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From the Pastor's Desk



PASTORAL REFLECTION

At the 1st Annual Keystone Conference, one of our keynote speakers was Rev. Dr. Marcia McFee. I have been a student of hers for about 15 years now. I love her style of worship and how it encourages us to engage worship as a full-body experience.

In her workshop she invited us to become students of AWE. To allow and create for ourselves, and others, opportunities to experience the world around us, to find awe and soak it in. These opportunities can be experienced individually or shared with others. The key is to enter into each experience with an intentional, meditative heart. To open your senses to notice the big and little things around you, and see what God has created for you to enjoy in that particular moment. Here is a perfect example, and I hope you will join me on this new adventure:

**“AWE” Walk at John C. Rudy County Park
400 Mundis Race Road, York, PA 17406
July 11th, 6-8pm**

York Association Family and Friends: join us for a unique awe walk event hosted by Hayshire UCC. At the recent Keystone UCC Annual Conference, Dr. Marcia McFee shared fascinating research into the benefits of experiencing awe for our well-being. In a time of heightened anxiety, we have the opportunity to curate awe-filled experiences in our churches and for the greater community that can help us not just stay alive, but **be** alive.

Awe expands our perspective, calms the mind, and draws us into closer relationship with God. It reminds us that we are small in the grand scheme of the universe, and we are deeply cherished by an infinite God.

You can dive deeper into your own personal exploration of awe by walking with others in a natural setting that sets the stage for spiritual growth. We will be exploring four distinct zones of the County Park.

(Awe Tips, Park Brochure, and Map will be provided.)

1. The Master Gardeners Area: The Wonder of Detail (**STARTING POINT**)
2. The Fitness Trail: The Awe of the Moving Body
3. The Historic Arboretum: The Awe of Deep Time
4. The Canine Meadows Dog Park: The Awe of Unfiltered Joy (optional)

continued on next page

For an even greater Awe-struck experience, stay for a public star-watching event, 8:00-10:00pm at the York County Astronomical Society Observatory (second Saturday of each month) offering views of the night sky through telescopes and guidance from experienced members.

Questions: Contact Glenn Young, vizmas57@comcast.net

NO RSVP needed, just show up at 6:00pm at the Master Gardeners' Area. Hope to see you there!

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Brenda

Joy at the Table Together: Reflections from the First Annual Keystone Conference

From June 5–7, individuals across Pennsylvania including Pastor Brenda, Pastor Cindy, along with Lisa & Glenn Young, and Wendy & Tom Grentz from Hayshire UCC, gathered at Millersville University for the first-ever Keystone Conference Annual Gathering. This historic event brought together the four former historic Pennsylvania conferences – Penn Central, Penn West, Pennsylvania Southeast, and Penn Northeast – into one unified conference of the United Church of Christ. With more than 600 people registered, both in person and virtually, the gathering demonstrated the strength and vitality of the United Church of Christ across Pennsylvania.

Centered on the theme "Joy at the Table Together," the gathering celebrated the many ways God calls us into community, service, and welcome. Worship throughout the conference utilized materials from Rev. Dr. Marcia McFee's "Come to the Table" worship series.

The conference opened with a blessing from Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Throughout the weekend, attendees participated in inspiring worship services, plenary sessions, and breakout workshops designed to strengthen ministries and deepen connections across the conference. The conference also unveiled "People of the Table" as its mission focus for the coming years, highlighting a shared commitment to addressing food insecurity across Pennsylvania.

Several keynote speakers offered inspiring presentations: Rev. Dr. Marcia McFee spoke about creating sensory-rich worship experiences that engage people in meaningful ways; Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding addressed the important role farmers play in helping to reduce food insecurity; Rev. Dr. Mary Luti reflected on Holy Communion as an act of social justice; while Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson explored the conference theme of finding joy at Christ's table. Worship services throughout the gathering were highlights of the weekend, including Friday evening's service with Rev. Gregg Edwards preaching and Sunday's closing worship message shared by Rev. Freeman Palmer.

Participants also attended a variety of breakout sessions focused on topics such as disaster preparedness, food insecurity, congregational leadership, spiritual practices, financial stewardship, and celebrating the rich diversity of the United Church of Christ, among many others.

We extend our sincere thanks to Glenn and Lisa Young (Hayshire) for their dedication and leadership in helping plan the event. The annual conference is a wonderful opportunity to gather with our sisters and brothers in Christ from across Pennsylvania, celebrate our shared ministry, and experience firsthand the UCC's commitment that all are welcome at God's table. If you have the opportunity to attend a future Keystone Conference gathering, we encourage you to do so.

Tom & Wendy Grentz (Hayshire UCC)

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR JULY/AUGUST 2026

JULY 5, 2026 - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Cindy Innerst-Axe preaching

JULY 12, 2026 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost — “Sowing Seeds of Life”

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

JULY 19, 2026 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost — “Wheat and Weeds Together”

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

JULY 26, 2026 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost — “Weaving the Future”

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 The kingdom of heaven is like . . .

AUGUST 2, 2026 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost — “Face to Face” COMMUNION

Matthew 14:13-21 Feeding the 5000

AUGUST 9, 2026 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost — “When All Seems Lost”

Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus Walks on Water

AUGUST 16, 2026 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost — Cindy Innerst-Axe preaching

AUGUST 23, 2026 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost — “Be Transformed”

Romans 12:1-8 New Life in Christ

Matthew 16:13-20 Peter proclaims Jesus’ identity

AUGUST 30, 2026 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost — “Spirit-led Living”

Romans 12:9-21 Marks of a true Christian



The FUN Team will be hosting a social on the fourth Sunday of each month after the worship service. The purpose will be to celebrate those members whose birthdays or anniversaries fall during that month. Our **July celebration** will take place on the **26th** and our **August celebration** will take place on the **23rd**. Please join us, especially if you are one of those being honored that day.



Messy Church is church for people of any age and at all stages of their faith journey. Our **next Messy Church gathering** will be held **Friday, July 17, 6:00-8:00 PM**, with the theme “Searching.” A meal will be provided. There will be no Messy Church in August, but we will resume in September.

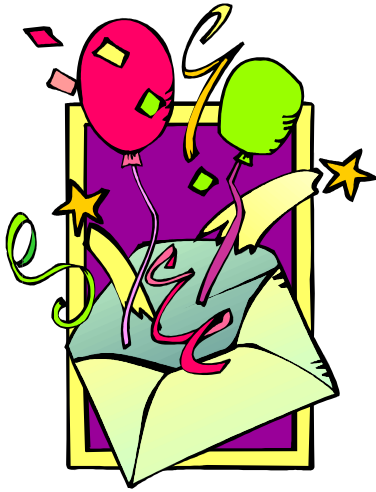
EMMANUEL’S CLOSET

Thank you so much for your continued support of Emmanuel’s Closet. If you are considering a donation, these are the items that we are most in need of right now: cereal, rice sides, pasta sides, pancake mix/syrup, helper kits (breakfast/dinner), poptarts, spaghetti sauce, canned beets, canned carrots, canned mixed veggies, canned potatoes, sloppy joe mix, beef stew, canned ham, beverages, canned fruit, laundry products, paper products, relish, pickles, croutons, ketchup, mustard, mayo, salad dressing, bbq sauce, no bake desserts. **** No cake or icing ****



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 marked basket on the Welcome Table. Thank you again for all your help.

JULY BIRTHDAYS



- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 1. | Erin Ness | 26. | Sarah Leader |
| 3. | Derek Troop, Jr. | | DeLaney Woerner |
| 4. | Billy Roelke | | Sequoia Innerst |
| 8. | Betty Hyser | 28. | Sandra Koicuba |
| 9. | Christine Pope | 30. | LeAnn Eberly |
| 10. | Sharon Stein | 31. | Jim McDowell |
| 11. | Christina Lutz | | |
| 13. | Carrie Rutledge | | |
| | Heather Barley | | |
| 14. | Trent Brown | | |
| 16. | Randi John | | |
| 18. | Wanda Strickler | | |
| 19. | Trudy Wise | | |
| | Dennis Ness | | |
| | Curt Weber | | |
| | Travis Rost | | |
| 20. | Scott Smith | | |
| 22. | Maranda Morton | | |
| 24. | Alys Leader | | |

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

CELEBRATING JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 8 - Greg and Sonja Ness - 59 years
July 19 - Kevin and Renne Myers - 29 years
July 25 - W. Edwin and Judy Bishop - 41 years

AUGUST
BIRTHDAYS



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

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----|------------------|
| 2. | Sterling Boyd | 27. | Lakota Innerst |
| | Dave Miller | 29. | Heather Matthews |
| | Ariel Contino | | Nancy Rutledge |
| 9. | Terry Doll | 30. | Ryan Woerner |
| 10. | Sue Myers | | |
| 11. | Madelynn Barley | | |
| 12. | Peggy Luckenbaugh | | |
| | Amelia Ness | | |
| | Samuel Ness | | |
| 13. | Elizabeth Giese | | |
| 17. | Lucas Smith | | |
| | Bonnie Sipe | | |
| 19. | Greg Ness | | |
| | Joan Schell | | |
| 22. | Christina Barley | | |
| 24. | Barb Marshall | | |

CELEBRATING AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- Aug. 1 - Lonnie and Carol Barnhart - 62 years
Aug. 4 - Matthew and Jill Boyd - 25 years
Aug. 10 - Ed and Barb Adams - 52 years
Aug. 16 - David and Brenda Miller - 57 years
Aug. 17 - Richard & Jean Nelson - 63 years
Aug. 19 - Ryan and Jenna Woerner - 21 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	\$11,527.00	\$11,552.43	(\$25.43)			
May	\$11,041.73	\$10,997.41	\$44.32			
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$57,750.46	\$62,017.91	(\$4,267.45)			

* Church services cancelled several weeks because of snow.

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ June 1, 2026

\$6,687.82

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	5	\$ 150.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 385.22
May	2	\$ 50.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 460.22
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total	22	\$ 850.00	\$ 1,065.00	

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

Joyce Horning

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



Peggy Luckenbaugh

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

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

Activities-July and August

While many activities are taking a break for the summer, these continue to be held:

Meditation/Drum Circle—July 18 and August 15 at 10:00AM at the home of Cindy Innerst-Axe, 2285 Swamp Rd., Dallastown.

Women of Wonder (W.O.W.)— July 25 and August 22 at 11:00 AM here at the church. Lunch at a local restaurant afterwards is optional.

Card & Game Club—July 8, July 22, August 12, and August 26 at 11:00 AM at the church. We usually order lunch from Parma's or you can bring your own.

Men's Breakfast—July 15 and August 19 at 8:30 AM at the Red Lion Corner Café.

Chair/Gentle Yoga—This is usually held each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning at 10:00 AM, except for the following dates: July 10, August 14, August 28, and August 31. There is a \$10 for each class that you attend. Come as often as you like.

Dallastown Golden Age Club—July 16, picnic at noon (must sign up so they know how much food to get). August 20, regular meeting at 1:00 PM (arrive early to sign in and get information).

Please join us in one or more of these activities. Hope you all have a great summer!

Our **July chicken BBQ** will be held on the **11th**, and our **August BBQ** on the **8th**, from 11:00AM-1:00PM. Dinner will include a 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.

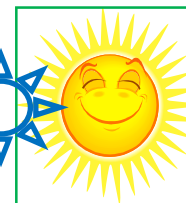
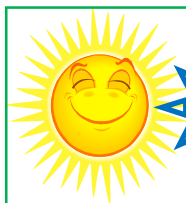


The York County Area Agency on Aging will once again be offering classes here at our church. This series is called **"HEALTHY STEPS IN MOTION"** and is designed to help reduce falls. Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00-2:00 PM. They will run from July 21 - August 13.

There is no charge for the classes, but you must pre-register by calling Lauren at (717) 855-0479. There are a limited number of spots, so it is best to call early. See the flyers on the bulletin board in the hallway for more information.

Let your life
speak more loudly
than your lips!

Household hint:
Stop dusting and you
can use your coffee table
as a message board!



REBOOT YOUR PRAYER LIFE

I'm a recovering prayer wimp. For years my prayers seemed to zig, then zag, then zig again. Maybe you can relate. Perhaps your prayer life could use a tune up, a reboot? If that sounds overwhelming, I'm inviting you to a simpler plan. Four minutes, plus four weeks, equals forever change! Every day for four weeks, pray for four minutes, focusing on these core elements of prayer:

Father, You are good.

I need help.

They need help.

Thank you.

It's that simple. Really! Talking with God doesn't have to be complicated or complex. The power isn't in the words we pray, but in the One who hears them. Here's my challenge for you: every day for four weeks, pray four minutes. Then get ready to connect with God like never before.

Max Lucado



FASHION PLATES AND BEACH BODIES

No one will ever be more beautiful than Mother Teresa or Corrie Ten Boom. These were women who never wore diamond necklaces or silk camisoles or strappy heels in their lives, but who radiated ethereal beauty that the accessories of this world can't possibly mimic. So next time you're trying on shorts, instead of succumbing to hopeless despair, plan to dwell on the beautiful things you're doing for God and let the cellulite fall where it may.

Our outsides are not always reflections of our insides. You can look great but feel wretched. Botoxed on the outside but crinkle fried on the inside. It doesn't matter that your teeth are straight if your attitude is warped.

There is no magical cure for discontentedness or lagging self-esteem. If God's peace isn't in your heart when you're heavy it won't be there when you're thin either. After all, God loves Sumo wrestlers just as much as runway models!

Dear God, help me to truly believe that You have made me beautiful and that You have created me uniquely and wonderfully. May my self-esteem come from You and not from the world. Amen.

Debora M. Coty

Father, when the weight of the world feels heavy and my own strength begins to fail, I turn my heart toward You. I often look for power in my own efforts, but You remind me that true resilience is found in the lightness of Your presence. Lord, let Your joy bubble up within me, not as a fleeting emotion, but as a firm foundation that carries me through every season. I surrender my worries and choose to dance in the grace You so freely give. Thank You for being the song in my heart and the strength in my soul.

Letitia Hardy

"The joy of the Lord is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)



CLASSIC WISDOM FROM Ralph Waldo Emerson

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. He is rich who owns the day, and no one owns the day who allows it to be invaded with fret and anxiety. Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities, no doubt crept in. Forget them as soon as you can, tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense. This new day is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on the yesterdays."

CLASSIFICATION Quinn Caldwell from the U.C.C. Daily Devotional

Today, I learned that pigeons produce milk for their young. Milk! From birds! They make it in the crop, a structure in their throats, and deposit it directly into the mouths of their chick. I told our seven-year-old, who is very into animals. I thought he would think it's cool, but he's also very into Linnean taxonomy, so instead he was incensed.

"Then they're not birds," he stated flatly. "Birds don't produce milk.

Only mammals do."

He's not wrong. Then again, reptiles never give birth to live young ... but rattlesnakes do. Mammals never lay eggs ... but platypuses do. All plants make chlorophyll ... but ghost pipes don't.

In the end, all rules are just heuristics (rules of thumb), brain shortcuts that help us not be paralyzed by a world overwhelming in its complexity. It's especially true for rules that group and classify: This is a mammal over here, and that over there is not, and here's why. This is a tree, and that is not. This is in, and that is out. The usefulness and importance of these rules can't be overstated. But life on earth is such that sooner or later every rule meets some magnificent weirdo that demands to be heard on its own terms. When it does, wise ones let the rules of classification fall away and let some deeper principle take over.

If you don't, you might find yourself insisting that pigeons are mammals. If you don't, you might find yourself insisting that there's someone on earth outside of God's love.

***Prayer:** Confront me with the oddity and complexity of your world, God, and when rules fail, let me rely on the principle of love. Amen.*

HMMM!

If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?

Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?

Why do "tug" boats push their barges?

Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?

If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia,

can you read all right?

Why do we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway?



FUN FACTS ABOUT INDEPENDENCE DAY Tim Brunicardi

We Didn't Actually Declare Independence on the 4th of July

One of the greatest misconceptions of the 4th of July lies in the name and date. It is widely believed that America declared their independence from Britain on July 4, 1776. However, the official vote actually took place two days before and the "Declaration" was published in papers on July 4.

Americans Will Enjoy 150 Million Hot Dogs During the 4th

According to the National Sausage and Hot Dog Council (NHDSC), Americans are expected to eat 150 million hot dogs over the July 4th holiday. This is part of an estimated 7 billion that are expected to be eaten during the summer season from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Only Two Men Signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776

Charles Thompson and the infamous John Hancock were the only two men who actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The other 54 delegates signed over the course of the next month.

The Average Age of The Signers Was 45 Years

Of the 56 signers, the youngest signers, Thomas Lynch Jr. and Edward Rutledge of South Carolina, were only 26. However, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania was the oldest signer at 70 years old.

The Declaration of Independence Was Written on a Laptop

... Okay, not a modern laptop, but still. Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence on a writing desk that could fit over one's lap. This device was referred to at the time as a "laptop."

Bizarre 50th Anniversary

Thomas Jefferson, 82, and John Adams, 90, both died on July 4, 1826 within five hours of each other on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

A Little Late to the Parade

July 4th was not deemed a federal holiday until 1870, nearly 100 years after the nation was founded.





COOKIE SMILE POPS

Transform slice-and-bake cookies into cheerful lollipop treats and share a few edible smiles.

What you need:

- 1 roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Baking sheet
- Wooden craft sticks
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Clear treat bags
- Ribbon



What you do:

1. Freeze the cookie dough for 15 to 20 minutes to firm it up, then slice into ¼-inch rounds.
2. Place cookies on a baking sheet about 2 inches apart.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 5 minutes.
4. Remove from the oven and gently press a wooden stick halfway into the bottom of each cookie.
5. Return to the oven and bake 3 to 5 more minutes, until lightly golden.
6. Let cookies cool completely.
7. Decorate with frosting to create smiling faces and add sprinkles.
8. Slip each cookie pop into a treat bag and tie with ribbon.





PUZZLE

JOYFUL PSALMS

Psalm 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are happy songs of praise. They all begin and end with the same sentence.

Put the words below in alphabetical order in the boxes. Then read down the second column to discover the special sentence from Psalms!



FEAST				
KHAKI				
MOUTH				
ESSAY				
LLAMA				
ORBIT				
CARRY				
UDDER				
BRUSH				
ITEMS				
APPLE				
LEARN				
CIDER				





_____!

Answer: Praise the Lord!