

# THE LONGSWAMP UCC BEACON - MAY 2022

*Teaching, sharing and acting on what we believe.*



*Join us for worship!*  
Sundays at 10:15 am



Masks are no longer required and we have removed social distancing markers. We ask if you do not feel well to please wear a mask or choose to stay at home. The

Church Board will decide if a return to COVID precautions becomes necessary. If you wish to social distance, we encourage you to use the balcony.

[WWW.LONGSWAMPUCC.ORG](http://WWW.LONGSWAMPUCC.ORG)

## In This Issue...

- ✝ Pastor's Message
- ✝ Worship/Events Calendar
- ✝ Conference News
- ✝ LLC Happenings
- ✝ Upcoming Events
- ✝ And so much more!



**CHURCH  
OFFICE  
CLOSED**

**Monday, May 31st**

For non-emergency messages, please leave a message on the church answering machine.  
For pastoral emergencies, please leave a message on Pastor Kim's voicemail  
610-401-1847



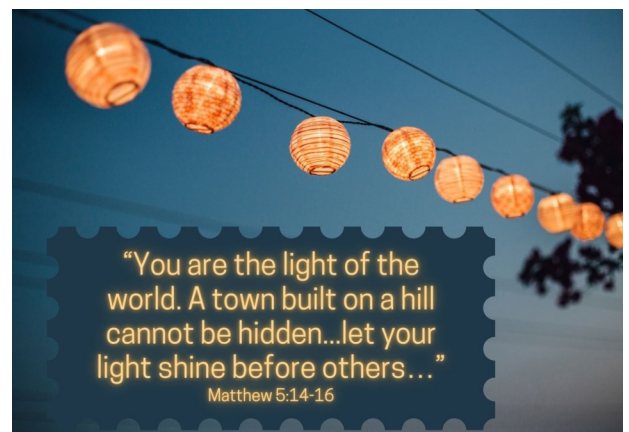
May is sort of an in-between month. Easter is over, but summer has not quite begun. For many it's a time of yard work and planting, of preparing for those summer months. Maybe you are doing some spring cleaning, opening up those windows to brush off the dust of winter. If you have children or grandchildren you might be coordinating child care or summer camps. Perhaps you're thinking about a long-awaited vacation or some time of respite.

This is the time of year church attendance tends to drop off. Jesus has Risen, so we can stay in bed on Sunday mornings! But summer is a really great time of year to embrace our community. There are more festivals and events, outdoor activities, and families seeking things to do. It's the perfect opportunity for our church to open it's doors to new folks AND to get out there and be the church in the community.

I encourage you to stay connected and not let this in-between month of May be a time you drift away. June brings with it the excitement of Confirmation and Swamp Fest – and I know I'm personally looking forward to my Installation and Alex's Baptism on June 26th at 3:00 pm. Later in the summer we have the opportunity to join with the churches in the community for Vacation Bible School in the park and outdoor worship.

We at Longswamp UCC have much to celebrate this summer within our own church walls, but God always calls us to get out there and spread the Good news. Matthew 5:14-16a says "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others..."

We thank God for our beautiful church that stands up on the hill, but in this changing of seasons let's remember to come down the hill and be God's light in the community.



# Sharing our Faith

## May Worship 2022

**Services Sundays at 10:15am**  
(unless otherwise noted)

On-site and live stream worship service ("Longswamp UCC" Facebook page) starting at 10:15am. It will be uploaded after worship to our "Longswamp United Church of Christ" YouTube Channel.

### **MAY WORSHIP CALENDAR THEMES & EVENTS:**

May 1 - Annual Meeting and Installation of Church & LLC Board Members

May 8 - Mother's Day

May 15 - Holy Communion

May 22 - Regular Sunday

May 29 - Memorial Day Weekend

**LOOKING AHEAD:** June 5th is Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday and our final 10:15 worship service before we change to the 9:00 am summer worship schedule.



**Bad Girls of the Bible**  
Study & Discussion with Pastor Kim

**Wednesdays**  
**May 11th, 18th, & 25th**  
**10:30 am or 7:00 pm**

*Join us in Fegely Hall as we learn more about the women in the Old Testament who didn't have the best reputation. There are two options each Wednesday to study with us. You pick which one works best for you.*

**10:30 am - Bible Study with brunch refreshments**  
**7:00 pm - Bible Study with themed cocktails/mocktails**





# A Leadership Update

## Conference News

At the PNEC Board meeting in March, Rev. Karl Jones, Coordinator of Disaster Ministries for PNEC and PSEC, submitted a report indicating that, when the final numbers are tabulated, the High Five Campaign will have raised more than \$5,000 to aid those in the local area impacted by natural disasters. PNEC Treasurer, Rev. Martin Nuscher, also had good financial news to report, saying the accounting for the 2021 fiscal year finished strong with the total shortfall being less than \$4,000. He also mentioned that OCWM giving was 99% of the previous year, and 94% of the budget estimate. Total expenses for 2021 were almost 99% of the previous year. The 2/28/2022 income report also showed a strong start when compared to the same point in 2021, but it is too early in the year to make predictions.

The Nominating Committee Report also showed good progress, outlining a slate of over forty individuals to be presented for an approval vote at the Conference Business meeting on May 14, 2022. It was mentioned that the Committee continued to work on securing a few more nominations to fill vacancies on the Oversight Working Group and one Board Member's unexpired term, so the report may be amended before going to the delegates. In other related business concerning the Spring Conference Meeting, there was a call for Board members to fill slots for tellers to count votes from the delegates. Those positions were all filled.

And the last bit of Board business was to determine where to donate the offering from the worship service at the meeting. After several suggestions and discussion, the Board decided to divide the offering equally between the National Church setting for support of Ukrainian residents displaced by the war, and the Lehigh Conference of Churches because they are a model of the Conference Meeting Theme of ecumenical partnerships working jointly to further mission outreach and programs for those in need.

The Board of Directors retreat will be held the following weekend on May 21<sup>st</sup>, and the tentative agenda for that gathering was shared, including :

- A training/review of the Governance and Ministry system,
- A summary of PNEC accomplishments over the past year,
- Listening to the needs and suggestions of the Ministry Team Chairs in attendance,
- Formation of a meeting calendar through spring of 2023, and
- Strategic planning for Board actions for the upcoming year

The Discernment and Visioning Team held their first meeting where they reviewed and revised their purpose statement and shared the draft of a Memorandum of Commitment created by the four Conference Ministers within Pennsylvania. The memorandum states their intent to continue to seek ways to work as partners in unity to sustain their conferences and congregations. The Team also sent the memorandum and a survey out to all pastors in the four Conferences to verify what they need the most, having agreed to address congregational needs first. They will meet again in late March.

As always, if you have any questions, you may feel free to contact Helena Lindquist at [hklindquist@ptd.net](mailto:hklindquist@ptd.net)

# Teaching What We Believe



## Longswamp Learning Center News...

### What's happening at LLC

Are you or someone you know looking for quality care and education for your children (infants - 5th grade)? Please contact Sharon Wetzel, the LLC Director, via email ([sharon@longswamplearningcenter.com](mailto:sharon@longswamplearningcenter.com)) or by calling the LLC office at 610-682-9750 to get more information about enrolling your child(ren) for the current school year.

### Lots of learning and having fun!

All of the classrooms had lots of fun celebrating Easter with crafts, stories, special treats, and egg hunts!

The infants are growing and mastering gross motor skills each and every day! Our friends are learning how to sit up with and without support! They love to play and explore all the toys in the classroom!

The nursery classroom stayed busy learning all about ducks! They enjoyed exploring the duck sensory bags filled with rubber ducks and blue water! They had fun with Easter activities, filling paper Easter baskets with cut-out paper eggs, and sticking paper eggs and pom poms to sticky paper!

The toddler classroom celebrated National Farm Animal Day on April 11th! They used plastic forks to paint baby chicks and sang *Old MacDonald Had a Farm* as they looked at the book! They played matching games by matching pictures of baby farm animals to their mothers. They celebrated Easter by painting with Easter cookie cutters, playing with a bin filled with Easter grass and plastic rabbits and carrots, and having an Easter egg hunt!

Preschool learned about clouds, rain, and rainbows! They used eye droppers filled with thin blue paint and created pictures of rain falling from the sky. They added cotton balls as clouds to their masterpieces! The children loved the rainbow experiment! Plastic cups were filled with colored water - all colors of the rainbow, and they soaked folded paper towels in each cup, connecting them. They watched as the paper towels soaked up the colors and created a rainbow! They also used paint dabbers to make beautiful rainbow artwork!

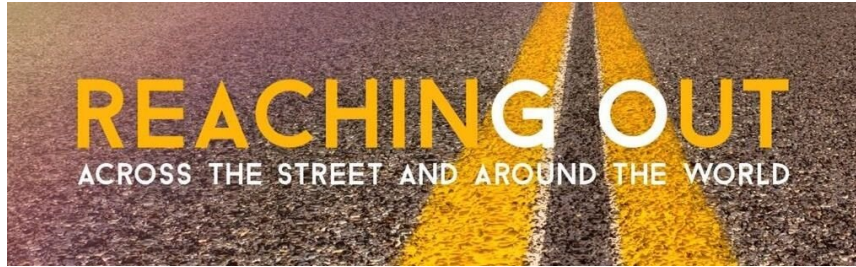
The Pre-K students had a "beary" good time visiting Kindergarten at Brandywine Heights Elementary School for Teddy Bear Day on April 6th! They did crafts, ate a snack in the cafeteria, and were so excited to ride the bus!

School-Age enjoyed Spring Break from school the week of April 11th! They took a field trip to DeSales University to see "Alice in Wonderland"! The new topic for School-Age is *Intro Into Spring!* The children began studying the signs of spring, bugs, and flowers!



# Acting on Jesus' Teachings

## LUCC's "Acting" Ministry Theme for 2022 -



### Upcoming Missions in 2022

\*\*\* Please note: LUCC's monthly missions are subject to change.

#### **March - December 2022 (1st Sunday of each month) - Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) -**

*What is Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) Basic Support offering?* OCWM is the name we give to congregational gifts that support wider UCC ministry in the national and global setting as well as in the Conference setting. The United Church of Christ emphasizes God's continuing testament in the world, the extravagant welcome of our churches, and changing lives. The ideal way to have the most impact is for UCC settings to all work together. Your gifts to OCWM help the UCC spread God's love to more people in more places than any one of us can do alone.

(taken from <https://psec.org/missions-ministries/ocwmfinancial/>)

**May 2022 - December 2022** - ongoing mission for the benefit of **Brandywine Food Pantry** - Please deposit your donations in the appropriately marked wicker tote box in the Bell Room.

**June 2022** - A new monthly mission for LUCC! We will be assembling **Welcome Backpacks** for Church World Service. When neighbors around the world are forced to leave their homes and begin a new life in various parts of the U.S., they often travel with few material possessions. Welcome Backpacks are how we ensure our newly arriving neighbors have essentials like food, water, blankets, hygiene items and a warm welcome home. (taken from: <https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/welcome-backpacks/>)

### **Local Mission - March/April 2022 LUCC's Community Family Easter Egg Hunt**

LUCC's Community Family Easter Egg Hunt was a **HUGE SUCCESS**, thanks to the very generous support of our members and friends! Approximately 150 children and adults participated in our first in-person egg hunt since 2019. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone for their very generous monetary offerings and donations (filling approximately 1,100 plastic eggs with candy, stickers, small toys, etc; 150 + hot dogs and rolls, condiments, bottled water, etc.). Also, thank you very much to our members who volunteered to help before, during, and after the egg hunt. LUCC's Community Family Easter Egg Hunt would not have been extremely successful without YOU, our members who are VERY DEDICATED to our church's MISSIONS!!!!

# Acting on Jesus' Teachings

## JOIN LONGSWAMP UCC'S SWAMP FEST TEAM!

**We will be having a BIG presence at Swamp Fest this year on June 11th, so we need your help! Not only will we be bringing back our Walking Taco Food Booth, but we'll additionally be helping to plan and run a Kid Zone game and activity area. We need volunteers for the kid's zone, food prep and sales, set up & clean up, and general outreach. Speak with Pastor Kim to join the fun!**

## Confirmation Class

Donations for the Confirmation Class serving the meal to the Homeless at Opportunity House are due by May 8th! Please bring in items and sign up for the few that are still needed! Confirmation Class retreat is May 14th from 9 AM - 3 PM.



In support of our May 2022 local mission for the benefit of the Brandywine Food Pantry, Longswamp UCC will be setting up a “**Cookies for a Cause**” table at Radcliffe’s Great Valu store from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM on Saturday, May 21, 2022. We will ask shoppers to donate at least one item (non-perishable food, personal care item, household product, or paper product) or give a monetary donation for the Brandywine Food Pantry. We will show our appreciation for their donation by giving each donor a small bag of homemade chocolate chip cookies. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to visit our “Cookies for a Cause” table at Radcliffe’s Great Valu from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

We will need volunteers to man the “Cookies for a Cause” table and/or provide small bags of homemade chocolate chip cookies. Please call Jill Shade (484-894-0636) or email her ([jill.shade@longswampucc.org](mailto:jill.shade@longswampucc.org)) to volunteer to support our May 2022 mission in a special way.



# Acting on Jesus' Teachings



## Let's reach out to our food-insecure neighbors by helping the Brandywine Food Pantry!

Our local mission for May 2022 is the **Brandywine Food Pantry**. We will collect non-perishable food, personal care items, household and paper products for the local food pantry from Sunday, May 8, -Tuesday, May 31, 2022. LUCC is one of ten community churches and four civic organizations that support the Brandywine Food Pantry. This community outreach program, which is housed at St. Peter's UCC in Topton, is open to needy families/individuals in the Brandywine Heights Area School District. The pantry is open to area residents by appointment on the first three Tuesdays of the month and the third Thursday from 9:00AM to approximately 1:00PM. Please deposit your donations for the Brandywine Food Pantry in the appropriately marked boxes on the round table behind the piano in the front corner of the sanctuary or in the bell room. If you would rather give a monetary offering, please put it in your May mission envelope (dated May 15, 2022) and drop it in the offering basket during our Sunday morning worship service, in the locked offering box in the bell room (open during the week from 6:30AM - 5:30PM), or mail it to the church.

**\*\*\* Please check the expiration dates on donated food products!**

### Donated items "most needed" right now:

Breakfast - pancake syrup

Lunch/Dinner - chili, beef stew, Chef Boyardee type canned goods (beefaroni, ravioli, lasagna, etc.), Canned meat (tuna, chicken, Spam, Treet), Ramen noodles, salad dressings, spaghetti sauce (any)

Baking/Cooking products - cooking oil, flour, sugar, evaporated milk

Snacks - chips, cookies, crackers, pretzels, pudding, etc.

Drinks - coffee, fruit juice (all kinds), hot cocoa mix

Condiments - ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, peanut butter

Personal hygiene products - body wash, shampoo

Household/ paper items - dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, tissues, toilet tissue

### The pantry can always use the following items:

Cereal (all kinds), oatmeal; Canned items such as ham salad, chicken and dumplings, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, beets, creamed style corn etc.; Instant mashed potatoes or other potato products; Pickles and vinegar; Fruit juice (grape, cranberry, apple), tea; Rice-a-Roni, Pasta side dishes; All kinds of snacks (chips, energy bars, Pop-tarts, pretzels, etc.); Marshmallow fluff; Gluten-free and/or sugar-free items; Combs, hairbrushes, shampoo/conditioner

### Items that are currently not needed:

canned vegetables (corn, mixed vegetables), tomato soup

Please contact Jill Shade via email ([jill.shade@longswampucc.org](mailto:jill.shade@longswampucc.org)) or by calling her (484-894-0636) if you have any questions about our May 2022 local mission .



# Family & Community Updates

## May Birthdays

&

## May Anniversaries

May 1 - Coralie Eck  
May 2 - Suzette Ward, Annabelle Weller  
May 3 - Sarah Marburger  
May 9 - Frederick Dankel  
May 10 - Alexander Jenkins  
May 11 - Caroline DeLong, Cooper Schubach,  
Robert "Remington" Schubach  
May 13 - Jack Ivey, Tyler Reed  
May 14 - Scott Dierolf  
May 18 - Steve Walbert  
May 19 - Timothy Masenheimer  
May 21 - Claire DeLong  
May 22 - Barbara Weller  
May 25 - Zachary Rachor  
May 31 - Timothy Long

5/10/2008 Karen & Melvin McPherson  
5/12/2007 Jennifer & Arthur George III  
5/18/1985 Diane & Dean Shoemaker  
5/20/1995 Coralie & Barry Eck  
5/25/2018 Riana & Alexander Jenkins  
5/29/1999 Jessica & Andrew Steventon  
5/31/1980 Sheila & Steven Fox

*Let's  
Celebrate*

## Thank you ....

This "thank you" note was recently received via email from Specialist Zachary R. Rachor, who is in the U.S. Army and is currently deployed in Kuwait. Zach received his care package from LUCC.

*Hello Jill and church family!*

*On behalf of myself and the rest of my buddies in my tent. Thank you so much for the care package. It helps tremendously to get even the smallest items such as toothbrushes and snacks. I cannot wait to be home and see you all again. Definitely miss the cool weather back home. I've been trying to keep up with my Bible while being deployed some days are easier than others. Thank you again for the support I cannot say thank you enough.*

*Sincerely: Zachary R Rachor*

## June 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**Tuesday, May 17th**

Please have all articles to the church office.

**Hospital Code - #451**

**Church Office Hours -  
9:30am to 2:30pm**

# Family & Community Updates



## LUCC Members Who Are Serving:

Alexander Jenkins (U.S. Army)

Zachary Rachor (U.S. Army)

## LUCC Members Who Have Served:

Raymond Conrad, Jr., Harold Dankel, Robert Fritz,  
William Charles Lantz, Richard Rachor, Jr.,

Matthew Shade, Paul Stoudt, Derek Strunk, George Unger, Francis Zettlemoyer

If you know someone who is actively serving our country or is a Veteran and would like to be added to the list, please contact the church office. Thank you.

## Longswamp Township Historical Society



AND take a self-guided tour of two of our local cemeteries. Visit the graves of Longswamp area men who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

Longswamp Union Cemetery: Intersection of State Street and Longswamp Road, Mertztown

St. Paul's Union Cemetery: Intersection of Chestnut Street and Valley Road, Mertztown

Sign holders near parking areas will indicate location of the graves; sign holders at each grave share information about each man who gave his life for freedom.

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC**



## Armed Forces Day - May 21, 2022

Armed Forces Day is a special holiday for people all over the world to come together and thank the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. The holiday began in 1950 as a single day celebration for all five branches of the United States military. It made sense due to its recent unification under the Department of Defense. Today, Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday of every May.

# Family & Community Updates



## Graduate Recognition:

Graduate Recognition will take place on **Sunday, June 12th at 9:00am**. We ask for the assistance and cooperation of members and families in getting the names of this year's graduates to us in order that we do not miss anyone. Please submit this information by May 23rd to the church office via email to [secretary@longswampucc.org](mailto:secretary@longswampucc.org) or drop off in the church offering slot in the Bell Room or mail to the church. (If sending via mail, send early due to the mail taking longer to arrive at its destination.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ / E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

OR

College/Other School \_\_\_\_\_

Degree/Major(s) \_\_\_\_\_

High School / College Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /2022

Special Recognition \_\_\_\_\_

Future plans...

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Parent's Name (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_



# Family & Community Updates



Please contact the church office if you or someone you know is in need of immediate prayer.

Thank you.

## Church Family Prayer Needs:

Beverly Long, Harold Dankel, Judy Sechler, Barbara, Patricia Dierolf

## Serving Our Country:

Zachary Rachor, Alexander Jenkins

## Church Friends Prayer Needs:

Corrine Bauman, Jan Christensen, Robert Freudig, Lauren Lipponcotte, Family & Friends of Evelyn Adam



## Greeters Needed

If you are interested in volunteering as a greeter on a Sunday, please sign up on the bulletin board where the altar flower and bulletin sign-ups are located. It is an easy but wonderful way to serve our welcoming church!

## Church Staff

**Pastor** - Rev. Kimberly Berenotto  
pastorkim@longswampucc.org  
610-401-1847

**Organist & Choir Director** - Ann Mabry Miller  
ann@longswampucc.org

**Office Administrator & Newsletter Editor** - Dawn Strunk  
secretary@longswampucc.org  
**Church Office** - 610-682-6230

**LLC Director** - Sharon Wetzel  
sharon@longswampllearningcenter.com

**LLC Office** - 610-682-9750

**Church Board President** - Laurie Heagy  
laurie@longswampucc.org 610-682-4735

**Maintenance Manager** - Dwayne Snyder  
dwayne@longswampucc.org



## LUCC Endowment Fund Scholarship

Applications for Endowment Scholarships may be picked up in the office space called "The Hub" (Dawn & Dwayne's office) in a mailbox marked "Scholarship Applications". They are located in a yellow folder. Please include all pertinent information with your scholarship application.

Applications are due no later than September 1, 2022.

# Church Business

**March 2022**

## Financial Information

Income and Expenses	
Member giving	\$ 7,787.69
Other income	\$ 5,066.75
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 12,854.44</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (10,402.97)</b>
<b>Net income (gain)</b>	<b>\$ 2,451.47</b>
Building Fund Expenses	\$ 23,509.17

Account Balances (as of 3/31/2022)	
General Fund Checking	\$ 106,791.74
Contingency Fund Checking	\$ 3,021.51
Memorial Fund Checking	\$ 4,603.91
Memorial Fund CD	\$ 10,253.42
Building Fund Checking	\$ 43,397.80

### Notes from the Treasurer...

Included in member giving for missions are \$144 for Our Church's Wider Mission, \$115 for One Great Hour of Sharing and \$865 for High Five for Disaster Relief. Included in Other Income are the Learning Center facility use payment of \$2,245, \$1,983.75 for the cell tower lease and \$600 for use of the Schubert Haus by the Longswamp Township Historical Society. Included in Building Fund expenses are \$1,152.17 for cabinets in the church office, \$10,300 for the final payment on the new windows at the Schubert Haus, \$750 for cleaning services, \$320.50 for water testing and equipment maintenance, \$765 for the heating oil budget payment, \$1,090.16 for propane to heat the sanctuary and Boy Scout cabins, \$1,570.04 for electric service for 2 months and \$582.80 servicing/repairs of emergency lighting and fire alarm system.

### Radcliffe's Receipts

Please remember to drop off your Radcliffe's receipts in the marked box in the library bookcase. This is a **very easy way** to assist your church. Please do not roll them up as it is difficult to tally the amounts since they won't lay flat. Thank you to Nancy Snyder for faithfully gathering the receipts from the box, tallying the receipts, and taking them to Radcliffe's to raise funds for our church.

### Property Updates

Property Committee has started meeting. There are several property projects that Dwayne will work on this month. He has mowed the grass/ field next to Schubert Haus and installed shelves in the shed. We will update you as they are accomplished. If you are interested in joining our property committee please contact Dwayne at [Dwayne@longswampucc.org](mailto:Dwayne@longswampucc.org) or call the church office 610-682-6230.

# **Longswamp Church**

*Planting seeds of faith by teaching,  
sharing and acting on what we believe.*

## **Our Newsletter**

### ***The Beacon***

## **May 2022**

## **Longswamp UCC**

200 Clay Road  
Mertztown, PA 19539

610.682.6230

[secretary@longswampucc.org](mailto:secretary@longswampucc.org)

Visit us on the web at  
[longswampucc.org](http://longswampucc.org)



## **Longswamp UCC**

200 Clay Road  
Mertztown, PA 19539

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE