

Longswamp United Church of Christ

December 14, 2025 ~ 10:15 am

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Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, Pastor Ann Mabry Miller, Organist
Ministry Partners: Head Usher, Greeter

Third Sunday of Advent

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

MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

“My Song of Songs” Hallett/Arnold
“No One Understands Like Jesus” Peterson
“Now I Belong To Jesus” Clayton

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The coming of our Lord is near,
People: And we wait in joyful expectation.
Leader: Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ,
People: Shed your light on all that is filled with darkness.
Leader: The coming of our Lord is near,
People: And we wait with hearts full of song.
Leader: Draw close, God’s beloved son,
People: Teach us the wonder of your all embracing light and love.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: Each week in Advent we light a candle on our wreath. The season of Advent reminds us that Christ’s light is coming to bring us joy and enter the darkness of our world. Psalm 98 verses 4 through 6 say: “Shout for joy to the Lord. Let all the earth burst into joyful song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the horn. Shout for joy before the Lord, the King.” Today we light the candle of joy.

The Third Candle is Lit

SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (TUNE #161)
In this season of Christ’s Advent, we spark light where darkness reigns.
We prepare, for His arrival, with our songs and with our praise.
With this candle we invite
Joy that brings us to Christ’s light.

Leader: Let us pray. Glorious Lord, help us focus on the joy we find in you during this busy holiday season. We want to find you in everyday moments, so that we can come to your manger, not only with joyful hearts, but hearts of gratitude this Christmas. Amen.

A Longswamp Carol
Written and directed by Hope Delaco,
in loving memory of her mother, the writer, Jean Butz Stoneback.
Please join us in singing along during portions of this year’s play!
Songs are in the inserted booklet.

Cast & Crew

Sadie.....Sadie Moser
Nathan.....Nathan Wegner
Willow.....Willow Hapenovich
Emma.....Emma Shoemaker
Sophie (Mary).....Sophie Wegner
Mila (Angel)Mila Jones
Hannah (understudy of all characters).....Hannah Wegner
Ghost of the Future.....Mary Velez-Samuels
Ghost of the Present.....Rev. Kim Berenotto
Helpful Choir Member (Soloist).....Amy Rivo
Ghost of the Past.....Laurie Heagy
Ghost of the Longswamp Bell Tower.....Vern Shade
Elvis.....Justin Smith
Queen of Egypt.....Barbara Weacknecht
Choir Members.....Theresa Haffner-Stearns (soloist), Kim Jenkins (soloist), Ann Miller
Member of Congregation.....Chris Freudig
Girl on TV.....Everet Smith
Nativity Wrangler.....Maggie Isamoyer
Kids Chorus.....Jacob Shoemaker (Joseph) & Easton Moser (shepherd)
Cora Shoemaker, Alexandria Berenotto, Cooper Hapenovich
Director.....Hope Delaco
Assistant Director.....Liz Moser
Art Director.....Maggie Isamoyer
Music Director.....Rev. Kim Berenotto

This year’s play was only possible through the commitment and creativity of Hope Delaco. After 20+ years of bringing music and joy to the holiday season through directing these plays, not only here at Longswamp UCC, but at her previous church homes, Hope has decided this will be her final production. Hope wrote this play in honor of her mother and inspired by the rich history and abiding love present in this church community. We extend additional thanks to Liz Moser, Maggie Isamoyer, and Pastor Kim who helped bring Hope’s vision to life through their attention to detail and consistent editing efforts.

An extra special “Thank you!” to the entire cast of this year’s play for their dedication; including parents who ensured these kids were able to fit weeks and weeks of rehearsals into their busy schedules. Thank you to the cast and crew who went above and beyond getting together costumes and props; and to Douglas Hughes who made the tombstones. Don’t forget to join us in Fegely Hall for a celebratory lunch once worship is finished.

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: God of joy and song, we dedicate this morning’s offering in your holy name. May our giving sustain this place of deep faith right here in Longswamp; so the church can continue to offer praise to God and service in Christ’s name for many years to come. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

CLOSING MUSIC *“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”* *Wesley*



Kids of the Future

*Though this is not a song to sing-along with us, we wanted to share the lyrics!
“Kids of the Future” was originally recorded by The Jonas Brothers, but Pastor Kim &
Maggie re-wrote the lyrics to be about Longswamp UCC. Just in case you miss any of the
words during the song, we want to include the verses for you to read after the play!*

Looking at the stained glass windows;
The Morning sunlight suddenly comes streaming in.
We sit here together and feel withering,
God’s spirit pushing us forward.
Hold your head up high there’s no time for looking down.
You won’t believe where we are going now.

Here we go now let me remind you.
Look ahead the past is behind you.

Chorus

Candle lights, now look around you.
Your prayers and songs are working overtime.
The world that you’ve dreamt of can now arrive.
Our community’s on an adventure.
This is where the friends you’ve searched for come alive.
Our church in Longswamp is gonna thrive.

Looking for a place you belong to.
Looking for a family that wants you.

Chorus

Sundays we come here together.
So happy to be a part of a church like this.
A place where we all can reminisce.
But outside a new day is dawning.
The future is calling us to the unknown.
Right inside our little church home.

We’ll save the future together.
Longswamp Church is forever!

Chorus

A Longswamp Carol

Sing-Along Booklet

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him.
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest.”
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him.
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Big White Church of the Hill (Chorus)

Oh come, come, come, come...
Come to the church in the valley.
O come to the church in the dale.
No spot is so dear to my childhood,
As the Big White Church on the hill!

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays.
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began.
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed.
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay.
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay.
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care.
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- January 4th-10th, 2026

Why does my bulletin look weird today?

Our Christmas Musical was snowed out a few weeks prior - and we didn’t want to reprint the entire bulletin (especially the full-color cover). So, your bulletin is from December 14th! We inserted this page to include a few directions and updates.

What’s different about this Sunday’s service versus December 14th?

We need to change the front end of the service liturgy since it is now Christmastide and no longer Advent. You will find below the updated Call to Worship to begin our service, and you can entirely ignore the Advent Wreath Lighting in the original bulletin.

Leader: Wonder of wonders, God has come to us!
People: Not as a judge, but as a servant and Savior!
Leader: Wonder of wonders, God has come to us!
People: Not in power, but instead a baby in a humble manger.
Leader: Wonder of wonders, God has come to us!
People: Not in silence, but in joyful song and praise.
Leader: Wonder of wonders, God has come to us!
People: Not in the shadows, but bringing light to our lives.

What’s the same as Sunday December 14th?

Everything from the point where the play starts (A Longswamp Carol) and onward can be followed in the original bulletin.

What’s with the Song Booklet?

You are invited to sing along with us throughout the play - in the booklet you’ll find the words to the songs where we encourage you to join us! You’ll also find the words to the final number. If you are feeling brave, you can attempt to sing along, but we have found those words to be meaningful and wanted to share them just in case the song went by too quickly for you to catch them all!

-----**And now, read on for our regular announcements!**-----

**Although there are no altar flowers today, the original altar flowers from December 14th were sponsored by Hope and were in memory of her mother, the writer: Jean Butz Stoneback.*

Sharing Our Faith

Next Sunday, January 11th, will be our Epiphany service at 10:15am! Join us as we celebrate the arrival of the Magi to the manger. This is the day that we also receive our star words- words to set our intentions for the New Year! Children’s Church returns next week.

Sunday, January 18th, is our service of Holy Communion and our Family Sunday. There will be no Children’s Church and kids will stay in church with their families.

Make sure you mark your calendars for the New Year’s Wish on January 25th! Featuring music from Mike & Linda Hertzog, it’s a service you don’t want to miss! Not only will we be having the traditional bluegrass & PA Dutch service followed by fellowship, we’ll also be having a Board and Brush workshop where attendees will have the opportunity to make folk art-inspired wooden trays. If you’re interested, please sign up by clicking the link on our website! There is also an option for kids, too!

Teaching What We Believe

Children’s Church will return next Sunday, January 11th to celebrate Epiphany and start the 2026 church school year. Children will follow the Children’s Church leaders to the preschool room for games, lessons, and more following the Children’s Message. However, children are also welcome to stay during any of our services and are encouraged to wiggle around in our Prayground area in the front left of the sanctuary.

Acting on Jesus’ Teachings

Thank you to everyone who participated in our December Mission- LUCC’s Christmas List!

Our congregation is so generous with missions, and this internal mission is no different! The Christmas List helped us to offset costs of things like the monthly oil bill, the phone bill, and even paper costs—things that we sometimes don’t think about but keeps LUCC running smoothly! We were able to raise \$5,571 for the Christmas List! All of these donations will go directly into the general fund to pay for these necessary expenses. Thank you again!

January 2026 Local Mission - Backpack Buddies Program at Brandywine Heights

Elementary School (BHES) - Sunday, January 11, 2026-Saturday, January 31, 2026- Let’s remember that hunger doesn’t end on Fridays for our local food-insecure elementary school students. The Backpack Buddies Program at BHES is very valuable because the staff uses donations of **specific individual non-perishable food items** to fill backpacks for the food-insecure children to take home over the weekend. It’s very important that the children in need have nutritious meals and snacks over the weekends when they’re not in school. You can find a detailed list of individual non-perishable food items that are greatly needed for the Backpack Buddies Program on page 6 of LUCC’s January 2026 newsletter. Please follow the specifics for each item on the list. Mission offerings, which will be used to purchase more gift cards for

Weis Markets and Giant, are also greatly appreciated. Please contact Jill Shade (jill.shade@longswampucc.org; 484-894-0636) if you have any questions/concerns about our January 2026 mission for the benefit of the Backpack Buddies Program at BHES. Thank you in advance for your support of the food-insecure children at Brandywine Heights Elementary School!

Longswamp UCC Business

2026 Altar Flower/Bulletin Sponsor signups are on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Additionally, sign-ups for greeters for the first few months of 2026 are on that same bulletin board. Please sign up if you're interested in either of these!

2026 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex! Please look for the envelopes with your name on them. If you would like envelopes but do not see them out there, please let Maggie know! Additionally, if you have a set of envelopes but do NOT want new ones, please let Maggie know!