

# Longswamp United Church of Christ

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Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, Pastor

Ann Mabry Miller, Organist

Ministry Partners: Head Usher- Justin Smith

Greeter- Al & Sue Lishman

Reader- Hope Deiaco

## *New Year's Wish*

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

### MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

Mike & Linda Hertzog

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God of all new things, of new years, of new hopes;

**People: Bless us this day as we gather in worship and celebration.**

Leader: God of creation, of the emergence of life and growth;

**People: We rejoice with thanksgiving for all you provide.**

Leader: God of history, of all things that have past;

**People: Hold us when we mourn for yesterdays.**

Leader: God of imagination, of fresh beginnings;

**People: Hear our praise and guide us in each forward step we take. Amen.**

#### \*HYMN

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

#78

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### CONFESSION

**All: God of new beginnings, we wish and hope for so much in our lives and our community. Yet sometimes, in our anticipation of what is to come, we fail to follow you each and every day. Remind us you are present with us now, Holy One. Transform our hearts to be grateful for each moment; tuning our ears to hear how your Spirit works in our day-to-day lives. As we pray, hope, and dream for a future of peace and joy; help us to recognize how your love grows in our lives and our communities right now. And teach us how we can share that love with others. Amen.**

### MOMENT OF SILENCE

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our Loving Creator forgives us and redeems us. God sows seeds of good news throughout our community and invites us to marvel at the new growth.

**People: We are forgiven and made new! We yearn to grow together in the ways of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### \*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children are welcome to come forward for the Children's Message. Today is a Family Sunday because of the New Year's Wish so everyone stays in church together! Kids are welcome to sit with their families or engage in worship from our Playground.

#### HYMN

*On This Day of Celebration*

*Tune #20*

*On this day of celebration, at this time when hopes are new,  
God, we gather as Your people, called to put our trust in You.  
You have made the world we live in; You have worked through history.  
In Your plan we find our purpose, in Your love, our unity.*

*Long ago, You sent our Savior to this world in deep despair.  
In Your Word made flesh You came, our life to know, our sins to bear.  
Christ has died and Christ is risen! At this new year we proclaim:  
Yesterday, today, forever— Jesus Christ is still the same!*

*Through two thousand years of changes, through these passing centuries,  
You have called Your church to witness to Christ's love that claims and frees.  
Each new generation hears You, each must find a fresh new way  
To make known the life You offer, to the people in their day.*

*On this day, we pause and wonder what the future years will bring,  
Yet we know You clothe each flower and You make each sparrow sing.  
How much more will You protect us with Your guiding, caring hand!  
By Your Spirit, lead us boldly in the future You have planned.*

#### RESPONSIVE READING (BASED ON PSALM 121)

Leader: I lift my eyes to the hills; where does my help come from?

**People: My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

Leader: God will not let your foot slip.

**People: God who watches over us will not slumber or sleep.**

Leader: The Lord watches over you, he is the shade at your right hand.  
**People: The sun will not harm us by day, or the moon by night.**  
Leader: The Lord will keep you from harm and watch over your life.  
**People: God will watch over my coming and going, now and forevermore.**

**SCRIPTURE READING** **Isaiah 46:3-10 & Revelation 21:1-7**

**NEW YEAR’S WISH & MUSICAL SELECTION** Mike & Linda Hertzog

**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. Amen.*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION**  
**All: God of all good gifts, we thank you for the many blessings you bestow upon us; especially the blessing of a new year. We respond with generosity and dedicate our offerings to you. May our giving be used to fulfill the hopes of people in our community and world who are in need. May our gifts reflect the hope we have for a transformed future where your love reigns. Amen.**

**\*HYMN** *In the Bulb There Is A Flower* **#678**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING MUSIC** *Shine Jesus Shine* *Kendrick*

*Words to middle hymn by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette from Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Worship, Geneva Press, Louisville. PA Dutch Cover Art by Brad Brenneisen.*

**The Longswamp New Year Wish**

I wish you and your housewife  
Sons and Daughters. Hired Men and Women  
And all those in this house, A Happy New Year  
I wish you all good fortune  
and that all misfortune lies far behind you  
The year 2022 has ended, In the name of Jesus Christ---  
Because 2023 is now unfolding  
The old year merrily vanishes, and we begin a new one  
In addition, I wish you a highly to be praised New Year  
Until you get your gray hair  
We move along and travel  
from one year to another  
Through many fears and sorrows  
Through uncertain times and tribulations  
Through war and great perils  
That cover our world  
Praise God and thanks that at this time ---  
we are permitted quiet and peace  
May the joy of heaven, the will of God,  
God’s spirit be yours  
Until you come flying into heaven,  
And your seat will await you ---  
There is eternal blessedness.  
We stand here before your door, on your land,  
Our instruments at the ready,  
When we pull out our instruments ---  
Then you shall hear us serenade the New Year

John P. Fritsch & Peter V. Fritsch

## Langschwammer Nei Yaahrs Wunsch

Ich winsche dir un deinie Hausfraa  
Sohnie un Techder, Ginecht un Mechder  
Un alle die in diesem Haus, ein Glickseeliches Neies Yaahr.  
Ich winsche eich all grosses Glick  
Un alle Umglick weit zerick.  
Des 2022 Yaahr geht aus, in Naamen Jesus Christ ---  
Weil des 2023 behandeln ist.  
Des aldes Yaahr geht nunder hie, denn fangen mir en neies aan.  
Weider winsch ich eich en hoch, gelobtes Neies Yaahr  
Bis ihr bekummet grohen Haar.  
Mir gehn dohin un Wandern  
Von einem Yaahr zum Anrem.  
Darich viele Angscht un Pleegen  
Darich zittriche Zeit un Yaegen.  
Darich Grieg un grosse Schrecken  
Was in unserm Welt bedecken.  
Gott Lob un Dank das dieses Zeit ---  
Es is erlaabt in Ruh un Friede.  
Himmels Luscht, Gottes Willes  
Gottes Geischt bleibt eich bewohen  
Bis ihr bekummet in der Himmel geflogen.  
Un eier Sitz, der bleibt bereibt,  
Datt in der eewich Seelichkeit.  
Mir schtehne do, var eierm Dier, uff eierem Land,  
Die Instromender in die Hand.  
Wann mir raus die Instromender ziegen ---  
Dann soll dir'n heeren des Neies Yaahr Anschpielen.

John P. Fritsch & Peter V. Fritsch



## WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- January 25<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Thanks for joining us for the New Year's Wish! A huge thanks to Mike and Linda Hertzog for wishing us into the 2026 year and providing today's music! There will be a PA Dutch-themed fellowship after the service in the Education Building. Everyone is welcome to join us!

The Board and Brush workshop for today has been rescheduled to a later date. More info will be announced once we know more!

### Sharing Our Faith

**In the case of bad weather, we will always post closures to a few different places.** Any changes to worship will be listed on WFMZ online and on the notifications on the bottom of the TV screen, emails will be sent from the church, and we will also post it to our Facebook page.

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, is our Scout Sunday!** We will be joined by Boy Scout Troop #575 and the Girl Scout Troops of Longswamp and Tipton, as well!

**Have you been attending church at Longswamp UCC and are interested in becoming a member?** We are hoping to welcome **New Members on Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup>**! This will end the season of Epiphany with a celebration of those joining our community before we head into the season of Lent. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>. More info about the Lenten Season and any special services and activities will be in the upcoming February newsletter. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Kim.

### Teaching What We Believe

Our Sunday School program, Children's Church, runs weekly during the church service. After the Children's Message, kids are welcome to follow their teachers to the Preschool Room for a Bible lesson, crafts, games, and more. Children are also welcome to stay in worship with their families if that's what you prefer! There is NO children's church today because of the New Year's Wish but children are welcome to play and wiggle around in the Playground at the front left of the sanctuary!

### Acting on Jesus' Teachings

**Our January 2026 Mission is the Backpack Buddies Program at Brandywine Heights School District.** For more info and a list of items needed, please see the insert in today's bulletin! Since we've had a few worship cancellations due to snow, we will be extending the January mission one more week. The final day to bring donations or to give a mission offering for January will be Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**Our February internal mission will be "SNOW-mergency!"** This internal mission is to help offset the maintenance costs of all the snow we've gotten this year and also to replenish the weekly offering. Since we've had multiple cancellations of worship, we lose that normal weekly income, which is how the church runs. In a similar fashion to the Christmas List, we will have tags for different items such as snow plowing and salting to help offset these costs as well as random amounts to "fill our plate" (the church offering plate). This list will be available next week, February 7<sup>th</sup> and will run until the end of the month. If you have any questions, please let Maggie or Pastor Kim know!

### Longswamp UCC Business

**1/18 Attendance:** 0- Snow Day!

**We are always in need of volunteers to greet and hand out bulletins prior to the service and also sponsors for the altar flowers!** If you're interested in either of these, please sign up on the sign-up sheets on the narthex bulletin board!

**There are still some offering envelopes left out in the narthex so make sure to grab yours if you haven't already!** If you'd like a 2025 giving statement, please make sure to sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex. Statements will be ready by end of January!