

# UCCEG Newsletter

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN – JUNE/JULY 2021

## Mark Your Calendars

### SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 AM

June 6 – Outdoor Worship

June 13 – Virtual Worship

June 20 – Virtual Worship

June 27 – Indoor Worship

July 4 – Virtual Worship

July 11 – Indoor Worship

July 18 – Virtual Worship

July 25 – Indoor Worship

### MEETINGS

June 2 – W & M – 7 pm

June 3 – Fundraising – 7 pm

June 8 – Staff Mtg – 7 pm

June 10 – M & O – 10 am

June 14 – ReOpening –  
6 pm, Finance – 7 pm

June 17- Fundraising 7 pm

June 21 – Council - 7 pm

July 1 – Fundraising – 7 pm

July 12 – Finance – 7 pm

July 13 – Staff Mtg – 7 pm

July 15 – Fundraising – 7 pm

July 19 – Council - 7 pm



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## “The Interconnectedness of All People With God”

*A few weeks ago during Sunday worship, I offered a prayer for Children who know the reality of bombs.*

*Bombs Kill. Even children know this. At 4 years old our Granddaughter Alaina told me as we sat together,” OMA, you Know Bombs are real. My friend at school told me that someone threw a bomb and killed lots of children. Why would someone do that? Why would someone want to kill a child?” What could I answer?*

*Why would the children who happen to be at the sacred spots in Israel with their families be victims of the Israel-Gaza violence? 63 children killed in May with the youngest 6 months old, and most under 10 years old. What do we believe? What can we say?*

*The children around us are hearing the news too and they are wondering the question of Why? Why are there bombs and why are they allowed to speak for disagreements, as if their purpose of killing is the answer, when we tell children from a very young age, use your words...? It should make us angry, question, and seek to understand what the adults here are thinking? Are they so careless and have so little concern that any in the way of what ‘My Group’ believes is not worth living? The conflict seems like it has been going on forever: borders, land, limiting movement, goods, people, export, limited, by one side or the other, and always the deaths....Always the casualties of the innocent, in the way of Bombs, machine guns, and fire artillery.*

*We might have forgotten as so many have, that even if we don't speak the same language, or worship the*

*same savior, even if our jobs are so diverse, and the homes we live in look entirely different, we are looking in the mirror!*

*A quote I recall reminds me of this. It comes from the 17th century (1623) but it still rings true...the English poet John Donne, wrote that “no man is an island,” comparing people to countries & arguing for the interconnectedness of all people with God.*

*Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.*

*Each death, particularly the death of the children, the innocent, diminish me....because I am part of the whole humanity!*

*If nothing else, I pray the pandemic has taught us how interconnected we are: The whole globe. When there is not enough vaccination for the poorer countries, when some vaccinated decided it won't hurt them to unmask and take liberty with precautions, when our concern is for our family, our safety, our resources and security, when we know it might hurt another but, I want what I want. then we haven't learned the most valuable lesson which over and over again we are being taught.*

*Their children are ours, their health is ours, their safety is ours, their deaths do indeed diminish us! Let us pray constantly for each other, all around the globe.*

*With prayers for our interconnectedness to shine brightly,*

*~ Pastor Angelee*



## Mary Betty Roeder

One of our members is turning 100 on June 17. The family is asking that the church participate in a card shower. Thank you for remembering our oldest member on her century! Please send a card (or two)



around June 1 to:  
Mrs. Mary Betty Roeder  
Wellington Court A-307  
1361 Boot Road  
West Chester, PA 19380

## Church Directory

An updated version of the UCCEG church directory can now be accessed online via our website. It is password protected, so if you'd like the password please send an email to [office@uceastgoshen.org](mailto:office@uceastgoshen.org)



## Financial Statements

The giving statements for the first quarter of 2021 have gone out. If you have any questions or concerns about your statement, please

[contact Don Rising](#), Financial Secretary.

## Flower Sponsors

Now that we will be resuming some indoor services, it would be great if we can have fresh flowers in the sanctuary again! The cost is \$15 for one vase and \$25 for two vases. Your dedication will appear in the bulletin/power point for that week. [Please sign up here](#). [Any questions can be directed to Bonnie Yost](#).



## Café Script

Our mid-week bible study focuses on the scripture reading for the following Sunday. We meet via Zoom or outside the church in person if it's nice on Wednesdays at 11 AM. The link is in each weekly newsletter and on the website. Please join us!

## Building Reopening Update



Thank you to all who filled out our second reopening survey. [Survey results can be viewed by clicking here](#). Vaccination rates continue to climb in our area as infection rates continue to drop which is great news! We will start transitioning back to in-person worship beginning on June 27 and continuing every other week (dates listed on page 1.) During this time of transition and hybrid services we will need extra volunteers to help ensure everyone's safety.

- [Please click here to VOLUNTEER to help with worship.](#)
- [Please click here to sign up for INDOOR worship.](#)
- [Please click here to sign up for OUTDOOR worship on June 6.](#)



## Salvation Army Monthly Dinners

HELP! For many years now, UCCEG has provided one meal per month for the Salvation Army in West Chester. It's the first Thursday of every month that we deliver food sometime during the day for their staff to serve at dinner time. We are looking for a few volunteers to help our existing volunteers. Usually, you only have to make something every other month! You are only responsible to make one part of the meal and menus are already established so there's no guessing as to what to make! If you are interested and would like more information, please call Bonnie Yost 610-696-4137.



## Food Drive

Mission & Outreach Committee is continuing to collect and distribute canned goods for donation to the West Chester Food Pantry. Please place items in the plastic bin on the front porch of the church until we reopen for indoor worship. At that time, the donation bin will be moved into the narthex. Thank you for your consideration!

## UCCEG's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



UCCEG is celebrating 50 years of worship and community outreach.

September 12, 2021 will launch a yearlong celebration with our guest

speaker, Bill Worley, from the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. Beth Sayler will present some little-known facts about the beginnings of our church.

Each month will hold a celebrate with some kind of activity/service project based on Scripture.

When finalized, the agenda will be published in the Newsletter. The celebration will culminate with a meal and celebration in September of 2022.

Please share with us your favorite way that our church's light shines. What activity or program in which UCC participates is your favorite? How do you shine your light? In what activities do you participate in or outside of the church that assists others?

Help us shine our light throughout the community and celebrate our church, our members and friends, and our community. What is your favorite UCC memory?

Please contact Bonnie Jackson at [cajmom@verizon.net](mailto:cajmom@verizon.net) with your activities, memories and thoughts to honor our accomplishments or snail mail them to the office.

### A Summer Book Discussion



is being offered by PSEC on Tuesdays at 3 PM and 7:30 PM focusing on the book [Four Hundred Souls](#) by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain. This #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER is a chorus of extraordinary voices telling the epic story of the four-hundred-year journey of African Americans from 1619 to the present. The group discussion will run June 1 - July 6. [Zoom links and further details can be found here](#)...scroll down to the end of the page.

## Worship & Music Update



Max Staley, Master of Divinity student, has been coordinating and leading our Roots & Roofs worship services. Council has now approved him to conduct his Field Education core requirement in continuing to work with Roots & Roofs. According to the Lancaster Theological Seminary Guidelines for Field Education their vision is: Where God transforms us to transform others and the world.

Three of the 8 objectives of Field Education at Lancaster Seminary are the following:

“To develop or to deepen the sensitivity, compassion, and discernment needed to minister with people of various cultures, ages, and educational backgrounds.”

“To engage students in a wise supervisory process in which they will experience shared ministry, critical reflection, professional competence, and faith development .”

“To develop a habit of theological reflection as an integrative force in shaping a life of faith, ministry, and leadership.”

This 10 week term, beginning in August 2021, will provide Max with 6-8 hours of work per week. Pastor Angelee Benner-Smith will be his supervisor/mentor.

W & M are glad that Max can take advantage of this opportunity and look forward to our congregation giving him our support in this venture.

## Christian Education Needs YOU

I am recruiting people to serve on the Christian Education Committee. This committee is responsible for Sunday school as well as adult education. Meeting times haven't been scheduled yet but will be set up according to YOUR schedule if you are the first to join the committee! You don't need to be a parent, the only requirement is an interest in furthering the spiritual journeys of the members of our congregation.

## Sunday School Decisions

Returning to in-person Sunday School (when/how) remains the biggest decision facing the CE committee. The church plans in-person services to begin regularly over the summer. With faith that we will be able to hold Sunday School by the fall I did order the traditional Whole People of God curriculum that covers September 1, 2021-August 31, 2022. But we will need teachers! Please consider filling one of these important positions.



## Christmas in July!

Because we weren't able to have a traditional Christmas in 2020 I have wanted to hold a Christmas in July Celebration. I need people with ideas and an interest in music, arts and crafts, or other creative ways to bring the Christmas Story to life.

## Adult Education

Adult education could be offered in a hybrid format—making online connection available to a small group that is meeting in person as appropriate—as soon as a teacher is recruited. That could be YOU! Please think prayerfully whether you feel called to present on a topic one-time or in a multi-session class format.

Contact Carol Swingle at [cswingle@aol.com](mailto:cswingle@aol.com) for more information on any of these initiatives.

## The Sounds of Church Music



On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, we said good bye to Michael Hatala who has been servicing our church as our director of Music ministry. We wish Michael well as he pursues another adventure in his Roman Catholic church music ministry.

So often Michael brought many other of his talented friends to offer their music during these pandemic worship time. We extend our thanks to all of them too.

Our church music and worship committee is in charge of finding Sunday substitute musicians. They have found some wonderful people to support the music here at UCCEG while another permanent replacement is found.

We are pulling together a search committee for finding our next director of music ministry. On the committee so far are: Beth Sayler and Linda Ardao. There are still a few other members being sought.

If you have an interest and a desire to serve in this capacity, please let Church Council President [Todd Speece](#), or Ann Boohar, our Music/Worship co-chair, know. Our prayer is to have a new music leader in place by the fall.

## ROOT AND ROOFS

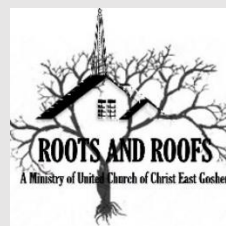
We look forward to having you join us at Roots & Roofs on Saturdays at 5:30 PM via Zoom.

Zoom Link is on our website and in the weekly email.

All are welcome!

Follow us on

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



## Notes from Council....

Council has been working on several things that should interest you. Here are a few.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

This year our beloved UCC East Goshen celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Please see the details on page 2.

### Finances

Throughout the pandemic our church has been blessed by the generosity of our friends and members. Without much prompting we all seemed to recognize that our church is in an exceedingly difficult time. When we are not meeting in person, it is quite easy to forget that our giving is an essential part of church life. In April, despite our wonderful outdoor Easter service, our pledged giving was well below our budget. Over the past year we have had several of our congregants begin to utilize a free service and had their banks send a monthly check directly to the church. That way they never miss a single month. Council and our Growth Committee has arranged giving via Facebook and PayPal to make online giving possible. If you are able, please do your best to keep up with your pledge. More info can be found at [ucceastgoshen.org/giving](http://ucceastgoshen.org/giving).

### Giant Cards

Giant Food cards are now available through the church. If you buy a \$50 Giant card from the church, you get to spend a full \$50 in your favorite Giant Foods store, but Giant pays the church 5%! The best part is that this money maker costs you nothing but could mean a lot to the church. Cards are available in \$25, \$50, and \$100 increments, and the church makes 5% on each! See the Financial Corner on page 6 for more details.

### Natural Church Development and our Five-Year Plan

The church has been without a Five-Year Plan for some time now, so the Council has arranged for a special service from the PSEC to help us prepare for writing a new plan. The Rev. Cean James from our conference will guide us through a process called **Natural Church Development** to help us emphasize our strengths and improve upon those things that we are not as strong as we should be. We will then input this data to help make a new Five-Year Plan that is meaningful for the next steps in the development of our church. Stay tuned for your part in this process.

### Fundraisers

Lucy Barber, Council Vice President, will head up our Fundraising Group in 2021. This group will oversee the various fundraising activities of the church and make sure that our momentum is not affected by the pandemic or other interruptions in the church's life. They are currently looking for an Apple Butter Festival Chairman and someone to head up our next online auction. If you are interested in serving on this valuable committee, or you would like to organize either of these fun activities, please contact Lucy.

**BTW** – Last month I asked our Office Administrator, Jen Troutman, to take a few minutes and join Council in their monthly Zoom meeting. Since she has been a valuable member of our church staff for well over a year, I was amazed that many of our Council members had never met Jen! She is certainly a wonderful office manager and helps all of us keep our calendars and Zoom meetings straight and organized! **For all who read this**, when our lives get back to more normal, come in and introduce yourself to Jen.

**UCC EAST GOSHEN WILL HAVE OUR FIRST INDOOR SERVICE ON SUNDAY JUNE 27 @ 10:00 AM,  
AND EVERY OTHER WEEK THEREAFTER. WE WILL CONTINUE LIVE STREAMING AS WE  
TRANSITION TO INDOOR SERVICES.**

- Todd Speece, President of Church Council

## Memorial Gift Policy

Council has established a Memorial Gift Policy to ensure that Memorial funds are available for critical needs of the church as determined by Council. Below is the policy. If you have any questions, please [contact Beth Saylor](#).

Memorial Gift Policy (adopted 5/17/21)

We welcome donations in memory of members and friends. The following are guidelines to aid you in your giving and aid us in our receiving of memorial gifts.

1. Families may donate or suggest donations to UCC East Goshen in memory of their loved ones. The use of these funds will be determined by Council.
2. The family may suggest a project or item, but Council must approve the receipt of the gifts for that purpose. Council may refuse gifts earmarked for uses they have not approved.
3. If no specific fund/use has been requested by the family, all memorial donations will be put into the church's general memorial fund. These monies will be used for special projects or expenses of our church.
4. If monetary gifts are given and the family has not requested donations or spoken with a representative regarding memorials, all gifts will be put into the general memorial fund.
5. It is the responsibility of the Financial Secretary to generate a letter to each donor acknowledging their donation according to government guidelines and pass on names and addresses of donors to the Pastor by the end of each month, if not before.
6. It is the responsibility of the Pastor to generate a letter(s) to the family which will include the name and address of each donor and a total amount in the fund/given.
7. These letters will go out in a timely manner, ideally in less than a month following the receipt of the gift.

## Financial Corner

Thank you for your continued financial support. Our Easter flower sales netted \$263 and our Walk to Jerusalem brought in \$809! Unfortunately, our envelope giving was \$3,700 below budget in April, and \$2,000 under budget for the first four months. With one more Sunday offering in May at the time of this report, it looks like May's envelope giving will end on budget.

The church received a second PPP loan of \$9477 earlier this year. It was used to pay staff salaries. This loan has helped considerably with cash flow, enabling us to pay all bills in a timely manner. We expect this loan to be forgiven. As soon as they release the forgiveness application, we will complete it.

The financial team has decided to offer Giant gift cards several times a year. You can order in advance, or you can purchase cards when they are offered following an in-person service. We will have cards in \$100 and \$50 denominations. You may make a special request for \$25 denominations. If you order and pay for your cards in advance, please be sure to write "Giant cards" on the memo line of your check. If you have any questions or would like to place an order, contact Beth Saylor at [treasurer@ucceastgoshen.org](mailto:treasurer@ucceastgoshen.org).

The financial reports are available to members for review. Contact [treasurer@ucceastgoshen.org](mailto:treasurer@ucceastgoshen.org) or [office@ucceastgoshen.org](mailto:office@ucceastgoshen.org) to have a report emailed to you.

The Financial Team meets on the second Monday of each month at 7pm. We currently meet on zoom, but will be returning to in-person meetings soon. Please contact Beth Saylor for the zoom link if you would like to attend a meeting.

## A Message from Maxwell

Beloved,

Exciting Things to Come From Roots and Roofs. As we begin moving towards a post-Covid world, it is time to put the lessons we've learned to the test as well as genuinely accept the abundant opportunities provided to us even in dark, difficult times. Over the past year, Roots and Roofs has met continuously via Zoom to not only stay connected but to help one another safely explore and navigate a changing world, keeping the Divine light always in sight. Moving forward, my hope is to expand this community using a hybrid online-in-person model. The potential is that with increased social media engagement and continued Zoom meetings we can not only open our hearts and minds to perspectives from around the world but also take our meetings on the road. Additionally, as part of my field education requirement with Lancaster Theological Seminary, I will be developing a "Roots and Roofs Lite" program in which the original idea of the Roots and Roofs program of sharing a table and meeting people where they are will be implemented live and on location in public area establishments.

While I am incredibly excited, there is much to be done and it all must be done safely. Part of my preparation includes attending the 33rd General Synod "Rooted in Love" happening virtually July 11 - 17. As a delegate for the Penn Southeast Conference, I will be paying close attention to proposed resolutions and bylaws, specifically, the resolution to become a church of "contemplatives in action". This resolution is intended to promote a more perfect union between the UCC's call for justice and G-d's call to act thoughtfully and care for ourselves wholly. Of course, this is not the only thing on the agenda for the week long virtual gathering. For more information, or, if you would like to volunteer / register to attend, go to [UCC.org](http://UCC.org) on June 1st! If you have any questions about Roots and Roofs feel free to reach out via email

[MaxDStaley@gmail.com](mailto:MaxDStaley@gmail.com)

Peace and Blessings,  
Maxwell

## 4th of July Thanks-Giving

As part of its community outreach program, and in connection with a "thanks-giving" idea of Andy Mahard of providing meals to the residents of a homeless shelter, the church is looking for persons who are willing to contribute toward the cost of a lunch meal for 24 residents (approximately \$162.00). As part of this endeavor, a volunteer is also needed to pick up this lunch food from Wegmans Downingtown at 10am on Sunday, July 4th, 2021 and deliver the food by 11am at the latest to Safe Harbor of Chester County, Inc., 20 N. Matlack St., West Chester 19380. This July 4th lunch meal will represent the third time that church members have been involved in this thankfulness of providing a meal to the Safe Harbor Shelter during the holidays. Thank you for any support you can provide at this time. For information or questions regarding this community outreach effort, please email Gloria Rising at [glorising124@gmail.com](mailto:glorising124@gmail.com).

Redeeming God, we give you thanks  
for the blessings of freedom we  
experience in our nation.

Help us use our freedom to practice  
justice, peace, humility and mercy.

Empower us as advocates for those  
who face injustice and obstacles to  
freedom in our society and world,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Racial Justice Banners & Yard Signs

**Love one another:  
work against  
racism**

Racial Justice Initiative  
Pennsylvania Southeast Conference  
of the United Church of Christ

The Zachariah Walker Racial Justice Initiative team, in promoting racial justice, is offering banners and yard signs free to churches and individuals.

For those who are able, we are suggesting a love offering of \$70 per banner and \$7 per yard sign (image of the 18"x24" Yard sign above). The love offerings will go to further our efforts in this sacred ministry of racial equity and justice. To order, please email Anne Cormier at [annecormier@comcast.net](mailto:annecormier@comcast.net). Include in the subject box "banner" or "yard sign".

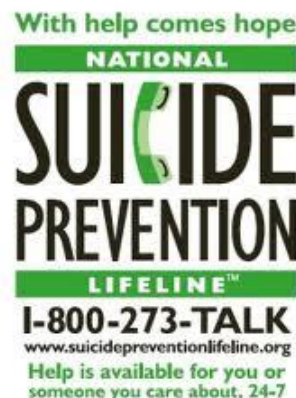
## You ARE Enough!

We send fervent prayers to all those touched by mental health issues and tragedy. Here are some Chester County mental health resources...you never know when you or someone you know may need it.

If you or someone you care about is experiencing a mental health crisis, call 610-280-3270 available 24/7.

The Teen Talk Line ensures seamless referral to Mobile Crisis for youth in need of immediate or higher-level support. The call line is 855-852-TEEN (8336) and the text line is 484-362-9515.

If you are feeling lonely, depressed or anxious and just want to talk, call Chester County's warm line, 1-866-846-2722. This line is staffed by trained individuals.



## Church Office Hours

More regular weekly church office hours are coming soon.

Please check your weekly email for office hour updates as this is also vacation season.

### 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).

### 2021 Church Council

- 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

## United Church of Christ East Goshen

1201 NORTH CHESTER ROAD  
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380  
610-692-2951



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

*Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith, Pastor*  
*Maxwell Staley, Worship Leader, Roots & Roofs*  
*Jen Troutman, Office Administrator*