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From the Pastor's Desk



PASTORAL REFLECTION

There is something about May that feels like an invitation. After months of waiting, the world around us begins to stretch and wake — trees have leafed out, flowers are opening, and the earth seems to breathe a little deeper. Growth is no longer hidden beneath the surface; it becomes visible, vibrant, and alive.

This is the quiet wisdom of the season: growth takes time, but it does come.

Scripture echoes this rhythm of patient, faithful growth. In Galatians 6:9, we are reminded, “*Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.*” In a world that often rushes results, this verse invites us to trust that what is planted in love and faithfulness will, in time, bear fruit.

In our faith lives, May offers that same gentle nudge toward fresh starts. Whatever has felt dormant, uncertain, or even worn down over the past months is not beyond renewal. God is always at work — bringing life out of what seemed still, possibility out of what felt finished.

But growth in faith is not only something that happens *within* us. It is something that moves *through* us.

Faith, at its heart, is meant to be lived. It takes shape in small acts of kindness, in choosing compassion over convenience, in standing for justice, in showing up for one another. Like the blossoms of spring, faith becomes real when it is visible—when it reaches beyond us and touches the world.

So, this May, pay attention to what is growing — in the earth, and in your own life. Notice where new life is emerging, even in unexpected places. And consider how you are being called to participate in that growth.

- What might it look like for your faith to take one small, tangible step outward?
- Where is there an opportunity to nurture life, offer care, or bring hope?

May this season remind us: we are always being invited into new beginnings. And the life God is growing in us is meant to be shared.

Peace and blessings
Pastor Brenda



WORSHIP SERVICES FOR MAY 2026

MAY 3, 2026 - Fifth Sunday of Easter — “Enduring Witness” COMMUNION

John 12:1-14 - Believe in God and Believe also in me; you have seen the Father, because you see me.

MAY 10, 2026 – Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother’s Day— “Witness of Love”

Collin Snyder guest speaker

MAY 17, 2026 – Seventh Sunday of Easter — “Spirit of Witness”

Joint Worship/Picnic @ Hayshire UCC

Acts 1:1-11 - Ascension

MAY 24, 2026 – Pentecost/Memorial Day Sunday

Cindy Innerst-Axe preaching

Acts 2:1-21

MAY 31, 2026 – First Sunday after Pentecost - “This is Good”

Honoring graduates

Matthew 28:16-20



A DAY OF WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP & FUN – SUNDAY, MAY 17TH

Join us for a joyful day of fellowship, worship, and community as Hayshire UCC and St. John’s Blymire’s UCC gather for our **2nd Shared Ministry Worship Service and Picnic on Sunday, May 17th, hosted at Hayshire UCC.**

The day will begin with a meaningful **indoor worship service at 10:00 a.m.**, as we unite in faith. **Following worship**, everyone is invited to stay for a **picnic luncheon**, with seating available both indoors and outdoors, weather permitting.

A main course of fried chicken, pulled rotisserie chicken, and salad will be provided by Hayshire’s Leadership Team and Pastor Relations Team. Members of Hayshire are invited to bring side dishes to share, while our friends from **Blymire’s will provide the desserts for the day.** Beverages will be available for all, or feel free to bring your favorite one.

To help us prepare, **please sign up on the Bulletin Board in the hallway by May 10th.** Feel free to bring along your favorite yard games for some added fun and fellowship after the meal. Don’t forget a comfy chair for those planning to be outdoors.

For those who would like to lend a hand earlier in the day, the **planting of the Hayshire Community Garden** will take place at **8:30 a.m.** that morning. All are welcome to participate as we nurture both our gardens and our shared community spirit.

We look forward to a wonderful day together filled with worship, laughter, and connection.

Hayshire UCC’s Leadership Team & Pastor Relations Team

MAY BIRTHDAYS



**May God
Bless You On
Your
Birthday!**

2. Mike Wills
3. Brenda Kerchner
Trudy Hertzog
5. Sonja Ness
Linda Flinchbaugh
Holly Gingerich
7. Kathi Sterling
10. Nelson Leader
11. Jane Picking
12. Zachery Tyler Ness
14. April Weber
15. Chuck Miller
17. Brad Leader
18. Douglas Leader
20. Lonnie Barnhart
24. Joyce Platts
25. Martha Leader
27. Richard Nelson
28. Braxton McKenzie
30. Claire Barley

CELEBRATING MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- May 4 - Scott and Sarah Smith - 18 years
- May 9 - Tim and Donna Sleeth - 17 years
- May 10 - Bob and Wanda Strickler - 51 years
- May 10 - Michael and Heather Matthews - 29 years
- May 12 - Greg and Connie Hays - 25 years
- May 13 - Matthew and Randi John - 20 years
- May 22 - Brad and Michele Leader - 27 years
- May 22 - Mark and Diane Ness - 43 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Month-2026	Income	Expense	Net			
January	\$5,463.00	\$10,620.34	(\$5,157.34)	*		
February	\$10,107.73	\$13,291.23	(\$3,183.50)	*		
March	\$19,611.00	\$15,556.50	\$4,054.50			
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$35,181.73	\$39,468.07	(\$4,286.34)			

* Church services cancelled several weeks because of snow.
Extra expenses of snow removal and heating repairs.

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ April 1, 2026

\$6,668.93

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2026

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 245.22
January	5	\$ 200.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 595.22
February	3	\$ 150.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 570.22
March	7	\$ 300.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 430.22
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	15	\$ 650.00	\$ 835.00	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER

Terry & Fran Doll
 Room 346
 Residence @ Fitz Farm
 2200 Springwood Rd.
 York, PA 17403
 Terry's cell (717) 968-2454
 Fran's cell (717) 968-8754



Peggy Luckenbaugh
 Room 710B
 York View Nursing Home
 970 Colonial Avenue
 York, PA 17403

Joyce Horning
 Room 320
 Residence @ Fitz Farm
 2200 Springwood Rd.
 York, PA 17403
 (717) 793-7221

Donna Sleeth
 Susquehanna Health & Wellness
 745 Old Chickies Hill Rd.
 Columbia, PA 17512
 (717) 684-7555

Wendy Black
(Jeanette Black's daughter)
 Room 210B
 Pleasant Acres Rehab
 118 Pleasant Acres Rd.
 York, PA 17402



Remember
 and pray for
Our Members
 in the
Military

Tech Sergeant Brandon Ness
 221 E. Catalpa Ct.
 Derby, KS 67037

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

Thank you so much for your continued support of Emmanuel's Closet. Our client list keeps growing each month. If you are considering a donation, these are the items that we are most in need of right now: Juice, Desserts, Manwich (Sloppy Joes), Mashed potatoes, Gravy, Spaghetti noodles, Beets, Cereal, Oatmeal, Poptarts, Toilet paper (no larger than 6 packs). We are also in need of brown paper grocery bags with handles, the kind you get when picking up grocery orders or having them delivered to your house. If you would like to make any monetary donations, you may place them in one of the envelopes in the Emmanuel's Closet basket on the Welcome Table. Thank you again for all your help.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

You are about to complete a very important step in your life and we would like to recognize you for your accomplishment on Sunday, May 31, during the worship service. If you are graduating, or have graduated in the past year from high school, college, or a trade/business school, please complete the information below and return it to the church office **no later than Sunday, May 24.** We will include a paragraph about you and your future plans in the June edition of "Bly Lines".

NAME _____ PARENTS NAMES _____

SCHOOL NAME _____ DATE OF GRADUATION _____

DEGREE EARNED _____ AWARDS/ACTIVITIES _____

FUTURE PLANS _____



MEN'S GROUP

The May meeting of the Men's Group will be held on May 12th at 7 pm



at the church. Our guest speaker will be Steven Smith, a local historian, who will present "Stories about Old Airports in York County."

CHAIR YOGA

Are you looking for some gentle, easy exercise? Come check out our Chair Yoga classes! These classes are especially good for beginners. No equipment is necessary. Yoga is one of the most highly recommended forms of exercise for seniors! You can come occasionally, one, two or three times a week. Just come and give it a try! It's easy! You don't have to be a church member to participate. All are welcome.



The classes are held from 10:00-11:00AM Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays here at the church. There is a \$10 fee for each class.



CRAFTY CHICKS

The next gathering of our Crafty Chicks will be on Sunday, May 3, from 1:00-3:00 PM. Diana Myers will be teaching us how to stencil the project shown here. The full size picture is on the Welcome Table if you would like a better look at it. There will be a \$10 fee for supplies. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet next to the picture so we know how many supplies to purchase.



Our next chicken BBQ will be held on Saturday, May 9, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. Dinner includes 1/2 chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll and butter all for \$12.50. To place an order, please call the church at (717) 244-0655 or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway. We usually sell out early, so to be guaranteed a dinner, it is best to pre-order.

We are also planning to set up a bake sale table and would welcome donations of homemade cookies, rice krispie treats, cupcakes, candy, etc. Please put individual portions in baggies or plastic wrap. Thank you.

MESSY CHURCH



What is Messy Church? It's church, but not as you know it! Messy Church is a form of Community Outreach for families, friends and neighbors. It involves creativity, celebration and hospitality! It's church for people of any age and at all stages of their faith journey. A meal will be provided. Our next Messy Church gathering will be held on Friday, May 15, 6:00-8:00 PM. Any questions, see Sharon Stein.



GUIDED MEDITATION AND DRUM CIRCLE

Meditation and Music are very good ways to deepen your personal spiritual practice. Relax, let go of worldly thoughts, and sink into your soul. You are invited to join us Saturday, May 16, at 10:00 AM, for Guided Meditation, followed by Drum Circle, with a variety of instruments available. We meet at the home of Cindy Innerst-Axe, 2285 Swamp Road, Dallastown. Call Cindy at (717) 855-6330 with any questions

WOMEN OF WONDER



Who? What? Where? When? We are a group of women who just enjoy each other's company, conversation and compassion...while sharing a message of God's love to each other, our church family, and our community. We read scripture and share devotions. We offer advice, support, and sometimes a shoulder. We laugh together and find joy.

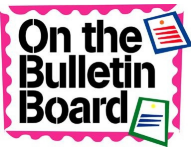
If this sounds like something you or a friend would like to do, please join us. We meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at 11:00 AM. Our next gathering will be May 23. Lunch afterwards is optional. Everyone is welcome. For more info, text or call Ginny Weber at (202) 549-4358.



CARD and GAME CLUB



We have started a group to play card and board games here at the church. Everyone is welcome, and if you don't know how to play certain games, there will be someone who can teach you. You can bring lunch or order in. Meetings are the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. Our May meetings will be on the 13th and 27th. Come join in the fun one or both weeks.



Flyers and sign-up sheets for various events and fundraisers (both our church and others) have now been moved to the middle bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out. A big thank you to Sharon Stein for setting this up!

Dallastown Golden Age Club

The Dallastown Golden Age Club will hold their third meeting here at our church on Thursday, May 21. Their chorus will be presenting a patriotic concert during the meeting. New members, as well as guests, are always welcome. The actual meeting begins at 1:00PM, but they would like attendees to arrive between noon and 1:00 to sign in and check out all the information tables. If you come to the May meeting, you are encouraged to wear red, white and blue.



The FUN Team is now holding a sub sale fundraiser. The sandwiches are made by Sue's Market in Wrightsville and the cost is \$10.00 for a 12" sub.

Choices are American, Turkey, Italian, Roast Beef, Sweet Bologna, Ham, and 3 Cheese. Orders are due by May 24 and pick up will be Wednesday, June 3, from 4:00-6:00 PM. See flyers and order sheets on the bulletin board in the hallway. There are extras if you would like to take any to sell to friends and family.



The FUN Team will be hosting a social on the fourth Sunday of each month between our worship service and Sunday school. The purpose will be to celebrate those members whose birthdays or anniversaries fall during that month. Our May celebration will take place on the 24th. Please join us, especially if you are one of those being honored that day.



Our FUN Team is once again sponsoring a Silent Auction and is asking the congregation for donations of new or gently used items or gift cards.

Your donations may be placed on the table in the entry by the flag pole any time from now until May 3. The auction will run from May 10-31. Thank you for your support

HOMWOOD AUXILIARY

We have resumed collecting Bingo prizes for the residents of Homewood. There is a box in the Gathering Room for you to place your donations.

BINGO				
15	28	37	51	73
6	17	32	45	61
9	15	★	60	70
12	26	44	52	66
7	22	34	48	72

Homewood is also in need of soaker pads and laundry bags. Instructions for making these items, as well as a list of suggested prizes for Bingo, are next to the Bingo box. If you have any questions, please see Steph Frey.

FREE CONCERT

If you like the music of **HARRY BELAFONTE, NEIL DIAMOND, and BILLY JOEL,**
you'll enjoy this special **ASAPH** concert
featuring vocalist **BRYCE LOGAN!**



The ASAPH BAND: Craig Kenney Jack Mackley Neil Ray Carl Bender
Elliott Baldwin Ashley and Ethan Miller Andy Stump

THIS FUN FUNDRAISING CONCERT WILL
FEATURE PARODIES OF SONGS YOU KNOW
AND LOVE, REWRITTEN TO TELL THE STORY
OF ASAPH TEACHING MINISTRY IN HAITI.
A FREEWILL OFFERING WILL SUPPORT
ASAPH'S WORK IN HAITI.



www.asaphteachingministry.com
andyclairstump@yahoo.com



TITLES INCLUDE:
PRAY-O!
THE ASAPH PLAN
SNEAKY FELINE
SEND THE GOALIE!
IN CHRIST ALL THINGS ARE NEW
WHAT WOULD LIFE BE WITHOUT THE SON?

SUNDAY MAY 31 @ 7:00pm

St. John's Blymires Church

1009 Blymire Road
Dallastown, PA

HAPPY
Mother's
Day



Mother NOUN (muhth-er) A woman who has eyes on the back of her head, who acts as a coordinator of chaos, and who gives unconditional love.

*See also, strong, superwoman, not your maid

Are we spending our whole lives avoiding the type of people Jesus spent his whole life engaging.

Bob Goff



May 2026

WHAT NOT TO GIVE ME FOR MOTHERS' DAY!

Any How to Be a Better Mom book.

- ♥ Another dog. Because you know what's missing from my life? Another mouth to feed. Another needy creature to clean up after.
- ♥ A workout DVD. "I love you, Mom, but you've gotten squishier the last few times we hugged."
- ♥ A pink kitchen appliance or tool. Actually, I don't care what color it is. If it implies work, then I don't want it.
- ♥ Another tattoo on any part of your body, even if it references how much you love me. No!!!
- ♥ Any cleaning product, no matter how fancy it is. If it implies, "Go clean something" then keep it for yourself.
- ♥ Spa products. These I'll allow, on one condition: The assortment may NOT include wrinkle or cellulite cream.'

One day you realize
the real blessing
wasn't the life you pictured.
It was the strength you built
living the life you had.

The quiet resilience,
The soft courage,
The way you kept going
When no one saw the effort.

Gratitude feels different
When you notice
How the hardest moments
Ended up growing
The strongest parts of you.

Unattributed

WHERE WE WILL BE *Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O river, that you turn back? O mountains, that you skip like rams? Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Almighty, who melts rocks into water. - Psalm 114:5-8 (adapted)*

Of the many wonders of Artemis II's mission, one was its flight path toward the moon. In order to circle the moon successfully, Artemis II had to chart a course toward where the moon wasn't. It had to set its trajectory toward an empty point in space, trusting that the moon in its ever-shifting orbit would arrive at that point precisely when Artemis II arrived for its lunar flyby. Very much like passing a soccer ball toward an empty space on the field, confidently setting the ball on its path toward no one, trusting your teammate to run into the open space where the ball is going. Or like jumping into a seat on the spinning teacup ride at the amusement park... while the whole ride is in motion ... while each teacup spins at a unique pace. (Kids, don't try this at home.)

What if the teacup ride malfunctions? What if your teammate gets tackled on their run? What if a solar flare short-circuits the space vessel? What if the seas flee? What if the mountains leap? What if the rocks melt?

We trust patterns that predict where things are going—the moon, the tides, the soccer ball, even the people around us—but a pattern isn't a certainty. Where we think we'll end up based on our daily patterns isn't likely to be where we'll actually end up.

For all the comfort I find in trusting that God meets me where I am and as I am in the now, I am even more reassured by the knowledge that God will also meet me where I will be—even though I don't yet know where or when or how I will be.

Prayer

Christ be beside me, above me, and within me. Christ be beyond me, in whatever may be, in the wonder of not yet.

Rachel Hackenberg from the U.C.C. Daily Devotional

DIFFERENCES

Some people do things completely differently from the way you would do them. It does not mean that they are right or that you are wrong. It means that people are different. There are things that people say which you would probably say in a different way, at a different time. It does not mean that people are wrong to speak up, to speak out, or to speak their minds. Nor does it mean that you are wrong for choosing not to do so. It means that people are different. Different is not right or wrong. It is a reality. Differences become problems only when we choose to measure ourselves by our difference in an effort to determine who is right and who is wrong.

It is not loving, healthy or necessary to make people wrong for what they do, what they say, or the way in which they do it or say it. Nor is it self-affirming to feel wrong when you see things differently, do things in a different way or express a difference of opinion. All people are different from one another. Our different points of view shape our vantage point and our vision. Where we sit is a function of where we have sat. What we can see is a function of what we have seen.

No one person's experience, point of view or view point is more accurate, or more acceptable than another. It is simply different. Our differences sometimes make agreement difficult to achieve. They should never make us feel wrong. Nor should they lead us to believe that what others believe is wrong. Just for today, open your heart. Be willing to embrace different points of view, different habits, different responses, different opinions and the differences that exist between yourself and others.

Iyanla Vanzant

"It has been well said that no man ever sank under the burden of the day. It is when tomorrow's burden is added to the burden of today that the weight is more than a man can bear. Never load yourselves so, my friends. If you find yourselves so loaded, at least remember this: It is your own doing, not God's. He begs you to leave the future to Him, and mind the present."



George Macdonald

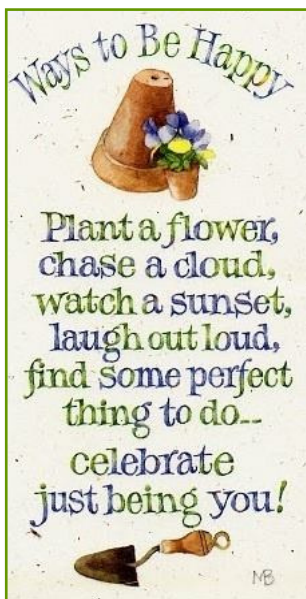


Thoughts of faith create feelings of hope.
So be God-minded! Meditate on him.
I recommend doing so by focusing on
three specific moments.

Give God your awakening moments.
"Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord.
Each morning I bring my requests to you
and wait expectantly" (Psalm 5:3 NLT).
Rather than dread the challenges of the
day, thank God for the blessing of the
day. Think less about what you need to
get done and more about what God has
already done.

Give God your waning moments.
Those middle-of-the-night thoughts?
Rather than toss and turn, turn and pray.
Give God your worshiping moments.
Young David worshiped God in full view
of the giant. Let's do likewise.

Max Lucado



Greet every morning with open arms and say thanks every night with a full heart. Each day is a precious gift and to be savored and used, not left unopened and hoarded for a future that may never come.

Regina Brett

LETTING GO

Letting go doesn't mean we don't care.
Letting go doesn't mean we shut down.
Letting go means we stop trying to force outcomes or make people "behave". It means we stop trying to do the impossible, controlling that which we cannot... and instead, focus on what is possible... which usually means taking care of ourselves. And we do this in gentleness, kindness, and love, as much as possible

Melody Beattie



GROWING IN GOD'S word



Try this craft as a reminder that we need to continue to grow in God's Word.

What you need:

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant or packet of seeds
- Newspaper or paper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker



What you do:

1. Spread some newspaper out on a table for your working area.
2. Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
3. Paint designs on the pot and plate.
4. When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the top part of the pot write: Growing in God's Word.
5. Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With adults help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
6. Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant everyday and keep the soil moist.
7. Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you too, need care as you grow in God's Word.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.



A LEGACY OF FAITH

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy learned about faith from his mother and grandmother.

Complete the verse below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowels.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

" 3 1 m 2 r 2 m 3 nd 2 d 4 f

y 4 5 r s 3 nc 2 r 2 f 1 3 th, wh 3 ch

f 3 rst l 3 v 2 d 3 n y 4 5 r gr 1 ndm 4 th 2 r

L 4 3 s 1 nd 3 n y 4 5 r m 4 th 2 r

2 5 n 3 c 2 1 nd, 3 1 m p 2 rs 5 1 d 2 d,

n 4 w l 3 v 2 s 3 n y 4 5 1 ls 4 ."

2 Timothy 1:5, NIV

Answer: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."