

Longswamp United Church of Christ

December 14, 2025 ~ 10:15 am

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Hospital Code 451 CCLI #2341826
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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

Luke Dirsa

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- December 14th-20th, 2025

Altar Flowers and Bulletins are given to the Glory of God and are in loving memory of her mother, the writer—Jean Butz Stoneback, given by Hope Deiaco.

Thanks for joining us on one of the most exciting days of the year for Longswamp UCC- the Christmas Play! We're so excited to have everyone here to share in the joy and fun of our annual Christmas Play. This year's play is written and directed by Hope Deiaco and it's extra special because it's her last hurrah before she retires. Thank you to the cast and crew who helped to make this year's play extra special and for dedicating your Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons to practice!

Join us after the play in Fegely Hall for a luncheon featuring some traditional PA dutch foods! You'll get to mingle with the church community and meet the cast! All are welcome!

Sharing Our Faith

Join us next week, December 21st, which is the 4th Sunday of Advent and our Moravian Love Feast! We will celebrate the magic and love of the Christmas season through special music and fellowship. We will be joined by Sarajane and Ted Williams on the harp and guitar and guests will be served sweet rolls and hot coffee (or tea, water, or hot chocolate!).

We have two Christmas Eve Services here at Longswamp UCC- 7pm and 11pm. On Wednesday, December 24th, join us for one of these special services! Both services have candlelight and communion. The 7pm worship service is more family-oriented and will feature special music from the Choir. The 11pm service is quieter and more contemplative. All are welcome at either service!

Sunday, December 28th, will be a lessons & carols service featuring some of our favorite Christmas Carols! Join us as we close out the 2025 year!

Christmas presents for our Senior Saints - Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who volunteered to deliver the Christmas presents from our congregation to our 11 Senior Saints. We truly appreciate your willingness to share the joy of the Advent season and Christmas with our special members.

Even though it seems like a long time away, 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! Check our website for more fun opportunities on this day!

Teaching What We Believe

While Children's church is over for the 2025 year, it will return on January 4th to celebrate epiphany and start the 2026 church school year. Children are welcome at any service and are encouraged to wiggle around in our Playground area in the front left of the sanctuary.

Calling all children! Come and join the fun! Make plans now to attend **LUCC's Birthday Party for Jesus** in **Fegely Hall** during the worship service on **Sunday, December 21, 2025.** Come and join the fun as we hear the story of the first Christmas, play games, sing songs, have snacks, etc. We will proceed to Fegely Hall as a group after the announcements at the beginning of the service. If you have any questions about our **Birthday Party for Jesus**, please contact Ms. Jill or Mr. Vern. Hope to see you there!

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

Our December mission is LUCC's Christmas List! We have done this as an internal mission the past few years and have gotten such amazing support from our wonderful congregation for it. You can find Longswamp's Christmas List in the narthex with pieces of paper with a "gift" and amount on it. If there's something specific you'd like to give as a "gift" to LUCC, please take that slip of paper and place it with your mission offering. These items are the everyday expenses that it takes to keep LUCC and LLC running smoothly, ranging from water for our water cooler, to a week of heating oil expenses, to many other expenses. Please let Maggie or Pastor Kim know if you have any questions! Thank you for your support!

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 will be available in the next few weeks. Please let Maggie know if you do NOT need envelopes and are currently getting them or vice versa—If you'd like envelopes but are not currently getting them!