

# GOOD NEWS NOTES

The United Church of Christ East Goshen  
1201 North Chester Road, West Chester, PA 19380  
Worship 5:30 Saturday & 10:00 am Sunday

610-692-2951  
www.ucceastgoshen.org

Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith, Pastor

**April 2018**

Phyllis Kinser, Administrative Assistant

## *From Our Pastor...*

### **“Indigo, Mauve, Iridescent, and Rose”**

When I was growing up I had a special weekly job at my parent’s family business, Smitty’s Valet. We did many varied alterations on clothing so we had an extensive thread collection. My job was to sort into colors and ascending shades, the hundreds of wooden spools. I loved to line them up on their proper nail racks and shelves, make a clean cut, tuck in the ends of threads, and wind loose ones back into the whole. At the end of the job, I always had bunch of left over single threads of various color tints and hues, and I loved to ball them up into a massive rainbow of thread!

I love color, I always wanted a box of alternate shades of crayons, my favorite colors of markers and colored pencils are the ones with two descriptive words: Glistening Gold, Magenta Crimson. Torch Red, Ocean Seaglass or Toasted Coconut! I often have thought I would love to name new colors!!! It is a sad day when I hear someone tell me, “Black is flattering, solid colors won’t bring out your curves, maybe that is too bright for you, stick with grays, mauves, and neutral tones.” No wonder as we age we often wear drab colors and feel not as valuable as those who are younger and quicker on the uptake and brighter in look.

Each year for as long I can remember, I have colored Easter eggs, always wanting to change the bland white into something new and bright. The times when I didn’t have time to color eggs, it always felt as if something was missing, as if the day wasn’t surrounded by change, hope, or a new outlook close enough that I could touch and hold it in my hands. I remember well the dye on my fingertips!! The Easter sanctuary, filled with tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, and lilies, don’t only have a perfume fragrance, they also

have the bright colors that shout hope, new possibilities, and change breaking through! Easter is about the essence of intricate color which has come to live among us and change us into new beings who aren’t scared to wear Sunshine Yellow, Passionate Purple, Cerulean Sapphire, or Blood Red!

*Kriah* is a Hebrew word meaning “tearing.” It refers to the act of tearing one’s clothes or cutting a black ribbon worn on one’s clothes. It is a striking expression of grief and anger at the loss of a loved one. When the patriarch Jacob believed his son Joseph was dead, he tore his outer garment. Today, you may see a Jewish person wearing a small black piece of cloth, on a lapel, noting they are grieving one who has died.

For Christians, Holy Friday is a time when all seems lost, Christ is dead, hanging lifeless on crucifix. And the grieving is so deep in our soul and spirit, we should wear a piece of black cloth. But on Easter Sunday, we should pin on a color cloth, and look out, not with sorrow and grief, but Hope, and life, bright color and possibility.

From Matthew 28:5-7, the angel spoke to the women: *“There is nothing to fear here. I know you’re looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed. Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.’”* That’s the message!

May you shine in the brightness of Christ!

*Pastor Angelee*



## Our Volunteers for Sunday Service

Where there are open spots, members are encouraged to volunteer. Call Patty Yarnall or use [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com)

| APRIL                  | 7 - Communion         | 14 PALM                 | 21- EASTER             | 28                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Greeters</b>        | Pam Onyx, A. Mahard   | Sue Ogram, A. Boohar    | A. Wittig, L. Ardao    |                      |
| <b>Acolyte</b>         | Anna Lubnow           | Aiden Porter            | Cole Benner-Smith      | Lily Yost            |
| <b>Children's Chat</b> |                       | C. Swingle              | Pastor                 | L. Siebert           |
| <b>Scripture</b>       | Al Benner-Smith       | Bill Edrington          | Linda Ardao            | Ann Boohar           |
| <b>Hospitality</b>     | Keljikian Family      | Men's Breakfast         | Steve, Bonnie Yost     | S. Weikel, A. Testa  |
| <b>Counters</b>        | L. Ardao, Al Benner-S | P. Yarnall, Todd Speece | B. Edrington, A. Testa | Bart Yost, L. Barber |

**4/7 Comm. Servers:** Leslie Siebert, Beth Saylor, Andrea Testa, Todd Speece

| MAY                    | 5 -Communion          | 12 Mother's Day        | 19- Family-CONFIRMATION | 26                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Greeters</b>        | Andy Mahard           | Sue Ogram              |                         | Ann Boohar           |
| <b>Acolyte</b>         |                       |                        |                         |                      |
| <b>Children's Chat</b> | Al Benner-Smith       | Chuck Gosselink        | Confirm Class           |                      |
| <b>Scripture</b>       |                       |                        |                         | Al Benner-Smith      |
| <b>Hospitality</b>     |                       |                        |                         |                      |
| <b>Counters</b>        | B. Saylor, L. Siebert | Bonnie Yost, T. Larsen | L. Ardao, Al Benner-Sm  | Bart Yost. T. Speece |

**5/5 Comm. Servers:** Linda Ardao, Bonnie Yost, Al Benner-Smith, Bart Yost, Lucy Barber

**"Café Script,"** the Pastor's discussion group meets on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 to 12:00 noon beginning. Please come out and share in this opportunity for in-depth discussion.



### Blessing of the Animals

One of the big outreach events that raises our visibility in the neighborhood is coming in April. On Sunday, the 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m., we gather on the front lawn for our *Blessing of the Animals* service. We celebrate with an informal service, offer individual blessings for the pets in attendance and share fellowship afterwards. There are a number of ways you can help out to make it another great day for our community. Help out the day of the service or help us get the word out. Pick up a handful of business-card-size invitations at the church and share them with pet-loving friends. We have some flyers that can also be spread around to pet supply stores, Vets,

and the like. See Al Benner-Smith or Pam Onyx to get on board.

### Our Saturday Worship Service

United Church of Christ East Goshen has been enjoying an additional service on Saturdays at 5:30 pm. We pray that folks seeking a Saturday evening worship experience can come to know the unconditional love of God that is presented every Sunday morning from our pulpit! For all those looking for a new time of day to sing God's praise; a more informal setting (we gather in Fellowship Hall), a new experience of refreshing spiritual uplift, come and give our Roots & Roofs a try. You will be welcomed with a UCC East Goshen extravagant welcome!



**Follow us on Facebook: Roots and Roofs**

## **Church Council Updates**

The church council held its retreat in March. We divided up into 3 smaller groups to set goals for the church year. The Financial committee members met with Building and Grounds folks. They set three goals for the year: to establish a plan for the replacement of the roof over fellowship hall and kitchen by the end of 2020, to improve the outdoor appearance of our church grounds and to establish an ongoing stewardship committee that would operate all year long.

The Worship and Music committee and Christian Ed. committees met. They spent time reviewing and discussing the structure of the Sunday worship service. A goal was also set to work on making "Family Sundays" more family friendly by including more involvement of our youth and children and their parents. The committee decided to create better activity bags for young children to use during the church service.

The Congregational Life committee met with Mission and Outreach and the Growth committee. They revisited what is meant by open and affirming, including a discussion on whether and how we are open to people with disabilities and diagnoses. They set a goal of increasing the membership of this committee. The monthly calendar of events was reviewed so as to have events spread out throughout the year.

We had time to have groups report back to the larger group. We have committed to open communication between the council and our church members and friends. It is also a goal of the council to invite as many people to participate, even in small ways to the activities of its committees.

We are optimistic and hopeful that our prayers will be answered for a year filled with creative worship, lots of prayerful meditation, fun social activities, and meaningful Christian Education. It is important to us to make the environment of church and grounds welcoming. We trust that our financial needs will be met and intend to keep the congregation informed of our financial health. In these and many other ways, we intend to grow in God's love together.

### **We have chosen a new Music Ministry Director**

Reverend Douglas R. Holder will be joining us at the beginning of June. He has had quite extensive experience as organist and choir director at several churches in our area. He was ordained by the

Philadelphia Association in 1987 at UCC, Havertown, Pa.

Reverend Holder has pastored at St. Luke's UCC, Mount Bethel UCC and First UCC in Spring City. More recently he has been the Director of Church Music at Shenkel UCC in Pottstown, at Wyomissing UCC in Sinking Spring, Pa.

He relocated to Cathedral City, California in 2017 where he was a pulpit supply pastor. He and his husband will be relocating to this area.

Reverend Holder will join us for a visit in May so that we can introduce him to you and invite him to tour our church. He is quite excited to join our loving church community.

**Our greatest gratitude to Marty Meyer who has so wonderfully filled in during this transition time!**

### **SHOP WITH SCRIP**

April's **Shop with Scrip** order will be processed on Monday, April 15. Please place your orders online by Noon on that date, or place your orders with Todd Speece on Sunday April 14. All gift cards ordered will be available by Sunday, April 22. For those who have not ordered gift cards yet, please see Todd Speece for details. Helping the church has never been this easy!

### **AMAZON SMILE**

Thank you to those who have shopped on Amazon Smile and chosen UCCEG as their charity! Please spread the word and encourage your friends and family to choose UCCEG. Every little bit helps! **Amazon's fundraising program will donate .5% of all qualified purchases directly to UCC EG.** Log on to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Select United Church of Christ East Goshen (spell out full name) as your charity. You will see the same website as amazon.com. So, shop as you normally would and support UCC East Goshen while you shop at smile.amazon.com.

**Food Donations** Please remember that non-perishable food items are always being collected for the **Chester County Food Bank!** Take a red bag from the Narthex home with you and bring it back the next week. No need to completely fill it! Our neighbors in need will be most appreciative!

## **UCCEG Rental Space - Spread the Word!**

Our building is conveniently located and includes areas for a wide variety of groups and events. Remember, the best advertising is word of mouth! Brochures with this information are available in the Church Narthex. (*Steve Yost and Todd Speece are our church rental contact people.*)

## **Flowers at the front of the Sanctuary**



If you are interested in sponsoring flowers in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an event, please pick a date and sign up on the sheet hanging on the bulletin board in the Narthex!

The cost is \$15.00 for one vase or \$25.00 for two vases.

## **PrideFest 2019**

The LGBT Equality Alliance of Chester County hosts an outdoor festival in Phoenixville on **June 1**. We're registering for a booth at the festival to fly our rainbow flag proudly. Last year's festival was cancelled because of threatening weather conditions. Hoping for a better day this year. We'll need volunteers to staff the table and share God's extravagant welcome that day. Have an hour or two to share? Contact Al Benner-Smith at [office@saintlukedevon.org](mailto:office@saintlukedevon.org) or 610.380.8305 to help out.

## **Love your Church? Like Your Church!**

If you're not following UCC East Goshen on our Facebook page, surf on over to [www.Facebook.com/UnitedChurchofChristEastGoshen](http://www.Facebook.com/UnitedChurchofChristEastGoshen) and "like" the page. It's a good way to both get reminders about what's coming up and be able to share it with your friends and contacts. When you react to a post, "thumbs-up" for a picture or an event, it's a great (and nearly effortless) way to say, "I belong to a really cool church!" Who knows where that takes you?

## **ERHS Event Saturday, May 11, 2019 Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society President's Reception**

On Saturday, May 11, 2019, from 3 PM to 5 PM, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society (ERHS) will be hosting a President's Reception at Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ, 2077 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville, PA 19525. You are cordially invited to join ERHS President Richard Berg for an inspiring afternoon of history at

America's oldest German Reformed church. There will be a keynote address by The Rev. Dr. Lee C. Barrett of Lancaster Theological Seminary, a presentation by The Rev. Dr. Martha Bean Kriebel on her new book, *Promise Kept with a Paintbrush*, and remarks by The Rev. Frances Chester, Pastor of Falkner Swamp UCC. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free; donations to ERHS are greatly appreciated. Kindly RSVP to ERHS by email [erhs@lancasterseminary.edu](mailto:erhs@lancasterseminary.edu) or by phone 717.290.8734. Our former Director of Music Ministry, Caroline Dunleavy, is one of the event organizers and would love to see you there!

## **From the Treasurer:**

Thank you to each and every one of you who continue to give so generously to the work of UCC East Goshen. Our first quarter ended much better than expected. Remember, after each Council meeting, the monthly financial report is available for your review. I'm happy to answer any questions or concerns you have about the finances. Questions about your financial giving statement should be asked of Todd Speece. Thank you, Beth Saylor

## **Thank you!**

As many of you know, our gleaning garden beds are in need of new sides. Our goal of \$250 has been met! Thank you to everyone who donated! If you would like to contribute, please do and take a primrose plant as a thank-you! Any money we receive over our goal will be used for any future gleaning garden needs

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

Christian Ed is requesting cash donations from the congregation to buy items to fill gift bags for the children's Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday morning following our 10 am worship. We started this last year due to melting candy. The children will collect empty eggs (like Jesus' tomb!) and then receive an Easter gift bag. The donations will be used to buy items for the gift bags. An Easter basket in the Narthex will be happy to accept donations this week and next!



## **APRIL CALENDAR**

|        |           |  |
|--------|-----------|--|
| Apr 7  | 10:00 am  | <b>Sunday Worship</b><br>Holy Communion Shared |
|        | 11:15 am  | Fellowship                                     |
|        | 11:15     | Hand Bell Practice                             |
|        | 11:30 am  | Mission & Outreach                             |
| Apr 9  | 8:30 am   | Senior Center Breakfast                        |
|        | 10:30 am  | Café Script                                    |
| Apr 10 | 7:00 am   | Choir Practice                                 |
| Apr 13 | 5:30 pm   | <b>Roots &amp; Roofs Worship</b>               |
| Apr 14 | 10:00 am  | <b>Palm Sunday Worship</b>                     |
|        | 8:30 am   | Pancake Breakfast                              |
|        | 11:15 am  | Fellowship                                     |
|        | 11:15 am  | Worship & Music Mtg.                           |
| Apr 15 | 5:15-6:30 | Confirmation Class                             |
|        | 7:00 pm   | Church Council Meeting                         |
|        | 10:30 am  | Café Script                                    |
| Apr 17 | 7:00 pm   | Choir Practice                                 |
| Apr 19 | 6:30 pm   | Supper   |
|        | 7:00 pm   | Maundy Thurs. Service                          |
| Apr 20 | 5:30 pm   | <b>Roots &amp; Roofs Worship</b>               |
| Apr 21 | 6:30 am   | <b>Sunrise Worship</b>                         |
|        | 10:00 am  | <b>Easter Sunday Worship</b>                   |
|        | 11:15 am  | Fellowship and Egg Hunt                        |
| Apr 23 | 10:30 am  | Café Script                                    |
| Apr 24 | 7:00 pm   | Choir Practice                                 |
| Apr 28 | 10:00 am  | <b>Sunday Worship</b>                          |
|        | 11:15 am  | Fellowship                                     |
|        | 1:00 pm   | Blessing of the Animals                        |
| Apr 30 | 10:30 am  | Café Script                                    |
|        | 5:30 pm   | Ursinus Association Mtg                        |



Every Monday 7:00 pm – **AA Meeting**  
Every Tuesday 7:30 pm – **GA Meeting**  
Every Tuesday and Wednesday  
9am-3pm – **Surrey Services** for Seniors

## **MAY CALENDAR**

|                |             |   |
|----------------|-------------|---|
| May 1          | 5:30-6:30pm | Confirmation Class  |
|                | 7:00 pm     | Choir Practice  |
| May 2          | 10:30 am    | Salvation Army Meal                                       |
| May 4          | 5:30 pm     | <b>Roots &amp; Roofs Worship</b>                          |
| May 5          | 10:00 am    | Sunday Worship/<br>Communion Shared                       |
|                | 11:30 am    | Confirmation Class  |
| May 7-9        |             | Clergy Convocation in<br>Lancaster ( <i>Pastor Away</i> ) |
| May 8          | 7:00 pm     | Choir Practice  |
| May 11         | 3-5 pm      | Confirmation Class  |
|                | 5:30 pm     | <b>Roots &amp; Roofs Worship</b>                          |
| May 12         | 10:00 am    | Sunday Worship  |
| May 13         | 6:30 pm     | Confirmation Class  |
| May 14         | 8:30 am     | Senior Center Breakfast                                   |
|                | 10:30 am    | Café Script   |
| May 15         | 7:00 pm     | Choir Rehearsal   |
| May 18         | 11:00 am    | Rev. Pauli<br>Memorial Service<br>Luncheon to follow      |
|                | 4-5:30 pm   | Confirmation Class  |
|                | 5:30 pm     | <b>Roots &amp; Roofs Worship</b>                          |
| May 19         | 10:00 am    | Family Worship &<br>Confirmation<br>Holy Communion Shared |
|                | 11:15       | Fellowship  |
| May 20         | 7:00 pm     | Church Council  |
| May 21         | 6am-11pm    | Voting Day<br>Bake Sale                                   |
|                | 10:30 am    | Café Script   |
| May 22         | 7:00 pm     | Choir Rehearsal   |
| May 25         | 5:30 pm     | <b>Roots &amp; Roofs Worship</b>                          |
| May 26         | 10:00 am    | <b>Sunday Worship</b>                                     |
|                | 11:15 am    | Fellowship w/ special<br>Thanks to Marty Meyer            |
| May 28         | 7:00 pm     | R&R Planning Meeting                                      |
| May 31- June 1 |             | PSEC Annual Meeting<br>at West Chester Univ.              |