



Longswamp United Church of Christ

The Beacon

May 2024



Teaching, Sharing, and Acting on What we believe

*Worship:
Sundays @
10:15 am*

200 Clay Road,
Mertztown, PA 19539

www.longswampucc.org

Hospital Code #451
(LVHN, St. Luke's, Sacred
Heart)



June Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, May 20th

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

Contact Us

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

From the Pastor

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto



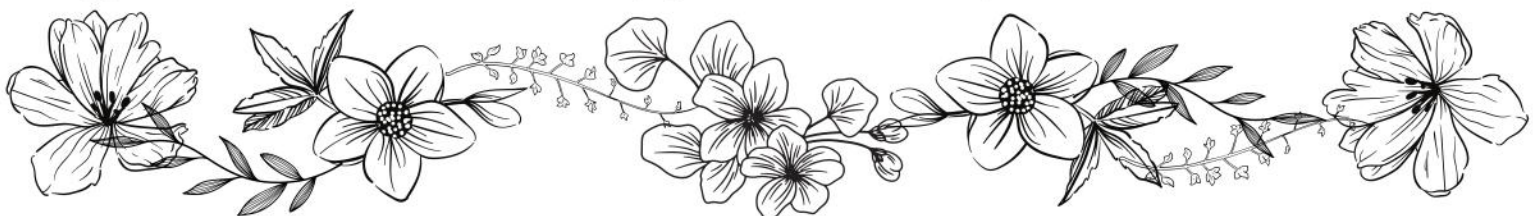
In many ways, May feels like the midpoint in the year. The cold winter has ended, the warmer weather approaches, and kids are eager to be done with the school year and head into summer break. May is also a strange in-between time in the church year. Easter is over and the slower days of summer are in-view; and we don't quite have the "umph" that Fall and Thanksgiving and Christmas give that push us toward church on Sundays.

At Longswamp UCC, we aren't slowing down! May for us brings the presence of the Holy Spirit in so many ways! Of course, we celebrate the Holy Spirit coming to the disciples on Pentecost – May 19th – which is Confirmation Sunday, too. But in May we are also laying the

bricks down for our new walkway after worship on May 5th, celebrating Mother's Day with lots of special music on May 12th, supporting the Brandywine Food Pantry, and our annual Memorial Day Weekend Service this year will include a baptism! May is a time we will continue to honor all the ways we share, act, and teach our faith in our church.

Our faith journeys don't end as the school year does! Our life as Christians doesn't wind down with the summer! We've got much to look forward to with the change of seasons; a Summer of Special Music in worship, new members joining in June, Community Vacation Bible School, a Movie Night with the Longswamp Learning Center in July, a trip to Sight and Sound Theater in August, and much more!

So, this May, let us sing to God for the changing seasons, for the sunshine, and for all the opportunities to continue our worship, praise, and fellowship.



Sharing Our Faith

May 2024 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.

May 5th: Regular Worship, Fellowship of Taco Bowls after service, Memorial Brick project after church

May 12th: Mother's Day, Special Music from Children's Choir and Glenn Fisher on Flute

May 19th: Pentecost, Confirmation, and Communion.

May 26th: Memorial Day, Baptism of Cooper Hapenovich, special music by Willow Hapenovich



May Ministry Partners

Greeters

May 5- Laurie Heagy

May 12- Sarah Marburger

May 19- Vern Shade

May 26- Will Miller

Readers

May 5- Kim Jenkins

May 12- Charlene Rachor

May 19- Hope Deiaco

May 26- Helena Lindquist

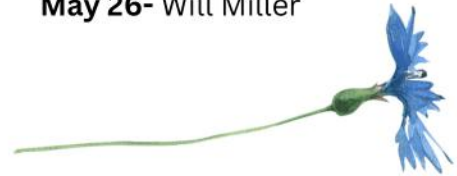
Head Ushers

May 5- Laurie Heagy

May 12- Sarah Marburger

May 19- Vern Shade

May 26- Will Miller



May Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors

May 5th: *In memory of father, Michael Romanik by Charlene Rachor*

May 26th: *In memory of Althea Walbert's birthday.*



MUSIC FOR *Mother's Day* @ LONGSWAMP UCC



Join us for a special worship service
Sunday May 12th at 10:15 am.

Worship will include Glenn Fisher on flute and our Children's Choir (with solos from Willow Hapenovich and Nathan Wegner).



ALL WOMEN WILL BE
HONORED WITH A PLANT
TO TAKE HOME FOR ALL
THEY DO FOR THEIR
FAMILIES AND OUR
COMMUNITY.

Our Sunday School program, Children's Church, runs every Sunday during worship.

Kids begin in worship and, after the Children's Message, can head to the Preschool room in our Education Building for stories, games, crafts, and more. Children are also welcome to stay in worship if your family prefers. If you are interested in being part of the rotation of Children's Church leaders and volunteers, please speak with Pastor Kim!



****Please note: We are in GREAT need of teachers for Children's Church!**



Keep an eye out for work dates for the Kitchen project in May. With the very generous donations of our church family, we are able to get new countertops and paint the cabinets! Thank you all for your generosity!

SUMMER OF MUSIC @ LONGSWAMP UCC

We will be having special music every Sunday in June, July, & August but we need YOUR TALENTS to make it happen! If you sing or play an instrument at any skill level, we'd love to have you enrich our Sunday worship. Contact Pastor Kim or sign up on the board in the Narthex!



Confirmation & Pentecost



sunday
may 19th
10:15 am

Join us as we celebrate our Confirmation Class and the arrival of the Holy Spirit to Christ's disciples!



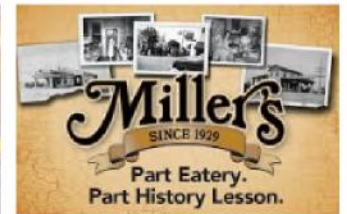
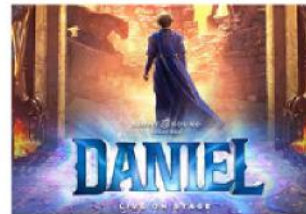
OUT OF OFFICE

*Pastor Kim will be at a continuing education course from Tuesday, May 7th-Thursday, May 9th. Please call the church office if you need anything.

*Maggie will be out of the office from May 28th until June 7th. If you need anything, please call the church office or Pastor Kim directly.

SIGHT & SOUND

BUS TRIP, LIVE SHOW, & DINNER



Friday August 16th, 1pm to 9pm
\$160 per adult
\$100 per child 12 & under

Price includes the cost of the theater ticket, bus transportation, dinner, & gratuity. If the full price is prohibitive for you, funds are available to off set the cost. Please contact Pastor Kim or Maggie if you are interested in joining us for this fun day!

Leadership Updates



At the most recent PNEC Board meeting, Treasurer Martin Nuscher summarized the 2023 year-end financial report as being a bit disappointing in that OCWM giving was less than anticipated in November and, even though December showed the usual stronger finish, the total OCWM for 2023 was only a little over 85% of the projected income for the year. However, the conference spent less than 90% of the approved expense budget, and the market returned about twice the interest income the budget predicted. So, overall, our financial position starting the new year was quite stable.

He went on to relate some of the ongoing discussions between those individuals in financial positions at the four PA conferences to determine the way their financial accounts could be blended and still maintain autonomy of the restricted funds within the management guidelines of the originating entities. There may also be necessary adjustments for the slightly different way some of these funds are currently accounted for in the other conference systems. This financial group will also be responsible for formulating a baseline budget for 2025 (assuming the vote in November is in favor of the merger) and potential budget outlines for subsequent years.

Updates from Board Sub-groups

***Wider Church-** Bonnie Bates is easily the person most involved in ongoing interfaith and ecumenical work reflecting the wider church, both within the UCC and with other denominations. She highlighted her work with the Interfaith Action Committee of the Lehigh Conference of Churches, planning for the Campbell Lectures at De Sales Univ. in April, and the Clergy Convocation to be held in May in Lancaster. She participated in several worship settings, including the Service for Christian Unity with the Christian Communities of Northeast PA, and she was recently the guest preacher at the Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church in Tuskegee, Alabama. She was also interviewed on Catholica TV in Scranton, PA regarding the importance of ecumenism, and she meets regularly with the local judicatory leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church of the USA, and the local Episcopal Diocese, discussing the expansion of their partnerships.

***Generosity Team-** This team continues to support the PNEC Ambassador Program with information about trainings and other support provided by the conference to be shared with their congregations. They decided which events would be included in the April newsletter to be distributed. They also discussed the Friends of the Conference initiative for a special offering during Pentecost worship services which will include mailings, worship materials and remittance instructions. A similar campaign is planned for Covenant Sunday, November 17th. The Generosity Team will have an informational table at the all-conference meeting in June at Penn State, and the Team's Friends of the Conference video will also be shown.

***Conference Meeting Planning-** planning for the PNEC portion of the four-conference joint meeting on June 7th-9th at State College is just about complete, as is the planning for the combined portions of the meeting, and registration is now open. If you have an interest in attending, either in person or by Zoom, check the PNEC Website for information about registering.

The site for our PNEC November Conference meeting will be at St. John's UCC in Laurys, and planning for that meeting has begun. Each of the four conferences will hold their fall conference meetings individually on the same date and vote separately on the potential merger. After this simultaneous vote, a joint announcement of voting results will be publicized.

***Keystone Study Group-** While the joint June meeting has been planned where attendees will hear about progress to date and questions and discussions will be held, the original Keystone Study Group has continued to meet both jointly and in smaller groups to detail specific areas of how a combined conference will look and function. They are also developing a tentative transition plan to move forward if the November vote is affirmative. These smaller groups are focusing on staffing structure and location, finances (what assets can be combined, and which must be kept separate), a baseline budget for 2025 and projected budgets for subsequent years, by-laws and other legal requirements, governance structures, drafting of the Synod resolution to change the geographical boundaries, and other issues. A report on these activities will constitute much of the agenda in June.

***Strategic Planning-** A small group of PNEC leaders drafted a tentative plan and a timeline outlining what measures will have to be addressed at our conference, both if the merger passes in November and if it does not. Several of these issues will need to happen in either case, such as archiving records, distributing furnishings, preparing the Palmerton building for sale, etc. A draft document with many specific steps to set up a combined conference if the vote is positive was reviewed by the Board; and, if the vote does not pass, it outlined what services PNEC would be able to provide in the future, and what new structure would need to be set up. This plan will be fleshed out with further details after ongoing discussions.

Additional Board Discussion Summary

The usual Spring Meeting of PNEC will be part of the all-PA Conference summer meeting on June 7-9, 2024, to be held at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, PA. Registration for the meeting and for hotel rooms is now open, and the registration form and schedule has been published. Workshop registration is also available at the same time as registration for the meeting. Partial reimbursement for expenses is available for both the meeting and for the hotel rooms.

If you have any questions regarding the activities at the PNEC, please feel free to contact Helena Lindquist at hklindquist@ptd.net.

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

LUCC's "Acting" Ministry Theme for 2024 "YOUUnited in Missions"



Upcoming Missions in 2024

April 2024- December 2024 (1st Sunday of each month)- Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) What is OCWM? Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support funds all the ways we strive together to be the church the world needs. Together we are stronger, our reach is wider, and our commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is deeper.

(taken from https://www.ucc.org/ocwm/ocwm_basic-support/)

May 2024 Monthly Mission: Brandywine Food Pantry



Let's reach out and help the food-insecure residents of BHASD by supporting the Brandywine Food Pantry. We will collect non-perishable food, personal care items, household and paper products for the local food pantry from Sunday, May 12, 2024 until Friday, May 31, 2024. The Brandywine Food Pantry is housed at St. Peter's UCC in Topton.

Please deposit your donations for the Brandywine Food Pantry in the appropriately marked boxes in the sanctuary or in the bell room. If you would rather give a mission offering, please put it in your May mission envelope (dated May 19) or a plain white envelope with your name and Brandywine Food Pantry on it and drop it in the offering basket during our Sunday morning worship service, in the locked offering box in the bell room (open during the week from 6:30 AM- 5:30 PM), or mail it to the church.

Please contact Jill Shade (484-894-0636; jill.shade@longswampucc.org) if you have any questions/ concerns about our May 2024 local mission for the benefit of the Brandywine Food Pantry.

*** Please check the expiration dates on donated food products! Brandywine Food Pantry cannot accept food items with expired dates.

Donated items most helpful right now: Paper products (paper towels, tissues, toilet tissue), Personal care items (body wash, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, individually wrapped toothbrushes, etc.), cleaning and disinfecting products (dish soap, laundry detergent).

The pantry can always use the following items:

- Breakfast: cereal (all kinds), oatmeal (regular and instant), pancake mix, pancake syrup
- Canned Items: beef stew, chili, chicken breast, chicken a la king, ham, SPAM®, tuna, soup (all kinds)
- Canned vegetables: beans (all kinds), carrots, tomatoes (diced and stewed)
- Canned fruit: applesauce, fruit cups, mandarin oranges, sliced peaches, pears, pineapple, etc.
- Meals: Hamburger Helper™, Tuna Helper™, Sloppy Joe sauce
- Microwave/Canned meals: Chef Boyardee® meals (Beefaroni® beef ravioli, lasagna, spaghetti)
- Dry Goods: rice (preferably in boxes), noodles, pasta (all kinds), pasta side dishes, ramen noodles, potatoes (mashed and scalloped)
- Condiments: ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, salad dressing
- Beverages: apple juice, grape juice, cranberry raspberry juice, coffee (regular), hot chocolate, tea, dry milk
- Extras: peanut butter, jelly, marshmallow creme
- Baking items: brownie mix, cake mixes (boxed), cooking oil, evaporated milk, flour, sugar
- Snacks: cookies, crackers, snacks (individual packs)
- Gluten-free and/or sugar-free items





May 2024 Monthly Mission: Cookies For A Cause Event

Longswamp UCC will be hosting our annual “Cookies for a Cause” event for the benefit of the Brandywine Food Pantry at the Mertztown Great Valu Market from 10 AM-2 PM on Saturday, May 18, 2024. We will ask shoppers to donate at least one item (non-perishable food, personal care items, household products, or paper products) or give a monetary donation for the Brandywine Food Pantry. We’ll show our appreciation for their donation by giving each donor a small bag of homemade chocolate chip cookies. Please consider volunteering to man the “Cookies for a Cause” table and/or provide small bags of homemade chocolate chip cookies. Please contact Jill Shade (484-894-0636; jill.shade@longswampucc.org) to volunteer to support our May 2024 mission in a special way. Hope to see you at our “Cookies for a Cause” table at the Mertztown Great Valu Market from 10 AM-2 PM on Saturday, May 18, 2024!



Thank you!

Once again, LUCC has truly proven that we are “YOUnited in Missions”! A HUGE “THANK YOU” to our members who generously supported our April 2024 national/global mission of providing Hygiene Kits for Church World Service (CWS). Also, we would like to extend a special “thank you” to Penn Northeast Conference for their very generous donation of ten complete hygiene kits. We certainly surpassed our goal of donating 50 hygiene kits this year. As of mid-April, we’re quite sure that we’re going to be able to donate a minimum of 65 Hygiene Kits. One of the six stations at Messy Church on Sunday, April 28, 2024, will be the Offering/ Mission tables. We will have lots of fun assembling 36 hygiene kits at Messy Church using the supplies which we ordered in a CWS Kits Party Pack.



Teaching What We Believe

LLC News



It’s almost the end of the school year at Brandywine Heights and the school-aged children are looking forward to summer camp! Our theme this year is “Catch the Wave,” a water-based camp! **We will have “clubs” for some of the days including art club, lego club, biology club, crochet club and more! If you’re interested in hosting a club, please let the church office know!** The rest of the center has been busy with spring activities. They’ve been able to play outside more often with this nice warm weather, though we’ve had to watch out for lots of rain. We’re looking forward to summer and sunny days!

Family & Community Updates



May Birthdays

- May 1-** Coralie Eck
- May 2-** Suzette Ward, Annabelle Weller
- May 3-** Sarah Marburger
- May 9-** Fred Dankel
- May 10-** Alex Jenkins
- May 11-** Caroline DeLong
- May 13-** Tyler Reed
- May 15-** Raymond Conrad, Jr.
- May 19-** Tim Masenheimer
- May 21-** Brandan Clark, Claire DeLong
- May 22-** Barbara Weller
- May 25-** Zach Rachor
- May 30-** Robert Dierolf
- May 31-** Tim Long

May Anniversaries

- May 3, 2014-** Andrew & Heather Shoemaker
- May 12, 2007-** Art & Jennifer George
- May 18, 1985-** Dean & Diane Shoemaker
- May 20, 1995-** Barry & Coralie Eck
- May 25, 2018-** Alex & Riana Jenkins
- May 29, 1999-** Andrew & Jessica Steventon
- May 31, 1980-** Sheila & Steve Fox

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please contact the church office if you don't see it here! Please inform us, also, if you want to be added to our email list!



LUCC's Men's Group update:

The men's group had their first meeting at the Hometown Diner on April 4th. We had five participants who joined this exciting opportunity for Christian Fellowship!

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16th, time and location to be determined.

If you're interested in joining, please contact Justin Smith at 610-529-3394. Hope to see you there!



Prayers Needed



- Church Family Prayer Needs:** Beverly Long, Caroline DeLong, Barbara Eck, George Unger, Ramona Romanik, Fern Shade, Wilma Lease, Karen Friedly, Kevin Shoemaker, Helen Bower, Brenda Bower
- Serving Our Country:** Zachary Rachor, Alexander Jenkins, Adam Hapenovich
- Church Friends Prayer Needs:** Linda Gamble, Ed & Susan, Friends & Family of Pat Neff



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Upcoming performances:

- * Sunday, May 12th *
- * Sunday, August 4th *

Practices will be held April 28th and May 5th after church.

All children are welcome to participate! If your child is interested, please contact Hope Delaco or stay after church on 4/28 or 5/5.



ATTENTION GRADUATES!

Please let the church office know if you have recently graduated or will be graduating soon. We need your help to recognize our graduates for our graduation recognition on June 2nd. Please have any info into the church office by May 21st. For more info, please contact the church office at secretary@longswampucc.org



Swampfest is Saturday, June 8th! We will once again have a walking taco stand and will need people to run the stand from 11am-5pm. We did 2 hour shifts last year with 2 people each and it worked out great! We also will have a kids area with a pretend taco truck at our stand, as well. More info to follow so keep an eye out in the May bulletins!



CINCO DE MAYO FELLOWSHIP + BRICK DAY!



MAY 5TH AFTER THE 10:15AM SERVICE

Grab a taco bowl after church, hang out, and plan to help lay out some bricks! We are having a work day following the service for the installation of the memorial bricks

These tacos are also to get us excited about our walking taco stand at Swampfest on June 8th! If you're able to help out, please contact the church office! More info to follow!

Church Business

March 2024 Financials

Income and Expenses

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Member Giving: | \$6,837.43 |
| Other Giving: | \$1,983.75 |
| Total Giving: | \$8,821.18 |
| Expenses: | \$16,611.56 |
| Net Income (loss): | \$7,790.38 |
| Memorial Fund Income: | \$0 |
| Building Fund Expenses: | \$8,541.22 |

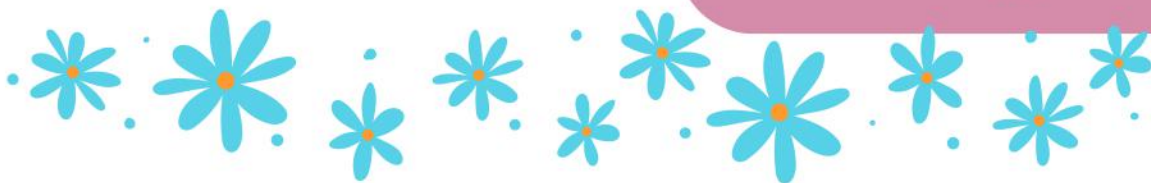
Account Balances as of 4/22/2023

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund Checking: | \$42,732.77 |
| Contingency Fund Checking: | \$3,022.13 |
| Memorial Fund Checking: | \$13,108.94 |
| Building Fund: | \$408.40 |
| Building Fund Checking: | \$53,428.59 |

Message from the Treasurer

Included in member giving for missions are \$250 for Our Church's Wider Mission and \$350 for Internal Missions (Egg Hunt.) Included in Other income is \$1,983.75 for the cell tower lease fee. Included in Building Fund expenses are \$1,112.56 for water treatment and equipment maintenance, \$479 for cleaning services, \$475 for the monthly heating oil budget payment, \$923.29 for electric service and \$5061 for the quarterly church insurance package premium.

Have you moved or changed addresses? Have a new phone number? Let the church office know! We appreciate your help in keeping our member info up to date. Additionally, let us know if you or someone you know would like to be on the prayer list.



Church Staff

Pastor - Rev. Kimberly Berenottopastorkim@longswampucc.org.....610-401-1847
Organist & Choir Director - Ann Mabry Millerann@longswampucc.org
Office Administrator & Newsletter Editor - Maggie Isamoyer...secretary@longswampucc.org
LLC Director - Sharon Wetzelsharon@longswampllearningcenter.com
LLC Office - 610-682-9750
Church Board President - Laurie Heagy.....laurie@longswampucc.org610-682-4735
Maintenance Manager - Dwayne Snyder.....dwayne@longswampucc.org

Longswamp UCC

Planting seeds of faith by
teaching, sharing and acting
on what we believe.

Our Newsletter

The Beacon

May 2024



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PLACE
STAMP
HERE