



Heart Beat Newsletter

Zion United Methodist Church
In the heart of Whitehouse



January 2021

Pastor Carol's Comments

I saw the Christmas star!

Well, I'm pretty sure I saw it. At least, I *think* I saw it.

The "Great Conjunction" of Saturn and Venus didn't look anything like the star I expected—the unmistakable greeting card version with its brilliant points of light shining down on the stable where Christ was born. What I saw was a little dot—two little dots when we looked through binoculars. It wasn't much brighter than the other stars in the sky. It was something of a let-down since I was expecting something much more spectacular. It was in the right place at the right time though, so I'm claiming a legitimate sighting. But, I'm still not absolutely certain that the rather ordinary spot I saw was the "Christmas Star."

I wonder if that's how people felt about Jesus when it became known that he was the Son of God, the Messiah. He wasn't wealthy. He didn't come from an illustrious family. He wasn't the military leader they had been expecting. He may not have been all that good-looking; Isaiah 53:2 describes the coming servant as having "no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him." Some people (the original "birthers") didn't even think he had been born in the right place to be the expected Savior, and skeptical Nathanael would ask, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" No, Jesus did not appear as the kind of Messiah they were expecting.

But we know that he was something *better* than expected. He showed us that God looks not on physical appearances but on the heart. He taught the way of peace and relationship rather than power over others. He taught that family background and wealth are meaningless in contrast to the eternal life he offers. And, through his life, death, and resurrection, we see that he is the true Christmas Star—the Light that still shines in the darkness, illuminating our way every day. My prayer for you in this new year is that you will see Jesus every day, without any doubt that you have seen the true Christmas Star!

News Around Zion

Zion in the News!

On Christmas Day, we were contacted by WTOL-TV, Channel 11, who wanted to interview us about the Food Pantry. Ron Myers and Pastor Carol spoke with reporter Michael Tatar. The interview was aired at the end of the 6:00 news. A longer version of the video and a transcript are available on WTOL's web site:

<https://www.wtol.com/article/news/local/whitehouse-community-floods-local-pantry-with-food-gifts-for-holiday/512-8df42f50-9c43-4d62-980c-da330f3eda10>

New Ministry Opportunity

Do you enjoy knitting, crocheting, or sewing during the cold winter days and evenings? Then this project is for you! Health care workers are feeling exhausted, stressed, and even forgotten as the pandemic drags on. So, we are making "prayer squares" to let them know that they are cared about and being prayed for. The first squares are being taken to St. Luke's hospital, where Chaplain Lee Williams will distribute them. When asked how many he could use, Chaplain Lee said, "About 300!" We made our first delivery of 79 squares—more than a quarter of the way to our goal—on 12/23. Each square includes an encouraging note and explanation.

Instructions are simple:

- * Make your squares approx. 5" x 5".
- * Use yarn/fabric that can be machine washed and dried.
- * Use any color or pattern you like.
- * **Pray for the person who will receive your square.**
- * Drop off squares in the basket on Sun. morning, or in the kitchen or Food Pantry storage box.

Don't worry if you're not an expert at knitting, crocheting, or sewing; the most important part is the prayer!

We're inviting the community to be part of this effort, so invite your friends to participate as well.





News Around Zion (continued)

Save the Date—Ham Loaf Dinner

Since our take-out-only Fall Dinner was so successful (and safe), and because our Ham Loaf is so popular, the Church Council decided we can't let the community down! We'll hold the Ham Loaf Dinner on Thurs., 2/11, following the same procedures as in the fall.

Electronics Recycling Day Returns!

For the 4th year, we will host our Annual Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, 1/23, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. All are invited to come and dispose of their unwanted electronic devices in an environmentally responsible way, so start spreading the word!

According to Recycle IT, studies suggest that as many as 100 million consumer electronics items become obsolete every year. This electronic waste is the fastest growing portion of our waste stream—growing almost three times faster than our overall municipal waste. Electronic devices contain mercury, lead, and other harmful materials that can poison the soil, water, and air if burned or buried in a landfill. Recycle IT strives to be a zero-landfill company and avoid incineration.

Our Recycling Day is in keeping with United Methodist beliefs about care of the earth. We believe that all of creation is God's, and as a denomination we support and encourage policies and activities that facilitate the safe processing of toxic waste, provide appropriate recycling opportunities, and reduce municipal waste.

Christmas Assistance Update

Laurie Dotson reports that through the Christmas Assistance program, 34 families with 88 children were provided with toys, clothing, and food for Christmas. If you ventured into the fellowship hall after sponsors dropped off their gifts, you would have seen everything from games to bicycles to twin-sized mattresses and bedding! The Anthony Wayne community outdid itself in making sure that their young neighbors had a merry Christmas.

Warm Heads, Hands, and Bodies...

We are collecting blankets, hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves again this year. These items will be donated to a charity in Toledo, possibly Family House, which we supported last year. We will deliver them in early January. Place your items in the basket by the door on Sundays or on the kitchen counter during the week.

Weekend Food Bags for AW Students

We continue to help ensure that AW schoolchildren have enough to eat when schools are closed. Each Friday, 52 children pick up food for the weekend. They were also provided with food to last through their vacation days when school was closed. Please continue to bring in non-perishable, single-serving, easy-to-open containers of fruits, veggies, and "mains" (like mac-n-cheese and spaghetti-o's).

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry has been inundated by our generous community, in part because of our increased presence on the Whitehouse Bulletin Board, thanks to Linda Myers. What makes this social media outreach successful? Linda says, "I just ask and then say thank you!"

Church Information

Pastor Carol Williams-Young
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Worship at 10:25 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

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Find us on Facebook: [whitehousezionumc](https://www.facebook.com/whitehousezionumc)

Website:
<http://www.zionumcwhitehouse.org>

Upcoming Events

Sundays, 10:25 a.m. - Parking Lot Service, 106.1 FM

Thursdays, 6 p.m. - Bible Study on Zoom.

Tues., 1/5, 4-6 p.m. - Food Pantry

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Sat., 1/23, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Electronics Recycling

Thurs., 2/11, 4:30 - 7 p.m. - Ham Loaf Dinner

Wed., 2/17, 7 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service