

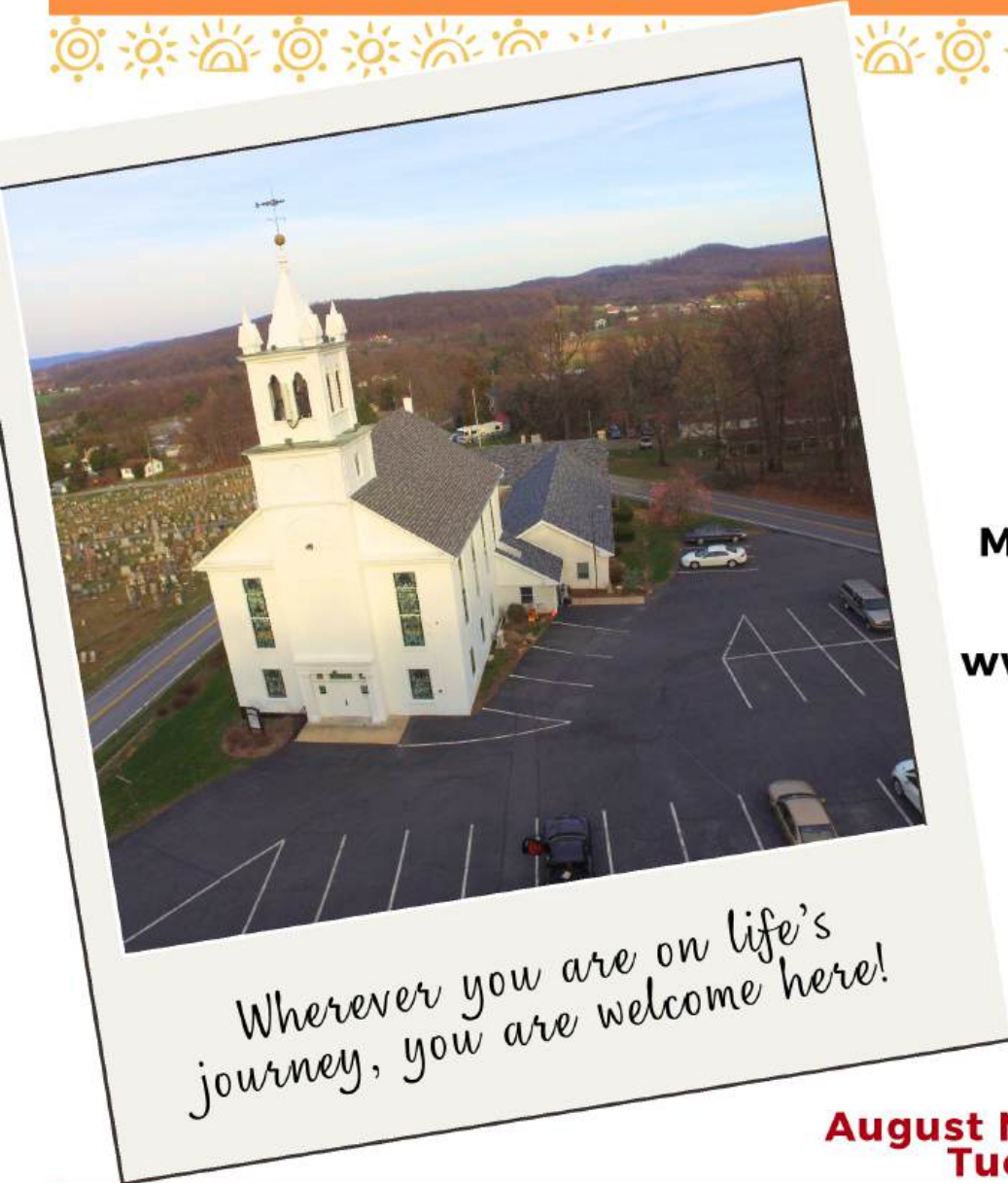


Longswamp United Church of Christ

# The Beacon

July 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](http://www.longswampucc.org)



**August Newsletter Deadline:  
Tuesday, July 21st**

## Contact Us

Church Office: 610-682-6230  
Monday-Friday  
9:30am - 2:30pm  
[secretary@longswampucc.org](mailto:secretary@longswampucc.org)

# From the Pastor

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto



*"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would only have four years of life left."*

Is it true that human life depends on bee pollination? This quote, often incorrectly attributed to Albert Einstein, certainly makes it seem that way. Much staple food around the world is not pollinated by bees – like wheat, rice, and corn. But, for those of us that are fortunate enough to eat varied diets, up to 1/3 of our food could be pollinated by bees! This includes things like berries, chocolate, nuts, and coffee...but bees also pollinate alfalfa and other food sources for dairy cows. So, bees are an important part of the dairy industry too, and our ability to access cheese and ice cream! We're only talking about pollination here – of course we need bees to make honey too. While we wouldn't all immediately wither and die without bees, our lives would certainly be less delicious and farming would be more complicated. 🐝🐝🐝🐝🐝🐝🐝🐝🐝🐝

Bees are pretty remarkable creatures, and not just for their ability to pollinate our favorite foods and create honey. Bees are highly organized and social; living and working in community and communicating in unique ways. The forefathers and foremothers of our church obviously saw value in the lifestyle of bees because we have a beehive stained glass window in the Bell Room.



It's so interesting that, along with all the Biblical imagery, our church decided to highlight the attributes of bees in the stained glass!

This summer's worship series will be focused on bees! July 12th through August 2nd, in worship, we will be tying in scripture stories to different qualities or characteristics of bees, their community, and their work! Plus, our July mission is for the benefit of Heifer International, through which we can purchase Bee Packages for families in-need across the globe. These kits provide a hive, box, and training that supports the family through sales of honey and wax; and can stimulate the growth of the family's crops through pollination. Plus, these bee packages increase the global honeybee population to support the environment!

We'll cap off this fun summer series on August 2nd after worship with an all-church picnic that will include family-friendly bee crafts, games, and more! You don't want to miss it!

***"My child, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Know that wisdom is as honey to your soul; if you find it, you will find a future, and your hope will not be cut off."***

## July 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.

**July 5th-** Outdoor Service in Pavilion, Independence Day Weekend, Music Provided by Theresa on Guitar

**July 12th-** Honey Bee Worship Series

**July 19th-** Honey Bee Worship Series, Communion

**July 26th-** Honey Bee Worship Series, Guest Preacher Pastor Sue Lishman

## July Ministry Partners

### Greeters

July 5- none

July 12- Mary Velez Samuelson

July 19- Vern Shade

July 26- Bob Friedly

### Readers

July 5- none

July 12- Chris Freudig

July 19- Jill Shade

July 26- John Samuelson

### Head Ushers

July 5- Theresa Haffner-Stearns

July 12- Leo Desrosiers

July 19- Vern Shade

July 26- Bob Friedly

**HONEYBEE**  
SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES

Sunday July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ecclesiastes 4:8-12	Bee Hives Function as a Single Unit
Sunday July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ezekiel 2:6-3:4 John 6:24-35	Honey Never Spoils
Sunday July 26 <sup>th</sup>	Deuteronomy 8:6-18	Bees Pollinate 1/3 of Our Food
Sunday August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 Samuel 6:12-19 Psalm 150	Bees Communicate Through Dancing

**CHURCH PICNIC**  
SUNDAY AUGUST 2ND  
AFTER WORSHIP - PAVILION

## July Altar Flower Sponsors

-July 19<sup>th</sup>- In loving memory of husband, Russell Solt, given by Shirley Solt

## Outdoor Worship

July 5th  
10:15 am

Special Music led by Theresa on guitar





### GUTEN TAG!!

From where I sit, our busy year continued through late spring at Longswamp UCC. Mother's Day was celebrated on May 10 and all women were given a potted plant. I enjoyed seeing all the different flowers on the table in the narthex.

Our churchwide local mission in May was to support the Brandywine Food Pantry. On May 16, we held our "Cookies for a Cause" event at Ashi's Mertztown Market. Homemade cookies, made by our LUCC members and Girl Scout Troop 11086, were given to shoppers who gave a donation of any kind. The weather cooperated and lots of paper products, household/ cleaning supplies, and personal care items were collected. I am happy to report that the total cash donations from all sources was \$530. Thank you to all those who contributed towards making our May mission a success.

The Pre-Confirmation class met on May 17. After a great lunch, provided by one of the parents, the class participated in a scavenger hunt. They had fun and learned about the physical layout of the church and also about the entire LUCC campus. The class also planned the menu for the lunch they will prepare and serve on their June 25th retreat day to Opportunity House in Reading. I am sure the Confirmands will enjoy the day of service.

Memorial Day and Pentecost were both marked at the May 24 service. Given that it was a holiday weekend, attendance was strong and the choir sang a new (to them) patriotic anthem entitled "United We Stand".

On May 29, Longswamp Learning Center held their annual Preschool Graduation. Congratulations to the 10 Graduates and their families! May God continue to bless them all as they begin elementary school in fall.

May 31, Trinity Sunday, was an exceptionally busy day. The Church Board met before worship. Our membership continues to grow as one person was baptized and four new members joined during the service. Afterward, church members teamed up with Boy Scout Troop 575 and Learning Center Staff to clean up the playground. The new gazebo was fixed, a new shade sail was installed, weeds were pulled, and many yards of fresh mulch were spread. The outdoor toys got a good scrubbing, the old gazebo was disposed of, and at the end of the day, the playground looked wonderful!

In other property news, the church stucco project has begun and two sides are finished. The contractor will come back later in the year to finish the rest. Two new ovens were installed to add to our kitchen refresh project. Plus, Ray Ziegler has been hired and started to work as our new Maintenance Manager. Welcome Ray!

Thank you to Pastor Kim and Mary Samuelson for attending the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ. On June 7, a Wedding themed service was led by Laurie Heagy and Vern Shade. Special thanks to Glenn Fisher and Theresa Haffner-Stearns for sharing their musical talents too.

Swampfest was held on June 13 at Longswamp Township Park. Our church served walking tacos. The weather was delightful and the loud fireworks kept me awake.

June 14 was Graduation Sunday. Major Doctor Alexander Jenkins and Doctor Garrett Jenkins were recognized. Best wishes to both!

When I look down from the Bell Tower and peer at the front of the sanctuary, I see the last words from the book of Matthew: "Siehe, ich bin bei euch alle Tage" which translates to "Lo, I am with you always." I was so glad Pastor Kim chose these words and the Great Commission as the inspiration for her sermon on Trinity Sunday. It is so comforting to know that God will protect and care for us forever.

Until the next time, Mach's gut und Auf Wiedersehen!!



In June, Pastor Kim and our church’s representative, Mary Samuelson, attended the Keystone Conference UCC’s Annual Meeting; the theme of the event was “Joy at the Table”. It was the first annual meeting of the new conference that now includes the four previous regional bodies of UCC churches in Pennsylvania. It was a great three days of worship, education, networking, and fellowship.

Highlights included plenary sessions led by Rev. Dr. Mary Luti who spoke about the ties between communion and our work for justice and Rev. Dr. Marcia McFee who shared a variety of resources to make worship engage all of our senses. Pastor Kim particularly appreciated the practical connections made by plenary speaker Russell Redding, the PA Secretary of Agriculture, who spoke about farming and

food-insecurity in Pennsylvania.

Alex enjoyed the large PrayGround including ribbon-dancers to use during hymns and music - which may make a debut in our own PrayGround. Both Mary and Pastor Kim left feeling grateful for the revitalization we are experiencing at Longswamp UCC!



## Acting on Jesus' Teachings

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



**Our Church’s Wider Mission (OWCM)** is the name we use to describe the work we do as the United Church of Christ beyond the local church – through our Conferences, national ministries, and UCC-related institutions. Our Church’s Wider Mission is also the name we give to the financial support given by UCC members and congregations that makes this broader mission possible.

(taken from: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZYQ5/campaign/C-16B6X>)



### *Ongoing Mission for the Brandywine Food Pantry*



Please consider helping underprivileged residents of our community by dropping off your donations of non-perishable food items, personal care items, household items, cleaning supplies, paper products, etc. before or after our worship services on Sunday mornings, and/or during the week from 6:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Please put your donations in the wicker tote boxes (on the floor in front of the bell) in the bell room.



## July 2026 Global Mission- Heifer International



July 2026 will give our church members another opportunity to do God's work in today's world by supporting Heifer International.

This global non-profit organization works to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities. We will collect mission offerings for the benefit of Heifer International from Sunday, July 12, 2026 until Friday, July 31, 2026. This year, we will use our mission offerings to sponsor honeybees. (Last year, we were able to donate a gift of 13 goats (\$120 per goat) and 2 flocks of chicks (\$20.00 per flock) totaling \$1,600!

A Heifer honeybee gift donation (\$30.00) includes a bee package, hive, box, and training in beekeeping techniques. When people, like our congregation, buy bees for families in need, their gift increases the global honeybee population to support the environment. Beehives can double fruit and vegetable yields of small farms.

(parts adapted from <https://www.heifer.org/our-work/approach> and <https://www.heifer.org/give/gift-catalog/animals>)

THANK  
YOU!

## June 2026 Internal Mission- Lucc Summer Activities

Thank you to everyone who donated money, food, or time towards our June 2026 Internal Mission for our Summer Activities! Any money donated toward June's mission will be used for outreach and internal activities like Swampfest, the Confirmation retreat days at Opportunity house and Brandywine Food Pantry, and the Church Picnic on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We already used designated funds for purchasing the meat and chips for our Walking Taco Stand at Swampfest. Thanks again to everyone who also donated food toward the stand. Special thank you to Diane Shoemaker, Deb Shewell, Mary Samuelson, Allison Isamoyer, Sue Lishman, Al Lishman, Sandy Hoffman, and Pastor Kim for manning the stand throughout the day on June 13<sup>th</sup>! Special thanks also to Vern and Jill Shade, who took care of making the 30 lbs of meat for the tacos! Your help is appreciated and without it, we would not have been able to have a successful stand. Because of your generosity, our Walking Taco stand was able to make a profit of \$457! More importantly, though, we were able to get out and about in the community!



## Teaching What We Believe

# Children's CHURCH

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

Children's Church is the name of our Sunday School Program. Throughout the summer months we will have a varied Sunday School/Children's Church Schedule. 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.

**July 5<sup>th</sup>** Outdoor Service for Independence Day Weekend

**July 12<sup>th</sup>** Sunday School/Children's Church

**July 19<sup>th</sup>** Family Sunday with Communion

**July 26<sup>th</sup>** Sunday School/Children's Church



## LLC News



Space Summer Camp 2026 is fully underway! We have a few weeks down in our Summer Camp program already and we've already been on quite a few trips! The students have gone to Grange park, Crystal Cave, and Seussical the Musical at the Muhlenberg Theater just to name a few. Since the camp is space themed, each week has a fun theme such as "Astronaut Training Camp," and "Blasting off to the Moon."

Upstairs, the infant through PreK rooms have been working business as usual. We said goodbye to some of our students who will be going to Kindergarten and said hello to some new friends--mostly babies who will be starting their journey at LLC!





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!  
On July 15<sup>th</sup> we will visit the Ephrata Cloister and learn about this historic religious community - and then have a late lunch/early dinner together in the Ephrata area.

We will meet in the church parking lot at 8:30 am - and will be flexible about our return time. Please RSVP to Maggie or Pastor Kim to ensure we have enough drivers.

*There will be no Faithful Field Trip in August as many members are attending our all-church bus trip to Sight and Sound. September info coming soon!*

## Pre-Confirmation Final Summer Retreat Day

Monday July 20<sup>th</sup> - 8:30am to 3:30pm



Weekly Confirmation Class at 8:30am officially begins Sept 13<sup>th</sup>!  
A full schedule for parents will be released this summer!

*Some pictures from the first retreat day at Opportunity House on 6/25!*



# CRASH COURSE

## The Book of Joshua

August 5<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup>

10:30 am (Sanctuary)

or  
7:00 pm (Fegely Hall)

Join us to learn more  
about Joshua before our trip  
to Sight & Sound or just  
to increase your Bible  
knowledge!

**TAKE ME OUT TO  
THE BALL GAME!**



Join Longswamp UCC for a fun time of fellowship at an Iron Pigs Game!

Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup> - Game Time 1:15 pm

Kids Run the Bases after the game.

Our seats are in Section 119 near the playground.

You must reserve tickets with Pastor Kim - cost is \$13 per ticket.

## Family & Community Updates

### July Birthdays

- July 1-** Andrew Steventon  
**July 2-** Ramona Romanik  
**July 3-** Mackenzie Gross, Kaitlyn Duttweiler, Nancy Weymouth  
**July 6-** Barry Eck  
**July 10-** Harry Bruen, Jr., Anthony George  
**July 11-** Addison Meck  
**July 12-** Sheila Fox  
**July 15-** Don Siegfried  
**July 17-** Paul Stoudt  
**July 19-** Melissa Brannen  
**July 20-** Matthew Reed  
**July 21-** Carol Ivey  
**July 22-** Ada Clark, Josephine Clark, Vern Shade  
**July 26-** Arlene Hughes  
**July 27-** Kallie Kistler  
**July 31-** Jessica Malewicz

### July Anniversaries

- July 7, 2007-** Fred Dankel & Lily Chen  
**July 7, 2007-** Jessica & Matthew Salvaterra  
**July 23, 2023-** John & Mary Samuelson  
**July 24, 1965-** Geraldine & Paul Stoudt  
**July 31, 2010-** Crystal & Jeremy Meck

**SAVE  
the DATE** 

**All-Church Picnic in the Pavilion  
Sunday August 2nd  
After Worship**

*Hot dogs and drinks provided. Bring sides and dessert to share. Crafts & games for all ages - including water activities*

## LOOKING FAR AHEAD...

**Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>** - Special Sunday Celebrating the Longswamp Learning Center's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (and the official start of the new Sunday School Year)

**Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup>** - Our Annual Barn Dance at Savidge Farms!

## Prayers Needed



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

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

**Church Friends Prayer Needs:** Martin Bilger, Karen McPherson, Matt Von Detto, Robin Hoffman, Barbara Jennings, The Dolan Family, Charlie Boyer, Anna Mae Kercher, John Kundrat, Vanover Family

# Church Business

## May 2026 Financials

### Income and Expenses

Member Giving:	\$6,753.60
Other Income:	\$5,537.31
Total Income	\$12,290.91
Expenses:	\$12,397.37
<b>Net Income:</b>	<b>\$106.46</b>
Building Fund Income	\$75,000.00
Building Fund Expenses:	\$38,488.00
Building Fund Checking Income:	\$38,000.00

### Message from the Treasurer

Included in member giving for missions are \$229 for Our Church's Wider Mission, \$100 for internal mission, \$510 for the Brandywine Food Pantry and \$145 for Swampfest. Included in other income is \$2600 for the Learning Center facility use fee, \$2,281.31 for the cell tower lease fee. Included in Building Fund expenses are \$493 for cleaning, \$495 for mowing and trimming, and \$37,500 for an installment payment on the sanctuary stucco project. Included in Building Fund Income is \$75,000 transferred from the Capital Improvement investment account to fund the sanctuary stucco project. \$38,000 was transferred from the Building Fund to the Building Fund checking to cover the installment payment made for the sanctuary stucco project.

### Account Balances as of 5/24/2026

General Fund Checking:	\$43,228.75
Contingency Fund Checking:	\$3,022.75
Memorial Fund Checking:	\$17,775.21
Building Fund:	\$39,990.75
Building Fund Checking:	\$36,698.17

If you are attending the Sight and Sound Joshua trip, please make sure you have payment into the office by July 14<sup>th</sup>! The cost is \$126 per adult and \$65 per child (12 and under).



### Church Staff

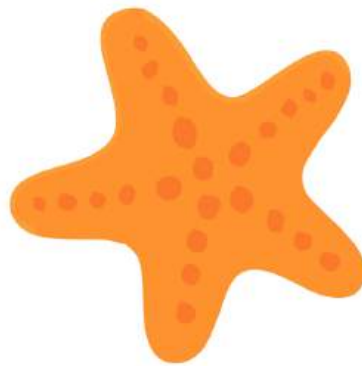
**Pastor** - Rev. Kimberly Berenotto .....pastorkim@longswampucc.org.....610-401-1847  
**Office Administrator & Newsletter Editor** - Maggie Isamoyer...secretary@longswampucc.org  
**LLC Director** - Sharon Wetzel .....sharon@longswampllearningcenter.com.....610-682-9750  
**Church Board President**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

# Longswamp UCC

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

## Our Newsletter

*The Beacon*  
*July 2026*



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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE