

Newsletter

United Church of Christ East Goshen
January/February 2022

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Congregational Meeting January 30

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Church Council of UCCEG is requesting your attendance at our Annual Congregational Meeting

When: Sunday January 30th 2022 @ 11:00 AM approx.

Where: After worship in our sanctuary or by Zoom

Purpose of the meeting: Discussion of the works of the church, leadership and financial situation of our Church and Congregation looking forward to the 2022 church year after 2 years of change and upheaval. Votes will be held to elect new Church Council Members and to accept the Proposed Budget for the coming year.

The Church Council would like to announce that the 2021-2022 Annual General Meeting of UCC East Goshen will be held as above. We ask your flexibility and patience as we determine how best to proceed with the meeting (In Person vs Online) but expect some element of both to be required. Appropriate links and further details will be circulated ASAP but please note the date in your diary. Paper copies of the Annual Report will be available in advance and we expect the Annual Report to be available electronically as it was last year.

As was discussed at the Extraordinary General Meeting in November there are important issues to discuss and we require Quorum (25% of our listed members) for votes to be held to Elect Council Members and to accept the Proposed Budget for the next year. Please ensure that you can attend or make arrangements to provide details of a Proxy to vote in your place.

Please
Mark Your
Calendars

Jan 9 – Epiphany

Jan 17 – Council
Meeting 7 PM

Jan 30 – Annual
Congregational
Meeting
11 AM

Feb 21 – Council
Meeting 7 PM

Mar 2 – Ash
Wednesday

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 signup here.](#)

Arrangements can be made to pick up the flowers after worship, if you desire.



Café Script!

Our Café Script Bible study meets using Zoom (or in-person) at **11 AM on Wednesdays.** We will continue with the book "Do What You Have The Power To

Do"...Chapter 4: The power of persistent faith. See Ann Boohar if you would like a book!

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

If you would like to help with the Sunday service, there are sign up availabilities. Please view the signuugenius and let us know what you can help with: providing a children's chat, reading the scripture, greeting or helping run our livestream. You may share in person or you may record yourself in advance for some opportunities.

tinyurl.com/yu5acnnv



Christian Education

MLK Day of Service Projects

Due to the resurgence of COVID the usual program at St. Paul's Baptist Church in West Chester will not be held this year. I am in touch with them as they try to encourage people in the community to find other worthy causes to support in honor of the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on January 17, 2022. The theme for this year is "Combating Racism and Building Community."



I have looked for projects that members of our congregation could do at home or as a group, on January 17 or at another time.

Here are a few that I have found -

ucceastgoshe.org/blog/mlk-day-of-service

Please contact me directly if you are interested in one or more of these projects. I am still searching for others that may be of interest. Please let me know which you are interested in. Hopefully we could participate in one or more ahead of time and another one on the day of the MLK holiday. Thank you, Carol Swingle, cswingle@aol.com

Root & Roofs

After a contemplative Advent season, Roots and Roofs would like to invite you to a more intentional community via Zoom, Facebook, and in-person services and events. Beginning January 8th, we will meet in person once per month through the spring to emphasize the current series and fellowship with one another. January 8th we will begin our Epiphany series with a Taize-style worship service (more information to come). January 15th through February 5th we will meet via Zoom and then on February 12th, we will celebrate the feast of St Valentine in person. In addition to our weekly zoom meetings between fellowship weeks, I invite folks to participate and engage in our "Roots and Roofs" Facebook page by sharing thoughts, photos, and, of course, recipes. Grace and Peace and Light to you, beloved.

Transition Team

Within the next few days the Transition Team will recommend the Interim Pastor candidate to Council. It is expected that Council will review the candidate's information and then vote in early January on whether or not to accept this person as our Interim. If Council approves the candidate, the information will then be shared and the new Interim will be introduced to the congregation.

The purpose of an Interim Pastor is to help the congregation look at where we have been, where we are now, and where and how we want to proceed as UCCEG. The decisions the congregation makes during this time will guide us when searching for a Settled Pastor.

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your prayers. Please continue to pray for UCCEG.

Blessings, The Transition Team
(Scott Burkhart, Leslie Siebert, Ann Boohar)

Mission & Outreach

Thanks to Andy Mahard and Gloria Rising, our church has provided meals to the residents and staff of the Safe Harbor Shelter for several years. Melissa Trexler, Volunteer & Development Coordinator for Safe Harbor, stated in June 2021: "Church members have provided delicious homemade meals or sandwich meals purchased from Wegman's meals for our Residents and Community members. . . . All of us at Safe Harbor are so grateful for everyone's generosity and continued support!"

For those of you unfamiliar with Safe Harbor, please visit their webpage at safeharborofcc.org. This wonderful organization provides food and shelter to homeless single men and women. The church was recently approached about providing a meal to those in the shelter on New Years Day 2022. Their request was shared with the Mission & Outreach Committee. Members of the Committee were pleased to respond positively to this request. Sandwiches from Wegmans will be purchased along with fruit, pretzels, chips and cookies and delivered to the shelter. It is a good feeling to be able to provide tangible help when possible.

Thanks to Rosanne Bennett for her assistance in this effort. We hope that UCC East Goshen's meal contributions to Safe Harbor will continue to be available during 2022 to the benefit of the West Chester community.

Happy New Year with gratitude for the things each of you do to improve and benefit our community--

Pam Onyx, Mission & Outreach Chair

Worship & Music

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make this a special Christmas season. The sanctuary and narthex are beautifully decorated. In the front of the sanctuary the poinsettias are bursting with color. The music continues to be uplifting. Thank you to those who participated in reading and lighting the Advent candles. December 19th was a special Sunday in having the children and teens take a major role in celebrating the coming of Christ. The angels said, "Baby Jesus is coming. Baby Jesus is coming."

Thank you to the supply pastors, supply organists, musicians, technology team, acolytes, greeters, and scripture readers and to all those who planned and coordinated the services.

We are grateful that we were able to offer services on Christmas Eve as well as the following Sunday and that so many participated either in person or online. We are blessed!

Supply pastors & organists:

- Jan 2 – Rev. Mary Merriman
Bette Halberg with Communion
- Jan 9 – Rev. Wanda Craner
Bette Halberg
- Jan 16 – Linda Ardao
Marty Meyer
- Jan 23 – Maxwell Staley
Bette Halberg
- Jan 30 – Rev. Wanda Craner
Bette Halberg

Nominations for Church Council for 2022

The Nominating Committee is still looking for members to continue working to present a full slate of candidates for all Council Positions at the Annual General Meeting. We are looking to present a balanced list of candidates taking into account experience and enthusiasm! If you are interested in standing for Council in 2022, or think you know someone who would be a good fit, please do contact the chair of the Nominating Committee, Lucy Barber. We are very happy to chat with you about how you can share your time and talents with the church in these or many other roles!

We are especially interested in Candidates to fill the following roles:

Vice President of Council - the primary responsibility of the Vice President is to Assist and Support the President of Council and all Committee chairs in seeing that the long-range goals of the church are carried out. Also responsible for the Nominating Committee and has been chairing meetings of the Church Fundraising Team through 2021. Vice President has a vote in Council Decisions and attends the monthly Church Council meetings and monthly Financial Team Meetings.

Secretary of Council - responsible for the recording of minutes of the Church Council and congregational meetings and their maintenance. Secretary has a vote in Council Decisions and attends the monthly Church Council meetings.

Chair of the Christian Education Committee - concerned with the educational ministry of the church in matters such as church school and adult education. As we look to re-engage with our young people and all members safely after the Pandemic, we need your energy and ideas to help them. The Chair of the Committee reports to Council and has a vote in Council Decisions and attends the monthly Church Council meetings, plus runs the meetings and activities of the committee.

Chair of the Growth Committee – concerned with church membership, communication with the Church Council and assisting the Pastor with supporting our membership. Also works to spread the name and works of our church in the community to invite new visitors and members. A definite need in our community as we breathe anew after the Pandemic! The Chair of the Committee reports to Council and has a vote in Council Decisions and attends the monthly Church Council meetings, plus runs the meetings and activities of the committee.

Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee – one of our most active Committees with several committed members, this Committee is concerned with the care and custody of the property and equipment belonging to the church in matters such as property improvement, maintenance, equipment, inventory and long-range planning. The Chair of the Committee reports to Council and has a vote in Council Decisions and attends the monthly Church Council meetings, plus runs the meetings and activities of the committee.



Call for Changes to the Friends and Members Rolls of UCC East Goshen

As part of our Annual Report, we include Membership Data for the previous year which in turn allows us to ensure we are focusing our efforts and mailings on folks who wish to be contacted by UCC EG and not wasting church assets, finances and time on folks who have moved on!

Our Church By-laws state that Members of the church shall support the church by attending worship, praying for the life of the congregation, providing financial support as they are able and participating in the work and witness of the church. They shall also have a voice and a vote in the governing of the congregation and the right and privilege to serve on the council of the congregation and its committees.

Associate Members (or Friends) of the church shall support the church in the same manner as a member, have a voice but not a vote in the governing of the congregation and have the right and privilege to serve on the committees of the church.

Our Church By-laws also state that members and friends who, for a two year period, have had no participation in the life of UCCEG (no contact, giving or attendance) may be removed from our membership.

If you have knowledge of Friends or Members who have been inactive for some time, please reach out to them and encourage them to contact us if they wish to remain on the Church Membership Rolls. Perhaps you have adult children who no longer wish to be Members, or perhaps they have not participated but would like to resume their relationship with our church and community. We have previously sent out letters to these inactive friends and members and they will be removed from the rolls in time for the Annual General Meeting.

Please direct any questions or suggestions to our Church Administrator via office@ucceastgoshen.org

UCCEG Confirmation Students Help Prepare December Salvation Army Meal

Children are the light and hope of the future. It is so wonderful to see our youth stepping up and helping others! Sofia Keith and Lily Yost prepared parts of our December Salvation Army Meal. The girls worked as a team to cook pasta and prepare salad for 30 people before the holidays. They chopped, grated and thoughtfully put together beautiful trays of fresh salad. After cooking they spent some time in fellowship, getting to know each other and sharing about their faith.

A special thanks to Carol Swingle for suggesting this wonderful service opportunity. Also thanks to Candice Keith for her food donations and helping us cook. It was a wonderful display of service and the Yost family was happy to host these fantastic chefs.

Thank you Sofia and Lily for continuing to shine your light and spread your kindness.
With Gratitude,
Cathy Yost



Giving Tree Update

As winter continues with short days and cold temperatures, we are reminded of the many individuals who are struggling to find adequate resources, including food, warm clothing, and shelter. I am proud to report that our confirmation students Sofia Keith and Lily Yost have led a very successful Giving Tree Collection to benefit the men's shelter at Old First UCC in Philadelphia this year. The girls helped set up the tree, decorated it and spread the word about what supplies were needed. This year's donations were very generous and the girls and I would like to thank everyone who contributed.

The giving tree items will be delivered in the new year. I am thrilled to tell you we collected: over 100 warm blankets, 150 pairs of warm winter socks, 150 warm winter hats, 144 tooth brushes, 144 small tubes of toothpaste, 100 mini bars of soap

It is wonderful to imagine how these gifts will help people tolerate the cold weather during the weeks ahead. Sincere thanks to Sofia and Lily for helping me with this mission that is so dear to my heart.

Wishing all of our church family a blessed New Year!
With Gratitude, Cathy Yost

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.

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)

Update from the Church Office!

- Thank you so much for thinking of me over Christmas with the generous bonus I received. It has been quite a year for us all. Looking forward to where God takes us in 2022!
- Due to the latest pandemic surge, weekly office hours may vary. If you need access to the building, please contact me before coming in to assure the door will be unlocked. Thanks for your understanding in this matter.

Jen Troutman
Office Administrator
office@ucceastgoshen.org

Worship – Sundays @ 10 AM

In- person with masks and online via Facebook Live.

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

Newsletter Submissions

The UCCEG newsletter 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 – 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 - open
Congregational Life – Bonnie Jackson
Mission & Outreach – Pam Onyx
Worship & Music - Bunny Watts & Ann Boohar

United Church of Christ East Goshen

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[Maxwell Staley](#), Roots & Roofs Worship Leader
[Jen Troutman](#), Office Administrator