



Longswamp United Church of Christ

The Beacon

May 2026

Teaching, Sharing, and Acting on what we believe

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



Worship:
Sundays @
10:15 am

200 Clay Road,
Mertztown, PA 19539

www.longswampucc.org

June Newsletter
Deadline: Tuesday,
May 19th

Contact Us

Church Office: 610-682-6230
Monday-Friday
9:30am - 2:30pm
secretary@longswampucc.org

From the Pastor

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto



I heard the word "Maycember" in a video I was watching online this past week. It's a term that's become popular on the internet to reflect how busy the month of May is - it almost feels as stressful as the chaos of the holiday season in December.

For parents and families particularly, May is packed with a variety of end-of-the-school-year activities. Graduations, field trips, recitals, spring concerts, art shows, tournaments, sports banquets, dances, final exams, school projects, picnics, and more. Add to that having to finalize summer plans for vacations, summer camps, child-care....and if that isn't enough just tack on a regular busy schedule and ensuring mom gets a break and a gift for Mother's Day. It can feel like too much.

Studies show that May is even rivaling December in cost too! There are often additional fees to these end-of-the-school-year events and activities; the extras required for things like graduations and prom, making those last payments toward summer camp or vacation, and gifts for teachers, coaches, Mother's Day, etc.

I think one of the main problems with the stressful, over-scheduled, end-of-the-school-year is it lacks the balance we have during December.

As people of faith, December brings us to Advent - a season that encourages us to step away from the chaos and find moments of spiritual preparation and calm to make room for Christ's birth into the world. While December can be busy beyond belief, we are also called to reflect, pray, and anticipate. Then, that journey through December leads us to holiday joy. No matter how stressful December may feel it's an intentional journey to find the right space to celebrate Jesus' birth that brings peace and wholeness into our world.

The month of May can feel busy with less intention and purpose, without the grounding of Advent that leads to Christmas joy.

So, in the midst of Maycember I invite you to church on Sundays; to ensure you and your family take a moment to find that grounding. It may be a busy season for our congregation too as May will bring baptisms, new members, Mother's Day, Pentecost, and more. However, know you can come as you are, experience worship prepared with deep intention, feel the peace of being surrounded by a loving community, and find time to listen for God's voice regardless of what is happening outside the church walls.

If you are in a stage of life where you aren't feeling the stress of Maycember - send a little prayer or encouragement to those in our church who might be feeling the pressure this time of year!



Have you not known? Have you not heard?

*The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.*

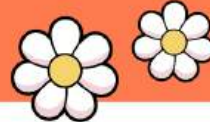
*He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.*

*God gives power to the faint
and strengthens the powerless.*

*Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted,
but those who wait for the Lord
shall renew their strength;*

*they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.*

Isaiah 40:28-31



Sharing Our Faith

May 2026 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.

May 3rd- Packing CWS Kids' Kits during service, Baptism of Elora Caldwell, Welcoming New Members

May 10th- Mother's Day, Choir Singing

May 17th- Ascension Sunday, Holy Communion, Family Sunday, Glenn on Flute

May 24th- Pentecost, Memorial Day Weekend, Choir Sings

May 31st- New Members, Baptism of Emelia Hummel

May Ministry Partners

Greeters

May 3- Vern Shade

May 10- Leo Desrosiers

May 17- Bob Friedly

May 24- Allison Isamoyer

May 31- Willard Miller

Readers

May 3- Sue Lishman

May 10- Charlene Rachor

May 17- Casey Jones

May 24- Will Miller

May 31- Vern Shade

Head Ushers

May 3- Vern Shade

May 10- Leo Desrosiers

May 17- Bob Friedly

May 24- Allison Isamoyer

May 31- Willard Miller

May Altar Flower Sponsors

-May 3rd- In loving memory of Father, Michael Romanik, given by Charlene Rachor

-May 24th- In loving memory of Althea Walbert's Birthday

May 3rd Worship

New Members
Join Longswamp

Baptism of Elora
Caldwell



During worship
we will also
assemble our
CWS Kid's Kits to
close our April
Mission Project!



Family Sunday too!

SUNDAY MAY 10TH

We will celebrate
mothers and honor the
women in our
congregation and all
the ways they
nurture our community.
Each woman will
receive a plant and
the choir is singing!



Ascension Sunday on May 17th

Holy Communion - Family Sunday - Glenn Fisher featured on Flute

Pentecost

Sunday May 24th



CELEBRATE THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Worship will include a

Memorial Day Moment

featuring a time of prayer and a patriotic medley sung by our choir to honor military personnel who have died while serving our country,

SUNDAY MAY 31ST

Several new members are joining Longswamp this day and we will baptize Emelia Hummel.



Teaching What We Believe



A new women's study group at Longswamp UCC, born from our most recent Lent study, seeking to grow in faith by visiting local spiritual sites

Next Meeting:

Wednesday May 27th

- 10:00 am - Meet at Longswamp UCC
- 11:00 am - Private Tour of Central Moravian Church and the Old Chapel in Historic Downtown Bethlehem
- 12:30pm - Lunch & Discussion at Fegely's Brew Works in Bethlehem

Please RSVP to Pastor Kim or Maggie by May 17th!

Pre-Confirmation Sessions

Youth (in the Middle School age range) are called to join us as we begin our Confirmation



Journey. We will be meeting a few times this Spring & Summer to get to know each other and ready ourselves for Confirmation to officially begin in the Fall!

May 17th After Church: Lunch & Scavenger Hunt

Summer Retreat & Service Days: Thursday June 25th & Monday July 20th

9am to 3pm both days

Weekly Confirmation Class at 8:30am officially begins Sept 13th! A full schedule for parents will be released this summer!

Children's CHURCH

There is something for kids and families every Sunday at Longswamp UCC!

On Sundays kids begin in worship and, after the Children's Message, head to our Sunday School program called Children's Church. Kids of all ages can join the teachers in the Preschool Room for Bible Stories, crafts, games, and more. Kids are also always welcome to stay in worship with their families. .

Once a month, on Communion Sunday, we will have having Family Sundays! There will be no Children's Church, instead families can worship together. Plus, the children can more fully participate in communion. ***We will have two Family Sundays this month - one on May 3rd to fill our CWS Kid's Kits and one on May 17th for Communion. The other Sundays in May there will be Children's Church/Sunday School.***

Kids are always welcome in our PrayGround! We now have a special area for kids in the front left of the sanctuary to quietly play, learn, and participate in worship in ways that suit kids best! This area will have extra activities on Family Sundays, but will be available every Sunday for any kids who choose not to attend Children's Church. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kim!



LLC News



The school year is almost over and we are looking forward to summer. We have been blessed with fairly nice weather this spring and have been going outside as much as we can! Even the after school program spends a lot of their time outside once school is over for the day. Preschool graduation is coming up at the end of May and we have 10 students who will be graduating! We also have a lot of transitions coming up, with some of the younger children moving up to the preschool room. Things are always changing here at LLC.

Our Summer Camp program is Space themed this year! The campers will be getting the full space effect, from going to "Training Camp" to blasting off to the moon (launching homemade rockets) to meeting some curious creatures (going to see Seussical the Musical at Muhlenberg College). Everyone is sure to have a fun time! We also have a full house this year with absolutely NO space left in our summer camp program.

Thank you to Mr. Daniel for building the gazebo on the playground! It has provided some much-needed shade after some trees were removed and acts as a safe space for the children to play under.

LUCC's "Acting" Ministry Theme for 2026 "Doing God's Work in Today's World."



Most of **Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) Basic Support** dollars remain in our Conferences to help local congregations thrive. Direct support in Conferences comes through leadership initiatives, such as communities of practice, committees on ministry, and one-on-one mentoring. The National Ministries of the UCC, a crucial partner of our Conference and each congregation, helps us put love into action, especially through ministry that no one congregation could do alone.



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

Brandywine Food Pantry Local Mission - May 2026



Let's reach out and support the Brandywine Food Pantry by purchasing various personal care items, paper products and household/cleaning supplies for people in need. Our May 2026 mission for the local food pantry

will run from Sunday, May 10, 2026 until Sunday, May 31, 2026. The Brandywine Food Pantry is housed at St. Peter's UCC in Topton.

These donated items are most needed right now: paper products (paper towels, tissues, toilet tissue), personal care items (body wash, shampoo/conditioner), and cleaning products (dish soap, laundry detergent - small bottles).

Please deposit your donations for the Brandywine Food Pantry in the appropriately marked boxes in the sanctuary or in the bell room. If you would rather give a mission offering, please put it in your May mission envelope (dated May 17, 2026) or a plain white envelope (with your name and Brandywine Food Pantry written on it) and put it in the offering basket during our Sunday morning worship services or in the locked offering box in the bell room (open during the week from 6:30 AM - 5:30 PM), or mail it to the church.

Please contact Jill Shade (484-894-0636; jill.shade@longswampucc.org) if you have any questions/ concerns about our May 2026 local mission for the benefit of the Brandywine Food Pantry. Also, feel free to contact LUCC's very own Pastor Kim or Sue or Al Lishman, who are members of the Brandywine Food Pantry Board.

Church World Service Kids' Kits National/Global Mission Update - April 2026

Please make plans to join us on Sunday, May 3, 2026 as we wrap up our April 2026 mission by assembling Church World Service Kids' Kits during the 10:15 AM worship service! Hope to see you there!





cookies for a cause

MAY 16TH, 2026
10AM-2PM
@MERTZTOWN MARKET

Any shopper who donates a non-perishable food item, personal care item, household product, paper product, or monetary donation will receive a small bag of homemade cookies!

Benefitting LUCC's May Mission for the Brandywine Food Pantry.

If you're interested in volunteering to help at the table or bake cookies, please contact Jill Shade.

Phone: 484-894-0636
Email: jill.shade@longswampucc.org



Leadership Updates

KITCHEN REFRESH

We are looking to finish the Kitchen Refresh we started back in 2024! Most of the work is already done; we sanded and painted the cabinets and installed new counters. All that's left to do is install new backsplash to replace the old broken ones we currently have! A work group will be getting together during the week of May 4th to install the new tile. Please contact Leo for specifics on dates and times if you're interested in helping! (leodesrosiers1@outlook.com)

SUMMER IS COMING

COME VISIT LUCC'S WALKING TACO STAND AT

Swampfest!



June 13th  11am-5pm

At the Longswamp Park

Activities run all day throughout the Longswamp Park. Our stand will be open from 11am-5pm or until food runs out! Fireworks will start at dusk.

If you're interested in helping at the Taco Stand or in the kids area, please contact Maggie in the church office!



SAVE the DATE All-Church Picnic in the Pavilion
Sunday August 2nd
After Worship

*Hot dogs and drinks provided. Bring sides and dessert to share.
Crafts & games for all ages - including water activities*



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!



Join Longswamp UCC for a fun time of fellowship at an Iron Pigs Game!

Sunday July 12th - Game Time 1:15 pm

Kids Run the Bases after the game.

Our seats are in Section 119 near the playground.

You must reserve tickets with Pastor Kim - cost is \$13 per ticket.

Info coming soon about our Joshua Summer Bible
Study to prepare for our trip to Sight and Sound!
Don't forget to reserve your tickets!!!



LUCC Bus trip to

SIGHT & SOUND
THEATRES



JOSHUA

LIVE ON STAGE

Date: August 14, 2026
3PM showtime

Cost: \$126 for adults
\$65 Children
(under 13)

Cost includes ticket to see the show, bus charges, and dinner at Hershey Farms Smorgasbord. Bus will leave promptly at 12:45pm and return around 8-8:30pm.

Please contact Maggie in the church office by phone or email to reserve your spot! We have 50 tickets available.

Family and friends are welcome!

secretary@longswampucc.org

610-682-6230

Family & Community Updates

May Birthdays

- May 1-** Coralie Eck
May 2- Suzette Ward, Annabelle Weller
May 3- Melissa Graham, Sarah Marburger
May 9- Frederick Dankel
May 10- Alex Jenkins
May 13- Tyler Reed
May 15- Raymond Conrad, Jr.
May 19- Tim Masenheimer
May 21- Brandan Clark, Claire DeLong, Robert Caldwell
May 22- Barbara Weller
May 25- Zach Rachor
May 30- Robert Dierolf
May 31- Tim Long

May Anniversaries

- May 3, 2014-** Andrew & Heather Shoemaker
May 12, 2007- Art & Jen George
May 18, 1985- Dean & Diane Shoemaker
May 20, 1995- Barry & Coralie Eck
May 25, 2018- Alex & Riana Jenkins
May 29, 1999- Andrew & Jessica Steventon
May 31, 1980- Sheila & Steve Fox

Dear Friends of LUCC,

We want to thank everyone for the cards, letters, and gift bags. Especially Bob Friedly, Reverend Kim, and Shirley Solt. Their blessings, prayers, and kindness were greatly appreciated.

*Sincerely,
Bob and Fern*

Thank you for thinking of me this Easter. Also thanks for the flowers, card, and bag full of goodies. Also thanks to my friend for her visit, kindness, and laughter. I'm grateful for all your prayers, cards, and get-well thoughts. We're all looking forward to a warm spring.

Fondly, Doris Epting

Thank you for the beautiful cards and for the love and support you gave to my Mom for so many years. Thank you to everyone who helped with her beautiful service-- setting up, planning, singing, speaking, and praying. It was exactly as she would have wanted it. I thank you for that.

Diane Carter & Family

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!

Prayers Needed



Church Family Prayer Needs: George Unger, Ramona Romanik, Wilma Lease, Karen Friedly, Annabelle Weller, Doris Epting, Bob Fritz, Fern Fritz

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

Church Friends Prayer Needs: Martin Bilger, Karen McPherson, Matt Von Detto, Robin Hoffman, Barbara Jennings, The Dolan Family, Charlie Boyer, Anna Mae Kercher

LOOKING FAR AHEAD.....



Sunday September 13th - Special Sunday Celebrating the Longswamp Learning Center's 40th Anniversary (and the official start of the new Sunday School Year)

Saturday September 26th - Our Annual Barn Dance at Savidge Farms!

Church Business

March 2026 Financials

Message from the Treasurer

Income and Expenses

Member Giving:	\$8,146.50
Other Income:	\$7,481.31
Transfer from BF Checking:	\$7,881.05
Total Income	\$23,508.86
Expenses:	\$17,819.17
Net Income:	\$5,689.69
Building Fund Expenses:	\$8,666.05

Included in member giving for missions are \$193 for Our Church's Wider Mission, \$107 for Internal Missions (Wish List.), \$272 for the Egg Hunt, \$140 for the March mission and \$100 for the April mission. Included in Other income is \$5,200 (2 months) for the Learning Center facility use fee, \$2,281.31 for the cell tower lease fee and a transfer of funds of \$7,881.05 from the Building Fund checking to cover campus maintenance expenses. Included in General Fund expenses are \$6,023.50 for the quarterly church insurance package premium, \$493 for cleaning, and \$1,364.55 for electric service. Included in Building Fund expenses are \$785 for heating oil and a transfer of \$7,881.05 to the General Fund.

Account Balances as of 3/24/2026

General Fund Checking:	\$38,380.22
Contingency Fund Checking:	\$3,022.67
Memorial Fund Checking:	\$15,300.21
Building Fund:	\$2,990.29
Building Fund Checking:	\$62,317.50

Church Staff

- Pastor** - Rev. Kimberly Berenottopastorkim@longswampucc.org.....610-401-1847
Office Administrator & Newsletter Editor - Maggie Isamoyer...secretary@longswampucc.org
LLC Director - Sharon Wetzelsharon@longswamplearningcenter.com.....610-682-9750
Church Board President - Vern Shade.....vern.shade@longswampucc.org
Maintenance Manager - Daniel Dolich.....daniel.dolich@longswampucc.org

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Our Newsletter

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