



Longswamp United Church of Christ

The Beacon

June 2025

Teaching, Sharing, and Acting on what we believe



*Worship:
Sundays @
10:15 am*

**200 Clay Road,
Mertztown, PA 19539**

www.longswampucc.org

**July Newsletter deadline:
Tuesday, June 17th**

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**

From the Pastor

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto



We've been spending a lot of time in the Longswamp UCC office preparing for summer – making schedules, creating fliers, updating the church website, etc. I was tempted to write, what I would consider, a classic June church newsletter article. It would go over the highlights of our summer and then encourage everyone to stay engaged with their faith over the upcoming warm and sunny months (seriously, please come to church this summer).

However, if you are reading this, you are likely already engaged! If you've decided to spend your time perusing the newsletter, checking in with what your pastor has to say, looking over the June scheduled activities – you don't need an impassioned newsletter article attempting to keep the momentum of worship and faith formation at our church chugging along throughout the summer. So, what do you need? Maybe I should ask some questions!

Jesus was known for questions – he asks 305 questions in the Gospels. Jesus' questions were often open-ended, and always curious. Jesus was eager to know more about the lives of his followers; seeking to better understand their beliefs, their hardships, and their desires. A few times Jesus just asked someone in-need, "What can I do for you?" Jesus didn't assume he knew people's stories and he took the time to ask genuine questions.

In fact, timing wasn't that important to Jesus. Jesus wasn't in a rush; he wasn't trying to push forward to the next location – these 305 questions were able to be asked and answered meaningfully because Jesus took the time for them. And none of Jesus' questions ever asked "When?"

We ask a lot of "When" questions. From simple questions like, "When will this person call me back?" to big ones like, "When will my loved one no longer be sick?"

Our society is very time-focused; there are whole industries built around how to manage one's time efficiently and expediting certain daily tasks to see how much we can cram into one 24-hour period. That's not how Jesus lived, though, and that's why he was able to be open and curious to the needs of so many people.

Perhaps, this summer, we can allow Jesus to lead us to the right questions. Questions focused on where we want to be in life. Questions about who we are as Christ's disciples. Questions about how we can help others and better serve God in our day-to-day life.

This might help us to take a step back from getting caught up in the schedule and the "Whens" of summer. And instead ask ourselves; what are we going to do with our one wild and precious life?

The Summer Day

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

by Mary Oliver

Sharing Our Faith

June 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.

- June 1st**- Ascension Sunday, Glenn Fisher on Flute
- June 8th**- Pentecost, Fellowship after the service
- June 15th**- Father's Day, Holy Communion
- June 22nd**- Graduate Sunday
- June 29th**- Celebrate Summer Sunday, Theresa on guitar

June Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors

- June 15**- In loving memory of father, Robert Scheirer, by Sheila and Steve Fox
- June 29th**- In honor of their 50th wedding anniversary by David & Helen Rood, who got married at Longswamp UCC 50 years ago.

June Ministry Partners

Greeters

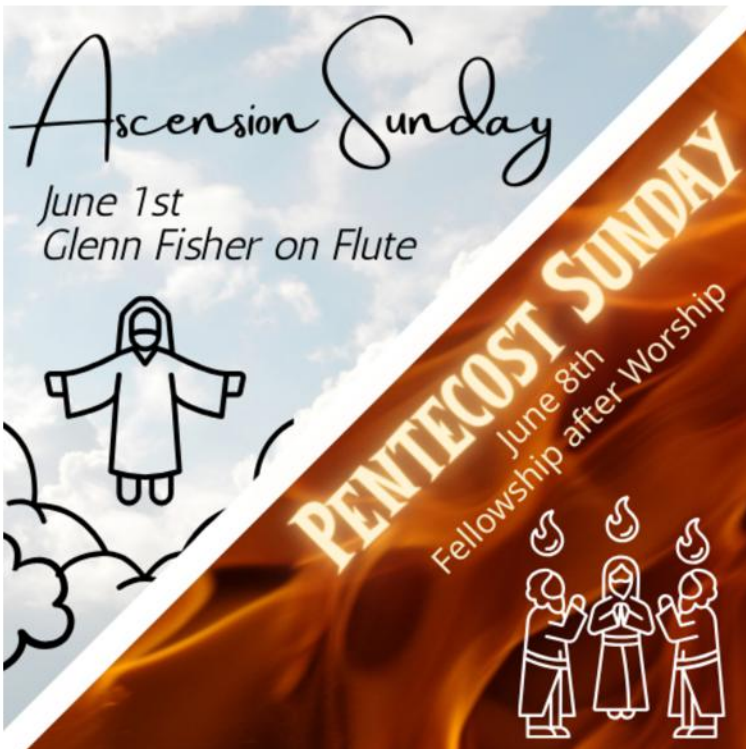
- June 1-** Justin Smith
- June 8-** Allison Isamoyer
- June 15-** Bob Friedly
- June 22-** Vern Shade
- June 29-** Charlene Rachor

Head Ushers

- June 1-** Justin Smith
- June 8-** Allison Isamoyer
- June 15-** Bob Friedly
- June 22-** Vern Shade
- June 29-** Charlene Rachor

Readers

- June 1-** Amy Riovo
- June 8-** Chris Freudig
- June 15-** John Samuelson
- June 22-** Hope Deiaco
- June 29-** Jill Shade



GRADUATE SUNDAY



Join us
June 22nd for
worship at 10:15 am
to share in the
joy of our church's
graduates!

Musicians Needed!



**CALLING ALL
MUSICIANS!** We're
looking for **YOU** to
perform during church
over the Summer! If
you're interested,
please talk to **Pastor
Kim** and sign up on the
board in the narthex.
**Any and all talents are
welcome!**

Celebrate Summer Sunday

June 29th at 10:15 am

Join us for a
time of worship
focused on this
season of the
year when we,
in the Northern
Hemisphere of
earth, are tilted
directly toward
the sun. A
season of
renewal and
letting go of
what no longer
serves us.



**Special Music
from Theresa
on guitar!**

"To every thing there is a season..." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Leadership Updates



This month's article is a recap of the PNEC Spring Conference Meeting held on May 3rd at Neffs Union Church. Of course, the typical business items were on the agenda, such as:

- Accepting the minutes of the Fall Meeting in November, and the Team and Committee reports of activities undertaken in the past six months, plus the 2024 year-end financial reports highlighted by Treasurer Martin Nuscher.
- Many congregations were recognized for their financial support of OCWM and National Church Ministries, such as One Great Hour of Sharing and Neighbors in Need. Also, congregations which are Open and Affirming and/or WISE congregations were noted.
- About 20 pastors were recognized for the anniversaries of their ordination or licensing, ranging between 5 years and 60 years.

Based on the assumption the merger vote will pass; the following actions were also taken:

- Affirmation of individuals nominated to serve out the remaining terms on the PNEC Board, Staff and Personnel Committee, and the Nominating Committee through the end of 2025.
- Affirmation of the four individuals nominated to serve on a transitional Board for the Keystone Conference with terms ending in either two or three years.
- Several others were nominated to serve on the three sub-groups of the Committee on Ministry. This committee will remain in our Association after the Keystone vote, doing the work of supporting future pastors as they study for ordination, guiding and supporting them as they serve, and supporting local congregations in ways that will make them more vital, effective, and engaged in their communities. All these individuals nominated were also affirmed by the body.
- Delegates also approved 25 individuals, an equal number of clergy and laity, to attend the General Synod meeting in mid-July where the vote on the proposed consolidation of four PA Conferences will take place.
- All of the nominated volunteers listed above were installed by Bonnie Bates.
- Bonnie also introduced the proposed Constitution and By-Laws for the Keystone Conference, and the delegates affirmed them until after the Synod vote approving the new Conference. At that point, PNEC will hold the final approval vote on these documents at the Fall Conference meeting in November.

Upcoming events of interest were also announced, including an Open House at the Conference Office in Palmerton on Saturday, September 27th, the Fall PNEC Conference Meeting at St. John's UCC, Nazareth, on November 1st, and Bonnie's Retirement Party at the Northampton Community Center on November 16th.

Any questions about the conference can be sent to me at hklindquist@ptd.net.



A HUGE THANK YOU to Girl Scout Troop 11098 for once again taking care of our flower beds at the side of the Education building (pictured on front page). The Girl Scouts planted new flowers, weeded, and made the area look pretty for the spring and summer seasons!

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

GO LUCC!

LUCC did a FANTASTIC JOB of helping Church World Service as they worked hard to Blanket the World With Love! We are SO PROUD of our "little white church on the hill" for collecting \$1,000, which sponsors 100 CWS Blankets for people in need worldwide! Keep up the great work, LUCC!

Thank you!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone who donated items and gave mission offerings for our May 2025 mission for Brandywine Food Pantry. As of the writing of this article, our LUCC members generously gave \$235.00 in mission offerings for our local food pantry. Also, a HUGE THANK YOU to our members who volunteered to help at LUCC's Cookies for a Cause" event on May 31st or make homemade chocolate chip cookies which we will give to the shoppers who made a donation.



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

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

In isolation, no single congregation can completely answer God's call to love. Together we are a bold witness to God's extravagant love for all. We share resources to transform our vision into reality. Gifts from congregations like ours to OCWM Basic Support make it possible for our Conferences and the National Ministries to strengthen local churches and leaders and engage us in missions well beyond our community.

(taken from: <https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/>)



May 2025 Local Mission- Brandywine Food Pantry

June 2025 - December 2025 - ongoing mission for the benefit of Brandywine Food Pantry

Please consider helping the underprivileged residents of BHASD by dropping off your donations of non-perishable food items, personal care items, household items, cleaning supplies, etc. before or after our worship services on Sunday mornings, or during the week from 6:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Please put your donations in the appropriately marked wicker tote box in the bell room.

June 2025 Internal Mission- Summer Fun!



There is SO MUCH going on at LUCC this summer and we need your help to make it happen! Any mission offerings given during the month of June will go toward summer programming. The main event for the summer is Camp Compassion- a VBS-style camp that runs for two days- July 8th and August 5th. These two nights will feature games, crafts, lessons, food, and a campfire for the kids and their families. We also will be holding Summer Sunday School on various dates throughout the summer. Mission offerings are always appreciated and your offerings this month will help to make the summer even more exciting! As usual, you can put your offering envelopes with "Summer Programming" written on it into the offering basket or in the black box in the bell room. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kim at pastorkim@longswampucc.org!

GOAT SUNDAY!

JOIN US JULY 13TH FOR A FUN SUNDAY TO
RAISE FUNDS AND LEARN MORE ABOUT
HEIFER FARM INTERNATIONAL!



Worship @ 10:15 am

Special On the Farm Sunday School Class for kids

Following worship will be a Baby
Goat Meet & Greet until Noon!

Goats provided by Steinmetz Family Farm

Then join us for Goat Yoga at 12:15
(Pre-Registration Required/Cost \$20)



to help raise money for
Heifer International!



Yoga instruction by April J Yoga

Save The Date!

Our July Mission will be for Heifer International. Look for more info in next month's newsletter but sign up now for Goat Yoga! All proceeds go to Heifer!

Sign up on the
website at
longswampucc.org



Teaching What We Believe

Summer Sunday School Schedule

June 1: Shipwrecked!

June 8: Animal Crackers/Heifer Farm

June 15: Community Garden

June 22: No Sunday School

June 29: Outdoor Adventure



Be prepared to
go outside
many Sundays
this Summer!

The air is getting warmer and we've seen lots of bugs and bees outside, which means.... It's time for our Preschoolers to GRADUATE! We have 10 preschoolers graduating on May 30th. We will be sad to see them go and yet so excited for them to start their next chapter in Kindergarten!

Summer Camp will be starting on June 4th and we have a lot of campers signed up for this year's nature theme! We will once again be holding "clubs" so that the students can experience different hobbies and interests. These range from nature hikes, to Lego building, to knitting/crochet, to drawing and art. They also have a lot of fun field trips planned, as well! The preschoolers will also be accompanying the Summer Camp on two different trips.

The younger classrooms have been staying busy. We've mostly been inside because of all the rain we've gotten the past few weeks but have gone outside to the parking lot or playground when we are able! Check out all the colorful and warm art the students have been making! We have flowers for spring, red, white and blue colors for Memorial Day, and some wind socks for those windy days!



Congrats Grads!!



Jared Steventon graduates from Brandywine Heights High School in June 2025. Jared is an Eagle Scout, recently having completed the garden project over in the field near Schubert Haus. He was a member of the BHHS Marching Band and Jazz Band, acting as the trumpet section leader during his senior year. Jared was involved with the BHHS Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, and Jazz Choir and was also a Sr. County Chorus Member and District Chorus Member. He also served as secretary of the band and Choir officers. During his senior year, Jared became a Tri-M Music Honor Society Inductee and was the recipient of the Reading Musical Foundation's "Outstanding High School Senior Musician." His extracurricular activities also include being a SADD Member and an Avidium Officer. In the fall, Jared will be attending Kutztown University to double-major in Psychology and Criminal Justice.

Tyler Reed is graduating from Basic Training at Fort Benning in Georgia. He will be staying at Fort Benning for specialized training and then will be stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

Carson Isamoyer is graduating from Brandywine Heights High School and Berks Career & Technology Center in June 2025. Carson attended BCTC for building construction and would like to work in carpentry or construction after graduation.

Anabel Smith is graduating from The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts in June 2025. Anabel was a part of the Production Arts Program and will be attending Ithaca College in upstate New York this Fall. She will be studying Writing for Film, Television, and Emerging Media.

Everet Smith is graduating from The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts in June 2025. Everett was a part of the Literary Arts program and will be attending Smith College in central Massachusetts this fall. She will be studying English and Literature.

All graduates are invited to celebrate this exciting milestone on June 22nd for LUCC's Graduation Sunday!



**July 8th & August 5th
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**

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NOAH'S ARK BIBLE STUDY

July 16th & 23rd & 30th

10:30 am @ Schubert Haus

7:00 pm @ Fegely Hall

Join us for this unique look into the
scripture of Noah's Ark. This is a GREAT
way to learn more before our trip to
Sight & Sound August 1st but is open to
anyone eager to engage the story.

Currently there is a waiting list for our
Sight & Sound trip if you haven't already
booked tickets. Contact the church
office with questions: 610-682-6230



Family & Community Updates

June Birthdays

June 2- Sylvia Conrad
June 3- Justin Smith
June 5- Jennifer George
June 10- Allison Fetterman
June 11- Laura Stoudt
June 13- Adam Hapenovich
June 17- Valerie Jenkins
June 20- Chris Berenotto
June 21- Barbara Eck
June 22- Alexandria Berenotto
June 25- Carson Isamoyer
June 27- Juliana George
June 30- Norman Voortman

June Anniversaries

June 8, 1968- Bob & Fern Fritz
June 12, 1976- Brenda & Dennis Bower
June 20, 1959- Dorothy & William Weller
June 20, 2021- Stephen & Stephanie Ward
June 21, 2003- Matthew & Sarah Reed
June 25, 1976- Bob & Karen Friedly
June 28, 2003- Kathy & Rick Shupp
June 30, 1990- Linda & Raymond Davis

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!

In memory...

Catherine L. Miller
August 7, 1930 - May 18, 2025



Catherine Miller passed away on May 18th. Catherine was a longtime member of Longswamp UCC. She was predeceased by husband, Kenneth Miller, in 2007.

Welcome!

Eren Zachary Strunk was born on March 9th to parents, Zach Strunk and Jasmine Boyer. Eren is already so loved by many, including his parents, grandparents, Derek and Dawn Strunk, aunt and uncle, Skylar and Nick, and great-grandparents, Bob and Fern Fritz! Eren will be baptized on Sunday, July 13th during the service. Welcome Eren!

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: Lynn Shoemaker and Emily Wetzel & Family, Holly Stottmeister, Family & Friends of Catherine Miller, Family & Friends of Tom Martin

Church Business

April 2024 Financials

Income and Expenses

Member Giving:	\$10,392.60
Other Giving:	\$5,014.75
Total Giving:	\$15,407.35
Expenses:	\$13,461.81
Net Income (loss)	\$1,945.54
Memorial Fund Income:	\$1,085
Building Fund Expenses:	\$14,402.79

Account Balances as of 5/27/2025

General Fund Checking:	\$45,855.03
Contingency Fund Checking:	\$3,022.44
Memorial Fund Checking:	\$14,203.21
Building Fund:	\$1,064.93
Building Fund Checking:	\$25,098.91

Message from the Treasurer

Included in member giving for missions are \$165 for Our Church's Wider Mission, \$420 for Internal Missions (church steeple repairs, egg hunt) and \$880 for CWS blankets. Included in Other income is \$1,983.75 for the cell tower lease fee, \$2,600 for the Learning Center facility use fee, \$224 for the Sight and Sound trip and a \$431 premium rebate for worker's compensation. Included in Building Fund expenses are \$493 for cleaning services, \$849.40 for electric service, \$654 for the monthly heating oil budget payment, \$2,375 for plowing and salting of parking lots, \$862.02 for heating repairs and \$8,650 for steeple siding repairs (insurance reimbursed the church for most of the expense.)



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!

Church Staff

Pastor - Rev. Kimberly Berenottopastorkim@longswampucc.org.....610-401-1847

Organist & Choir Director - Ann Mabry Millerann@longswampucc.org

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

LLC Director - Sharon Wetzelsharon@longswampllearningcenter.com

LLC Office - 610-682-9750

Church Board President - Laurie Heagy.....laurie@longswampucc.org484-269-4619

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

Longswamp UCC

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

Our Newsletter

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June 2025



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