

THE LONGSWAMP UCC BEACON - APRIL 2023

Teaching, sharing and acting on what we believe.



Join us for worship!
Sundays at 10:15 am



200 CLAY ROAD, MERTZTOWN, PA 19539

WWW.LONGSWAMPUCC.ORG

OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6230

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 9:30am - 2:30pm

HOSPITAL CODE: #451

(LVHN & Sacred Heart & St. Luke's)

MAY 2023

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, April 18th

In This Issue...

✝ Pastor's Message

✝ LLC Happenings

✝ Family & Community News & Events

✝ Worship/Events Calendar

✝ Missions Updates

✝ And so much more!



From the Pastor

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto



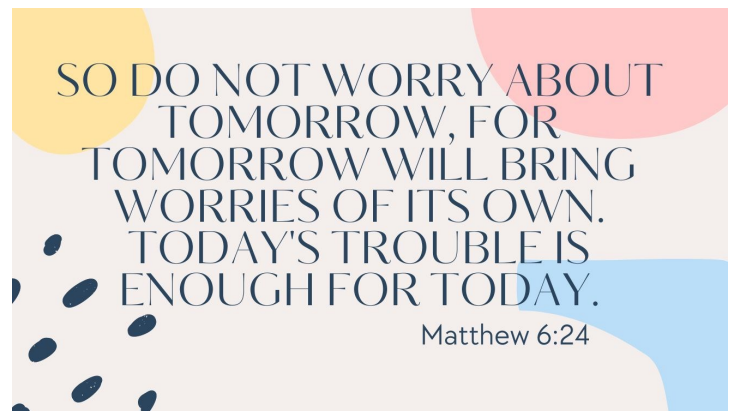
I would love to come to you this month with a lovely and celebratory reflection on Easter and the joy of resurrection. But I'll be honest, I'm feeling a bit overwhelmed! Matthew 6:34 reads, "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." I think this scripture is meant to encourage us and keep us from spending too much time anxious about the future. As I read it, however, I find myself thinking, "I can't worry about tomorrow; I've got too much to do today!"

So much of what's on my plate right now are exciting and positive things!

Church life at Longswamp UCC is hopping! There's so much going on as we approach Holy Week and Easter. We've gotten more involved in community events and services and are preparing to kick-off our 275th Anniversary celebration with our Spring Festival on May 7th!

My husband and I just sold our house and we are in the midst of the MANY preparations to move into the Schubert Haus over Memorial Day Weekend. We're so excited to be closer to the church and more fully part of the Longswamp community, but there's a lot to do!

And, as most of you know, Dawn Strunk left to pursue a new opportunity and is no longer our church secretary. Even though that transition has been difficult, I'm so grateful to Dawn for all the help she's given in this in-between time (as I've tried not to pull out all my hair the last few weeks). More so, I am overjoyed that Maggie Isamoyer starts as our church administrator April 3rd.



All of this got me thinking: We celebrate Christ's resurrection every Easter, sing songs of joy, and our worship is full of praise and excitement. And though Christ's resurrection was a time of excitement and joy, the disciples felt overwhelmed too! They were confused, they doubted, they wondered what Christ's resurrection would mean for their future. Matthew 28:8 shares that the women who discovered Jesus' resurrected body were "afraid yet filled with joy." Often the best things that happen in our lives come along with a mix of emotions. Feeling excitement and happiness is only a few steps away from feeling nervous and overwhelmed!

So I'm going to try and heed the Gospel of Matthew's advice to not worry much about tomorrow; and I know I'll fail because there's much to feel anxious and excited about. But I'll take comfort that even the disciples, who witnessed the resurrection, were afraid yet filled with joy too.

HAPPY
Easter

Sharing our Faith

April Worship 2023 ~ Services Sundays at 10:15am

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

April Worship Schedule

April 2nd: Palm Sunday (Easter Hat Parade & Lollipop the Donkey—Egg Hunt @ Noon)

April 6th: Holy Week Service at 6:15 pm. The service begins in Fegely Hall with a meal and remembering the Last Supper and finishes in the sanctuary with a Tenebrae Service of word and song.

April 9th: Easter Sunday (Services at 7:15 am and 10:15 am)

April 16th: Regular Worship

April 23rd: Regular Worship

April 30th: Regular Worship



PALM SUNDAY
at Longswamp UCC
April 2, 2023 @ 10:15 am

Celebrate Christ's entrance into Jerusalem on a donkey with the waving of palm branches. Worship will include an Easter Hat Parade!

Meet Lollipop the Donkey before church!

Join us for the Community Egg Hunt after church at Noon!



Lenten Community Service of Healing

Wednesday April 5th 2023
7:00 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Mertztown, PA

Longswamp UCC's Choir will be part of the Community Choir for the worship service and Pastor Kim is the guest preacher.



Children are welcome at worship - the noises of kids in worship are celebrated at Longswamp UCC. However, if you need a moment outside the sanctuary you are invited to take your kids to the Nursery. Head through the Bell Room, into our Office/Daycare Building, past the restrooms, and down the hall toward the door that says NURSERY. There you'll find rocking chairs, changing stations, toys, and room for your little one to wiggle. Additionally, the service is live-streamed into the Nursery so you can continue to worship with us!

Sharing our Faith



JOIN US ON **THURSDAY APRIL 6TH** FOR A SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY. WE WILL BEGIN AT **6:15 PM** WITH A SHARED MEAL IN FEGELY HALL; DURING WHICH WE WILL REMEMBER CHRIST'S LAST SUPPER WITH HIS DISCIPLES. THEN WE WILL HEAD TO THE SANCTUARY TO FINISH THE EVENING WITH A TENEBRAE-STYLE SERVICE OF SCRIPTURE AND SONG ABOUT JESUS' LAST HOURS AND CRUCIFIXION

Holy Week at Longswamp UCC

EASTER SUNDAY

Longswamp UCC

April 9th 2023

7:15 am

or

10:15 am

All are welcome!



God's Explorers Sunday School will not meet Sunday April 2nd for Palm Sunday or Sunday April 9th for Easter. We welcome families to sit together and for the kids to enjoy worshipping those days!

God's Explorers returns Sunday April 16th: Children begin in worship and after the Children's Message head down to Fegely Hall with our God's Explorers Guides for stories, crafts, games, and more!

We need leaders and helpers for God's Explorers - please speak with Pastor Kim if you'd like to be involved in this important ministry of our church.

Leadership Updates



NEWS...

This report includes business conducted at the February PNEC Executive Committee session and the Board of Directors meeting held in Mid-March.

The Treasurer reported that total revenue for 2022 came in at 106% of that figure in 2021, being augmented by some assets of a dissolved church and bequests. Unfortunately, this was offset by investment losses of about \$57,000. The 2023 financial reports as of February 28th showed the usual slow start after the boost that comes at the end of the previous year. Still, the total revenue to date was only about \$225 behind the amount budgeted. Total expenses are higher than this point in 2022 by about 15% due to a combination of the expense of the Conference Minister's sabbatical and increased utility costs. The Conference is committed to having an audit review of the books done this calendar year and some funds were included in the budget to cover the expense, but the treasurer is seeking a volunteer(s) to assist in the process so not all those funds will need to be used.

Conference program updates (which we help support through OCWM):

- The combined Disaster Ministries Team (PNEC+PSEC) gathered and packaged 110 “clean-up” buckets to be sent to Church World Services to aid those impacted by destructive weather events, etc.
- Amigos de Guatemala is now using the community center which so many PNEC churches supported, and they hope to send a medical team down in early 2024 to hold a clinic.
- The Racial Justice Team assists the conference in offering racial diversity and cultural competency training, and the Congregational Vitality Team joined the Local Congregational Support Working Group to offer another training for lay leaders of congregations.
- The Spiritual Development Team is celebrating the renewed energy they feel in re-engaging to produce youth programs after the pandemic curtailed their momentum for so long.
- The Nominating Committee has recommended a slate of about 30 candidates to be voted in to serve on the PNEC Board, committees and teams at the Spring Conference Meeting in late April.
- The GEM Fund (Grants for Energizing Mission) approved a \$2,500 grant to Heidelberg Union church to upgrade their technology system.
- The Spring Conference Meeting Planning Group has most details in place for the gathering to be held at St. Thomas Macada UCC in Bethlehem on Saturday, April 29th from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. The theme is Health, Renewal and Restoration and you can attend by Zoom or in person as a guest for a \$20 registration fee, or as a LUCC delegate for \$35.

Updates from Board Sub-groups:

The Discernment and Visioning Team has offered three evening Zoom Lenten Bible Study sessions in March, which included discussion questions about what congregational members would like to see the Conference offer in the future.

The Alan Miller Memorial Task Force has proposed a fund to be established that will support some percentage of the cost of Pastors' sabbatical plans if they meet the parameters of being totally fun and relaxing to lift spirits, reconnect with family, nature, etc. This would mirror Alan's own view of the purpose of sabbatical time. The Board approved the concept and asked the group to continue developing details for the fund.

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

Teaching What We Believe

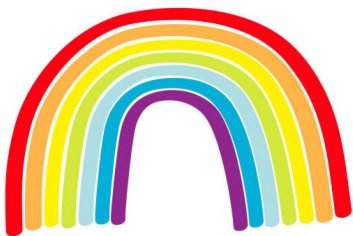


Longswamp Learning Center News...

Are you or someone you know looking for quality care and education for your children (infants - 5th grade) or looking for full time/part time work in a child-care setting? Please contact Sharon Wetzel, the LLC Director, via email (sharon@longswamplearningcenter.com) or by calling the LLC office at 610-682-9750 to get more information about enrolling your child(ren) for the current school year.

LLC kicked off the month of March with a week celebrating Dr. Seuss. The students in every class read many Dr. Seuss books and even enjoyed a visit from the Cat in Hat!

The Pre-School Class spent time learning about their five senses, and tried out drawing different pictures while blindfolded to see what Pre-School is like without sight! The students read a variety of Laura Numeroff books, the author of "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" and created food-centered art based on the themes of Numeroff's books—from cookies to pancakes to donuts! They even got to eat special snacks based on the books! The Pre-School also had some St. Patrick's Day fun and set a leprechaun trap, but all they caught were footprints.

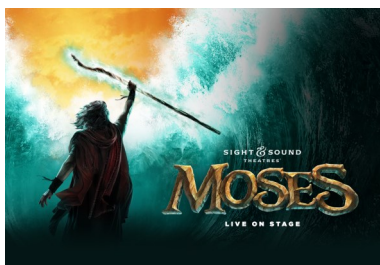


All of LLC's younger students learned about weather for much of March—doing many activities about clouds, rain, sun, rainbows that engaged their fine motor skills! The Older Toddlers worked on their color-matching and make rainbow wind-catchers. The Nursery Class made sunshines out of their handprints and worked on their color identification as well! The babies made footprint rainbows.

The School-Aged students in our before and after school program at Brandywine Elementary celebrated St. Patrick's Day this month with shamrock milkshakes and made their own leprechaun traps too.

There's so much happening at LLC. Work has begun on the playground area! Currently the crews are preparing the grounds for the new turf and playground equipment to be installed. The plan is for the playground to be complete and ready for the students by the end of April.

Additionally, it is Krispy Kreme fundraiser time! If you'd like to order Krispy Kreme donuts or coffee please contact Pastor Kim or grab an order form from the Narthex. Orders are due by Tuesday April 11th and pick-up is Thursday April 20th. Enjoy some donuts and support LLC at the same time!



Longswamp UCC Summer Bible Study "Moses" with a Trip to Sight and Sound Theater

We are looking ahead to Summer and planning a Bible Study for July about Moses. We are hoping to cap off the study with a trip to Sight and Sound Theater for a showing of Moses, likely Friday July 21st. If you would be interested in participating in this please contact Pastor Kim ASAP so she can secure enough tickets.

Acting on Jesus' Teachings



This might sound strange but our April mission is CARPET! As much as we love supporting external missions, we also need to ensure our church is functioning long into the future for many members and friends to come. So for April, we're turning our giving inward.

We are having new carpet installed in the sanctuary, portions of the balcony, and the narthex. This project begins the Monday after Easter (April 10th) and should be fully completed by Sunday April 23rd.

Additionally we are installing some new carpet in the Schubert Haus before Pastor Kim moves in.

If you wish to contribute to the new carpet please use April's mission envelopes or use the envelope in the pews/envelope from home and write CARPET on the outside.

Thank you for your support in continuing to provide a beautiful sanctuary to worship in and to make Schubert Haus feel like home for Pastor Kim and her family.

If you have any questions, contact Bob Friedly: bob@longswampucc.org

Easter EGG HUNT

Sunday | **Time:**
April 2nd | **12 Noon**

Rain or Shine!
Treat Bags for Kids & Refreshments for All!
Free photos with the Easter Bunny!
Egg Hunt Conducted by Age Group!

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

LUCC's "Acting" Ministry Theme for 2023 - "LUCC - A Church Alive Makes Missions Thrive"

Upcoming Missions in 2023

*** Please note: LUCC's monthly missions are subject to change.



April 2023 - December 2023 (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/)



April 2023 - December 2023 - ongoing mission for the benefit of **Brandywine Food Pantry** - The number of residents of our local school district who are going to the Brandywine Food Pantry to get food to put on their tables is constantly increasing. Please consider helping our underprivileged neighbors by dropping off your donations of non-perishable food items before or after our worship services on Sunday mornings, or during the week from 6:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Please put your food donations in the appropriately marked wicker tote box in the bell room. Please contact Jill Shade, LUCC's representative on the Brandywine Food Pantry Board, if you have any questions/concerns about how you can help this very worthwhile cause.

May 2023 - Our local mission for May 2023 is the **Brandywine Food Pantry**. We will collect monetary donations, non-perishable food, personal care items, household and paper products for the local food pantry from Sunday, May 14, 2023 -Wednesday, May 31, 2023. Watch for more details in the May 2023 newsletter.

LUCC's Community Family Easter Egg Hunt Local Mission - March/April 2023



Hope you already marked your calendar so you can join us at **LUCC's Community Family Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 2, 2023 (Palm Sunday)**. We need volunteers to help hide eggs before the worship service and help in various ways during the event. Please contact Pastor Kim or Laurie Heagy if you're willing to volunteer in one way or another at this very special community event! Thank you so much for your support of **LUCC's Community Family Easter Egg Hunt** for the families of our community!



Contact Laurie if you are able to help get Schubert Haus prepped for Pastor Kim and her family to move in! There's all sorts of jobs— moving old furniture, sorting historical documents, cleaning, painting, carpet removal, and more! laurie@longswampucc.org OR 610-682-4735

Family & Community Updates

April Birthdays

April 2 - Grace Reed
April 9 - Nancy Snyder
April 22 - John Desrosiers
April 22 - Richard Shupp
April 30 - Weylin Eck

&

April Anniversaries

04/4/1986 Cindy & Tim Masenheimer
04/05/1975 Susan & Jeffrey McElrea



If you are a member of the church and would like your birthday and/or anniversary listed in upcoming news-letters or if there is a correction, please contact the church office at 610-682-6230.



Church Family Prayer Needs: Beverly Long, Caroline DeLong, Barbara Eck, George Unger, Barbara Weaknecht, Ramona Romanik, Fern Shade, Wilma Lease

Serving Our Country: Zachary Rachor, Alexander Jenkins

Church Friends Prayer Needs: None right now

Please contact the church office if you or someone you know is in need of prayer.

In Sympathy



William H. "Billy" Isamoyer, 83, of Mertztown, passed away, March 18, 2023, in Lehigh Valley Hospital. Born in Ringtown, he is survived by his wife Joyce F. (Weisner) Isamoyer; a daughter, Dawn M. (Isamoyer), wife of Craig A. Weller; and grandson Keegan C. Weller, Topton. He was predeceased by a brother, James Isamoyer and a sister, Virginia (Isamoyer) Guth.

Bill worked at the former Kutztown Shoe Factory for several years and then ElectroSpace Fabricators, retiring as a supervisor. He also drove dump truck for many years.

Billy enjoyed time with family, friends, camping, traveling, building and repairing his home, and being a Mr. Fix-it.

A funeral service to honor and celebrate Billy's life will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. from Ludwick Funeral Homes and Cremation Care, Inc., 25 East Weis Street, Topton, with The Reverend Martin A. Milne, officiating. Interment in Longswamp Union Cemetery, Mertztown. Relatives and friends are invited to a viewing on Saturday from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the funeral home.

Is your information up to date? Please contact the church office if you think we might have the wrong mailing address, email address, home or cell numbers so we can stay in touch with you! Furthermore, if there was information you feel was missing from this month's newsletter, please contact the church office!



LONGSWAMP UCC'S 275TH ANNIVERSARY

Spring Festival

Come celebrate the 275th Anniversary of Longswamp United Church of Christ with an old-fashioned Spring Festival!



Sunday, May 7th, 2023

Special Worship: 10:15 am

Festival: Noon to 3pm

Food & Drink
Maypole Dance
Lively Music
Cake-Walk
Living History
Games & Crafts

Old Fashioned Fun for the Whole Family!

200 Clay Rd in Mertztown, PA -610-682-6230 - www.longswampucc.org

All are welcome!



Church Business

January 2023 Financial Information

Income and Expenses	
Member giving	\$ 11,665.58
Other income	\$ -
Total income	\$ 11,665.58
Expenses	\$ (12,701.04)
Net income	\$ 1035.46
Building Fund Income	\$ -
Building Fund Expenses	\$ 4127.27

Account Balances (as of 3/38/2023)	
General Fund Checking	\$ 67,190.59
Contingency Fund Checking	\$ 3,021.74
Memorial Fund Checking	\$ 15,861.68
Building Fund	\$ 7351.68
Building Fund Checking	\$ 51,967.01

Notes from the Treasurer...

Included in member giving for missions are \$90 for Our Church's Wider Mission and \$6,910 for the heating mission for February. Also included in member giving is \$94.30 for Radcliffe's receipts. Included in Building Fund expenses are \$764.51 for water treatment, testing and equipment maintenance, \$750 for cleaning services, \$1,310 for the monthly heating oil budget payment, \$169.95 for propane to heat the sanctuary and Boy Scout cabins and \$1,133.21 for electric service.

Upcoming Meetings...

Sunday April 16th

Before Church: Anniversary Spring Festival Planning Team

After Church: Church Board

Sunday April 23rd

Before Church: Budget Deficit Team

After Church: Elders

Church Staff

Pastor - Rev. Kimberly Berenotto pastorkim@longswampucc.org 610-401-1847

Organist & Choir Director - Ann Mabry Miller ann@longswampucc.org

Office Administrator & Newsletter Editor - Maggie Isamoyer secretary@longswampucc.org

LLC Director - Sharon Wetzel sharon@longswampllearningcenter.com

LLC Office - 610-682-9750

Church Board President - Laurie Heagy laurie@longswampucc.org 610-682-4735

Maintenance Manager - Dwayne Snyder dwayne@longswampucc.org

Longswamp Church

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

Our Newsletter

The Beacon

April 2023

Longswamp UCC

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secretary@longswampucc.org

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HERE