

# THE LONGSWAMP UCC BEACON - MAY 2020

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



## From the Pastor

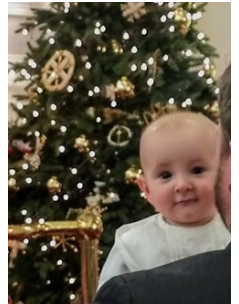
Rev. Dr. Katherine E. Brearley

**Dear Members and Friends,**

“Goodbye” is a word that means so many things. Right now we think of the pain so many people experience when they can only say “Goodbye” to a loved one through a glass ICU window. “Goodbye” is the word a parent has to say to children when the parent must go into COVID 19 quarantine. “Goodbye” is the word uttered by new college students as they leave for their first semester away from home. “Goodbye” is the word family and friends wave to service men and women as they are deployed to serve their country. Now “Goodbye” is the word I, as the pastor, have to say to you. “Thank you” is another important word I want to share today.

Thank you for all the memories we have shared for nearly ten years. There are sweet memories of baptisms, confirmations and weddings. There are memories of visits to the hospital or nursing home when you allowed me to share some of your personal health information. There are sorrowful memories of meeting death together and trying to honor the deceased’s life with a few words, a bouquet of flowers, and the last walk to the grave. At every turn you have trusted me to find and speak God’s Word to our humanity. Together we have leaned on the Rock of Ages.

We have also shared moments of deep community holiness. We have watched the light passed from candle to candle in the darkness of Christmas Eve worship. The rich organ music, the sweet singing of the choir and soloists have moved us to tears. Holiness comes in many ways. Together we have responded to the need of desperate strangers. Our warmth, kindness and generosity have pulled these strangers back from a death grip of despair. Shortly after I arrived at Longswamp UCC I was one of four local clergy who restarted the Brandywine Food Pantry. Together we have supported the Food Pantry, Friend Inc. and other local missions.



My work as a half time pastor has only been possible because many people have stepped up to leadership responsibility. These are the people you see in Sunday worship. Most essential support church work goes on unseen during the week, but my heart thanks our staff who made my work possible: Dawn Strunk, Bob Friedly, Ann Miller, Vern Shade (Bells-retired), Ronnie Newhard (deceased), Tom Vose (moved), Elliott Smith and Nick Strunk.

I am saying “Goodbye” as your pastor, and I will be following the Penn North East Conference UCC etiquette for retired pastors. You will always be in my prayers. I will always care about you. I will always consider you “my friends”. I will always be living a stone’s throw away, but I will not in any way fulfill the role of “pastor”. The God we worship is faithful and I know the Holy Spirit will soon bring you the right Interim Pastor. I will enjoy my retirement knowing you are in God’s loving hands.

God be with you all, Pastor Kathy

# Sharing our Faith

## 10:15am Worship May 2020

Live Streamed on Face Book Longswamp UCC & Posted to Our Channel on YouTube

**Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>** The Risen Jesus speaks to Peter at the lake shore. We listen to the command, "Feed My Sheep." Food Pantry drive through collection at the church door 10:45am – 12pm. *Drive up to the church door, wave "hello" and drop a food contribution into the box provided. Food Drive will be rain or shine.*

**Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>** Mother's Day. Our readings honor Mary the mother of Jesus. Luke 2:33- 40 Mary presents Jesus at the Temple; John 19:23-27 Mary at the foot of the cross; Acts 1:12-14 Mary continues to meet with the disciples. We usually present each lady with a spring flower. Watch our Facebook page to see what arrangements have been made.

**Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>** Confirmation Sunday, Holy Communion, Ascension Day Observed.

**Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>** **Pastor Kathy's Last Sunday**. Scripture Acts 1:12-26 The disciples meet to choose a successor to Judas.

**Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>** Last worship at 10:15am. Celebration of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Readings Acts 2:1-21, John 7:37-39

## Church Office Updates...

The Church Office is currently closed, except for **Tuesdays from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM** when Dawn will be in to check phone messages and answer phone calls. **Also, the Bell Room will be open during this time to drop off your offering, food pantry items, eggs for future egg hunt, and Radcliffe receipts and to pick up a hymnal or a hard copy of the newsletter.** For all other business or spiritual guidance, please contact Pastor Kathy at 610-295-9599.

**Food Pantry Donations:** The Brandywine Food Pantry is open and still supplying food for those in need in our area. They are in need of everything. Please consider donating and dropping off any items in the marked basket in the Bell Room.

**Plastic Easter Eggs:** Eggs can be filled and dropped off or if you are unable to fill the eggs you can drop off the unfilled eggs in the marked basket in the Bell Room.

**Radcliffe's Receipts:** Please remember to drop off your Radcliffe's receipts in the marked box in the Bell Room. This is a very easy way to assist your church. Please do not roll them up as it is difficult to tally the amounts since they won't lay flat.

**Hymnal pickup:** If you wish to sing-along in your home while watching the live streaming.

# A Leadership Update

## Search Committee Update

As you may know Pastor Kathy will be retiring as of May 26th. As a result a Search Committee was appointed by Church Board to begin the work of searching for a new "permanent" Pastor. Since the Penn Northeast Conference tells us that on average the search process to find a permanent Pastor takes 12-18 months, Church Board has begun work on seeking an "interim" Pastor.

What are the duties of the Search Committee?

- to survey the congregation for your input on the future direction of the church as well as the type of permanent Pastor you believe we need
- to complete a lengthy and in-depth "Church Profile." The "Church Profile" covers areas such as: church history, membership/attendance, finances and where we see our church going in the future.....among other areas. This document is designed to give interested Pastoral candidates a good understanding of and about our church.
- to screen and interview prospective Pastoral candidates
- to make a recommendation to Church Board of the candidate we think will best meet our church's needs

\*\* (Of course you, our members, will make the final decision via your vote at a congregational meeting)

What has the Committee done so far?

- we have had 11 committee meetings (in person or via teleconference)
- we have completed and mailed out a congregational survey
- we have begun work on the "Church Profile"

What is the Committee's next step?

- Our next step is to complete the "Church Profile". We expect to complete the "Church Profile" by mid-October

What happens after the "Church Profile" is completed?

- The Committee will then begin screening and interviewing potential candidates

On behalf of the Search Committee I can tell you that we are endeavoring to complete the search for a new permanent Pastor as quickly as we can. We will keep you apprised of our progress. Feel free to speak with any of us regarding any questions and/or concerns you may have. In the meantime we ask you for your prayers as we seek God's guidance and wisdom to find that Pastor whom God has called for us.

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

Search Committee Members

Chris Freudig  
Hope Delaco  
Theresa Hafner  
Maggie Isamoyer  
Will Miller  
Vern Shade

# A Leadership Update

*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



## Conference News

Certainly, a great deal has transpired and changed since I wrote only a month ago, and that is true for the PNEC as well. Unfortunately, the Board felt it was necessary to cancel the planned Spring Conference meeting that was scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and hold over most of the business on the agenda until the Fall Conference Meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup>. However, the spring meeting is where many terms on the Board, Committees and Teams expire and new nominees are voted to serve. So, rather than have vacancies for many months, the Board just voted to appoint those nominees to serve during the interim before November when those appointments will be ratified.

Bonnie Bates' installation Ceremony (originally scheduled on April 4<sup>th</sup>) has been postponed until June 28<sup>th</sup> at Greenawalds UCC at 3:00 pm. Hopefully, the scheduled Board Orientation and Retreat will take place as planned on May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Other actions taken at the Board meeting April 15<sup>th</sup> included:

- Authorizing the Treasurer to apply for a Payroll Protection Loan and accepting his report which indicated the Conference's cash flow is adequate for now.
- Voting to support our partnership with the Allentown Freedom School which will enroll 50 young students from struggling inner city neighborhoods for academic enrichment and leadership skills this summer with a \$1,500 cash donation.
- Accepting the final draft of a Ways of Work document for the Board and a Conference Conflict Resolution Policy.
- Acceptance of Conference Ministry Goals for 2020-2022. The Board, Committees and Teams will now incorporate implementation action steps for these goals into their mission and agendas.
- At the request of the few remaining members of St. James UCC, Shepton, the Board voted to approve the dissolution of the church which has closed its doors.
- Board member Becky Sausser was asked to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee and she agreed to accept if confirmed. The Board approved her appointment unanimously.

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).

## JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the May 2020 newsletter is **Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**.  
Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.



# Acting on Jesus' Teachings

## Support Ministries

### Can You Help?

During her time at Longswamp Church Pastor Kathy has taken on a variety of tasks. Some were previously done by the now disbanded Women's Fellowship. Some Pastor Kathy took on to help promote the mission and vision of Longswamp Church. Some were tasks done by people who have now moved on. This is a list of some of the tasks with a brief description. You can get more details from Pastor Kathy or from the Church Office. A small amount of money is available from our Family Ministries funds to support these ventures:

**Guest Welcome Bags** The purpose of these Welcome Bags is that once they are handed to a guest they are a visible sign to everyone that this person should be welcomed as a visitor. Inside the bag are a few items including brief information about the congregation. New bags need to be made each month.

**Sunday Refreshments** The purpose of offering **simple** refreshments in the Bell Room is to encourage people in the congregation to fellowship with each other. It also offers a place of hospitality if guests wish to talk to someone. A person could just take responsibility for one Sunday a month if they wish, or someone could take responsibility for organizing other people.

**Pew Card Packets Updated** The purpose of Pew Card Packets is to have offering envelopes available, plus prayer/communion cards and a Welcome/Contact card. They have to be folded an exact way. These packets should be checked every two weeks and missing cards/envelopes replaced.

**Kitchen Oversight** The purpose of this ministry is to make sure the kitchen is always clean and tidy, ready for other people to use. People use the kitchen and people clean up. However, there are always one or two stray items, and one or two sticky spots. Items are sometimes left in the fridge and forgotten. Over time the drawers and cabinets get disorganized. The place where the bulk items are stored gets untidy. The Kitchen Oversight person quietly and cheerfully does that final bit of tidying and cleaning that used to be done by the Women's Fellowship.

**Purchase of Small Quantity Paper Products** The purpose of this ministry is to make good stewardship of our limited kitchen space by purchasing small quantities of paper plates and bowls of various sizes. Products should be ecofriendly, but sturdy. Keep receipts and the treasurer will reimburse.

**Sanctuary Oversight** The purpose of this ministry is to honor God's house by periodically walking through all areas of the sanctuary to tidy and remove stray items, and replenish tissue boxes and hand sanitizer as needed.

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# Acting on Jesus' Teachings

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**Gardening – Bell Room Entrance** The purpose of this ministry is to provide a colorful and cheerful first impression to any person who enters the church building by the Bell Room door Monday - Friday. At the very least the area should be weed free and attractively mulched. Shrubs should be trimmed. The heated birdbath should be cleaned and filled with fresh water. If flowers are planted they should be maintained and removed when dead.

**Notice Boards** The purpose of this ministry is to present ourselves as a congregation that is vitally engaged in mission and the community. Notices need to be changed regularly and outdated items removed immediately.

**Office Recycling** The purpose of this ministry is to save our planet. Office paper and cardboard should be picked up and taken to a recycle center.

**Newsletter – Our Church's Wider Mission** The purpose of this ministry is to inform people each month of one way their OCWM mission offering expands the acting ministry of the wider church. Pastor Kathy can show you where to obtain this information.

**Church Office Candy Pot** This ministry has taken on a life of its own. It started as a small pot for use by office staff and volunteers. It's now become a large candy basket located in the Bell Room and accessed by everyone who uses the building. The purpose of this ministry is to offer a "sweet pick me up" to any person who enters or leaves the building via the Bell Room door. Candy should be bite sized and individually wrapped. This ministry can be whatever a person wants to make it: the basket could be filled once a week, or more if preferred. It isn't currently funded by Family Ministries, but possibly it could be. It just adds a sweet reward to a child, parent, delivery person or staff person who visits our church building during the week.

Please call the church office (610-682-6230) and let Dawn know if you would be interested in helping your church in one of these ways. We need your time and talents to do these very important tasks. Our volunteers are so very important to our church! Thank you!

## Property Updates...

1. Installed a new light in the church
2. Painting done in the school hallway
3. Preparing the play ground for the return of the children

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

# Teaching What We Believe



## Longswamp Learning Center News

### Thank You to Our Longswamp Learning Center Families!

The LLC Staff and Board of Directors would like to express our sincere gratitude to our LLC families for all their dedication toward continuing their child's/children's learning while LLC is closed during these difficult times. A big "thank you" to Amber, the group supervisor in our preschool classroom, and Jana, the group supervisor in our School-Age Care (SAC) Program, for posting all of the fun learning activities and videos for all ages, and Zoom chats for the children in our SAC Program. In addition, some of our LLC students were surprised by a phone call or a card from their teacher(s).

### Visit Longswamp Learning Center's Facebook page!

Need some fun activities to do with your children while you're staying safe at home? Check out Longswamp Learning Center's Facebook page for a variety of activities for all ages (<https://www.facebook.com/LongswampLearningCenter/>). Also, check out the videos and photos of some of our LLC children in action at the Center before we closed due to the pandemic.

### Summer Camp 2020

Coming attraction at LLC soon! Summer Camp 2020!!! Come and join the LLC staff at our Summer Camp 2020! This year's fun adventure begins on Monday, June 8 and ends on Friday, August 21, 2020. The Summer Camp organizers are in the process of finalizing plans for this wonderful adventure. Summer camp information and registration forms will be available as soon as we have a reopening date for LLC. After that time, please feel free to contact Sharon Wetzel, the director of Longswamp Learning Center, via email ([sharon@longswamplearningcenter.com](mailto:sharon@longswamplearningcenter.com)) or by calling 610-682-9750. Our staff continues to work with the challenges ahead in order to provide a fun and rewarding Summer Camp 2020!

### Friendship Discussion Hour

- An adult Christian Education experience, Sunday mornings, 9-10am in Fegely Hall

**May 3 and May 17 (pending onsite worship)**

**Continuation of the Bible study: '20/20 Spiritual Vision'. Everyone is welcome!**

Contact person: Chris Freudig at [chris@longswampucc.com](mailto:chris@longswampucc.com)

# Family & Community Updates



## LUCC MEMBERS WHO ARE SERVING:

Alexander Jenkins (U.S Army)

## LUCC MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED:

Raymond J. Conrad, Jr.

Thomas Hemphill

Winfield Lease

Matthew Shade

George Unger

Harold Dankel

Larry Herbert

Richard B. Rachor, Jr.

Paul Stoudt

Francis Zettlemoyer

Robert Fritz

William Charles Lantz

Larry Sechler

Derek Strunk



## **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** **Monday, May 28th**

For non-emergency messages, please leave a message on the church answering machine. For pastoral emergencies, look for a letter in the mail in the next week or so with an update.

## **May 2nd - National Day of Prayer**



National Day of Prayer is annually observed on the first Thursday in the month of May.

On this day, Americans are encouraged to give thanks and to turn to God in prayer and peaceful meditation.

## **Easter Baskets & Card For the Home Bound and Fragile**

Easter baskets will be available for delivery to our Home Bound as soon as it is safe to do so. Please check in on our home-bound friends and neighbors with a phone call. They may need supplies or just to hear a friendly voice to chat with for awhile.



# Family & Community Updates



## Graduate Recognition:

Graduate Recognition will take place on **Sunday, June 2nd at 9:00am.** We ask for the assistance and cooperation of members and families in getting the names of this year's graduates to us in order that we do not miss anyone. Please submit this information by May 20th to the church office via email to [secretary@longswampucc.org](mailto:secretary@longswampucc.org) or drop off in the church mail slot or mail to the church.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ / E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

OR

College/Other School \_\_\_\_\_

Degree/Major(s) \_\_\_\_\_

High School / College Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /2018

Special Recognition \_\_\_\_\_

High School Graduates: Future plans (college and major; trade school, employment)

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Parent's Name (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

# Family & Community Updates

## May Birthdays

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## May Anniversaries

May 1 - Coralie Eck

05/10/2008 Karen & Melvin McPherson

May 2 - Suzette Ward, Annabelle Weller

05/12/2007 Jennifer & Arthur George III

May 3 - Sarah Marburger

05/18/1985 Diane & Dean Shoemaker

May 9 - Frederick Dankel

05/20/1995 Coralie & Barry Eck

May 10 - Alexander Jenkins

05/29/1999 Jessica & Andrew Steventon

May 11 - Caroline DeLong, Cooper Schubach,  
Robert "Remington" Schubach

05/31/1980 Sheila & Steven Fox

May 13 - Jack Ivey, Tyler Reed

May 14 - Scott Dierolf

May 18 - Steve Walbert

May 19 - Timothy Masenheimer, Alma Miller

May 21 - Claire DeLong

May 22 - Barbara Weller

May 25 - Zachary Rachor

May 30 - Thomas Hemphill

May 31 – Timothy Long

If you are a member of the church and would like your birthday and/or anniversary listed in upcoming newsletters or if there is a correction, please contact the church office at 610-682-6230.

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

Ann Miller and Longswamp UCC Church,  
Thank you for the \$173.00 donation you sent to our Foundation. We greatly appreciate your support in helping us to assist those in need.

Thank you!  
Diane C. Yoder, Jarrett Yoder Foundation

Note: The Jarrett Yoder Foundation is a local group that supports our military.

Longswamp United Church of Christ,  
Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! I just can't thank you enough. Thank you for all your wonderful donations. Brandywine Heights WHY Program  
Bianka, Cayden, Nick, Sarah, Madison,  
Shane, William, Kamryn, Paige, Jake,  
Quinton, Jordyn, Megan, Tony, Michael,  
Joey, Nathan, and Julia

# Church Business

## March 2020 Financial Information

Income and Expenses	
Member giving	\$ 3,754.34
Other income	\$ 6,312.36
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 10,066.70</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (10,545.91)</b>
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	<b>\$ 479.21</b>
Building Fund Expenses	\$ 14,108.26

Account Balances (as of 3/31/2020)	
General Fund Checking	\$ 17,244.13
Contingency Fund Checking	\$ 3,020.89
Memorial Fund Checking	\$ 5,820.54
Memorial Fund CD	\$ 10,253.42
Building Fund Checking	\$ 39,095.71

## Notes from the Treasurer

Included in Other income are the lease payment from Sprint in the amount of \$1,725, the Learning Center facility use payment of \$2,045 and the workers' compensation premium reimbursement by the Learning Center of \$2,113.70 and \$428.66 in reimbursement by the Learning Center for floor stripping and waxing. Included in Building Fund expenses are \$571.99 for water testing and equipment monitoring, \$1,628 for cleaning services including stripping and waxing of floors in the Education Building, \$737 for the heating oil budget payment, \$1,168.66 for electric service for two months, \$3,391 for the quarterly church insurance package premium, \$839.38 for propane gas to heat the sanctuary and boy scout cabins and \$5,300 for cutting down damaged or dead trees on church property that were deemed a safety hazard. In addition, \$10,000 was transferred from the Jeff Walbert bequest to the General Fund for the purpose of assuring sufficient funds for payroll and other operating expenses during this time of financial uncertainty.

## Giving Updates...

Thank you to all members for your continuing generosity during this time of uncertainty. Please be assured that your giving is being received, counted, deposited and credited to each member. The church is continuing to pay staff and pay operating expenses that are still incurred even with the shutdown. Your continued giving is still very much needed and you have our thanks and gratitude in advance. The church will be here for you.

## Ways to get your weekly offering to the church...

1. Electronic Giving - Go to our website [www.longswampucc.org](http://www.longswampucc.org) and at the top of the page click the "Give" block and you can enter your information safely and securely.
2. Mail it to the church office at 200 Clay Road, Mertztown, PA 19539
3. Drop off in the Bell Room on Tuesdays (9am-12pm) in the metal box marked "OFFERING" to the left of the door upon entering Bell Room.

# **Longswamp Church**

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

## **Our Newsletter**

### ***The Beacon***

**May 2020**

## **Longswamp UCC**

200 Clay Road  
Mertztown, PA 19539

610.682.6230

[secretary@longswampucc.org](mailto:secretary@longswampucc.org)

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

## **Longswamp UCC**

200 Clay Road  
Mertztown, PA 19539

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE