

Longswamp United Church of Christ

May 17, 2026 ~ 10:15 am

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Facebook page: **Longswamp UCC**

Wi-Fi Guest Password: Christ200

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, Pastor

Ministry Partners: Head Usher, Greeter- Bob Friedly

Reader- Casey Jones

Ascension Sunday

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

MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

"Pavane"

Gabriel Faure, Arr. Mike Magatagan

Glenn Fisher, flute

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Why are we looking up to heaven?

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

Leader: Why are we looking into the future?

People: The Holy Spirit comes among us, bringing transformation.

Leader: What do we have to fear?

People: God's love casts out our fear, and in Christ we have the promise of eternal life.

Leader: What do we do in worship?

People: We join our hearts in praise and prayer as one community in Christ Jesus. Amen.

***HYMN**

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

#258

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

All: Our Savior Jesus, even as we praise your ascension and authority above all earthly power, we, too often, have failed to give you authority over even the smallest matters of our lives. We confess, at times, we try to take arrogant or

self-centered control over matters in our lives, in our families, in our communities, and in our world. We desperately cling to our own power, failing to yield to your divine wisdom, guidance, and love. Forgive us, we pray, for the harm we have done to others and to ourselves. In your mercy, save us, Lord, and help us allow you to guide our days. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: We allow Christ to transform our lives: We receive forgiveness in his name!

People: We open ourselves to embrace God's forgiveness. Alleluia. 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 Prayground.

***HYMN**

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

#259

RESPONSIVE READING (BASED ON PSALM 47)

Leader: Clap your hands, all the nations.

People: Shout to God with cries of joy.

Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

People: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Leader: For the Lord is awesome, the great King over all the earth.

People: God has ascended with shouts of joy, amid the sound of trumpets.

Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

People: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Leader: For God is the King of all the earth, so sing a psalm of praise.

People: God reigns over all nations and is seated at the holy throne.

Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises!

People: Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:1-11

SERMON

"God Meets Us In The After "

Pastor Kim

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Here I Am, Lord"
Glenn Fisher, flute*

Schutte, arr. Joel Raney

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: We do, indeed, lift songs of joy to you, our Awesome God. Everything you created in heaven and on earth provides proof of your goodness and mercy. You sent leaders and prophets to guide our hearts; but we foolishly turned away from you, Lord. Patiently, you sent your son Jesus, the Word made flesh, to turn us back toward your light. In Christ's death and resurrection he opened the gates to eternal life, and now ascends into heaven. We receive the Holy Spirit, as your faithful followers today, to guide our earthly lives. Therefore, with all your people of every time and every place, we sing our glad songs to you:

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: Holy Lord, in this wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your resurrection. In your ascension, you watch over us as you take your place on heaven's throne. Thank you, Christ Jesus, for sharing this meal with us today. Through our eating and drinking may your redemptive ways be real in our lives. And may we show your love and reign in how we live, giving glory and praise to you, God, now and forevermore. 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: Risen and Ascended Lord, we dedicate these offerings to you. May our gifts be used to heal a suffering world; and to spread the deep truths of your power, your glory, and your promise of reconciliation. May all the ways we give build your invincible kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Strengthen us to go into the world as people who pay attention to the needs of those who walk on this earth alongside us. Amen.

*HYMN

Crown Him With Many Crowns

#92

BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC



"Men of Galilee," the angels said, "Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Acts 1:11

WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- May 17th-23rd, 2026

Thank you for worshipping with us today on Ascension Sunday and as we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion together. An extra "Thank You" to Glenn Fisher for playing in worship today.

The Pre-Confirmation class meets after church today in Fegely Hall. Lunch will be provided and the Confirmands will be doing a scavenger hunt! You may pick your child up at 1:30pm down at the lower doors.

Next Sunday is Pentecost! Join us for worship at 10:15am on May 24th to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. We will also honor Memorial Day during worship with a special prayer/litany and patriotic choir medley.

Sharing Our Faith

Join us on May 31st as we welcome some new members into our Church Family and also baptize Emelia Hummel!

There are two fun events that are coming this Summer to LUCC that you will need to RSVP for! First, the Sight & Sound Trip to see Joshua is happening on Friday, August 14th. The bus is leaving the church around 12:45pm and returning around 8-8:30pm. Your ticket includes the bus, show and dinner at Hershey Farms Smorgasbord. The cost is \$126 for adults and \$65 for kids under 13.

Secondly, we are having a Church Family Night at the Iron Pigs in Allentown on Sunday, July 12th! We have seats available for the 1:15pm game, which are near the playground. Afterward, children will be able to run the bases. Tickets are \$13 each. Please RSVP to Maggie in the office if you're interested in either of these events!

Mark your calendars for our Church Picnic on August 2nd! All are invited to this fun event happening after the church service. More info will be available soon!

Teaching What We Believe

Today is a Family Sunday, which means that there is no Children's Church today. Children are welcome to play in our Prayground area at the front left of the sanctuary or stay with their parents in worship. Children's Church will return next week, May 24th, and May 31st. Keep an eye out for the Summer Children's Church schedule, coming soon!

We will have our first Faithful Field trip on May 27th, starting at 10am! This opportunity is for all women of LUCC who are looking to expand their faith, learn new ways of thinking, and to enjoy fellowship with their fellow church family. May's field trip will be to the Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem. We will meet at 10am and drive together to Bethlehem, where we will also have lunch after the visit to the Moravian Church.

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

May 2026 - Local Mission for the benefit of Brandywine Food Pantry - continues until Sunday, May 31, 2026 - Let's help our food-insecure neighbors by donating these greatly needed items: **personal care items (body wash, shampoo/conditioner); household/cleaning supplies (dish soap, small bottles of laundry detergent); paper products (paper towels, tissues, and toilet paper)** to the Brandywine Food Pantry. Please deposit your donations for the Brandywine Food Pantry in the appropriately marked boxes on the round table behind the piano or in the bell room. If you would rather give a mission offering, please put it in your May mission envelope (dated May 17, 2026) and put it in the offering basket, in the locked offering box in the bell room during the week from 6:30 AM - 5:30 PM, or mail it to the church. Please contact Jill Shade (jill.shade@longswampucc.org; 484-894-0636) if you have any questions or concerns about LUCC's May 2026 mission. Thank you in advance for your support of the Brandywine Food Pantry!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to our volunteers from LUCC who helped yesterday at our "Cookies for a Cause" stand at Ashi's Mertztown Market and baked homemade chocolate chip cookies that we gave to the shoppers who donated at least one item and/or gave a monetary donation. Also, a "**BIG THANK YOU**" to the local **Girl Scout Troop 11086** for baking snickerdoodle cookies for us to hand out to the shoppers who gave a donation. Our "Cookies for a Cause" event would not have been possible without the support of these dedicated church and community members.

Support

Swampfest will be here before you know it! Swampfest is on Saturday, June 13th this year, starting at 11am. Our walking taco stand and children's area will run until 5pm or until we run out of food. We are still in need of two people to work the stand from 3-5pm. If you're interested, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or let Maggie know you'd like to help out! If you volunteered to donate a food item, please make sure you drop it off at the church by Friday, June 12th!

We are hosting a playground work day on May 31st after the church service. If you're able to help clean up the playground, move mulch, and make the area better for the students at LLC, please stay after church!

LLC is hosting an R&K Subs fundraiser. All orders are due by June 1st and pickup will be Thursday, June 11th after 3pm in Fegely Hall. Order forms are available in the narthex. Please return them to the office ASAP. Thank you for your support!

Longswamp UCC Business

We are always looking for people to greet or read during the Sunday services! If you're interested in greeting, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex (where the flower sponsor sheets are), and if you're interested in reading, please let Maggie know!