

Longswamp United Church of Christ

February 15, 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

Ann Mabry Miller, Organist

Ministry Partners: Head Usher, Greeter- Vern Shade

Reader- Kim Jenkins

Transfiguration Sunday, Baptism & New Members, Holy Communion

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

MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

“Closer than a Brother”

Carmichael

“Daddy Sang Bass”

Perkins

“God is a Good God”

Hamblen

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O God of light, love, and glory;

People: Reveal your presence to us this day.

Leader: Just as you did at the foot of the mountain;

People: Send your Spirit to show us your story.

Leader: May Christ's brilliance illuminate this place;

People: As we dare to proclaim your Holy Word.

Leader: And may we, your people, always have the strength;

People: To tell what we have seen and heard of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

#99

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

All: God of light, forgive us when we linger too long on the mountain tops; when we become too enthralled with your glory and power - losing sight of Christ's words and life. There are times, Holy One, when we fail to listen to your voice that leads us and guides us. Shake us from our complacency, Lord, and send us forward with your purpose. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: We come to our Loving God desiring mercy; and with hearts that seek to make things right.

People: God makes forgiveness our true companion on the journey. Alleluia. 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 Prayground.

Baptism & Welcoming New Members

Casey Jones, Ben Dirs, Luke Dirs, Mila Jones

WELCOME & ADDRESS

Leader: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

People: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

Leader: There is one baptism, one God, and one Creator of us all. The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of one's acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and part of their growth into faith and discipleship.

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water, we rise with new life, one in Christ's body.

Leader: Baptism is the first step to be received into Christ's church. The Dirs Family has found nurture and support here in our church community. They have been led by the Holy Spirit to claim their relationship with Christ not only through baptism, but by joining Longswamp United Church of Christ.

People: We are grateful that your journeys of faith have brought you here and are excited for you to officially join our family of faith today.

QUESTIONS TO THOSE PREPARING TO BE BAPTIZED & JOIN OUR CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATIONS

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places confessing our faith in God and our promises to this family.

Leader: Do you believe in God?
People: I believe in God.
Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
People: I believe in Jesus Christ.
Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.
Leader: Do you promise your love, support, and care for the ones about to be baptized today as they live and grow in Christ?
People: We promise our love. We promise our support. We promise our care.

BAPTISMAL PRAYER & ACT OF BAPTISM

CLOSING ADDRESS & CLOSING PRAYER
Leader: Today we rejoice in your choice to be baptized and look forward to all the ways you will learn and grow as Christians. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith. Members of Longswamp United Church of Christ, let us express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.
People: We welcome you with joy into the life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers. We share with you the hope of our church’s future and by the power of the Holy Spirit know we will grow together in God’s love doing God’s work in the world.
Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of Longswamp UCC, not only are you baptized, you are now members of this community of faith. Please join me in the spirit of prayer.....

HYMN *Baptized in Water* **#758**

RESPONSIVE READING (BASED ON PSALM 104)
Leader: Praise the Lord, my soul!
People: My God,you are great, clothed with splendor and majesty.
Leader: The Lord wraps himself in light and stretches out the heavens.
People: God rides on the wings of the wind and makes the wind his messenger.
Leader: Our Creator covered the watery depths and pushed forth mountains, where water could flow in the valleys.
People: The birds of the sky nest by the waters and sing among the branches.
Leader: The land is satisfied by the fruit of God’s work, the trees are well-watered.
People: Send your Spirit, God, to fulfill creation, and renew the ground.
Leader: May the glory of the Lord’s work endure forever.
People: I will sing praises to my God as long as I live.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 17:1-9

SERMON “Transfigure or Transform” Pastor Kim
SPECIAL MUSIC *I’ve Got Peace Like a River* *Traditional Spiritual*
Combined Adult & Children’s Choir

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 truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, our Creator. You have given us life and second birth through water and spirit. Once we were wandering people, but now we are your people. You raised up the church as a witness to the resurrection, breathing into it your life and power. From worlds apart, you gathered us together, When we go astray you welcome us home. Always, your love has been steadfast. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and the faithful of every time and place who forever sing the glory of your name...

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: God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. You bestow your spirit upon us through baptismal waters. You transform us with your holy word. May these sacraments strengthen us in love and faith; and help us to serve you through our care of one other. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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.

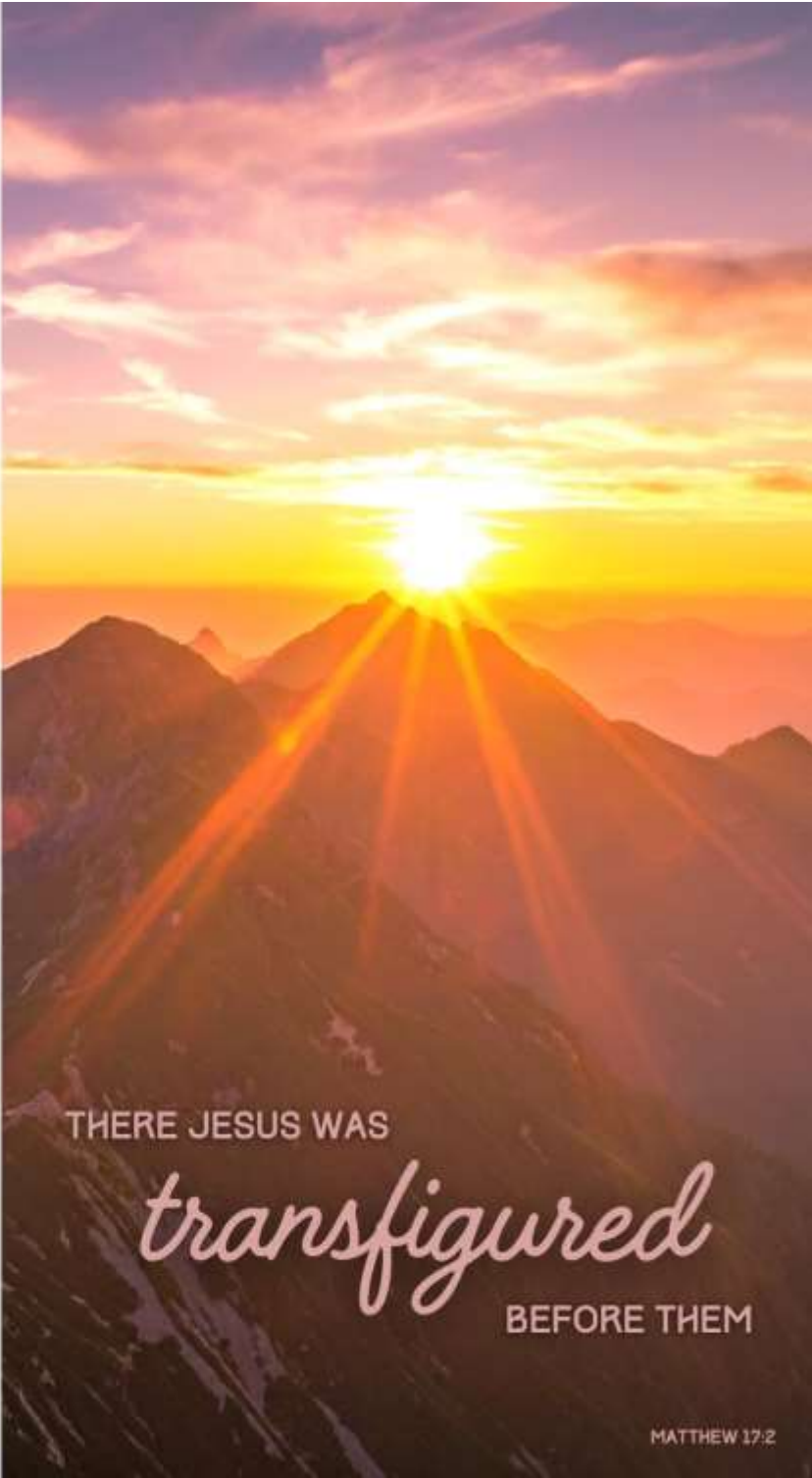
***OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
All: With these gifts we proclaim not ourselves, but our desire to follow Jesus. With these gifts we commit ourselves to a way of life that leads to love and generosity. May our giving be a witness to that love we have for each other; as we dedicate all we have to the God who loves us always. Amen.

***HYMN** *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name* **#95**

***BENEDICTION**

CLOSING MUSIC *“Does It Make Any Difference”* *Williams/Roe*

Portions of this service adapted from Wild and Precious Life by Stephen Fearing and Witness to Wonders: Service Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday by Rev. Madison Shockley. Communion adapted from the Worship and Spiritual Renewal Committee of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- February 15th-21st, 2026

Thanks for joining us today as we celebrate the transfiguration of Christ on this final Sunday before Lent. We also welcome the Dirsa Family into our church through the sacrament of baptism. Thank you to the Choir and the Children's Choir for singing for us today!

Reminder that Ash Wednesday is THIS Wednesday, February 18th. Our service will begin at 7pm and will have Holy Communion. We will be joined by parishioners from St. Peters and Christ DeLong UCC. Next Sunday Feb. 22nd at 10:15 am is the First Sunday in Lent.

Sharing Our Faith

Join us for Sundays in Lent, where our program will be "Unexpected Encounters," We will hear about surprising ways that Jesus meets and interacts with people through his ministry.

Additionally, we will have our Lent Bible Study, "Encountering God For Ourselves," on Wednesdays starting February 25th and running until March 25th. We have two times available again—10:30am in the sanctuary or 7pm in Fegely Hall. We hope to see you there! Anyone is welcome to join us!

Join us on Sunday, March 15th, from 12-2pm in Fegely Hall for the rescheduled Art Workshop with Board & Brush! If you had signed up for the Folk Art Workshop that was scheduled for 1/25 but was cancelled due to the snow, your registration was automatically transferred over to our new date. There are many different projects available now and if you'd like to choose a different project, please email Pastor Kim. To sign up if you have NOT already signed up previously, please visit the "Upcoming Events" page of our website. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kim or Maggie.

Teaching What We Believe

There is no Children's Church today since it's a Family Sunday. However, our Playground is always available in the front left of the sanctuary if your child needs an area to play and wiggle around. Children's church will return next week, February 22nd, during the service, where children can follow the leaders to the education building for lessons, crafts, games and more!

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

Our February internal mission is "SNOW-mergency!" This internal mission is to help offset the maintenance costs of all the snow we've gotten this year and also to replenish the weekly offering. Since we've had multiple cancellations of worship, we lost that normal weekly income, which is how the church runs smoothly. In a similar fashion to the Christmas List, we have tags for different items such as snow plowing and salting to help offset these costs as well as random amounts to "fill our plate" (the church offering plate) on the board in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please let Maggie or Pastor Kim know!

Prayer Requests & Church Family Updates

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

Military Members: Zachary Rachor, Alexander Jenkins, Adam Hapenovich, Tyler Reed

Church Friends & Family Prayer Needs: Karen McPherson, Matt Von Detto, Robin Hoffman, Martin Bilger, Barbara Jennings, Barron Kistler

February Birthdays: Christopher Ward, Paul Weller (2/15), Robert Reidnauer (2/19), Jared Steventon (2/21)

February Anniversaries: Hope & Ron Deiaco (2/16/1968)

Longswamp UCC Business

2/8 LUCC Attendance: 62

2/8 LUCC Finances: \$940 + \$484 (missions) = \$1424

The LUCC monthly newsletter, The Beacon, is available in the narthex. Make sure you grab your copy to see what's going on at LUCC and to look out for upcoming events!

We are always in need of volunteers to greet and hand out bulletins prior to the service and also sponsors for the altar flowers! If you're interested in either of these, please sign up on the sign-up sheets on the narthex bulletin board!

2025 Giving statements have been emailed out or are available in the narthex for those who wanted them printed. Make sure to take yours today!