



Longswamp United Church of Christ

# *The Beacon*

August 2025

Teaching, Sharing, and Acting on what we believe



Check out the updated exterior  
stucco of Schubert Haus!

*Worship:  
Sundays @  
10:15 am*

200 Clay Road,  
Mertztown, PA 19539

[www.longswampucc.org](http://www.longswampucc.org)

**September Newsletter  
Deadline: Tuesday August  
19th**

*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](mailto:secretary@longswampucc.org)



# From the Pastor

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto



Whenever August rolls around I find myself feeling like I didn't jam enough fun into the summer season. Were we at the pool enough? Did we visit enough museums? Were there enough fun day trips? Did we accomplish enough of the summer to-do list at home?

I keep scanning the August calendar to see what else we can fit in because I feel like we haven't taken full advantage of the summer...for any variety of reasons. It's easy to get caught up in looking at how everyone else spent their summer days. To scroll through the pictures online of family and friends on the beach, at the amusement park, traveling far and wide, or even of someone's completed home improvement project. This leads to judging what our own summer time looked like, and comparing it to others.

Theodore Roosevelt said "Comparison is the thief of joy." When we compare our own experiences to others, and focus on what we perceive is lacking in our own lives, we pull ourselves away from not only joy, but gratitude and appreciating our own journeys and experiences.

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they do not show good sense.

*2 Corinthians 10:12*



I don't know about you, but I need to try and just BE this August. To not allow comparison to worm it's way into whatever summer memories I made, or even the ones I wasn't able to make. To give this summer season to God and know August will be whatever it's going to be. And to know that's enough.

## Sharing Our Faith

### August 2025 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.

- August 3rd**- Regular Sunday, Glenn Fisher on Flute
- August 10th**- Pastor Kim Away, Historical Hymn-Sing Service
- August 17th**- Holy Communion, Theresa Haffner-Stearns on guitar.
- August 24th**- Backpack Blessing Sunday, Children's Choir singing, Welcoming New Members, See more info below!
- August 31st**- Labor Day Weekend, Sadie on Piano

### August Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors

- August 3<sup>rd</sup>**- *In loving memory of husband, Winn Lease, by Skip Lease*
- August 10<sup>th</sup>**- *In loving memory of wife, Pat, by Robert Dierolf*
- August 17<sup>th</sup>**- *In honor of Bradley Desrosiers' birthday by Leo Desrosiers*
- August 24<sup>th</sup>**- *In loving memory of Fern Shade, given by Theresa Haffner-Stearns*
- August 31<sup>st</sup>**- *In loving memory of Henry "Pappy" Shade, loving father and grandfather, given by Vern, Jill, Katie, and Matthew Shade.*

### August Ministry Partners

#### Greeters

- Aug 3-** Sarah Marburger
- Aug 10-** Theresa Haffner-Stearns
- Aug 17-** Shirley Solt
- Aug 24-** Justin Smith
- Aug 31-** Isamoyer Family

#### Head Ushers

- Aug 3-** Sarah Marburger
- Aug 10-** Theresa Haffner-Stearns
- Aug 17-** Shirley Solt
- Aug 24-** Justin Smith
- Aug 31-** Allison Isamoyer

#### Readers

- Aug 3-** Theresa Haffner-Stearns
- Aug 10-** Justin Smith
- Aug 17-** Kim Jenkins
- Aug 24-** Charlene Rachor
- Aug 31-** OPEN

New  
Members



We will be welcoming  
new members on  
Sunday, August 24th! If  
you're interested in  
joining, please talk to  
Pastor Kim for more info!

# VACATION

Pastor Kim is away from  
August 6th-12<sup>th</sup>. Please  
contact the church office if  
you need anything!



While Pastor Kim is away  
Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup> we  
will have a Historical  
Hymn Sing Service  
featuring your favorite  
old hymns and the  
stories behind them!



# Back to School Sunday!

August 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:15am

- Bring your school bag for a Backpack Blessing
- Special book reading by local illustrator Maggie Isamoyer
- New Members Join Longswamp UCC
- Children's Choir Sings
- Butterfly Release at the end of Worship
- Fellowship Time following the service



Join us for  
night #2  
of Camp  
Compassion!

July 8<sup>th</sup> & August 5<sup>th</sup>  
6pm to 8pm

Join us for summer-camp fun  
at Longswamp UCC!

During these two evenings we  
will learn about how Jesus  
showed compassion to those  
in-need. Each night will focus  
on a different Gospel story  
which will be paired with  
games, crafts, food, campfire  
time, and more! Kids and  
families of all ages are welcome  
to join us for these fun VBS-  
style summer evenings!

Register online:  
[www.longswampucc.org](http://www.longswampucc.org)



Well, after all this planning time (almost three years) the General Synod meeting is wrapping up in Kansas City as I write this, and it has been announced that the body voted “overwhelmingly” on 7/14/25 to approve bringing the four Pennsylvania Conferences into one known as the Keystone Conference. It passed with a 98% confirmation vote. Our Conferences were supported by the generous advice of the Southern New England Conference which was formed by a similar process and vote a few years earlier.

So, now the implementation work can begin in earnest. The Keystone Transitional Board will start to meet almost immediately (August 1st) with a goal of having transitional staff in place by January 1st when the merger becomes official. During 2026, all the other aspects of the merged functions will be activated and permanent staff and governing groups will be installed along with working team members.

On a similar note, another resolution that PNEC was actively involved with is on the agenda for the General Synod resolution votes. At this time, I don’t believe it has come before the body for a vote (today is the last day for Synod business). We, along with Penn Central Conference, are two of eight sponsoring conferences of this resolution called the Small Town and Rural (STAR) Coalition. Over the last several years this group has been seeking additional resource support from the national Church. Their understanding was that congregations from small towns and rural communities had many different needs than those in larger, urban settings and they shared frustrations about the resources available to smaller congregations. For example, small churches must rely heavily on lay members to lead ministries and perform administrative functions, as opposed to paid staff. And they believed that official recognition in the UCC bylaws will ensure that the needs of STAR churches will not be overlooked or sidetracked by other issues such as staff restructuring, resource reallocation or shifts in the leadership of the national setting. The Coalition felt that recognition and support of the national setting was necessary for external resourcing support to be developed and maintained.

They also pointed out that 64% of the UCC churches are in small towns and rural communities. They believe that this recognition in the National Church Bylaws will enable the Coalition to be a resource to share information and best practices to promote excellence in all our ministries. And this would give a collective voice of advocacy for concerns important to the role and work of STAR ministries as they relate to the life of the United Church of Christ. In some respects, the success of this resolution may have an even greater direct impact on us in Longswamp than the Keystone merger.

**If you have questions about the Conference, feel free to contact me at [hklindquist@ptd.net](mailto:hklindquist@ptd.net)**





### *LUCC's "Acting" Ministry Theme for 2025* **"Missions - Around the Church, Around the Community, and Around the World"**

**August 2025 - December 2025 (1st Sunday of each month) Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) -**

What is **OCWM**? Our Church's Wider Mission offerings fund the work the UCC does in its Associations and Conferences, and in the national and global church. OCWM funds are invested in programs, resources, and tools needed to keep local UCC churches strong, effective, and growing. Please use the first mission envelope for each month (dated for the 1st Sunday of the month) for your OCWM offering. (taken from <https://www.uccresources.com/products/our-churchs-wider-mission-ocwm-flyer>)



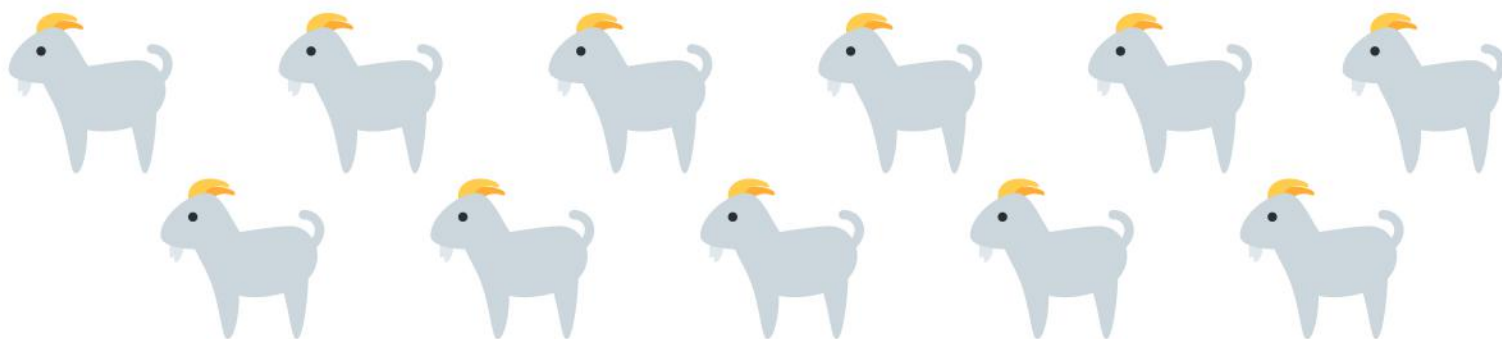
### *2025 Ongoing Mission for The Brandywine Food Pantry*

The local Food Pantry is in great need of personal care items (body wash, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, individually wrapped toothbrushes), paper products (paper towels, tissues, toilet tissue), cleaning and disinfecting products (dish soap, laundry detergent, disinfectant wipes). Please drop off your donations for the Brandywine Food Pantry before or after our worship services on Sunday mornings, or put them in the appropriately marked wicker tote box in the bell room during the week from 6:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Thank you in advance for your generous support of the Brandywine Food Pantry!

### *July 2025 International Mission- Heifer International*



Once again, our "little white church on the hill" did a FANTASTIC JOB with our global mission in July 2025 as we supported Heifer International in its work to end global hunger and poverty in a sustainable way while caring for the Earth. Our Goat Yoga fundraiser on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> was extremely successful in that there were 37 participants and we raised \$750.00. A "huge thank you" to Pastor Kim and Maggie Isamoyer, our church administrator, for everything they did to organize our Goat Yoga fundraiser. As of July 20<sup>th</sup>, our members contributed \$580.00 in offerings for our July 2025 mission. We are so excited to report that we have collected a total of \$1,330.00 for (enough to pay for **11 goats**) for our July mission. Thank you to everyone for your generous support of Heifer International!





## *August 2025 Local Mission- Healthy Snacks and School Supplies for students at Brandywine Heights High School*

It's LUCC's turn to support the students at Brandywine Heights Area High School! For the first time ever, LUCC's August 2025 mission will be to provide healthy snacks and school supplies for the students at Brandywine Heights High School.

In the past, LUCC has sponsored missions for the benefit of the 3 other schools in BHASD (elementary, intermediate, and middle). Our August 2025 mission will run from Sunday, August 10, until Sunday, August 31, 2025. Please feel free to donate the healthy snacks and/or school supplies that have been requested by the school. Mission offerings, which will be used to purchase more healthy snacks and school supplies, will also be greatly appreciated.

### **LUCC has been asked to provide the following items:**

#### **In-School Food Pantry:**

- Granola Bars (individually wrapped)
- Trail Mix (individual packages)
- Crackers (individual packages)
- Fruit Snacks (boxes of individual pouches)
- Popcorn (individual packages)
- Pretzels (individual packages)

#### **School Supplies:**

- Glue sticks
- Crayons (16/box)
- Markers (washable, 8 - 10 count),
- Colored pencils
- Highlighters
- Pens (black or blue), Pencils
- Erasers
- Pencil cases
- Headphones.



Please deposit your donations for the students at BHHS in the appropriately marked boxes on the round table behind the piano.

Please contact Jill Shade (484-894-0636, [jill.shade@longswampucc.org](mailto:jill.shade@longswampucc.org)) if you have any questions/concerns about our August 2025 mission.

Thank you in advance for your support of the students at Brandywine Heights Area High School!

## *More ways to serve...*

**The Food Sale in November is one of our church's main fundraisers each year. And we need YOUR help!**

Please speak with Maggie or Laurie if you can lend a hand to this important event.

- We need folks who can bake at home - we'll give you the recipe, you can do the baking!
- We need folks who can help bake/cook at church. No skills needed! We'll be there to guide you the whole way whether we are canning chowchow, baking cookies, or making soup!

Please join us for our Food Sale Planning Meeting at 9am on Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup>.





## Have you ever considered being on the Church Board?

Starting in 2026, we will need a few folks to join the Church Board! This is an important role in the life of our congregation and to help lead our church into the future. Please speak with Pastor Kim if you have ANY interest in filling this vital role.



*What about teaching Sunday School? Speak with Pastor Kim if that sounds like a way you could serve the congregation!*

## Summer Sunday School Schedule

August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Noah's Ark

August 10<sup>th</sup> – No Sunday School

August 17<sup>th</sup> – Faith Fun

August 24<sup>th</sup> – Back to School Sunday!

August 31<sup>st</sup> – No Sunday School



## Teaching What We Believe

### LLC News



It's so hard to believe that our summer is almost over here at Longswamp Learning Center! The summer camp's last day will be August 18<sup>th</sup> and Brandywine Heights starts back up on August 20<sup>th</sup>. In addition, we have lots of new students joining us at the daycare and the school-age before and after care programs. While we're sad for the summer camp to end, it's also nice to be transitioning into (hopefully) cooler weather.

The summer camp certainly went on lots of fun field trips, mostly to parks and outdoor centers. The preschoolers got to join the summer camp on their trip to the Wildlands Conservancy. The toddlers, preschoolers, and Summer Camp also participated in the second "FoamFantastic" party! Foam, which was really just soapy bubbles, was shot from a cannon and created a whole whirlwind of fun sensory play for the students to run through.

We also have a new teacher, Miss Amanda, joining us in the young toddler room! Welcome Miss Amanda!

Wish the students luck as they transition into their fall schedules and start back up at school!



# Coming in September....

## NATIONAL PARKS WORSHIP SERIES



"Then the trees of  
the forest will sing,  
they will sing for joy  
before the Lord"  
1 Chronicles  
16:33a

Every Sunday  
in September!



## BARN DANCE

SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>  
5:30 PM – 9PM  
SAVIDGE FARMS

Tickets available soon!



If you'd like to  
volunteer,  
speak with  
Maggie, Pastor  
Kim, or Laurie.

## YOU'RE INVITED TO **EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY!**

WHEN? **Sunday, September 7th**

WHAT TIME? **Right after 10:15 church service!**

WHERE? **Fegely Hall**

WHO'S INVITED? **EVERYBODY!**

Covered Dish Lunch, Cake, Ice  
Cream, Games, and Lots of Fun! To  
attend, just sign up and write your  
name and birthday on the sheet in  
the narthex!





# Family & Community Updates

## August Birthdays

**August 1-** Ruby Shoemaker  
**August 4-** Dorothy Weller  
**August 6-** Brenda Bower, Robert Fritz  
**August 8-** Barbara Weaknecht  
**August 12-** Craig Weller  
**August 13-** Barbara Karom  
**August 16-** Bradley Desrosiers  
**August 19-** Nancy Boyer  
**August 23-** Fay DeLong  
**August 27-** Fern Fritz  
**August 30-** Ellie Long

## August Anniversaries

**August 13, 1978-** Ann & Willard Miller  
**August 21, 2003-** Chris & Jess Malewicz

Dear Pastor Kim & Church Family,  
Thank you for the graduation gift. I appreciate it very much. Thank you for always supporting me.

Love, Carson Isamoyer

*Thank you Dwayne!*

*We will miss you*

Please join us in thanking our Maintenance Manager of the last four years, Dwayne Snyder. Dwayne has been such a valuable asset in keeping the building working properly, organizing any contract work we needed done, and just overall being awesome. His last day will be August 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Dwayne!

*Welcome Daniel!*

And on the other side of that note, please help us welcome our NEW maintenance manager, Daniel Dolich! Daniel owns his own carpentry/remodeling business.

We're very excited to have him with us!

Welcome Daniel!

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

## *Lucc's Men's Group*

The men's group meets regularly, times and dates TBA. If you'd like to be a part of the Men's Group, please call or text Justin Smith at 610-529-3394

## *Prayers Needed*



**Church Family Prayer Needs:** Barbara Eck, George Unger, Ramona Romanik, Wilma Lease, Karen Friedly, Annabelle Weller, Doris Epting

**Serving Our Country:** Zachary Rachor, Alexander Jenkins, Adam Hapenovich, Tyler Reed

**Church Friends Prayer Needs:** Jean, Karen McPherson, Robin Hoffman, Nancy Malewicz, Ty Gannon



# Church Business

## June 2024 Financials

### Income and Expenses

Member Giving:	\$6,034.33
Other Income:	\$6,730.75
Total Giving:	\$12,765.08
Expenses:	\$16,804.94
<b>Net Income (loss)</b>	<b>\$4,039.86</b>
Memorial Fund Income:	\$0
Building Fund Expenses:	\$19,729.97

### Account Balances as of 7/25/2025

General Fund Checking:	\$36,437.18
Contingency Fund Checking:	\$3,022.51
Memorial Fund Checking:	\$14,273.21
Building Fund:	\$2,990.12
Building Fund Checking:	\$10,896.45

Scholarship application forms are available in the church office! Please see Maggie if you are going to college or secondary school and would like an application to fill out!

### Message from the Treasurer

Included in member giving for missions are \$202 for Our Church's Wider Mission, \$40 for Heifer International, \$100 for Goat Yoga and \$275 for internal missions. Missions also includes \$440 from the Cookies for a Cause mission fundraiser. Included in Other income is \$1,983.75 for the cell tower lease fee, \$2,600 for the Learning Center facility use fee, and \$1,947 for the Sight and Sound trip. Included in Building Fund expenses are a partial payment of \$11,500 to repair and paint the exterior of the Schubert Haus, \$642.94 for electric service, \$493 for cleaning services, \$1,112.90 for boiler repairs, \$403.88 for water testing, treatment, and equipment maintenance and \$5,577.25 for the quarterly insurance package premium. It should also be noted that \$40,000 was transferred from investments to the Building Fund account to cover the costs of the Schubert Haus exterior repairs and painting and the repairs, sealing and lining of the church parking lot.

## Church Staff

**Pastor** - Rev. Kimberly Berenotto .....pastorkim@longswampucc.org.....610-401-1847

**Organist & Choir Director** - Ann Mabry Miller .....ann@longswampucc.org

**Office Administrator & Newsletter Editor** - Maggie Isamoyer...secretary@longswampucc.org

**LLC Director** - Sharon Wetzel .....sharon@longswampllearningcenter.com

**LLC Office** - 610-682-9750

**Church Board President** - Laurie Heagy.....laurie@longswampucc.org .....484-269-4619

**Maintenance Manager** - Dwayne Snyder.....dwayne@longswampucc.org

Daniel Dolich.....daniel.dolich@longswampucc.org



# Longswamp UCC

Planting seeds of faith by  
teaching, sharing and acting  
on what we believe.

## Our Newsletter

*The Beacon*  
*August 2025*



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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE