

First Baptist Church
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Good News Letter

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<http://cubafirstbaptist.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/cubafirstbaptist/>

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

But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. 1 Peter 4:13 (NRSV)

Who would have thought that this fall we would still be social distancing for COVID when we first quarantined back in March? I sure didn't! It has been a long road and not an easy one to navigate. We have had to make changes. There have been gains and losses along the way.

So here we are in October! Usually October brims with activity -

World Communion Sunday, World Mission Offering, Crop Walk, Be the Church Sunday, Harvest Fest and Trunk or Treat . . .

Most of these events can be done with some flexing, but not so much with the same level of shared anticipation since our way of life has had to change so much. Social distancing sure is cramping our style as we drop the activities and events that are not feasible in the present environment. This grieves me, and I'm willing to bet that you feel the grief of having to social distance as well. I joyfully anticipate the time we can be in each other's presence again, when we no longer need to be masked or positioned six feet apart.

Anticipation and grief – two emotions that we experience at the same time. Anticipating the joy we hope for in being together and grieving the fact that we cannot yet enter fully into community as we had before, we are held in some strange limbo.

So how do we live with these two opposing emotions that tug at our heartstrings?

We live as a wild heart. What is that?! According to Urban Dictionary, a wild heart is one who has survived a struggle, someone who has been through large emotional pain but their heart is still loving and strong.

Inspirational speaker, author, researcher and social worker Brene Brown has said that “the mark of a wild heart is living out of the paradox of love in our lives. It's the ability to be tough and tender, excited and scared, brave and afraid, all in the same moment.”

As I thought about this, I realized that following Jesus is all about living as a wild heart. Jesus certainly did. As Jesus agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane, he knew he was to suffer to the point of death. Yet he held also in his heart the joy of obeying his Father's will and bringing all who believe in him into eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

Wild hearts – that's who we are! We will survive the struggles in our lives, sometimes with great emotional pain. And our hearts will remain loving and strong because we will trust in Jesus, our Lord and Savior to get us through!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Lynn

ABWM Update

- A special **thank you** goes to Anne Brungard for taking backpacks and school supplies over to the school for the children who have not received either.

Food Pantry Update

- A special **thank you** goes out to the Cuba Lake Association for their generous donations to the Food Pantry. They donated more this year than last. During the struggle of the pandemic they have shown us how to love thy neighbor.

Other Announcements

- **Congratulations Joshua Grover on your Baptism on Sunday, September 20, 2020!**
- October is **Pastor Appreciation Month!** Send a card or note in to Rev. Lynn and Rev. Alexandra to let them know how much we love and appreciate all they do!
- **CROP Walk** It's not too late! The walk is being held on October 4 at 1:30 p.m. However, money is still being collected until October 12. If you wish to sponsor a walker or simply make a general contribution to the walk, please do so by the October 12. Checks should be payable to CWS/CROP. They can be sent to the church office (label checks CROP Walk in memo), given to a walker, or a credit card can be used on-line at crophungerwalk/cubany. Sponsor a walker: Jady Little, Wilday Family, Beck Family, Carrie Brace, Sallie Miller, Sallie Wild, Ann Gross and Nyla Sloat. More walkers are welcome to join!
- **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.
- **Biennial 2020:** ONLINE Wednesday to Saturday, October 14-17, 2020
Our Biennial brochures were sent out last week, so check your mailboxes or visit our Biennial meeting web page: <http://www.abc-nys.org/biennial-2020.html>. That week, we will host three evenings of worship and workshops with a Saturday morning service and the business meeting, all via ZOOM (with your participation by telephone and/or online.) We welcome you to submit brief videos (September 1 deadline) highlighting your church's ministry, or your pastor sharing a word of encouragement and scripture or a moment of special music that your church has recorded as an mp4 file.

Biennial 2020 will be a different type of Biennial, yet it will be as it has been in the past: a time to gather and celebrate our life together as ABCNYS churches! Questions? Contact the Region Office.

ABY Convention: ONLINE Friday and Saturday, November 6-7, 2020

Want to be a hero? ABY Convention will challenge youth and young adults with the call to be "an everyday hero". Learn more via this link: <http://www.abc-nys.org/american-baptist-youth.html>



Musings of a Church Mouse



Boy, have you noticed how fast time seems to go sometimes? It seems like I just wrote to you and now it's time to send another note!

Sadly, not a lot has happened since we last talked. Some people are coming to church on Sunday now. They stop at the door, answer a couple of questions and then with their masks on – they go to the sanctuary for the service. They sit a safe distance apart with exceptions for family units. Pastor Lynn is in the sanctuary and Pastor Alex is with us on the big screen. There is music but I miss the sound of everyone singing or the choir performing a lively song. Now, I KNOW that's so we will all be safe and not get sick. But it's ok to miss it and I think how wonderful it will be when we get back to some of our old ways! I try to remember that. And no one should come to church if they're not comfortable. Everybody understands that this is a personal decision. I hear you can still watch the service on Facebook live (at 10 a.m.) and later on YouTube. (I don't have any devices but I heard people talking about it)

The new secretary, Melissa is here every day and I like that. I still haven't introduced myself but I can tell that she's a kind person and I think she'll be ok with me. She comes in the afternoon and stays until 6pm. (she must eat a late supper – boy, I'd get really hungry or need a snack). I believe she works at school too so that's why she comes at 3. I know she has a lot of work to do and lots to learn so I won't bother her...at least not right now.

That Anne Brungard ...she came to church the other day to get even more backpacks and school supplies to hand out! She says (she knows me and says I'm ok because I was nice to the bird – the one she rescued from the mission room upstairs) that she has given out almost 90 backpacks filled with school supplies. Now she's taking some to the school just in case some kids didn't get one or maybe they're using the hand me down - one that is pretty tattered. There's nothing better than new school supplies to start out the year.

I don't see any groceries anymore and the Table Ministry ladies say that they helped about 50 kids every week (for 21 weeks) and even more when they did the distribution with the Pencils and Crayons. I think there are some pretty happy families out there that hopefully don't have to worry about food for a bit. The ladies say that if there appears to be a big need, they are ready to go again.

We sure are lucky to have such willing people to work, support, deliver and help in so many ways in our church and in the community. Cuba is a good place to live and my church is wonderful. I know everyone is thankful.

I'm hoping you are all good and healthy. I know we are all tired of having to keep away from everybody. I'd really like a hug once in a while (yes...there are a few who are ok with hugging a mouse). So, until we can be together again, with all of our family – please be well, be safe and know that you are loved.

Your humble church mouse....

Prayer Requests from September: Walter Hibbard, Grace DeGroat, Harry and Esther Hardman, Carol Place, baby Cora (daughter of Amy Bedell-friend of Carrie Brace), Greg (Sue Hillman's brother), Harry and Esther Hardman **Continuing Prayers:** Betty Washburn, Joey Frederick, Bob & Sandy Beard, Eloise Nolan (Natalie Snyder's aunt), Linda Appleby, Karen Strahan's parents, Baby Aelin Beck, Lorrie (Carol Shaffer's sister), Mickie Tidlund, Don Calhoun, Lora (Penny Greene's aunt), Esther Knapp, Jim Hubbard (Betsy Hubbard's son), Amelia Hillman, Sheila & Duke Burnett, Rod Cady, Sandy Lathrop, Keith and Vyrna Brown (Kim Gleason's parents) **Other:** Be in prayer over our national unrest, All those affected by COVID-19.

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.**

October Birthdays: 4 - Karen Strahan, Stephanie Pierce, 7 - Joey Fredrick, 8 - Andy White, Linda Goldthwait, 12 - Randy Snyder, 16 - Nyla Sloat, 17 b- Mickie Tidlund, Sallie Miller, 18 - Emmy Wise, 19 - Marian Wild, 21 - Katy Harbeck, 28 - Alice Stolberg, 30 - Alek Snyder.

October Anniversaries: 10 - David & Judy Karst, 15 - Matt & Jennifer Williamson, 16 - Lee & Faith Stewart, 26 - Tom & Sue Ball.

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: 9/6 \$2288, 9/13 \$4743, 9/20 \$2702

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.