

Longswamp United Church of Christ

November 19, 2023 ~ 10:15 AM

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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, Reader, Greeter- Vern Shade

Celebration of Communion, Thanksgiving, & PNEC Covenant Sunday

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

MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

Bunessan (Scottish Folk Melody)

Macdonald

St. Anthony Chorale

Haydn

Beecher (Love Divine)

Zundel

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the Lord's Day, the day of wonder and grace.

People: This is the day to worship the One who calls us here.

Leader: This is the Lord's Day, the day we are given joy and peace.

People: This is the day promised to us, the day of healing and renewal.

Leader: This is the Lord's Day, and it has come just in time!

People: This is the day we gather with hope, with gratitude, with love!

***HYMN**

We Gather Together

#376

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

All: God, the creator of all things, you created us in your image of love. But there have been times we have fallen short of that love, not only to you, but to each other and all of creation. We ask for your forgiveness, God, and we seek forgiveness from one another, in Christ's infinite love for us all. We thank you for the comforting strength and compassion of the Holy Spirit, that helps us to be better at bringing love and grace to all we do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God calls us to be forgiving to one another just as God forgives us.

People: We rejoice in God's steadfast love, comfort, and compassion through all the days of our lives. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

To God Be the Glory

Arr. Gary Lanier

Glenn Fisher, Flute

***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**

Now Thank We All Our God

#374

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Congregational Response: We thank you Lord.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON

"The Other Servant"

Pastor Kim

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 give you thanks and praise O God.....we lift our voices in songs of thanksgiving with all the saints in every time and place:

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: Every time we eat and drink this meal together, we do it in remembrance of God's love and provision. As we leave the table thankful to be nourished in body and soul, we pray your blessing, Holy God, be upon the tables we will eat at this week of Thanksgiving. May they be tables of blessing for those who break bread together. May the leftovers of this communion table and our Thanksgiving tables not be limited to food but also love and compassion for those in need. 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: Merciful God, receive our humble offerings as a testimony to your provision and a demonstration of our love. May they be magnified and multiplied for the benefit of our community and all creation. May our generosity reflect our gratitude and thanksgiving for God's holy love and this house of worship and welcome. Amen.

***HYMN** *Blest Be The Tie That Binds* #708

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC *Let All Things Now Living* Jones

Portions of worship adapted from this week's Lectionary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman, resources for PNEC's Covenant Sunday 2023, and Liturgy for Thanksgiving from God Space by Christine Sine.



WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- November 19th-25th, 2023

Thanks for joining us for worship today! Today is Holy Communion, Penn Northeast Covenant Sunday, and we'll also be celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday!

Sharing Our Faith

Pastor Kim will be the guest preacher at the **Brandywine Area Community Thanksgiving Service this Wednesday November 22nd at 7:00 pm at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church.**

Sunday November 26th we will celebrate the First Sunday of Advent and dedicate our new Advent Wreath in memory of Winn Lease during worship at 10:15 am. A Fellowship will follow the service in the preschool room.

Mark your calendars for December 10th for our annual Christmas Play! This year's play is called "Carol and the Belles: A Fab 50's Musical." You may have noticed the set starting to take form up front. It's sure to be a fun day and we might even have a little surprise for everyone...

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 little ones meet in the Nursery Room down the hall. Kids are also welcome to stay in worship. We ask all parents to fill out permission forms for the new Sunday School year- available on our website or from Pastor Kim. If you want to help with Children's Church please contact Pastor Kim or sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

November 2023 Local Mission- Christmas Cheer Program at Friend, Inc. and The Giving Tree/ Operation Santa at Phoebe Home in Allentown- Let's make Christmas a little brighter for 15 local disadvantaged children and 20 residents at Phoebe Home in Allentown by providing a Christmas present for each of them. Please contact Jill Shade (jill.shade@longswampucc.org; 484-894-0636) if you have any questions and/or concerns about providing a Christmas present (clothing) for an underprivileged child and/or one of the residents at Phoebe Home in Allentown.

1. **Christmas presents for 15 local underprivileged children-** sponsored by Friend, Inc. Community Services- If you volunteered to provide clothing (shirt and pants) for a disadvantaged child, please **do not** wrap the gifts for the children. Please put everything in a bag with the angel tag that you were given attached to the bag. Please include a new roll of Christmas wrapping paper (optional items- tissue paper, 1 or 2 boxes, tape, and a bow for each box) with the presents for the 15 local underprivileged children so the parents may wrap the presents. Please return the Christmas presents for the children **no later than Sunday, November 26, 2023.**

2. **Christmas presents for 20 residents of Phoebe Home in Allentown-** thank you to our members who very willingly took the name of one or two of the 20 residents at Phoebe Home. If you took the angel tag and instruction sheet but didn't put your name on the sign-up sheet, please see Jill Shade to do so. It's very important that we know who is going to provide the Christmas presents for the 20 residents at Phoebe Home. Please put the presents for the Phoebe Home residents in **Christmas gift bags**. Please attach the angel tag to the gift bag. The Christmas presents for Phoebe Home residents are due **no later than Sunday, December 3, 2023.**

Support

REMINDER! The altar guild will be decorating the church for the Christmas Season this Saturday, November 25th at 9am if anyone is interested in helping out.

Please note the church office is CLOSED November 23+24 for the Thanksgiving Holiday!

Poinsettia orders are live! If you're interested in ordering a poinsettia for the Christmas season, please fill out the insert in today's bulletin and give it to the Church office by December November 29th. The price is \$10 per plant. These poinsettias will be displayed the week before Christmas and during the Christmas Eve services.

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.

If you're interested in sponsoring altar flowers or bulletins, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. A new sheet for 2024 is available today in the narthex.

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!