



Longswamp United Church of Christ

The Beacon

November 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

**December Newsletter
Deadline: Tuesday,
November 17th**

Contact Us

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

From the Pastor

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto



One of the things I find most reassuring about following Christ is the range of human emotions he experienced. God put on flesh, became human, to know what it's like to walk alongside us. Our God knows tears, laughter, anger, and more. Society puts pressure on us to show up with a smile; to wear a facade that is put-together, positive, and looks forward without fear. However, this isn't a realistic thing to do every day.

November can feel heavy. We begin with All Saints' Day – where we honor the grief we still carry from those family and friends we've lost in the past. Daylight Savings Time ends, which enters us into the darkest days of the year. Veterans' Day brings us the reality of a world that is still entrenched in violence and war. We cap all of this off at the end of November with a mandate to be thankful and the pressure and stress that comes with the approaching Christmas season.

Sometimes we all need reassurance that whatever we feel is ok. Especially at church, you can show up exactly as you are, holding grief and tears, stress and anxiety, joy and laughter, anger and frustration, or a little of each at the same time.

We can be assured of this further because Jesus experiences it all too. Jesus wept over the loss of his friend Lazarus (John 11:35). Jesus was so stressed while praying in the garden his sweat felt like drops of blood and he yelled at the disciples for taking a nap (Luke 22:44-46). Jesus experienced joy when the disciples returned to him with successful reports of their teaching and healing (Luke 10:17-21). And Jesus was certainly angry when he flipped over a money-changer's table in the temple because they were taking advantage of folks in-need of prayers and support (Matthew 21:12-13).

That is only a few examples of the fullness of Jesus' humanity – the Gospels have many more! Our scripture does not teach us that emotions are something to hide, but recognizes the full spectrum of human feelings. God does not push away those experiencing painful and overwhelming feelings, but pulls them closer. And God calls us to do the same; God calls us toward empathy and care.

So, in this season when darkness feels close, yet our society wants us to string holiday lights on all of our struggles – you can show up here however you need to.

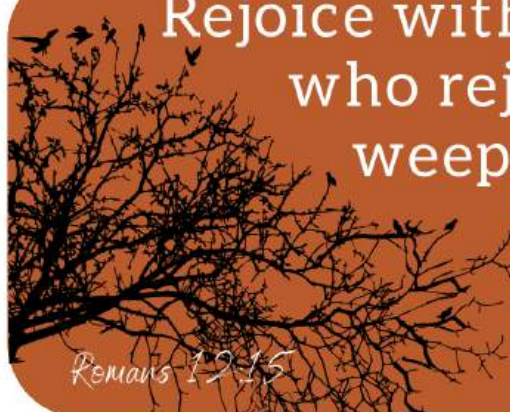
The Lord is near to
the brokenhearted
and saves the
crushed in
spirit.

Psalm 34:18



Rejoice with those
who rejoice;
weep with
those
who
weep.

Romans 12:15



Sharing Our Faith

November 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.

November 1st- All Saints' Sunday, Choir Anthem

November 8th- Veteran's Day, we will be joined by the Boy Scouts and the Topton Legion Honor Guard

November 15th- Holy Communion, Family Sunday, Baptism of Chance Strunk

November 22nd- Thanksgiving Sunday, Congregational Meeting after church

November 29th- 1st Sunday of Advent, Glenn on flute

November Altar Flower Sponsors

November 1st- In honor of Jill Shade's Birthday, given by Vern Shade.

All Saints' Day

Join us in worship November 1st to remember and honor all those we've lost this year.



We will light a candle and toll the bell for each church member who has passed this year. You are welcome to bring a candle to add to the altar for your own loved ones who have died this year or in years past.

November Ministry Partners

Greeters

Nov 1- Chris Freudig

Nov 8- Willard Miller

Nov 15- Bob Friedly

Nov 22- Justin Smith

Nov 29- Theresa Haffner-Stearns

Head Ushers

Nov 1- Chris Freudig

Nov 8- Willard Miller

Nov 15- Bob Friedly

Nov 22- Justin Smith

Nov 29- Theresa Haffner-Stearns

Readers

Nov 1- Sue Lishman

Nov 8- none needed

Nov 15- Jill Shade

Nov 22- John Samuelson

Nov 29- Sadie Moser

Veterans DAY SERVICE

Sunday November 8th

We will be joined by the Boy Scouts and Topton Legion Honor Guard to salute our veterans.

Family Communion Sunday November 15th



Baptism of Chance Strunk

Thanksgiving Service

& Congregational Budget Meeting

Sunday November 22nd



Join us for worship, and then, directly following the service, our annual Congregational Meeting. We will approve the 2027 budget and vote on new board members and committee members.



Advent begins

Sunday November 29th

Join us as we enter the season of preparation for Christ's birth. We will light our Advent Wreath and Glenn Fisher joins us on flute.



Save the Date for these other Sundays of Advent....

December 6th - 2nd Sunday of Advent: The [Christmas] Gifts of the Spirit

December 13th - 3rd Sunday of Advent: In A Galilee Far Far Away (Christmas Musical)

December 20th - 4th Sunday of Advent: Moravian Love Feast

Rehearsals continue for this year's Christmas Musical: "In A Galilee Far Far Away"

SUNDAYS in November after church
MONDAYS in November at 6:30 pm





GUTEN TAG!!

By the time this newsletter is published, we will have held this year's Trunk or Treat. Planning is well underway for the November Food Sale (11/14), the annual Congregational Meeting (11/22), and the Christmas Play (12/13.) Before I get ahead of myself, I need to tell you about the end of September and beginning of October happenings at the church.

September 20th was a Holy Communion and Family Sunday. Additionally, the Secret Church Friends revealed their identities to our newest members. Thank you to the twelve members who served as Secret Church Friends. We welcome our ten newest members and their families to the life of the church!

On Saturday September 26th, we held our third annual Barn Dance at Savidge Farms. Even though the day was wet and dreary, the event was well supported and all who attended thoroughly enjoyed the dancing, fellowship, and camaraderie. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, donated raffle baskets or bake sale items, gave monetary mission offerings, or helped out in any way to make this gathering a huge success!

On September 27th, the choir prayerfully sang an all-time favorite anthem titled "How Long Has It Been?" Plus, our primary September mission for the benefit of the Longswamp Learning Center was winding down. Thank you to everybody who donated extra soft tissues and paper towels. The response was overwhelming and much appreciated by the Learning Center.

October 4th was World Communion Sunday. We learned about and then shared different breads from around the world. Coincidentally, earlier in the morning, the confirmation class studied about the two Sacraments of the United Church of Christ, communion and baptism. Glenn Fisher played the flute and presented a beautiful arrangement of "Give Thanks." Pastor Appreciation Day was also marked. A special time of fellowship was held following worship to honor Pastor Kim, thanking her for all that she does for the church. Thank you to everyone who prepared Pastor Kim's favorite treats and to all who stayed to enjoy the celebration!

October 11th was Harvest Home Sunday. The choir provided a lovely selection, "We Bring Our Thanks." Many thanks to the Altar Guild who gorgeously decorated the sanctuary and to all who brought grocery items. The food and household items will be given to Friend Inc. Community Services along with all the goods and monetary donations collected at our Cookies for a Cause event which was held at Ashi's Mertztown Market on Saturday, October 17.

October 18th was another busy day as an infant was baptized during worship. Before church, the Property Committee met & the Confirmands had class. After worship, the Church Board held a meeting, turkeys were being cooked for the food sale, and there was play practice at 5 pm.

Thank you to everyone for supporting all of our early fall activities. Our October worship series was about God's Abundance, called "Overflowing." We learned that Harvest Home has deep ties to our German Heritage and is a time where we thank God for our bounteous harvest. Let us then be thankful for ALL the blessings that God gives us each and every day. Until the next time, Mach's gut und Auf Wiedersehen!



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

1st Sunday of each month- Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

What is OCWM? Most of 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 Conferences 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/>)



Ongoing Mission for the Brandywine Food Pantry

Please consider helping the food-insecure residents of the Brandywine Heights Area School District by dropping off your donations of non-perishable food items, personal care items, household items, cleaning supplies, etc. before or after our worship services on Sunday mornings, or during the week from 6:30 AM until 5:30 PM (when the Longswamp Learning Center is open). Please put your donations in the wicker boxes in the bell room. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the food-insecure residents of the BHASD!

Two-Part November Mission:

Part 1: Christmas Presents for Phoebe Allentown Residents

Let's share the joy of the holiday season with twenty residents of Phoebe Allentown (formerly Phoebe Home)! We are asking our members to consider providing a specific Christmas present for a resident at Phoebe Allentown. We ask that you spend a maximum of \$20 on the Christmas present you buy for the Phoebe Allentown resident. The names of the Phoebe Allentown residents and one suggested present for each person will hopefully be available

at our worship service on Sunday, November 1, 2026. Christmas presents must be dropped off at the church no later than Sunday, November 29, 2026. Thank you in advance for your support of the residents at Phoebe Allentown!



Part 2: Christmas Presents for Residents of Bethany Children's Home



Have you ever heard of Bethany Children's Home, which was established more than 160 years ago, in Womelsdorf, PA? (Womelsdorf is located 14 miles west of the city of Reading. It's very close to Lebanon County.) The mission of Bethany Children's Home is to provide a safe place of nurture, protection, and supportive care to aid their residents (ages 6 through 21 - who have experienced some level of trauma) in their self-understanding, growth, and healing toward a brighter, healthier future. Pastor Kim is the vice chairperson of the Bethany Children's Home Board of Directors.

Our November 2026 mission will be a little different this year. Let's share the joy of Christmas with the youth who reside at Bethany Children's Home. We have committed to provide twenty-five Christmas presents for some of the youth at Bethany Children's Home. We hope to distribute the names of the Bethany children and youth and their requested Christmas presents in early November. Please do not wrap the Christmas presents for the Bethany Home residents. More information about drop off will be announced soon.

Please contact Jill Shade (484-894-0636; jill.shade@longswampucc.org;) if you have any questions about providing Christmas presents for some of the residents of Bethany Children's Home.

(Parts of this article taken from: <https://www.bethanyhome.org/>)



Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who helped out with this year's Barn Dance in any way! We had a lot of volunteers who helped the day go smoothly and we also had LOTS of raffle baskets donated--20 to be exact! We sold around 140 tickets in advance, with some ticket sales on the day of the event. In total, we raised \$975 in profit at the Barn Dance, which will go into the General Fund. Our goal is never to make money but rather for everyone to have a great time and to bring the community together. Special thank you to all of our volunteers, to Mike & Linda Hertzog for providing the music, Lester Miller for providing the dance calling, Schaeffer's Catering for providing the food, Savidge farms for their wonderful venue and generosity, and the Salvaterra sisters for accompanying the Hertzogs on their fiddles!

Teaching What We Believe



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

Children's Church is the name of our Sunday School Program. See the schedule below to find out which Sundays kids will join the teachers in the Preschool Room during worship (after the Children's Message) for games, crafts, Bible Stories, and more. Sunday School is open to kids of all ages!

Your family is welcome any and every Sunday - and as always, our PrayGround will be open each week (with extra activities on the Sundays there is no Children's Church). The PrayGround is our area in the front left of the sanctuary set-up especially for kids and has fun ways for children to engage in worship.

November 1: Sunday School

November 8: Sunday School

November 15: Family Communion Sunday

November 22: Sunday School

November 29: Sunday School (1st Sunday of Advent)



LLC News

It's hard to believe it's already November! Things are status quo at the Longswamp Learning Center, with lots of fun things coming up! Our students have been busy working on harvest-related and halloween crafts, songs, and lessons. Our annual Trunk or Treat was held in the parking lot on October 23rd. Thanks to everyone who helped out or decorated a trunk of their own (right)! Our halloween parade for the LLC kiddos and their parents is on October 30th. The students will get to parade around in their costumes and sing some spooky songs. Coming up in November, the students will begin talking about Thanksgiving and getting ready for their holiday program in December!

LLC is hosting a Nothing Bundt Cakes fundraiser for the Thanksgiving season! Please have your orders back to the office by November 4th. Pickup will be right before thanksgiving, on Monday, November 23rd. Forms can be found in the narthex.



See more pictures on the next page!

Family & Community Updates

November Birthdays

Nov 2- Debbie Shewell
Nov 4- Maddie Meck, Jill Shade
Nov 7- Kyle Bower
Nov 9- Mackenzie Heagy
Nov 16- JoAnn Jones
Nov 18- Charlene Rachor
Nov 19- Anabel and Everet Smith
Nov 20- Hope Deiaco
Nov 23- Skip Lease, Kathy Shupp
Nov 27- Garrett Jenkins
Nov 28- Cooper Hapenovich
Nov 29- Jessica Steventon

Longswamp UCC-

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, gifts, and cards. Extra special thank you to Pastor Kim for her prayers and visits.

Shirley Solt

Welcome!! Briana and Adam Hapenovich welcomed their third child, a boy--Colton Andrew Hapenovich-- on October 11th. We are so excited to meet him and welcome him into our church family!



November Anniversaries

November 1, 1958- Fern & Robert Reidnauer
November 9, 1968- Norman & Susan Voortman
November 15, 1986- Christopher & Suzette Ward



Prayers Needed



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

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

Church Friends Prayer Needs: Karen McPherson, Madeline Geist

Longswamp UCC **HOMEMADE FOOD SALE**

**PICK-UP SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 14TH
11AM TO 1PM
CHURCH FRONT DOOR**



**ORDER FORMS DUE BY
NOVEMBER 1ST**

**YOU CAN ORDER ONLINE
OR VIA PAPER FORM - CALL
THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH
QUESTIONS: 610-682-6230**



Make sure you get your orders in by Sunday, November 1st! You can order online or call the church office!



**MUSEUM
OF
INDIAN
CULTURE**

You are welcome at Longswamp UCC's multi-generational Women's Group! Each month we travel to a local spiritual or cultural sight in search of knowledge and new faithful experiences that help us grow!

Our next Field Trip is planned for Wednesday November 4th and we will be going to the Museum of Indian Culture in Allentown to learn about the Lenape Tribe. We will meet at 9:15am in the parking lot and drive together to the center.

Please bring a \$5 cash donation with you for the museum. We will have lunch together afterward at The Broken Record. We will return home before 3pm.

Church Business

September 2026 Financials

Income and Expenses

Member Giving:	\$7,066.50
Other Income:	\$6,587.31
Total Income	\$13,653.81
Expenses:	\$11,167.17
Net Income:	\$2,477.64
Building Fund Expenses:	\$46,165.23
Memorial Fund Income:	\$0

Message from the Treasurer

Included in member giving for missions are \$215 for Our Church's Wider Mission and \$305 for Internal Missions. Included in Other income is \$2,600 for the Learning Center facility use fee, \$2,281.31 for the cell tower lease fee and \$1,656 in proceeds from the Barn Dance.

Included in Building Fund expenses are \$493 for cleaning, \$825 for mowing, \$541.68 for water testing and equipment maintenance, \$999 for electric service, \$283.05 for HVAC repairs, \$6,023.50 for the quarterly church package insurance premium and \$37,000 for the balance due on the church stucco project.

Account Balances as of 10/23/2026

General Fund Checking:	\$49,230.23
Contingency Fund Checking:	\$3,022.90
Memorial Fund Checking:	\$20,050.60
Building Fund:	\$2,491.80
Building Fund Checking:	\$10,679.33



Did your information change? If you have any changes to phone number, address, or email, please contact the church office to update this information. Staying up to date is the best way to stay active in the goings-on of LUCC!

Church Staff

Pastor - Rev. Kimberly Berenotto pastorkim@longswampucc.org.....610-401-1847
Office Administrator & Newsletter Editor - Maggie Isamoyer...secretary@longswampucc.org
LLC Director - Sharon Wetzel sharon@longswamplarningcenter.com.....610-682-9750
Church Board President - Vern Shade.....vern.shade@longswampucc.org
Maintenance Manager - Ray Ziegler.....raymond.ziegler@yahoo.com

Longswamp UCC

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Our Newsletter

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