

Longswamp United Church of Christ

September 20, 2026 ~ 10:15 am

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Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, Pastor Greeter: Will Miller
Ministry Partners: Head Usher: Vern Shade
Reader: Bob Friedly

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

MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Gracious Lord, how shall we do your will today?
People: In acts of praise and song.
Leader: In gifts and spirit shared.
People: In prayers and petitions lifted.
Leader: God, help us trust in you.
People: Help us listen to your word.
Leader: Bless this community gathered here.
People: Encourage us and comfort us.
Leader: Unite us in worship.
People: Make our joy complete.

*HYMN *I Love To Tell the Story* #498

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

All: God of patience, we, your people, grow weary. We often complain and question. We put you to the test. Our mouths say yes, but our deeds say no. When we wander off your path, when we fail to follow through on our good intentions, when we give our attention to trivial things; gently call us back to you, Holy Lord. Empty our hearts of anger and pride. Empty our souls of greed and

selfishness. Empty our minds of envy and doubt. As you poured out your very self through your beloved Son, pour your Spirit into our hearts today. Forgive us and reclaim us with your love. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our God is patient, steadfast, and understanding. The Lord knows our hearts inside and out.
People: God’s forgiveness strengthens us to walk as disciples and trust in God’s mercy. 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 Communion Sunday so everyone stays in church together! Kids are welcome to sit with their families or engage in worship and some extra activities from our Playground.

*HYMN *Make Me A Servant* #653

RESPONSIVE READING (INSPIRED BY PSALM 25:1-9)

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
People: I trust in you, God: Do not let me be put to shame.
Leader: Do not make us wait on you, Holy One.
People: Let me know your ways and teach me your paths.
Leader: Lord, lead me in truth and teach me.
People: For you are the Lord of salvation; I wait for you all day long.
Leader: Be merciful, O God, and show me your steadfast love.
People: Do not remember the sins and transgressions of my youth.
Leader: Remember me for the sake of your goodness and according to your love.
People: Our Creator is good and upright, he instructs the humble in what is right and teaches us his ways.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 21:23-32

SERMON “Authority & Action” Pastor Kim

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYERS

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is always right to give the Lord our thanks and praise; for God created the earth; made humankind in his image to live on this beautiful planet. God reminded us of his everlasting love and power through prophets and teachers. When we turned away from God’s mighty words and deeds, following power, greed, and violence, God reached out to us through his son, Jesus Christ. Jesus lived, died, and rose again so we may claim the promise of eternal life in God’s kingdom. The Lord speaks to us, still today, sharing his love and promise through the movement of the Holy Spirit and generations of faithful saints who have gone before us. So we sing together for the sake of God’s story and our place within it:

SUNG RESPONSE

#2

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

REMEMBERING THE STORY

Leader: On the night before Jesus died, he gathered his friends.....By eating this bread and drinking this cup we participate in the mystery of our faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All:Loving and merciful Lord, thank you for gathering us around your table. By your word we are nourished. By your hand we are fed. Turn our hearts to you now, God, as we share our gratitude for this meal and pray that we might be encouraged to go out into the world prepared and ready for lives of discipleship. 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 abundance, you fill us with good things; you satisfy our thirst; you meet our every need. From your rock, our blessings flow. Accept what we give in return: our hearts, our hands, our gifts, our love. Use them to answer the cries of a world in need. Amen.

*HYMN *In The Cross of Christ I Glory* #209

BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC *Here Am I, Send Me* *March/Towsend*

Portions of Worship adapted from From The Abingdon Worship Annual, edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu, Copyright © Abingdon Press posted on Ministry Matters.



WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- September 20th-26th, 2026

Thank you for joining us for worship on this Communion Sunday! Next Sunday, Sept. 27th, we will have worship at 10:15 am and will feature special music from the choir. All are welcome!

Sharing Our Faith

The Barn Dance is THIS Saturday, 9/26, from 5:30pm-9pm! If you haven't already reserved your tickets, make sure you fill out the form on our website or call/email Maggie in the office ASAP. They're going quickly and this year's event is less than a week away!

Today we welcome our ten newest members [Casey Jones and Ben Dirs and their children, Luke and Mila; Carolynne Eichler and Robert Caldwell and their daughter Elora; Sandy Hoffman; Debbie Shewell and her daughter Emma Hummel; Jim Gibson; and Jessica and Matthew Salvaterra and their daughters, Serafina and Evangeline]. Several of our members have been serving as Secret Church Friends for our new members and have provided three small gifts and/or deeds of kindness since Sunday, August 30. The Secret Church Friends will reveal their identity to our new members during the Passing of the Peace today.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to our twelve members who served as Secret Church Friends for our ten newest members. Your willingness to welcome our newest members by providing three anonymous gifts for them is greatly appreciated.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month! We're going to celebrate everything that Pastor Kim does for us after the worship service on Sunday, October 4, 2026. We're in need of specific refreshments for this time of fellowship. Please sign up in the narthex if you're willing to provide one of Pastor Kim's favorite snacks. Please join us for fellowship on October 4, 2026 and say "thank you" to Pastor Kim.

Let's show our five members who are furthering their education that we really support them by preparing a care package for each of them. We're hoping that some of our members will be willing to donate items that we're planning to include in their care packages. The sign-up sheet for the items is on a clipboard in the narthex. Please return all items no later than Sunday, October 11, 2026. Also, please sign the card (on another clipboard in the narthex) for our five LUCC members who are currently furthering their education. The cards will be included in the care packages which will be sent in the next few weeks.

Teaching What We Believe

There is no Children's Church today since it's a Holy Communion and Family Sunday. Children are welcome to experience worship in their own way in our Playground at the front of the sanctuary. There are also some extra activities this week in the Playground. Children's Church will return next week.

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

Our September internal mission is a two part mission. First, let's help celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Longswamp Learning Center by collecting donations of tissues and paper towels, which are items that are constantly used at LLC. We will be collecting paper towels and gentle/extra soft tissues for the LLC until **Wednesday, September 30, 2026**. Please deposit your donations in the boxes on the round table behind the piano. Please contact Jill Shade (jill.shade@longswampucc.org; 484-894-0636) if you have any questions about our September 2026 mission. We're very proud of the wonderful work that the **Longswamp Learning Center** has done for the families of our local community over the past 40 years.

The second half of our September mission is the Barn Dance! We need your help to make our 3rd annual Barn Dance a great time for everyone! We can always use volunteers to help out with set up/clean up and decorating. We will tentatively be meeting at the church around 3pm to load tables/chairs and then making our way over to Savidge Farms after. If this changes this week, we will let our volunteers know. Thank you to everyone who already signed up to donate a raffle basket, a bake sale item, or to volunteer in any way. Please drop all raffle baskets off at the church by Friday, September 25th, or make arrangements with Charlene Rachor. Monetary donations are also always appreciated and can be placed in your September mission envelope. Thank you so much for your support!

Support

Longswamp Learning Center is hosting a Daisy Kettle Corn fundraiser! There are lots of different flavors to choose from and it's a great way to get some yummy popcorn while also supporting LLC. Forms are in the narthex. If you're interested, please take one and return them to the office by this Wednesday, September 23rd.

Longswamp UCC Business

Next week's Head Usher: Leo Desrosiers

Next Week's Greeter: Leo Desrosiers

Next week's Reader: Nathan/Sophie Wegner

AN OLD FASHION FAMILY BARN DANCE



Saturday September 26th

**5:30 pm to 9:00 pm
@ Savidge Farms**



**-FOOD & DRINKS - KID'S ACTIVITIES - HAYRIDE -
CORN MAZE --CAMPFIRE & SMORES - BASKET RAFFLE-**

**LIVE MUSIC BY
MIKE & LINDA HERTZOG
AND DANCE CALLER
LESTER MILLER**

Wear your barn dance best and join us for fall family fun!
Sponsored by Longswamp United Church of Christ.



**TICKETS ARE LIMITED!
\$5 PER ADULT - KIDS ARE FREE!
CALL: 610-682-6230
VISIT: WWW.LONGSWAMPUCC.ORG**