

# Longswamp United Church of Christ

December 4, 2022 ~ 10:15 AM

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Facebook page: **Longswamp UCC**

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Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, Pastor

Ann Mabry Miller, Organist

Ministry Partners: Kim Jenkins – head usher & scripture reader

Lighting the Advent Candle – Justin Smith & Everet Smith

## Second Sunday of Advent

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

### MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

"The First Noel"

"Christmas Joy Medley"

Flute - Glenn Fisher

Wickens

Lanier

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God of all life and all seasons, we call you to be present in our worship today.

**People: Help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us.**

Leader: Like Joseph, may we trust in your abiding love and power when receiving your word.

**People: May we open our hearts to learn the nativity story in new ways.**

Leader: Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace.

**People: In this season, and in all time. Amen.**

#### \*HYMN

*Once in Royal David's City*

#161

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: We watch and wait for Christ's coming! In preparation, we light candles to illuminate our way and remember the promises of God with prayer. Today, we light the candle of peace.

*The candle of peace is lit.*

### Congregational Response (sung to the tune of Away in a Manger)

**O Come Holy Spirit; teach us to prepare**

**For a gift that compels us with justice to care.**

**Our Spirits are restless 'til sin and war cease.**

**One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.**

Leader: Let us pray. Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation to renewed relationship. Give us your peace; that we may be reconciled to all people in the peace that surpasses all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord.

**People: God of promise, God of peace, bring your light. Amen**

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### CONFESSION

**All: Creative God, we confess that we still find ourselves rushing to Christmas. We are exhausted by all we've done and all that's left undone. We yearn for true rest. Forgive our shortcomings and our short-sightedness. You have poured upon us blessing after blessing, daily reminding us of your love and presence. Yet we sometimes have chosen to jump into this race toward Christmas. Give us patience. Slow us down. Remind us of the ways in which you are present with us--not in the wrapped packages, the abundance of food, but in the love and compassion that is brought to all in the nativity. Forgive us, we pray. Make us truly ready to receive your peace and the gift of the Christ Child. Amen.**

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The light of God's peace shines upon each of us in the gift of Jesus Christ.

This is given for you!

**People: Rejoice! We are loved and forgiven. Amen.**

#### LOFT CHOIR ANTHEM

*Born On A Christmas Day*

*Knowles*

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children are then welcome to follow the guides of our Children's Ministry program, God's Explorers, down to Fegely Hall. Parents can stay with their child or pick them up at the end of the service. Please make sure you sign your child in and out on the God's Explorers clipboard.*

#### \*HYMN

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

#159

#### SPECIAL READING

"Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace"

St. Francis of Assisi

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 1:18-25

**SERMON**

“Without Words”

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**

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**

*"Silent Night"*

*Lanier*

Flute - Glenn Fisher

**\*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.*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: God of all good gifts, we are grateful for all you offer us in the stories of your Holy Word. We offer our gifts to you in return, with thanksgiving and trust in your promises. May our giving share healing and hope with our community and all those in need this holiday season. Amen.

**\*HYMN**

*"I Wonder as I Wander"*

**#165**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING MUSIC**

*"Ye Holy Angels Bright"*

*Ritter*

*Portions of today's liturgy adapted from this week's Ministry Matters Worship Connection by Nancy C Townley. Our Advent Candle Liturgy this season was written by Rev. Matthew Hoover.*



*Nearing the Nativity*

# WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon for December 4 - 11, 2022

**Welcome to Longswamp United Church of Christ!** We invite you to join us on our journey of connection as we deepen our relationships with Christ, each other and our community.

**Children are welcome at worship!** The noises of kids in worship are celebrated at Longswamp UCC. However, if you need a moment outside the sanctuary you are invited to take your kids to the Nursery. Head through the Bell Room, into our Office/Daycare Building, past the restrooms, and down the hall toward the door that says NURSERY. There you'll find rocking chairs, changing stations, toys, and room for your little one to wiggle. Additionally, the service is live-streamed into the Nursery so you can continue to worship with us!

## Sharing Our Faith

**As we begin this season of beautiful Christmas,** let us welcome **Glenn Fisher** to Longswamp Church again as he shares the beautiful music of his flute with us. We will also be hearing Glenn's music again at our early 7:00 Christmas Eve service. THANK YOU, GLENN!

**Next Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>:** A King Is Coming to Town! You don't want to miss this year's Christmas Musical - it's an engaging holiday play with fun songs for all ages.

**Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>:** Moravian Love Feast - A service of special music featuring a harpist. We celebrate the love that comes to us as baby Jesus and share a time of eating & drinking during worship.

### Christmas Services:

**Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>:** 7:00pm - Family Christmas Eve service with special music and communion. Plus a children's message and glow sticks for the kids! 11:00 pm - A more contemplative Christmas Eve service with special music and communion.

**Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Morning Worship: A short service of songs and stories.

**Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup>:** Epiphany Sunday. Join us to celebrate the arrival of the 3 Kings at the manger and to receive a Star Word - a word to guide you through the year just as the star led the Magi to baby Jesus.

**Wreaths of live greens** found on the exterior of the sanctuary's main entrance doors have been purchased with our Family Ministry Fund in memory of the following members of our church family who have entered into eternal rest this past year:

*Doris "Jean" Largent Winfield G. Lease Jr Patricia A. Dierolf Harold J. Dankel*

## Teaching What We Believe

**This Sunday is our final week of God's Explorers for 2022!** We have SO MANY fun things happening in worship this month, we don't want the kids to miss it! Families can enjoy the musical next Sunday, the Moravian Love Feast the 18<sup>th</sup> and special services Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Sunday School (God's Explorers) returns on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Our Advent Bible Study, Journey to the Manger** continues this Wednesday! We meet November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup> & December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am or 7:00 pm in Fegely Hall. Join Pastor Kim as we find out who Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and Wise Men really were and what their lives were like! All are welcome!

**WAYS TO CELEBRATE ADVENT AT HOME:** Pastor Kim has a few lift-the-flap style Advent calendars left for any family, kid, or kid-at-heart who would like one! Additionally, Pastor Kim participated in writing for a regional UCC Advent Devotion this year. The daily devotional booklet can be found on our website or she can provide a print copy for you!

## Acting on Jesus' Teachings

**December 2022 National Mission - The Christmas Fund - Sunday, December 11 - Saturday, December 31, 2022** - Let's support lower-income retired UCC clergy and lay employees by contributing our mission offerings this month to The Christmas Fund. This special mission offering of the national UCC offers financial help (emergency grants, Christmas "Thank You" gift checks, and supplementation of small annuities and health premiums) to retired UCC clergy and lay employees. Please contact Jill Shade ([jill.shade@longswampucc.org](mailto:jill.shade@longswampucc.org); 484-894-0636) if you have any questions/concerns about our mission for December 2022.

**Friend, Inc. Community Services - Christmas Cheer Distribution - Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022** - Please consider helping at Friend, Inc. Community Services' Christmas Cheer distribution from 3:30 PM (or whenever you can make it) until 6:30 PM (or later) on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Many underprivileged parents will come to Friend, Inc.'s Noble Street facility (near Renninger's Market outside of Kutztown) that day to pick up fixings for their families' Christmas dinner and presents for their children. Please contact Jill Shade if you're interested in helping at this very important community event.

**Brandywine Food Pantry**, which is housed at St. Peter's UCC in Topton, is currently in great need of three non-perishable food items - Hamburger Helper, pancake syrup, and Marshmallow Fluff. Please consider helping the underprivileged of our local area by donating one or two of these items. Your donations can be put in the appropriately marked box on the round table behind the piano.

**Christmas presents for our Senior Saints and members with medical issues** - Please help us brighten the Christmas season for our Senior Saints and members with medical issues by volunteering to deliver a Christmas present (gift bag) from our congregation to one of them! The Christmas presents for these special LUCC members are available beginning today on the table in front of the TV in the front left corner of the sanctuary. Please sign your name on the sheet on the clipboard on the table behind the name of the Senior Saint or member with medical issues to whom you're going to deliver the Christmas present. Please deliver a presents to one of our special church members no later than Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Support**

**A Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas is Sunday December 18th at 2:00pm.** Co-sponsored by the Longswamp Township Historical Society and Longswamp United Church of Christ. Join us for family fun, PA Dutch stories and memories, German carols, and a visit from The Belsnickel in Longswamp UCC's sanctuary. Reception to follow in Schubert Haus - you're invited for refreshments and to view local holiday historical displays.

### **Stewardship Information for the Week of November 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Attention Christmas Shoppers!** As you shop for Christmas gifts on Amazon, remember to support Longswamp Church through Amazon Smile! Here's how:

1. You must begin each shopping experience at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com).
2. Select Longswamp United Church of Christ as your preferred organization
3. You can begin shopping to help support our Church - at no additional cost to you!

Please email Dawn ([secretary@longswampucc.org](mailto:secretary@longswampucc.org)) with any questions.