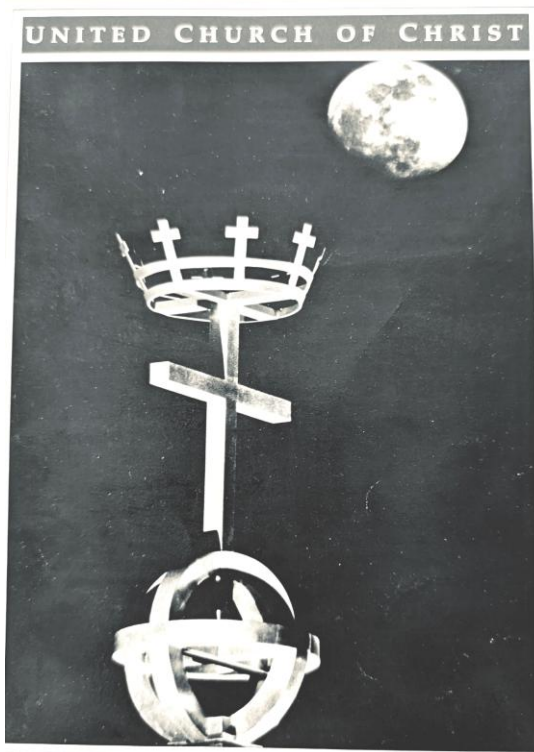


# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

An Open and Affirming Congregation  
Hospitality, Grace, and Hope are Offered to All!  
May 18, 2025 – 10 AM

## LESSONS AND HYMNS



Rev. Homer Royer, Bridge Pastor

Lindsay Woessner, Music Director

Carolyn Scherer, Office Administrator

Church House, 1066 South New Street, West Chester, PA 19382  
Office: 610-692-2951      [office@ucceastgoshen.org](mailto:office@ucceastgoshen.org)

[www.ucceastgoshen.org](http://www.ucceastgoshen.org)

**THANK YOU to ALL helping with Worship Today:**

Bonnie & Steve Yost: Greeters/Offering Collection

Susan Ward: Tech Support

Beth Sayler: Lay Reader

Congregation: Fellowship Hour

Bonnie Yost and Susan Ward: Counters

**Worship volunteers for Sunday, 5/25/25**

: Greeters/Offering Collection

Bart Yost: Tech Support

Carol Swingle: Lay Reader

: Fellowship Hour

Lucy Barber and Bunny Watts: Counters

---

# Living In God's Love Together, We Gather

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**Bold type = Congregation**

P = Pastor

## PRELUDE

*Bridge Over Troubled Water*  
**(Choral Anthem)**

Paul Simon

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RINGING OF THE SINGING BOWL

# WE CENTER OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

(All Sing Verse 1)

STRUGGLE AND CONFLICT

438

## When Peace, Like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when  
 2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let  
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought—my  
 4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have  
 this blessed e - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my  
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I  
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the

Refrain

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."  
 help - less e - state, and has paid life and blood for my soul:  
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! It is  
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 It is well with my soul.

*This hymn was written out of grief over the loss of the author's four daughters in the sinking of the SS Ville du Havre. After leaving his Chicago law practice, Horatio G. Spafford and his wife settled in Jerusalem.*

Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE 11.8.11.9. with refrain  
 Philip P. Bliss, 1876

# WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

More than kind or charitable, or even humane,  
the Divine Love that calls us  
takes on flesh and bone and vulnerability.

**We gather here to practice Love's solidarity,  
rising up in the valleys and shadows of death.**

More than nice, or agreeable, or even polite,  
this Love that forms us  
risks siding with the last and the least.

**We come together to become Love's liberation  
building collective power to resist injustice.**

More than tolerant or accepting, or even affirming,  
this Love that guides us  
opens us to stories of harm and new visions of flourishing.

**We join together to embody Love's accountability,  
laying down our defenses to grow beyond the edges of our  
knowing.**

More than peaceful or unifying, or even friendly,  
this Love that compels us  
dares to imagine beyond our possibilities.

**We worship, remember and try to see Love's future  
praying, praising, and protesting until Love's kin-dom comes.**

## \*HYMN

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

NCH 561

# **\*PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Love beyond all knowing,  
we recognize how deeply limited our understanding of love is,  
how often we fail to recognize Love's true practice and meaning,  
how much the powers and principalities of this world co-opt the  
idea of "love"  
for their own purposes.  
In the silence of our hearts,  
let us call to awareness the misunderstandings of love that have  
shaped us as individuals.

[time for silent reflection]

For the ways we have wounded your Love,

**O God, forgive us. Amen**

## **\*WORDS OF GRACE**

Let your spirit receive this assurance:  
in all these things we are more than forgiven through the One who  
loved us.

**Let us be convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels,  
nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,  
nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Redeemer.  
Thanks be to God.**

## **\*PASSING THE PEACE** *(in a safe manner)*

## **\*WE REGATHER IN SONG**

*When Peace, Like a River*

*NCH 438 (Verse 2)*

*Please refer to the printed hymn on p. 2 above.*

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*The Water is Wide with Bring Me A Little Water, Sylvie*

*Traditional Folk Songs, arr. Rollo Dilworth*

**(Choral Anthem)**

## **CONVERSATION FOR ALL AGES**

Bonnie Yost

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **Silent Prayers**

P: Next, we share out loud our prayers of concern for family, friends, and our community, for wounded places and people burdened with care.

*[You are invited to offer your prayers of concern.]*

P: Lord, in Your Mercy  
**Hear our prayers.**

P: Now we share our joys and gratitudes, the ways in which God has blessed us this week, and the moments we felt God's presence.

*[You are invited to offer your prayers of thanksgiving, celebration, blessings, and gratitude.]*

P: Lord, in Your Mercy  
**Hear our prayers.**

P: Having shared our prayers of concern and our prayers of gratitude, we now recommit ourselves to following the Way of Jesus who taught us to pray saying...

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory, for ever.  
Amen.**

~ **Healing: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost** was written by Rev. Roberto Ochoa, the Minister for Ethnic Inclusion, & Congregational Support for Rural and Small Churches for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. He is a member of Mt. Zion Congregational UCC in Cleveland, OH.

## WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

*When Peace, Like a River*

*NCH 438 (Verse 3)*

*Please refer to the printed hymn on p. 2 above.*

## WE LISTEN TO OUR SACRED TEXT

Beth Sayler

Revelation 21: 1-6

### The New Heaven and the New Earth

**21** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home<sup>[a]</sup> of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell<sup>[b]</sup> with them;  
they will be his peoples,<sup>[c]</sup>  
and God himself will be with them and be their God;<sup>[d]</sup>  
<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for<sup>[e]</sup> the first things have passed away.”



<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

John 13: 31-35

**The New Commandment**

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him,<sup>[a]</sup> God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**LESSONS AND HYMNS**

Rev. Homer Royer

*Introduction*

*Hymn*

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing NCH 42

*Meditation*

*Hymn*

God of Grace and God of Glory NCH 436

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“Preamble to the UCC Constitution”

The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.

## \*WE ARE INVITED TO GIVE

When Jesus said, just as I have loved you, you should also love one another,

**He probably meant,**

**Love like twelve years of bleeding stopped by one touch**

**Love like let the one who is without sin, cast the first stone**

**Love like let the children come to me**

**Love like 5000 people fed by bits and pieces and collective care**

**Love like tables turned and injustice resisted**

**Love like feet washed and meals shared**

**This is the love we are called to continue embodying in our world.**

**Through our offerings, let us love as Jesus loves us.**

# WE GIVE GENEROUSLY

*Improvisation*

Lindsay Woessner

## EASY OFFERING OPTION

If you prefer to give electronically, please use your cell phone camera to scan this QR code.



## \*DOXOLOGY *(sung)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

## \*WE DEDICATE OUR OFFERINGS

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Let us pray:

**Let Love be our offering.  
Let Love be our giving.  
Let Love be our dedication.  
Let Love be our calling.  
Let Love be our thanksgiving.  
Let Love be our prayer. Amen**

## \*HYMN

Jesus, I Live to You

NCH 457

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*SUNG BENEDICTION

*When Peace, Like a River*

*NCH 438 (Verse 4)*

*Please refer to the printed hymn on p. 2 above.*

## POSTLUDE

*Onward, Christian Soldiers (jazz piano solo)*     Arthur S. Sullivan, Text:  
Sabine Baring-Gould

Our worship has ended, and our service has just begun...  
Please join us for fellowship in the Parlor.

## UCCEG Worship & Events

**May 19: 1 PM-Cafe Script. PLEASE NOTE DAY/TIME CHANGE:** Café Script will be held at 1pm on Monday, May 19th. All are welcome.

**May 19: 6 PM-Council Meeting**

**May 25 - 10am: Worship**

### **Upcoming Choir Rehearsals:**

- Friday, May 23rd: 2pm-3pm choir rehearsal
- Friday, May 30th: 2pm-3pm choir rehearsal

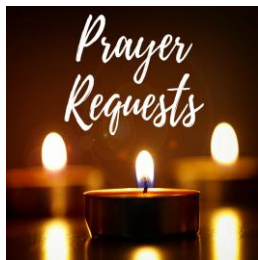
## **Church Office Hours This Week**

	<u>Pastor Homer</u>	<u>Office</u>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>12:30PM-2:30PM</i>	---
<i>Tuesday</i>	---	<i>Work from home</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	--	<i>Work from home</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	2PM – 4PM	<i>11AM-12PM</i>
<i>Friday</i>	---	--
<i>Saturday</i>	---	---

## **Prayer Requests\***

**Please fill out a prayer request form** (on the table in the Foyer) or email [office@ucceastgoshen.org](mailto:office@ucceastgoshen.org) for any updates or additions to our prayer list.

**We pray for the following members and friends of UCCEG:**



Roy Garlisch, Cliff Keljikian, George Litzke, Susan Morey, Susan Ward, Carol Swingle, Anne Phinney, Ron Rising, Beverly Catt, MaryAnn McCracken, Family of Eric Flicker, Jim Wilson, Family of Eileen Kukoda

\*Please fill out a Prayer Request (in the Foyer) and place it in the offering plate, or contact the office, or Carol Swingle if you would like to add someone.

### **NEWSFLASH**

If you were in church last Sunday, you've already heard the wonderful news! If you weren't, Council is very pleased to announce that at the April Council meeting they voted to approve a Call for our new designated Pastor, Rev. Lynice Pinkard, who will join us on Monday, May 26th and her first Sunday preaching will be June 1st! We will provide more information about Rev. Pinkard in the coming weeks. A huge THANK YOU to the Search Committee: Denise Casey, Todd Speece, Bunny Watts and Steve Yost!  
**Please see the article below about Rev. Pinkard:**

~~~~~

An often-cited muse for a generation of clergy, activists, organizers, scholars, nonprofit administrators, and government leaders around the United States, Rev. Lynice Pinkard comes to United Church of Christ East Goshen after decades of pastoral leadership, strategic accompaniment of other faith leaders, and her own risky faith leadership in the public sphere.

Pastor Lynice came of age personally and professionally in the badlands of the HIV/AIDS and crack cocaine epidemics of the 1980s. Later she envisioned and implemented a program that would help the families of victims of community gun violence grieve in ways that would deepen resilience, restore community, and begin to build the public will to address the underlying causes of violence. With masters degrees in divinity and counseling psychology and a fervent desire to see people healed and transformed by the Holy Spirit, she has a passion for gospel-rooted liberation that is unmatched.

Through powerful movements like Black Lives Matter, Lynice has worked nationally to inspire and nurture a new generation of what she calls “resurrectionaries,” Spirit-filled servant-leaders dedicated to the remediation of day-to-day suffering, the building of collective resilience

for transformative change, and the pursuit of structural and systemic justice in the world.

In 2014, Lynice was interviewed by *The Sun* magazine for a piece she entitled "Dangerous Love: On the Revolutionary Act of Living the Gospels". Her writings include "Jane in the Blackboard Jungle," "The Downward Mobility of God," "The Master's Mehserle Can Never Dismantle the Master's House", "Revolutionary Suicide: Risking Everything to Transform Society and Live Fully," "Wake Work," "We Never Told Them To Go and Sin No More," and the two pieces, "We Need the Funk" and "You Will Not Remain Intact" which she co-wrote with Nichola Torbett for *Geez Magazine*.

Lynice is moving to West Chester with her wife, Erica, and her Old English Bulldogge, Magnum Grey (Puppa) from Efland, North Carolina.

~~~~~

### **Kindness into Action**

How do you give kindness? How do you receive kindness?  
When you think of what kindness means to you, what words or actions  
come to mind?

With our focus on how we can be the hands and feet of Jesus, the Congregational Life Committee has been discussing ways that we all can be kind to each other and to strangers. Many times our kind actions just happen naturally. But, over the next few weeks we will include kindness suggestions in the bulletin. We will also ask you for your suggestions. In addition, let's talk about the kindnesses we have received. We look forward to putting Kindness into Action.

### **Celebration of Life-Dorothy Pauli**

The Celebration of Life Service for Dorothy Pauli will be held on May 24th at 2pm at the Peoples Church of Dover UCC, 46 S Bradford St., Dover DE.

### **West Chester Food Cupboard**

West Chester Food Cupboard is always grateful for our donations. They are currently in need of cereal, non-grape jelly, and personal items, especially toothbrushes and feminine hygiene products.

### **May Outreach for Safe Harbor**

UCCEG's outreach to Safe Harbor (SH) during the month of May will be to provide ziplock quart or gallon size bags, sharpies, brown lunch bags, or compostable ziplocks. Or if you care to make a monetary donation for SH to use as needed, you can write a check to UCCEG with Safe Harbor on the memo line and drop it in the collection plate. Thank you for generously donating fruit cups to SH in April. Your donations are always greatly appreciated.

### **PRIDE Day**

UCCEG will be combining with United Church of Christ at Valley Forge (UCCVF) again this year to celebrate the LGBTQ community on PRIDE Day. This event will be held in Phoenixville on Saturday, June 7, 2025, 12:00-5:00 pm. If you are able to help with this special day please contact Ann Boohar. Sign up sheets with time slots will be available in our lobby. (More information to come.)

### **Church/Plant-Garden Opportunity**

(For more info contact Sara Beam at [saralizb@icloud.com](mailto:saralizb@icloud.com) or 610-812-6826.)

Nurturing Creation, Building Community, and Cultivating Growth

**WELCOME TO CHURCH/PLANT-A PROJECT OF WILLISTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Spring is here and WUMC is beginning their 2nd year of growing fresh produce for the West Chester Food Cupboard.**

**Please Note: Stay tuned here for future work days.**

**BE A PART OF GOD'S CREATION.**

6051 West Chester Pike · Newtown Square, PA 19073

610-644-2227, [willistownumc@gmail.com](mailto:willistownumc@gmail.com) · [willistownumc.org](http://willistownumc.org)