

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

An Open and Affirming Congregation

All are Welcome!

August 16, 2020

Psalm 67

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us
2 so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.
3 May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
4 May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.
5 May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
6 The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.
7 May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

The Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith, Pastor
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Living In God's Love Together, We Gather

11th Sunday After Pentecost

WE thank those who are participating in our virtual worship service this morning: Al and Cole Benner-Smith, Grace Schairer, Rowan Neilson, Michael Hatala and Ann Boohar.

Conversations Continue: Sunday @ 11

You are invited to adult education sessions after worship beginning Sunday, August 16. Instead of Zoom Fellowship, we'll take up more sacred conversations on Race. Each session will involve watching a video on the topic as a conversation starter, then we'll share, book club style, our insights. [Join us on a journey to understanding and justice.](#)

You can also join by calling in, if you don't want to use video. Dial 1 646 876 9923 and when prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 899 4141 7755.4141 7755.

Please email any content you may have for the September/October Newsletter to Jen Troutman in the church office by Wednesday, August 19. Thank you!



Roots & Roofs Update:

August 15th at 5:30 p.m. we conclude a series on race in America with a final session on being an ally. Special guest, Rev. Cean James, from the Pennsylvania south east conference staff and pastor in Philadelphia, will be with

us on Zoom on August 15th. All are invited to join in and bring a friend for these insightful gatherings. They will inspire us on our journey toward God's full justice for all humanity. [Click here to join us!](#)

We will be taking a break from the Roots/Roofs worship on Saturdays after this Saturday session 15th. We will be on break August 22, 29 and September 5th. On September 12th we will begin a new series.

THE APPLEBUTTER FESTIVAL



IS CHANGING!

Apple Butter Festival Update:

This fall will be unlike other years as we will not be offering to the community our wonderful apple butter festival. Each year beside the joy of apple butter making, we have crafts for sale, a golf ball drop, children's game, bake table and many old and new friendships shared. Each year the apple butter festival raises \$6-10,000 for our ministries. The council is looking into new & creative

fundraisers both to get the word out about our ministry and replace the funds we will miss from the festival this year. Please watch for more details and be thinking and praying of new ways to keep our ministry strong and thriving even in a pandemic.



Telling Your Story

We had an invitation from a professor at Marist College in New York to participate in a survey of folks who consider themselves LGBTQ+ allies. [The survey looks at the spiritual and religious foundations that brought us to this place.](#) Both LGBTQ+ folk and straight allies are invited to

participate. When you click through to the survey, there are e-mail addresses for the professors if you have questions.

COVID-19 UPDATE



Your council and reopening committee have been reading and reflecting on our plans to keep all of us as safe and healthy as possible. During this process cleaning, spacing, different ways to worship are being considered and local governmental laws are being followed. [Click here for the latest congregational letter that went out regarding reopening.](#)



Calendar Notes:

Saturday, August 15 – Conference meeting via zoom, info from PSEC website.

Pandemic PenPals Needed: Senior Citizens and community volunteers are invited to be matched as PenPals during this time of social isolation. [Details here](#). Please share this information with anyone who might be interested.



Café Script! Our Café Script Bible study meets using Zoom at **11 AM on Wednesdays**. All are welcome!

This week's scripture readings are:

Isaiah 51:1-6

Romans 12:1-8

[Click here to join Café Script!](#)

Food Donations: If you would like to donate to our pantry outreach, please drop non-perishable food items outside our church on the bench from **8 AM - 12:30 PM Sunday morning!** We will send them on to help those in need. Thanks for remembering God's call to serve each other!



Prayer Requests: Is there a specific way we can be praying for you? Please email it to prayers@ucceastgoshen.org and we will be sure to add it to the prayer list!

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST****Communitas**

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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August 16, 2020

50 - 50 - 50 Challenge

Climate change is one of the most complex issues facing us today. It involves many dimensions and is a global problem. However, it is felt on a local level and there are solutions that any one of us and our churches can do. The PSEC Climate Justice Working Group invites churches to commit to doing something "green".

The Working Group challenges 50 PSEC churches to make a commitment to do something to mitigate climate change in the coming months. Churches can take on garden-planting, recycling, composting, tree planting, and/or preaching about caring for the earth. It only takes a couple of people to listen to climate webinars at ucc.org or read one of many books. For a list of churches that have made a commitment, suggestions for actions your congregation can take, more information, and a form you can use for your church to accept the challenge, visit psec.org/green.



PSEC Church Highlighted in UCC Keeping You Posted

Mission Trip Birdsboro

Hundreds of church volunteers converged on almost two dozen worksites in southeast Pennsylvania last week, helping homeowners as part of Mission Trip Birdsboro.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Birdsboro, which launched the mission of service in 2014, is now working in partnership with several other local congregations to share ministry in their community.

"Mission Trip Birdsboro was initially started to help those within our own area instead of traveling to different parts of the country or world," said Dawn Fear, one of the original organizers and now chair of the leadership team. "We spread hope and love in our communities and like our theme 'Unbroken', we show God's unbroken spirit."

"Mission Trip Birdsboro is about taking time to attempt to be more Christ-like in our actions. We can show love for our neighbors and help those with needs," said Stuart Wells, a member of the leadership team and another initial organizer. "Let those outside of church see what it means to strive to follow what Christ taught—to emulate Christian love, service to others, forgiveness, and faith."

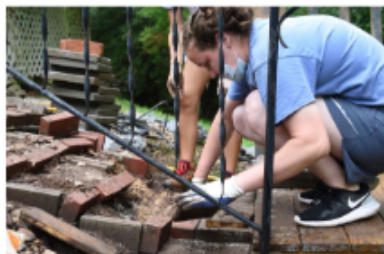
Pandemic, protests prompt a pivot

Over the course of three days, more than 100 volunteers tackled dozens of projects at 23 sites from Wednesday, July 22, through Friday, July 24, with a wrap-up worship service and celebration on Saturday. Flexibility and perseverance in the face of adversity guided the mission in 2020, which completely had to shift focus because of COVID-19.

MLB was designed around inside projects, repairing people's homes after soliciting requests for assistance from the community. This year, the pandemic prompted project planners to rethink their entire process.

We knew that going ahead as usual or canceling were not options. We need to do it, in spite of COVID, just as we knew there were things to be done," Wells said. "People have needs, with added stress and isolation. Even if things were locked down, we could pray for people." So the Mission team began rethinking the work in March, meeting on Zoom instead of around a conference table, sharing information on the MTB Facebook page.

"This year the theme is 'Unbroken,' staying true and adapting mission trip to make it work for the pandemic," Wells said. "We had to revamp how it's done. Everything looks different, with masks, and social distancing. Motivation has remained the same. There's still enthusiasm to do the work."



For the entire story go to: https://www.ucc.org/kyp_god_s_hands_at_work