



Longswamp United Church of Christ

# The Beacon

April 2025

Teaching, Sharing, and Acting on what we believe

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

200 Clay Road,  
Mertztown, PA 19539

Worship:  
Sundays @  
10:15 am

May Newsletter  
Deadline:  
Tuesday,  
April 22nd

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



## 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



Everywhere I've turned these last few weeks, folks keeping saying, "Pastor Kim, it's just been a really rough winter."

Sickness, injuries, and surgeries have been mainstays in the lives of many of our church members and friends this season. A handful of church families are grieving recent losses of loved ones. On top of life's normal stresses, there is much turmoil and upheaval in our country and world. It's been all too easy to slide into that seasonal slump, the winter blues, that are highlighted by cold and dreary weather.

I keep hearing, "I just need Spring."

I think that phrase could mean a few different things like "I need sunshine and warmth" or "I need a change." But, it could also be understood as: "I need resurrection."

We all need some Easter. After a winter like this we all need the hope that comes with resurrection. Christ's victory over death reminds us that even though we grow weary; love wins over hate, joy wins over sorrow, and hope wins over despair. Jesus was resurrected to new life even when those in power wanted to see him killed on the cross for his message of welcome, grace, and love for all God's people.

The Good News is, we don't have to wait for Easter Sunday, we don't have to wait for resurrection once a year. If you were in church March 23rd, you may have heard me mention during the Children's Message that every Sunday is considered a Little Easter. Every time we gather to worship it's our weekly reminder of hope and new life; each Sunday is a small celebration of Christ's resurrection. The early Christian priest St. Jerome wrote, "Sunday is the day of the resurrection, it is the day of Christians; it is our day."

That's how we make it through the winter; the seasons where more seems to be going wrong than going right. We take a day for ourselves and for our Savior. Even in the midst of difficulty we can't forget, not just to worship together, but to celebrate together and find joy together. That's what Easter is for, and that's what Sundays are for. Make sure you celebrate with us, not just on Easter, but on the Little Easters all year long.

*The Spirit of the one who raised Jesus  
from the dead lives in you, too.*

*Romans 8:11a*

# Sharing Our Faith

## April 2025 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.

**-April 6-** Fifth Sunday in Lent, special music from Glenn Fisher on flute. Children's communion class after the service

**-April 13-** Palm Sunday, Children's Choir singing, Community Egg Hunt starting at 12pm

**-April 20-** Happy Easter! Services at 7:15am and 10:15am with Holy Communion.

**-April 27-** Second Sunday of Easter, "Blanket Sunday," special music from Glenn Fisher on flute.

## April Ministry Partners

### Greeters

**Apr 6-** Chris Freudig

**Apr 13-** Isamoyer Family

**Apr 20, 7:15am-** Shirley Solt

**Apr 20, 10:15am-** Charlene Rachor

**Apr 27-** Laurie Heagy

### Readers

**Apr 6-** Chris Freudig

**Apr 13-** Crystal Meck

**Apr 20, 7:15am-** Will Miller

**Apr 20, 10:15am-** Theresa Haffner-Stearns

**Apr 27-** Charlene Rachor

### Head Ushers

**Apr 6-** Chris Freudig

**Apr 13-** Allison Isamoyer

**Apr 20, 7:15am-** Shirley Solt

**Apr 20, 10:15am-** Charlene Rachor

**Apr 27-** Laurie Heagy

## April Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors

**-April 20<sup>th</sup>-** In loving memory of Kim's father, Paul Shealer, given by The Jenkins Family



## Children's Choir Schedule

Rehearsals: March 30th  
& April 6th

Singing in Worship: April  
13th

Seeking  
the  
Savior

4/6  
Christ in the Unexpected

4/12  
Christ in the Noise

Join us as we finish  
our Lenten journey  
finding Christ in  
scripture,  
in our community,  
and in our world.



# HOSANNA!

*Join us for Palm Sunday  
on April 13th!*

## WORSHIP AT 10:15 AM

- Celebrate Christ entering Jerusalem with palm branches
- Meet Lollipop the Donkey
- Special music including the Children's Choir
- Easter hat parade



## COMMUNITY EGG HUNT AT NOON



*All are welcome!*

# Easter

SUNDAY APRIL 20TH

*Worship with us at  
7:15 am or 10:15am*

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



*Communion will be  
celebrated at both services.  
The 10:15 am service will  
include a Children's Message.*



As mentioned previously, the major legal and financial changes that will be initiated after the four Conference meetings in May (to adopt the proposed constitution, bylaws and transition plan), and after the Synod vote in July (to establish the geographic borders of Keystone Conference to match state borders), are well advanced or complete and ready to submit for approval. Meanwhile, many details to make the transition go smoothly are being finalized in small group meetings across the state in the interim. I'd like to mention a few of those efforts happening particularly within PNEC.

The biggest change for us will be the legal changes to our structure to become only an association and eliminate the former designation as a conference. Many of the duties and services currently supported by PNEC will then become the responsibility of the Association Board and its volunteers. This is not a tremendous change because most of the Search and Call, Authorization and Oversight, Leadership Development, Coaching and Faith Formation committees and teams doing this work within PNEC have long been comprised of pastors and lay people with a conference staff person assigned to be a support liaison. Also, many of the teams that oversee programmatic efforts like Disaster Ministries, Racial Justice, Mental Health, Education and Mission are set up the same way and will continue. A few administrative and communications functions which have been handled by conference staff will be assumed by the Keystone Conference staff.

Another change that will take place is the geographic outline of what will be our new association boundary compared to the geography included in PNEC's borders. The three regions of the proposed Keystone UCC Conference have been outlined, based on serving an equitable number of member churches and a reasonably practical geography. The area of what was the Penn West Conference was expanded to include nearly half the state but will now increase the number of congregations served to 137. The area of what was Pennsylvania Southeast Conference will change very little in its geography, yet will still serve 200 congregations. While the area that was Penn Northeast Conference will now extend its coverage in the north of the state to include some counties further west, and will serve 186 congregations (a 40% increase).

Plans continue to prepare the building in Palmerton for sale toward the end of the year, including the distribution of unneeded books, banners and church memorabilia at an open house to be held in fall. Furnishings will be assessed and earmarked for the Keystone Conference office or for our association office. More information about the Open House will be announced at the Conference meeting in May. Also at that meeting, we will hear about a contest to be held to select a name for our new association.

**Feel free to contact me at [hklindquist@ptd.net](mailto:hklindquist@ptd.net) If you have questions about the work of the PNEC conference.**

## Acting on Jesus' Teachings



### *LUCC's "Acting" Ministry Theme for 2025* "Missions - Around the Church, Around the Community, and Around the World"

**April 2025 - December 2025 (1st Sunday of each month) - Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)**

What is OCWM? In isolation, no single UCC congregation can be the church the world needs today. To be that world-changing church, we work together through Our Church's Wider Mission to support and inspire each other. Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support funds all the ways we strive together to be the church the world needs. Together we are stronger, our reach is wider, and our commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is deeper.



(taken from [https://www.ucc.org/ocwm/ocwm\\_basic-support/](https://www.ucc.org/ocwm/ocwm_basic-support/))



#### **April 2024-December 2024 ongoing mission for the benefit of the Brandywine Food Pantry**

Please consider helping the food-insecure residents of BHASD 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 appropriately marked tote box in the bell room. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the underprivileged residents of Brandywine Heights Area School District.

#### *April 2025 Global Mission- Church World Service (CWS) Blankets*

(new mission for LUCC)

Let's help Church World Service blanket the world with love! Our April 2025 mission offerings, which will be sent to Church World Service to pay for CWS blankets (\$10.00 each-either lightweight or heavyweight), will be collected from Sunday, April 13, 2025 through Wednesday, April 30, 2025. Church World Service will distribute the blankets to underprivileged people in need of a warm blanket. **We will have a special Blanket Sunday worship service on Sunday, April 27, 2025. Samples of the lightweight and heavyweight Church World Service blankets will be on display in the sanctuary on Blanket Sunday.**



## Teaching What We Believe

# TRAVERSE THE TRADITIONS

*How Christians observe Lent & Easter around the globe.*

## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

JOIN US FOR OUR  
FINAL TWO SESSIONS:  
APRIL 2ND & 9TH

10:30AM OR 7:00PM  
FEGELY HALL

EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T JOIN US IN  
MARCH YOU ARE STILL WELCOME  
TO JOIN US IN APRIL!



## COMMUNION CLASS

SUNDAY  
APRIL 2ND  
AFTER CHURCH

Longswamp UCC is holding a Communion Class for students in 2nd through 6th Grade. Kids who attend will have the opportunity to learn more about the Last Supper, be in fellowship with one another, and have some fun too. Lunch will be provided. We practice an open table, so parents can choose when they feel it's appropriate for their child to receive communion. This class will help parents and kids feel ready if they do decide it's time to receive communion on Easter Sunday (April 20th)! Please contact Pastor Kim with any questions.

## LUCC's Men's Group

The men's group will continue to meet at the Hometown Diner on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7pm. If you need more info or have questions, please call or text Justin Smith at 610-529-3394





LONGSWAMP UCC  
**CHILDREN'S  
CHURCH**

Children's Church meets every Sunday during worship. Kids begin in church and then head to the Preschool room for stories, games, crafts, and more!

LLC News



We had a very fun and exciting March here at the Learning Center! The first week of March was Dr. Seuss week and each day had a special theme: Hat Day (for Cat in the Hat), Red and Blue Day (for Red Fish, Blue Fish), Green Eggs and Ham Day, Favorite Things Day, and Pajama Day! We even had a visit from the Cat in the Hat himself!

As we got closer to spring, the weather cooperated more and more! There were quite a few days that we got to enjoy playing on the playground in the nice warm sun. We are very excited for that weather to continue!

We welcomed 3 new babies to the center and a new young toddler during the month of March. Many of the students are getting ready to move up to the next room once our summer schedule starts.

Speaking of summer, we're already preparing for Summer Camp! Our theme is "The Great Outdoors" and we are certainly going to spend lots of time outside, both here at the center and also during field trips to the park and other places!

*Dear LUCC congregation,*

We were touched by all of the support you showed our family during our mother and grandmother Fern M. Shade's recent illness and following her passing. We greatly appreciated the sympathy cards, encouraging phone calls, supportive text messages, and meals from congregation members.

We thank those of you who came to Fern's funeral for taking time out of your schedules to honor her memory. She was obviously very special to our family but it comforted us to know how many of you felt the same way.

We especially want to thank Pastor Kim for her visits to Fern and understanding during this difficult time for our family.

Sincerely,

*Vern, Jill, Katie, and Matthew Shade*





# Family & Community Updates

## April Birthdays

- April 2-** Grace Reed  
**April 9-** Nancy Snyder  
**April 11-** Mark Moser  
**April 21-** Andrew Shoemaker  
**April 22-** Leo Desrosiers, Rick Shupp  
**April 24-** Briana Hapenovich  
**April 29-** Nathan Wegner  
**April 30-** Weylin Eck

## April Anniversaries

- April 4, 1986-** Cindy & Tim Masenheimer  
**April 5, 1975-** Jeff & Sue McElrea

### *In memory...* **Robert Scheirer** *March 27, 1931-March 26, 2025*

We pray for the family of Robert Scheirer, who passed away on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in Lehigh Valley Hospital. Robert was predeceased by his wife of many years, Luella Scheirer, in 2003.

Robert was a longtime member of Longswamp UCC and enjoyed doing yardwork, working in his garage, and going to auctions and farmers markets, where he loved a good hoagie.

Robert is survived by daughters, Roxanne Reimert and Sheila Fox, son-in-law, Steve Fox, and son, Scott Scheirer. Robert will be missed by many. Services will be held at Longswamp UCC.

## *Congregational Meeting*

**May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Save the date for our yearly congregational meeting! The meeting will be after the 10:15am service on Sunday, May 18th. During this spring meeting, we will hear about the 2024 year in review and discuss and vote on any upcoming projects taking place in the church. The presence of our members is always appreciated!

### *In memory...*

#### *Fern Shade*

*January 9, 1928-March 9, 2025*

We give our sympathies and love to the family and friends of Fern Shade, who passed away March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at Phoebe Home. Fern was predeceased by her husband, Henry Shade, in 2007, and her 7 brothers and 1 sister.

Fern and Henry owned and operated Shade's Economy Store until their retirement in 1989.

Fern is survived by son, Vern, daughter-in-law, Jill, and grandchildren, Katie and Matthew Shade. She was laid to rest on March 18<sup>th</sup> in the presence of family and friends.

Fern was a lifelong member of Longswamp UCC and will be greatly missed by the entirety of her church family.



## *Prayers Needed*



**Church Family Prayer Needs:** Barbara Eck, George Unger, Ramona Romanik, Wilma Lease, Karen Friedly, Annabelle Weller, Doris Epting

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

**Church Friends Prayer Needs:** Family & Friends of Fern Shade, Family & Friends of David Shoemaker, Family & Friends of Robert Scheirer



LUCC's Annual

# COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT



**SUNDAY,  
APRIL 13  
@ 12PM**

200 CLAY ROAD,  
MERTZTOWN, PA  
IN LOWER LOT



## GAMES

EGG HUNTS BY  
AGE GROUP

PICTURES WITH  
THE EASTER BUNNY

## REFRESHMENTS

TREAT BAGS FOR  
KIDS

AGES 0-100+  
WELCOME!

**COMPLETELY FREE!**



**IN THE CASE OF RAIN, EVENT WILL BE DRIVE-THRU**

## SELLERS NEEDED!



# SPRING YARD SALE



**SATURDAY  
MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>  
8AM-12PM**

Rain date: Sunday,  
May 18 from 1-4pm

**LUCC PARKING LOT**  
200 CLAY RD  
MERTZTOWN, PA,  
19539

**Rent a space for \$5,  
LUCC-supplied table  
is additional \$5. Both  
fees benefit Hope  
Rescue Mission.**

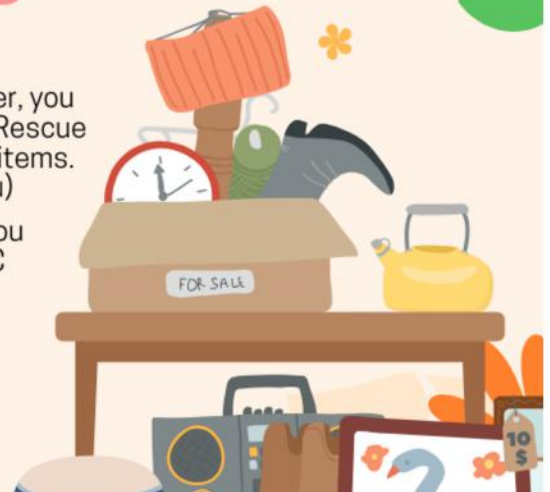
### Swap, Sell, Donate!

Bring anything you want to swap or sell! After the sale is over, you can leave any unwanted clothing with LUCC/LLC. The Hope Rescue Mission in Reading will be picking up any remaining clothing items. (Clothing ONLY! All other items must go back home with you)

If you'd rather just donate clothing- that's ok too! You can drop your unwanted clothing items off at LUCC the week prior to May 17!

**\*\*Please note: each table will be responsible for their own items and sales.**

**Contact Maggie, Pastor Kim, or Sharon for more info!**



# Church Business

## February 2024 Financials

### Income and Expenses

Member Giving:	\$5,309.95
Other Giving:	\$5,514.75
Total Giving:	\$10,824.70
Expenses:	\$11,594.25
<b>Net Income (loss)</b>	<b>\$769.55</b>
Building Fund Checking Income:	\$0
Building Fund Expenses:	\$4,711.68

### Account Balances as of 3/27/2025

General Fund Checking:	\$44,288.78
Contingency Fund Checking:	\$3,022.36
Memorial Fund Checking:	\$13,638.94
Building Fund:	\$1,064.91
Building Fund Checking:	\$40,282.45

### Message from the Treasurer

Included in member giving for missions are \$140 for Our Church's Wider Mission and \$530 for Internal Missions (church steeple repairs.) Included in Other income is \$1,983.75 for the cell tower lease fee, \$2,600 for the Learning Center facility use fee, \$448 for the Sight and Sound trip and \$480 for Memorial Bricks. Included in Building Fund expenses are \$493 for cleaning services, \$1,086.46 for electric service, \$654 for the monthly heating oil budget payment, \$1,367.72 for water testing and equipment maintenance and \$620 for septic tank pumping.

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please contact the church office if you don't see it here! Please inform us, also, if you want to be added to our email list!



### Church Staff

**Pastor** - Rev. Kimberly Berenotto .....pastorkim@longswampucc.org.....610-401-1847  
**Organist & Choir Director** - Ann Mabry Miller .....ann@longswampucc.org  
**Office Administrator & Newsletter Editor** - Maggie Isamoyer...secretary@longswampucc.org  
**LLC Director** - Sharon Wetzel .....sharon@longswampllearningcenter.com  
**LLC Office** - 610-682-9750  
**Church Board President** - Laurie Heagy.....laurie@longswampucc.org .....484-269-4619  
**Maintenance Manager** - Dwayne Snyder.....dwayne@longswampucc.org

# Longswamp UCC

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

## Our Newsletter

*The Beacon*  
*April 2025*



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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE