

# THE LONGSWAMP UCC BEACON - JULY 2020

*Teaching, sharing and acting on what we believe.*



## From the Pastor

Rev. Lynn Shoemaker

Happy July!!!! I think.....I'm opening the door for July with caution. Independence Day! Strangely Jesus teaches his disciples to be dependent on God. He says to call God Father, and if we need protection or help—just call out. We, in the United States will be

blowing up gunpowder in the sky, waving our flags and celebrating our independence. What are we supposed to do? Steve Thomson gives a good example:

**Dependence.** Put your hands like this: one reaching down and grabbing the other, like it's lifting it up. An infant will die if left alone. A child is completely dependent upon a more mature human for survival. The child is not able—physically, intellectually, emotionally, or spiritually—to survive and thrive.

**Independence.** Put your hands like this: two fists facing each other. The adolescent must go through a process of weaning from the dependence phase. She must learn that she is now physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually able to encounter life as an individual and make choices without the supervision of those upon whom she depended as a child. This is good and right, and often very painful for the family system.

**Interdependence.** Put your hands like this: two hands, side by side, fingers interlaced. While the process of learning independence is good and healthy, it is not reality. The truth of the universe is that nothing exists completely alone and nothing has everything within itself to survive. All things are interdependent upon other things for survival. The mature human recognizes the truth of Genesis 3:18 when God said that it was not good for the man to be alone. We were created for community and we must learn to rely upon each other, offering our strengths and allowing other's strengths to complement our weaknesses.

Thanks, Steve! We have been feeling alone with this virus, but we are not alone. We are dependent upon each other and God.

Blessings, Pastor Lynn

[www.stevethomason.net/2016/07/03/prayer...](http://www.stevethomason.net/2016/07/03/prayer...)

## In This Issue...

- Worship Calendar
- Search Committee Updates
- Conference News
- Mission Updates
- LLC Happenings
- Church Family Updates!
- And so much more!

## August 2020 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the May 2020 newsletter is **Tuesday, July 21st.**

Please have all articles to the church office by this date.

# Sharing our Faith

## Summer Worship hours **9:00AM** July 2020

On-site services at **9:00AM** for those who feel comfortable doing so. Masks are required and hand sanitizer is provided. There will be no passing of the peace and the offering basket will be located mid-way down the center aisle. Social distancing is to be observed, so please be patient entering and leaving the sanctuary. We will also still live stream worship on our "**Longswamp UCC**" Facebook page starting at 9:00am. It will be uploaded after worship to our "**Longswamp United Church of Christ**" YouTube Channel.

### July Calendar:

**July 5th** - Celebration of 4th of July. Chosen Journeys—Choosing good over evil

**July 12th** - A House Divided—Jacob & Esau

**July 19th** - Holy Communion. Parable of the Weeds

**July 26th** - Weaving the Future

### Church Office Updates...

Visitors are now allowed to come into the Bell Room (wearing masks) during the week to drop off Radcliffe's receipts, Brandywine Food Pantry items and Giving envelopes if unable to do so on a Sunday. If you need to see or speak to Dawn, please call the office at 610-682-6230. We are opening back up slowly so please be patient. Thank you!

### Church Office Closed Friday, July 3rd

For non-emergency messages, please leave a message on the church answering machine.

For pastoral emergencies, please leave a message on Pastor Lynn's voicemail (717-836-2050).



# Acting on Jesus' Teachings



## Let's "ACT on our FAITH" and help the Brandywine Food Pantry!

Did you know that the Brandywine Food Pantry, which is housed at St. Peter's UCC in Tipton, is supported by churches, civic groups, individuals, businesses, and schools in and around the Brandywine Heights Area

School District?

As a result of the increased food needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Brandywine Food Pantry is always in need of LUCC's generosity. In addition to the food, toiletries, and household items that the Brandywine Food Pantry requests, they are also in need of monetary donations. [Please use your mission envelope (3rd week of the month) for a monetary donation to the Brandywine Food Pantry. Please make checks payable to Longswamp United Church of Christ and mark Brandywine Food Pantry in the memo line. You can also give cash to Jill Shade, our "Acting" lead, and she'll do the shopping for you. Monetary donations (checks or cash) will be credited toward your annual giving.]

Donated items in "**much need**" right now:

(\*\*\* Please check expiration dates on donated food products!)

Breakfast - cereal, pancake mix and syrup

Lunch/Dinner - Soup (all kinds), spaghetti sauce, beef stew, chicken a la king, canned meat (tuna, chicken breast, Spam), Hamburger Helper, Manwich or sloppy joe mix, Chef Boyardee items (canned - beefaroni, lasagna, etc.), pasta or rice side dishes, instant potatoes

Baking products - sugar

Snacks - all kinds (cookies, chips, pretzels, pudding, etc.)

Special foods - gluten-free, sugar-free foods

Drinks - coffee, fruit juices

Condiments - ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise

Toiletries - shampoo, soap (bars), body wash

Household items - laundry detergent

Please note that the Brandywine Food Pantry currently does not need corn, green beans, and mixed vegetables.

# A Leadership Update

## Search Committee Update

Over the last month the Search Committee has had 3 meetings and since the creation of our committee in Feb. we've had a total of 15 meetings.

Since our last report to you an additional 7 surveys were returned to us for a total of 61 completed surveys (38% return rate). We received great feedback from the surveys and again thank everyone for their input. I can assure you that we have poured over every single comment and have had many hours of discussions on your remarks. While we have reviewed many documents, studies and financial reports none are more important than the surveys you have completed. We wish to assure you that we will do our best to use your comments to better our church family and to find the type of Pastor that you are looking for.

We have also begun work on the writing of our Church Profile (the document which will give prospective Pastoral candidates a broad overview of our church). The work on the Profile will take quite some time as it is quite a lengthy document. We hope to have it completed by Oct. 1. Subsequent to the completion of the Profile the committee will prepare itself for the interviewing of potential candidates. Please keep in mind that the mission of the Search Committee is the successful search for a "permanent" Pastor. Church Board has the responsibility and is indeed presently seeking an Interim Pastor. Pastor Lynn Shoemaker presently is our Supply Pastor conducting Sunday services until an Interim Pastor is hired.

While the committee wishes to move as quickly as possible to find a permanent Pastor please keep in mind that according to our Conference the average search time for a permanent Pastor is 12-18 months. Given that these numbers are averages, it may take longer. As this process unfolds we'll try and give you some idea of whether or not we are finding ourselves within the above stated 12-18 month parameter.

So we continue to ask you for your patience through this lengthy process. Most importantly, we continue to ask you for your prayers of wisdom and discernment as we seek that person whom God is calling to serve us.

Should anyone have any questions or concerns feel free to contact any of us on the committee.

May the Peace of Christ be with You Always,  
Will Miller, Chair

Search Committee Members:

Chris Freudig  
Hope DeIaco  
Theresa Haffner  
Maggie Isamoyer  
Will Miller  
Vern Shade



# A Leadership Update

## Conference News

Like so many individuals and organizations have had to do in recent months (LUCC included), PNEC had to recognize that income would suddenly drop off precipitously as a result of the sudden, forced withdrawal from the economy when we all sheltered at home. The common response to that reality was to review obligations, expenditures and, at the very least, consider reordering priorities. In keeping with our fiduciary responsibilities, we at the Conference also aligned columns of needs and wants.

Fortunately, the trickle of OCWM support did not cease completely; and even more fortunately, the PNEC also had some invested reserves to draw upon and they were eligible for some of the stimulus programs (Ex. Payroll Protection Program) made available through the government. Therefore, the PNEC Board authorized those actions at their latest meeting.

Other actions included a final vote on the latest edits to the Gift Acceptance Policy, and a discussion about the next step in formulating guidance for those making decisions about accepting certain gifts.

Also, a vote was taken on whether PNEC wished to support a Supreme Court Amicus Brief which supported “LGBT persons, their relationships and their families”. The vote was unanimous to add the Conference’s support to this case.

One other bit of news to pass on - the Conference received a letter from the Board of the National Church informing us that they have made the decision to cancel the in-person session of the 33<sup>rd</sup> General Synod meeting, scheduled to be held in the summer of 2021, due to continued concerns about the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic extending well into next year, and grave concerns about those who would have to travel a great distance and expose themselves to a risk to their health. The Nat’l Board opted instead for a virtual gathering and will spend the next 15 months planning how to make that a “holy, engaging and inspiring gathering of our church – complete with worship, theological reflection, opportunities for connection and the regular business of the church”.

As always, if you have any questions about the work of the PNEC, please feel free to contact Helena Lindquist at [hklindquist@ptd.net](mailto:hklindquist@ptd.net).

## Teaching What We Believe



### Longswamp Learning Center News

#### LLC's Reopening

After Berks County moved to the “yellow phase” in early June, LLC reopened on Monday, June 8, 2020. Many “temporary” revisions (new drop-off and pick-up procedures, health screenings of children and staff several times a day, social distancing, wearing masks, additional cleaning/sanitizing, etc.) to our existing practices/ policies were put in place.

#### Welcome New LLC Staff member!

The LLC administration, staff, and Board of Directors would like to welcome Jenn, our newest caregiver. Jenn is currently helping out in each classroom.



# Teaching What We Believe



## Looking for Quality Child Care?

Can you believe that school will be starting in less than 2 months? We know that many families will be looking for quality child care and educational programming for their children for the remainder of the summer and the new school year. If you, or someone you know, is looking for quality child care, please contact Sharon Wetzel, the director, by calling the LLC office (610-682-9750) or via email ([sharon@longswampllearningcenter.com](mailto:sharon@longswampllearningcenter.com)) to find out more about the various programs we offer at our Keystone STARS 4 facility.

- LLC, a very important mission of LUCC for almost 34 years, serves our community by providing quality care for the children of our community.
- 6 child care programs - infants, toddlers, preschool, community preschool, and before/after school care during the school year (will be held at LUCC during the 2020 - 2021 school year), and Summer Camp for school-age children (held at LUCC)
- Play-based curriculum gives children a “hands-on” learning experience
- Tours for families who are interested in enrolling their child(ren) are being completed after the LLC closes (after 5:30 PM) in an effort to adhere to CDC Guidelines.

## LLC receives Education and Retention Grant!

The Longswamp Learning Center is very proud to announce that our LUCC site (infant, toddler, and preschool programs) was the recipient this spring of an Education and Retention Grant through the PA Keystone Stars Program. Five of our LLC staff members at the LUCC site received a portion of the \$9,440 grant. LLC staff members must meet the following criteria in order to qualify for the grant: 1) have a degree (Child Development Associate certificate or a college degree); 2) work the prescribed number of hours per week; 3) have the required position at LLC; and 4) have worked at LLC for more than one year. Congratulations to our five staff members who received this well-deserved award!

## LLC Summer Camp 2020

Are you or someone you know still looking for something special for your school-age child(ren) for the rest of this summer? If so, contact Sharon Wetzel, the LLC director, by calling 610-682-9750 or via email ([sharon@longswampllearningcenter.com](mailto:sharon@longswampllearningcenter.com)) to find out more about Longswamp Learning Center's Summer Camp.

### Wacky Science Week - June 8 - 12, 2020 (1st week of Summer Camp)

- ★ Children engaged in scientific explorations about nature, chemical reactions, and the human body
- ★ Learned many weird and wacky science facts
- ★ Played with moving cornstarch

## July Themes

- ★ Food Madness - Week of June 29 - July 2, 2020  
(LLC will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2020 in observance of the 4th of July)
- ★ Reduce, Reduce, Recycle - Week of July 6 - 10, 2020
- ★ Fear Factor - Week of July 13 - 17, 2020
- ★ Clowning Around - Weeks of July 20 - 31, 2020

# Family & Community Updates

## Graduate Recognition



### *High School:*

**Bradley Hunter Desrosiers**, son of John “Leo” Desrosiers and Deborah Desrosiers, graduated from Kutztown Area High School on June 4, 2020. Bradley plans on working at the family business, Herman’s Drive-In.

**Zachary Richard Rachor**, son of Charlene Rachor & Richard Rachor, Jr, will graduate from Emmaus High School on July 26, 2020. Zach will be enlisting in the U.S. Army.

**Skylar Renee Strunk**, daughter of Dawn & Derek Strunk, graduated with the highest honors Summa Cum Laude from Brandywine Heights High School on June 4, 2020. At Brandywine, she was a member of the National Honor Society, FBLA and SADD. She had over 100 hours of community service, earned the Berks County School Health Association Future Nurse Scholarship, Topton Soccer Club Scholarship, BCIAA Hall of Fame Scholarship, 2019/2020 Outstanding Senior Female Athlete, the District 3 Eugene Brooks award, and the President’s Educational Award. Skylar will be attending West Chester University majoring in Nursing. She will also be swimming for the West Chester Golden Rams Swim Team.

### *College:*

**Weylin Benjamin Eck**, son of Coralie & Barry Eck, graduated from Penn State Berks Campus on May 9, 2020. Weylin graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology. He was on the Dean’s list all 4 years and recognized as the 2019/2020 Outstanding Internship Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology.

**Matthew Robert Masenheimer**, son of Cindy & Tim Masenheimer, graduated from Temple University with a degree in Risk Management & Insurance. He plans to enter the employee benefits consulting field.

**Laura Hope Stoudt**, daughter of Sarah and Matthew Reed, graduated from Temple University on May 7, 2020. Laura graduate with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Sociology.

***Congratulations & Best Wishes to all our graduates!***

## Scholarship Money Available

Applications for Endowment Scholarships may be picked up in the office space called “The Hub” (formerly known as the Pastor’s office) in a mailbox marked “Scholarship Applications”.

Applications are due no later than September 1, 2019

# Family & Community Updates

## JULY Birthdays

July 1 - Andrew Steventon

July 2 - Ramona Romanik

July 3 - Kaitlyn Gross, Mackenzie Gross, Nancy Weymouth

July 6 - Barry Eck

July 10 - Anthony George

July 12 - Sheila Fox, Susan Kutz

July 15 - Don Siegfried

July 17 - Paul Stoudt

July 20 - Tina Cirafesi, Matthew Reed, Andrew Toth

July 21 - Carol Ivey

July 22 - Vern Shade

## JULY Anniversaries

07/07/2007 Lily Chen & Frederick Dankel

07/24/1965 Geraldine & Paul Stoudt

## Thank you Notes & Personal thank you's...

*Dear Members of the Longswamp UCC,*

*What a wonderful surprise it was when I opened my mailbox recently and discovered the envelope you sent to me. Thank you for the yummy snacks and the "Thinking of You" card with warm and kind messages from many members. It was very nice and thoughtful! God Bless each and everyone of you! Stay safe and well! Sincerely, Robert Scheirer*

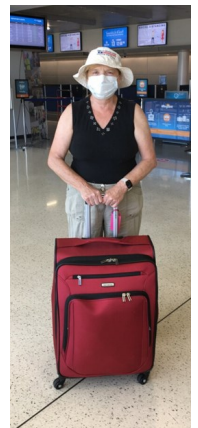
*Dear Longswamp Members,*

*Thank you for the retirement present of good quality luggage to use on my (hopefully) many travels. I recently used the largest piece when I flew to Myrtle Beach SC to stay in a vacation home with family members. I just love the way that - thanks to the four wheels - you can roll the luggage right along effortlessly. Thank you also to those who were brave enough to come for a farewell drive through. I am now preparing to move into a smaller home in a walkable neighborhood in the city of Allentown. Due to my eye problems I want to have easy access to services and transportation. Thank you for ten happy and fulfilling years. Working together as the Body of Christ I know you have a good future. God Bless You All. Pastor Kathy*

*Thank you to everyone who has supported me in my life journey up to and including my graduation from college. Sincerely, Weylin Eck*

*Dear Longswamp UCC,*

*Thank you so very much for doing the drive through food drive. What a wonderful gesture. We are very grateful for the support and generosity that your members have always given us. The pantry could not continue without the kindness and support of our local church community. All of you are truly a blessing. Thank you again. The Brandywine Food Pantry*



**St. Paul's Church will be hosting VBS -  
Mystery Island virtually July 26-August 1st.**

**Facebook Group:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/288738252526944>



# Church Business

## May 2020 Financial Information

### Income and Expenses

Member giving	\$ 7,212.00
Other income	\$ 26,644.25
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 33,856.25</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (14,530.19)</b>
<b>Net income (gain)</b>	<b>\$ 19,326.06</b>
Building Fund Expenses	\$ 1,735.25

### Account Balances (as of 5/31/2020)

General Fund Checking	\$ 31,007.61
Contingency Fund Checking	\$ 3,020.89
Memorial Fund Checking	\$ 5,820.64
Memorial Fund CD	\$ 10,253.42
Building Fund Checking	\$ 34,661.86

### Notes from the Treasurer

Included in Other income are the lease payments for 2 months from Sprint in the amount of \$3,450, the Learning Center facility use payment of \$2,045 and the workers' compensation premium reimbursement by the Learning Center of \$3,200.45 for 2 months, \$1,200 for use of the Schubert Haus by the Longswamp Township Historical Society, and \$16,700 in loan proceeds from the Paycheck Protection Program. Included in Building Fund expenses are \$172 for water testing and equipment monitoring, \$384.87 for electric service, \$553.38 for propane gas to heat the sanctuary and boy scout cabins and \$625 for mowing and trimming.

## Property Updates...

Thank you for your support. Not much to report, just keeping up with the day to day.

Helped LLC with some minor fixes and locks for the upcoming inspection.

Nick Strunk weeded, trimmed and mulched the flower bed closest to the sanctuary. We are working on the other flower bed soon.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the **Property Team** (Fran Zettlemoyer, Don Siegfried, Dean Shoemaker, Rick Rachor, Bob Fritz)

Please contact Maintenance Manager, Elliott Smith at [elliott@longswampucc.org](mailto:elliott@longswampucc.org) with any questions.



# **Longswamp Church**

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

## **Our Newsletter**

### ***The Beacon***

## **July 2020**

### **Longswamp UCC**

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Mertztown, PA 19539

610.682.6230

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Visit us on the web at  
[longswampucc.org](http://longswampucc.org)

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