

THE LONGSWAMP UCC BEACON - AUGUST 2020

Teaching, sharing and acting on what we believe.



From the Pastor

Rev. Lynn Shoemaker

Here we are in August already! I hope July was good to you. Mine was good, but I did a lot of praying. Praying because I missed my friends and family, prayer for our world, praying for those suffering alone.

Someone said to me, "I really don't know how to pray." Well, prayer is like breathing from your soul—like it has it's own life. Before prayer, you may be asked to breathe in. Simone Weil says you breathe in tradition and faith. You are searching for God. Then breathe out. Breathe out the magnetism of the God that resides in your heart. (*The Breath Of The Soul*, p.134). Makes prayer short and to the point. Take it easy to rest in the awareness of God. The great silence. Pray with your mind for God already knows your needs.

This month, link yourself to a prayerful relationship with God. Be well and safe.

Pastor Lynn

In This Issue...

- Worship Calendar
- President's Message
- Conference News
- Mission Updates
- LLC Happenings
- Church Family Updates!
- And so much more!

SEPTEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the September 2020 newsletter is

Tuesday, August 18th.

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

Hospital Code - #451

Church Office Hours - 9:30am to 2:30pm

Sharing our Faith



Summer Worship hours **9:00AM** August 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.

August Calendar Themes & Events:

August 2nd - Face to Face

August 9th - When All Seems Lost

August 16th - Bold Moves - Holy Communion

August 23rd - Be Transformed

August 30th - Spirit - Led Living

Look for more info in the **September newsletter** for...

September 20th....Faith World Kickoff

October 4th.....Drive By Blessing of the Animals

Loft Choir News

Our Loft Choir has been on an extended summer vacation since March 22nd due to changes made by the corona virus! Thank you, though, goes out to Loft members Laurie Heagy, Theresa Haffner and Kim Jenkins for singing solos for our online services! Thank you also to Marilyn Herbert for her beautiful "Ave Maria" by Schubert solo for our online Palm Sunday service! With the retiring of Pastor Kathy, who was a Loft Choir member, our Loft Choir membership is now at 4 members. We would greatly welcome any full time, part time or once in a while time members to our Loft Choir! Our practices will start on Thursday, September 10th, from 7:30-8:45 p.m. on the loft.

A Leadership Update

President's Message

Hello church family!

It has been a long time since we were all together in worship and I am missing seeing all of you in person but I do enjoy seeing people who are able to tune in remotely through social media. Of course, the people who are live, I imagine your smiling faces even when they are hidden behind your masks!

I know these are trying times but the church board is committed to making sure that we continue the work of the church even if that means that we do that work in different ways. The work of finding an interim pastor is continuing via conference calls and we are in touch with the search committee which is working very hard to get the church profile completed. With the completion of the profile, we will unlock the door to other applicants outside of the Penn Northeast Conference.

The oversight of our paid staff has been done by church board members and the treasurer Bob Friedly as these times have been challenging for everyone. Dawn and Elliott continue to do the work of the church each day on-site. If any member has the ability to help do any work of the church at home, please let us know. Dawn has a list of things that can be done by anyone who has time. If members are in need of some sort of support, please make us aware of what you are in need of and we will try our best to reach out to you and help.

If anyone has any ideas about new things we could try or a new way to get things done, please share that wisdom with us. It is sometimes difficult to see the forest through the trees. What I need from all of you now is to roll up your sleeves and get ready to help hold down the fort together with Dawn and Elliott. We need the elders to continue to give us spiritual guidance now more than ever. We need to continue to pay our bills to continue to do the work of the church. What all that means is- we need all of us! **WE ARE THE CHURCH.** Whether we are in person or at home, we are the church together and the things we do together over the next year are going to affect this church into the future. We are at a crossroad. Will we take the road together onto a new brighter future or will we squander the opportunity by curling up in the corner and waiting for something to happen? I plan to walk across the crossroad to a road not yet traveled. Will you walk it with me?

Yours in Christ, Laurie Heagy



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

Teaching What We Believe



Longswamp Learning Center News

Fall Registration In Progress!

As we all know, many families will be looking for quality child care and educational programming for their children for the new school year. Registration for fall 2020 is currently in progress. If you, or someone you know, is looking for quality child care and educational programming, please contact Sharon Wetzel, the director, via email (sharon@longswamplearningcenter.com) or by calling the LLC office (610-682-9750) 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 and education for the children of our community.
- ★ LLC offers 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 due to construction at Brandywine Heights Elementary School), and Summer Camp for school-age children (held at LUCC).
- ★ Our 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 Expands Facility Usage at LUCC!

The Longswamp Learning Center is excited to share some GREAT NEWS with you! Over the past few months during the pandemic, we worked on making some minor changes to Fegely Hall in anticipation of getting Fegely Hall added to our state license. The inspector from the PA Department of Human Services (DHS) came in late June to our church site to do the annual inspection there. She also inspected Fegely Hall so we could have it added to our license for the church site. Everything went very well with the entire inspection. The students and staff were very excited about moving downstairs to Fegely Hall on Monday, July 13, 2020. (The Summer Camp Program had been housed in the multi-purpose room since June 8, 2020, when LLC reopened.) We will begin to use Fegely Hall for the School-Age Program during the school year. LLC needed to relocate our School-Age Program to LUCC because we will not be able to rent space at Brandywine Heights Elementary School because of the construction they are doing there during the school year.) We are excited about using Fegely Hall for our Summer Camp and School-Age Program!

Teaching What We Believe

LLC Summer Camp 2020

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

Exploring the Great Outdoors - June 15 - 19, 2020 (2nd week of Summer Camp): The children:

- ◆ learned different facts about trees and birds,
- ◆ planted flowers in the pots on the Preschool playground,
- ◆ made kindness rocks for the pathway leading to the playground, and
- ◆ created their own cereal brand and made a commercial to advertise it (Check out LLC's Facebook page to see their commercials.)

Zoom, Fly, Pow! Superheroes! - June 22 - 26, 2020 (3rd week of Summer Camp): The children:

- ◆ participated in active play activities involving balance, endurance, and strength,
- ◆ created their own superhero shirt, mask, and cape, and
- ◆ made their own soft pretzels.

Food Madness - June 29 - July 2, 2020 (4th week of Summer Camp): The children:

- ◆ participated in a cooking competition,
- ◆ created food art, and
- ◆ made "Walking Tacos".

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle - July 6 - 10, 2020 (5th week of Summer Camp): The children:

- ◆ explored new ways to upcycle, and
- ◆ had our very own newspaper Fashion Show.

Summer Camp 2020 - August Themes

- ◆ Phenomenal Artists - Week of August 3 - 7, 2020
- ◆ Astounding Architects - Week of August 10 - 14, 2020
- ◆ Wild, Wild West - Week of August 17 - 21, 2020

LLC Enjoys "Hawaiian Day"

The children and staff of the Longswamp Learning Center celebrated a summer-themed Hawaiian Day on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. Everyone had lots of fun wearing floral shirts, skirts, dresses, grass skirts, and leis. The staff planned special activities for their children in their classrooms. A special visit from Kona Ice of Allentown helped to break the heat. The students and staff enjoyed a tropical ice treat.



BIG EXCITING NEWS!!!

Due to the lingering corona virus adjustments, Longswamp U.C.C. will NOT be having our annual Bazaar in November.

However, we will be holding a “**FOOD SALE**” instead of the Bazaar!!!

Details to order...

- ◆ *Turkey Corn Noodle Soup,*
- ◆ *Beef Vegetable Soup,*
- ◆ *Chow Chow,*
- ◆ *Pickled Red Beets,*
- ◆ *and a few baked goods items, including pumpkin rolls,*

.... will be in the September Newsletter!

The drive through pickup date for ordered items will be ***Saturday, November 14th!***

All proceeds will go to help members of our community!!



Conference News

The PNEC Board will meet a few days after the deadline for this newsletter article, so there is only a little update to report that came out of the Executive Committee meeting (by Zoom) in late June. It was primarily a work session where we reviewed the Conference's tenuous financial situation and the goals established for the upcoming year. The various committees and teams are developing action steps to accomplish those goals within the areas of their ministry. Likewise, the Executive Committee drafted preliminary action steps for the Board's role in achieving the established goals.

Most of the Board involvement will center around “identifying new, innovative sources of funding to support the ministries and financial health of the Conference”. The Budget and Finance Team will begin formulating the 2021 operating budget in the weeks to come, and they will employ a “narrative budget” and an accompanying video as tools to present the budget to the Conference meeting in November and solicit support. Another new group, named the Generosity Team, was formed which will explore other avenues of support that can be utilized. This team will hold their first meeting shortly. The committee also drafted a timeline of Board tasks for the upcoming year with deadlines to assure all duties will be completed in a timely manner.

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

Family & Community Updates

AUGUST Birthdays

August 1 - Ruby Shoemaker
August 3 - Doris Rumble
August 4 - Dorothy Weller
August 6 - Brenda Bower, Robert Fritz, Winfield Lease
August 7 - Catherine Miller
August 8 - Harold Dankel, Barbara Weaknecht
August 13 - Barbara Karom
August 16 - Bradley Desrosiers
August 19 - Nancy Boyer
August 23 - Fay DeLong
August 24 - Andrew Thomas
August 27 - Fern Fritz
August 29 - Cindy Snyder
August 30 - Eloise Long

AUGUST Anniversaries

08/13/1978 Ann & Willard Miller
08/13/1988 Nancy & David Snyder, Sr.

A decorative graphic with the words "Let's Celebrate" written in a large, elegant, black cursive script.

Thank You...

to Jonah Teel for his glorious trumpet music for our 10:15 online Easter Day service! How great it was to have his music during this pandemic! Our other Easter trumpeter, Linda Sterner, unfortunately could not make it to Longswamp UCC on Easter Day due to being quarantined in Lancaster. We missed you, Linda, and are sorry that you had to miss an Easter with us during your many years of playing your trumpet for us! Thank you to both of our trumpeters for providing inspiring music at our Easter and Christmas Eve services!!

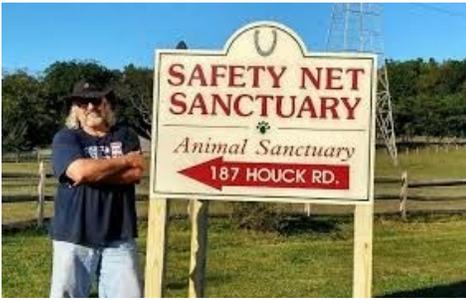
Gardener Desired...

The Schubert Haus flower beds are yearning for someone to help Ann with weeding them to keep them looking good all summer long! Helena Lindquist has been doing an excellent job with Ann but is not able to help at the present time. Gardening hours would be at your convenience and we could probably have the gardens weeded in 3 or 4 meetings for maybe 2 hours at a time. Ann would be overjoyed to have someone helping her! If you can help please call Ann at 610-417-1373 or email her at willann@ptd.net to get our Schubert Haus flower beds back in shape!

Thank you Notes...

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH to Pastor Kathy and members of my Longswamp Church family for your prayers, thoughts, sympathies, condolences, cards, calls, texts & emails for the April 24th passing of my dear brother, Jim Mabry. Jim will be greatly missed and your care and concern meant the world to us! Love, Ann Mabry Miller & Will Miller & Suzy Mabry

Acting on Jesus' Teachings



August 2020 Local Mission -

Let's Help Unwanted/Stray Animals!

Once again, it's time for us to **ACT ON OUR FAITH** by showing our support of unwanted and stray animals in our local area. Have you ever heard of **Safety Net Sanctuary** outside of Fleetwood (Rt. 662 - between Fleetwood and Pricetown)? A

local woman transformed her farm into a refuge for unwanted animals. They are definitely in need of our help! Several local townships have been bringing unwanted and stray animals (dogs, cats, rabbits, ducks, chickens, goats, potbelly pigs, and horses) to Safety Net Sanctuary so they can receive the care they desperately need. Many of the animals are not spayed or neutered and are not up-to-date with vaccinations. **Safety Net Sanctuary** is in need of the following items: old blankets, old newspapers, dog food (canned - any brand), cat food (canned - Purina; dry food - Cat Chow in a blue bag), animal biscuits, dog collars, dog leashes, paper towels, bleach, cleaning supplies, and laundry detergent (any kind - used to wash old blankets that are used for bedding). Also, they will gladly accept monetary donations. Please put your donations in the Missions boxes in the church foyer between Sunday, August 9 and Sunday, August 30. Monetary donations should be put in your August mission envelope and either dropped in the offering basket, dropped in the locked offering box in the bell room, or mailed to LUCC. Please contact Jill Shade (484-894-0636 - cell; 610-395-0970 - home; jill.shade@longswampucc.org) if you have any questions about our August mission.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who contributed very generously to LUCC's Food Drive for the benefit of the Brandywine Food Pantry during the month of July. It's so wonderful that the members of LUCC always want to help our neighbors in need in any way we possibly can.

Many residents of our local community have struggled to put food on the table during these difficult times. Once again, LUCC helped our local community in a BIG way!

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers to the family of **Reynolds Jenkins, Sr.**, 81, who passed away on Tuesday, July 7th in his home surrounded by his loving family. Among his survivors are his son, Reynolds Jenkins Jr and daughter in law, Kimberly Jenkins and grandchildren, Alex and his wife Riana, Valerie, and Garrett. Please keep the Jenkins family in your thoughts and prayers.

Church Business

June 2020 Financial Information

Income and Expenses

Member giving	\$ 4,173.79
Other income	\$ 5,058.11
Total income	\$ 9,231.90
Expenses	\$ (7,504.60)
Net income (gain)	\$ 1,727.30
Building Fund Expenses	\$ 5,866.90

Account Balances (as of 6/30/2020)

General Fund Checking	\$ 32,734.37
Contingency Fund Checking	\$ 3,020.96
Memorial Fund Checking	\$ 5,820.69
Memorial Fund CD	\$ 10,253.42
Building Fund Checking	\$ 28,794.96

Notes from the Treasurer

Included in Other income are the lease payment for 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 \$1,287.57. Included in Building Fund expenses are \$3,391 for the quarterly church insurance package premium, \$518.99 for water testing and equipment monitoring, \$302.31 for electric service, \$450 for cleaning, \$500 for mowing and trimming and \$704.60 for electric backpack disinfecting fogger used to disinfect church buildings. The Learning Center reimbursed the church for 50% of the cost of the backpack fogger.

Property Updates...

Not too much to report. Lots of weeding going on and tree cleanup outside. Lots of day to day projects to do as well. Thank you for your support and keep safe. Elliott Smith

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

Please contact Maintenance Manager, Elliott Smith at elliott@longswampucc.org with any questions.

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, 2020.

Longswamp Church

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

Our Newsletter

The Beacon

August 2020

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE