

Longswamp United Church of Christ

December 3, 2023 ~ 10:15 AM

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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- Chris Freudig

Second Sunday of Advent

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

MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

“Two Lullabies for the Christ Child”

Ritter

“Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep”

Ritter

“The Son of Mary”

Branscombe

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Luke 1:46-56)*

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord!

People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

Leader: The mighty One has done great things for us!

People: Holy is God's name!

Leader: Let us worship God.

People: For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;

Leader: From generation to generation

People: God promises his help and grants us mercy. Amen.

*HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#133

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(Miller Family)

Reader: Fire gives warmth and heat to us on cold days. Two candles, flickering brightly, help us remember that with Christ's birth comes promises of peace.

Reader: Psalm 85 verses 10 and 11 say: “Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky”

Two candles are lit.

Congregational Response (tune: O Little Town of Bethlehem #155)

Oh, light two candles; see them glow, so all of us may know!

How brightly shines God's glorious light, for unto us he shows.

Two candles point to Jesus; his birth will be the way,

That banishes our darkest nights and brings us to God's day

Reader: Dear God, we have much to do and we are not sure we will be ready for the day of your coming. In Advent's light, help us to see what is important: to be who you want us to be, and to do what you would have us do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

All: We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God. The very ones you favor, we often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us. We would live secure in your love; we would be the ones of peace for our world, we would seek to do your will, as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Even in this very moment God comes to us bringing hope, bringing forgiveness, and bringing grace as a freely offered gift.

People: Our hearts are open to God who is with us, and we receive these gifts that we have been offered. Alleluia and Amen!

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Carols Around (And Around)”

Arr. Nygard, Jr.

*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kids are then welcome to follow the teachers to Children's Church Sunday School classes.

*HYMN

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

#156

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-56

SERMON

“Mary, Full of Grace”

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.*

***OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: Loving God, we rejoice in all your gracious acts towards us, especially the gift of your son, Jesus Christ. We dedicate these gifts in your name. We pray that, through our giving, the impossible could and would happen. May our offerings bring about transformation, peace, and flourishing to our community and our world. Amen.

***HYMN** *What Child Is This?* **#150**

***BENEDICTION**

CLOSING MUSIC *"The Coventry Carol"* *Southbridge*

Advent Candle liturgy reading portions adapted from Faithward. Confession & Assurance adapted from Thom Shuman's Lectionary Liturgies.



WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- December 3rd-9th, 2023

Altar Flowers and Bulletins are given to the Glory of God and are in memory of Jeanette Walbert's Birthday.

Thank you for joining us for worship this Second Week of Advent. You don't want to miss worship next Sunday, December 10th at 10:15 am. It's our annual Christmas play, this year titled, "Carol & the Belles!" Get ready for a fabulous family 50s musical that spreads the message of Jesus' birth with a ton of fun music! Plus- we have a special surprise after church for everyone who attends the show!

Sharing Our Faith

December 17th is our Moravian Love Feast. Like previous years, we will be joined by The Williams Duo- Sarajane on Harp and Ted on Guitar. Coffee, hot chocolate, and sweet rolls will be served during worship to celebrate the love come down to our community in Christ's birth.

There are a few different options this year for Christmas Eve Worship: Please note there will be no morning service on December 24th and instead, we will have 3 services later in the day. **3pm service-** for families, kid-focused. **7pm service-** our traditional Christmas Eve service with special music. **11pm service-** a more contemplative, quiet service. **Communion will be served at each worship service.**

Christmas presents for our Senior Saints- Please help us brighten the Christmas season for our Senior Saints by volunteering to deliver a Christmas present (gift bag) from our congregation to one of them! The Christmas presents for these special LUCC members are available beginning today on the table in front of the TV in the front left corner of the sanctuary. Please sign your name on the sheet on the clipboard on the table behind the name of the Senior Saint to whom you're going to deliver the Christmas present. Please deliver a Christmas present to one of our special church members no later than Wednesday, December 21, 2023.

Teaching What We Believe

Children's Church: All kids start in worship at 10:15 am and, after the Children's Message, follow the teachers to the Sunday School rooms for games, stories, crafts, and more. The elementary students meet in the large Preschool room right after the bathrooms, and the Nursery is available for the littles ones further down the hall. Kids are also welcome to stay in worship! Next Sunday December 10th there is no Sunday because everyone will be in worship for the Christmas play.

The following week, December 17th, in lieu of regular Sunday School, we'll be holding a Birthday Party for Jesus in Fegely Hall during the worship service. Come and join the fun as we hear the story of the Very First Christmas, play games, make a craft, sing songs, have snacks, etc. We will proceed to Fegely Hall as a group after the announcements at the beginning of the service.

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

Have you ever wondered what's on Longswamp UCC's Christmas List?- Each month, our church takes on a different mission project and in December, we're asking the congregation to consider checking something off Longswamp UCC's Christmas List. Throughout December, in the Narthex, you will find Longswamp UCC's Christmas Wish List on a large poster board. Each wish list item is attached to the board with a small piece of velcro. If you would like to be one of Santa's helpers this year you can remove any item from the list and return it with your offering in the plate on Sunday, black offering box in the Bell Room, or drop off/mail a check to the church office. We thank you for your generosity as you consider fulfilling one of Longswamp UCC's Christmas wishes this year! Please speak with Pastor Kim or Maggie if you have any questions.

November 2023 Local Mission- 1) **Christmas presents for 15 local disadvantaged children-** A HUGE "THANK YOU" to our LUCC members and friends who very willingly helped to make an underprivileged child's Christmas a little brighter. 2) **Christmas presents for 20 residents of Phoebe Home in Allentown-** Thank you, thank you, thank you to our LUCC members and friends who provided special Christmas presents for 20 residents of Phoebe Home in Allentown. The Christmas presents for the residents of Phoebe Home are to be returned by **today**. If you still need to bring the present you are providing for a resident of Phoebe Home, please see Jill Shade today.

Longswamp UCC Business

Hard copies of our monthly newsletter are available on the table on the left side by the front door when leaving the sanctuary. Online copies are available on our website or email the office to be on the email list.

2024 Offering Booklets are available in the bell room! Please look for your name and take your offering booklet. If you don't see your name listed and would like offering books, please let Maggie know!