish God's reign.

*Pastor Tim*

## Special Worship Services



Christmas Eve

Cuba

5:45 PM

Friendship

7:30 PM

New Years Eve

Wedding at Cuba UMC

*Wishing you a Blessed Christmas!*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

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

CUBA CMH

Henny van der Horst

WATERS OF WESTFIELD

Dawn Durkee

**Military personnel and their families...**

*All the people on our Military  
Prayer List have returned to  
the states!!!*



Our continued prayers go out to ALL military personnel who are serving our country by active duty & reserve status, both in the States, and abroad. Our List of Military Names is provided by the Weekly Prayer Group for our Military men and women and our world situation.

**Others to keep in prayer:**

Chuck Brooks  
Veronica Clayson  
Braden Currier  
Kenny Glass  
Norma Guinnip  
Jeffrey Kellogg  
Stephanie LaFever  
Amber Lunn (2 yrs. old)  
Jim Maxim  
Bruce Metler  
Mina (Doris Wyant's sister)  
Nellie Moses  
Wanda Pease  
Keith Pierce  
Harley Poore  
Kelly Roberts  
Judy Warner  
Martha Wetzler

**Statistics      Needed: \$1,616.65**

| Date  | Worship | SS | Offering   |
|-------|---------|----|------------|
| 11/2  | 40      | 22 | \$1,688.00 |
| 11/9  | 45      | 19 | \$1,990.00 |
| 11/16 | 46      | 20 | \$1,502.00 |
| 11/23 | 33      | 15 | \$2,128.00 |

*(Editor's Note: This block does not appear in the Friendship edition of this Newsletter.)*

**Cuba December Helping Hands**Ushers:

Dean & Cheryl Wildrick

Greeters:

12/7    Open for you  
12/14    Open for you  
12/21    Open for you  
12/28    Open for you

Acolyte:

12/7    Hunter Scott  
12/14    Austin Clement  
12/21    Andrew Clement  
12/28    Hunter Scott

Liturgists

12/7    Stan Scoville  
12/14  
12/21  
12/28    Cindy Dutton

Junior Church

12/7    Marjanne Kunz  
12/14    Marjanne Kunz  
12/21    No Junior Church  
12/28    Marjanne Kunz

Altar Guild

Thela Snow

Coffee Hour

12/14



**Call Sandra Allen  
for Prayer Chain  
(585) 968-2137**



12 - John & Mary Hupp  
15 - Alan & Judy Zayac  
26 - Art & Jean Higby  
28 - Dean & Cheryl Wildrick

3 - Robert Amundson  
4 - Rhonda Cornell  
8 - Elyse Petroni  
9 - Jared Battistoni  
13 - Phyllis Hodge  
15 - Pamela Higby  
16 - Virginia Clayson  
18 - Patti Metler  
20 - Jeanine Feldbauer  
23 - Caitlin Metler  
24 - Lindsay Miller  
25 - **Jesus Christ**  
Zachary Metler  
28 - Sandra Allen



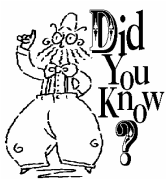
On November 9, the teen Sunday School heard from Dr. Rich Reilly (Philosophy Professor Emeritus at St. Bona's) about Buddhism. Accompanying him was Elise DeVido, a professor at Duke University. Among the things students heard about were Buddhist traditions in "Right Conduct, Right Speech and Right Livelihood." We are thankful for people in our area sharing their perspectives about religion.



On November 22, the teen Sunday School class met with Syed Fakhri, a practicing Muslim to learn more about Islam. Syed grew up in Saudi Arabia, not far from the holy city of Mecca. He is an aeronautical engineer at Dresser Rand and has just been reassigned to Houston, TX. In fact, the recent snow storm kept him in our area for a few more days so he could accommodate speaking to us. We learned how and why Muslims pray five times daily and how they fast from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan. They believe that Abraham, Noah, King David, and Jesus were important prophets, but that Mohammed's teachings, which came about 600 AD, were revealed by God and are recorded most accurately in the Quran.

## DYK:

*Submitted by Dean Wildrick*



Over the last month, Mission Central collected medical supplies to stop the spread of the deadly Ebola virus in West Africa. The shipment included more than four tons of supplies, including face masks, hospital grade gloves, bleach and other much needed items. They even shipped an ambulance that was donated to them.



## Heaven On Earth

John Greenleaf Whittier

Somehow, not only for Christmas,  
But all the long year through,  
The joy that you give to others,  
Is the joy that comes back to you.  
And the more you spend in blessing  
The poor and lonely and sad,  
The more of your heart's possessing  
Returns to you glad.



Grind or use food processor to finely chop berries. Place fruit in large kettle, add sugar. Bring to rolling boil for one minute. Remove from heat and add pectin. Cool for 5 minutes. Skim off foam. Pour into hot jars, leaving ¼" head space. Have tops and lids in boiling water. Put lids on quickly. Adjust caps. Yield: 14 half pints.

## STATE OF THE CHURCH AND ACCOUNT OF PASTORAL MINISTRY

Cuba United Methodist Church

Nov. 25, 2013-Oct. 21, 2014

### State of the Church

The Cuba UMC is continuing to heal after escalating conflict peaked in 2013. Our weekly attendance has climbed to an average of 40. Financially, we have reached healthy stability and are preparing to pay back to the Upper New York Annual Conference our shared ministries arrears. We have been able to pay back a loan from one of our restricted funds and are up to date with our shared ministries giving for 2014. We have been faithful and God has blessed us.

We are beginning a visioning process this month which, I pray, will help us discern God's vision for our congregation as it begins to move from being an inward directed church to focusing on community outreach. The Holy Spirit's movement within the congregation can be seen in numerous ways with healing from within, reconciliation among individuals, generous financial giving, and the growth of our Sunday school. We now have a children's class, a youth class, and an adult Bible study on Sunday mornings, all lay led. Our Summer Shenanigans youth ministry is vibrant with teens from within and outside our church family participating. This year, some of these youth participated in the Cuba Crop Walk. Youth are becoming more involved in the worship service through operating the AV equipment. Overall, it has been a year of slow, steady growth at Cuba UMC.

### Goals

One of our 2014 goals has been, by November 2014, to have had contact with every inactive person listed in our directory, to tell them about the new Cuba United Methodist Church and invite them to return to our fellowship. Members of our leadership team as well as the Pastor are in the process of making these personal contacts. I anticipate all contacts being made by Thanksgiving.

A second annual goal has been, by September 2014, to have an adult Sunday school/Bible study group meeting after the worship service at the church to encourage spiritual growth. Our success in achieving this goal has far exceeded expectations, as it was reached in January, and has survived a change in the time of the worship service and a change in teachers.

Our third short-term goal has been for our music ministry to include a mix of contemporary and traditional selections and musicians to appeal to all ages. We have developed a plan to achieve this goal, however it is meeting with resistance, especially from the chronologically gifted among us (those over 65). I believe we are struggling with the sacrifices this group will have to make if our worship service is to appeal to all ages, especially youth and children.

### Pastoral Ministry

**Education** – As an ordained elder I am continually learning from my congregations and the Lord. My formal continuing education this year has included Emotional Intelligence Training, a human relations workshop; Emmaus Clergy Leadership Training; and the first of three retreats of Tending the Fire: Wise, Resilient Leadership for Changing Times.

**Personal development** – The past year I attended the annual conference of the Upper New York Annual Conference. I have been nominated to the Vice Presidency of the Cuba Council of Churches. The clergy meet monthly. My primary functional role has been to coordinate the Cuba Crop Walk. I was also nominated to serve on the board of directors of the Western New York Emmaus Community. I serve as the "Shepherd" for a small group of UM Pastor's on the Cornerstone District, as well as a clergy mentor for two Local Pastors. I also serve on the District Committee on Ordained Ministry. I am a certified conference trainer on sexual abuse issues for children, youth, and vulnerable adults and have taught local clergy and staff on Safe Sanctuary Policy development and implementation.

#### Pastoral leadership, ministry, and administration

I preach and lead worship weekly at two churches, provide leadership to our leadership team, and serve as pastoral leader to the management team. As part of my 2013 covenant with the Cuba PPRC, I have collaborated with the leadership team to reintegrate inactive members, trained and supported our adult Bible study teacher, and developed a blended worship service. I have visited nursing homes and hospitals, as well as homes. I have also followed up by telephone with those who come home from the hospital, are ill, and as a supplement to shut-in visitation. I look forward to expanded opportunities to spiritually guide members of the congregation, especially through leading devotions at church meetings.

I hope to organize a confirmation class in 2015 and will be recruiting mentors for the youth. I also hope to train, guide, and support the youth in planning and leading a worship service.

*(Editor's Note: This page and page 6 do not appear in Friendship edition of this newsletter.)*

## MANAGEMENT TEAM (ADMINISTRATION AND RESOURCES)

Pastor Tim

(class of 2018 to be elected by ballot)

CLASS OF 2016  
Rob Cornel

CLASS OF 2017  
Gary Enderle  
Bernie Hawks

CLASS OF 2018  
Eric Talbot  
*open*

## LEADERSHIP TEAM (NURTURE, OUTREACH, WITNESS)

Bernie Hawks  
Rob Cornell

Pastor Tim  
Cindy Dutton

Cheryl Wildrick  
*open*

## OTHER ELECTED MINISTERS/ADMINISTRATORS

Recording Secretary  
Lay Member of Conference  
President, UMW  
Council of Churches Representatives  
Altar Guild Coordinator  
Membership Secretary

Jim Travis  
Sue Feldbauer  
(elected by UMW)  
Cindy Dutton     Bernie Hawks  
Thela Snow  
Judy Krott

## MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

CLASS OF 2015  
  
Barb Spateholt

CLASS OF 2016  
  
Shirley Poore

CLASS OF 2017

## NON-ELECTED MINISTERS

Pianist / Choir Director  
Financial Secretary  
Meals on Wheels Coordinator  
Altar Guild

Christine Berardi  
*open*  
Cindy Dutton  
Cindy Dutton     Claire Morris  
Sandy Tsujimoto     Thela Snow, Coordinator  
Darcy Eastham     Judy Zayac     Shirley Poore

## Cuba United Methodist Women News

*Submitted by Judy Zayac*



The United Methodist Women met on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Thela Snow. We enjoyed a wonderful brunch with sausage casserole, muffins, yogurt, fruit, bagels, juice & sweet rolls. Yum and Thanks Thela J

We had a brief meeting. The Trash & Treasures sale netted about \$550. We put summer treasures away and will plan to have a spring sale. Judy read the September minutes and distributed copies of the instructions for Health and School Kits for UMCOR. The web site said that they had enough layette kits at this time. We discussed who would bring what for the kits and we will try to do a dozen of each type.

We discussed decorating the sanctuary on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> after service. We will invite all for lunch of homemade soups (Judy), Muffins (Thela), and breads (Doris & Ruth) and then collectively decorate the sanctuary.

We then moved down to Thela's sewing room to cut and sew the fleece children's hats. Sue and Doris were the "cut ups" and they did a marvelous job. Barbara, Thela and Judy sewed. We did not get all of them sewed but Thela and Judy will finish the ones that were cut. We also talked about getting together to make another dozen in a larger size as the pattern we had only fits a child up to about 4 years.

We did get together again at Thela's on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> to sew a few more hats. Judy will also get patterns for matching fleece mittens. Judy will search for a good place to donate these when we are done.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in Wesley Hall.



"I'm a king in the living Nativity. I need some gold and a camel by Friday."



### Offering Envelopes



**It is almost time to distribute offering envelopes for 2015.** I will work from the list for 2014 so if you would like to be removed from the list or you did not have envelopes in 2014 and would like them, please contact me. We only used about 60% of our minimum order quantity in 2014 so there is plenty to go around.

Dean Wildrick, financial secretary  
[wild@eznet.net](mailto:wild@eznet.net)

## CUBA LEADERSHIP TEAM



It was decided that the addition of some contemporary music to our worship service would be for a trial period in which the new service would be conducted and evaluated.

We began to dream a 5 year vision of Cuba UMC by critiquing a vision statement proposed by Pastor Tim. We will be doing the same with some other statements at future meetings.

A Confirmation curriculum recommended by the annual conference has been purchased. Pastor Tim will be developing the schedule and recruiting youth participants and co-leaders.

Our next meeting will be Monday, December 22.



The children went on a hayride for Children's Moment on Sunday, Nov. 2 and afterward met in Wesley Hall for apple cider and donuts!

## CUBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2015 MINISTRY GOALS

By June, 2015, our music ministry will include a mix of contemporary and traditional selections to reach out to all ages.

By July, 2015, we will determine the needs of Cuba village and township to encourage community outreach by our congregation.

By November, 2015, increase Sunday school attendance by providing transportation when needed and promoting our Sunday school program in the community as well as within our congregation in order to encourage spiritual growth.

By December, 2015, we will perform at least 4 random acts of kindness as a congregation or "Be the Church" events in order to provide service in the name of Jesus Christ to Cuba village and township.

We will share at least one evangelistic, worship, faith formation, outreach ministry, or fellowship activity/event with Friendship United Methodist Church by Christmas, 2015.



# Friendship UMC

## Friendship United Methodist Women News

Submitted by President Vicki Baker



The UMW met at the home of Ann Wereley on Thurs. Nov. 13 at 7 pm. There were 11 members present. We started with the program. Roberta did the Pledge Service program and we turned in our World Thank Offerings. After the program we did our business meeting. We ended with delicious refreshments from our hostess, Ann. Our next UMW Mtg. will be Dec. 11 at the church at Noon. This is our Christmas Meeting. Bring a dish to pass and a Make-or-bake gift. Hostesses will be Pat & Sandy and they will do the program.



**The Inter-Community Choir will present the Christmas Cantata, "The Winter Rose",** by Joseph Martin. We hope you will come out and enjoy this beautiful presentation of readings and songs to celebrate the Christmas season.

"From the earliest Christian time, the rose has been a symbol of divine love. It gently reaches across the ages in ancient illuminations and freely spills from the pens and brushes of countless poets and artists. Echoing through our sanctuaries in melodies and texts of many beloved carols, it brings to life the beautiful vision of biblical prophets and the hope of early Christian pilgrims."

"Today, the rose remains a vital expression of love and peace both inside the church and the outside world. Her appearance in the garden is a treasured harbinger of the coming spring's abundance. As a gift, the rose's delicate beauty is usually reserved for the most meaningful expressions of the heart. No flower holds our dreams of love more beautifully than she." As written by Joseph and Pamela Martin.

The presentations are the following dates, times, and locations:

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the **Cuba Methodist Church**

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. at the **Belfast Methodist Church**

Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the **Friendship Methodist Church**

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. at the **Friendship Methodist Church**

The Inter-Community Choir is comprised of 35 vocalists from surrounding communities, under the direction of Eva Hillman.

# Friendship UMC

## December Birthdays

- 1 Mary Jones
- 1 Tristyn Logue
- 2 Lee Shelley
- 9 Sara Fitch
- 10 Olive Slocum
- 18 Oakley Sortore
- 19 Sheary Carr



Jackie Ward  
Gary Johnson  
Diana Langdon  
Taylor Bedow



**For Prayer Chain**, call  
Roberta Butler 973-2351  
or Pat Kupiec 808-7345



Marjorie Danielsen died Nov. 2, 2014

## **The greater Santa**

It seems that Santa Claus has become a focal point for the joy of Christmas as the chief distributor of Christmas gifts. But let's look at a greater Santa – God! Our heavenly Father gives us life and time, a world to enjoy, the hope of eternal life and victory over evil by giving us his Son, Jesus.

— Pastor John,  
Lodi United Church of Christ



**Chrismons** are Christmas decorations of Christian symbols. They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birthday. They are often used on Christmas Trees in Churches. The word, Chrismon, is a combination of Christ and monogram (meaning symbol). Chrismons are traditionally colored white and gold. White is the liturgical (or Church) color for Christmas and symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold symbolizes His Majesty and Glory.


Many hands have been busy making hundreds of Chrismons. Come to church and enjoy the beautiful Christmas Tree in our sanctuary. A BIG THANK YOU to Cathy Hamilton for her organization and leadership in making the Chrismons.

# DECEMBER 2014

Sunday Worship 11:00 am  
Sunday School 10:00 am

## Cuba Dates

Sunday Worship 9:30 am  
Sunday School  
Friendship Dates

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue   | Wed   | Thu  | Fri       | Sat  |
|---|--|---|---|--|-----------|--|
|   | <b>1</b><br><i>O.E.S. Mtg.</i><br>1:00 pm                                | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b> <i>Friendship Choir</i><br>6:30 pm<br>Cuba Choir 7:00 pm   | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b> UMW 10 am<br><i>Lunch On Us</i><br>11:30-12:30<br>Cantata at Cuba<br>UMC 7:00                     |
| <b>7</b><br>UMW Food Pantry<br>Collection<br><i>Cantata at Belfast</i><br>UMC 4:00 pm                         | <b>8</b><br><i>O.E.S. Mtg.</i><br>11:30 am<br>Management Team<br>6:30 pm | <b>9</b><br>Cuba Clergy<br>11 am @ Baptist<br>Church<br>Council of churches<br>@ 1:00 @ Baptist | <b>10</b><br><i>Friendship</i><br><i>Choir 6:30 pm</i><br>Cuba Choir 7:00 pm                                    | <b>11</b><br><i>UMW Mtg. At Noon</i><br><i>At the Church</i><br><i>Christmas Dinner</i>        | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> Kung Fu 6-8a<br><i>Lunch On Us</i><br>11:30-12:30<br><i>Cantata at Friendship</i><br>UMC 7:00 pm |
| <b>14</b><br>Sunday School<br>Program, Poinsettias<br>arranged<br><i>Cantata at Friendship</i><br>UMC 4:00 pm | <b>15</b><br>Jan. Newsletter<br>Deadline                                 | <b>16</b><br>Christmas Assis-<br>tance Program Set-<br>up 9-10 am Baptist<br>Church             | <b>17</b><br><i>Friendship</i><br><i>Choir 6:30 pm</i><br>Cuba Choir 7:00 pm                                    | <b>18</b> <i>WIC</i><br>Christmas Assistance<br>Program at Baptist<br>church<br>8:15 am - Noon | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> Kung Fu 6-8 a<br><i>Trustee Breakfast</i><br><i>Lunch On Us</i><br>11:30-12:30                   |
| <b>21</b>   | <b>22</b><br>Leadership Team<br>7:00 pm                                  | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b><br>Cuba Christmas Eve<br>Service 5:45 pm<br><i>Friendship Christmas</i><br><i>Eve service 7:30 pm</i> |             | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b><br>Kung Fu 6-8:00 am<br><i>Lunch On Us</i><br>11:30-12:30  |
| <b>28</b><br>Rothfus<br>Offering  | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>   | <b>31</b><br><i>Friendship</i><br><i>Choir 6:30 pm</i><br>Cuba Choir 7:00 pm                                    |  |           |  |

# The Shepherd's Messenger

CUBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
49 EAST MAIN ST. • CUBA, NY 14727  
WWW.CUBAUMC.ORG • REV. TIM GLEASON



## 2014

«AddressBlock»

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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