

# Longswamp United Church of Christ

January 18, 2026 ~ 10:15 am

200 Clay Road, Mertztown, PA 19539 Phone - 610-682-6230

E-Mail: [secretary@longswampucc.org](mailto:secretary@longswampucc.org)

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

Hospital Code 451

CCLI #2341826

Facebook page: **Longswamp UCC**

Wi-Fi Guest Password: Christ200

Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, Pastor

Ann Mabry Miller, Organist

Ministry Partners: Head Usher, Greeter- Will Miller

Reader- Mary Velez-Samuelsan

## *Baptism of Christ*

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

### MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

“Allelu”

*Repp*

“Amazing Grace”

*Early American Tune*

“The Bible Tell Me So”

*Evans*

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Baptized to lives of faith;

**People: We would witness to all you do in our midst and in our communities.**

Leader: Baptized to serve;

**People: We would seek justice for the voiceless and those in-need.**

Leader: Baptized to speak;

**People: We would use our words to bless and heal others.**

Leader: Baptized to do what is right;

**People: We would treat all people as your beloved children.**

Leader: Baptized to praise;

**People: We would worship you in word, in song, and in deed. Amen.**

#### \*HYMN

*O Love, How Deep, How Broad*

#193

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### CONFESSION

All: Patient God, you call us to preach but we complain instead. You call us to do what is right, but we do what is easy. You call us to have steadfastness, but we don't have the time. Bathe us in the baptismal waters of forgiveness, Tender God. Despite our shortcomings, you always forgive and delight in our lives.

Remind us to live up to your ever-present grace and glory; so we can emerge from the waters of new life ready to do good for others and give you praise. Amen.

### MOMENT OF SILENCE

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: You are God's Beloved. You delight God's heart. Believe this good news!

**People: The Spirit of God rests upon us, anointing us with forgiveness and peace. Thanks be to God! 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 Playground.

#### HYMN

*We Bless The Name of Christ The Lord*

#761

#### RESPONSIVE READING (BASED ON PSALM 104)

Leader: Praise the Lord, my soul!

**People: My God, you are great, clothed with splendor and majesty.**

Leader: The Lord wraps himself in light and stretches out the heavens.

**People: God rides on the wings of the wind and makes the wind his messenger.**

Leader: Our Creator covered the watery depths and pushed forth mountains, where water could flow in the valleys.

**People: The birds of the sky nest by the waters and sing among the branches.**

Leader: The land is satisfied by the fruit of God's work, the trees are well-watered.

**People: Send your Spirit, God, to fulfill creation, and renew the ground.**

Leader: May the glory of the Lord's work endure forever.

**People: I will sing praises to my God as long as I live.**

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-17

#### SERMON

“Holy Spirit: Pigeon or Dove?”

Pastor Kim

### *Reaffirmation of Baptism*

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & ILLUMINATION

## RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: Eternal and gracious God, we give you thanks. In countless ways you have revealed yourself in ages past, and have blessed us with signs of your grace.

**People: We praise you that through the waters of the sea you led your people out of bondage, into freedom, in the land of your promise.**

Leader: We praise you for sending Jesus your Son, who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, and was anointed by your Holy Spirit.

**People: Through his death and resurrection you set us free from the bondage of sin and death and give us cleansing and rebirth.**

Leader: We praise you for your Holy Spirit, who teaches us and leads us still today, filling us with a variety of gifts, that we might proclaim the gospel and serve you with our lives.

**People: We rejoice that you claim us in our baptism, and that by your grace we are born anew.**

Leader: By your Holy Spirit renew us all, that we may be empowered to do your will. Help us to remember that we belong to you, our God who claims us and names us.

**People: Glory to you, Eternal God, three in one, now and forever. Amen.**

## REAFFIRMING OUR BAPTISM

*If you desire, you are invited to come forward to have your baptism reaffirmed. If you have not been baptized, you are still welcome to come forward, just please let Pastor Kim know so she can give you a special blessing as you discern Christ's calling upon your life.*

### *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: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, our Creator. You have given us life and second birth through water and spirit. Once we were wandering people, but now we are your people. You raised up the church as a witness to the resurrection, breathing into it your life and power. From worlds apart, you gathered us together, When we go astray you welcome us home. Always, your love has been steadfast. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and the faithful of every time and place who forever sing the glory of your name...

## 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: God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. You bestow your spirit upon us through baptismal waters. May these sacraments strengthen us in love and faith; and help us to serve you through our care of one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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: Generous God, we dedicate all of the ways we give in your name. We leave these waters of baptism to offer grace to others. We give from our abundance to bless others with hope and healing. We offer our lives to you, serving with love and mercy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

***Songs of Thankfulness and Praise***

**#190**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING MUSIC**

*"Blessed Assurance"*

*Crosby and Knapp*

*Portions of this service adapted from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman. Communion and Reaffirmation of Baptism adapted from the Worship and Spiritual Renewal Committee of the 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*



## WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- January 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Thank you for joining us for our first Holy Communion Sunday of the New Year! Today we also celebrate Jesus' baptisms and reaffirm our own baptisms during the service. Since it's a Holy Communion Sunday, it's also a Family Sunday, where Children will stay in church with their families. There is no Children's Church but Children are welcome to come up and play on our Prayground at the front left of the sanctuary!

**Next week is the New Year's Wish!** We will be joined by Mike & Linda Hertzog at our normal time of 10:15am. They will be playing a combination of bluegrass and Pennsylvania Dutch music during the service. After the service, we will be having a PA Dutch themed fellowship in the Education building.

**Additionally next Sunday, we will be hosting a Board & Brush Folk Art workshop right here in Fegely Hall from 1-3pm!** Board and Brush will provide all materials and will help each person through the process, so you do not need any previous artistic experience. The cost is \$45 per person and you MUST sign up at the link on our website. When checking out, make sure to choose which project you'd prefer to do. There's also an option for children, as well! All are welcome at this event, whether you're a member of LUCC or not!

### Sharing Our Faith

Have you been attending church at Longswamp UCC and are interested in becoming a member? We are hoping to welcome **New Members on Sunday February 15th!** This will end the season of Epiphany with a celebration of those joining our community before we head into the season of Lent. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. More info about the Lenten Season and any special services and activities will be in the upcoming February newsletter. If you are interested in joining or having any questions, please reach out to Pastor Kim.

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, is our Scout Sunday!** We will be joined by Boy Scout Troop #575 and the Girl Scout Troops of Longswamp and Topton, as well!

### Teaching What We Believe

Our Sunday School program, Children's Church, runs weekly during the church service. After the Children's Message, kids are welcome to follow their teachers to the Preschool Room for a Bible lesson, crafts, games, and more. Children are also welcome to stay in worship with their families if that's what you prefer! Though there is NO Children's Church today, kids of all ages are welcome to enjoy our Prayground in the front left of the sanctuary, which is a quiet play area for kids to fully engage in worship. January 25<sup>th</sup> is the New Year's Wish so there also will be no Sunday School that day so that everyone can enjoy the fun service!

### Acting on Jesus' Teachings

**January 2026 Local Mission - Backpack Buddies Program at Brandywine Heights Elementary School (BHES) - ends on Saturday, January 31, 2026** - It's so important for us to remember that hunger doesn't end on Fridays for the food-insecure students at Brandywine Heights Elementary School. The **Backpack Buddies Program** at BHES is extremely valuable because the school staff and Life Skills class from the high school use donations of specific individual food items to fill backpacks for the children in need to take home over the weekend. Please follow the specifics for each item on the list on page 6 of LUCC's January 2026 newsletter and make sure that the expiration dates on your donations are still valid. Please put your donations of specific non-perishable food items in the boxes on the table behind the piano. Mission offerings are also greatly appreciated. Please contact Jill Shade (484-894-0636; [jill.shade@longswampucc.org](mailto:jill.shade@longswampucc.org)) if you have any questions about our January 2026 mission. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the young food-insecure students in BHASD!

### Longswamp UCC Business

**We are always in need of volunteers to greet and hand out bulletins prior to the service and also sponsors for the altar flowers!** If you're interested in either of these, please sign up on the sign-up sheets on the narthex bulletin board!

**There are still some offering envelopes left out in the narthex so make sure to grab yours if you haven't already!** If you'd like a 2025 giving statement, please make sure to sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex. Statements will be ready by end of January!