

Longswamp United Church of Christ

April 5, 2026 ~ 10:15 am

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Facebook page: **Longswamp UCC**

Wi-Fi Guest Password: Christ200

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, Pastor

Ministry Partners: Head Usher- Charlene Rachor

Greeters- Sue & Al Lishman

Reader- John Samuelson

Easter Sunday

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

MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

"Easter Alleluia Medley"

Glenn Fisher, flute

arr. Gary Lanier

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Friends, the tomb is empty!

People: The stone has been rolled away! Alleluia!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed!

Leader: For three days he lay in that cold and lonely cave.

People: But God's love cannot be contained by anything, not even death!

Leader: Where, O death, is your victory?

People: Where, O death, is your sting?

Leader: Thanks be to God, who gives us victory through our Risen Lord.

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: He is risen, indeed!

People: Alleluia! Come, let us worship the Risen Christ together!

***HYMN**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

#234

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

All: Gracious God, we come to you today to confess the times our convictions fail and our belief falters. When our faith stands at the grave, still grieving for a stone that's rolled away, forgive us. When our faith is short of understanding

though the truth of God's love is there for us to see, forgive us. When our faith, shrouded in doubt, cannot move toward new life beyond the empty tomb, forgive us. Bring to mind the disciples who have seen the Lord; and grant us faith to believe and live as Christ-followers. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Even when we doubt, even when we struggle to see the light beyond the tomb, God bestows us with grace upon grace.

People: The Risen Christ brings us new life. We are loved and forgiven! Alleluia and Amen!

***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 Communion 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 Prayground.

HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

#247

RESPONSIVE READING (BASED ON PSALM 16:7-11)

Leader: I will praise the Lord who counsels me and instructs my heart.

People: I keep my eyes on God; for with God I will not be shaken.

Leader: There my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices!

People: My body will rest and feel secure.

Leader: Because you, Lord, will not abandon me or your faithful people.

People: You make known to me the path of life.

Leader: You fill me with joy when I am in your presence.

People: Being by your side, God, is my eternal pleasure.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 28:1-10

SERMON

"Afraid, yet filled with Joy"

Pastor Kim

CHOIR ANTHEM

Let the Heavens Be Joyful

Halter

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYERS

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is a right, and a good, and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed life into us. When we turned away, your love remained steadfast. You delivered your people from captivity, made a covenant to be our sovereign God, and set before us the way of life. When we continued to turn away from you, Lord, you sent your son Jesus Christ and brought us living hope through his life and resurrection. You are present with us, still today, in the movement of the Holy Spirit. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SUNG RESPONSE

#40

Let the whole creation cry: Alleluia!

Glory to the Lord on high: Alleluia!

Heaven and earth, awake and sing: Alleluia!

God is God and therefore King: Alleluia!

REMEMBERING THE STORY

Leader: On the night before Jesus died, he gathered his friends.....By eating this bread and drinking this cup we participate in the mystery of our faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.

SHARING THE MEAL

Distributing the Bread

"Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben"

Distributing the Cup

"Dance of the Blessed Spirits"

Glenn Fisher, flute

Bach

Gluck

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: O Christ, we thank you for this feast of life. Fed by your love, and strengthened by your life; we humbly accept your call to go into this world to live with hope, and to share your resurrection joy. In eating and drinking together you, Holy Savior, commission us to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, and love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Glenn Fisher, flute

Lowell Mason, arr. Gary Lanier

*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: Generous and surprising God, when we thought that death had claimed your only Son, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world. We lay our very lives at your feet, O God, knowing that you will use us to proclaim and embody the gospel. Amen.

*HYMN

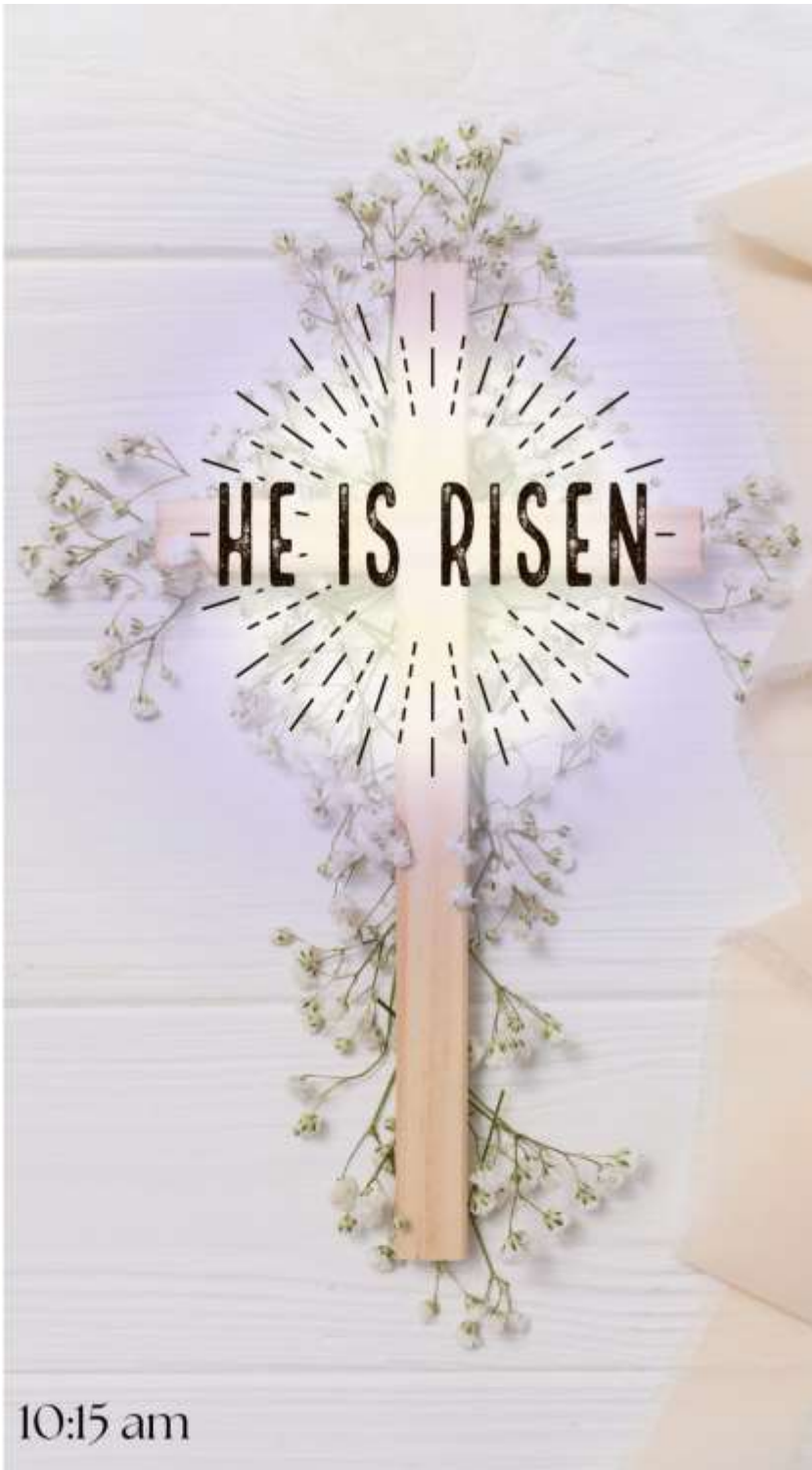
Christ Arose!

#235

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC

Portions of worship adapted from resources on re:Worship by Stephen Fearing, John Birch, and Laura Jaquith Barlett.



WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- April 5th-11th, 2026

Altar Flowers and bulletins are given to the Glory of God and are given in Celebration of the Resurrection by Pastor Kim and the Berenotto Family.

Thank you for celebrating Christ's resurrection with us this joyful Easter Sunday! Next Sunday, April 12th, we continue the Easter Season as we worship at 10:15 am and hear about the resurrected Christ facing Doubting Thomas.

- If you are looking for the restrooms please head to the door at the front right of the sanctuary, through the Bell Room and into our education building; the restrooms are on the left.
- On Family Sundays, like today, children stay in worship. Our PrayGround is available with some extra activities so kids have a space to participate in worship that suits them best. Sunday School returns next week with a special project - each child will be making a Resurrection Garden!
- Wherever you are on life's journey you are welcome to share in communion today. When the communion elements are distributed we hold them, and then receive them all together. The red cups are wine and the lighter colored cups are juice.
- Thank you to Theresa Haffner-Stearns, Glenn Fisher, and our choir for providing special music for today's services. We also extend gratitude to our altar guild, ushers, elders, and tech team for covering all the extras that needed to happen this holiday week.

Sharing Our Faith

Our Sight & Sound 2026 Bus Trip is happening! We will once again be taking a trip to Sight and Sound to see Joshua and have dinner at Hershey Farms Smorgasbord. The cost is \$126 for adults and \$65 for children under 13. If you're interested, please let Maggie know ASAP! We have 50 tickets this year but they fill up quickly!

Mark your calendars for our next Congregational Meeting on April 19th right after the service We will hear the 2025 year in review, including all financial and mission-related aspects, as well as vote on any upcoming projects.

We will be celebrating our long-time organist, Ann Mabry Miller, on Sunday, April 26th. Ann has been the organist at LUCC for 45 years, all of which we are so grateful for! Ann is officially retiring from playing the organ and we are going to honor her in a special way on April 26th during the service. After the service, we will also have a luncheon in Fegely Hall to honor the dedication and faith she has for LUCC.

Teaching What We Believe

Our Sunday School program, Children's Church, runs weekly during the church service. After the Children's Message, kids are welcome to follow their teachers to the Preschool Room for a

Bible lesson, crafts, games, and more. Today is a Family Sunday so children will stay in worship with their families. However, children are more than welcome to take advantage of our PrayGround in the front left of the sanctuary, where they are able to play, relax, and experience worship in their own way. Sunday School will return next week with a special activity: Resurrection Gardens!

Following the church service next week is our first “Pre-Confirmation” gathering. Any youth/teens who wish to participate in confirmation are encouraged to stay after for some activities and to get to know each other better!

Acting on Jesus’ Teachings

April 2026 Global Mission - Church World Service Kids’ Kits - Sunday, April 12, 2026 - Thursday, April 30, 2026 - Let’s help children around the world dream big and reach for the stars by filling a minimum of **25 Kids’ Kits** (each valued at \$15.00), which we will donate to **Church World Service**. There are **11 required school supplies** [one box of 12 colored pencils (leave in box), one 2-pocket folder, one glue stick, one pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip only), one 70-page spiral-bound notebook (no loose-leaf or filler paper), one 12” ruler, one hand-held pencil sharpener, one large eraser (no pencil-cap erasers), six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers (secure with a rubber band), one box of 24 crayons (only 24-count), and one hand made or store- bought pencil case/pouch]. Please sign up on the clipboard on the round table behind the piano for any items you would like to donate. Your mission offerings, which will be used to buy more required school supplies, are also greatly appreciated. Please bring your donations of school supplies to church no later than Sunday, April 26 so we can purchase any extra school supplies that we will need when we assemble the Kids’ Kits during the worship service on Sunday, May 3, 2026. Please make plans to help us fill a minimum of 25 Kids’ Kits for children in need throughout the world!

Longswamp Learning Center is holding a Krispy Kreme fundraiser. LLC fundraisers raise money to offset the costs of transportation and fun activities for the Summer Camp program. Forms are available in the narthex and must be returned by this Wednesday, April 8th!

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for this year’s Swampfest! Our walking taco stand will be back for this HUGE event at the Longswamp Park on June 13th starting at 11am. We will be looking for donations and volunteers to help out during the event. More information will be available in the next few weeks.

2026 Easter Flower Sponsors

Lilies:

- In loving memory of husband, Winn Lease*, given by Skip Lease
- In honor of the Schubert Family*, by Paul Harkins
- In loving memory of parents, Arthur & Shirley Moser*, by Laurie Heagy
- In honor of “My Lily [granddaughter],”* given by Laurie Heagy

Daffodils:

- In loving memory of Jean & Rocky*, by Hope Deiac
- In loving memory of daughter, Lori Lease*, by Skip Lease
- In loving memory of parents and grandparents, Fern & Henry Shade*, by Vern, Jill, Katie, and Matthew Shade
- In loving memory of husband, James Karom*, by Barbara Karom
- In loving memory of husband, Wayne Weller*, by Annabelle Weller
- In loving memory of mother, Dorothy Lapsansky*, by Sandy Hoffman
- In honor of grandchildren, Sylvia & Henry*, by Chris Freudig
- In honor of Aunt, Mary Heffelfinger*, by Laurie Heagy

Pink Tulips:

- In loving memory of Deborah Harkins*, by Paul Harkins
- In loving memory of mother, Edna Kocher*, by Annabelle Weller
- In loving memory of Mildred Haffner, Wilma Polchek, and Lisa Haffner*, by Theresa Haffner-Stearns (3)

Purple Tulips:

- In loving memory of parents and grandparents, Dennis & Violet Schaeffer*, by Vern, Jill, Katie, and Matthew Shade
- In loving memory of Deborah & Samuel Martin*, by John & Mary Samuelson (2)
- In loving memory of husband, Robert*, by Chris Freudig
- In loving memory of sister in law, Shirley Marburger Morrel*, by Sarah Marburger
- In honor of grandson, James*, by Laurie Heagy

