



Longswamp United Church of Christ

The Beacon

April 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)



May Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, April 16th

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



I sit here on the Spring Equinox, with snow flurries in the air, attempting to write to you about Resurrection. Because by April 1st, Easter Day will have come and gone. Somehow, we have to set out the fresh Easter flowers while there's still a chill in the air. Somehow, we have to wear our colorful Spring wardrobe while the sky still has tinges of gray. The sun has been trying to peek through and we see signs of the changing seasons; but I find Easter in March to feel a bit anticlimactic.

The date of Easter changes each year because it is dependent on the moon; Easter is the first Sunday after the first Paschal full moon after the Vernal Equinox. This was a hotly debated topic in early Christianity. Most early Christians celebrated Easter and the resurrection somewhere around the time of Passover– as Jesus' last days occurred during the Passover. But there were many arguments on when exactly before, during, or after Passover Easter should occur. Plus, Passover moved each year according to our calendar, but it remains the same each year according to the Jewish calendar. There was often confusion and grumbling. The Council of Nicaea in 325 CE set the date as we celebrate it today – but it wasn't without controversy for many centuries. Even back then church folk struggled with change! And today there are still certain Orthodox Christian groups who follow the Julian Solar calendar and this year will celebrate Easter on May 5th.

All this to say, Easter isn't about a single day. Christ's resurrection isn't a one-time occurrence. The liturgical season of Easter lasts for 50 days– we enjoy Easter all the way until Pentecost. In fact, we consider EVERY Sunday a little Easter. Each Sunday we celebrate that Jesus lived, died, and rose again. We celebrate God's kingdom and the new life God offers. You may have heard the phrase, "We are an Easter people" because as Christians we are not seeking a shallow joy that's only available one day a year. We live into resurrection joy all year long knowing Christ lives and the Holy Spirit is present with us still.

So, if you weren't ready for Easter Day, if it felt too chilly and the flowers weren't blooming and the sun's rays didn't quite stream through the clouds like they were supposed to...you can try again for that resurrection spirit every single Sunday.





April 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.

April 7- Regular worship, Glenn Fisher on Flute

April 14- Regular worship, Congregational Meeting after service.

April 21- Pastor Kim Away, Guest Preacher

April 28- "Messy Church"- unusual worship setup with "stations" to foster more interaction and a community-focused experience. Holy Communion

April Ministry Partners

Greeters

Apr 7- Charlene Rachor

Apr 14- Chris Freudig

Apr 21- Bob Friedly

Apr 28- Shirley Solt

Readers

Apr 7- Kim Jenkins

Apr 14- Will Miller

Apr 21- Theresa Haffner-Stearns

Apr 28- none- Messy Church

Head Ushers

Apr 7- Charlene Rachor

Apr 14- Chris Freudig

Apr 21- Bob Friedly

Apr 28- Shirley Solt

April Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors

April 21st: In memory of all those we love who have gone on before us, given by Ren & Kim Jenkins

April 28th: Happy Birthday, Leo! Given by Laurie Heagy



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!**

NEW DATE!!

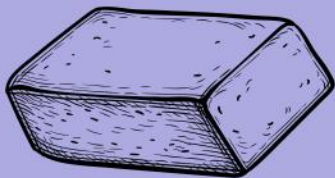
**Annual
Congregational
Meeting**

**Sunday, April 14th
After the 10:15am
service**

(Re) Join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting! Rescheduled from the original date, the new date is April 14th right after our 10:15am church service. Join us to vote on the Schubert Haus waterproofing issues and hear about the 2023 year in review.

Last Call for Bricks!

We are in the last few weeks of being able to order Bricks! If you would like to order a memorial brick for the walkway in front of the church, please contact Maggie or Leo.



MESSY CHURCH APRIL 28TH

Join us at 10:15 am during our regular service time for an

interactive
intergenerational
family-oriented
worship experience!

Leadership Updates

Heavenly Notes Update



Heavenly Notes Ministry started in 2014. We are continuing our ministry by reaching out to congregation members. Cards are sent each month to members of the LUCC Congregation and their families. We send cards to our members and their families going through a difficult time. We want to let them know the LUCC Congregation is thinking of them. Members of the Heavenly Notes Ministry send Get Well, Thinking of You, and Birthday Cards to congregation members who are on our Senior Saints List. We also send cards to members on our monthly prayer list. Get Well or Thinking of You cards are sent to members of the congregation who are hospitalized or recovering from recent hospital stays. Sympathy cards are sent to members or families of the congregation who have suffered a recent loss. We appreciate the members of our LUCC Congregation who help to write and send cards and notes each month. Thanks to Maggie Isamoyer and our writers: Brenda Bower, Shirley Solt, and Karen Friedly. In 2023, we sent **214 cards** out to members of our congregation. If you know a member who would like to receive a card from Heavenly Notes Ministry please tell Maggie Isamoyer.

Heavenly Notes are enjoyed by everyone receiving them. We have received several nice cards and responses. We appreciate all donations for our ministry. For questions call: Karen Friedly at 610-682-9068 or email Karen at kafrd2@aol.com.

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

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



Upcoming Missions in 2024

April 2024- December 2024 (1st Sunday of each month)- Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)- What is OCWM? In isolation, no single UCC congregation can be the church the world needs today. To be that world-changing church, we work together through Our Church's Wider Mission to support and inspire each other. 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 2024- December 2024- Ongoing mission for the benefit of Brandywine Food Pantry

Please consider helping the food-insecure residents of BHASD by dropping off your donations of non-perishable food items, personal care items, household items, cleaning supplies, etc. before or after our worship services on Sunday mornings, or during the week from 6:30 AM-5:30 PM. Please put your donations in the appropriately marked tote box in the bell room.

Thank you!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated money, food, or filled eggs for our Community Egg Hunt! It was a fantastic day and we are grateful to everyone who helped make it a success! A special thank you to the Girl Scouts for filling the remaining eggs!

Kitchen Update

Please excuse our appearance as we work through some projects in the future. You may see new colors on cabinets in the kitchen as we select the new cabinet paint for our kitchen refresh. Please see Laurie Heagy with any questions or to be a part of the project. Work dates to be announced soon.

April 2024 Monthly Mission: Church World Service Hygiene Kits



Let's help struggling families throughout the USA and the world by providing hygiene kits for Church World Service. This month's mission will run from Sunday, April 14, 2024- Tuesday, April 30, 2024. We're asking our members to support this very worthwhile cause by either providing all the required items for one or two complete hygiene kit(s) (approximate value of each kit = \$15.00) or donate multiple of one of the required items so we can use them in extra hygiene kits. Mission offerings will also be greatly appreciated and will be used to purchase more items to complete hygiene kits and/or defray the processing fee of \$2.00 per kit. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex in early April. Would you like to download a printable shopping list for the items required for the CWS hygiene kits? If so, use this link; <http://cwskits.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/CWS-Hygiene-Kit.pdf>



Each hygiene kit must contain the following:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish, or microfiber towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package (Must be sturdy with at least 6" of teeth; no pocket combs or picks; rattail and combs without handles are acceptable.)
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)
- One bath-size bar of soap (in the original package)
- One toothbrush (in the original package)
- Ten standard size Band-Aids

Please contact Jill Shade (jill.shade@longswampucc.org; 484-894-0636) to sign up to donate a complete hygiene kit or individual items so we can assemble extra hygiene kits and/or if you have any questions about the CWS Hygiene Kits.



Confirmation Opportunity House Meal Opportunity House

This year's confirmation class will once again be volunteering at Opportunity House to make a meal and serve the people in need who utilize Opportunity House's services. They will be cooking for Opportunity House on April 27th and will need food and monetary donations to be able to get the supplies they need. Be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet in the next few weeks.

Teaching What We Believe



It's hard to believe that there's only a few more months left in the regular school year! We've had a busy winter and spring at the center, with Easter happening and Spring making an appearance. The students have been doing a lot of Easter-related activities. They also have been able to go outside to enjoy the (sometimes) nice weather.

There was also a very suspicious looking Cat-in-the-Hat (Miss Sharon) lurking around outside the building during Dr. Seuss week! He popped up here and there and then even somehow got into the building! Some of the students were excited to see him and a few...not so much. During Dr. Seuss week, we had a visit from Miss Amber the librarian, and even tried some green eggs and ham.

Just last week, the Lehigh Valley Therapy Dogs visited LLC! The students loved being able to pet Maddie, a 3 year old cockapoo. Some of the preschoolers were even lucky enough to get a high-five from her. Thank you to Lehigh Valley Therapy Dogs for visiting LLC.

LLC's School Age Program will be starting "clubs" for the Summer Camp! If you have a talent or hobby that is age-appropriate for school-aged students and you'd like to share it with the students for a few weeks this summer, please let Sharon know! For example, we already have an art club, a crochet club, and a lego club.



Mark Your Calendars: Swampfest



Swampfest is coming up on June 8th! We will need volunteers to work our walking taco stand and to make the taco meat. Keep an eye out in the next few weeks for a sign-up sheet! We also will have a small kids area next to our walking taco stand!

LUCC's Men's Group update:

We are excited to announce and invite you to the first meeting of the LUCC's Men's Group!

Who? LUCC Men and Friends

When? Thursday, April 4th, 2024

Time? 7PM

Where? The Hometown Diner in Breinigsville

We will meet to celebrate our Christian Fellowship and broaden our faith through prayer and community. If you're interested in joining, please contact Justin Smith at 610-529-3394. Hope to see you there!



Family & Community Updates



April Birthdays

- April 2-** Grace Reed
- April 9-** Nancy Snyder
- April 11-** Mark Moser
- April 21-** Andrew Shoemaker
- April 22-** Leo Desrosiers, Rick Shupp
- April 24-** Briana Hapenovich
- April 29-** Nathan Wegner
- April 30-** Weylin Eck

April Anniversaries

- April 4, 1986-** Cindy & Tim Masenheimer
- April 5, 1975-** Jeff & Sue McElrea

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

Dear Christian Friends,
Thank you for my Easter present. Nancy brought it to me. We had a nice visit and it was a wonderful surprise. I opened it today because I couldn't wait until Easter. I am so very happy with all of the things inside of the pretty bag. It means so much to enjoy my gift and prayer from my Christian Friends.

Christian love to all,
Ramona Romanik

Thank you!

Our Lucc congregation shared the joy of Jesus' resurrection by providing a special Easter present for each of our fifteen Senior Saints. A HUGE THANK YOU to our volunteers who delivered the Easter presents to these special members. Each beautiful reusable Easter gift bag contained a variety of items: an Easter card from our Lucc congregation, an Easter prayer card, healthy snacks, three plastic eggs filled with candy, cough drops, a box of tissues, a bottle of hand soap, a small tube of skin lotion, and lip balm. We truly hope that each of our Senior Saints enjoyed their Easter present from our congregation.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our "God's Word Through Art" Bible Study! Our artists met each week to learn about art styles throughout Christian history and then made their own version of that art! For pictures, see our Facebook page! Everyone made such impressive pieces and we hope our participants had a great time!

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
- Serving Our Country:** Zachary Rachor, Alexander Jenkins, Adam Hapenovich
- Church Friends Prayer Needs:** Joan, Anna, Penny Mason

Church Business

February 2024 Financials

Income and Expenses

Member Giving:	\$5,910.00
Other Giving:	\$4,583.75
Total Giving:	\$10,493.75
Expenses:	\$9,707.05
Net Income:	\$786.70
Memorial Fund Income:	\$0
Building Fund Expenses:	\$3,093.22

Account Balances as of 3/22/2023

General Fund Checking:	\$40,992.07
Contingency Fund Checking:	\$3,022.05
Memorial Fund Checking:	\$13,108.94
Building Fund:	\$408.40
Building Fund Checking:	\$55,211.89



Message from the Treasurer

Included in member giving for missions are \$145 for Our Church's Wider Mission and \$1,165 for Internal Missions (kitchen refresh.) Included in Other income is \$2,600 for the Learning Center Facility Use Fee, \$1,983.75 for the cell tower lease fee, and \$160 from the sale of Memorial Bricks. Included in Building Fund expenses are \$110 for water treatment and equipment maintenance, \$475 for the monthly heating oil budget payment, \$903.64 for propane to heat sanctuary and Boy Scout cabins, and \$1,125.58 for electric service.

Attention:

We also want to apologize for the potholes along the Hidden Valley road entrance to the parking lot. We are working with the township to repair this area in the coming months. Please see Don Siegfried with questions. Please be careful when walking over this area.

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

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Visit us on the web at
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