

Longswamp United Church of Christ

August 30, 2026 ~ 10:15 am

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Hospital Code 451

CCLI #2341826

Facebook page: **Longswamp UCC**

Wi-Fi Guest Password: Christ200

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, Pastor

Ministry Partners: Head Usher, Greeter- Charlene Rachor

Reader- Laurie Heagy

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

MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are called to discipleship.

People: Will we follow where Jesus goes?

Leader: We are called to listen to Jesus speak.

People: Will we truly hear what Jesus asks of us?

Leader: We are called to put down what the world places in our hands.

People: Will we then pick up the cross of Jesus?

Leader: We are called to worship together.

People: We will make room in our souls for Christ's message and speak words of God's praise. Amen.

*HYMN

Open My Eyes, That I May See

#557

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

All: Merciful God, just like the disciples in today's scripture, we often fail to listen closely to Jesus' words. Jesus revealed the depth of your love for us through his life; and we too frequently ignore that love. We are afraid that the cost of taking up the cross of Christ is too great. We are unwilling to embrace the mystery of Jesus' ways and instead run from what we don't understand. Forgive us, Compassionate God, and help us hear you with inspired ears. Help us commit ourselves to lives of service at the foot of the cross. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear, say, and believe these words of God's amazing grace and Jesus' sacrificial love.

People: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*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. Today is a Family Sunday so everyone stays in church together! Kids are welcome to sit with their families or engage in worship and some extra activities from our Playground.

*HYMN

"Take Up Your Cross" The Savior Said

#655

RESPONSIVE READING (INSPIRED BY PSALM 105)

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name!

People: Make God's deeds known among all the peoples.

Leader: Sing to God! Sing praises to him!

People: Tell of God's wonderful works.

Leader: Glory in God's holy name!

People: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Leader: Seek the Lord and his strength.

People: Seek God's presence continually.

Leader: Remember the wonderful works God has done.

People: Remember God's miracles and judgements.

Leader: The Lord made his people fruitful and strong.

People: Praise the Lord! Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:21-28

SERMON

"Get Behind Me, Satan!"

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

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.

#809

*OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: God of all good gifts, we dedicate our offerings and ourselves to you. May our giving reflect our willingness to take up Christ’s cross and follow him. May our generosity show our desire to share Christ’s love with this community and the world. Thank you, Heavenly Creator, for allowing us to give in this way. Amen.

*HYMN

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

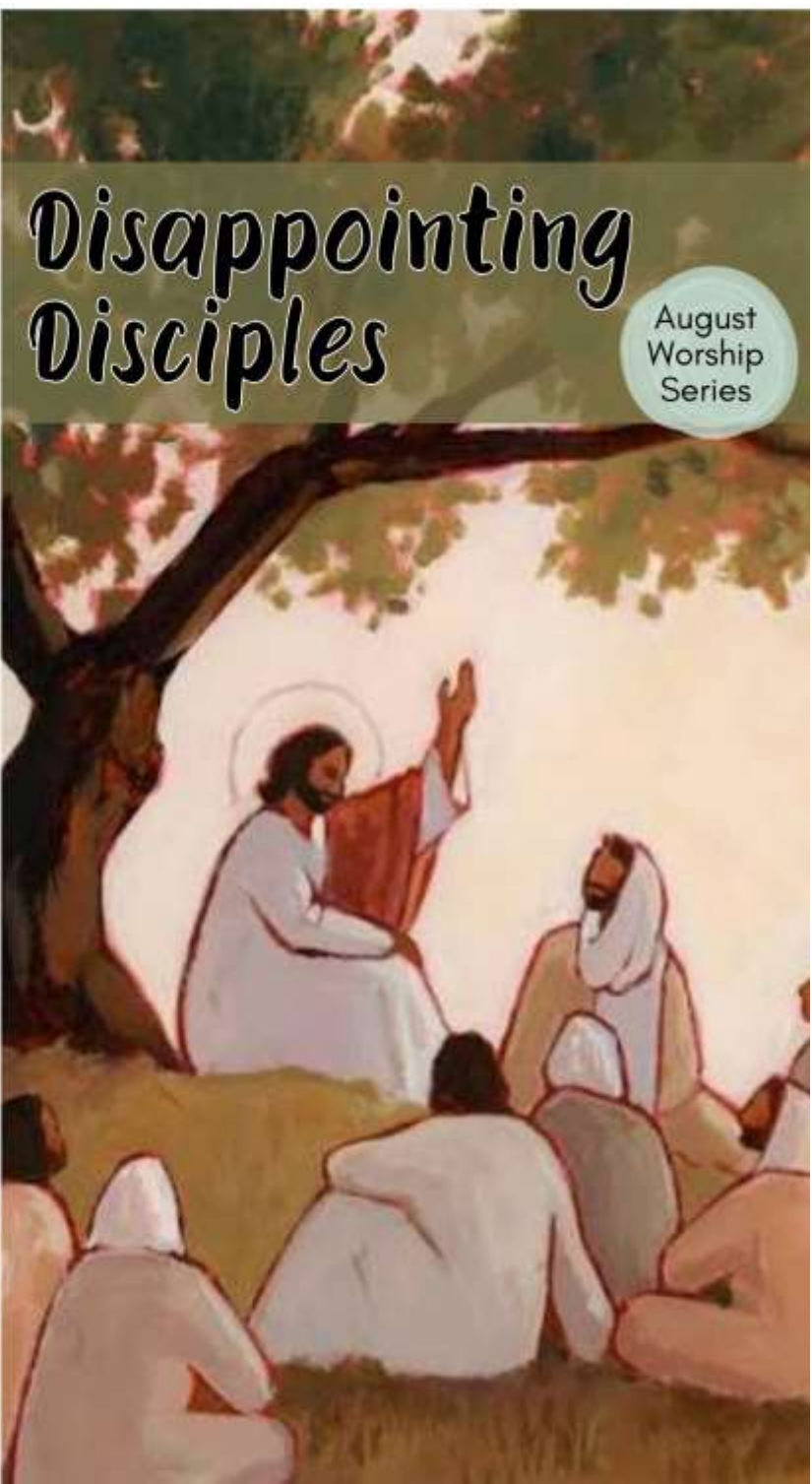
#576

BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC

Trust and Obey

Towner



WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- August 30th-September 6th, 2026

Altar flowers and bulletins are given to the Glory of God and are in loving memory of Henry Shade, given by Vern, Jill, Katie, and Matthew Shade.

Today we complete our Disappointing Disciples August worship series - thank you for joining us this month as we've learned about Christ's imperfect followers!

Join us for worship next week, September 6th at 10:15 am, as we continue to hear Jesus' teachings in the Gospel of Matthew and Glenn Fisher will join us on his flute!

Sharing Our Faith

Beginning today, LUCC will welcome our ten newest members in a special way. Several of our members will serve as the Secret Church Friends for our new friends in Christ. Starting today, the Secret Church Friends will provide three small anonymous gifts or deeds of kindness for our new members. Our newest members will find out who their Secret Church Friends are on Sunday, September 20, 2026.

Mark your calendars to celebrate Longswamp Learning Center's 40th anniversary on September 13th during worship! LLC is a mission of our church, providing affordable care to children in the area. We're so thrilled to be able to celebrate the 40th anniversary of LLC and honor all the teachers, families, and board members who have made the success of the center possible. Join us for worship, where there will be special music, as well as fellowship time on the playground after the service!

This year's Barn Dance at Savidge Farms is on Saturday, September 26th, from 5:30-9pm! Tickets are available now! You can either call/email the office to reserve yours or fill out the form on our website. Adults are only \$5 per person and children are free! If you have any questions or would like to reserve your tickets, contact Maggie!

The Choir will be returning! Our first practice will be on Wednesday, September 9th, at 7pm. If you're interested in joining the choir, please contact Laurie or Vern!

Teaching What We Believe

Today is a family Sunday, which means there is no Children's Church today. Children's Church will return for our normal programming next Sunday, September 6th! Some upcoming dates for Children's Church: September 13th and 20th will be family Sundays (no Children's Church), and September 27 will be a regular Children's Church Sunday!

Women of LUCC, mark your calendars for the next Faithful Field Trip on Wednesday, September 9th! We will be going to Columcille Megalith Park in Bangor, PA! We will meet in the Church parking lot at 9am and drive together to the park. We will have lunch afterward! Please let Pastor Kim know if you'll be joining us!

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

We've had a fantastic response to our August 2026 mission for the benefit of the students at Brandywine Heights High School. This month's mission ends tomorrow, 8/31. We've been collecting healthy snacks and school supplies for the students at BHHS so that they'll have enough fuel to make it through each school day and have the classroom necessities they need to be successful in their classes. Our mission offerings are also greatly appreciated. Please put your donations in the appropriately marked boxes on the table behind the piano. Thank you for your overwhelming support of the students at Brandywine Heights High School!

Our September mission will be a two-part mission! First, let's help celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Longswamp Learning Center by showing the LLC children how much we care about them and by showing our appreciation for the wonderful work that the staff does every day. We will be supporting the LLC children and staff by providing boxes of tissues (cube or rectangular, "gentle/extra soft ones" for the cold months, please!) and rolls of paper towels. Please deposit your donations of tissues and rolls of paper towels in the boxes on the round table behind the piano. Please contact Jill Shade(484-894-0636; jill.shade@longswampucc.org) if you have any questions about our September 2026 mission.

The second half of our September mission is the Barn Dance! We will need your help to make our 3rd annual Barn Dance successful once more! We are in need of Raffle Basket donations, bake sale donations, and general volunteers for the day-of the Barn Dance. All sign up sheets are in on the board in the narthex so please make sure you sign up if you're interested in helping with any of these things! Monetary donations to offset the costs of the Barn dance are also appreciated! You can also contact Maggie if you have any questions.

Longswamp UCC Business

Scholarship applications are available in the church office! Please contact Maggie if you are attending an undergraduate program and are interested in applying. The deadline is September 1st!