



Lenten Brochure

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN – MARCH/APRIL 2022



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Mark Your Calendars (details inside)

Mar. 2 - Ash Wednesday

7:00 PM In-Person Worship
including communion and
imposition of ashes

April 10 - Palm Sunday

10:00 AM In-Person & Virtual
Worship via FB Live

April 14 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM Tenebrae
Worship Service with
Communion

April 15 - Good Friday Worship

5:30 PM – In-Person Worship

April 17 - Easter Sunday

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

10:00 AM Worship with Holy
Communion

Minister's Meditations

I'm honored to become your Interim Pastor during this transition time. I look forward to getting to know all of you over the next few months as I settle in during Lent.

The Search Committee asked me to introduce myself in this first Minister's Meditations.

When I was 8 years old I heard my Call to ministry. My dad, a pastor at that time (now retired), wanted me to keep an open mind and heart and follow my passions. Over and over again as I explored other "things I could do with my life," I kept coming back to the Sacred. Spirit had indeed called me to do Her work in this world.

That 8 year old thought she would become a settled Baptist pastor. What I have learned over the years is that our Call shifts, transforms, grows, deepens as we deepen our relationship to the Sacred.

As an adult, I experience my Call to be multifaceted. My "pastoring" Call is to the important work on Interim Ministry.

Congregations need the in-between time, the threshold time, to pause, reflect, heal, envision and grow. The work of the interim time prepares a congregation for a successful next settled Pastor. If we ignore the work, rush right on, I have noticed that pastorates shorten in length, congregations begin to experience conflict or get "stuck" in the past. There is something important about the in-between that the Sacred invites us to explore and Be in.

In addition to my pastoring Call, the Sacred has also called me to the work of companioning

people on their spiritual and healing journeys. I felt the invitation to become a Spiritual Director and am so grateful that I followed that invitation. It opened up a new way for me to Interim congregations. I enter the interim process from the place of Spiritual Director and Pastor. I believe it is the job of the Interim to companion and guide the congregation in deepening their relationship with the Sacred, in opening their hearts and ears so they can hear God's guidance and direction.

Part of my call as to spiritual direction and healing is also the recognition that healing is a vital part of the Interim period. We pause first. Reflect upon the past. Grieve the loss of your previous pastor. Celebrate what was good and exciting, what worked well. Recognize the growing edges and challenges. Allow ourselves to become aware of any conflicts and/or hurts that need to come to the surface for healing: healing old patterns that no longer serve the congregation; healing old challenges that left some wounded; healing grieving hearts; healing frustrations about the past and fears about the future.

Healing takes time. It will happen as we continue the work of the Interim time, as we begin to envision.

Once we have paused and reflected, we then begin the process of envisioning. Envisioning invites us to begin with your Why? Why is it important for UCC East Goshen to continue where you are, as you are? Once we understand our why, we begin to ask What? What is God calling us to offer as ministry? We discern our What, create our vision. Then we ask How? How are we going to put this vision into action. We create the strategic plan.

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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!

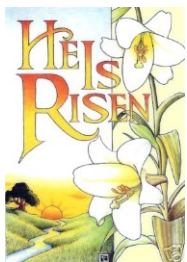
SAFETY PROTOCOL

Council has reviewed and updated the church's Safety Protocol in response to the decreasing numbers of Covid cases in the area. Please note this policy applies not only to our congregation but also to the outside groups that use our building.



Revised Safety Protocol

Please continue to wear a mask while in the building. Snacks and drinks are now allowed in the Fellowship Hall, so masks can be removed while eating. Please clean the kitchen when finished. Wipe tables before you put them away. You are welcome to open windows for cross ventilation.



EASTER FLOWERS

There will be Easter Flowers available to be ordered again this year to grace our sanctuary on Easter Sunday! Lilies, tulips and hyacinths will be available to order. The order sheets will be in the narthex by the middle of March. Please look for them! Orders will be due by April 3rd.

ROOTS & ROOFS

Lent is a season that is intentionally set aside to acknowledge our journey through the wilderness of life. Both literal and figurative journeys, or seasons, of transformative growth require immense amounts of trust; trust in God, ourselves, and all of creation. Roots and Roofs will spend this time bravely exploring what it means to trust in and journey with Divinity. All are welcome to join in this conversation via zoom at 5:30 PM on Saturdays. (Link is in the weekly email and on our website.) We will plan to meet in person on March 12th in order to put some trust into action. Peace.



FOOD COLLECTION

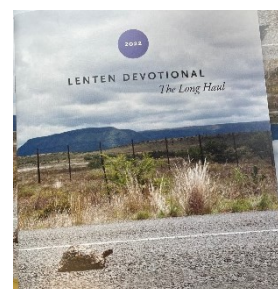
Welcome reminder that we are collecting food/dry goods/ canned goods and non-perishable items for the West Chester Univ. Resource Pantry and West Chester Food Cupboard. Times now are even more urgent for our community members and students in need. Please consider bringing items with you as you attend services weekly at UCCEG, or if you are in need of items yourself, kindly contact me and we will make this happen together. Items can be left by the red bags at the entrance to the center hall area.



Anyone interested to assist in weekly/monthly transportation to the pantry or would like to assist and join the Mission & Outreach committee, kindly [contact Beth Anne Keates](#). Be Careful, Stay Safe, Keep in Tune--the gleaning garden is next to be tackled once this cold weather breaks.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

StillSpeaking Lenten Devotional booklets are available in the Narthex on a first come basis. One per family, please.



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.



April 10, Palm/Passion Sunday

10 AM – In-Person & Live-Streamed

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 14, Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM – In-Person Service

This will be a Tenabrae service with candles & communion.

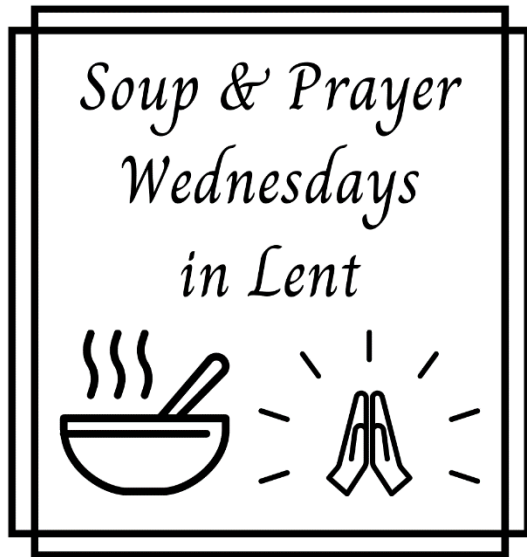
April 15, Good Friday

5:30 PM – Join us in-person for a very meaningful Good Friday experience.

April 17, Easter Sunday - HE IS RISEN INDEED!

10 AM – In-Person and Virtual Worship via Facebook Live with Communion

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



Wednesday Soup & Prayer

Beginning March 9, you are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent as Pastor Jocelyn enlightens us all on different kinds of prayer. Before the service, there will be a soup supper in Fellowship Hall. Come for one or both parts of the evening– as you are able/comfortable. ALL are welcome!

5:30 PM – Soup in Fellowship Hall

6:00 PM – Prayer in the Sanctuary
(masks required)

Dates for Wednesday Lent Soup and Prayer:

March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30
and April 6

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. The date for the OGHS offering will be **March 27**, but envelopes are available now in the office. This year the focus of OGHS is "Love Remains." Your generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing – United Church of Christ enables our church and our worldwide partners to make a difference in the lives and communities around the world. Together, we are responding to disasters, supporting sustainable farming, education, and health initiatives, as well as pitching in to assist people fleeing violence from their home communities. Thank you for your partnership and generosity.

Worship & Music Update

We all enthusiastically welcome Rev. Jocelyn Emerson as our Interim Pastor. Her first service with us will be on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. The W&M Committee met with Pastor Jocelyn to plan Lenten and Easter Services. Please see services and activities as listed below:

- Mar 2 Ash Wednesday, Communion, 7:00 pm
Imposition of ashes (if congregants comfortable.)
- Mar 6 1st Sunday in Lent, Communion
- Mar 13 2nd Sunday in Lent
- Mar 20 3rd Sunday in Lent
- Mar 27 4th Sunday in Lent
- Apr 3 5th Sunday in Lent, Communion
- Apr 10 6th Sunday in Lent – Palm Sunday
- Apr 14 Maundy Thursday – Tenebrae service, Communion, 7:00 pm
- Apr 15 Good Friday, 5:30 pm
- Apr 17 EASTER, Communion, 10:00 am

All Lenten & Easter services will be in person with live stream when possible.

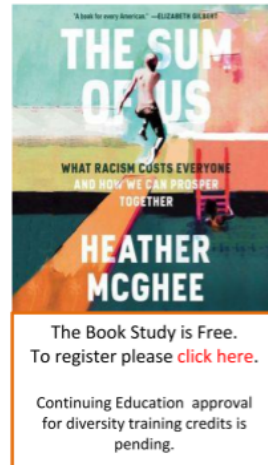
March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 – Prayer and Soup on Wednesdays during Lent at 5:30 pm, in Fellowship Room.

StillSpeaking Lenten Devotional booklets are available in the Narthex on a first come basis.

We encourage you to use the “Sign up Genius” to offer chancel flowers or volunteer to be greeters, read scripture, provide Children's Chats or assist with live streaming of services. Your help and suggestions are always greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

From our Pennsylvania Southeast Conference:

Register now: Racial Justice Team offering Lenten Book Study



Lenten Book Study Offering
From the Racial Justice Initiative Team
Tuesdays, March 1st – April 5th
3 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Please join us for another fruitful book study offered during Lent. The book *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee, is winner of the Porchlight Business Book Award and on the NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER list. McGhee is one of today's most insightful and influential thinkers who offers a powerful exploration of inequality and the lesson that generations of Americans have failed to learn: Racism has a cost for everyone—not just for people of color.

More info can be found here: tinyurl.com/35r5r48d

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 2022 Church Council

Bonnie Yost - President

Vice President – OPEN

Secretary – OPEN

Todd Layser - Treasurer

Candice Keith - Assistant Treasurer

Todd Speece - Financial Secretary

Bart Yost - Building & Grounds

Christian Education – OPEN

Congregational Life – OPEN

Beth Anne Keates - Mission & Outreach

Ann Boohar/Bunny Watts - Worship & Music

Church Growth - OPEN

Minister's Mediations *(Continued from page 1)*

This is the joy and the work of the Interim time. It is vital that all members are as involved in the Interim time as you were when Pastor Angelee was with you. I invite you to consider the Interim time as vital and transformative for UCC East Goshen. I invite you to commit to being present and joining us as we work toward a new vision and era.

Now, a little more about myself:

I graduated from Eastern College (now Eastern University) in St Davids. The longest I have lived in one area is the Philadelphia Metropolitan area. It is where I began my career. I love this area and am happy to be back.

I also love New Mexico. You will hear that love from time to time. You will hear stories about desert spirituality and New Mexico in my sermons from time to time. As Philadelphia had my heart as a young adult, New Mexico has my heart as an adult. I know, when the time is right, the Sacred will bring me back there.



However, I also know that I am where Spirit wants me to be. I am back home in a sense.

I love to travel. I love the outdoors. I have such fond memories of walking and exploring the trails in Valley Forge National Park and the Wissahickon. I look forward to more hikes over the next few years.

I am a mystic and a contemplative. For me, prayer is a way of being. I work to pray my life and live my prayer. Sometimes I feel like I fail as my meditation practice disappears. Other times I feel deeply connected as my spiritual practice deepens and grows. No matter what is happening in my spiritual practice, I have learned that the Sacred is there, next to me, next to you, waiting for us to pause, reach out, listen, Be.

One part of my spiritual practice that I am looking forward to getting back into is weaving. I am so excited to have a place where my loom can be set up again! I look forward to the creations that come off that loom, as well as those that arrive while I weave (like sermons).

I also play with writing. I have written a number of children's books around ecology and eco justice. I have a list of adult-oriented spirituality books that I want to work on, as well as a few more children's books. I look forward to being settled and taking some of my vacation time to write, go on a writer's retreat, and see what the Sacred brings forth.

And I love to cook! The weeks before my first day with you have been filled with settling into my new home in Chestnut Hill and cooking. I have favorites that I like to cook, like anything New Mexican oriented. I also love to stretch myself and learn new recipes. Right before I left New Mexico I was missing good Thai food. I spent months learning how to create Pad Thai sauce and make a good Pad Thai. I also experimented with Pho broths and learned the "secrets" to the umami of their broths. I look forward to continuing to create in the kitchen and share some of those creations at potlucks (once COVID allows us to do this).

And finally, I am a pet person. A year ago I lost my dog Anoukie and am feeling close to ready to adopt a new puppy dog. I miss volunteering at the Equine Rescue in Taos, NM. I look forward to creating a bird sanctuary once again in my backyard and seeing who shows up. There is such magic in all God's creatures, even the ones we fear (spiders and scorpions for me). If you hear me taking to "thin air" it is most likely I'm talking to some insect, animal, bird, tree, or the Sacred Herself.

I so look forward to meeting you all. I look forward to worshipping with you, to companioning you through this Interim time. I am excited to see what arises as we pause, reflection, heal and envision.

Blessings for now,
~ Pastor Jocelyn

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

Rev. Jocelyn Emerson, Interim Pastor

*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.***