

# Longswamp United Church of Christ

February 2, 2025 ~ 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- Jill Shade

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

## MUSIC PREPARES US FOR WORSHIP

"How Bright These Glorious Spirits Shine" *Powell*

"O Worship the King" *Powell*

"I'd Rather Have Jesus" *Shea*

## RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: With powerful words and dramatic gestures, or with quiet conversation and a gentle touch;

**People: We respond to God's call to offer healing and hope to our world.**

Leader: With courage to face the injustices around us, with the willingness to go into the brokenness;

**People: We fulfill the call of Jesus to engage in faithful obedience.**

Leader: With patience, gentleness, and the spirit of compassionate care;

**People: We become the Spirit's refuge for all who live in worry and fear.**

**\*HYMN**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

**#669**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### CONFESSION

**All: Lord God, we do not know how to speak words of hope, because we too often listen to words of fear. We do not know how to be loving, because our role models are filled with ridicule and anger. We do not know how to be faithful to you, because we so frequently put our trust in other places. But you know how to forgive, God of kindness. So we pray you would pour out your mercy upon**

**us. May faith abide in us, so we may serve others even as you have served us. May hope abide in us, so we may surround the broken with your compassion and grace. May love abide in us, not only in these moments of brokenness, but in every moment of our life with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The good news is that, in our God, we find a safe place. In God's forgiveness, we are offered the healing we need. In God's acceptance, we discover the love in which we may abide in every moment of our lives.

**People: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### LOFT CHOIR ANTHEM

*"Come Into My Heart"*

*Clarke & Rasley*

### \*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 and then they can follow our Sunday School teachers to Children's Church located in the Education Building. Children's Church includes bible stories, crafts, games and more. Sunday School is for kids of all ages, but we welcome families to stay together in worship if that is what you prefer.*

**\*HYMN**

*Christ Be My Leader*

**#107**

### RESPONSIVE READING BASED ON PSALM 71:1-16

Leader: In you Lord, I have taken refuge.

**People: In your righteousness turn your ear to hear me.**

Leader: Be my rock, to which I can always go.

**People: You are my fortress, you can save me.**

Leader: Deliver me, God, from the hands that seek to do wicked.

**People: For you have been my hope and my confidence, Lord.**

Leader: All my life I have relied on you.

**People: And I will ever praise you! Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:21-30

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"All Creatures of Our God and King"*

*Glenn Fisher, flute*

*arr. Gary Lanier*

### SERMON

*"Ancient Townspeople"*

Pastor Kim

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

## 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: Holy God, we do not need to give everything, but we will join our gifts with those of others to reach out, in love, to those who have nothing. So we dedicate today's offerings to transformation and to the workings of the Holy Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*HYMN** *In Christ There is No East or West* **#697**

## BENEDICTION

**CLOSING MUSIC** *"Postlude"* *Rasmussen*

*Portions of today's service adapted from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman.*



## WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon- February 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Altar Flowers and Bulletins are given to the Glory of God and are in honor of Scout Sunday (next week), given by Boy Scout Troop #575.*

Thanks for joining us for worship today! We will hear special music from our Loft Choir and from Glenn Fisher on the flute!

Next week, February 9<sup>th</sup>, is Scout Sunday and we will be joined by Boy Scout Troop #575 and Girl Scout Troop #11098. The Boy Scouts will also be hosting fellowship after church.

### Sharing Our Faith

**We still have a few Sundays open for musical talents.** If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument during the service, please sign up on the board in the narthex. The Loft Choir will be singing once a month, Glenn will be playing the flute every first Sunday, and the Children's Choir will be singing the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

**Speaking of the Children's Choir, there will be short practices after church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month to prepare for their 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday performance.** This month, the Children's Choir will be singing on February 23<sup>rd</sup> with practices on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Please stay after if your child is interested!

### Teaching What We Believe

**Our Sunday School, Children's Church, starts back up today after taking a brief break last week.** All kids begin in church and, after the Children's Message, they can follow our Sunday School teachers to the Preschool Room for stories, games, crafts, and more. If you have questions about Children's Church or would like to volunteer, please speak with Pastor Kim.

### Acting on Jesus' Teachings

**Our February Mission is an internal mission to repair the church steeple.** During the fall, winds and weather caused some of the siding to come off of the side of the steeple, exposing the framework underneath to the elements. Not only will this be a big undertaking monetarily, we also will need to find a contractor/roofer who is able to work on buildings this tall. Your donation can be placed in your February mission envelope or you can just mark a blank envelope with "February Mission." Any offerings will help us to find the best person for the job and repair this beacon of our church.

**January 2025 Local Mission - Backpack Buddies Program at Brandywine Heights Elementary School (BHES)** - LUCC did a **GREAT JOB** of making sure that the disadvantaged children in Brandywine Heights Elementary School are able to receive food for the weekend since hunger doesn't end on Fridays. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU** to our LUCC members who very generously supported our January mission. We collected a huge variety of specific

individual non-perishable food items, \$100 in Weis Markets gift cards, and \$150 in mission offerings. We used the mission offerings to purchase gift cards for Weis Markets. Our donations were delivered to the local elementary school this past week.

### Longswamp UCC Business

**Hard copies of our newsletter can be found on the left side table** in the narthex by the front door when leaving the sanctuary. Online copies are available on our website or, if you'd like to join the email list, just email the church office.