



Longswamp United Church of Christ

# The Beacon

June 2026

Teaching, Sharing, and Acting on what we believe

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



Thank you once again to Girl Scout troop 11098 for gardening around the entrance area to the bell room!

Worship:  
Sundays @  
10:15 am

200 Clay Road,  
Mertztown, PA 19539

[www.longswampucc.org](http://www.longswampucc.org)

**July Newsletter  
Deadline: Tuesday,  
June 16th**

## Contact Us

Church Office: 610-682-6230  
Monday-Friday  
9:30am - 2:30pm  
[secretary@longswampucc.org](mailto:secretary@longswampucc.org)

# From the Pastor

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto



What makes for a perfect summer day?

Is it time spent with family or friends enjoying what summer has to offer?

Is it eating favorite seasonal food; grilling up a burger or slicing watermelon?

Is it being outside in nature, the sunshine, the shoreside, the mountaintop?

Is it using our bodies to stroll, to swim, to inhabit the space of summer fully?

Is it getting enough rest, waking with the sun, or an afternoon nap?

Is it feeling close to God, knowing we are held and loved in this and every season?

I've always appreciated the poem **"Summer Day" by Mary Oliver**, because she writes in a way that might make us think more deeply about what a perfect day looks like.

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean —

the one who has flung herself out of the grass,

the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,

who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down —

who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.

Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.

Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down

into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,

how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,

which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do

with your one wild and precious life?



Mary Oliver lists the things she has done today while strolling through the fields, paying attention to the critters, the creatures, and the grass. Then Oliver asks the questions, "Tell me, what else should I have done?" Almost as if to remind the reader that those things we value as productive, those tasks tied to screens, housework, errands, work, and so on... those are not what make up a perfect summer day, a perfect day, or even a perfect life.

Oliver's poem lingers, instead, on the astonishment found in the simple idea of a walk through a field and what you might find there. And she closes with the question, almost a challenge...

**"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"**

## Sharing Our Faith

### June 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.

**June 7-** Wedding Sunday, Pastor Kim away@ Keystone Conference of United Church of Christ

**June 14-** Graduation Sunday

**June 21-** Father's Day, Holy Communion, Welcoming Savaterra Family as New Members/Baptism of Evangeline and Seraphina Salvaterra

**June 28-** Baptism of Josephine and Ada Clark

### June Ministry Partners

#### Greeters

**June 7-** Shirley Solt

**June 14-** Chris Freudig

**June 21-** Willard Miller

**June 28-** Justin Smith

#### Readers

**June 7-** Vern & Laurie

**June 14-** Mary Samuelson

**June 21-** Amy Riovo

**June 28-** Sue Lishman

#### Head Ushers

**June 7-** Shirley Solt

**June 14-** Chris Freudig

**June 21-** Willard Miller

**June 28-** Sue and Al Lishman

### June Altar Flower Sponsors

**-June 7th-** In loving memory of mother, Jean Butz Stoneback, by Hope Deiacco

**-June 28th-** In honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, given by Bob & Karen Friedly



Join us for  
a celebration  
of love  
during  
worship on  
June 7<sup>th</sup> at  
10:15 am  
led by  
Vern Shade &  
Laurie Heagy.

## WEDDING SUNDAY

GRADUATE  
SUNDAY  
JUNE 14TH  
10:15 AM



Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 10:15 am...



Holy Communion



Welcoming New Members & Baptism

**Father's Day**  
All men will receive a special gift.





*A new women's group at Longswamp UCC, born from our most recent Lent study! This is a group seeking to grow in faith by visiting local spiritual sites. We are still nailing down the details for our June & July Field Trips. Please contact Pastor Kim if you are interested.*

## Leadership Updates

### THE VIEW FROM THE BELL TOWER



### GUTEN TAG!!

As you know, Miss Hope asked me to speak at the Christmas Play in January and has ever since urged me to keep in touch. The play was lots of fun. I noted back then that there is always something going on at the church and I just can't keep up with it all. So, I decided to write and share with you all the things I've seen this spring.

Palm Sunday was a very busy day. We had the largest attendance for a Palm Sunday worship service in almost a decade. Lollipop the donkey was out front to greet one and all. Der Osterhase (the Easter bunny) and friends hid a couple thousand of eggs. Lots of families and children came before noon to meet Der Osterhase, munch on popcorn, and then hunt and find all the eggs. About 200 hotdogs were served. Plus the sand buckets filled with goodies were a hit!

Easter Morning was glorious with two worship services held. Over 110 people attended. The flowers were beautiful and made everything smell like spring. Being an Easter Church, we were again assured that Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Alleluia!

On the Sunday after Easter, the Pre-Confirmation class began with a pizza party. The youth got to know each other better and baked bible cookies. I am excited to see what the confirmands are up to next.

The semi-annual Congregational meeting was held on 4/19. The 2025 financial reports were presented. A bid to stucco the outside of the church and repair the window sills at a cost of \$75,000 was presented for consideration. After lots of constructive discussion, a motion was made and passed to approve the stucco work. I am so glad we are brightening up and preserving our "Big White Church on the Hill."

We held an Earth Day worship service and retirement celebration for our Organist and Choir Director, Ann Mabry Miller, who served for over 45 years. She was presented with several gifts to mark her dedication and faithful work to our church. I will miss seeing her in the choir loft. Thank you Ann for all you did!!

To honor their long time service as officers on our Church Board, Laurie Heagy and Sarah Marburger were taken out to lunch. Thank you for leading us for many years.

Don Siegfried also retired recently as a Trustee of the Cemetery Board. Thank you Don for serving and Thank you to Dean Shoemaker for agreeing to fill Don's remaining term on the Cemetery Board.

Thank you also to the crew who installed the backsplash in the kitchen. It looks great!

Thank you to everyone who supported the April and May Missions. Seventy-five Kids' Kits were assembled on May 3rd and were delivered to Church World Service by Dean and Diane Shoemaker. I saw Miss Jill was already busy arranging the donations for the Brandywine Food Pantry and is prepared to lead the Cookies for a Cause event at the Merztown Market on May 16.

Our church continues to grow as on May 3, new members were welcomed and a Baptism was performed. Sadly, however, we recently lost two beloved church members. Celebrations of Life were held for Helena Lindquist on March 14 and for Barbara Weaknecht on May 11. Both services were beautiful and the tributes were moving.

As I mentioned earlier, there is always something happening at Longswamp UCC. Pastor Kim is always busy. I read in the May newsletter that there are many activities planned for the summer. Until then, Mach's gut und Auf Wiedersehen!!

Sincerely,  
**THE GHOST OF THE  
BELL TOWER**

## Acting on Jesus' Teachings

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



**June 2026 - December 2026 (1st Sunday of each month) Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)** - In isolation, no single congregation can completely answer God's call to love. Together we are a bold witness to God's extravagant love for all. We share resources to transform our vision into reality. Gifts from congregations like ours to OCWM Basic Support make it possible for our Conferences and the National Ministries to strengthen local churches and leaders and engage us in missions well beyond our community.

(taken from: <https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/>)

### *Ongoing Mission for the Brandywine Food Pantry*



Please consider helping local food-insecure residents 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 - 5:30 PM. Please put your donations in the wicker tote boxes in the bell room.

# June 2026 Internal Mission- Lucc Summer Activities

Though most months we spend our time, talent, and treasure on missions that benefit our local community and organizations around the globe, sometimes we need an extra boost at the the church! We have a variety of fun and engaging events this summer that would benefit from YOUR support.



## **We are seeking monetary donations this June that will help to fund:**

- 2 Confirmation Retreat Days! Our 5 current Confirmation Students will be spending time this June & July learning about Food Insecurity and serving our neighbors in-need including providing a meal at Opportunity House in Reading and volunteering at the Brandywine Food Pantry. Your monetary giving will help to buy the food for those in-need (and feed the Confirmands too).
- Swamp Fest! We need donations to help offset the cost of the ground beef so we can provide our Walking Taco Booth and show our community support.
- The Church Picnic in August! The church will be providing drinks and hot dogs for all- as well as some fun activities for the kids of our congregation. So please donate AND join us on August 2<sup>nd</sup> after worship for some food and fun.

THANK YOU

We all know that learning starts with the right school supplies. We are SO PROUD of our “big white church on the hill” for donating 75 Kids’ Kits (about \$15/kit x 75 Kids’ Kits = \$1,125]. Lucc was awarded a \$250 Matching Grant for Church World Service Kits from the Global H.O.P.E. office at the national UCC in Cleveland, Ohio. This was the 3rd time in less than 4 years that Lucc received a Matching Grant for Church World Service Kits. We’d like to express our sincere gratitude to several of our members and friends who made tote bags for the Kids’ Kits and to everyone who donated lots of school supplies and/or mission offerings. A special “thank you” to Dean and Diane Shoemaker for delivering the 75 Kids’ Kits to Church World Service’s depot in Mechanicsburg, PA. Keep up the great work, Lucc!

The Brandywine Food Pantry has been helping food-insecure individuals and families for many years. Our local food pantry is located at St. Peter’s UCC in Topton. A “HUGE THANK YOU” to our Lucc members who donated items and gave mission offerings for our May 2026 mission. As of the writing of this article, our Lucc members generously gave \$365 in mission offerings for our local food pantry. A special “thank you” to our members who volunteered at Lucc’s 5th annual “Cookies for a Cause” event at Ashi’s Mertztown Market on Saturday, May 16 and baked chocolate chip cookies which we gave to the shoppers who made a donation. Also, thank you to the local Senior Girl Scout Troop 11086 for baking Snickerdoodle cookies for our “Cookies for a Cause” event. We received \$145 in cash donations from the shoppers at this special event. Thank you for your continued support of the many food-insecure members of our local community.

## Teaching What We Believe

# Children's CHURCH

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

Children's Church is the name of our Sunday School Program. Throughout the summer months we will have a varied Sunday School/Children's Church Schedule. 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.

**June 7<sup>th</sup>:** Wedding Sunday - Families Stay in Worship

**June 14<sup>th</sup>:** Sunday School/Children's Church!

**June 21<sup>st</sup>:** Holy Communion - Families Stay in Worship

**June 28<sup>th</sup>:** Sunday School/Children's Church!



## LLC News



The end of May is rapidly approaching, which means that the Brandywine school year is almost over! Our Summer Camp Program will begin on June 5<sup>th</sup> and run for the entire summer down in Fegely Hall. Our students who are going to Kindergarten will also be graduating on May 29<sup>th</sup>! There are always a lot of changes happening at LLC but we adapt and strive to make things as fun as possible for the students! Feel free to check out the art that is hung up in the Education building to see what our students have been up to!

## Congrats, Grads!



**Garrett Jenkins**, son of Ren and Kim Jenkins, graduated from Rowan University SOM with his medical degree on May 14, 2026. Garrett is a 2018 graduate of Brandywine High School and a 2022 Presidential Scholar graduate of Temple University. Upon graduation from medical school, Garrett will be an Internal Medicine resident at St. Mary's Medical Center in Langhorne, PA for the next 3 years. Garrett and his fiancée, Lauren, are excited to start the next part of their journey, and we are so proud of all of his hard work to achieve this milestone! Best of luck, Dr. Garrett!

**Alexander Jenkins**, son of Ren and Kim Jenkins, is graduating from his medical fellowship in Gastroenterology from Walter Reed Medical Center, Bethesda, MD on June 18. Alex is a 2014 graduate of Muhlenberg College in Allentown, a 2018 graduate of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and then completed his Internal Medicine residency at Walter Reed Medical Center in 2021. Alex began his GI fellowship in July of 2023. After graduation, in early July, he and his family will be relocated to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii for 3 years, to complete his term of military obligation. Alex is the husband of Riana, and father of Gabriella Grace (GG) and Benjamin. We will miss you, Alex, but will be excited to have you back in the Lehigh Valley in 2029! Thank you for your service to our country.

## Family & Community Updates

### June Birthdays

- June 2-** Sylvia Conrad  
**June 3-** Justin Smith  
**June 5-** Jennifer George  
**June 8-** Jim Gibson  
**June 10-** Allison Fetterman  
**June 11-** Laura Stoudt  
**June 13-** Adam Hapenovich  
**June 15-** Elora Caldwell  
**June 17-** Valerie Jenkins-Kundrat  
**June 20-** Chris Berenotto  
**June 22-** Alexandria Berenotto  
**June 25-** Benjamin Dirsas, Carson Isamoyer  
**June 27-** Julianna George  
**June 30-** Norman Voortman

### June Anniversaries

- June 7, 2008-** Melissa & Steven Graham  
**June 8, 1968-** Bob & Fern Fritz  
**June 12, 1976-** Brenda & Dennis Bower  
**June 20, 2021-** Stephanie & Steven Ward  
**June 20, 1959-** Dorothy & William Weller  
**June 21, 2003-** Matthew & Sarah Reed  
**June 21, 2025-** Evan & Valerie Kundrat  
**June 25, 1976-** Bob & Karen Friedly  
**June 28, 2003-** Kathy & Rick Shupp  
**June 30, 1990-** Linda & Raymond Davis

If we missed your graduation, please contact the church office!

#### **In memoriam...**

**Barbara A. Weaknecht**

August 8, 1937- May 2, 2026



Barbara Weaknecht passed peacefully on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. Barbara was not only a longtime member of Longswamp UCC, but also an Elder Emeritus, an honor given for her many years of dedication and service to our church. Barbara could often be found playing the organ and piano during and after services, teaching Sunday School here at LUCC, and serving on various teams and committees. Barbara's ancestors were some of the first founders of Longswamp Church back in the 1700's.

She was predeceased by her parents and Husband, Jack. Barbara is survived by daughters, Jill Weaknecht and Kim Toth, and son, Jack Weaknecht. She is also survived by many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Barbara will be greatly missed by her family as well as her church family.

## Prayers Needed



**Church Family Prayer Needs:** George Unger, Ramona Romanik, Wilma Lease, Karen Friedly, Annabelle Weller, Doris Epting, Bob Fritz, Fern Fritz

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

**Church Friends Prayer Needs:** Martin Bilger, Karen McPherson, Matt Von Detto, Robin Hoffman, Barbara Jennings, The Dolan Family, Charlie Boyer, Anna Mae Kercher, Family & Friends of Barbara Weaknecht, Chance, John Kundrat, Vanover Family

# Pre-Confirmation Summer Retreat Days

Thursday June 25th and Monday July 20th - 9am to 3:30pm

**Weekly Confirmation Class at 8:30am officially begins Sept 13<sup>th</sup>!**

A full schedule for parents will be released this summer!



COME VISIT LUCC'S WALKING TACO STAND AT

# Swampfest!



**June 13th**  **11am-5pm**

**At the Longswamp Park**

Activities run all day throughout the Longswamp Park. Our stand will be open from 11am-5pm or until food runs out! Fireworks will start at dusk.

If you're interested in helping at the Taco Stand or in the kids area, please contact Maggie in the church office!



**SAVE the DATE** All-Church Picnic in the Pavilion  
**Sunday August 2nd**  
**After Worship**

*Hot dogs and drinks provided. Bring sides and dessert to share.  
Crafts & games for all ages - including water activities*



# TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!



Join Longswamp UCC for a fun time of fellowship at an Iron Pigs Game!

Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup> - Game Time 1:15 pm

Kids Run the Bases after the game.

Our seats are in Section 119 near the playground.

You must reserve tickets with Pastor Kim - cost is \$13 per ticket.

**Info coming soon about our Joshua Summer Bible Study in August to prepare for our trip to Sight and Sound! Don't forget to reserve your tickets by June 5th!!!**



**LUCC Bus trip to**

SIGHT & SOUND  
THEATRES



# JOSHUA

LIVE ON STAGE

**Date:** August 14, 2026  
3PM showtime

**Cost:** \$126 for adults  
\$65 Children  
(under 13)

**Cost includes ticket to see the show, bus charges, and dinner at Hershey Farms Smorgasbord. Bus will leave promptly at 12:45pm and return around 8-8:30pm.**

Please contact Maggie in the church office by phone or email to reserve your spot! We have 50 tickets available.

Family and friends are welcome!

secretary@longswampucc.org

610-682-6230

# LOOKING FAR AHEAD.....



**Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>** - Special Sunday Celebrating the Longswamp Learning Center's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (and the official start of the new Sunday School Year)

**Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup>** - Our Annual Barn Dance at Savidge Farms!

## Church Business

### *April 2026 Financials*

#### Income and Expenses

Member Giving:	\$9,662.70
Other Income:	\$11,529.98
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$21,192.68</b>
Expenses:	\$14,191.95
<b>Net Income:</b>	<b>\$7,000.73</b>
Memorial Fund Income	-
Building Fund Expenses:	\$11,185.88

#### Message from the Treasurer

Included in member giving for missions are \$210 for Our Church's Wider Mission, \$560 for CWS kids school supply kits and \$1,000 for the church sanctuary stucco project. Included in Other income is \$2600 for the Learning Center facility use fee, \$2,281.31 for the cell tower lease fee and a deposit error of \$6,522.67 being investigated by the bank. This deposit error has been reversed in full for May.

Included in Building Fund expenses are \$493 for cleaning, and \$1,000.53 for electric service, \$2,097.86 for heating oil which includes the budget balance due, \$196.33 for propane, \$1,177.81 for water testing and equipment maintenance, and \$1,094 for carbon monoxide detector/alarm replacement.

#### Account Balances as of 5/24/2026

General Fund Checking:	\$49,431.94
Contingency Fund Checking:	\$3,022.75
Memorial Fund Checking:	\$16,525.21
Building Fund:	\$39,990.34
Building Fund Checking:	\$45,762.57

### 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@longswamplearningcenter.com.....610-682-9750

**Church Board President** - Vern Shade.....vern.shade@longswampucc.org

**Maintenance Manager** -

# Longswamp UCC

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

## Our Newsletter

*The Beacon*  
*June 2025*



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Visit us on the web at  
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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE