

First Baptist Church
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Good News Letter

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2IDwDLkFIQro0P7Tfd1y9A>

"I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased." Psalm 138:2-3 (ESV)

It is September! I have most often welcomed this month with a heightened sense of joy. September hails a newness, a quickened pace for life, cooler temperatures that refresh and energize, and an excited re-immersion into our church year.

September is when we all come back from our summer hiatus of a slower pace, time off, rest and relaxation. At least, in my mind, that's how I have experienced it.

But not so this year. This September seems as full of uncertainties as last spring did when we first learned that we were heading into a pandemic. Living in a COVID-19 world has been heavy with heightened responsibility, anxiety, and weariness.

As I write, I am most concerned for our teachers and students as they return for partial in-person schooling & part-time online instruction. It has been a major feat for school districts to construct and put in place a plan that works and covers all the complexities that will ensure the health and safety of our educators and students. I believe Cuba-Rushford had done a phenomenal job. Let us keep all our administrators, teachers, support staff and students in our thoughts and prayers and offer support in every way we can. Let us remember also our college students and their respective schools & colleges.

There are other serious concerns as well, and I most likely don't even need to mention them: concerns connected with our national, political and world arenas. Although we may not be directly involved with most of the "bad news of the day" we are still impacted and weighed down with the heaviness of it all.

And of course, there is the heaviness of the concern we feel for one another amidst the losses we experience and the worrisome burden of the health and future of our church.

I tried to name or explain how this heaviness feels, and finally it came to me. Not too long ago I was awakened in the wee hours of the morning with a dull but heavy weight pressing on my head. With one eye open I seriously asked myself, is this a sign of a brain tumor; am I having a stroke? Startled I shook my head which startled my cat Celia who was laying right on top where I had been feeling all that pressure.

I wish the burdens of our days were lifted as easily as shaking a sleeping cat off our heads. But perhaps they can be. Psalm 138 attests to the promises of God to those who belong to him. The Lord promises to strengthen our souls to withstand all the forces that assail us.

Jesus assures us that he will help carry our load for us. *"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

Yes, let us come to Jesus every day and trust in him fully! He will strengthen our souls and see us through.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Lynn

Good News

We are returning to worship in our sanctuary at 10 a.m. this Sunday, August 23.

COVID-19 mandates & guidelines will still be in place with sanitary measures and social distancing. This means that:

- All will continue to enter and leave through the **Spring Street double doors only**.
- **Masks & health screening check-in** are **required**. Removal of masks after all are seated and service begins will be permitted.
- There will be no refreshments, childcare, nor group activities until further notice.
- Printed bulletins will **not** be available. The service items will be projected on the screen.
- We will have music, but we will **not** sing as a congregation.
- A **“No Contact” Offering Box** will be placed near the Fellowship Hall entrance. You may deposit your offering when entering or leaving.
- On Communion Sundays a Wafer & Juice set (prepackaged single serving) will be utilized.
- Livestreaming will be done temporarily through Cuba First Baptist Church Facebook page until we are better equipped for broadcasting on YouTube.
<https://www.facebook.com/cubafirstbaptist/?eid=ARCnzxAXItQdOJ6GPoKEezpDOdcaigUDdeagPnt2fTXnHhe1IVsEsg1M05VACZUvmAdtn9TAgLvkh9qT>
- Services will be recorded “in-house” and uploaded to Cuba First Baptist YouTube channel shortly after the service.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2IDwDLkFIQro0P7Tfd1y9A>

Again, you are under no obligation to come if you feel uncomfortable, at risk or want to take extra precautions. Joining us virtually through pre-recorded or livestreaming viewing is a proven and an effective way we continue to be connected through God’s Spirit and grow as the Body of Christ.

Please continue to support our church with your care, your prayers and your contributions as we continue to serve our Lord as his hands and feet!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lynn

Pencils and Crayons From Heaven

- Once again, CFB “Pencils and Crayons from Heaven” was able to help local families with their school supply list. Even as the planning was happening, it was unclear as to what school would look like in September. Regardless, school supplies were needed and thanks to the generosity of the church, community and the Renodin grant; families were able to obtain the 10 most needed items. At the time of newsletter submission – the number of students to receive things was still to be determined. Watch for details in upcoming bulletins.

Thanks to all who helped make this mission possible. A special thanks to Anne Brungard, who bore the responsibility of ordering and obtaining all the items plus organizing sorting, packing and distribution.

This year, the Cuba Library joined the distribution with books for pre K- grade 2 students. Thank you to all!

ABWM Update

- The ABWM continues to support the Pantry Supply program, along with generous contributions from the congregation, other churches and the community. At the time of the newsletter, a distribution for July 15 was being planned in conjunction with the Pencils and Crayons from Heaven. After that, a determination will be made whether to continue the monthly distribution program.

When church is able to resume, we will be planning a meeting and looking to the future for mission projects and church support. A reminder to all that the ABWM contributes monthly to the finances of the church; Just as you would fill out a commitment card.

Food Pantry Update

- The ABWM continues to support the Pantry Supply program, along with generous contributions from the congregation, other churches and the community. At the time of the newsletter, a distribution for July 15 was being planned in conjunction with the Pencils and Crayons from Heaven. After that, a determination will be made whether to continue the monthly distribution program.

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The Table Ministry, in addition to coordinating the Pantry Supply program, has furnished foods to many of our family during these uncertain times. Our hope is that a meal, sweet treat or snack helped to comfort and let our family know that they are loved...even when out of sight.

Rummage Room Update

- The rummage room is working to be able to be open in September. The hours may change and there will, of course, be lots of rules. Masks will be required, shopping time will be limited, no "try-ons", no returns and the number of shoppers at a time will be strictly monitored. The decision to re-open or not is being left to those who will be working and coordinating the ministry. Our priority is the safety of those who serve. At this time, drop offs are still by appointment only. If you have clean, gently used fall/winter clothing or household goods, please contact Claudia Little (585-968-3061) or Melody Hayward. Please do not just leave items – if we are not aware of where they came from or how long they have been there – we have to dispose of them. We are following a strict quarantine process followed by sanitation before anything is put out to sell.

Other Announcements

- **The Grief Support** group is meeting via email. If you would like to be included or would like more details, please contact Claudia at claudialittle7@icloud.com.
- A special thank you to Carol Shaffer for trimming and weeding the church grounds. We look beautiful!

A Letter For You

- Nearly four years ago, I accepted the position of Church Secretary at Cuba First Baptist. While I have adored my time here, a new calling will take me to Cuba Rushford Elementary, where I will serve as the Elementary School Secretary following the retirement of Mrs. Loucks beginning Monday, August 17. Serving our pastors, the church body, and community has been a wonderful experience and I will treasure my time here. Many thanks to all of you for your kindness and support over the years. I know you will welcome our new Church Secretary, Melissa Snopkowski, as warmly as you welcomed me. We will be working together over the coming weeks to help ensure as smooth a transition as possible and ask for prayers as we both undertake new roles, especially during these complicated times. Thank you again, for your support and prayers.

In Christian love,

Maghen C. Beck

- Hello! I have accepted the secretarial position here at the Cuba First Baptist Church. I am super excited for this new adventure. I have two children, Ian and Brooke. I grew up here in Cuba and have been a member of Cuba First Baptist Church for many years. I was one of the Sunday School teachers here for many years as well. I work for CABOCES during the weekday with Autistic children. I am honored to serve our Lord in any way he sees fit. However, I will miss Maghen very much, even though she will work in the same building with me during school hours. My hobbies include spending as much time with my family as I can, kayaking, hiking, four-wheeling, singing (secretively) and reading. The song that touches my heart and soul is *Lord, I Lift Your Name On High*. I have found myself lost for a time and the Lord has shown me a new glorious path. I look forward to my new adventure!

With Christian Love,

Melissa Snopkowski

Musings of a Church Mouse



As I send off this note to my family, I am struck by the fact that I haven't seen many of you in a VERY long time. It seems really strange but please know that I haven't forgotten you. I'm still here doing my best to be a good church mouse and uphold my mouse duties.

I'm writing this on August 12th (I already missed the deadline...sorry) but I am hearing that very soon there will be a day when families can come get school supplies, a back pack AND food! WOW! I can imagine the smiles I'm going to see. It makes my heart happy to know that we at CFB can be a part of helping others, especially during these hard times. I know that's what God wants us to do.

Another nice thing happened too! Last Sunday (August 9th), Pastor Lynn had the Sunday worship service in the Fellowship hall! There were about 15 people there and they all seemed happy to be together. When people arrived they had to answer some questions and sign a paper. It said they did not have COVID-19 or have been with anyone who has it. (I'm very confused about COVID-19 – I know it's not a good thing. I'm being very careful because I hear even mice can get it and give it to people – something I would NOT want to do). Then, an usher helped them find a seat. If they were in the same household, they could sit together; if not, they sat 6 feet from the next person. Everyone wore a mask. I noticed that Bev, the cleaning lady, did an especially good job cleaning this week. She wiped EVERYTHING down with special stuff. It even smells clean! I was happy to see the people that came. I understand that a lot of people cannot come yet. Everybody needs to do what they feel **comfortable** doing and what is **safe** for them. The service will still be available on YouTube for anyone who would like to see it. So, even if we're not all in the same place, we are still together as a family of God.

I'm seeing some activity in the Rummage Rooms. They are not open but that Melody just keeps working and sorting and cleaning. Sometimes, Sandy Lathrop comes and helps too! They want to be ready when it's safe to open. I understand that lots of people count on our little shop for kids clothing and household items. It's a great place to go to get an outfit for a job interview or just to add something new to your closet. I keep looking, but so far...they don't carry my size. No one is allowed to bring things in (unless they have an appointment). Mice are not good at appointments, so maybe that's why.

That's about all I can report this month. I'm betting next month will be "newsier". Until then, I think and pray for you often.

Your humble church mouse....

Prayer Requests from July: Karen Strahan's parents, Cindy Colley, Josh Cook, Betty Washburn. Kristi Wenrich and Family, Bob & Sandy Beard, Eloise Nolan (Natalie Snyder's aunt), Linda Appleby, Nancy Brown & Family, **Continuing Prayers:** Joe Bunk, Baby Aelin Beck, Carrie Brace's sons, Joey & Dustin Frederick, Carol Shaffer's sister, Lorrie, Mickie Tidlund, Shirley Shelly, Don Calhoun, Paul Biel's wife Theresa, Penny Greene's Aunt Lora, Esther Knapp, Jim Hubbard (Betsy Hubbard's son), Amelia Hillman, Sheila & Duke Burnett, Rod Cady, Candy Parish (Nettie's sister-in-law), Sandy Lathrop, Keith and Vyrna Brown (Kim Gleason's parents) **Other:** Be in prayer over our national unrest, All those affected by COVID-19. **Sympathy:** Please hold up the Matteson family in prayer on the death of Bruce Matteson. Bruce went to be with his Holy Father early this morning. Daughters, Tammy, Marlene and his wife Sharon were able to be with him earlier. Bruce was in palliative care. Our deepest Christian sympathy to the family of Marianne McCarthy (OLA) who passed away last week.

Remember in Care Facilities

Batavia VA - Dennis Chamberlain
Brompton Heights (Williamsville) - David Halstead
Cuba Memorial Hospital - Gene Case
Eden Heights - Helen Swift, Joanne Guild
Field of Dreams - Betsy Hubbard, Pauline Comes
Highland Healthcare (Wellsville) - John Hoagland
Manor Hills (Wellsville) - Elva Gross

Special Interest Missionaries

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

***All those in the military, police, firemen, first responders, hospital workers, doctors, nurses, and all front line personnel**

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

September Birthdays: 1 - Luanne Perry, 2 - Pastor Lynn Sullivan, 4 - Bruce Sheldon, 5 - Kim Gleason, 11 - Faith Stewart, 12 - Nevaeh Caster, 21 - Katy Harbeck, Samuel Grover and George Santangelo, 25 - Kirby Pierce.

September Anniversaries: 12 - Larry and Andrea Wise, 15 - Gary and Carol Shaffer, 17 - Gene and Sallie Wild.

Financial Information

Please consider your giving during this uncertain time. You are able to contribute (kind of like a virtual offering!) at <https://cubafirstbaptist.org/donate>. Of course you can also mail in your donations to Cuba First Baptist, 17 South St, Cuba, NY 14727

All checks should be made payable to: **Cuba First Baptist.**

Go to our website at cubafirstbaptist.org for ongoing information. There are Facebook links available on the website too.

Remember that you are not alone. Contact the church office at 585-968-1531 with any concerns. Leave a message if no one answers. Pastor Lynn retrieves messages.

Weekly Offering Goal \$2853: 7/26 \$1398, 8/2 \$843, 8/9 \$3323, 8/16 \$1698

Online Services

If you have internet access, you may join in to the YouTube Live broadcasts as I lead an abbreviated time of worship and prayer each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. through our church YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2iDwDLkFIQro0P7Tfd1y9A> . Bulletins will be emailed out with the specific link each Saturday and can also be found on our website and Facebook page.