

Longswamp United Church of Christ

April 26, 2026 ~ 10:15 am

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Facebook page: **Longswamp UCC**

Wi-Fi Guest Password: Christ200

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, Pastor

Ministry Partners: Head Usher, Greeter- Chris Freudig

Reader- Hope Deiaco

Earth Day Celebration & Ann's Retirement

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

MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HONORING ANN MABRY MILLER FOR HER 45 YEARS OF SERVICE

Moment of Sharing

Presentation of Gifts

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: O God, we give thanks for the 45 years of music ministry Ann provided here at Longswamp United Church of Christ.

People: We pray that Ann knows she is surrounded by the love of this community and the presence of the Holy Spirit as she officially retires.

Leader: Thank you, Lord, for moments spent with Ann in song, in worship, in prayer, in laughter, in learning, and in service.

People: We remember times together shared in our community's life of faith.

Leader: Everlasting God, help us to trust the future, which rests in your care.

People: Guide us as we move in new directions while cherishing the ways Ann has enhanced this church.

Leader: May we all be open to the Holy Spirit that encourages us toward new life.

People: Honoring the God-given gifts and talents that build up this community of faith and propel us forward. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANTHEM *Big White Church of the Hill*
Lyrics: Ann Mabry Miller/Music: W.S. Pitts

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God of all, the earth is full of your creatures.

People: I will sing to the Lord!

Leader: The sea is great and wide.

People: I will sing to the Lord!

Leader: Mountains and trees stand tall and strong.

People: I will sing to the Lord!

Leader: Things that creep and peep are innumerable.

People: I will sing to the Lord!

Leader: Living things both great and small abound.

People: I will sing to the Lord!

Leader: And God's glorious creation is good.

People: I will sing to the Lord!

***HYMN**

For the Beauty of the Earth

#353

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

All: Holy Creator, you breathed into us the breath of life; connecting us in relationship to all other living beings. Whatever affects one creature directly, affects all of us indirectly. Yet, we too often act selfishly. We behave like our actions don't affect the beauty of our creation. Even as we see the earth suffer, we dream of its wholeness. We long for a world where humans cherish the earth's resources, marvel at the abundance available to us, and care for all parts of God's creation. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to rejoin and reclaim our sacred belonging in the Body of Christ. Turn us toward ways of renewal and care for God's people and God's creation. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Children of the Earth, know that the God of life forgives our sins and heals our brokenness.

People: We receive grace and forgiveness abundantly, in Christ's name. Amen.

***HYMN**

Shine Jesus Shine

#721

***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. Afterwards, kids of all ages can follow our Children's Church leaders to our Sunday School program in the Education Building for stories, games, crafts, and more. We also welcome families to remain in worship if that is what works best for you!

*HYMN

In the Garden

#242

RESPONSIVE READING (BASED ON PSALM 8)

Leader; Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

People: You have set your glory in the heavens!

Leader: Yet, I can hardly imagine the heavens, the work of your hands.

People: You set in place the moon and the stars!

Leader: So, who are we, as humans, that you care for us?

People: You created us and crowned us with glory and honor.

Leader: You made us rulers over your good works and put the ground under our feet.

People: You set us in charge of the flocks and herds; the animals of the wild too.

Leader: Even the birds in the sky and the fish swimming the paths of the sea are yours.

People: Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 12:16-34

CHOIR ANTHEM

Sing the Beauty of the Earth

Wagner

SERMON

"How the Wildflowers Grow"

Pastor Kim

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

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: Giver of life and all that sustains us; we offer our gifts back to you. May what we give become manna for the hungry, comfort for the lonely, strength for the weary, and hope for those in despair. Remind us that we are the Body of Christ, called to be good stewards of your creation. Strengthen us for this task and give us courage to love and give as you do. Amen.

*HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Insert

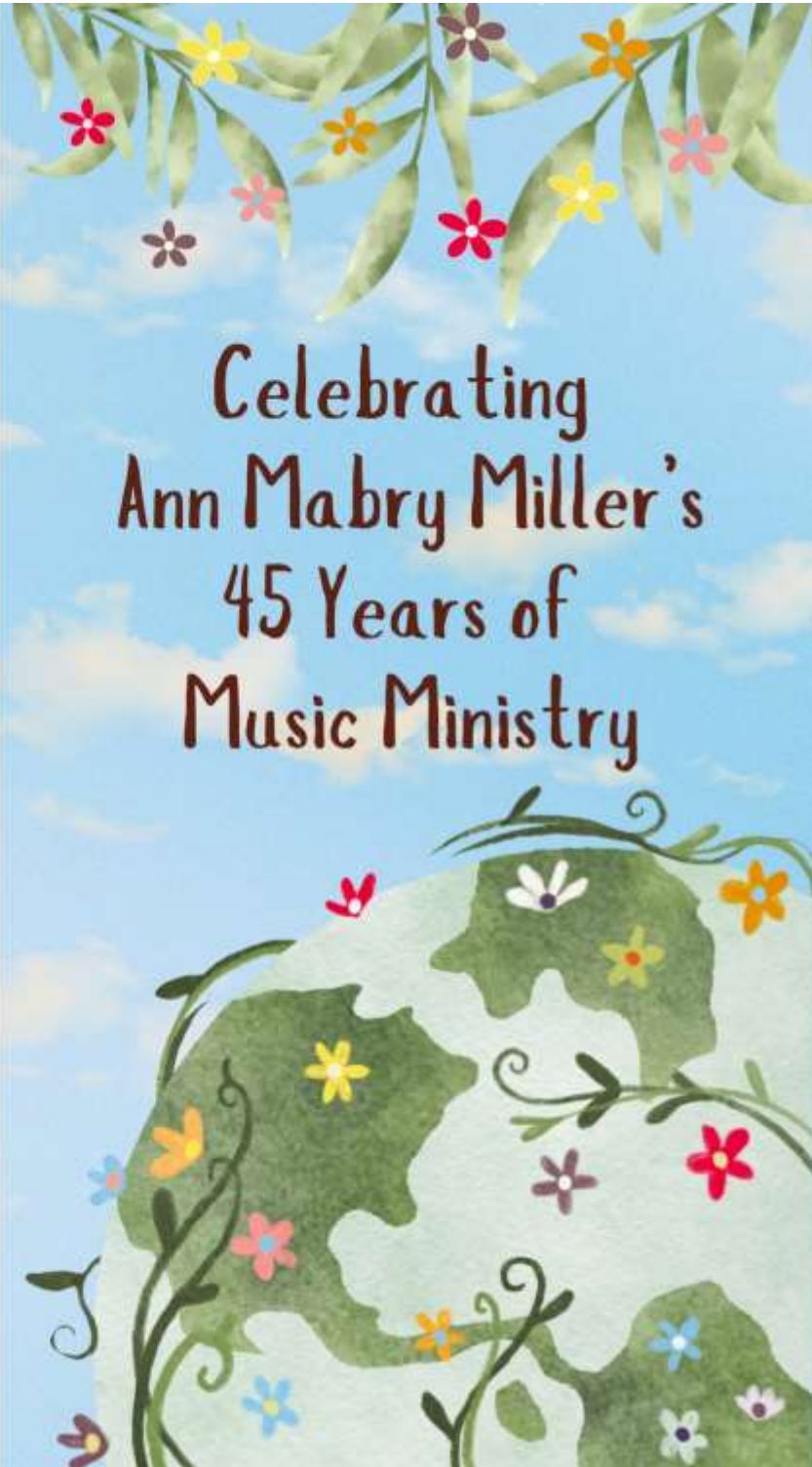
WORDS OF THANKS & CLOSING PRAYER BEFORE THE MEAL

CLOSING MUSIC

"Ode To Joy"

Beethoven

Portions of this service were adapted from The Book of Worship, United Church of Christ, and Earth Day Sunday Liturgy from the Green Church Network.

A decorative background featuring a stylized globe of the Earth in shades of green and blue, surrounded by various colorful flowers (red, yellow, purple, blue) and green leaves. The text is centered over this background.

Celebrating Ann Mabry Miller's 45 Years of Music Ministry

WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- April 26th-May 2nd, 2026

Altar Flowers and Bulletins are given to the Glory of God and are in honor of Ann Mabry Miller's retirement! Thank you for all your years of service to LUCC!

Thank you for worshiping with us on this special day where we honor Ann Mabry Miller's 45 years of service to Longswamp UCC as she retires AND celebrate Earth Day! Please join us after worship in Fegely Hall for a time of fellowship for Ann - there will be plenty of food for all! We extend an extra welcome to our visitors today and special gratitude to our choirs and to all the church members who have worked to make today meaningful for Ann and our congregation. Next Sunday, May 3rd, we worship at 10:15 am, and will welcome the Caldwell-Eichler family to our church and baptize their daughter, Elora! We will also be assembling our Church World Service Kid's Kits during the service to close our April Mission. So, you don't want to miss church next week!

Sharing Our Faith

We have lots of exciting events coming up in the next few weeks! May 10th is Mother's Day and each mother, mother figure, aunt, grandmother, and any woman will get a special treat to celebrate all you do for your families and friends! May 17th is a Holy Communion Sunday and is also a Family Sunday. May 24th is our Pentecost Celebration and also our Memorial Day remembrance. Lastly, on May 31st, we will be welcoming a few new members and observing the baptism of Emelia Hummel!

Our Sight & Sound 2026 Bus Trip is happening! We will once again be taking a trip to Sight and Sound to see Joshua on Friday, August 14th, and will have dinner at Hershey Farms Smorgasbord after the show. The bus will leave LUCC around 12:45pm on Friday and return around 8-9pm. The cost is \$126 for adults and \$65 for children under 13. We have about 30 tickets left so make sure you let Maggie know ASAP if you'd like to go!

Teaching What We Believe

Our Sunday School program, Children's Church, runs weekly during the church service. After the Children's Message, kids are welcome to follow their teachers to the Preschool Room for a Bible lesson, crafts, games, and more. Children are also welcome to stay in worship with their families and take advantage of our Playground in the front left of the sanctuary.

A fun new Faith-Filled opportunity is coming to LUCC! Starting in May, all women of LUCC are invited on "Faithful Field Trips." This is a fun way to experience our faith in different ways while also joining together in fellowship. May's field trip will be on May 27th and we will go to the Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem. We will meet at 10am at LUCC, drive together to Bethlehem, have a tour of the sanctuary and grounds of the Moravian Church, and have lunch at Fegely's Brew Works afterward. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kim!

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

April 2026 National/Global Mission - Church World Service Kids' Kits - Let's do God's work in today's world next **Sunday, May 3, 2026** during our 10:15 AM worship service when we'll be filling **Church World Service Kids' Kits** with the 11 required school supplies. Hope to see you there!

May 2026 mission - Brandywine Food Pantry - As part of our mission next month, we will host our **5th annual "Cookies for a Cause"** event for the benefit of the **Brandywine Food Pantry** at **Ashi's Mertztown Market** from **10 AM - 2 PM** on **Saturday, May 16th**. We are in need of a few volunteers to man our "Cookies for a Cause" stand for one hour shifts. Thank you to our members who signed up to bake chocolate chip cookies. Please put your name on the "Cookies for a Cause" sign-up sheet in the narthex if you're willing to help for an hour or two. Please contact Jill Shade (jill.shade@longswampucc.org; 484-894-0636;) if you have any questions/concerns about our May 2026 mission.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for this year's Swampfest at the Longswamp Park on June 13th! LUCC is once again hosting a walking taco stand with a small kids area. Please see the board in the narthex for more information on how you can help with Swampfest this year! We are in need of both volunteers to work the stand on the 13th and also donations of food items to put together our walking tacos! If you have any questions, please contact Maggie in the office.

Longswamp UCC Business

Interested in sponsoring Altar Flowers/Bulletins? Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex! Flowers/Bulletins cost \$50 each week. Make sure you write who you'd like to dedicate them in honor or memory of on the sheet!

We are always in need of greeters to hand out bulletins and welcome people into the building before church services. If you're interested, please sign up on the small sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex or let Maggie in the office know!

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895

ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with Refrain
Traditional English Melody
Adapted by Martin Shaw, 1875-1958

Refrain

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, All crea - tures great and small,

Fine

All things wise and won - der - ful, The Lord God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, Each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tain, The riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas - ant sum - mer sun,

Repeat Refrain

He made their glow - ing col - ors, He made their ti - ny wings.
The sun - set, and the morn - ing That bright - ens up the sky,
The ripe fruits in the gar - den, He made them ev - ery one.