

Longswamp United Church of Christ

March 9th, 2025 ~ 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- Sarah Marburger

Reader- John Samuelson

First Sunday in Lent

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

MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

"I Never Walk Alone"

Ackley

"In The Upper Room"

Gaither

"I Have Found A Hiding Place"

Muller

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

People: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into uncomfortable places.

Leader: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation.

People: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into uncomfortable choices and understandings.

Leader: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

People: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by Christ, worshipping the Lord our God.

***HYMN**

Lord, Who Throughout

#200

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

All: Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. The places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you; where our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will. Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you. Forgive us when we are tempted to work more toward the benefit of ourselves than others. Forgive us when we fail to allow Christ's humility to guide us. Forgive us when we try to influence and control others as a means to satisfy our own needs. Strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season; that we may put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did. This we pray in his name. Amen

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: We confess with our lips and in our hearts! Hear the Good News of Christ Jesus!

People: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. 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 and then they can follow our Sunday School teachers to Children's Church located in the Education Building. Children's Church includes bible stories, crafts, games and more. Sunday School is for kids of all ages, but we welcome families to stay together in worship if that is what you prefer.

***HYMN**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

#522

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 23 & Luke 4:1-13

SPECIAL MUSIC

Spirit Of The Living God

Iverson

Theresa Haffner-Stearns, vocals & guitar

SERMON

"Christ in the Wilderness"

Pastor Kim

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*

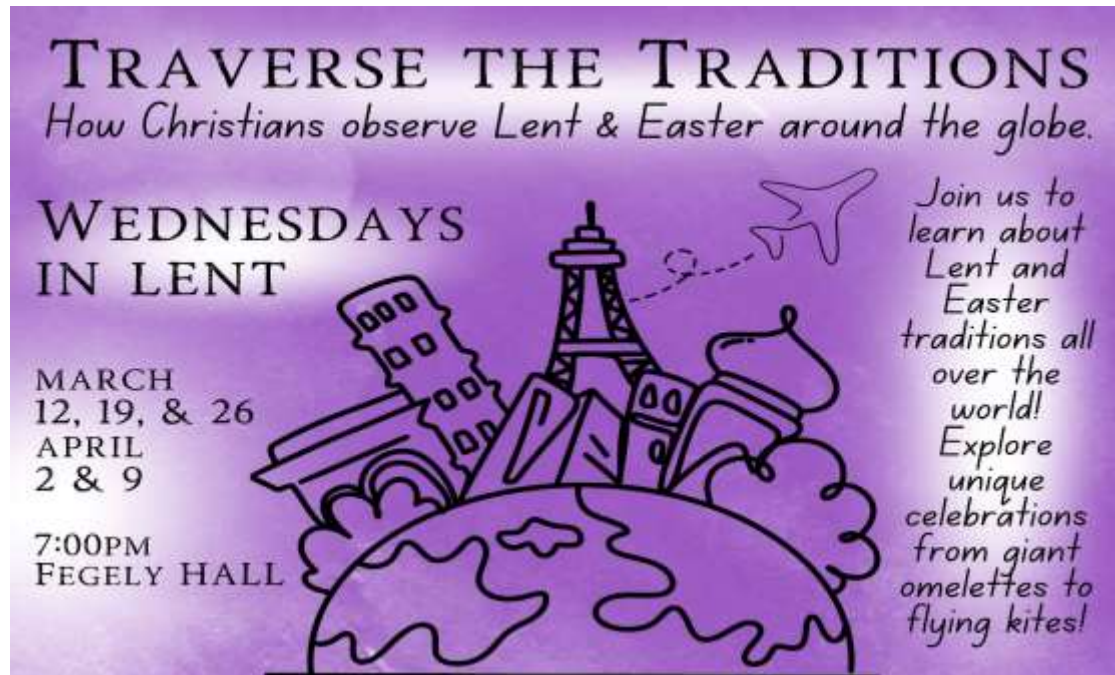
***OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
All: God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves: May we live with generous hearts and with open hands. Amen

***HYMN** *Tell Me the Story of Jesus* #199

BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC *"Postlude"* Battman

Call to Worship adapted from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman. Confession adapted from Liturgies Online by Moira Laidlaw. Offering Prayer adapted from Spacious Faith by Joanna Harader.



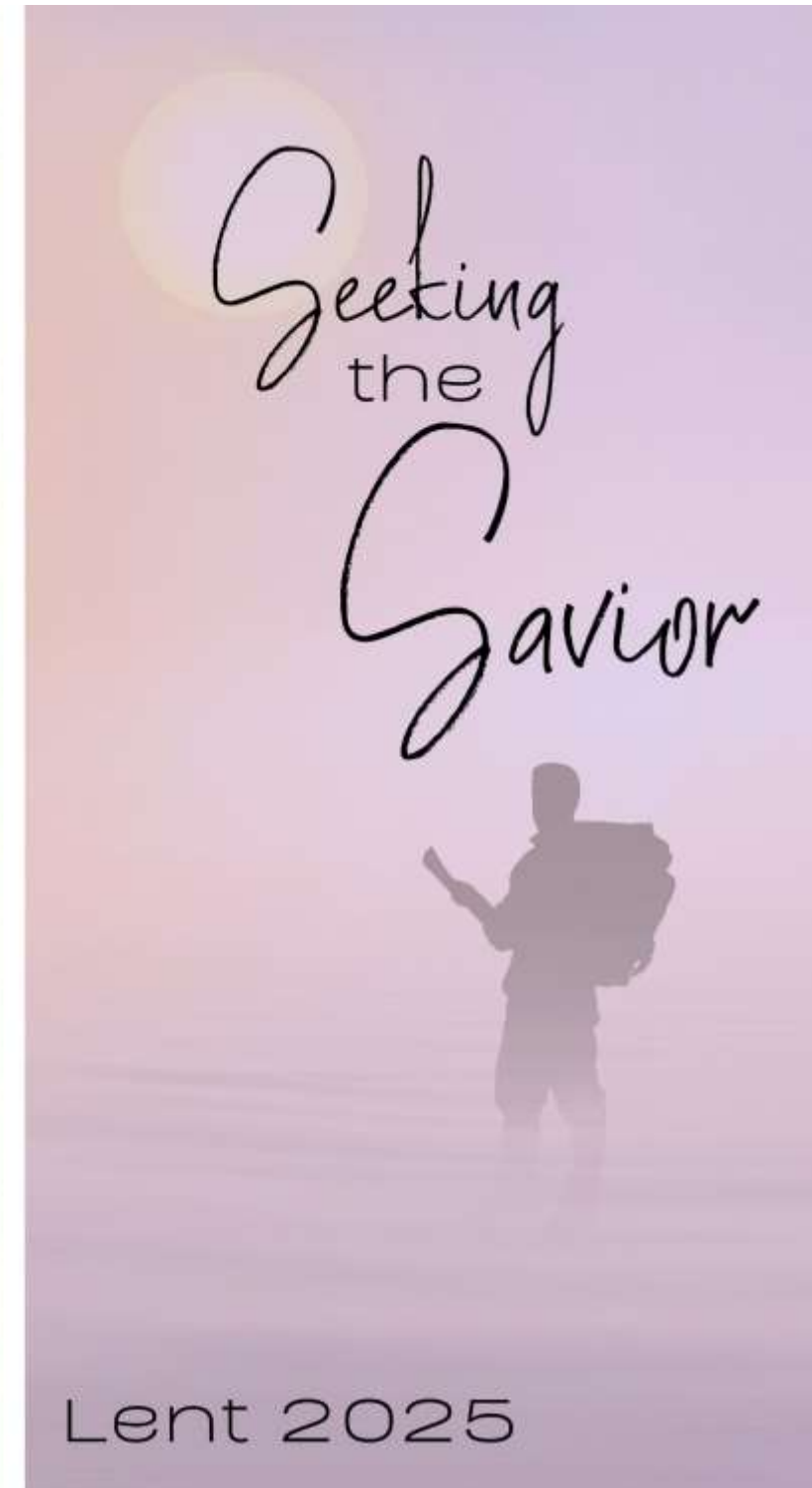
TRAVERSE THE TRADITIONS
How Christians observe Lent & Easter around the globe.

**WEDNESDAYS
IN LENT**

MARCH
12, 19, & 26
APRIL
2 & 9

7:00PM
FEGELY HALL

Join us to learn about Lent and Easter traditions all over the world! Explore unique celebrations from giant omelettes to flying kites!



WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- March 9th-15th, 2025

Altar flowers and bulletins are given to the Glory of God and are in loving memory of Althea and Jeannette Walbert.

Thanks for worshiping with us for the first Sunday in Lent! Today begins our Lenten worship series, "Seeking the Savior" and companion series, "Where in the World is Pastor Kim?" Thank you to Theresa Haffner-Stearns for singing for us today!

Sharing Our Faith

Looking ahead... On March 16th, we will celebrate the baptisms of the Shoemaker children and partake in Holy Communion. March 23rd, the Children's Choir will be singing. And March 30th, we will be joined by a brass duo from Kutztown University. It's an action-packed month that all leads up to Easter Sunday in April!

Please sign the Easter card for the senior saints in the narthex! These cards will be given to each senior saint along with a small gift from LUCC. Gifts will be available to take to the senior saints the week of March 30th.

The PNEC Spring Conference Meeting is coming up on May 3rd at Neffs Union Church in Schnecksville. You may attend either in person or by Zoom. One of the agenda items is a vote to accept the proposed Constitution and Bylaws for the new, statewide Keystone Conference. Zoom Town Hall meetings to discuss these documents, and get a preview of how the new conference will function, are scheduled for March 18th at 6:30 pm or March 19th at 1:30pm, and April 1st at 6:30pm or April 2nd at 2:00pm. Also, you may join a brief Lenten prayer time by Zoom on Thursdays @ noon March 6 thru April 10. You may register for any of the above by signing up with the Conference office at 610-826-3113.

Teaching What We Believe

Our Sunday School, Children's Church, runs weekly during the church service. All kids begin in church and, after the Children's Message, they can follow our Sunday School teachers to the Preschool Room for stories, games, crafts, and more. If you have questions about Children's Church or would like to volunteer, please speak with Pastor Kim.

Looking FAR ahead, we are planning a trip to see the 30th Anniversary of "Noah" at Sight and Sound! The date is August 1st, with the bus leaving around 1pm, and we only have about 10 tickets left! The cost is \$112 per adult and \$62 for kids ages 2-13, which includes the ticket and dinner at Hershey Farms Smorgasbord. Please let Maggie in the church office know you're interested to reserve your spot!

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

There's a tree growing in the narthex! Okay, it might be made out of paper and glue but it's still important! That tree has a whole bunch of leaves that each represents a volunteer job here at LUCC. Throughout the month of March, we will be celebrating LUCC in the community through "Community Connections." Not only do we have a new Community Connections Team to foster relationships throughout the local area, we also are looking for volunteers to pledge their time and talents at the many events we have here at LUCC! If you're interested in helping out, just pluck a leaf from the tree and use it as a reminder that Longswamp UCC isn't possible without YOU!

Our March Mission is the Community Easter Egg Hunt! The whole month of March, we will be filling eggs for the Community Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 13th. There will be bags of eggs separated by age groups in the narthex. If you're interested in filling a bag(s), please take them home with you and put age-appropriate toys or snacks in them. Please NO loose candy (loose jelly beans, M&M's, etc)! All candy must be individually wrapped to ensure the safety of the younger children and anyone with allergies. Monetary donations are also appreciated and will go towards the hot dogs/snacks for the luncheon.

Longswamp UCC Business

Hard copies of our newsletter can be found on the left side table in the narthex by the front door when leaving the sanctuary. Online copies are available on our website or, if you'd like to join the email list, just email the church office.

Interested in sponsoring altar flowers and bulletins? There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for sign-ups and sponsor info. The cost is \$50 per week, which covers two vases of altar flowers and the bulletins.