



Longswamp United Church of Christ

The Beacon

October 2026

Teaching, Sharing, and Acting on what we believe



Wherever you are
on life's journey,
you are welcome
here!

*Worship:
Sundays @
10:15 am*

200 Clay Road,
Mertztown, PA 19539

www.longswampucc.org

**November Newsletter
Deadline: Tuesday,
October 20th**

Contact Us

Church Office: 610-682-6230
Monday-Friday
9:30am - 2:30pm
secretary@longswampucc.org

From the Pastor

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto



I write this on the Fall Equinox (9/22) – the first official day of Autumn. It seems like the weather understood the assignment; with this week's blustery days and crisp, cool air.

All year long the Earth travels around the sun at an angle, making the warmth and light of the sun fall unequally on the planet. During the Equinox, the Earth's tilt is neither toward the sun or away from the sun; so, the light and dark are evenly split. There are 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of night. The sun is directly overhead at noon, and it's the only time when both the north and south poles are lit by sunshine simultaneously.



Now, as the weather cools, our days also become shorter and the nights become longer. Historically, this is the time of final harvests in the fields and preparation for the long, cold, winter ahead. The Farmer's Almanac says the full moon after the Equinox is called the Harvest Moon, because it gave farmers the last bit of light needed to complete their work before the frost sets in.

The Equinox, the Harvest Moon, the beginning of Autumn, are celebrated in many different ways across the globe. In our corner of the world we see Fall Festivals and Agricultural Fairs popping up. At church we'll celebrate Harvest Home; a special Sunday when we give thanks for agricultural blessings. This tradition has deep ties to German Immigration in our region of America. Similarly, in Germany, they will celebrate Erntedankfest.



Across Asia there are unique celebrations for the changing seasons too. In China they hold the Moon Festival with mooncakes to eat and family gatherings. In Japan the Moon-Viewing Festival includes eating rice dumplings under the Harvest Moon. In Vietnam the Mid -Autumn festival features lantern parades.



As a family, we find it important to mark the changing seasons. We decorate the house, share a meal with friends, do some sort of craft, and watch a favorite seasonal TV show or movie. This year's menu includes roasted pork and apples, maple brussels sprouts, butternut squash pasta, and a pecan cheesecake!

I'd encourage anyone to take time to notice the passing of seasons and find a way to mark that passing in meaningful ways. Because, I believe, paying attention to the natural shifts in the world around us, draws us closer to living in harmony with God's creation.

For God made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down.



Psalms 104:19

Sharing Our Faith

October 2026 Worship Schedule

Services Sundays at 10:15 am

On-site and live stream worship service ("Longswamp UCC" Facebook page). Afterward, service is uploaded to our "Longswamp United Church of Christ" YouTube Channel.

October 4- Overflowing Worship Series, World Communion Sunday, Glenn Fisher on Flute, Fellowship Time for Pastor Appreciation Month

October 11- Overflowing Sermon Series, Harvest Home, Choir Sings

October 18- Overflowing Worship Series, Baptism

October 25-Overflowing Worship Series, Glenn on flute

October Ministry Partners

Greeters

Oct 4- Charlene Rachor

Oct 11- Vern Shade

Oct 18- Bob Friedly

Oct 25- Isamoyer Family

Readers

Oct 4- Chris Freudig

Oct 11- Amy Riovo

Oct 18- Charlene Rachor

Oct 25- Vern Shade

Head Ushers

Oct 4- Charlene Rachor

Oct 11- Vern Shade

Oct 18- Bob Friedly

Oct 25- Allison Isamoyer

October Altar Flower Sponsors

October 18th- In loving memory of husband, Robert Freudig, given by Chris Freudig



Overflowing

A Sermon Series on God's Abundance



October 4: A Table Overflowing

We will celebrate World Communion Sunday, where Christians across the globe all share in Christ's holy meal together. Glenn Fisher will join us with his flute.

October 11: An Abundant Yield

This Sunday is also Harvest Home, our traditional service of thanksgiving for all God provides. The choir will provide special music for this service.

October 18: Pouring Out Love

We celebrate a baptism in our church family this week.

October 25: Giving that Multiplies

Glenn Fisher joins us again on his flute for worship.



Pastor Appreciation Sunday Food & Fellowship Time on October 4th after worship. All are welcome!

Rehearsals are beginning for this year's Christmas Musical: "In A Galilee Far Far Away"

MONDAYS

Oct. 5th @ 6:30pm
Oct. 12th @ 6:30pm
Oct. 19th @ 6:30pm
Oct. 26th @ 6:30pm



SUNDAYS

Oct. 11th @ 11:30am
Oct 18th @ 5pm
Oct 25th @ 11:30am



You are welcome at Longswamp UCC's multi-generational Women's Group! Each month we travel to a local spiritual sight in search of knowledge and new faithful experiences that help us grow!

Our next Field Trip is planned for Wednesday October 14th. We will be visiting the Historic Easton Cemetery and having lunch in Easton.

More details TBA!

Longswamp UCC HOMEMADE FOOD SALE

**PICK-UP SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 14TH
11AM TO 1PM
CHURCH FRONT DOOR**



**ORDER FORMS DUE BY
NOVEMBER 1ST**

**YOU CAN ORDER ONLINE
OR VIA PAPER FORM - CALL
THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH
QUESTIONS: 610-682-6230**



If you're interested in helping to bake, can, or cook, please contact Laurie Heagy



**order form on
page 10!**





GUTEN TAG!!

By the time this newsletter is printed, we will have held this year's Barn Dance at Savidge Farms. Planning is well underway for the Christmas Play, Trunk or Treat, and many of the coming November and December events. Before I get ahead of myself, I need to tell you about the end of August and beginning of September happenings at the church.

On August 23, our August series titled Disappointing Disciples continued and we learned from the Gospel of Matthew that the disciples don't always measure up to Jesus' teaching and preaching. We also blessed our students and their backpacks for the start of the new school year. The Children's Choir sang and it was great to hear their angelic voices!

On August 30, our Secret Church Friends program began as we welcomed our ten newest members in a special way. Our Secret Church Friends provided three small anonymous gifts and/or deeds of kindness to our new members. On September 20, our newest members found out the identity of their Secret Church Friends. Our August mission for the benefit of the students at Brandywine Heights High School was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who donated healthy snacks, school supplies, and/or mission offerings totaling \$475!

On September 6th, during the announcements, we thanked Pastor Kim for all that she does for us and then marked her birthday. Children's church returned for the regularly scheduled Sunday School year. The children learned about the Creation story from the book of Genesis and made a craft based on the seven days of the Creation. Thanks also to Glenn Fisher for providing special music on the flute. We always enjoy his beautiful musical selections. Our Church Board met after the service. They put together plans to advertise for a part time organist. Additionally, they worked on planning the fall annual Congregational meeting, which will be held November 22nd right after the service.

On September 13, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of our Longswamp Learning Center. The service and music were stirring and fantastic. Special thanks go to Pastor Kim for planning and leading the service, to Maggie Isamoyer for sharing, to Marji Hughes for directing the music, and to Laurie and the crew that prepared and served the fellowship refreshments. Congratulations Longswamp Learning Center!

Thank you to everyone for supporting all of our late summer activities. The question asked at a recent children's message was "How many people are needed to be present to worship?" The biblical reference was Matthew 18:20 NRSV "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." In parting, it is so reassuring to know that Jesus is always present, even when we meet in small numbers. Until the next time, Mach's gut und Auf Wiedersehen!!



LUCC's "Acting" Ministry Theme for 2026 "Doing God's Work in Today's World."

September 2026 - December 2026 (1st Sunday of each month)- Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)- In isolation, no single UCC congregation can completely answer God's call to love. Together we are a bold witness to God's extravagant love for all. We share resources to transform our vision into reality. Gifts from congregations like ours to OCWM Basic Support make it possible for our Conferences and the National Ministries to strengthen local churches and leaders and engage us in mission well beyond our community.



(taken from: <https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/>)



Ongoing Mission for the Brandywine Food Pantry

The Brandywine Food Pantry is in great need of personal care items (body wash, hand soap/ sanitizer, shampoo, soap bars, toothpaste, toothbrushes), paper products (paper towels, tissues, and toilet tissue), and cleaning supplies (dish detergent, laundry detergent, etc.). Please drop off your donations for the Brandywine Food Pantry before or after our worship services on Sunday mornings, or during the week from 6:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Please put your donations in the wicker tote boxes in the bell room.



OCTOBER 17, 2026
10AM-2PM
@MERTZTOWN MARKET

Any shopper who donates a non-perishable food item, personal care item, household product, paper product, or monetary donation will receive a small bag of homemade cookies!

If you're interested in volunteering to help at the table or bake cookies, please contact Jill Shade.

Phone: 484-894-0636
Email: jill.shade@longswampucc.org

Benefitting LUCC's
October Mission for
Friend Inc.





October Local Mission- *Friend, Inc. Community Services Food and Pet Pantries*

Let's put our best effort into helping our neighbors in need to put food on their tables! LUCC's local mission, which will run from Thursday, October 1 through Saturday, October 31, 2026, is a Food Drive for the benefit of the six food pantries run by Friend, Inc. Community Services (outside of Kutztown). Food-insecure residents of the Brandywine Heights, Fleetwood, and Kutztown Area School Districts will benefit from LUCC's Food Drive. (Two of their food pantries are provided for residents of the Topton/Mertztown/Alburtis areas.)

Please note: If you would like the Altar Guild to use your food donations to decorate the sanctuary for Harvest Home on the 2nd Sunday in October, please have them to church by October 8th. However, we will be collecting donations throughout October and adding it to the sanctuary windowsills.

Friend, Inc.'s Pantry Wish List (items that are greatly needed are in boldface):

Please make sure that the expiration date on all non-perishable food items is valid.

-Non-Perishable Items/Canned food - **Cereal, Pasta (spaghetti, egg noodles, macaroni and cheese), Canned food (meats, tuna, vegetables, and fruit), spaghetti sauce, jelly, peanut butter, bulk dry goods (rice, beans, and crackers), baking supplies, condiments, healthy snacks, lunch box items (juice boxes, packs of crackers, granola bars, etc.)**

-Personal Care Items - **Body Wash, Shampoo, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes (individually wrapped), Razors, Hand soap, and Bar soap**

-Feminine products - cleansing wipes, tampons, & pads

-Baby supplies - Baby diapers, baby wipes, infant formula, baby shampoo

-Household products - **Laundry Detergent**, Cleaning and Disinfecting Supplies, Dish detergent

-Paper products - **Toilet tissue, Paper towels**, Tissues, and Paper Plates (not styrofoam)

-Pet supplies - **Cat food (dry and wet), Dog food (dry - for small and big dogs)**

-School Supplies

-Grocery Store Gift Cards

Mission offerings are always greatly appreciated and will be used to send one check to Friend, Inc. Community Services so that they may use it to purchase more food, etc. for individuals and families in need in our local community. Please make checks payable to Longswamp UCC. Please contact Jill Shade (jill.shade@longswampucc.org; 484-894-0636) if you have any questions and/or concerns about our food drive for the benefit of Friend, Inc. Community Services.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of our local food-insecure neighbors!

Teaching What We Believe



There is something for kids and families every Sunday at Longswamp UCC!

Children's Church is the name of our Sunday School Program. See the schedule below to find out which Sundays kids will join the teachers in the Preschool Room during worship (after the Children's Message) for games, crafts, Bible Stories, and more. Sunday School is open to kids of all ages!

Your family is welcome any and every Sunday - and as always, our PrayGround will be open each week (with extra activities on the Sundays there is no Children's Church). The PrayGround is our area in the front left of the sanctuary set-up especially for kids and has fun ways for children to engage in worship.

October 4: World Communion Sunday - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

October 11: Sunday School

October 18: Sunday School

October 25: Sunday School



LLC News

Things at LLC are chugging along! We've completed our first month of school, which is crazy to say! Things have been running smoothly and we continue to have a full house. We celebrated our 40th anniversary during the church service on September 13th and we want to thank all the teachers, students, and church members who came out. Thank you also for all your donations of tissues and paper towels for LUCC's September mission. Our noses will certainly thank you once the cold and flu season begins.

TRUNK OR TREAT

You're invited to LLC's annual Trunk or Treat night on Friday, October 23rd at 6:30pm. We will have a church table and you are also welcome to host your own trunk! Sign up forms are available in the narthex, or you can just let Maggie know that you'd like to participate. Children are welcome to come and trick or treat in a safe and welcoming environment, even if you don't make a trunk.

New this year will also be the "Spooky Walk," where kiddos can walk a path through the woods and possibly see some spooky happenings (but not too spooky!). We'd love to see you there!



Family & Community Updates

October Birthdays

Oct 5- Douglas Hughes
Oct 7- Shirley Solt
Oct 11- Stephen Ward
Oct 12- Mike Daloisio
Oct 13- Cora Shoemaker
Oct 14- Casey Jones
Oct 19- Sherry Kratz
Oct 26- Heather Shoemaker
Oct 27- Jacob Shoemaker
Oct 31- Toni-Lynn Weinstein

October Anniversaries

Oct 9, 2010- Pastor Kim & Chris Berenotto
Oct 14, 1995- Jim & Sarah Marburger
Oct 17, 2020- Brandan Clark & Toni-Lynn
Weinstein
Oct 19, 2018- Adam & Brianna Hapenovich
Oct 25, 2003- Justin & Holly Deiac-Smith
Oct 26, 1968- Franklin & Susan Sterner

Did we miss your birthday or would you like it to be added? Please let Maggie in the office know!



SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for our annual **Congregational Budget Meeting on Sunday, November 22nd** directly after the church service. We will need to approve the budget and the congregation will vote on new board members/committee members. We always need your help to make Lucc the best it can be!

To everyone at Longswamp UCC,

Thank you for all your prayers this past year! Your prayers were answered. I am now cancer free- August 19th! I got to ring the bell at LVHN after my last chemo treatment! Thank you again,

Anna Mae Kercher

Prayers Needed



Church Family Prayer Needs: George Unger, Ramona Romanik, Wilma Lease, Karen Friedly, Annabelle Weller, Doris Epting, Fern Fritz, Brenda Bower

Serving Our Country: Zachary Rachor, Alexander Jenkins, Adam Hapenovich, Tyler Reed

Church Friends Prayer Needs: Karen McPherson, Madeline Geist, Family & Friends of Robin Hoffman



Longswamp UCC

Homemade Food Sale Order Form

Orders due by November 1st

Pickup in front of the church

Saturday, November 14th from 11am-1pm

200 Clay Road, Mertztown, PA

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Item	Size/Amount	Price per amount	Desired Quantity	Total Price per line item
Turkey Corn Noodle Soup	Quart	\$10.00		
	Pint	\$6.00		
Beef Vegetable Soup	Quart	\$10.00		
	Pint	\$6.00		
Chow Chow	Quart	\$10.00		
	Pint	\$6.00		
Pickled Red Beets	Quart	\$8.00		
	Pint	\$5.00		
Apple Dumpling	1 dumpling	\$6.00		
Pumpkin Roll	1 Roll	\$7.00		
Nut Tassies	1 Dozen	\$9.00		
Black Bottom Cupcakes w/ Cream Cheese	6 cupcakes	\$7.00		
Chocolate Chip Cookies	1 Dozen	\$6.00		
Cut-Out Cookies	1 Dozen	\$6.00		
Peanut Butter Cookies	1 Dozen	\$6.00		
Snickerdoodle Cookies	1 Dozen	\$6.00		

TOTAL AMOUNT: \$_____

Payment accepted via cash or check either before pickup or during.

Contact the Church Office with any questions: secretary@longswampucc.org
or call 610-682-6230

Church Business

August 2026 Financials

Income and Expenses

Member Giving:	\$7,160.00
Other Income:	\$5,043.31
Total Income	\$12,203.31
Expenses:	\$10,317.74
Net Income:	\$1,885.57
Building Fund Expenses:	\$7,749.86
Memorial Fund Income:	\$0

Account Balances as of 9/23/2026

General Fund Checking:	\$47,996.77
Contingency Fund Checking:	\$3,022.82
Memorial Fund Checking:	\$20,050.60
Building Fund:	\$21,491.74
Building Fund Checking:	\$22,911.04

Message from the Treasurer

Included in member giving for missions are \$195 for Our Church's Wider Mission, \$30 for the September Mission, \$357 for the July Mission, and \$475 for the BHHS Snacks. Included in Other income is \$2,600 for the Learning Center facility use fee, \$2,281.31 for the cell tower lease fee and \$162 for Barn Dance tickets. Included in Building Fund expenses are \$493 for cleaning, \$660 for mowing, \$614.83 for water testing and equipment maintenance, \$1,303.55 electric service, \$957 for heating oil, \$660 for security system inspection, \$1423.95 for boiler/AC repairs and \$1637.53 for property taxes.

Did your information change? If you have any changes to phone number, address, or email, please contact the church office to update this information. Staying up to date is the best way to stay active in the goings-on of LUCC!



Church Staff

Pastor - Rev. Kimberly Berenottopastorkim@longswampucc.org.....610-401-1847
Office Administrator & Newsletter Editor - Maggie Isamoyer...secretary@longswampucc.org
LLC Director - Sharon Wetzelsharon@longswamplarningcenter.com.....610-682-9750
Church Board President - Vern Shade.....vern.shade@longswampucc.org
Maintenance Manager - Ray Ziegler.....raymond.ziegler@yahoo.com

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