

Newsletter

United Church of Christ East Goshen

September/October 2020

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UCCEG Signs

To our members and the community around UCCEG,

After some various conversations, notes and emails about our sign at the front of our church grounds on Route 352 and Green hill road, I want to take this time to share my thoughts about what our Black Lives Matter sign says to me.

The sign at the front of the church speaks to the community who pass by it about our church witness and love. From time to time the church has the opportunity to be specific and direct in our call to justice and love. Hopefully it is a given to the community at large that we as UCCEG people do believe that all lives do matter to God. Although it may not be the case that we (as a society) include those who are often marginalized and forgotten as the "ALL." At this time in the history of our country when prejudice against people of color, particularly Black people, is on the front burner, we have a chance to be bold and specific in our stand of love. All people matter to God, but we have had signs in our entrance saying hate has no home here and on a car in our parking lot, Jesus was an undocumented immigrant. I wear a rainbow stole as a sign of inclusion and welcome of all those who feel their sexuality makes them unlovable to some, but not so here! Our doors and hearts are open, because we believe, all are loved, forgiven, and called beloved children of God. The God we worship, has never seen skin color, ethnicity, sexuality, financial stability, education, or voting party as reasons to not be included in ALL. Sadly enough we don't have to look far into the conversations and actions of humankind to find words of exclusion, prejudice, judgement, stereotypes and "righteous" anger.

Words, even signs will not win the battle for love, but it is a start to be upfront, take a stand for those not treated fairly, and put our hearts out there for all to see. As we speak of justice in places where there is little, this does not mean less justice for me. We have never said JUST black lives matter. But so many places in the world seem to live by the thought all lives "But"... (the immigrant, the

black, the poor, the Trans, the old, the marginalized.) Until they matter without qualifiers, not based on merit or clothing or criminal history or money earned or zip code or education; Until ALL is second nature, and truly do matter, we need to be reminded.

I believe we are surely speaking God's love into a world being torn apart by hate. The question I ask myself on a daily basis is how can I love more? How can I challenge my own subconscious thinking to be more in line with God's?

I pray you may feel this too: proud that we are bold in our Love, no matter who is reading or listening.

If you too are feeling you need to have open and educational moments of discussion on Justice and racism, join in the weekly sacred discussion which Al Benner-Smith is leading. We view a video on race/white privilege/honest reckoning with our inner thinking. Then we share our personal thoughts, fears, learnings, and together begin discussions toward God's sacred call to loving mercy and justice. See your weekly announcements for the link and time of these gatherings. All are encouraged to join together for the hour.

*~ Pastor Angelee
(she/her/hers)*

Mark Your Calendars

Sept 15 – 7 pm
Worship &
Music Meeting

Sept 21 – 7 pm
Church
Council
Meeting

Oct 19 – 7 pm
Church
Council
Meeting



Altar Flowers

You can sponsor altar flowers for \$15 for one vase or \$25 for two vases. If you are interested in sponsoring a Sunday, please contact [Jen Troutman](#). Arrangements can be made to pick up the flowers after worship, if you desire.



50th Anniversary Preparations!

Next year, 2021, UCC East Goshen will celebrate our 50th anniversary.

This calls for celebration! We need your ideas and help in making 2021 a year filled with memories and dreams. Please let [Beth Saylor](#) or [Pastor Angelee](#) know if you have ideas or time to share in this endeavor. And if you have any photos of church people or activities, we would love to have copies.



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!



Café Script!

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

[Click here to join the Café Script Zoom meeting.](#)



Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, please [email it to the church office](#) and we will be sure to add it to the prayer list!



Worship Help

Our music and worship team is in need of a few willing people to help run the video and audio equipment during the virtual service each Sunday at 10:00

AM. Bart and Al are more than willing to work with and teach any volunteers how the system works. Please consider this awesome opportunity to be a vital part of our virtual worship team! If you are interested please contact [Al Benner-Smith](#) or [Bart Yost](#).



“Conversations Continue”

We'll take up more sacred conversations on race each week – check your email for specific dates/times. 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.](#)

SACRED CONVERSATIONS
TO **END** RACISM



Children & Youth Zoom

Pastor Angelee invites UCCEG children and youth to a special zoom meeting just for them on September 15 @ 4 PM. Watch your email for the link to join.



Wedding Joy!

It is with joy that we anticipate the wedding day of two of our wonderful members, Andrea Testa and Stef Weikel. These two will celebrate their new adventure at a small private wedding Sunday, October 4 at 5:30pm in Malvern PA and Rev Angelee Benner-Smith will officiate. Let us send to them prayers of support and encouraging love, for their marriage day and the years ahead in their commitment. May God's blessing be a light to their marriage!



~ Apple Butter Festival Update ~

This fall will be unlike other years as we will NOT be offering to the community our beloved apple butter festival. We are working on a virtual auction to take the place of this fundraiser in November. However, the council has decided to have ONE batch of apple butter made in early October! Please contact [Al Benner-Smith](#) or [Todd Speece](#) to let them know you wish to pre-order jars at \$7 each. We must have 50 orders to do this and we will only make what we have sold. So PRE-ORDER by September 15!!! Order early for the Christmas gifts and Thanksgiving meals!!!!

A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS of UCCEG: An Online Auction



Our goal is to raise funds we are missing from the apple butter festival and invite new and current members and friends to bid on some exciting items.

We are asking each person reading this to consider a donation to the auction.

Any antiques which you would love to pass on, an old Quilt, an experience from a place where you frequent, an offer of a skill/ time/ expertise which you can share with others, (proof reading/ educational tutoring/ yard work/ a special dessert homemade and delivered, pies for thanksgiving, house cleaning, a skill you are willing to teach on line or in person (origami, French language, paper making), an evening of music played or sung, a week at your vacation home/ beach house / cabin you are willing to have auctioned, tickets for an experience when we are out of covid, gift cards, etc. Our committee has met and are making special plans and counting on you to donate with a joyful heart!!!! **Please email a photo and brief description of the item you would like to donate to the auction to [Jen Troutman](#) so we can let you know if it will work for our auction.** THANK YOU for helping us to make our auction successful!

Welcome to our new Roots & Roofs

Worship Leader: Maxwell Staley

(he/they/theirs)



Maxwell Staley is a second year master of divinity student at Lancaster Theological Seminary, 2017 graduate of the University of Massachusetts Boston, and a 2013 graduate of Philadelphia University. Max recently became a member of Old First Reformed UCC in Philadelphia and has become increasingly involved in serving the wider church through PSEC committees. They love cooking/baking, listening to music, spending time with their spouse, and building strong relationships. Max is excited and eager to share their interests and talents with UCC East Goshen.

Medication Drop Box

Medication collection boxes offer the opportunity to safely and anonymously dispose of unwanted and expired drugs and medications. A permanent medication collection box has been added to the [East Goshen Township](#) Building lobby. This box is in addition to the one that is located at the [Westtown - East Goshen Regional Police Station](#).



Pill Bottle Collection

Got some empty pill bottles collecting dust? Matthew 25 Ministries is collecting the bottles from us to be used in places of need. [Click here for all the details.](#)

Update on Finances



Thank you for your continued contributions to UCC East Goshen and its mission. Although we are not meeting in person for worship and other activities, the church is not closed. We continue to pay our employees and other commitments that help us to serve our members and community.

Income was down in July, as well as year-to-date. We have had no "use of building" income since March. We anticipate the forgiveness of the PPP Loan, which will help to close that gap. Offering was below budget in July, although YTD is on budget. We had some gifts early in the year, which helped that YTD number. Our current concern is how to make up the income normally realized by the Apple Butter Festival. The finance team and council have worked to find alternate ways to continue the spirit of the festival and also attain the monetary goals. (Please see the article on how you can help support our new efforts.)

Generally, our expenses have been below budget. This, along with your continued support, has helped considerably in allowing us to continue to pay employees and bills in a timely manner.

Thank you for helping to fund the building repairs undertaken during the summer. The repairs to the wall behind the pulpit have been completed, the roof repairs around the steeple will begin soon and the east and north walls of the sanctuary will be power washed. The cell tower company will be paying for the roof repairs around the steeple. Any future building/capital expenses will come from the Capital/Building Fund account with Edward Jones.

Questions or concerns? Please call or [email Beth Sayler](mailto:beth.sayler@ucc-eastgoshen.org) at 610-431-2328.

Below is a special request from Susan Pagan of the PFLAG Delaware Media Chapter.

Dear Pflag family,

On July 4, my friend, a longtime Media Pflag member, lost her 23 year-old transgender child to suicide. There are no words for the pain and sadness of this loss.

In going through her child's things, my friend discovered that Jess is the name that her child planned to use post-transition. As a way to honor Jess and to show support for her family, I am running the Princeton Virtual Half Marathon at the end of October. This is a fundraiser for HiTOPS, which "works to foster strong & healthy young people of all identities by providing inclusive and youth-informed sex education and LGBTQ+ support for young people throughout New Jersey." I have set up "Team Jess" so that others can join in. There are two ways to participate:

1. You can register to Run or walk 13.1 miles between October 25th and November 8th. This is a virtual event, so you can choose when and where to walk or run. You can complete your 13.1 miles at once or cumulatively during the two weeks.

The registration fee is \$45 and you will receive a race shirt in the mail.

Please use this link to register and make sure that you select Team JESS. (When you register, please answer "yes" to the question "Would you like to join or create a Social Team?" and look for Team Jess)

2. You can make a donation to Team Jess through this link.

We are planning to meet at a park near West Chester to do a socially distanced walk so people can log some miles together. If there is interest, I can also set up a time to do a Delaware County walk.

Thanks so much for reading this and considering participating. Pflag has been such a great source of love and support for me and also for my friend. When I asked her about setting up the team she wrote that "I will always be grateful to my PFLAG family who supported me throughout the years."

Please email me if you have any questions.
Thanks, Susan Pagan

ROOT AND ROOFS

Roots and Roofs is an interactive worship service that we have been able to continue via Zoom throughout the pandemic. This is a great opportunity to reflect, pray, listen, discuss, and share in our faith. We usually get to see a powerful video conversation starter. And always there are musical selections which enhance our emotional and spiritual connection to the theme.

Pastor Angelee and max Staley will be leading the service on 9/12 as we begin our weeks studying Jesus's teachings from Matthew 5:3-16. These 9 Beatitudes speak to our blessings as we live out our everyday lives. With suffering as well as joys, Jesus tells us over and over do not be discouraged, there are blessing where ever we find ourselves.



We look forward to having you
[join us, every Saturday at 5:30 pm!](#)

Follow us on [Facebook.com/RootsandRoofs](https://www.facebook.com/RootsandRoofs)

OFFICE HOURS UPDATE!

- A Friendly Reminder: during this pandemic time when we are mostly working from home, we are attempting of keep up some semblance of normalcy just like everyone else. If you need something taken care of for church, [please email](#) our Office Administrator, Jen Troutman, Tuesday-Thursday between 9am and 1pm. *Requests received at other times may NOT be read or responded to until regular office hours.*
- Pastor Angelee can be reached by church phone or personal cell phone which is on the church machine. Most days, except Friday, she will return your call that same day. Emails are read and responded to as she receives them. Pastor Angelee is available to meet with you outside church, in the gazebo weather permitting. Please call or email her to make an appointment. Thank you for keeping all of us safe during these times!

Virtual Worship – Sundays @ 10 AM

The words to prayers and hymns will be displayed on the screen so everyone can join in while you watch worship. Invite your friends and family to join us online!

[Click here to join worship via FB Live.](#)

Join us for Zoom Fellowship each week after our virtual service – [click here to join Zoom Fellowship!](#)

Newsletter Submissions

The UCCEG newsetter is published bi-monthly. Submissions are due by the 3rd Tuesday of the month prior to publication to office@ucceastgoshen.org.

Your Church Council

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

United Church of Christ East Goshen

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[*Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith, Pastor*](#)

[*Maxwell Staley, Roots & Roofs Worship Leader*](#)

[*Michael Hatala, Director of Music Ministry*](#)

[*Jen Troutman, Office Administrator*](#)

September is Suicide Prevention month.
Click the graphic below to access many resources!



Mental Illness Awareness Week is Oct 4-10.
It's okay to not be OK. Click below to access resources!



September is Hunger Awareness Month. Go to <https://endhunger.org/ham/> to print off your copy of this handy calendar.

2020 Calendar for Prayer and Action | [EndHunger.org/ham](https://endhunger.org/ham)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
With your help, The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) nourishes souls, through spiritual life resources like this, and bodies, through nationwide gleaning and feeding ministries. Your donations in response to these daily readings and activities shares healthy, nourishing food with people in greatest need throughout the United States. Thank you!						
September 6 <i>Ruth 1-2</i>	September 7 <i>Genesis 1:26-31</i>	September 8 <i>Psalms 23</i>	September 9 <i>Psalms 104</i>	September 10 <i>Proverbs 15:15-17</i>	September 11 <i>Ecclesiastes 9:7-10a</i>	September 12 <i>Proverbs 30:7-9</i>
Food left in fields is forgotten like loose change is forgotten money. Put your loose change in your coin box today.	Pray for those who seek work in order to feed themselves and their families.	"The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want." Practice contentment today.	Where in your life do you experience abundance? Money, love, hope, time? Share some of what is overflowing today.	Serve only vegetables and love for dinner tonight.	Enjoy a special meal with family or friends today. Thank God for their presence in your life.	Set aside a "want" today and share a tithe (10%) of what that "want" would cost with your congregation or Society of St. Andrew.
September 13 <i>Isaiah 55</i>	September 14 <i>Isaiah 58:6-11</i>	September 15 <i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>	September 16 <i>Matthew 6:7-13</i>	September 17 <i>Luke 11:5-8</i>	September 18 <i>Luke 12:13-33</i>	September 19 <i>Matthew 7:7-11</i>
For what are you hungering and thirsting for today? Spend time in prayer with today's reading.	How is hunger an issue of justice? Consider the politics of food and hunger. Find your voice and be heard!	They say talk is cheap. Put 1 cent in your coin box for every word you speak to day. (Estimate of course!)	Put an amount in your coin box equivalent to what you spend on a loaf of bread.	Put 1 cent in your coin box for every hour you slept this week.	Put 25 cents in your coin box each time you worry this week.	Pray for agencies in your community that feed the hungry.
September 20 <i>Luke 14:15-24</i>	September 21 <i>John 6:1-14</i>	September 22 <i>John 6:22-34</i>	September 23 <i>John 6:35-40</i>	September 24 <i>Acts 2:43-47</i>	September 25 <i>Romans 14:1-9</i>	September 26 <i>1 Corinthians 10:23-31</i>
Is there an area of your life in which you are refusing God's invitation?	Skip lunch today and give the money you'd have spent to Society of St. Andrew instead.	How are you working for the food that endures for eternal life?	Give thanks today for Jesus, the Bread of Life.	Consider how your faith community could be more like the Acts 2 community.	Try a new food from a different culture today.	Serve a meal at a soup kitchen or shelter today for the glory of God.
September 27 <i>1 Timothy 6:6-8</i>	September 28 <i>Philippians 4:4-9</i>	September 29 <i>Kings 17:12-16</i>	September 30 <i>Genesis 18:1-15</i>	Society of St. Andrew GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY		
Put a gift in your coin box as a thanksgiving for the many blessings you enjoy.	Today, plan one way you will continue fighting hunger in the coming months.	Where in your life are you experiencing scarcity today? Money, love, hope, time? Share some of what seems scarce today.	At your meal table today, set an extra place. To whom is God calling you to show hospitality?			