

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

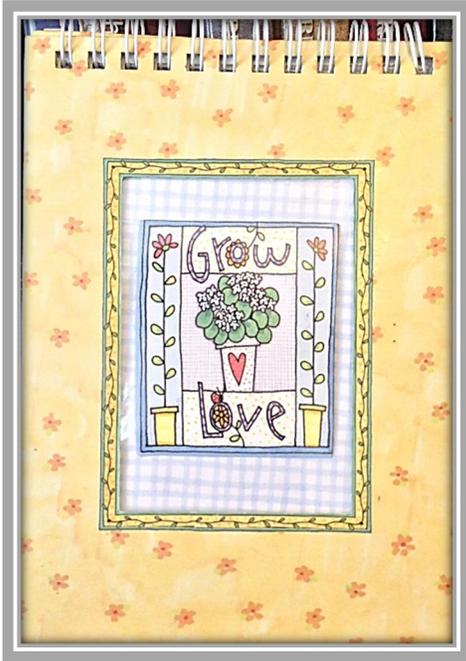


Good News Letter

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<https://faithlife.com/cupafirstbaptistchurch/activity>

“God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.” 1 John 4:16



I have a little spiral-bound notebook that I use for lists of things. The cover is made of sturdy chipboard decorated in a bright folk art style. A bouquet of flowers in a vase with a heart motif is sandwiched between the words GROW and LOVE. I love this little notebook and hope I can recycle the cover when the pages inside are all used up.

Why do I love it so? For me, it is a much-needed visible reminder that although there are many times when I may give and receive love freely I am called to do more. And so are you! We are called to cultivate and nurture the love in our lives. Easier said than done, right? We all know that there are times when it is easy to love and at other times it feels downright impossible! Clearly, love is a choice. It is this choosing that cultivates and nurtures the love in our lives. How can we do this, especially during those impossible times?

In his letter to the church in Corinth Paul says that love is everything – that without it there is absolutely no value in faith, generosity or even the gifts of the Spirit such as speaking in tongues, prophetic powers and the understanding of mysteries (1 Corinthians 13). In verses 4-7 Paul gives a wonderful description of the qualities of love:

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

It is this description that helps me the most. Although it is by no means an exhaustive list, there are clear lines drawn between what is loving and what is not. It follows that to do those things that describe love and to choose against doing those things that love is not will nurture God’s love in our lives and grow into others’ lives as well.

Like I said, it is not easy, and I need a visible reminder at times. How about you? How is your love growing?

To you with love,

Pastor Lynn

Note: Pastor Lynn will attend the Nehemiah Leadership Network Annual Gathering from Monday, February 4 to Thursday, February 7 and will not have any office hours that week.



Please note that the Bible Study Group that normally meets on Wednesday's at 10:30 a.m. in the Lounge will not meet in February due to the strong possibility of inclement weather. The Group will resume in March.

Grief Support Group

The Grief Support group meets regularly at **1:00 p.m.** on the first Wednesday of the month. The February meeting will be on Wednesday, **February 5**. Should the weather be questionable, please contact Claudia Little before venturing out.

Anyone in the community is welcome to attend as we support each other on some journeys that have "changed" our lives. Whether you have experienced a loss, or are walking through some uncharted waters.... Please consider attending and feel free to invite others who you think might benefit from spending a little time with other caring people.

As winter has arrived, in addition to the group's monthly meeting; we will be offering an online group. If you'd like your email to be included in this project, please let Claudia know. We're hoping to keep in touch during wintry days and with those who may travel south. More details will be forthcoming. Please contact Claudia Little at claudialittle7@icloud.com for more information.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

Kids in the Kitchen



Friday, February 8 – the kids will be back in the kitchen. From **3:15 – 5:00 p.m.**, we'll be cooking, baking and basically have a great time. All kids in grades 3 - 12 in the area are invited to gather for this fun and hopefully informative time. Younger kids are welcome if they are accompanied by an adult.

During each session, the youth enjoy the company of some great adults as they learn some cooking skills, try new things, have conversations and of course – do some eating. Generally, a portion of their wares is contributed to the Table Ministry's mission.

Helpers are always welcome (and needed). If you would like to help, please sign up in the court and plan to be at church by 2:30 for basic information. Youth are also asked to sign up so we can plan our supplies.

In the busy times we live in, the opportunities to learn basic cooking skills is limited by homework, sports and the demanding lives of parents and families. The kids really seem to live this time and with the support of the church family, we hope to continue to grow and cook!

Anyone wishing to financially support Kids in the Kitchen could give their donation to LaVerna Stohr. (Checks made payable to Cuba First Baptist – memo – kids in the kitchen).

Glow Party



On Friday, February 22, from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm for kids in grades K - 5.

Please RSVP by Friday, February 8 to Melissa Grover at 585-610-7082.

Join us for an evening of fun!

From the Sunday School Superintendent - Bill Beck

2019 is shaping up to be another great year with First Baptist Church! This February, our older youth will be traveling to Buffalo to attend a one day conference on the 16th. Also this month, our church will host Kids in the Kitchen and a Glow party, if you would like to serve in some way with either of these ministries please contact Claudia Little or Melissa Grover respectively. We are also working to plan a trip back to Christian Camping Services for a canoeing and camping retreat in May and an overnight visit to the Seneca Park Zoo. These types of events are quickly becoming the face of our ministry and your support is always appreciated.

This past November Joey Fredrick III attended the American Baptist Youth state convention in Syracuse. It was because of your support that he was able to experience this time of growth and fellowship. These events impact the spiritual journey of our youth for the rest of their lives and they do not happen without the work, funding, and prayers of you and our partner churches. Joey shares about his experience - *"I attended the Syracuse conference in Syracuse NY. I was excited to meet new people at this conference and learn about the many new ways I could worship. One spiritual takeaway was that I got to have a deep prayer while listening to music, and I felt totally at peace. One experience I found fun was a group activity that a group of fellow youth and I had attended, it was about teamwork and being in sync just like our souls are in sync with the lord. My deepest thanks to the Cuba First Baptist Church for making it possible for me to attend, and a special thanks to William Beck for going with me on this amazing journey. I directly encourage other people to join us next year in this joy packed crusade to Syracuse."*

America For Christ Offering 2019



CULTIVATING
LEADERS
EQUIPPING
DISCIPLES
**HEALING
COMMUNITIES**
Galatians 6:9-10

We live in a time when polarization and alienation are common. Diverse persons in our society often feel shunned, and differing voices are at times muted. American Baptist Home Mission Societies' (ABHMS) America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2019, "Healing Communities"—based on Galatians 6:9-10 ("Let us not become weary in doing good")—reminds American Baptists that mission and ministry are rooted in service and that God's grace extends to all, regardless of location.

Through generosity, American Baptists minister as God's heart and hands, healing the broken and the downtrodden. Congregations and individuals serve on the front lines of local communities, opening wide our doors, intervening amid the messiness, healing the broken-hearted, and caring for others amid disaster and devastation. Through our caring actions, Jesus touches those who are hurting and dying.

Your gifts to the AFC Offering impact thousands—through ministries with marginalized children, disaster response, prisoner re-entry and aftercare, immigration and refugee resettlement, public witness and advocacy, resources that equip Christian leaders, chaplains who bring comfort to those in hospitals and nursing homes, and so much more.

While our AFC giving window is January through March 2019, you can give as often as you like by visiting ABHMS' website at abhms.org, clicking "Give Now" and then choosing "ABHMS America for Christ Offering" in the drop-down menu. Please join ABHMS in reaching our goal of \$1,200,000.

Thanks for partnering with us and for being involved in a "Healing Community" that reflects God's redemptive love, transforming lives and communities. Thank you for your generous gifts to the AFC Offering 2019.

With Hope and Grace,
Dr. Jeffrey Haggray
Executive Director, ABHMS



The women at Cuba First Baptist are on a mission! We are hoping to increase our attendance and even more importantly, we want to reach out to those who need a hand, a smile, a hug or a prayer.

One way we can do this, is to supply a meal to those who may be having a tough time, are ill, have suffered a loss or are in need. Our Table Ministry needs your support. There are four ways that you as the church family can help.

1. If you are aware of someone who might appreciate a little boost, please let any of the ABWM know or contact Claudia Little, (585-968-3061). Sometimes it is very hard to ASK for help; as responsible Christians, we can bring that aid to them without making them feel helpless or hopeless. We ALL need help at one time or another (even if we don't want to admit it).

2. When you are preparing your meals at home, consider sharing some of those leftovers with others. We have lots of containers and lids in the church kitchen. Why not take home a few and share that soup, stew or baked good? Home cooked foods have a way of bringing comfort to others. If you aren't sure who to give it to, just return the dated and labeled container to church and put it in the refrigerator. The Table Ministry will distribute it for you.

3. If you're looking for a way to help but neither of the above suggestions fit your life – we are always

grateful for financial donations. We do purchase the containers and often have a day when we cook and prepare numerous meals at once. Helping to cover those expenses is very much appreciated. Checks could be made payable to Cuba First Baptist Church with **“table ministry” in the memo line.** These donations can be put in the offering plate (in a marked envelope) or given to LaVerna Stohr or Claudia Little.

4. This is the toughest. Please let Claudia or anyone in the ABWM know if you have a need, or if you know someone who could use a boost. We know it's hard to ask for help, but we also know that life throws us lots of curves – all of us – and please allow us to help. Even the tiniest bowl of soup or loaf of bread can make a bad day better.

The ladies also continue (with LOTS of help) to offer the Rummage Rooms to the community. We are always in need of workers (see Melody Hayward), infants, kids, men and women's gently used clothing, small wares and household items. We cannot accept electronics, computers or upholstered items.

The **next ABWM meeting will be on Sunday, February 24** following the Sunday school hour at 12:15 p.m. We will have a light lunch followed by a meeting and plans for the upcoming Lenten season. All women of the church family are welcome to join us. There is no commitment, only the opportunity for fellowship with sisters in Christ and the possibility of serving others. Why not join us and bring a friend! You may find it fun and rewarding!

White Cross



The annual White Cross Project is now underway. This year we have been asked to provide supplies to the Lakeside Baptist Church in Rochester to assist them in their local mission work. Items needed are listed on the hearts which decorate the tree in the court. **HAVE A HEART!** Please choose a heart or two from the tree, purchase the item(s) listed and place them in the box under the tree. Some hearts list dollar amounts should you prefer to donate money rather than to shop. Cash or checks can be given to Maghen Beck, Church Secretary, or Ann Gross. Checks should be made payable to the church with **“White Cross”** noted on the memo line. We will be collecting items throughout February. Please call Ann Gross, (585)-968-2773, with any questions.

Musings of a Church Mouse



If you remember, in my last reflections; I was so looking forward to the Christmas holidays. Well, I was not disappointed. It was amazing. The church was so beautiful. I saw them putting a new tree in the sanctuary (the other one had gotten a little "dog eared"- hmmm – not sure what that means). Anyhow, thanks to a memorial gift from Betsy and Meredith Hubbard – we have a new 10-foot tree and it's awesome. When they turned on the tree lights, my heart melted. Many of the ornaments were fashioned by the women of the church over the years...it's like a story – all rolled up in a beautiful package.

The tree and all the other pretty adornments created the perfect setting for the Christmas events. Our church hosted the Council of Churches service between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our very own Nettie, led a choir that included all the churches, and it was fantastic. So many voices – all blending in the spirit of community, and the joy of the season. Of course there were cookies afterwards too – sooo many cookies. Even the best housekeepers couldn't prevent a crumb or two – and they were wonderful.

The kids presented a great play after church. It was so much fun. Everyone laughed, yet there was a message hidden in those antics. Some of the adults also got to display their theatrical talents at the Christmas Dinner Theatre. About 75 people enjoyed a full meal, complete with soup, salad, holiday buffet and of course – desserts. Following this hearty meal, they settled in to enjoy a great play. We sure do have a lot of talented people in our family. I particularly enjoyed Ken Miller's costume. Be sure to compliment him on it the next time you see him.

Christmas eve – "there arose such a clatter" – would be an understatement. The early service brought over 130 people together to enjoy Pastor Alex's story of the birth of Christ. The kids played a huge part, and everyone enjoyed themselves. Later, Rev Sullivan led a wonderful service with message and music by some of our own; a little quieter, but so meaningful, and such a wonderful way to welcome the dawn of Christmas morning.

After Christmas, just when I thought it would quiet down, I began to smell pizza after church! Some adults and their kids joined together to share a lunch and some great conversation. The aromas had barely dissipated, when the oven was on and the clatter of pots and pans could be heard. On New Year's

Day, the Table Ministry and lots of their friends, served a wonderful warm meal to anyone who wanted to come. I counted 22 take outs that went to our shut-ins and the CPD. Altogether, about 75 people enjoyed themselves. There were people from our church, from other churches and some who I'd never even seen before – but everyone laughed and talked. It seems it was a great way to start out the year for them, and for me too. I felt very warm and grateful to be in such a giving church.

I always think it's good to say thank you when people do such nice things. Did you know that Marcia Swenson comes in every week to help our secretary Maghen, or that Carol Shaffer is putting the finishing touches on our pews? Our friend Lindsay continues to be the "gate keeper" and make sure that our heat is on when it needs to be, and that the lights are off – when we don't need them. Vinnie is ever vigilant to our needs and Larry Hayward seems to always be fixing something, or replacing something. I think he sees more of his wife, Melody here than at home. She is always working in the rummage rooms with the help of Margie, Joanne Piechota and so many others. Although LaVerna has retired from the treasurer job, she continues to help those who are trying to keep things running, and she also still serves as treasurer of the ABWM. Bill Beck and Melissa Grover are right in the middle of the kid's activities; always looking for ways and things to for the kids. Our tech team, Lois Lounsberry, Matt Williamson, Penny Greene and others who pitch in – keep the service visible and audible for all. Anne Brungard and Sandy Lathrop continue to serve the little ones with missions that make such a difference in the lives of the human babies. Our staff of Pastors Sullivan and Freer, our secretary, Maghen, and our musical leader – Nettie White, give to us way more that most even know. I guess I could go on and on with names and thank yous, but I know that everyone in the Cuba First Baptist family serves in some way; and that is a wonderful thing. A thing that I am so grateful for and would love to tell them (although it's not always a good idea for me – you know – that "it's a mouse!" thing) but I hope that all of my humans can do that in a less scary way, and let them know how much we appreciate them.

Cold weather is coming fast and I am so thankful for my warm cozy church. I imagine I will spend the next couple of months hunkered down and happy. But, I have no doubt but that there will be surprises, and I LOVE surprises.

As always, your very thankful Church Mouse.

The Rummage Rooms are in need of spring and summer clothing for all sizes and ages but they especially need men's clothing (all kinds and sizes) and women's pants. If you have any clean, gently used clothing; please drop them off any day at the south street entrance. The Rummage Rooms are always in need of household items (no electronics or upholstered items, please), too. Please consider sharing those unused clothing and household items in your house. You will not only be cleaning out those shelves and closets, but you will be helping others as they go about their lives, attend school, go to work or seek employment. We ARE the Hands and Feet of Jesus. **The Rummage Rooms are open every Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 12 noon.**

After a very successful Cuba Council of Churches Holiday Assistance, our **Food Pantry** is low and needs to be restocked so please keep the Food Pantry in mind as you shop. Don't know what to get? Here is a list of what we need; peanut butter, jelly/ jam, instant potatoes, pasta, pasta sauce, ramen noodles, macaroni & cheese, cereal, hamburger helper, canned soup, canned pasta, canned fruit, canned chicken, tuna fish, canned vegetables, rice, paper products, toiletries (shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, deodorant), and laundry detergent.

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!

Prayer Requests:

Prayer Requests Joan Hayes's mother and family, Mary Burrows, Betty Parker (Luanne Perry's mother), Mike Edwards (Marie Lewandowski's nephew), Colin Robinson (Nancy Robinson's Grandson) **Continuing Prayers** Bruce Sheldon, Matt Williamson, Sharon Perkins Bill Clark, Colston & Hannah Hillman's baby, Amelia (Sue & Kim Hillman's son, daughter-in-law and new granddaughter) Rod Cady, Rick Kelly, Alberta Seaver (Larry Lathrop's sister), John Orcutt, Luke Fries, Mary Searle, Bert & Mickie Tidlund, Betsy Hubbard, Linda Goldthwait, Martha Miller, Candy Parish (Nettie's sister-in-law), Sandy Lathrop, Sandy Beard, Keith and Vyrna Brown (Kim Gleason's parents), Susan Stoddard (Sallie Miller's sister) **Sympathy: Our deepest Christian sympathy is with Bruce Sheldon and Family on the passing of his beloved wife, Diane, who went home to her Lord on January 21.**

Remember in Care Facilities

Cuba Memorial Hospital - Gene Case
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, JoAnne Hoagland
Pines (Olean) - Connie Battistoni
Wellsville Manor - Flora Prentice
Brompton Heights (Williamsville) - David Halstead

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.**

February Birthdays

| | |
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| 3rd - Erick Poore | 14th - John Marcoux |
| 4th - Taylor Searle | 15th - Ken Freer |
| 7th - Walter Hibbard | 20th - Oksana Wilday |
| 10th - Joan Kottwitz, Brenton Ahrens, Wyatt Williamson | 22nd - John Shelley, Alexandra Freer |
| 13th - Rockne Searle | |

February Anniversaries

2nd Ray & Sharon Perkins
29th George & Dawn Santangelo

* How to say thank you to all who helped us get thru these past few weeks and the memorial service. The cards, phone calls, and prayers helped in so many ways. Linda Goldthwait and Family.

* "Thank you!" from Carole Mohilewsky for all the cards, calls, and prayers as she recovered from surgery. She and Al are doing well and Carole is walking without her cane!

* Ray Perkins reports that Sharon is recovering wonderfully from her surgery though still needs a walker as her pelvis heals. They thank you all for your cards, emails, and prayers.