

Facebook Page: Longswamp UCC

Rev. Lynn Shoemaker, Pastor Ann Mabry Miller, Organist
Ministry Partners: Leo Desrosiers – Videographer; Don Siegfried –Scripture Reader

Sharing Our Faith in Worship

Live Streamed at 10:15am & Uploaded to Our Channel on YouTube

Organ Music Prepares Us for Worship

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” - Broughton
“Prepare the Way” - Mansfield
“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” - Mansfield

Welcome, Announcements, Bell Chimes

Call to Worship

“In the silence of a midwinter dusk, there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen. You walk up the steps to the front door. The empty windows at either side of it tell you nothing, or almost nothing. For a second you catch a whiff of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you’ve never been and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart...The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.”

—Frederick Buechner, Whistling in the Dark

Hymn **“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”** #135

Advent Wreath Lighting

One: In the beginning was a dark and formless void, chaos and emptiness.

All: And the first thing was Light.

One: God spoke Light, and it was good. But not all that we have done has been good. And God sent Light to bring order to our troubled souls.

All: God shapes us into vessels for light.

One: Called to account, called to life, called to light:

All: In the midst of doom and destruction, the advent of Christ lights a candle of Hope.

One: Let us pray...

All: Light from our beginnings, Light from creation, shine in our universe, shine in our world, shine in us. May we find light in the darkest of times, knowing that the light can never be extinguished. As we await the birth of the Christ-child, so we await your light dawning in a new way. Amen.

Call To Confession

Confession

All: Even though this is a season of hope, O God, we enter it clutching tight to the ways of yesterday the moments of despair that we allow to hold us in bondage. Free us from such despondency, Holy One, and forgive us for the times when we have chosen to live lives mired in anguish rather than the optimistic expectation that the coming Christ instills. May we find ways to embody the elation of this season and may you empower us to share it with all people. We offer this prayer, and we seek your pardon, in the name of the One who was, who is, and whose return we await: Christ Jesus. Amen.

*** Assurance of Pardon**

P: The Lord is our heavenly Father. We are being redeemed by the work of God’s faithful hand through Jesus Christ. For Christ’s sake, our sins are forgiven. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we may be blessed with every spiritual gift and be continually strengthened in the fellowship of God’s son, Jesus Christ our Lord. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Scripture Mark 13:24-37

Sermon

Hymn **“Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying”** #131

Prayers of the People

Hymn **“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”** #132

Benediction

Closing Music *“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”* - Smith

WELCOME TO LONGSWAMP UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

This is our Weekly Beacon November 29 – December 6, 2020

Welcome to Longswamp United Church of Christ! We invite you to join us on our journey of connection as we deepen our relationships with Christ, each other and our community.

Acting on Jesus' Teachings

November 2020 Local Mission - The Jarett Yoder Foundation - A HUGE "THANK YOU" to everyone who generously supported the Jarett Yoder Foundation. Once again, our congregation has done a GREAT JOB in supporting needy veterans and their families in our community. We have already collected \$920.00 (including a \$500.00 contribution from an anonymous donor) for this very worthwhile cause. Donations will still be collected until tomorrow (Monday, November 30). Please turn your contributions into the church office. THANK YOU SO MUCH for your continued support of our missions here at Longswamp UCC.

December 2020 Local Mission - The Longswamp Learning Center classes - Let's share the joy of Christmas with the children of the Longswamp Learning Center (LLC). Please take a few minutes to look over the special article in the "Act on Jesus's Teachings" section of our December 2020 church newsletter about providing Christmas presents for our Longswamp Learning Center classes. Please look over the steps for providing a Christmas present and the list of items that the LLC teachers have requested for their classes. Please contact Jill Shade (484-894-0636; jill.shade@longswampucc.org) to volunteer to provide a special Christmas gift for our LLC classes. All wrapped presents are to be dropped off at the church between Sunday, December 6 and Sunday, December 20, 2020 so they can be delivered to the respective classes in time for their Christmas celebrations on Wednesday, December 23, 2020. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this very important mission of our church!

Longswamp Troop 575: Veteran's Christmas Wreath Project sponsor forms are available in the bell room or call the church office 610-682-6230. Please support our scout troop and our departed veterans.