

Longswamp United Church of Christ

April 21, 2024 ~ 10:15 am

200 Clay Road, Mertztown, PA 19539 Phone - 610-682-6230

E-Mail: secretary@longswampucc.org

Web: www.longswampucc.org

Hospital Code 451

CCLI #2341826

Facebook page: **Longswamp UCC**

Wi-Fi Guest Password: Christ200

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, Pastor

Ann Mabry Miller, Organist

Ministry Partners: Head Usher, Greeter- Bob Friedly

Reader- Theresa Haffner-Stearns

Fourth Sunday in Easter

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

MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

"Prelude"

Battmann

"Air"

Handel

"More About Jesus"

Sweney

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Caring Shepherd, you supply all our needs.

People: We celebrate God's generous care of us all.

Leader: Good Shepherd, you take us by the hand and lead us through the dark and fearful times in life.

People: We celebrate God's compassion and understanding.

Leader: Gracious Shepherd, your goodness and mercy nurtures and blesses us, and it enriches our soul.

People: As we worship you, we share together in the feast you prepare for us, and it restores and refreshes us. Amen.

***HYMN**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

#522

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

All: Gentle Shepherd, You guide us in right paths. You lead us in the ways of righteousness, but we have allowed our anger, our rage, our greed, and at times even hate, to direct our paths. We have overreacted, we have taken more than our share, we have despised others that seem to have it all. Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways. Forgive us for not remembering that we are Your sheep,

and You are our Shepherd. Forgive us when we have not listened for Your voice and instead have acted in the ways of the world. Guide us back to Your path, to loving You and loving our neighbors. Help us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love. In the name of Christ our Shepherd we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: We are part of Christ's flock. We are part of Christ's body. We are forgiven.

All: We know the Good News! In Christ we find wholeness and restoration. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you

LOFT CHOIR ANTHEM

"Sing The Beauty Of The Earth"

Wagner

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN**

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

#412

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 23 & John 10:11-18

SERMON

Rev. Lynn Shoemaker

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

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.***

***OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: O Good Shepherd, you have guided us here to this moment of giving. We dedicate our offerings to you. Fill us with your love, that we may look into your world and know that you will use us and our gifts for transformation. May we offer not just our treasure, but our lives, as generous members of your beloved flock. Amen.

***HYMN** *Praise Him, Praise Him* **#96**

***BENEDICTION**

CLOSING MUSIC *"The Power And The Glory"* **Smith**

Portions of the service adapted from resources on re:Worship by Joan Stott and Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell.



The Lord is my
Shepherd
Psalm 23:1

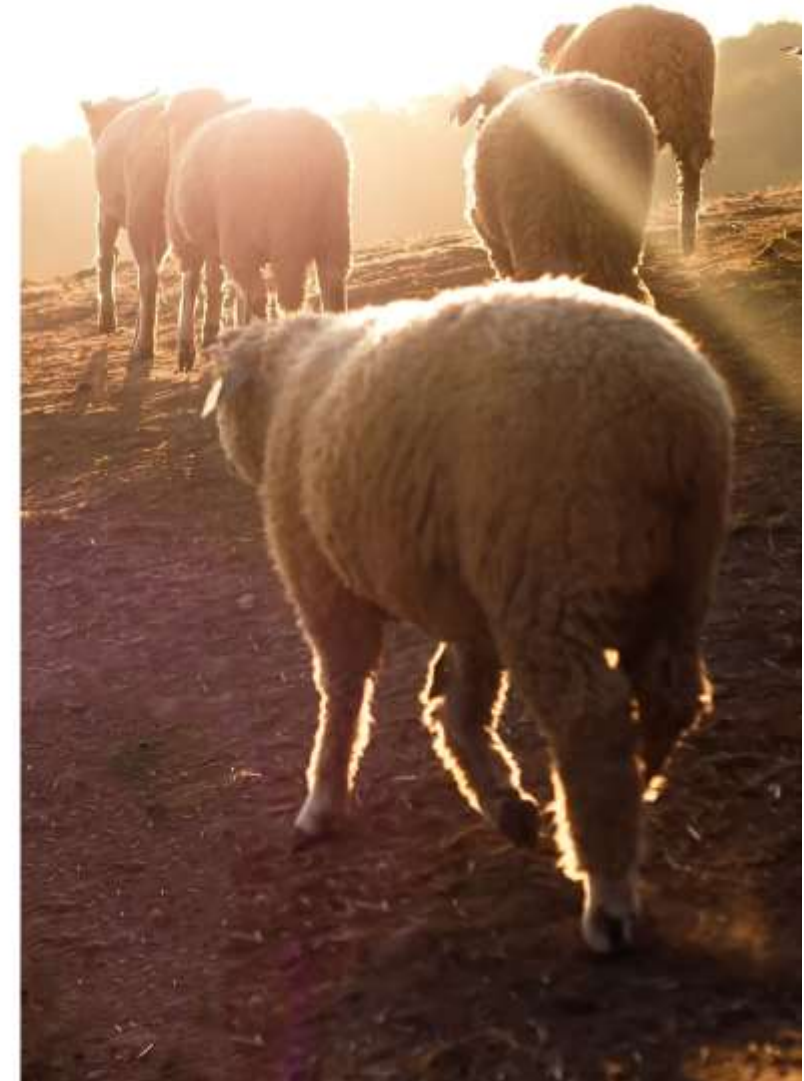
CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Upcoming performances:
* Sunday, May 12th *
* Sunday, August 4th *

Practices will be held April 28th and May 5th after church.

All children are welcome to participate! If your child is interested, please contact Hope Delaco or stay after church on 4/28 or 5/5.

* * * * *



WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- April 7th-13th, 2024

Altar Flowers and Bulletins are given to the Glory of God and are in loving memory of all those we love who have gone on before us by the Jenkins Family.

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We welcome Reverend Lynn Shoemaker back as guest preacher while Pastor Kim is away. Join us next week for **Messy Church** at our normal time of 10:15am. We will have stations set up with activities for everyone to participate in. Everyone is welcome at this fun, laid-back, and intergenerational event!

Sharing Our Faith

The confirmation class is serving a meal for the patrons of Opportunity House in Reading on April 27th. They need a few more items and monetary donations in order to make some yummy cheesesteaks so if you're able to donate an item or two, please sign up on the board in the narthex. These items are due back to the church by this Wednesday, April 24th, in order to make sure they have everything they need.

We are planning another Sight & Sound trip to see their performance of *Daniel*. The date for this event is Friday, August 16th. We have a great trip planned with a bus for transportation to and from the theater and dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord. The cost for the trip this year is \$160 per adult and \$100 per child 3-13 years. If you're interested, please let the church office know! Please also let the office know if you're interested in going but are concerned about the price as we have some "scholarship" monies available.

A group will be working on the brick walkway after church on May 5th. If you're able to help lay the bricks, please let Leo know or stay after church that day. We also will have taco bowls after church as fellowship to get us excited for Swampfest so lunch will be provided!

Teaching What We Believe

Our Sunday School Program, Children's Church, meets weekly during the worship service! Kids begin in worship and, after the Children's Message, can head to the Preschool room in our Education Building for stories, games, crafts, and more. There is NO Children's Church this week since we do not have a teacher or next week because of Messy Church. We are in great need of volunteers to join the rotation of Children's Church teachers. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Pastor Kim.

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

April 2024 National/Global Mission- Hygiene Kits for Church World Service (CWS)- continues until Tuesday, April 30, 2024. Let's show our support of individuals and families who are dealing with natural disasters, violence, and extreme poverty throughout our country and the world by donating **hygiene kits** to **Church World Service**. Please consider supporting this

very worthwhile cause by either providing all the required items for one or two complete hygiene kit(s) (approximate value of each kit = \$15.00) or donating one or two specific required items so we can use them in extra hygiene kits. Each hygiene kit (packed in a 1-gallon Ziploc bag) must contain the following: 1 hand towel (measuring approx. 15" x 28" to 16" x 32"- no fingertip, bath, dish or microfiber towels); 1 washcloth; 1 wide-tooth comb (must be sturdy with at least 6" of wide teeth; removed from the package); 1 fingernail or toenail clipper (removed from the package- either is acceptable); 1 bath-size bar of soap (in the original package); 1 toothbrush (in the original package); and 10 standard size Band-Aids. Mission offerings will be used to purchase more items to complete hygiene kits and/or help to pay the processing fee of \$2.00 per kit. Please contact Jill Shade (484-894-0636; jill.shade@longswampucc.org) if you have any questions/concerns about our April 2024 mission.

Longswamp Learning Center is hosting a Krispy Kreme Doughnut fundraiser! Orders are due back by Wednesday, May 8th, and forms are available in the narthex. Thanks for your support!

Coming soon to LUCC! Please mark these important dates on your calendars for LUCC's **May 2024 Local** for the benefit of the **Brandywine Food Pantry** and our **LUCC's "Cookies for a Cause"** event at the **Mertztown Great Valu Market** from **10 AM- 2 PM** on **Saturday, May 18, 2024.**

Longswamp UCC Business

Hard copies of our monthly newsletter are available on the table on the left side by the front door when leaving the sanctuary. Online copies are available on our website or email the office to be on the email list.

Interested in sponsoring Altar Flowers and Bulletins? Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex!

Interested in becoming a member? Please see Pastor Kim! We will be welcoming new members on June 30th!