

## Pastoral Reflections

Part of the well-known and beloved Christmas Story of Jesus' birth is the star that appears and lights the way for the Wise Men, the Magi to follow. It leads them directly to the home where Jesus and his parents are living in Bethlehem.

This year, in the midst of all the struggles, heartache, frustration and suffering that is 2020, a miracle arrived just in time for Christmas! A cosmic phenomenon that hasn't happened since March 4, 1226, appeared in the southwest portion of the night sky predominantly on December 21<sup>st</sup>, the winter solstice. It is appropriately being called the "Christmas Star".

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and we were not able to experience it for ourselves. It appeared just above the southwestern horizon shortly after sundown. Fortunately, there were several news stations that recorded and are making available pictures of this amazing sight for us to see and admire.

According to various news articles, the phenomenon that is being called the Christmas Star is actually the close encounter, the almost perfect alignment, of two planets – Jupiter and Saturn. They will be the closest to each other and earth for the first time in almost 800 years! (*Strickland, CNN*). Scientists actually call this close encounter a "conjunction". But to those of us who may not have heard the news of this story and just happened to look into the sky, we would have noticed the extra bright light and called it a star.

No matter what this "light" is, the idea that such a sight is manifesting on the darkest and longest night of the year, and so close to Christmas is a blessing and a miracle that is much needed this year.

When you see the sight, I encourage you to imagine what the shepherds and the Magi were thinking at it's sight. What the Magi and their caravan thought as they watched it move ahead of them, leading the way to the home of a new king, one who was to bring peace and hope into a hurting world. I also wonder:

**What will you wish upon this special "star" this year?**

**Where will it lead you?**

**And are you courageous enough to follow and see?**

Blessings on your Christmas holiday and season. May the year ahead be filled with good things, peace, and endless love.

Pastor Brenda





## BIRTHDAYS

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 • Nick Daniels      | 22 • Shane Rupert   |
| 6 • Ashlyn Cunningham | 26 • Margo Peace    |
| 14 • Anya Land        | 28 • Barb Crum      |
| 15 • Gerald Spangler  | 28 • Tom Hildebrand |
| 17 • John Kunkel      | 31 • Joyce Gross    |
| 19 • Tanner Daniels   | 31 • Adam Kunkel    |
| 22 • Bob Duncan       |                     |



## ANNIVERSARIES

We are not aware of any anniversaries this month.

If you are celebrating an anniversary this month, or any month for that matter, and haven't seen it posted and would like to have it added to our list, please contact the church office to provide your anniversary information. We would like to keep our records current.

//Thank you.

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:  
January 15, 2021**

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES TO:  
haylo@hayshireucc.org



## PRAYER CONCERNS

### MEMBERS IN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Jean Blauser • 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, Ken Darone

### FRIENDS & FAMILY

Carol Hess, Linda Sents, Craig Mehring, 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, Ann  
Black, Faye Kunkel, Dennis Rentzel, Jeffrey Davidson



## PRESCHOOL NEWS

January will find us busy talking about winter hibernation, keeping warm and continuing our shapes, colors, numbers and letters. I am hoping for no snow days! We will also be starting evaluations and progress reports.

The children are enjoying chapel time with Pastor Brenda. It is a highlight of their month.

We are proud of how our staff, parents and students are handling this strange school year. We are very happy to actually be in class.

//Jackie Bailey, Director

## From your President . . .

In last December's Haylo article, Pastor Brenda asked some Advent questions. I would like to reflect on two of those questions.

If you could wish for any one gift this Christmas – knowing that you would receive it – what would it be? During each of our lifetimes, health issues will affect all of us. As I get older, discussing health with my family, friends, and acquaintances has become more prevalent. Obviously, the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 has intensified our conversations regarding our health. Since two vaccines have recently been approved by the FDA, my gift would be that all of those on the front line caring for individuals with Covid-19, and all of those most vulnerable to serious health issues if they contract the virus, would be able to be vaccinated as soon as possible. The early indications are the vaccines are highly effective. I certainly hope your bodies accept the vaccine and you become immune to Covid-19. Unfortunately, especially given today's social media outlets, there are quite a few skeptics out there.

Those of you that received the polio vaccine are probably grateful of Dr. Jonas Salk and his efforts of inventing the vaccine. Did you know that back in 1955, the surgeon general suspended the polio vaccination program due to the death of 11 people and hundreds of additional people being paralyzed? Nothing was ever definitely proven: however, it was believed that some of the labs did not follow Salk's instructions on how to effectively produce the vaccine. As with anything in life, we all must weigh the risks and benefits. Knowing that polio has been part of very few conversations in my lifetime, I would say that the polio vaccine has been a resounding success.

There is hope and a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel this Christmas season. There is a good chance, that sometime in 2021, we will be able to begin living what is considered the "new normal". Please continue to use all of the safety precautions and hopefully, with the benefits of one of the vaccines, we can enjoy each other's smiling faces during the 2021 Advent season.

Another question that Pastor Brenda asked in her article was "Is God still coming into our world, making his presence known to us today?" When

you consider the number of people affected by Covid-19 either via health issues, economic challenges, and in some cases both, I am sure there are countless people questioning God's presence. Two individuals who probably are not would be Mildred Geraldine Schappals and Anna Del Priore. Both of these women turned 102 in 2020. Both, as very young children, contracted the Spanish flu back in 1918 and both contracted Covid-19 in 2020. They have survived both. They must have a Guardian angel watching over them. As we know, not everyone has been quite as fortunate.

One of the things I admire about the Hayshire family is the number of you that have faced a great deal of adversity and yet you have remained faithful in your commitment to the Lord. It is much easier to sing the praises of God when life is treating you fairly, but much more difficult when the challenges we face are almost unbearable. So many of you have become a tremendous inspiration to me. Despite enduring many hardships, you remain people of great faith despite your difficult life experiences.

I want to wish each of you a joyous and healthy holiday season. Time spent with family whether via zoom, phone, in-person, or by some other means will be especially precious this year. We have learned how quickly, our lives can change whether it is Covid-19 or some other crisis.

God bless,

Scott Shue



### COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- We are in need of a new council member to fill the Spiritual Formation position.
- We signed a contract with Bradley C. Mylin, a new company, for snow removal.
- The church's Annual meeting will be held on January 31st via Zoom.



## General Synod 2021

THEY ARE LIKE TREES PLANTED BY  
STREAMS OF WATER,

WHICH YIELD THEIR FRUIT IN ITS  
SEASON. Psalm 1:3a

Since 1957, when the first “uniting” General Synod gathered in 1957 in Cleveland, Ohio, to the meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 2019, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has faithfully convened a meeting every two years in physical locations throughout the United States.

2021 will be different. We are moving through a pandemic that has taken many lives. This pandemic has disrupted our routines and many of our well-established practices as we adapt to the new demands for safety and social distancing. The meeting of the General Synod is no different, and the 2021 gathering of the General Synod will take place entirely online.

We have prayed and discerned this new way forward and look to God for guidance on doing a new thing, while grieving the inability to be together and the changes that surround us during this time of pandemic. While we would prefer to be together, we err on the side of caution, desiring to lower the risks for all and to ensure safety.

A virtual General Synod presents a significant opportunity for this body of Christ to join together in full participation at General Synod. This is an exciting opportunity for those who have always wanted to attend General Synod, or those curious about this gathering of members of the UCC. Thousands of people can join in full virtual participation. We look forward to welcoming you across the miles.

We will gather under the theme: Rooted in Love, July 11-18, 2021. You can expect the vibrancy of Spirit-led worship with prophetic preaching, music- and art-filled experiences that will anchor us. You can expect the same Spirit-filled energy in an engaging meeting of the General Synod that tends to the business and forward-momentum of the United Church of Christ. And, you can expect to learn more and connect with the UCC by attending workshops and other opportunities being prepared for you.

We are ready to journey together into our first-ever virtual General Synod where spirits will be uplifted, and connections to the Divine strengthened. Hearts and minds will be opened to the issues that inform the development of Resolutions, and knowledge and skills will be honed through workshops. Actions will be taken to make the world a better place. We are excited and hope you are too. We are ever thankful to a still-speaking God for our continued ministry with you and ever grateful to you for our shared discipleship to the risen Christ.

Welcome!

Penny Lowes  
**Moderator**

Bob Sandman  
**Assistant Moderator**

Karen Georgia A. Thompson  
**General Synod Administrator**

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer



## Virtual Table Talk (VTT)



**January 15th, 6:30 -7:15pm**

As we gather again in the month of January, 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 January 10th 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](mailto:vizmas57@comcast.net).

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3047880373?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3047880373?pwd=MEdqa2pBNHVEV3k5QXY0MG9ERWhW)

[pwd=MEdqa2pBNHVEV3k5QXY0MG9ERWhW](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3047880373?pwd=MEdqa2pBNHVEV3k5QXY0MG9ERWhW)  
[UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3047880373?pwd=MEdqa2pBNHVEV3k5QXY0MG9ERWhW)

## Help Keep People Warm



Council has decided that we will be having a collection of cold-weather gear: hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, socks, etc. again this year. Donations may be brought to the church Monday – Thursday from 9am – 12noon, or you may call Dawn in the church office to make arrangements for an alternative drop-off time. We will be collecting items through January 31<sup>st</sup>. All items collected will be shared with Mr. Sandy’s Veterans Center and Northeastern Food Bank. Thank you for helping to make someone’s winter a bit warmer and brighter!



## Mission - Community Garden

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us in so many ways. Still, Hayshire has maintained our commitment to do what we can for our community.

This was the first year for our garden, prepared for and planted by members of the congregation, and maintained diligently by Sally Dietz. The tomatoes, peppers, and zucchini, harvested were made available for free to anyone who came by the bin on our front steps. One recipient left a note thanking us for the help. Hopefully, we can pursue this effort again in 2021. I’m sure Sally would appreciate anyone who can help; it is a Hayshire UCC effort that includes all of us, and helps many.

## New Snow Removal Contractor

We have a new contractor this year, and we are in the process of “evaluating” their performance. We love that our members are willing to help out whenever we have a need – snow blowing and shoveling – but for the time being, we ask that you not help, but allow our new contractor to come out and do their part. We are in phone contact with them each time we are anticipating a storm and will give them the timing and needs of our office staff, Preschool and Sunday worship. Some of those times we need a quicker turn around than others. During the storm last week, our contractor responded as requested. We are pleased with their response and work at plowing, snow blowing and shoveling us out from this last storm, and are expecting that their work will continue at the same level of attention and care.

Please rest assured that whenever we need help here at the church, Dawn will let everyone know when and how you can pitch in. We appreciate all who are able to respond and help out. Thank you for all you do to care for our church and staff.



## MONTHLY SCRIPTURE

January 3, 2021

Second Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12

Psalms 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

January 10, 2021

The Baptism of Christ

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalms 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

January 17, 2021

Second Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 24, 2021

Third Sunday after Epiphany

John 3:1-5, 10

Psalms 6:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

## Worship News

Come join us as we break bread together by celebrating communion.

Jan 3, Feb 7, March 7



## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Jan 31

Virtual Annual Meeting following worship

## Northeastern Food Bank

The Northeastern Food Bank has continued to be supported by Hayshire this year. While they were not accepting food early on during this pandemic, Hayshire members still came thru by contributing \$2,128.00 in checks or cash received in our office, which was submitted to the food bank. As things opened up, we continued to donate requested items that were transported by Cheri Klinedinst who volunteers at the food bank. Thank you, again, Hayshire!

### *A Prayer for the New Year*

*Lord, Whether we're leaving behind a year of joy and blessing or trials and difficulties, we pause to give thanks.*

*We thank You that You are always with us every single day of every single year.*

*Please remind us of Your presence in the year ahead even when life is busy.*

*We are so thankful that we serve a God who makes things new and gives us the grace of fresh starts and new beginnings.*

*Be glorified in our lives this year.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

*Heathercking.org*



## CALENDAR // January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day Office CLOSED	2
3	4 Preschool returns 9AM	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Council Meeting 6PM	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Day- Preschool CLOSED	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Virtual Annual Meeting following worship						



## WORSHIP SUPPORT // January

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

	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Worship Leaders					
Greeters					
Nursery					
Bulletin Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor
Altar Flower Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor	* Be a Sponsor
Altar Guild	Cheri Klinedinst				
Head Usher	Jeff Herman				
Newsletter Sponsor					

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



## Monthly Newsletter // January 2021

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

### HAYSHIRE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Scott Shue, President  
JoAnn Stoner, Vice President  
Ethan Knaub, Treasurer  
Christine Daniels, Secretary, Preschool  
Glenn Young, Spiritual Formation