

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

Rev. Lynice Pinkard, Pastor

We Are a Church of Extravagant Welcome for All People!

October 26, 2025—10AM



All Saints Day

We are an Open and Affirming congregation that celebrates  
our LGBTQIA+ kindred

**Ring of the Singing Bowl**

Pastor Lynice

**Invocation**

Pastor Lynice

**Call to Worship**

Pastor Lynice

*(Leader—the words of 2 Timothy 4: 1-8, 16-18—People—in the words of James Baldwin)*

**Leader:** I charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead by his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season.

**People:** To tell the truth, to face the truth — that is the work of love. When we dare to see what is real, we make love possible again.

**Leader:** The time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching but will accumulate teachers to suit their own desires.

**People:** The purpose of art and of life is to lay bare the questions hidden by our comfortable answers. Truth is the only mercy that can save us.

**Leader:** I am already being poured out as a drink offering. I have fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith.

**People:** The world is held together by the love and the passion of a very few people — those who keep faith though everything in them is torn.

**Leader:** At my first defense, no one came to stand by me; all deserted me. Yet the Lord stood by me and gave me strength.

**People:** We must hold two truths in our minds: to accept life as it is, and to refuse to accept it and to be defeated by it. This is the courage of faith.

**Leader:** Now there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord will give to all who have loved his appearing.

**People:** The miracle is love — and the miracle is that we still can choose it.

**Together:**

We stand in the long line of truth-tellers,  
called to speak when it is out of season,  
to endure when it is unfashionable,  
to love when it is costly.  
The Lord who stood by Paul stands by us.  
To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **Listening to Our Sacred Text**

Beth Sayler

### **Hear these words from the prophet James Baldwin**

“If we—and I mean the relatively conscious whites and the relatively conscious blacks, who must, like lovers, insist on, or create, the consciousness of the others—do not falter in our duty now, we may be able, handful that we are, to end the racial nightmare and achieve our country, and change the history of the world.”

**--James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time***

Baldwin’s vision parallels Paul’s last charge to Timothy: both are writing at the end of an age, to beloved people, warning against moral cowardice and spiritual anesthesia. Baldwin’s “handful that we are” echoes Paul’s holy remnant; both Paul and Baldwin understand that fidelity is not mass popularity but moral fire. (*congregation read silently*)

*\*Spirit of the Living God*

NCH 283 (2x)

## **Pastoral Welcome**

Pastor Lynice

**\*Passing the Peace** *(in a safe and sensitive manner)*

## **We Regather in Song:**

*Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*

NCH 393 vs 1

Blessed be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The sharing of a common life  
Is like to that above.

*\*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

NCH 454 (1-4)

## **Prayers of the People**

Pastor Lynice

Prayer leader: after a prayer: Lord in your mercy

Congregation: Hear our prayers.

**\*All:**

**Our Creator/Mother/Father/Spirit,  
who is in Heaven,  
hallowed be your name.**

**Your Kin-dom come,  
your will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our faults, as we forgive the faults of others.**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the kin-dom, power, and glory, forever. Amen.**

## **Listening To Our Sacred Text**

Cheryl Litzke

### **2 Timothy 4: 1-8, 16-18 (NRSV)**

1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: 2 proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. 5 As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

6 As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. 8 From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

16 At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! 17 But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Sermon** The Miracle is Love—and the Miracle is That We Still Can Choose It

Pastor Lynice

## **Time of Silent Reflection**

*[In the silence after the sermon, we allow the sacred text and dialogue of the sermon to settle in our hearts, bones, bodies, and souls. We do this by opening our hearts and inviting God to settle the message we needed to hear.]*

## **\*Prayer of Commitment**

*(Adapted from the words of Paul and Baldwin)*

### **Leader:**

Merciful God,  
you call us to offer our whole lives as living sacrifices—  
holy, courageous, and filled with love.  
We commit ourselves now to your transforming work.

### **People:**

Renew our minds, O God,  
and soften our hearts.  
Make us instruments of your truth in a world addicted to comfort.  
Let our lives become your living Word.

### **Leader (Paul):**

“Let us not grow weary in doing what is right,  
for we will reap at harvest time if we do not give up.” *(Galatians 6:9)*

### **People (Baldwin):**

“If the concept of God has any validity or use,  
it can only be to make us larger, freer, and more loving.”

### **Leader:**

So, enlarge us, O God.  
Free us from fear, from cynicism, from the smallness of self.

### **People:**

Make us more loving—

not in sentiment, but in solidarity;  
not in words, but in our bodies, our budgets, our daily choices.

**Together:**

May we be transformed into people who keep the faith when it is out of season,  
who tell the truth when lies are fashionable,  
who love when it is costly.  
Through Jesus Christ,  
who poured himself out for the world.

**Amen.**

**Offertory Music**     *Wonderful Peace*

arr. Hayes

**Giving of Tithes and Offerings**



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.**

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

O God,  
We share our offerings from our resources, that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries,

in the days ahead, that each of us may be a part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.

*\*I Am Yours, O Lord*

NCH 455 (1,3)

## **\*Benediction**

**Postlude**    *When We All Get to Heaven*

arr. Hayes

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

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

: Greeters/Offering Collection

Susan Ward: Tech Support

Beth Sayler, Cheryl Litzke: Lay Reader(s)

: Lay Leader

Linda Ardao and Susan Ward : Fellowship Hour

Beth Sayler and Ann Boohar: Counters

## **Worship Volunteers for Sunday, 11/02/25**

Bonnie Yost :Greeters/Offering Collection

Susan Ward: Tech Support

Bonnie Yost and Sara Beam: Lay Reader(s)

:Lay Leader

Todd Speece: Fellowship Hour

Bonnie Yost and Carol Swingle: Counters/Communion Servers

## **Church Office Hours This Week**

|                  | <u>Pastor Lynice</u>  | <u>Administrator</u>  |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Monday</i>    | <i>Day Off</i>        | ---                   |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   | 10–4PM                | <i>Work from home</i> |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | 10–4PM                | <i>Work from home</i> |
| <i>Thursday</i>  | 10–4PM                | 11AM–1PM              |
| <i>Friday</i>    | <i>Day Off</i>        | <i>Work from home</i> |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | <i>Work from home</i> | ---                   |

Marty Meyer, Musician

Carolyn Scherer, Office Administrator

## **UCCEG Worship & Events**

October 26 : (after church) 11:30-1pm: Justice & Witness, 1<sup>st</sup> Cohort

October 28: 1pm: Café Script

October 29: 1pm-2pm: Choir Practice

November 2: 10am: Worship

## Prayer Requests

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

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



Roy Garlisch, Cliff Keljikian, Cheryl Litzke, George Litzke, Family and friends of Susan Morey, Susan Ward, Carol Swingle, Anne Phinney, Ron Rising, Beverly Catt, Family of Jim Wilson, Andy Mahard, Cherri Murphy, Marquita Kinard, Elizabeth Hess, fur baby Annie Watts, Jeff Fletcher and family, Roger Meacham, Joanie Youse, Gerry H., Rain Willover, Jeff L., Marsha Suszkowski (health

concerns), Victims of typhoon in Western Alaska, Nancy Jane van Krieken.

## Announcements and Community Notices

*Note to Lay Readers: Please always read the scriptures as they are printed in the bulletin, not in the big bible.*

### **JUSTICE & WITNESS LAUNCH:**

The Justice and Witness Ministry held its first meeting on August 24th, and we have launched! Our first offering is a 6-week pilot project that will grow and deepen this ministry. The 1st cohort, (already in place), will meet from **Oct 5th – Nov 9th** right after church, from 11:30-1pm (lunch will be provided) to explore what justice looks like in the Bible, in our lives, and in our communities. The cohort will also serve as a solidarity circle where members will practice skills for justice-making and discipleship in the mission of Jesus. If you want to be part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 6-week cohort (Jan 11th --Feb 15th), contact Margaret Ernst at 610 463-7558 or at [margaretanneernst@gmail.com](mailto:margaretanneernst@gmail.com).

## **STAY TUNED FOR PASTOR LYNICE'S UPCOMING ADVENT OFFERINGS!**

### **CHOIR REHEARSAL:**

It's time to start fall choir rehearsals. Choir rehearsals will be held Wednesdays at 1pm for an hour. If you enjoy singing, come share that joy.

### **CAFE SCRIPT IS BACK-ALL WELCOME:**

**Café Script is back!** We are having a wonderful time on Tuesdays at the Church House from 1-2pm. We will study all of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We are starting with Mark, and we'll proceed through the other gospels after we conclude our Markan study. See you Tuesday!

### **SALVATION ARMY DINNER**

UCCEG provides a dinner meal once a month to the Salvation Army on the first Thursday of each month. We are looking for a few more volunteers who are willing to provide only one part of the meal. The menus are set so you would be responsible for either the entree, salad/vegetable, potato/rice/pasta, bread/roll & butter/margarine or dessert. It's often just every other month you would have to provide food. If you are interested or have questions, please see Bonnie Yost-610-696-4137. We would love for you to join us!

### **WEST CHESTER FOOD CUPBOARD (WCFC)**

Request from WCFC – At this time they are especially in need of cereal, non-grape jelly, toothbrushes (single), and feminine products. Of course they can also use canned meat, canned fish, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce (cans or plastic jars), hearty soups, and canned fruit as well. And, personal care items including soaps, toothpaste, toilet paper, diapers (sizes 5 and 6,) and baby wipes are always needed. Please put your items in the bin in the hallway of the Church House. Grateful thanks.

### **OCTOBER OUTREACH FOR SAFE HARBOR**

Safe Harbor thanks us for the peanut butter, jelly and granola bars that we donated in September.

During October we want to show our appreciation to the Safe Harbor staff. We want them to know that their hard work and countless hours of dedication are greatly appreciated.

We would like to support the staff by having a special luncheon for them. This will be at the SH location. We ask that you give a monetary donation this month for Cathy to purchase the food for the luncheon. If you care to donate to this special time please write a check payable to UCCEG with Safe Harbor on the memo line or put cash in a church envelope, label it for Safe Harbor, and drop it in the collection plate. Thank you for your kind generosity.

### **NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. One-third of the offering is given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds support UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy.

If you care to donate, please write a check payable to UCCEG with a note on the memo line of "NIN." Please place your donation (cash or check) in one of the NIN envelopes. Your donation will be greatly appreciated.