

First Baptist Church  
17 South Street Cuba, New York 14727  
585-968-1531



# Good News Letter

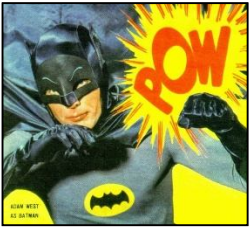


**Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen, Indeed!**  
Celebrate the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018 at 10am.

Rev. Lynn A. Sullivan, Sr. Pastor  
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<https://faithlife.com/cubafirstbaptistchurch/activity>

April 2018



When I was about 9 years old, our family moved from New Jersey to Indiana. This was hard! Although I was excited about living in an entirely different place and the prospect of meeting and making new friends, I also felt very sad about the things that would be left behind: seeing my grandparents each week, my closest friends and the familiarity of life as I knew it then. The one thing I felt I would miss the most was my cousin Johnny. He and I had a real passion for comic books and our favorite characters were Batman and

Batwoman. We even had a makeshift cave constructed down in our grandmother's basement and spent hours there acting out the comic stories we read.

We loved reading those comics together just as much. I was always fascinated with those colorful bursts of POW! BAM! ZAP! BANG! BOOM! and WHAM! I was tickled when the Batman TV series added those bursts to their action scenes. They were powerful graphics for the fight to overcome evil - especially POW! For me, that word is an "in your face TAKE THAT!"

I was thinking about how I wished I could just hit my bad habits and temptations square in the jaw – POW! - and knock them all out of my life. I get discouraged from time to time when I realize that I have so far to go in really becoming the gracious person I believe God wants me to be. Often, I feel powerless. I easily see how wonderfully God uses others, and many times I feel weak in my walk with Christ. I need power in my life! Do you ever feel that way?

Imagine my surprise when I came across a quote by Frances Roberts, author of *Come Away, My Beloved*. He describes God speaking to him in this way:

"Yes, let your heart rejoice in me, and occupy your heart with praise. There is no need that I will not fulfill as you praise and worship – both your needs and the needs of others . . . for by praise and worship great dynamos of power are set in motion. I will make you a blessing."

Isn't that wonderful?! God empowers us through our praise and worship of him!

I would add something else that is needful in living powerfully: obedience. Praise and worship are worthy practices yet not without our obedience to our Lord's teachings. It is our obedience that makes our walk with God authentic, Praise. Obedience. Worship. Do you see the makings of an acronym here? POW. POW!

May you experience power in living for Jesus Christ our Lord as you give him your praise, obey all that he has taught, and worship our awesome God! May you be powerfully blessed to be a blessing!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lynn

Beginning on Sunday, March 25, coffee and a treat will be available both **BEFORE and AFTER** the service. Why not have that second cup of coffee at church, while enjoying some fellowship with others? Arriving to church for pre worship duties, singing in the choir, or just an early bird? Please enjoy a cup of coffee or tea beginning at **9am**. Coffee time at the conclusion of the service will continue as normal. Please consider these opportunities to spend some time with your church family.





It's no joke! Easter will be on April 1st this year. Our small groups will not meet in celebration of the resurrection of our Savior. Join us for worship and stay for coffee. Don't forget to take home a balloon to decorate your holy week cross, HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED!

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### **Grief Support Group**

Our group has been meeting for over a year now and it has become an important part of the lives of many. Some people come regularly (every month), others – only when they are feeling the effects of their situation more than normal.

The group is open to any adult in the area. It is a Christian group that offers an opportunity to share (or not share) with others who are experiencing the throes of a life-changing event. Although many are dealing with the loss of a loved one; anyone facing divorce, job change or any event that affects a person emotionally, physically and/or spiritually share similar feelings. The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 1pm in the church lounge. Meetings generally last an hour or so and are completely confidential.

If you are, or know someone who is dealing with a tough time. Please consider joining the group. There is no shelf life on grief. Some members of the group are new to their situation; others have been dealing with these feeling for a long time. Regardless, all are welcome.

In April, the group will meet on Wednesday the 4th at 1pm in the church lounge. All are welcome

### **ABWM NEWS**

The women of the church continue to try their hardest to serve the church and community. The rummage rooms (coordinated by the ABWM) remains busy. They are open every Friday and Saturday from 9am-12noon. Donations of clean, gently used clothing for infants, children, men and women and household items (no upholstered furniture) are always happily accepted. These may be left during their hours of business, or left at the south street door. We cannot accept any electronics (TVs, computers etc.). The proceeds from the rummage rooms allow the ABWM to continue to support their activities, the church, and other missions.

At the end of April, a group of 5 women and 1 AB Girl will be attending the state convention in Binghamton. This is always a great time of fellowship with the sisters from around the state. We look forward to hearing about the trip and what we might gain from their experience.

Looking forward, the women are excited to be a part of the growth of CFB. The next meeting will be on **May 20<sup>th</sup>, at 12:15pm** following Sunday School. A light lunch will be provided. All are welcome!

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Spring Market will be offering a wide assortment of crafters and vendors from 9am-3pm. The ABWM hosts a booth and is looking for items to be sold. Any household items, plants, decorations etc (no clothing please) will be greatly appreciated. These may be left in the box by the elevator before April 6<sup>th</sup>. The “Not Your Everyday Bake Sale” is asking for donations of cookies, muffins, breads, candy, heat and eat entrees, soups, pies and cakes to be sold. These items can be dropped off on Friday (4/6) 4-7pm, or before 9am on Saturday (4/7). Please consider attending this fun event. It's a great day to enjoy some shopping, a soup and side luncheon (\$5) and then take home some delicious goodies for later. Share the news with your friends and family!

Not able to attend the meetings? No problem – contact Claudia Little to volunteer your time, or to provide flowers or décor for the sanctuary. Please contact Melody Hayward if you would be willing to volunteer in the Rummage Rooms. Everyone is invited to be a part of this ministry!

## Something's happening in the kitchen!

On **April 13<sup>th</sup>** (Friday) at 3:15pm, "Kids in the Kitchen" will be making some delicious treats for fellowship hour and also some soups for the Table Ministry. (And if course, there will be some snaking too). Youth (boys and girls) in grades 4-12 are invited to join together to mix, stir, create, bake and cook several recipes that will not only be fun to make, but offer an opportunity to serve their friends, the church and the community.

All are welcome and kids are invited to bring their friends to join the fun. In order to prepare, participants are asked to sign up in the court or contact Claudia Little at (585-968-3061) or [claudialittle7@icloud.com](mailto:claudialittle7@icloud.com).

This cooking session will end at 5pm. Parents are invited to come in and see what the kids have "cooked up"!

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### Musings of a Church Mouse

April means spring – right? I am so hoping that is the case. Things here at CFB seem to be indicating that winter is almost over. The flowers in the sanctuary seem to be more spring like. Did you know that the women of the church do this? All you have to do is sign up on the ABW Flower calendar, or see Claudia Little. She says anything goes! Flowers, bowls of fruit, candles – whatever you think might make the pulpit look more welcoming and attractive. This is a wonderful place to display your creativity! You can even place things there in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Speaking of that... I have to tell you that every week there is something strange happening. Gary Shaffer, and sometimes he has helpers...goes into the sanctuary and takes out a pew! At first I thought I should go call someone (like the police), then I decided that Gary was a good guy and wouldn't do anything wrong. THEN – he brings in a different pew! Apparently he is taking a pew a

week to the Amish gentleman who is really good at repairing and restoring these wooden seats. I understand they're VERY old, and like everything...they start to wear out a little. The ones that come back in look great (and they don't make a noise when people sit on them). Anyone can sponsor the restoration of a pew for \$175, and they can do so in honor of or in memory of a loved one. I hear there will be a plaque in the sanctuary with those names on it. What a great way to honor our family and friends.

Pastor Lynn seems really busy these days. She's in and out all the time. Sometimes she has meetings in her office and she comes back for all the board meetings. We still haven't met properly, but I think she caught a glimpse of me the other day. She didn't scream – that's always a good sign.

The kids enjoyed another movie. They seem to have such a good time. I understand that there is going to be some kids cooking in the kitchen in April. Boy, I can't wait for that. Do

you think they might spill something? (A mouse can hope)

As I finish this, I realize that there are more things happening that I will need to tell you about next month. It's never boring here for sure. I do miss some of my family. Seems like there has been some bad weather, some illness and some actually go to a warmer place in the winter. I'll be extra happy when we can all be together again.

One more thing, I almost forgot! On Sunday mornings, you can get a cup of coffee and a goodie before church! Some of my family stay after church and enjoy some time together, but now they can come early, relax and enjoy a cup of coffee. I see the ladies have everything ready by 9am, and they still have more for after church. This offers one more chance to be with others who care about each other, and about the church (and I hope me).



Thank you again  
my friends –  
Your Church  
Mouse

## Betty Francis Memorial Scholarship

The family of Elizabeth (Betty) Edwards Francis established a scholarship in her memory to continue Betty's passion for teaching and her involvement in the church.

Priority will be given to a **high school senior** who is an active, baptized member of Cuba First Baptist Church planning to pursue a career in teaching or ministry and has at least a "C" average or 2.0 GPA.

### The Poelma Service Award

(Established by Delores and Jim Cross in honor of Larry and Linda Poelma)

- A graduating Cuba-Rushford Central School Senior from First Baptist Church who has provided Service to our Church and Congregation.
- An individual, regardless of age, from the First Baptist Church family studying at a college, taking an on-line course or beginning the educational process by attending G.E.D. classes.
- The Scholarship Committee may recommend someone in the community who has provided service to First Baptist Church, Cuba Library, Cuba Memorial Hospital or the Village of Cuba, providing all Scholarship Committee members agree.

All applications will be available from the Office and are due May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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### Prayer Requests:

Health Concerns: Steve Wilson (Joan Kottwitz's son-in-law), Esther Wright, Wayne Wright (Esther's son), Paul Cummins, Rick Kelly (friend of Matt Williamson), Lorraine (friend of Penny Greene), Ruth Davis

Continuing Prayers: Connie Boyer (Sallie Wild's mother), Jeff Mann (Lori Mann's brother in law), Kim Hillman (Sue Hillman's husband), Earlene Offaus (dear friend of the Lathrop's), Duke (Sheila Burnett's husband) Penny Frederick, Mary Ellen Moriarty Sandy Beard, Michael Hayes (nephew of Alice Resch and Katy Harbeck), Susan Stoddard (Sallie Miller's sister), Carol Halstead, Sandy Lathrop, Bert & Mickie Tidlund, Skip Wilday's college friend's son, Stephen Berichon, is still missing abroad Sympathy: We extend our Christian sympathy to the Treadway Family on the sudden loss of Tom Treadway.

#### Remember in Care Facilities

Cuba Memorial Hospital - Gene Case, Doc Gilroy  
Batavia VA- Dennis Chamberlain  
Eden Heights- Helen Swift, Betty Parker  
Highland Healthcare (Wellsville) - John Hoagland  
Livingston Cty. Center for Nursing & Rehab. - Katie  
Hamilton Manor Hills (Wellsville) - Elva Gross  
Pines (Olean) - Connie Battistoni  
Wellsville Manor- Flora Prentice  
St. Luke Health Services (Oswego) - Beverly Abbott

#### Special Interest Missionaries

David and Joyce Reed, IberoAmerica and Caribbean  
Dan and Sarah Chetti, Lebanon

#### All those serving in the military, police, and firemen.

*All those in and outside of our congregation who may not be listed but need the healing power of the Spirit.*

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April Birthday's

11th – Megan Ahrens  
12th – Kody Pierce  
13th – Lee Stewart

16th – Alice Resch  
17th – Cindy Colley  
21st – Sandra Beard,  
Coleman Searle

\* Please contact the church office if you would like your birthday or anniversary in the newsletter.

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A note received –

*Larry and I would like to thank our church family for their unceasing support, oral and written, on our present journey. Also the Table Ministry has provided dinner for Larry on days when I chose warm bread and milk. Please know how important you are.*

*Sandy and Larry Lathrop*

As you know, the pew project (to restore our aging pews) continues. **Something new has been added!** If you would like to sponsor a pew repair “in memory of” or “in honor of” an individual or family/group; that name can be placed on a plaque that will be hung in the sanctuary. Individuals that have already made a donation may still be noted on the plaque. If you choose to not have a recognition, that’s fine too. Please pick up a form in the court, and then return form with your contribution to the church office or place in the offering plate. It is costing \$175 per pew to renovate and repair each pew. Thank you to all who have contributed and in advance to all who plan on doing so.



The Rummage Rooms continue to need all types of warm clothing, but also needs spring items. Infants and children’s items of any type are always in short supply and welcome. The ladies are also creating a “professional section” that will offer items suitable for men and women as they attend job interviews, or begin a new job that their wardrobe may not be suited for. Please consider this new need as you tackle that spring-cleaning. Thank you again for all your support. The rummage rooms continue to service a large community.

We ARE the Hands and Feet of Jesus. The Rummage Rooms are open every Friday and Saturday from 9-12.

Please keep the Food Pantry in mind as you shop. Don’t know what to get? There is a shopping list on the table in the Court for your convenience. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make checks payable to “Cuba Food Pantry” and mail to North Park Wesleyan Church Attn: Pastor Megan Cusumano 32 Spring St. Cuba, NY 14727. Thank you!



### Meetings of Boards and Committees at a glance:

American Baptist Men - 4/15/2018 at 12:15 p.m.

American Baptist Women - No meeting in April

Christian Board of Education - 4/20/18 at 12:15 p.m.

Diaconate - 4/11/18 at 6:00 p.m.

Pastoral Relations Committee - 4/22/2018 from 12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Lunch provided.

Trustee - 4/9/2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Advisory Council - 4/8/18 from 12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Lunch provided.



A Celebration Brunch will be held in honor of our newest members on Sunday, May 6 in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. Please RSVP by April 29.

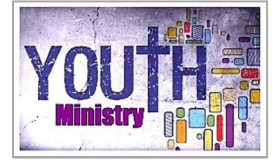


### Movie Night “Ferdinand”

Friday, April 20 from 6-8pm

Contact Melissa Grover at (585) 610-7082

## Youth Ministry Updates and Opportunities:



### Camps

Summer is coming, I promise. Before you know it, we will be barbequing and sitting out in a freshly mowed yard enjoying lemonade. With summer, comes camp season. This year we are excited to share the following camp experiences.

**Camp Vick** will host campers for 3 weeks this year, camps will be held in late July and early August.

**Bliss Summit Bible Camp** registrations will be offered as well for any families who would like to visit that camp. Bliss Summit has been in the camping business for many years and this season 5 camps will be offered during the month of July.

Our team here at CFB is excited for **Camp JYC**, this season we celebrate 35 years of camping fun and friendships. Camp will be August 3-5. JYC remains a 100% volunteer camp staffed by our First Baptist family and friends, if you are interested in joining the team please contact Bill or Maghen Beck. There are positions available for overnight duties, days only help, and with the kitchen staff.

Keep an eye out for the camping display in the court to find all details and registration costs. Remember scholarships are available for campers to all camps.

### Trip

This spring our youth are invited to attend "**Bunk with Beasts**", an overnight lock-in at Seneca Park Zoo of Rochester. This program offers a unique experience including a private tour of the zoo, meeting the animals, and a sleepover in the zoo itself! Youth in grades 3 (not requiring a booster seat) and up are welcome to attend and invite their friends. We leave from Cuba First Baptist at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 19 and return between noon and 1 p.m. on Sunday. Please find the full registration packets for cost and details on the table in the court or print one off today from our website. Space will be limited to the number of chaperones and transportation available. Interested chaperones should contact Bill Beck at (585) 307-4792 or Melissa Grover at (585) 610-7082 as soon as possible. Registrations deadline in Sunday, April 29.

### Men's Ministry



Thank you to everyone who supported our Men's Ministry Event on March 25th. These special events cannot happen without the collective efforts of many people. This event happened because of the work of our friends in the Cuba Council of Churches and many here within our own church. A special thank you to all of the men who attended and supported this event, guest speaker Kevin DeVries, and Obi Community Church Praise Band.

On Sunday, April 15th @ 12:15 p.m. there will be an ABMen (American Baptist Men) meeting with ABMen USA Treasurer, NY and PA district representative, and ABMen of NYS Growth Chairman, Dave Cross. All men are invited to join us as we find a direction for this new opportunity to serve our community and to fellowship as brothers in Christ.

The Men's fellowship will be serving a ladies breakfast on Sunday, May 13 before worship. This will be for all ladies of any age and appetite. Please RSVP when available.

### Small Group Ministry

Our youth small group picnic will be Sunday, June 3 to conclude our small group's season. Save the date for this full family fun day, bring your favorite summer games and join us for a lunch in the park. All are welcome.

## An Interview with Betty Burrows by Claudia Little

After visiting with Betty many times, I decided that it was time that the church family knew more about the woman I have become very fond of. Betty currently lives on Windsor Street but has always lived in the area. She was born at home (on Clarksville road) in 1933, daughter of Elmer and Violet Giles. The youngest of five children, she enjoyed 2 brothers and 2 sisters. Sadly, only one sister is still living. At the age of 11, Betty's family moved to Nile, where they made connections with a family who sold eggs. It was there while buying eggs, that she first met the man who would become her husband, Arvis Burrows. (He was the 13-year-old boy who was sweeping the floor – complete with apron!). They were married 2 days before Christmas in 1951. In the following years, they had 3 children, and he served in the National Guard, the Army and then again upon leaving the Army, he went back into the National Guard. Two of their children live in Cuba. Daughter Connie Mitchell and their son, Dean Burrows are both a large part of her life, and are also a part of our church family. Her daughter, Carol Dutton, lives in Oklahoma. Betty is very proud of her 6 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Looking around her living room, it is obvious that family is very important to her.

Betty worked outside the home at AVX or High Q. She remarked that her current eyesight would certainly not have allowed her to work testing those tiny color-coded circuits. Over time, she also babysat for about 35 kids, and loved every minute of it.

Hanging flower baskets, tomato plants and of course her family all ranked high on her list of favorites. She loves sloppy joes and cake...pretty much any kind. Daughter Connie has been known to arrive with a piece of cake...making Betty's day.

As we talked, I couldn't help but notice how grateful Betty is for everything. She feels blessed to have such a caring family. Daughter in law, Mary, comes every day, before and after work, to help her. Connie is in and out with treats and love. The grandchildren help keep track of her, and she feels so fortunate to have good aides who come twice a day to help her with daily chores, meals etc.

Betty mentioned that they all look forward to the church newsletter coming. They hope to meet "the mouse" someday!

Currently, Betty goes to Senior Care in Olean 3 days a week. Sometimes she doesn't really feel like going, but do enjoy the company and the people there. She loves Mondays when they have music, and our own Larry Lathrop plays one day a month. (Her favorite Monday).

It is obvious that Betty is full of faith, and trust in her Lord. As a child, she attended Sunday school at the Methodist church. It was a huge part of her week. Later in life, she attended the Friendship Bible Baptist church where she was baptized at about age 40. Arvis was a 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist, which intrigued Betty, so she went to church with him and found it to be very similar to the Baptists – only they go to church on Saturday. She loves Cuba First Baptist and really misses being able to attend anymore. When the choir arrives on Be the Church Sunday...she says they could stay all day. Her favorite hymn is "The Old Rugged Cross", and she also loves Amazing Grace. Since she really can't see well enough to read anymore, she is enjoying her "Wonder Bible" that was a Christmas gift. She is able to listen to verses whenever she wants. John 3:16 is her favorite verse.

Best day of her life? The day she married Arvis. She still misses him so much, but knows they will be together, when the time is right.

Another favorite time is when she and Arvis went on a bus trip to Nashville. They loved country music and it was everything they had hoped for.

In closing, I asked Betty if she had any advice for us. She says she takes it one day at a time, and she also counts every blessing. Her admirable faith and love for the Lord is there...each and every one of those days.