

Longswamp United Church of Christ

August 16, 2026 ~ 10:15 am

200 Clay Road, Mertztown, PA 19539 Phone - 610-682-6230

E-Mail: secretary@longswampucc.org

Web: www.longswampucc.org

Hospital Code 451

CCLI #2341826

Facebook page: **Longswamp UCC**

Wi-Fi Guest Password: Christ200

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, Pastor

Ministry Partners: Head Usher, Greeter- Chris Freudig

Reader- Sadie Moser

**Indicates to rise as you are able in body and spirit.*

MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come and worship;

People: All you who love and serve the Lord!

Leader: Outsiders and insiders;

People: Old-timers and new-comers;

Leader: The young, the old, and the in-between.

People: Come as you are!

Leader: For this is God's house;

People: A house of prayer for all people,

Leader: And God welcomes each one of us.

People: Alleluia and Amen!

*HYMN

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

#108

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

All: Merciful God, we confess that, like Jesus' disciples, we sometimes lose patience with people who need our help and support. At times we find ourselves thinking it might be easier to ignore those in need. In your mercy, forgive us. Remind us again of the deep love you show toward us when we are in need - a love so deep that it led to the cross. Show us how to love others as you have loved us. Teach us your compassion, so that we may be your hands and feet to those seeking help and support. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God's love is greater than any mistakes we've made.

People: God's forgiveness is poured out for us now and always. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children are welcome to come forward for the Children's Message. Today is a Family Communion Sunday so everyone stays in church together! Kids are welcome to sit with their families or engage in worship and some extra activities from our Playground.

*HYMN

There's a Spirit in the Air

#120

RESPONSIVE READING (BASED ON PSALM 67)

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us.

People: May God make his face to shine upon us.

Leader: Holy One, may your way be known upon the earth.

People: May your saving power be among all the nations.

Leader: Let all the peoples praise you.

People: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.

Leader: For you, Lord, judge people with equity.

People: You, Lord, guide the nations upon the earth.

Leader; Let all the peoples praise you!

People: God has blessed us; the earth has yielded its increase.

Leader: May God continue to bless us.

People: Let all the ends of the earth worship God!

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 15:10-28

SERMON

"Are You Still So Dull?"

Pastor Kim

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYERS

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is our greatest joy to praise you, Holy One. For when chaos threatened to control the universe, you spoke the words 'let there be light!' and creation burst forth: rivers flowing, creatures singing, and you, God, shaping us in the divine image. You invited us to know you, Lord, and be your people. But sin and death clouded our vision. You did not reject us, but continued to call us through the mouths of prophets; you continued to gift us with your faithful presence. And you sent Jesus as a hand to reach out to all your children. With those who have known Christ and sang your glory in every time and place, we lift our songs of joy and praise:

SUNG RESPONSE

#2

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

REMEMBERING THE STORY

Leader: On the night before Jesus died, he gathered his friends.....By eating this bread and drinking this cup we participate in the mystery of our faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: Abundant God, thank you for inviting us to your table. Thank you for feeding us and replenishing our spirits so we can better listen for your voice and serve others. We are grateful for this gathered community and the learning and growing we can do together in your Holy Name. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING & MISSION MOMENT

***DOXOLOGY** **#809**
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above, you heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

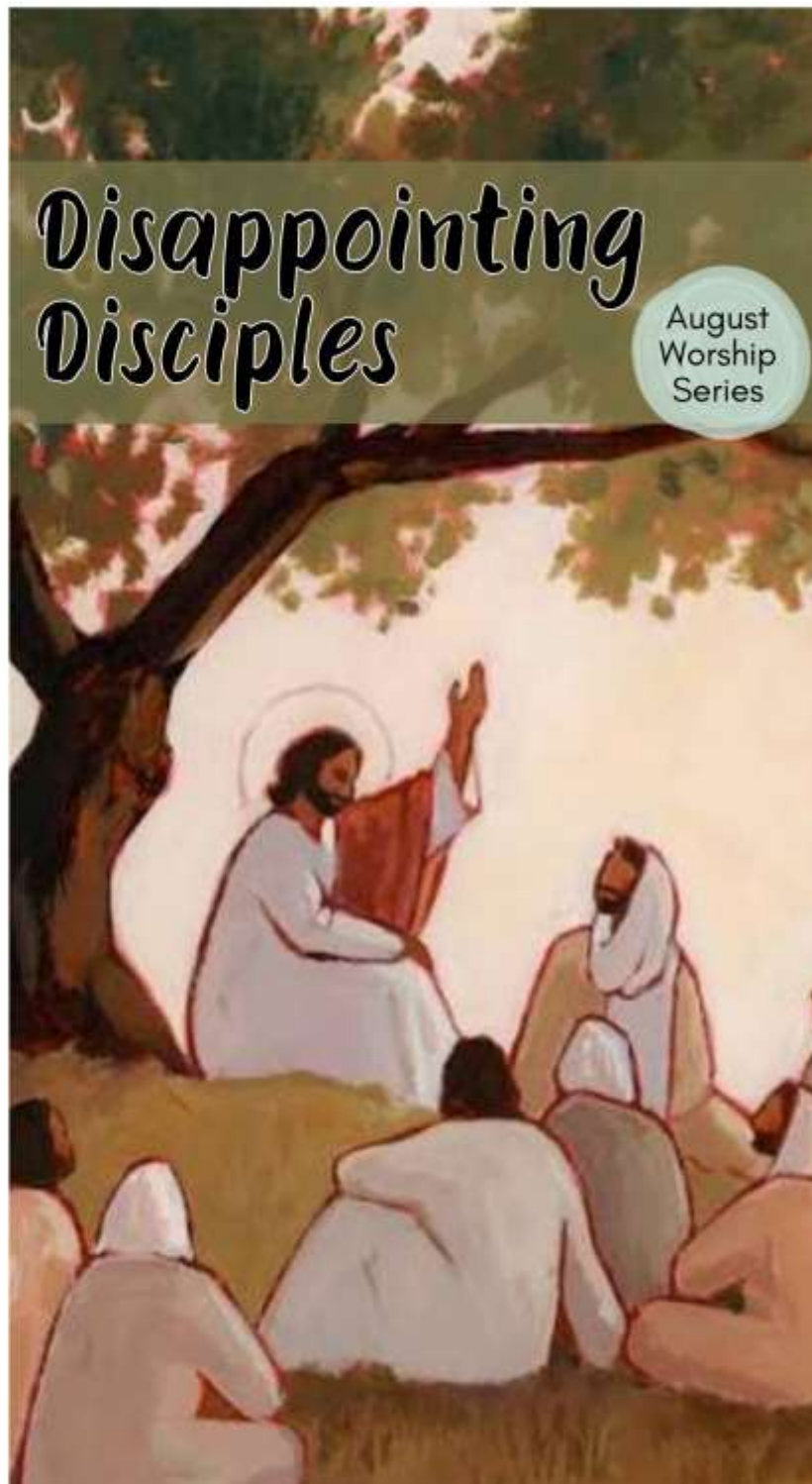
All: God of abundance and joy, we thank you for the many blessings you have poured on our lives. We dedicate our giving in the name of your Son, who guides us toward more generous living. Receive these gifts, lovingly given, and bless them in your service. Amen.

***HYMN** *In Christ There Is No East or West* **#697**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC

Portions of worship adapted from scripture-based resources on re: Worship and portions of communion adapted from this week’s Lectionary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman.



WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- August 9th-15th, 2026

Altar Flowers and Bulletins are given to the Glory of God and are in honor of Bradley Desrosiers' Birthday, given by Leo Desrosiers.

Thank you for worshipping with us today as we continue our series, Disappointing Disciples, and celebrate Holy Communion together. Each week this month we will uncover the times the disciples didn't quite get it right in the Gospel of Matthew! Today is a Family Sunday - so there is no Sunday School and everyone stays in the sanctuary for worship together. The PrayGround has some extra activities for the kids!

Next Sunday, August 23rd, we continue our Disappointing Disciples series during worship at 10:15 am and we celebrate the beginning of the new school year with our annual Backpack Blessing. Students of all ages are invited to bring in their backpacks and school bags for a special blessing.

Sharing Our Faith

Mark your calendars to celebrate Longswamp Learning Center's 40th anniversary on September 13th during worship! LLC is a mission of our church, providing affordable care to children in the area. We're so thrilled to be able to celebrate the 40th anniversary of LLC and honor all the teachers, families, and board members who have made the success of the center possible. Join us for worship, where there will be special music, as well as fellowship time on the playground after the service!

This year's Barn Dance at Savidge Farms is on Saturday, September 26th, from 5:30-9pm!

Tickets are available now! You can either call/email the office to reserve yours or fill out the form on our website. Adults are only \$5 per person and children are free! In addition, we are looking for people to volunteer to provide items for the bake sale, donate raffle baskets, and/or sign up to help out during the event. If you are interested, please contact the church office! There also will be sign up sheets next week for set up/cleanup, general help, bake sale donations, and raffle basket sign-ups.

Teaching What We Believe

Since today is a Family Sunday, there is no Children's Church during worship. Instead, children are welcome to stay with their families or take advantage of our Prayground, which is stocked with some extra activities today.

Women of LUCC, mark your calendars for the next Faithful Field Trip on Wednesday, September 9th! We will be going to Columille Megalith Park in Bangor, PA! More info will be available soon!

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

School starts in a little over a week! Let's support the students of Brandywine Heights High School by providing **specific healthy snacks** and **school supplies** for them as they begin the new school year. Our mission this month will continue until **Monday, August 31, 2026**. Mission offerings are also greatly appreciated and will be used to purchase additional healthy snacks and school supplies for the students at the high school. Please see the back page for more info on our August Mission, including a list of needed items.

Longswamp UCC Business

Scholarship applications are available in the church office! Please contact Maggie if you are attending an undergraduate program and are interested in applying. The deadline is September 1st!

If you are interested in being a greeter, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex! We can always use greeters to welcome people during the service and to hand out bulletins. Additionally, if you're interested in reading and are not currently on the rotation, please contact Maggie!

Newsletters are always available in the narthex! Please take one to stay up to date with all the events going on at the church!



**Students of Brandywine
Heights High School
Local Mission
August 9 - August 31, 2026**



Please consider supporting the students of Brandywine Heights High School. Beginning on Sunday, August 9, 2026 and ending on Monday, August 31, 2026, we will be collecting specific healthy snacks and school supplies that the students at BHHS can eat/use during the school day. Your mission offerings are also greatly appreciated. Our mission offerings will be used to purchase more school supplies and healthy snacks.

Please consider donating any of the following items:

In-school food pantry: Granola bars (individually wrapped), Trail mix (individual packages), Crackers (individual packages), Fruit snacks (made with 100% fruit juice - individual pouches), Popcorn (pre-popped - individual packages), Pretzels (individual packages)

School supplies - Glue sticks, Crayons (16/box), Markers (washable - 8 - 10 count), Colored pencils, Highlighters, Pens (black or blue), Pencils, Erasers, Pencil cases, and 3-subject Notebooks

Please put your donations of **healthy snacks and/or school supplies** in the appropriately marked boxes on the table behind the piano.

Please contact Jill Shade (jill.shade@longswampucc.org, 484-894-0636) if you have any questions/ concerns about our August 2026 mission.

Thank you in advance for your support of the **students at Brandywine Heights High School!**

