



December 2020
Hayshire United Church of Christ



Virtual Messy Church

December 18th, 6 - 7:00pm

The Tradition of “Christingles” - Matthew 5:13-16

We invite you to a Zoom meeting so that you can experience our fourth Virtual Messy Church by Hayshire UCC. This abbreviated version of Messy Church will include crafts, storytelling, food and more. We will be providing a supply kit that can be picked up on Tuesday or Wednesday, December 15th & 16th, 6:00-6-30pm. Join us for the FUN! Question? – contact Glenn Young at vizmas57@comcast.net

Zoom link for the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3047880373?pwd=ZlNFOWZBL2hzbFJqdjdKWjJwZHpFZz09>

*Each item is a symbol: the orange is the world, the red ribbon is the love and blood of Christ, the candle is Christ’s light to the world. The four skewers are the compass or seasons and the treats represent God’s creation. Keeping with modern times, apparently some organizations have switched from candles to glow sticks to avoid having children hold lit candles.

While relatively new, the tradition comes from Christingles used in the Moravian Church as early as 1747. The pastor gave children a lighted candle wrapped in a red ribbon to help them understand Jesus is the light to the world.

Moravian missionaries came to England in the 1700s, bringing the idea with them. In Moravian churches, the Christingle Service is usually the Sunday before Christmas or Christmas Eve.

The origin of the name has a couple of stories. One says it is from Christkindl, which means little Christ child, and comes from Germany where, in some parts of the country, Christkindl brings presents. Another idea says it’s Christmas combined with ingles, the old Scots word for fire.

//Glenn Young



BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 6 • Kathi Motter | 14 • Brandon Workinger |
| 6 • Robert Motter | 15 • Thomas Greutz |
| 7 • Dale Leckrone | 18 • K. Jean Blausner |
| 9 • Shonna Rupert | 18 • Abbey Paxson |
| 10 • Jean Carotenuti | 21 • Crystal Martin |
| 10 • Wanda Waltz | 22 • Alexander Schirk |
| 14 • Meredith Eisenhart | 22 • Max Teyral |
| 14 • Freedman Kottmyer | 27 • Lowell Briggs |



PRESCHOOL NEWS

December will find us busy getting ready for Christmas. We will be making special projects, talking about the true meaning of Christmas and making holiday crafts. We are excited that Santa will be visiting all of our classes, even if from a distance. We will be having Christmas parties.

Hopefully we have no snow days.

We will be off for our Christmas vacation December 21st through January 1st.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

//Jackie Bailey, Preschool Director

Editor: Dawn Jones

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:
December 15, 2020

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES TO:
haylo@hayshireucc.org



ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 • Ethan & Laine Knaub
- 18 • Fred & Judy Stabley
- 28 • John & Carol Mummert



PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS IN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Jean Blausner • Lutheran SpiritTrust-Sprenkle Dr.
Martha Pringle • Manor Care - Kingston Court
Helen Bair • Manor Care - Dallastown
Ken Darone • The Village at Kelly Drive - York

MEMBERS

Pat Strine, Deanie Lloyd, Jim and Barb Knight,
Kermit Hoke, Phyllis Miller, Ginny Trostle, Bistline/
Herman Family

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Carol Hess, Linda Sents, Craig Mehrling, Tom Leckrone,
June Price, Robert Anderson, Dan and Rachel Conway,
Jamie Minnich, Patrick Hall, Ruth Cassell, Susan Martin &
Linda, Ruth Ann Bubb, Kimberly Hill, Mr. Sandy's
Homeless Veterans and staff, Bradley Knisely, Dodd Family,
Cassidy Why Family, Alicia Sanders, Caroline Shavino,
Cynthia Nimmer, Cathy Snelbaker, Glenn Hedrick, Diane
Berkheimer, Jerry Nimmer, Jay & Tracey Covert & Boys,
Bonnie Lawrence, Tory Goss, Michael Johnston, Ramon
Nimmer, Susan Wollwage, Norma Whitmoyer, Kitty
Everhard, Michael Cutright, Tosha Peters, Selina Bliss



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 31st after service and will be available via zoom.
- We are looking into a new snow removal company.
- We need more people to join the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee. Contact JoAnn Stoner if you are interested.

Pastoral Reflections

As we begin our final month of 2020, many of us are breathing a sigh of relief, as we hope and dream of a better 2021 – one that seems more like what we are used to: where we can be together and connect physically once again without the fear of COVID-19 hanging over us.

We are all struggling to hold up under the weight of so many months of uncertainty, separation and the need for precautions and adjustments. We wonder:

“How long, O Lord? Will you forget us forever? How long will you hide your face from us? How long must we bear pain in our souls, and have sorrow in our hearts all day long?” (Ps 13:1-2a)

We have made it through Thanksgiving – maybe having already experienced gathering together in new and different ways. And now, we are making plans for our Christmas holiday with family and friends and we wonder if we will even be able to live out those plans as the number of positive cases of COVID continue to rise. This year is definitely a “different” and “unsettling” year. Maybe you are asking –

- Will this Christmas be as special and meaningful as in the year’s past if I can’t be with my family and friends?
- How can we keep it special when we may need to be so far apart?

Just like with our modified Thanksgiving dinners, we may need to remain physically apart for Christmas – and the thought of that hits us even harder than Thanksgiving. We all have our family traditions of who we visit with, how we open our presents together, etc., and the possible need to make changes in “how we gather” this year is disheartening. BUT... that doesn’t mean that we can’t enjoy the holidays together. We just need to be a bit more creative, and technology can help:

You can still **share in some of your favorite holiday traditions via Zoom, web conferencing and video calls like:**

- Cookie baking and decorating, enjoying your Christmas dinner and present opening, even playing games together, sing carols, etc.

Here at the church, we are pondering similar

questions. We are expecting the majority of you will be worshipping with us digitally on Christmas Eve, just like on Sunday mornings, but we are still hoping to have some of you join us in-person - we will confirm that option as we get closer. With the majority, maybe even all of us connecting via digital worship this year, we are simplifying our decorations this year – with our focus being on the chancel area.

- Our **Advent wreath** will be placed on the altar.
- We will be using **Poinsettias and strings of lights** to help make our decorations more colorful and sparkle.
- We will continue to **“build our nativity scene” with the children** via special segments pre-recorded and played immediately after worship where we will hear a new part of the story leading up to Jesus’ birth and add new pieces to our scene each week. More details to follow soon!
- One thing we will miss, this year, is our big and beautiful tree.

We are also finalizing plans for Christmas Eve and just to give you a little hint – **they will include a special video** for our traditional candle-lighting and singing of “Silent Night” - we will be able to enjoy the beautiful sounds and visual of our fabulous choir pre-recorded and magically connected by Ethan. And as we listen to the familiar words, we will all be lighting candles and spreading the light of Christ throughout the world once again. More details will follow as we get closer!

One thing I truly know and believe, is that no matter where we are – whether it is gathered in our beautiful sanctuary or scattered in our various homes – our worship is always precious and meaningful because we are together and God and Christ are in our midst. Nothing can truly separate us from the love we have for God, Christ, and one another.

Blessings and peace as you prepare for this glorious holiday season. //Pastor Brenda



From your President . . .

In my younger years, two things I was told to avoid discussing were politics and religion. After all, if someone's political or religious beliefs are cemented, then no amount of persuasive conversation will get them to change their minds. I imagine that I am in the majority when I say that I have heard or been involved in many more passionate conversations in recent years regarding politics than religion. I wish I would exhibit a much more fervent attitude in my religious beliefs. The UCC's position to include all people as God's children was very appealing to me when I became a member of Hayshire UCC. I felt the UCC did a better job emphasizing this point than most of the other denominations. Being passionate about my beliefs is an area that I need to work on as I continue my spiritual journey.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has kept us apart for over 8 months and we have been unable to enjoy each other's company in our church. However, the recent contentious presidential election has been at the forefront of our news. It is difficult to not be thinking about politics. If you haven't had enough politics and political advertisements, my advice would be to move down to Georgia for the next 2 months. Pennsylvania may be a battleground state, but with two hotly contested Senate seats up for grabs in run-offs, I am afraid it will be impossible to avoid politics in Georgia over the next 2 months.

Before I attempt to bring some humor into this article, let me mention two things most of us can agree on regardless of your political affiliation. Whether you like him or not, Donald Trump is the primary reason for the huge voter turnout. I think I heard that this is the highest percentage of eligible voters turnout for a presidential election since 1900. President Trump's supporters and detractors both wanted to be involved in the process. I hope I am wrong, but I don't expect to see this kind of turnout in the remaining elections of my life. By the way, there have been 16 elections in my lifetime, Democrats and Republicans have both won 8 times.

I did some research on elections in Great

Britain versus the United States. The main differences are as follows: In the US 2016 elections, approximately 6.5 billion was spent. In the 2017 elections in Great Britain, approximately 40 million was spent. When it comes to advertising, Great Britain has a ban on political advertising on commercial television and radio. The parties are given a free short pre-election broadcast on TV. Equal time is given to all of the major parties. Finally, the time for campaigning was nearly 600 days in the US versus 25 working days in Great Britain. We can agree to disagree, but I think 6.5 billion is a little too much to be spending on elections. Also, I am grateful for the day after the election when I no longer have to listen to political advertisements.

In case you think only Americans are passionate about US politics, I have an anecdote. Back in 2018, at my goddaughter's wedding, I was sitting at a table with a young German lady. She had been a foreign exchange student and graduated with my goddaughter from Berwick HS back in 2009. I asked multiple questions and every time I would get a polite, but very brief answer. That was until she described an experience she had in Brazil. Swimming with the alligators, which is not exactly on my bucket list of things to do. She mentioned that it was little scary when the alligators went down under, meaning the alligator that was once visible had now submerged. She even gestured with her hand showing the alligators going down under. It sent shivers through me. Shortly, thereafter, we started talking about US politics. I spent the next 5 to 10 minutes listening to her thoughts on the American political scene. It was quite amusing to hear what a foreigner thought.

Speaking of politics and religion, I found the information about the last election that was not certified by a state to be a little ironic. It involved the 9th Congressional District in North Carolina back in 2018. The candidate who apparently was involved in election fraud happened to be the Senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. Pastor Mark Harris denied knowing anything about the operative who was charged with election fraud. Unfortunately, for Pastor Harris, his son proved at the hearings that his father was aware of the operative.

Pastor Harris won his primary by 828 votes and the general election by 905 votes. The operative may have been the difference in both elections. North Carolina had a run-off. Citing health concerns, Pastor Harris decide not to run again. His political career is now over. As we all know, pastors are human too.

One final thought regarding the 2020 elections. The Democrats have won the presidency; however, the Republican gained seats in the Congressional races and are the favorites to hold onto the Senate. Both parties have reasons to smile, but also there are concerns within their parties that must be addressed. As a famous football coach once said, “you are never as good as you think you are when you win and you aren’t as bad as you think you are when you lose.”

Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday and stay safe.

//Scott Shue

Jesus - - 2021!

Well, the 2020 Presidential race is almost over—almost.

The year 2020 has been something like we have never seen before. The anger, the lack of respect, the protests, the violence, the loneliness. Our President Elect has expressed his hope to bring our country together. I believe that will be a much greater challenge than his effort to control COVID-19.

In reality, the only way to Peace, Contentment, and Love is thru Jesus.

Each of us has to witness to all we come in contact with, that Jesus is the only way.

Jesus—the only way to Racial Equality, Justice for All, and Love of Life.

If our politicians were to focus on Love thru Jesus, and each of us did the same, we could accomplish that goal of bringing Our Country together.

In God We Trust!

Jesus—2021

//JoAnn Stoner

Virtual Table Talk (VTT)

December 4, 6:30 -7:15pm



As we gather again in the month of December, we would like to invite you to a NEW opportunity to connect with other church members and friends around discussion of current topics. In the past, we have hosted Table Talk on Friday evenings and it may not have been convenient for members to be present at the church. What we have discovered is that virtual capabilities allow people to connect on a more informal basis in their own homes for a short period of time. Once again, we will gather via Zoom using an abbreviated version of the “Wired Word” format from Sunday December 29th as our guide. Other issues may be addressed as determined by the group. If you do not currently receive the “Wired Word”, please contact Glenn Young - vizmas57@comcast.net.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3047880373?pwd=ZlNFOWZBL2hzbFJqdjdKWjJwZHpFZz09>

Advent Collection

This year during Advent we will be collecting needed items for the Northeastern Food Pantry.

- Week One - single rolls of paper towels and tissues
- Week Two - family size shampoo and deodorant
- Week Three - dental products (toothpaste, brushes, dental cleaner)
- Week Four - coffee, tea and jelly (no grape)

You can drop off these items during office hours Monday thru Thursday from 9am-12noon or on Sunday mornings.



MONTHLY SCRIPTURE

December 6, 2020
 Second Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 40:1-11
 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
 2 Peter 3:8-15a
 Mark 1:1-8

December 13, 2020
 Third Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20, 2020
 Fourth Sunday of Advent
 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
 Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
 Romans 16:25-27
 Luke 1:26-38

December 27, 2020
 First Sunday of Christmas
 Isaiah 61:10-62:3
 Psalm 148
 Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2:22-40



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 4	Virtual Table Talk 6:30-7:15PM
Dec 18	Virtual Messy Church 6-7PM
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service 8PM

Giant and Weis Grocery Cards

We are still selling grocery cards. Whether you are looking to purchase for yourself or as a gift for the up coming holiday season, please reach out to the church office. Or you can put your check (made payable to Hayshire UCC) in an envelope and mark it by indicating what grocery card you want and the following week we will see that you get the card.

With each purchase 5% of the value comes back to the church.



This year the bazaar was a little bit smaller than previous years. We weren't able to offer lunch, the bake sale or kids crafts but it was still successful! We raised \$720! Thank you to everyone who was able to come and support our vendors. I look forward to a bigger and better one next year!



Book Club



The pandemic has affected all of our lives. It seems like forever since the book club met. Because we need to continue to be cautious, we will not meet until January 14 at 2PM. At that meeting we will discuss books we have read during the past months and select books to read in the coming months.

This has been a trying time for all of us. It has certainly been a time of reflection for me. As we approach the holiday season I wish all of you a blessed Thanksgiving and a joyous Christmas season. May God be with all of you as we find our way back to "normal!"

//Jean Carotenuti



CALENDAR //December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Virtual Table Talk 6:30-7:15PM	5
6 Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Council Meeting 6PM	15	16	17	18 Virtual Messy Church 6-7PM	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 8PM	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



WORSHIP SUPPORT //December

*Due to worship services being held via Zoom and conference call, no volunteers are needed and altar flowers will not be ordered.

	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
Worship Leaders				
Greeters				
Nursery				
Bulletin Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor
Altar Flower Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor			
Altar Guild				
Head Usher	Tom Grentz			
Newsletter Sponsor				

*Contact the office to be a bulletin, newsletter, or altar flower sponsor!



Monthly Newsletter // December 2020

Hayshire United Church of Christ
100 Haybrook Drive
York, PA 17406

CHURCH STAFF MEMBERS

Brenda K. Marin, Pastor
Dawn Jones, Administrative Assistant
Laine Knaub, Music Director
Jackie Bailey, Preschool Director & Teacher
Stacey Knisely, Teacher
Cathy Jennings, Assistant
Kristen Seitz, Assistant

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JoAnn Stoner, Vice President
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Christine Daniels, Secretary, Preschool
Glenn Young, Spiritual Formation