

UCCEG Newsletter

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021

Mark Your Calendars

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 AM

Aug. 1 – Virtual Worship

Aug. 8 – Indoor Worship
(NO Virtual Worship)

Aug. 15 – Virtual Worship

Aug. 22 – Indoor Worship

Aug. 29 – Virtual Worship

Sept. 5 – Indoor Worship

Sept. 12 – Indoor Worship &
50th Anniversary Kickoff

Sept. 19 – Indoor Worship

Sept. 26 – Indoor Worship

MEETINGS

Aug. 2 – Reopening – 7 pm

Aug. 5 – Fundraising – 7 pm

Aug. 9 – Finance – 7 pm

Aug. 16 – Council – 7 pm

Aug. 18 - Staff Mtg. – 3 pm

Aug. 19 - Fundraising 7 pm

Aug. 25 - W & M – 7 pm

Sept. 2 – Fundraising – 7 pm

Sept. 13 – Finance – 7 pm

Sept. 14 – Staff Mtg – 7 pm

Sept. 20 – Council - 7 pm



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"Six Degrees of Separation"

I have been thinking about peace lately: peace between countries, people of varying skin colors and languages; peace as the absence of war, anger, prejudice and terror; peace in a global, BIG way!!!

I am remembering international pen pal buddies. I am thinking of exchange students and backpacking in many countries. I am thinking of breaking bread around the world on the first Sunday of October. I am thinking of a cease of fighting on Christmas Day. The Christmas Truce, when British and German soldiers were said to have suddenly stopped fighting on the Western Front for a few hours on Christmas Day 1914, is written in history. What started with the singing of "Stille Nacht" on the German side, followed by a response of "Silent Night," was said to have included an impromptu soccer game on the No Man's Land between. I am thinking of the quote, "walk a mile in someone else's moccasins."

I am thinking of how often we make a list of groups of people, or nationalities, countries we wouldn't feel safe travelling to, and how many citizens from other countries are scared to come here to the USA. We are getting known as a country where gun violence -- even at movies or marathons and schools -- is something to expect -- violence and fear. Walking down the street as a person who looks or loves a bit differently is a reason, where we live, to have violence erupt. I am thinking that children over the world don't feel safe and they have no experience of PEACE.

Our family has a friend, Lilya. We met over 15 years ago and we keep in touch. We met her as a translator and a college student. She didn't know us and received no material benefits from befriending us, but through her gentle, loving kindness, her

guidance and openness to Americans, we became friends, in Russia! Our friendship has grown. I think about Alec, a pen pal I have from New Zealand whom I met in 1979, and we still send cards, and I am remembering the young girl I worked with one summer from Malesia, who gave me her "rice bowl" which I kept! I even think of the man with the machine gun, across his chest, who entered a bus in Israel which our group was on, and we struck up a conversation for the long hot ride.

I don't think peace, which we are truly seeking as a country and world, will come from policies through governments, or in missile diplomacy, or by increased tariffs on selling or purchasing. It won't come by beautiful photographs of world eating a gorgeous meal together, or First Ladies wearing native dress.

I believe peace will come with the one-to-one touching, exchanges of friendship and support from the common, you-and-me folks. Peace can happen when we know those unlike us and are curious to discover our six degrees of separation (the theory that any person on the planet can be connected to any other person on the planet through a chain of acquaintances that has no more than five intermediaries).

Peace will come as the "other", is not called "Enemy" but one of God's beloved too.. As the song by the musician Sting from his album "Dream of the Blue Turtle" says, "We share the same biology, regardless of ideology. But what might save us, me and you, is if the Russians love their children, too "

May you be adventurers this summer and Fall, and meet a stranger who doesn't speak your language, make a pen-pal and allow Peace to grow!

~ Pastor Angelee



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@ucceastgoshen.org



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 readings for the following Sunday. We meet outside if weather permits or inside Fellowship Hall with masks. **Café Script will NOT meet the first three weeks of August but will resume on August 25.** Join us!



Christian Education Corner

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Christmas in July service on July 25. It was a wonderful way to bring the message of Christmas to life.

The final plan for restarting in-person, indoor Sunday school is not in place. Look for a future announcement.

Please contact Carol Swingle at cswingle@aol.com if you would like to teach Sunday school to our wonderful young people.



Food Drive

The congregation has been faithfully and generously donating boxed and canned goods for distribution to the West Chester Food



Pantry. Thanks to all who have contributed. The congregation's generosity is much appreciated. Also appreciated is the recent donation of produce from our church gleaning garden, including a massive zucchini.

If you have interest in donating, please place non perishable items in the plastic tubs on the front porch of the church. Items are delivered to the Pantry at least once a month. If you wish to donate a perishable item, please give me a call first so that I can pick it up immediately and avoid spoilage.

Giant Gift Cards For Sale!

Do you shop at Giant? Buy gift cards from us. Your card is worth the amount you paid and the church gets 5%. A win-win!



Order and pay for them by the end of the month and we will have them ready for pickup by the second Sunday of the next month. See or contact Beth Saylor at bethwsaylor@gmail.com to order your cards.

Transition Team Update

As you probably know by now, Pastor Angelee's last Sunday with UCCEG will be October 10. The following people have been named to the Transition Team:

- > Leslie Siebert
- > Scott Burkhart
- > Ann Boohar (representing Council)

The Transition Team will be charged with bringing an Interim Minister to UCCEG. They will work closely with the PSEC to find the right candidate for this position & help guide our interim until a permanent replacement is found. Updates on where we are in this process will be available on our website under the members tab.

UCCEG's 50th Anniversary!

Brick Walkway Installation @ UCCEG



Create a lasting memory in honor of a family member or friend - or share a message of gratitude. Here's how!

The 50th Anniversary Committee is excited to present two lasting gifts to our church with your help, by offering the opportunity for each member and friend to purchase a personalized engraved brick to be installed as a walkway to the front door of our church. What better way to honor loved ones and family or share a message! All profits from this sale will be dedicated to replacing the roof on the church (an estimated cost of \$20,000.)

Once installed, no maintenance is required as the bricks are clay and the message lasered in to create an impression of black glass. We will offer engraved bricks for the walkway (\$100) and smaller replica bricks (\$30) that are felt backed, perfect for a desktop or mantle as a remembrance.

Bricks can be ordered at 4everbricks.com/donors/EGUCC, or email Bonnie Jackson at cajmom@verizon.net for a paper order form.

50th Anniversary Ornaments



The 50th Anniversary committee were very pleased to debut our Memorial Ornament as part of the Christmas in July Celebration! Equally at home on a Christmas tree or hanging in a window all year long, these

ornaments are available for a minimum suggested donation of \$10 each. The ornament comes with a gold colored thread to hang and a hook and suction cup for a window or other location. A really lovely reminder of this special occasion in our Churches history! They are available now and can be purchased in person at Church or by contacting Lucy Barber at mailto:barberfamilydownunder@hotmail.co.uk

Apple Butter Festival Is Back!

Saturday, September 25

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM



We're so excited that the UCCEG Apple Butter Festival is happening on September 25, 2021! We'll have crafters and our Silent Auction. This year our Auction will also be online, so there's no excuse not to participate! We'll have our Bake Sale, a Food Truck, and an Ice Cream Truck! We're going to have our special Golf Ball Drop – come see the Fire Truck! ...and of course, we'll be making a batch of the best apple butter in Pennsylvania!

Spread the word! When our Facebook announcement comes to you, share it with all of your friends!

Pick up a flier at the church and give them to your friends and neighbors!

But most important of all, come and bring your friends!

Come and check it out! Come and help stir the Apple Butter! Come and help UCCEG make this our best Festival ever!

We hope to see you there!

Roots & Roofs News!

After much thought and preparation, Roots and Roofs will be expanding into the community at large with an additional weekly meeting time called “**Branches and Brews**”. As an offshoot of Roots and Roofs, food and drink will remain at the center of this program designed to bring people together to explore faith and spirituality as worship. Once per week, Max will set up shop at a local bar, restaurant, or coffee shop to facilitate conversation with anyone that might be interested. These locations will vary week by week and of course will be advertised so you can plan to attend.

In all of the preparation for this branching out, a lot of thought was put into what Roots and Roofs truly is: worship? Church? Bible study? A guided social hour? Yes. With spreading roots deep below our feet, we all hold a roof of love above each person we share this community with. Roots and Roofs is a safe place to grow and a brave space to be. It is a continuing conversation about what it means to be a person of faith (even if you have no faith). Questions are always encouraged and often become the series topic for a few weeks. This radical inclusivity and open invitation to restoration is what we hope to bring into the public sphere through Branches and Brews.

In addition to this new program (tentative start date 8/20), **Roots and Roofs will begin meeting in person August 21!** To celebrate this long awaited event we will hold a potluck picnic in front of the church at 5pm. The following week, August 28, Roots and Roofs will begin meeting in person in the fellowship hall with Zoom access. The Zoom link will remain the same. As always, please feel free to contact Max with any questions, requests, or concerns.

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)



Interested in Membership?

A new opportunity for online and in person friends of UCCEG: If you have been worshipping with the congregation and are ready to take a next step...Pastor Angelee will be holding two new member's classes for any who are interested in joining with the UCCEG congregation as members.

These will take place in late August and early September. Our classes will be held both by zoom and in person at dates which will suit those interested. At these classes we will learn about the UCC Denomination, our own church congregation, the ministries/opportunities, and joys of being a member in full standing! We will share a bit of our own faith journeys which have brought us here, and you will have a chance to ask any questions of Pastor Angelee you have been wondering about. If you decide membership is right for you, you will be welcomed and received at the council meeting on September 20th at their meeting.



What a way to begin your Fall season!!!! Please contact Pastor Angelee at pastor@ucceastgoshen.org or call the church at 610-692-2951.

Notes from Council on Re-Opening

Over the past 17 months we have been faced with probably the greatest challenge that our church has faced in the 50 years of its existence. UCCEG has struggled with the challenge of a pandemic and trying to meet the expectations of all people within our church community. At all stages, we have tried to sort through the best information and find a careful and caring path to normalcy.

Thanks to our worship leaders, headed by Pastor Angelee and our Worship & Music Committee and a technical crew, of Al & Cole Benner-Smith, Bart Yost, David Keith and several others, we haven't missed a Sunday of worship. As restrictions eased, we began reopening our church, attentive to developing health and safety recommendations. While this has not been easy, we now have begun every-other-week in-person services. I am pleased to announce that we plan on having all our services in-person AND live-streamed beginning September 5, 2021.

Now, as a more-contagious variant of the virus spreads, we must proceed cautiously as we reopen. We've worked very hard to begin reopening, and we don't want to take any steps back. Church Council is therefore asking that we remember there are people in our congregation who have compromised immune systems, who cannot get vaccinated because of a health condition, or are children who do not have the same safe path to vaccine protection most of us have. The council feels it is imperative that we care for the most vulnerable members of our church and community. So, we offer these guidelines for in-person services.

We have started using a Comfort Sticker System to quickly indicate preference for personal contact. **Red** indicates that the worshiper is unvaccinated and/or uncomfortable with any contact outside of their immediate family. **Yellow** means that the worshiper is comfortable, with fist bumps or elbow taps in place of handshakes and hugs. A **Green** sticker means that the worshiper is vaccinated and comfortable with handshakes and hugs. Choose your own sticker accordingly and observe each other's expressed comfort levels.

Safety Protocol for In-Person Services

1. Wear your mask while in the church building.
2. Keep 3 feet from people outside of your family circle depending on their comfort level.
3. Instead of singing, try speaking the words or humming behind your mask.
4. Please abide by each worshiper's comfort level as indicated by their Comfort Sticker.
5. Pass the message of "the peace of Christ" according to that worshiper's comfort level.

Thank you for abiding by these simple guidelines. We are moving toward enjoying in-person worship as we once did. Through the grace of God and with mutual respect, we will continue to make progress to our final goal together.

On behalf of Church Council, I hope to see you in church very soon.

In Christ's Light,
Todd Speece



Looking forward to celebrating OUR 50th Anniversary at UCCEG!!

Our committee for this exciting time in the church's history, is chaired by Bonnie Jackson, other members include: Gloria Rising, Beth Sayler and Pastor Angelee Benner-Smith

Mark your calendar:

Our year kick-off begins at 10 AM worship Sunday September 12th

On that Sunday former music director Caroline Dunleavy, and member Bette Halberg, will lead our music which will include: our choir, soloists, hand bells and a special duet with Organ and Piano.

Rev Bill Worley, our conference pastor, will preach for us and Max Staley, our seminary church intern, and our Pastor, Rev. Benner-Smith, will lead us through liturgy and prayers.

September 12, meal after worship - After the service we will have a picnic for attendees. Offering individually wrapped sandwiches along with individually wrapped sides (We will be asking for donations of cookies and individual drinks. Some kid-friendly games and fun will be offered outside that day.)

Each month thereafter a special theme and outreach will be encouraged: From September 2021 - September 2022 we will give thanks as we remember, reflect and celebrate our future of ministry and mission together! Opportunities will be offered monthly to keep us reaching, and loving God's call and vision of 25 and growing! Check out the sneak peak below:

November 14 - Food Donations to the west Chester University pantry.

December 12 - Clothing Donations – Men's Shelter at Old first UCC church in Philadelphia.

January 9, 2022 - Soup lunch at church for members, with warm soup , bread and fellowship

February 13 – celebrate Love, our children will be encouraged to choose a church window and show their love in images, love, and faith in God's love for all.

March 13 – Spring , celebrate Arbor day by cleaning with Building and grounds

April 10 – Pet Supplies Blessing of the animals April 24th - We will also have a drive for pet food, toys, supplies for the animal shelter.

May 8 – Supplies for the Women's Shelter at safe harbor, with specific items such as: socks, underwear, toothpaste and toothbrush, hand sanitizer, masks, ...

June 12 lifting up those who serve the east Goshen and west Chester area, Baskets for the Police and Fire Departments will be created and either delivered to their work or celebrated at church worship.

July 10 & August 14 - Children school supplies for care center of Christ and Birthday bags of party supplies for the shelter.

September 11 - Year Celebration of our anniversary and Joy!!! Worship, food, maybe a silent auction, and surprises to come!!!



United Way
of Chester County



2-1-1 AWARENESS & EMERGENCY UTILITY AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WEBINAR

Please join us to learn how 2-1-1 is helping Chester County residents receive access to free and confidential information and resources, and about the Emergency Utility and Rental Assistance program. This webinar will focus on the eligibility requirements and the housing assistance resources available to individuals in Chester County.

Date: August 11, 2021
Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Register: <https://bit.ly/3k0wjzn>

WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY UTILITY AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

The Emergency Rent & Utility Assistance Program serves Chester County residents and can only be accessed by dialing 2-1-1. Those who are eligible can use the emergency rent and utility funding to pay for outstanding rent, electricity, gas, water, and sewer; and energy costs such as fuel oil or propane, over a 15-month period.

WHAT IS 2-1-1?

2-1-1 is a vital service leveraged by millions of people across North America. Every day, clients contact 2-1-1 to access free and confidential crisis and emergency counseling, disaster assistance, food, health care and insurance assistance, stable housing and utilities payment assistance, employment services, veteran services and childcare and family services.



Support LGBTQIA+ by Purchasing a Summer Passport!



In the spirit of Pride, LGBT Equality Alliance has compiled an exciting assortment of retailers, restaurants and sites to see across beautiful Chester County. Inside the passport, you'll find exclusive offers and discounts to more than 40 establishments, plus opportunities to give back and get involved with organizations in our community! Passport savings are good through September and costs only \$25. Visit lgbteachesco.org/travelers for all the details!

Out of Office Dates

Pastor Angelee and Jen Troutman will be out of the office on the following days during August. If there is an urgent matter during this time, please contact Council President, Todd Speece at todd.speece6@gmail.com or 610-639-9269.

Pastor Angelee – Out of Office August 2 – August 17

Jen Troutman, Office Administrator will be out of office:
August 6-13 and August 19-25.



Church Office Hours

More regular weekly church office hours are here.

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 3rd Tuesday of the month prior to publication to 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

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www.UCCEastGoshen.org
UnitedChurchOfChristEastGoshen

Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith, Pastor

Maxwell Staley, Worship Leader, Roots & Roofs

Jen Troutman, Office Administrator