



# Lenten Brochure

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN – MARCH/APRIL 2020



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## Mark Your Calendars (details inside)

### Feb. 26 - Ash Wednesday

7:00 pm Service of Communion  
& Distribution of Ashes

### Wednesdays During Lent

6-7 pm Lenten Soup & Table Talk  
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

### April 4 - Saturday

1-2:30 pm Egg Decorating &  
Cookie Decorating

### April 5 - Palm Sunday

8:30-9:30 am Pancake Breakfast  
hosted by the Men's Group in  
Fellowship Hall

### April 9 - Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm Maundy Thursday  
Dinner  
7:00 pm Worship Service, Holy  
Communion shared

### April 12 - Easter Sunday

HE IS RISEN INDEED!  
6:30 am Outdoor Sunrise Service  
10:00 am Worship with Holy  
Communion  
11:30 am Special Fellowship &  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt

## Showers for Growth, Planning

*I learned the saying as a child in grade school. "April showers bring May Flowers," and today after a night and now day of showers, the crocus, hyacinths and daffodils have green stems popping up on the side of our church building, (and no, it is not May, it is February 13<sup>th</sup>!) Climate change and environmental exposure to toxin and chemicals in the air, ground and atmosphere, have taken the seasons, mixed them all up, and spit them out into something unrecognizable. It is a source of deep sadness for many of us. But, what a valentine treat, to anticipate the hope of dry bulbs in the dark ground, shooting forth color and smells of a new hopeful world. Even if the truth is our weather is all out of whack, if the green shoots can hang in there, and the snow doesn't come, we may just see the colorful flowers, a bit early, but they will brighten our pathway into church.*

*In our lives rarely are things in a straight line or absolutely predictable. There are today many ways to travel to the same place, varied thoughts on the same ponderable, two or four or more roads which diverge in the woods, and all of us can look back and wonder, what if...*

*The church season of Lent, Holy Week and then Easter is predictable in its final outcome, and yet as many of us as go on this 40 day journey, we will have paths which differ... even varied from year to year. Knowing the end of the story can allow us to take risks, and stops, and detours along the way which can personally make the*

*journey as important as the final arrival at the empty tomb with Mary telling us the good news "he is not here he has been raised."*

*Now is the time to plan the journey stops along the way to Easter. Can you try something new? Will you go on a detour and discover a new way to arrive at the empty tomb? Will you add a prayer buddy to your journey? Will you read a new devotional? Will you attend Saturday worship and the series called "I AM" which is being offered? Will you join the choir? Volunteer to do something new, maybe even a bit out of your comfort zone? (a children's chat, scripture reader, greeter...) Could you add the Wednesday evening soup and table talk to your journey? Would you like to help serve the men's breakfast? Would you like to dye Easter eggs and decorate cookies with the children and pastor Angelee? Could you try a new spiritual discipline? (Yoga, meditation, spiritual direction, walking a labyrinth, daily journaling?) Would you commit to being at church and fellowship each of the weekends of Lent?*

*One thing for sure is that the journey to the Cross will be paved with scripture from the gospels, Jesus' parables, lessons of Jesus' final days, his last supper and death, and we will have flowers, wonderful music, and hope filling our sanctuary on Easter, April 12<sup>th</sup>. But the days in between are yours to fill, will you plant so you can harvest Hope?*

*~ Pastor Angelee*



*is the season of our liturgical calendar when we celebrate and remember Christ's incarnation and humanness and prepare our hearts for his death and*

*resurrection. To be human is to be limited, finite and sinful. Christ came to join us in our humanity and to redeem our sins so we could live eternally with God. Lent is a time of repentance, reflection and renewal in preparation for our Easter Resurrection!*

*You are invited to join with the Church Universal in celebrating the season of Lent with the following activities here at our local church!*

### FASNACHTS!

The day before Lent begins, we will celebrate by eating a donut without the hole and having teas, coffee and conversation. Please stop by Tuesday, **February 25** from **10 am - 2 pm** and enjoy these with Pastor Angelee. (Check the last page for more info. on fasnaghts!)

### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

**February 26 – 7pm** – Service will include imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. The imposition of ashes is an Early Church tradition which symbolizes our humanity and our need for redemption as we begin the Holy Season. Please join us!

### LENTEN SOUP & TABLE TALK

Please join us **Wednesdays** from **6pm – 7 pm**. During Lent, Wednesday evenings at UCCEG have traditionally been special times for fellowship and reflection. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex for you to volunteer to bring soup and/or bread for dinner. Table Talk will be led by Pastor Angelee. We will discuss a variety of topics, such as how we celebrate Lent, your favorite Bible passage, and how to let your light shine. NO experience of preparation is needed. These five special Wednesday evenings are March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1st.

### COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Tuesday, **March 10 from 8:30 am – 10 am** breakfast will be served at the West Chester Community Center located at 530 E. Union Street, West Chester. All ages are invited...a full meal is \$4.



### LUNCH BUNCH

We will be on Friday, **March 13 at 1 pm** at Oriental Pearl.

### CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS!

The amazing Chester Children's Chorus is performing Handel's Messiah on Sunday **March 15th, at 4 PM**, in the Lang Music Building on the campus of Swarthmore College. (Free parking in the DuPont Parking Lot.) This will be accompanied by professional musicians as well as community members singing in the Chorus. Two weeks later, on Sunday **March 29th at 4 PM** at Wayne Presbyterian Church as part of the celebrated Music Transforms concert series of Wayne Presbyterian. (125 East Lancaster Ave, Wayne PA. Free municipal parking on Sundays.) See Carol Swingle for more information on these concerts. Anyone who saw their performance in our sanctuary several years ago knows you are in for a treat!

### POT LUCK SUNDAY

On **Sunday, March 22**, we will be having PotLuck lunch after the service. All members are invited to bring: a main dish, salad, dessert, vegetable. Being something you would like to eat and share with others.



See Bonnie Jackson with questions. This is a great way to invite a friend to church for worship that Sunday. And tell them to stay on for lunch!!!! Drinks/ coffee/ tea and place settings provided.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. The date for the OGHS offering will be **March 22**, but envelopes are available now in the office or from Lucy. This year the focus of OGHS is "Invest in Futures" looking at how investing in young people and their future opportunities will transform individual lives, as well as communities around the world. Together, we are investing in communities worldwide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. When we share the love of Christ in this way, we see lives transformed. Not just their lives, but ours as well. Be a co-worker with God. Building, planting, watering...and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith. Thank you for your partnership and generosity.

## SALVATION ARMY OUTREACH

Many of you know that for many years UCCEG has prepared a meal for the West Chester Salvation Army on the first Thursday of every month. We are in need of a few more volunteer cooks! Your assignment is usually every other month and rotates between providing the main entree, salad/vegetable, bread or dessert. You prepare it at home and then drop it off at church. If you are interested in helping in this important mission or need more information please see Bonnie Yost or call her at 610-696-4137.

## CAFÉ SCRIPT

Pastor Angelee's weekly bible study will continue to meet on **Tuesdays** from **10:30 am – noon**. We will discuss and study the scripture for the following week. The dates during Lent are March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31. All are invited!

## EASTER FLOWERS



Please look soon for the order forms that will be available in the Narthex for ordering flowers this year. You may order pots of tulips, hyacinths and lilies. They will be delivered to the church for

the Easter Sunday service and your dedications will be printed in that day's Bulletin. It is a wonderful way to honor a loved one, provide a beautiful addition to our Easter celebration, and brighten someone's days for weeks afterward.

## EASTER EGGS!

Saturday, **April 4 – 1pm – 2:30 pm**

- Bring 1 dozen hard boiled eggs and meet Pastor Angelee and others to dye and decorate eggs, read stories and decorate cookies at church! Sign up in the Narthex – all ages invited!



## PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

On Palm Sunday, April 5 from 8:30 am – 9:30 am the Men's Group of the church will once again be serving breakfast to all who care to partake in Fellowship Hall. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice, coffee and fruit are on the menu. Come and bring your friends or the whole neighborhood! The fellowship is positively wonderful.

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

### April 5, Palm/Passion Sunday

*We re-live and celebrate Christ's entry to Jerusalem, focusing on the events of the last week of His life among us.*

8:30-9:30 am - Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Men's Group in Fellowship Hall. *A free will offering will be received.*

10:00 am - Worship Service  
*Our palm branches wave and songs are sung as we hear the scriptures of Jesus' triumphant entry to Jerusalem. We move toward Christ's Journey to the cross.*

11:15 am - Fellowship

7:15 pm - Choir Rehearsal (*tentative*)

### April 9, Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Dinner and Worship

Join around the table to experience the Last Support. Hand-washing, a meal, a meditation and communion will be shared. Sign up to provide an element of this sacred meal *You are invited to bring food items from the sign-up sheet found in the Narthex.*

7:00 pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion

### April 12, Easter Sunday - HE IS RISEN INDEED!

6:30 am - Resurrection Celebration with an outside sunrise worship at our Church with sweet guitar accompaniment. Holy Communion shared. Following our worship, please join us inside to warm up with coffee and sweet rolls.

10:00 am - Worship as the sounds of organ and voice sing the news, *"The stone was rolled away. No longer death, but life."* Holy Communion shared.

11:30 am - Special Fellowship with sweets and finger foods. Children are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt for eggs and candy in the Church yard. Candy bags will be exchanged for eggs found.



## CHOIR SCHEDULE FOR LENT:

**March 1** - Sunday - Rehearsal at 9:30am by the Organ

**March 4** - Wednesday - Rehearsal at 7:15pm - 8:15pm

**March 8** - Sunday - Rehearsal at 9:30am by the Organ

\*\*\**(Don't forget to 'spring ahead' and set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed March 7.)\*\*\**

**March 11** - Wednesday - Rehearsal at 7:15pm-8:15pm

**March 15** - Sunday - Rehearsal at 9:30am by the Organ

**March 18** - Wednesday - Rehearsal at 7:15pm-8:15pm

**March 22** - Sunday - Rehearsal at 9:30am by the Organ

**March 25** - Wednesday - Rehearsal at 7:15pm-8:15pm

**March 29** - Sunday - Rehearsal at 9:20am by the Organ

Thank you, each one, for  
your gifts, time and talents  
which you share!



Yours in Christ, Doug

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Our annual blessing of the animals will be held  
**Sunday, April 19 at 1 pm.**

Bring your creatures, great and small, to the

# Blessing of the



## DELEGATES MEETING

Our Ursinus Associate delegates will be meet at our church building on **April 21** for their annual meeting and a meal.

## ROOT AND ROOFS

We are looking forward to having you join us at Roots & Roofs on Saturdays, 5:30 PM, for dinner and worship. The theme for this series is entitled "I Am" and will begin on Feb 29<sup>th</sup>. Each week we will discuss one of the "I Am" statements from the Bible. The series will focus on exactly who Jesus was, what he stood for, and what that means for us. Please plan to join us. All are welcome!

Follow us on Facebook.com/RootsandRoofs



## Newsletter Submissions

The UCCEG newsletter is published monthly. Submissions are due by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month prior to publication to [office@ucceastgoshen.org](mailto:office@ucceastgoshen.org).

## Your Church Council

President - Linda Ardao  
Vice President - Don Rising  
Secretary - Leslie Siebert  
Treasurer - Beth Sayler  
Assistant Treasurer - *open*  
Financial Secretary - Todd Speece  
Building & Grounds - *open*  
Christian Education - Dawn Lawhon  
Church Growth - Al Benner-Smith  
Congregational Life - *open*  
Mission & Outreach - Lucy Barber  
Worship & Music - Bunny Watts

**Lenten and Easter Questionnaire**  
**for Christian of All Ages**

**(If you complete the questions correctly by Easter Sunday,  
Pastor Angelee will have a special treat for you!)**

1. What kind of Cloth was used to wrap Jesus' body before he entered the tomb?
2. Jesus body was placed in a sepulcher and a rock was rolled to cover the opening. What is a sepulcher?
3. Who made the statement, "Take ye him, and crucify him, for I find no fault in him?"
4. How many angels were guarding the sepulcher?
5. Which disciple is not present when Jesus goes to see them after his resurrection?
6. At the Last Supper, what food did Jesus liken to his body?
7. Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. After his crucifixion, Jesus rose from the dead how many days later?
8. Which prisoner was released instead of Jesus?
9. What animal did Jesus ride on when he entered Jerusalem the week before his death?
10. Who wrote the popular Easter hymn, "*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*?"
11. The Easter sunrise service, a distinctive Protestant observance in North America, comes from what Biblical event?
12. What church colors are associated with Easter? Do you know what the colors represent?
13. How much did the world's most expensive egg sell for and who made it?
14. Who held the first egg roll on the White House lawn and in what year?
15. What is the name of the Charlie Brown Easter Special?
16. Easter is a "movable feast" – one that is set according to the phases of the moon – so the dates are different each year. Does Easter always occur between March 22 and April 25?



**Some Facts of Easter**

More than 90 million chocolate Easter bunnies are manufactured each year.



The most famous Easter parade is held in New York.

The first Easter eggs were colored red, in memory of the blood Jesus shed during his crucifixion.

Welcome to Our New  
Administrative Assistant



Jen Troutman grew up in central PA where her church family played a pivotal role in her childhood. She attended Susquehanna University and studied Sociology, Psychology & Speech Communication. She has worked for various non-profits and colleges over the years and currently serves as Digital & Social Media Manager at Reformation Church in Media, PA, where she is also an active member. Jen has volunteered with many organizations and she feels blessed to have been able to stay home with her children after becoming a mom 14 years ago. She is very excited to join the ministry at UCCEG where she can utilize her skills and faith as the Administrative Assistant. Spending time with her family and friends is her true joy, but she also delights in the enneagram, social justice issues, photography, sunsets and rainbows, a good cup of tea and new life - be it springtime or babies. She lives with her husband, two children, dog, cat and fish in Westtown.

# More Fun Facts About Easter

- The English word, "Easter" may have come from Eostre, the Teutonic (ancient German) goddess of spring, or from the Teutonic festival of spring called Eostur.

- The word "Easter" is not found in the Bible.

- Eggs represent the new life that returns to nature around Easter time.

- Early Christians of Mesopotamia were the first to use colored eggs for Easter. In some European countries people colored eggs red to represent the joy of the resurrection.

- From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection. Decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century, according to some sources. One explanation for this custom is that eggs were formerly a forbidden food during the Lenten season, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, then eat them on Easter as a celebration.



- The largest Easter egg ever made was over 25 feet high and weighed over 8,000 pounds. It was built out of chocolate and marshmallow and supported by an internal steel frame.

- The lamb is one of the symbols of Easter. The symbol comes from the Jewish Pesach (Passover) holiday. The Jewish Passover celebration is a partial re-enactment of the events of the Exodus when Jewish families killed a lamb and sprinkled its blood on their doorposts.

## A Look Ahead!

### May 22 – Safe Harbor Dinner

Safe Harbor is designed to house homeless single men and women. The women dine at 4:30 pm and the men at 6:30 pm. What a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community by helping with the preparation and serving of a meal at Safe Harbor of West Chester. Look for more details to come.

## What Is a Fastnacht?

A fastnacht is a heavy, yeast-raised potato doughnut that is typically prepared on Fat Tuesday before the start of the Lenten season. These doughnuts are part of Easter traditions in Pennsylvania Dutch country, which includes Lancaster, York, and Berks counties in south-central Pennsylvania.

Fastnachts are square or triangular in shape and do not have holes in their centers. Square-shaped fastnachts are meant to represent the four gospels of the Bible, whereas a triangular fastnacht represents the Holy Trinity.

Fastnacht Day 2020 is Tuesday, February 25. This day is also known as Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras, or Shrove Tuesday, which is why the delicious treats are often referred to as "mardi gras donuts". Fastnacht Day is the last day before Lent, the 40-day season before Easter begins on Ash Wednesday.



## What Does "Fastnacht" Mean?

The term "fastnacht" (also spelled fasnacht, faschnaut, faschnacht) comes from the German words "fast," a shortened form of the verb "fasten" meaning "to fast," and "nacht," which means "night." Fastnacht Day is the eve of the Lenten fasting period that many Christian denominations observe. Tradition holds that on this day, households use up all the fat and sugar in the house before Lent begins. This practice also gives Fat Tuesday its name.

## United Church of Christ East Goshen

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[www.UCCEastGoshen.org](http://www.UCCEastGoshen.org)

UnitedChurchOfChristEastGoshen

*Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith, Pastor*

*Rev. Doug Holder, Director of Music Ministry*

*Michael Hatala, Worship Leader, Roots & Roofs*

**May this season teach us, strengthen us, and offer us Christ's renewal!**

**Everyone is welcome to join us for all our events. We are an open and affirming congregation. We are praying for your presence in these Lenten journey offerings.**