



Lenten Brochure

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN – FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021



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Mark Your Calendars (tentative details inside)

Feb. 17 - Ash Wednesday

7:00 PM Virtual Service via
Zoom – Please check
email, Facebook Page or
Website for the link.

March 28 - Palm Sunday

10:00 AM Virtual Service via
Facebook Live
*Palms available for pickup
March 26-27.

April 1 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM Virtual Tenebrae
Worship Service via
Facebook Live

April 3 - Roots & Roofs Easter Vigil Service

5:30 PM – Zoom Service

April 4 - Easter Sunday

HE IS RISEN INDEED!
10:00 AM Worship with Holy
Communion

A Walk of Rememberance in Israel

In my second year of Seminary I flew with 45 other seminarians from all over the states, varying in denominations and theology, and travelled to Israel taking a four-week Biblical study and archeologist study class from our professor, Jim Flemings, whose head of red, curly hair bobbed in front of the line of students every day. His catch phrase was, "As we approach this site, take an ability with you." (The ability was the note paper and pen or pencil to take notes).

I touched the water in the most narrow part of the Sea of Galilee, walked the dusty roads of Jericho, floated in the dead sea and saw the sites of tomb close to where the dead sea scrolled were found. I touched the wailing wall adding my prayer and saw the Hasidic Jewish clergy moving in the rhythm of new parents swaying back and forth with scriptures in hand praying over the prayers placed in the walls. I saw the old street of Jerusalem. I wondered over the Holy shrines if Jesus had placed his hand where I touched and if at the foot of the mount of Olives where the Church of the Sepulcher of Saint Mary, was really where the remains of Mary the mother of Jesus lie. I had the sweetest tea, in the most beautiful silver tea set on the street of the "old city" and ate the best falafels from the street vendor with questionable oil, deep frying my lunch. I took a city bus, to find many young men holding machine guns like they would a brown sack of groceries, on the bus I wondered if fighting in that area would ever end.

So many teachings I remember and have used time and time again in sermons, communion, bible study, and personal devotion. One of the most evocative, compelling, tangible learnings was the tear cup. In Psalm 56 we read: God collects our tears in a bottle – verse 8. Even in Roman times, around the time of Christ, mourners filled small glass bottles or cups with tears and placed them in burial tombs as symbols of respect. During the American Civil War, women were said to have cried into tear bottles and saved them until their husbands returned from battle.

As I recalled the tear cup, I thought of the tears we have collectively shed during this pandemic, for those without income, home, in isolation, for those in hospitals dying without loved ones, unable to take social interactions. Tears for places in our world where health care and vaccinations are in deep need yet so limited. Tears when we see that the color of our skin, our age, income or an "essential" job means we have a greater risk of falling victim to a dangerous virus.

These 12 months, have been a time of tears, and there will be more. As we walk to Jerusalem, may we hold our tear cups, so we might feel the sorrow as God does in Psalm 34 where we are reminded how God feels our sorrow even weeps for the devastating blows of His people. Psalm 34:18 promises us that "the Lord is close to the brokenhearted."

*On the walk with you,
~ 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. Lent is a time of repentance, reflection and renewal in preparation for our Easter Resurrection! As we intentionally practice spiritual disciplines of reading and meditating on scripture, Daily praying, journaling, fasting, we find renewed meaning in this season.

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

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

February 17 – 7 PM – This will be a virtual service on Zoom. Keep an eye on your email, our Facebook page, website or [click here to join](#).



PALM SUNDAY is MARCH 28

Palms will be available for pickup on the church porch on Fri & Sat (March 26-27.) Please help yourself.

MUSIC UPDATE

During Lent, we will continue to provide our weekly virtual services. If you would like to volunteer to offer your musical talents, whether singing or playing an instrument, please reach out to us. Also, if you know someone who may be interested in volunteering their talents, please encourage them to contact Michael Hatala, Director of Music Ministry, at mjhatala3@gmail.com.



We will plan to have bells play on Easter and will have several other special musical performances throughout the Lenten and Easter Season.



SUNDAY SCHOOL PACKETS

The next "packet" has been delivered or mailed by now. Please contact Carol Swingle or email

office@ucceastgoshen.org if your

child did not receive one. This batch is covering the weeks from Ash Wednesday (February 17) to May 23 (14 Sundays). This is the biggest packet yet since the pandemic started and includes craft ideas and materials, and Lenten activities geared to your child(ren)'s ages.

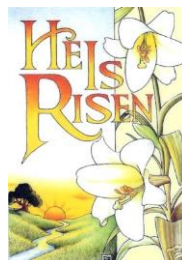
EASTER EGG HUNT*

We are planning on a safe activity for this year for children 11 and under. It will be an outdoor, masked, distanced event, weather permitting. (That means no precipitation. If it's cold please just dress warmly!) We will need every child accompanied by an adult willing to supervise that they wear a mask and stay distanced from other children. When the decision is made about the Easter service and whether aspects will be in-person we will finalize the timing of the Hunt. Please look in the weekly emails or Facebook page for information. The children will be searching for items that they will put in their bag and take home with them. Other goodies will be available. We will make it as fun and festive as we can. Please contact Carol Swingle or email office@ucceastgoshen.org if you have any questions or concerns.



EASTER FLOWERS

Good News - Plans are now being finalized for our annual Easter Plant sale!! Details will be released shortly. In the meantime, please contact Don Rising (484-888-3730



donrising@gmail.com) or Ann Boohar

(484-401-5296 aboohar@comcast.net) with any questions or suggestions.

OUR WIDER CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION 2021

The mission statement for the United Church of Christ is "United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all." Through special annual appeals, **OCWM** (Our Church's Wider Mission) provides opportunities for all of us (adults and children) to help those in our community and beyond.

The first of the four OCWM appeals for 2021 takes place soon: the "**One Great Hour of Sharing**." This special offering provides "clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation." The One Great Hour of Sharing offering also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. Your family's participation would be most appreciated. You can read more about One Great Hour of Sharing at: www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/. Thank you for your consideration.

If you have children at home who want to participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, perhaps they could be encouraged to perform chores at home and contribute some of the money they earn to the One Great Hour of Sharing.

If you are able to participate in this year's One Great Hour of Sharing offering, please send your check to the church office. **The check should be written to UCC East Goshen with "OCWM - OGHS" indicated on the designation line** at the left side bottom of your check.

Finally, please know that although we miss seeing each other, we continue to be a church family that cares for each other. Reach out if you would like a phone call and stay strong and well.

Pam Onyx, incoming Missions and Outreach Committee Chair

610-909-2665 or abtface@aol.com

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

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



****Please realize that in this new Pandemic world – we make plans and then plans inevitably bend and change based on current circumstances. Below is our plan as of now, but please look to your weekly email, our Facebook page and our website for more up-to-date plans. We cannot wait until we can all gather again safely in our usual way, but until then God is teaching us to be flexible with our plans.****

March 28, Palm Sunday

10 AM – Virtual Worship via Facebook Live

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.

April 1, Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM – Virtual Worship via Facebook Live

This will be a Tenabrae service with candles & special music.

April 3, Easter Vigil

5:30 PM – Join our Roots & Roofs Zoom for a special Easter celebration

April 4, Easter Sunday - HE IS RISEN INDEED!

10:00 AM – Virtual Worship via Facebook Live with Communion

Worship as we sing the news, "The stone was rolled away. No longer death, but life."

Later - Special Easter Egg hunt for children with strict pandemic precautions to be followed.*

REOPENING UPDATE

Dear UCCEG Family and Friends,

Please know that our beloved church will reopen for live worship in our beautiful sanctuary as soon as it is safely possible. Please know that we understand how difficult the separation is on each and every person who is part of our church family. We are a church of huggers (which can't be done online or safely accomplished in person right now). The isolation is challenging as we await the wide availability of vaccines that will make services in our beautiful Sanctuary a safe reality again.

The church Reopening Committee continues to monitor local data on the prevalence of the virus. The data will be reported at each Council meeting to guide Council's decisions about when live worship (outdoors first and then indoors) can resume most safely. We expect that opportunities for outdoor worship will be available in the spring.

In the meantime, please know that each of you are beloved. We will be able to offer live worship in our beautiful Sanctuary again. Our church continues to be a beacon of hope and love in the community.

When you feel like talking with someone, please give another member of our congregation a call or send them an email. The chances are that whomever you decide to reach out to will be equally pleased to hear from you. Don't be shy or suffer in silence. We are a church family—one of the first things I noticed on my very first visit to UCCE

Pam Onyx for the Church Reopening Committee
(Eliza Thornton, Andrea Testa, & Pastor Angelee Benner-Smith)

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS UPDATE

Unfortunately, we are unable to have our annual Blessing of the Animals service this year. We hope to reinstate that beloved tradition in 2022.

ROOT AND ROOFS

We are looking forward to having you join us at Roots & Roofs on Saturdays, 5:30 PM via Zoom. As we enter this Lenten season we are reminded that it is not a time of giving things up but rather making space for grace and nurturing a relationship with your Divine. At Roots and Roofs, we will continue to encourage one other on our journeys to connection by exploring a variety of perspectives. All are welcome!

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



Newsletter Submissions

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

WELCOME 2021 Church Council

Installed January 31, 2021

President – Todd Speece

Vice President – Lucy Barber

Secretary – Beth Keates

Treasurer - Beth Saylor

Financial Secretary – Don Rising

Building & Grounds – Steve Bailey

Christian Education – Carol Swingle

Church Growth - Al Benner-Smith

Congregational Life – Bonnie Jackson

Mission & Outreach – Pam Onyx

Worship & Music - Bunny Watts & Ann Boohar

UCCEG is Walking to Jerusalem Together, Apart!



As the season of Lent approaches, we turn our minds and, this year, our bodies towards Golgotha, the place of the Skull, where Jesus was crucified on Good Friday. Whilst as a body we cannot be together, we would like to invite every member and friend of UCCEG to join us in walking through Lent to try and reach Jerusalem in time for Easter AND to raise funds in order for our church to THRIVE in 2021.

During the 40 days of Lent, we invite all our members and friends to make time to walk in reflection or learning and record their distance walked each week to allow us to tally how far we as a 'body of Christ' can get towards Greeting the Risen Christ near his empty tomb on Easter Day! Perhaps you could walk after reading your Lent Devotional and reflect, or listen to a spoken word book, podcast or bible reading whilst you walk. Or walk with your family and discuss the devotional together. We will have a shared conversation on our Facebook page around the Daily devotionals and encourage you to participate and share pictures of your walks! Use #walkingtoJerusalem to help us find your pictures and posts!

As you begin this period of reflection, we invite you to choose an amount to donate to church for each mile you walk, or perhaps each day you walk (can you manage all 40 days?) and then make your donation to our Church funds once you complete the challenge at Easter. Perhaps you would like to set an individual target! Can you walk to Bethlehem, PA (82 miles) or to Damascus, PA (183 miles)? Each week we will gather your weekly totals of distances walked, and report on our progress towards Jerusalem! We are a small church, but this is a big walk! Consider getting friends and family to join you on your walks!

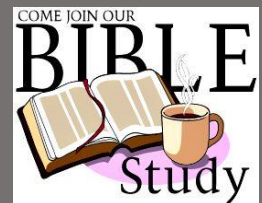
Watch out for more info with your Lenten Devotionals coming soon! Any questions, please contact Lucy Barber on 571-414-9736 or barberfamilydownunder@hotmail.co.uk

Lent Labrynth



Don't miss the included printed Labrynth for use as a meditative resource during Lent. Be sure to have it on hand for our [Ash Wednesday service on Feb., 17 @ 7 PM.](#)

Café Script



Our weekly Zoom Bible Study will continue to run through Lent on the following days.

March 10
 March 17
 March 24
 March 31

YOU are invited to attend and share the discussion and fellowship around the passages of scripture, even if you have never joined us before. No experience necessary.

Why not begin a new Lenten tradition this year @ 11 AM on Wednesdays?

Links to join can be found in the weekly email as well as on our website or [click here to join.](#)

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.

More Fun Facts!

- 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.

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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 [UnitedChurchOfChristEastGoshen](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchOfChristEastGoshen)

Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith, Pastor

*Michael Hatala, Director of
Music Ministry*

*Maxwell Staley, Worship Leader,
Roots & Roofs*

Jen Troutman, Office Administrator

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.***