

# Longswamp United Church of Christ

March 15, 2026 ~ 10:15 am

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Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, Pastor

Ministry Partners: Head Usher- Chris Freudig

Reader- Sadie Moser

## *4th Sunday in Lent*

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

### **MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP**

### **RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS**

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DEDICATION OF VIDEO & STREAMING EQUIPMENT**

*In Memory of Fern M. Shade*

Leader: Generous God, each Sunday we gather together to worship as a community.

**People: We sing praises, we hear your holy word, we pray as one body of Christ.**

Leader: Yet, we know you call us to spread your message beyond these church walls.

**People: We desire to make known to others the love of God, the joy of community, the justice to which Christ calls us, and the peace of having the Holy Spirit take root in our hearts.**

Leader: One of the ways we do that is through recording and streaming our church service; spreading the Gospel through the gifts of technological advancement.

**People: We are grateful for all the ways we can extend the hand of God to others. We are grateful for the tools and equipment that make this possible.**

Leader: Today we dedicate our updated streaming and video equipment in memory of Fern M. Shade.

**People: We are thankful for the gift of Fern's life, and that even in death her open heart and spirit of welcome can live on in the ways we stretch outside this church building.**

Leader: May this streaming and video equipment reach those who are homebound, unable to attend church in person for whatever reason.

**People: May this streaming and video equipment contribute to our church's desire for excellent ministry, providing engaging worship for all who seek it.**

Leader: May this streaming and video equipment empower our volunteers to serve in ways that share God's word; and welcome others into our community.

**People: May Fern's memory be honored and our calling to reach others in Christ's love be pleasing in God's sight. Amen.**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come, all who are thirsty!

**People: Come, all who are weak!**

Leader: Taste the living water that Christ gives to us.

**People: We dip our hands into the stream.**

Leader: Be refreshed in body and soul.

**People: We drink from this water!**

Leader: We depend on this water!

**People: God's living water will never run dry.**

Leader: Come, all who are thirsty!

**People: Come, all who are weak, to Jesus our Lord!**

### **\*HYMN**

*O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*

**#651**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **CONFESSION**

**All: God of living water, we confess there is much in our lives that is dry and worn. Brittle words we have thought and spoken. Relationships that are crumbling. Our own arid perspective that, too often, centers on self. Even the cracked and jagged edges of our world Hear our confession, O Christ, and rain down your abundant waters of mercy upon us. Amen.**

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **LENTEN SUNG CONFSSIONAL RESPONSE**

**TUNE #486**

*Unexpected and mysterious, is the gentle word of grace.*

*Ever loving and sustaining, is the peace of God's embrace.*

*If we falter in our courage, and we doubt what we have known,*

*God is faithful to console us, as a mother tends her own.*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Those who drink the water that Christ gives will never be thirsty!

**People: The water we receive will become within us a spring of living water!**

### **\*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

*I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say*

#506

## RESPONSIVE READING (BASED ON PSALM 95:1-6)

Leader: Let us sing to the Lord!

**People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Leader: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving!

**People: Let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!**

Leader: For the Lord is great and King above all!

**People: In God's hands are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains.**

Leader: The sea is God's, and the dry land which his hands have formed.

**People: O let us worship and kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

Leader: For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture.

**People: We are the sheep of God's hands.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 4:4-42

## SERMON

"Unexpected Encounters: The Woman at the Well"

Pastor Kim

## *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: Holy God, source of all being, you are greater by far than our human thoughts can comprehend. With all that you have created, you abide; weeping with us in grief and pain, rejoicing with us in life and love. You are everywhere at this very moment. In your holy love, Lord, you took on our human limitations, living as Jesus Christ, learning alongside us and teaching us of the love that nurtures us toward eternal life.

Everlasting God, your spirit is as close as the air we breathe, and calls us again and again into relationship with one another and with you. Stir our hearts, now, so we can sing again words of glory and praise 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: Source of life, and breath, and being; breathe into the dry dust of our existence. Nourished in body by bread and cup, may we strive for the nourishment of all bodies: may we work to end hunger in this creation that provides abundantly for all. Nourished in spirit by the meal that we share, may we strive for the incorporation of all: may we work to break the barriers that divide us from one another and from you. In the love that sustains us, and the Spirit that animates us, we give all thanks and praise to you, O God. 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:** Lord, you are the bread of heaven, giving life to the world. God, you are living water, bringing abundance to our lives. You fill our emptiness with your goodness. You come to our weakness with your strength. Take and use these gifts to bring bread and water, abundance and strength, to all who are in-need. Amen.

**\*HYMN**

*O Christians, Haste*

**#731**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING MUSIC**

*Portions of this service were adapted from writings and prayers from Faith and Worship by John Birch, Spacious Faith by Joanna Harader, Sermonizing by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy. Confession sung response lyrics by Charles Ghose.*



# WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- March 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

***Altar Flowers and bulletins are given to the Glory of God and are in loving memory Althea and Jeannette Walbert.***

Welcome to Lent at Longswamp UCC, where we will find ourselves face-to-face with the unexpected. You may have been surprised or even uncomfortable with the UFO on this season's bulletin - which is the point! Much of Jesus' preaching and teaching was absolutely shocking to the ancient community. Have we become too complacent and comfortable with our scriptures? Do we allow Jesus's words to move and change us? This week we share in Communion and have an unexpected encounter with the woman at the well. Join us next Sunday as Jesus' journey leads him to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

After church today, we will have fellowship. Thank you to everyone who brought food or drinks to share with the congregation. At 12pm, our Board & Brush workshop will begin in Fegely Hall. This is a ticketed event so you must have signed up prior to today if you wanted to join us.

## Sharing Our Faith

**We will continue our Lent Bible Study, "Encountering God For Ourselves,"** on Wednesdays until April 1<sup>st</sup>. We have two times available—10:30am in the sanctuary or 7pm in Fegely Hall. Anyone is welcome to join us! See below for the topics each week!

March 18 – Meditation, Silence, & Standing on Pillars

March 25 – Fasting: Self Denial or Fad Diet

April 1 – A Modern Approach to Spiritual Practices

**If you're interested in ordering Easter Flowers, please fill out the form in your bulletin ASAP.** They need to be returned by tomorrow, March 16<sup>th</sup>!

**Mark your calendars for Palm Sunday, March 29, 2025!** Palm Sunday is always an exciting day at LUCC. We will have special music from the Choir, a Hat Parade, and other fun things during the church service. After the service is our Community Egg Hunt starting at 12pm. The egg hunt is for all ages, from 0-100+! We'll also be visited by the Easter Bunny, have hot dogs and light refreshments, and each child will get a treat bag! Join us on this special day!

**Easter presents for our Senior Saints** - Please consider taking a little time out of your busy schedule to visit one of our 10 Senior Saints and surprise them with their Easter present from the congregation. The Easter presents for the Senior Saints are available today. Please make sure you put your name on the sign-up sheet that is on a clipboard with the Easter presents (gift bags). Please deliver the Easter presents no later than Friday, April 3, 2026 (Good Friday).

**Our Easter Sunday services are coming up very soon!** We have two services: a 7:15am Sunrise Service and a 10:15am family-oriented service. Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

## 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. There is NO children's church today because it is a family Sunday. Children will stay in worship with their families and are welcome to play on our Prayground.

## Acting on Jesus' Teachings

**Our March local mission is the Community Easter Egg Hunt!** Our egg hunt is on March 29<sup>th</sup> this year and we need your help to make it happen! There are a few ways that you can use your time, talent, and treasure to make the Egg Hunt a success! We will need volunteers to help before, during, and after the egg hunt. We have various jobs and stations that will need some help, specifically hiding eggs before the church service, helping to set up and break down, and help with transporting the crowds across streets, etc. If you're interested in helping, please let Maggie or Pastor Kim know. Additionally, monetary donations are always appreciated and can be placed in your March Mission envelope and placed in the offering.

**Looking ahead,** for our April 2026 mission, we'll be helping children in need around the world with their educational endeavors by filling a minimum of **25 Kids' Kits, distributed by Church World Service,** with the required school supplies. Our congregation has been helping us to make the tote bags that these supplies will go in. Please bring all the tote bags you've made or purchased to LUCC by Sunday, March 22 or Sunday, March 29, 2026 so we know exactly how many tote bags we have for LUCC's April 2026 global mission.