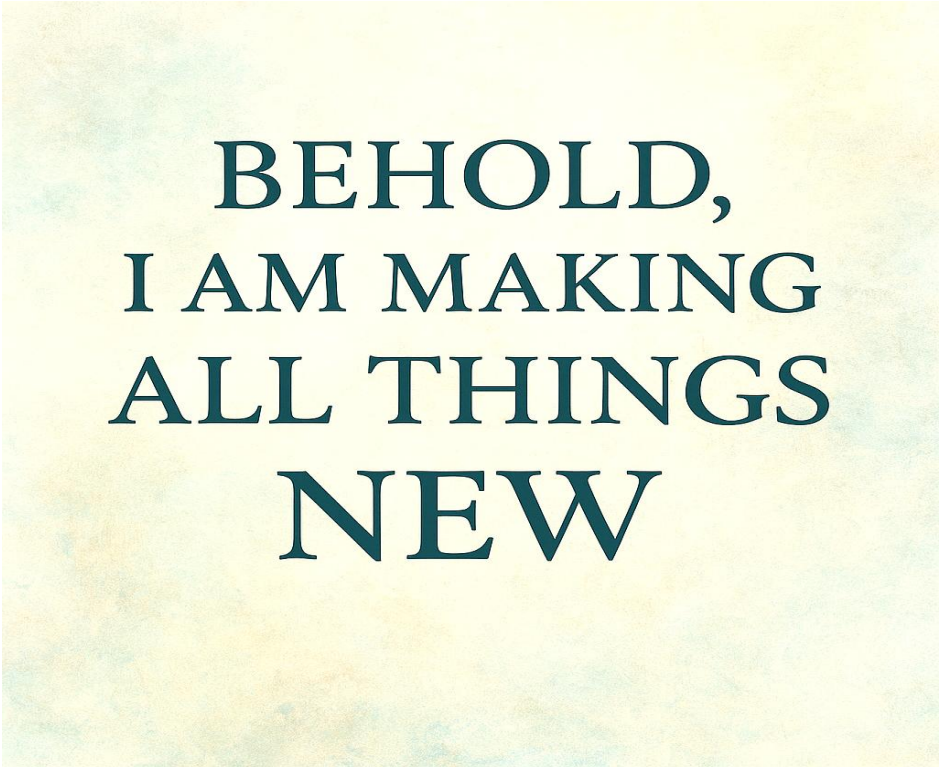


UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

Rev. Lynice Pinkard, Pastor

We Are a Church of Extravagant Welcome for All People!

November 16, 2025—10AM



BEHOLD,
I AM MAKING
ALL THINGS
NEW

“New Heavens and a New Earth”

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

Pastoral Welcome

Announcements

Ringling of the Singing Bowl

Pastor Lynice

Invocation

Pastor Lynice

***Call to Worship**

Pastor Lynice

Leader: Beloved of God, you who have cried in the night and waited for morning—come. The Holy One has heard your lament and comes not in fury but in mercy, not with punishment but with promise. The God who formed you from dust still holds you in love's open hands, still whispers your name through the ruins: Behold, I am making all things new.

People: We come with weary hearts and feeble hope, trusting that the Spirit is already moving among us.

Leader: Where the world sees ashes, God is planting green shoots of grace. Where we see endings, God is beginning again. Even now, joy rises in the cracks of sorrow, and mercy takes root in the ground of our grief.

People: God is creating again—in us, through us, and all around us.

Leader: Here, shame loses its power. Here, love mends what fear has broken. Here, the Holy One delights to dwell with us.

All: Come, let us worship the God whose mercy is wider than our fear, whose tenderness is stronger than our despair, whose love reaches into

every exile and calls us home. Come, beloved—for God is already among us, and everything is being made new.

Listening to Our Sacred Text

Erica Britton

Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSV)

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.

4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

NCH 440 (1,3)

***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.

**To You, Oh God, All Creatures Sing*

NCH 17 (1-4)

Reception of New Members (please see insert)

Choir Anthem *Walk in The Light*

Shackley

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

Carol Swingle

Isaiah 65: 17-25 (NRSV)

17 For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

18 But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating,
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy
and its people as a delight.

19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it
or the cry of distress.

20 No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime,
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

21 They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

22 They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat,
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labor in vain
or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.

24 Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Sermon

The God Who Begins Again

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**

Leader:

God of beginnings and again-beginnings,
you have heard the cry that trembles beneath our silence.
You do not come to erase what is broken
but to breathe your life through the cracks—
to move through our ruins

as sunlight through stained glass,
turning even what's shattered into beauty.

People:

Make us new, O God of mercy.
Shape us again in your hands.

Leader:

You are the potter and we are the clay—
the living dust of your longing.
Shape us until our hearts mirror your compassion.
Where we are rigid, make us pliable;
where proud, make us porous to your Spirit.

People:

Make us new, O God of mercy.
Shape us again in your hands.

Leader:

Teach us the slow miracle of tending:
to build what shelters,
to plant what nourishes,
to speak what heals.
Let our daily living become a quiet liturgy of love.

People:

Make us new, O God of mercy.
Shape us again in your hands.

Leader:

Before we call, you have answered.
Before we move, you go before us.
Take the small faith we have,
and plant it where your joy can grow.
Let this be our covenant:
to live as your new creation—

walking toward the light we cannot yet see,
trusting that grace is already there to meet us.

All:

Make us new, O God of mercy.
Shape us again in your hands.
Let your new heaven and new earth
begin in us today.
Amen.

Offertory Music *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*

Scholtes, 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.

***Benediction**

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
Erica Britton, Carol Swingle: Lay Reader(s)
:Lay Leader
Council : Fellowship Hour
Linda Ardao and Bunny Watts: Counters

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, 11/23/25

:Greeters/Offering Collection
Bart Yost: Tech Support
Cheryl Litzke: Lay Reader(s)
:Lay Leader
: Fellowship Hour
Candice Keith and Ann Boohar: Counters

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

November 18: 1pm: Café Script

November 18: 6pm: Council Meeting

November 19: 1--2pm: Choir Practice, singers welcome
(please note: No choir practice 11/26 (day before Thanksgiving))

November 23: 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, 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, Cherri Murphy, Marquita Kinard, Elizabeth Hess, fur baby Annie Watts, Jeff Fletcher and family, Roger Meacham, Joanie Youse, Rain Willover, Marsha Suszkowski (health concerns), Victims of typhoon

in Western Alaska, Beth Anne Keates and Nancy Jane van Krieken, Don and Carol Beideman, Steve and Bonnie Yost and Family, Andy and Thea Mahard, The family of Burton Bailey.

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. Thank you.

UCCEG STEWARDSHIP 2025:

‘Dreaming God’s Dream’

Please find information sheets and pledge cards in the foyer. Please contact Lucy Barber with any questions.

PASTOR LYNICE’S UPCOMING ADVENT OFFERINGS

An Advent Bible Study!

An Unexpected Birth: Advent in the Fascist Apocalypse

with *Pastor Lynice Pinkard* and *Nichola Torbett*

Thursdays, December 4, 11, and 18 • 7–8:30pm ET • Online

Years ago, after a decade of violence, W. B. Yeats asked, “What rough beast... slouches toward Bethlehem to be born?” In our own time of

state-sponsored violence and organized neglect, we ask: what could Advent possibly mean? What strange birth are we waiting for? What hope can it bring—and how do we prepare to receive it?

Together, we'll gather three Thursdays in Advent to explore the demanding promise of this season—its honesty, vulnerability, and willingness to birth divine hope among us.

December 4 – *A Thief in the Night* (Apocalypse)

December 11 – *Radical Hospitality* (Mary & Elizabeth)

December 18 – *Getting in Formation* (Joseph)

A joint offering of **Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center** and **UCC East Goshen**. Free for UCCEG members; sliding scale for others.

To register, email pastor@ucceastgoshen.org.

CONTEMPLATIVE ADVENT MEDITATION WITH PASTOR LYNICE

Begin your Advent mornings in stillness and sacred presence. Pastor Lynice will guide a 20-minute time of silent meditation on the first three Sundays of Advent—**November 30, December 7, and December 14**, from **9:20–9:40am** in the Church House, just before worship.

Come breathe, listen, and make room for the Holy amid the season's clamor. **All are welcome.**

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Hard to believe that Christmas will be here before you know it! That must mean it's time to order your Christmas poinsettias that we decorate the sanctuary with on Christmas Eve. The price is the same as last year- \$9.00- and available in red, white and pink. The order forms are in the foyer and must be returned by Dec. 7th. Be sure to write your dedications clearly on the form. Any questions, please contact Bonnie Yost.

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)

Message from WCFC – As more of our neighbors turn to us for help, the need at the West Chester Food Cupboard continues to soar. In the last year alone, we've had more than **30,000** visits from people in need. We need your support now more than ever! Your gift goes directly toward providing nutritious food and renewed hope to those in need. Grateful thanks from the All Volunteer Team at WCFC.

If you care to give a monetary donation, please write a check payable to UCCEG with WCFC on the memo line or put cash in a church envelope, label it for WCFC, and drop it in the collection plate. Thank you.

They continue to need cereal, non-grape jelly, canned meat, canned fish, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce (cans or plastic jars), hearty soups, and canned fruit. Personal care items including feminine products, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, diapers (sizes 5 and 6,) and baby wipes are always needed. Please put donated items in the bin located in the hallway. Many thanks.

NOVEMBER OUTREACH FOR SAFE HARBOR

During November 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 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.

Message from Safe Harbor – As part of National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week (Nov 16–22), Safe Harbor is hosting a Take What You Need Fair — a free and welcoming event where anyone can receive clothing, food, household items, and essentials. No questions asked.

Take What You Need Fair
Sunday, November 16, 1:00-4:00 PM
Safe Harbor of Chester County
20 N. Matlack Street, West Chester

If you know someone who could use support – a neighbor, coworker, family member, someone who is doing their best but could use a little help – **please invite them**. Let them know they will be welcomed. No judgment. Just care.

How You Can Help: Come – your presence helps create a warm, friendly space; invite a person/s; share this event with your networks or community groups.

WESTERN ALASKA DISASTER RELIEF

The typhoon on October 11th left villagers in the Yukon-Kuskokwim area without homes, without food and water. Many saw their houses

literally float away. While Julie Frankum, a former member, and her wife Barrie were spared the devastation in Bethel, their patients/clients were dramatically affected. Some were housed locally in schools, however, hundreds of persons were airlifted 400 miles to Anchorage. Julie marvels at the resilience of the native people there.

The Alaska Community Foundation is collecting donations for the Western Alaska Disaster Relief 2025 Fund to support affected communities for immediate relief, recovery support, and long term resilience. If you wish to donate, please write a check payable to UCCEG with Alaska Disaster Relief on the memo or put cash in an envelope labeled Alaska Disaster Relief.

ONLINE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY: JOIN US!

When the State *is* the Church: The Christian Movements Fueling the Rise of Authoritarianism in the US

a series led by Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart and hosted by The Alternative Seminary

Tuesdays, 7-9pm, December 2, 9, and 16 on Zoom

Session 1: No Longer Fringe: The New Apostolic Reformation and other troubling formations

Session 2: Christian Zionism: The Foreign Policy of White Christian Nationalism

Session 3: Not in Jesus' Name: Weakening the Faith Pillar of Authoritarianism

Cost: \$100 or whatever you can afford (Zoom link provided upon payment)

Register at bit.ly/ChurchState2025.

Congregational Life/Mission and Outreach Message:

Friends, I am writing to you as a member of the Congregational Life/Mission and Outreach committee. In our last meeting, we talked about the importance of service, and I was asked to write down some

thoughts about it.

Why Do We Serve?

The Human One came not to be served but to serve. (Mt. 20:28 || Mk 10:45 ESV)

If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than their master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. (Jn 13:14-17)

“The Church is the Church only when it exists for others... Our relation to God is not a ‘religious’ relationship to a supreme being, to a metaphysical power, or to a last resort. It is a new life for others, through participation in the being of Jesus, the One for Others.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison*.

We serve because self-giving lies at the core of God’s nature. We imitate Jesus, the Servant, and by imitating him we learn to imitate God. This has two important benefits beyond the benefit received by those whom we serve: our service testifies in the world to the reality, the presence, and the character of God, and we end up being blessed by the deep riches that those we encounter give to us. It is literally “more blessed to give than to receive” (Jesus, quoted by Paul, Acts 20:35).

In service with Christ together,

Webb Mealy

(Bulletin Insert)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Assisted by President Bonnie Yost and Vice President Linda Ardao

INVITATION

Pastor: I now invite **Erica Britton, Kang Chen, Margaret Ernst, Marquita Kinard, Webb Mealy, and Naomi Washington Leapheart**, who wish to join in membership with this congregation, to come forward.

INTRODUCTION

All: The Church is a family of faith, diverse in gifts, united by the Spirit revealed in Jesus. It is the Spirit of caring, forgiving, helping, and loving—made visible in the life and death of Christ.

Bonnie: The Church is the people of God—diverse in need, idea, and vision—moved by the Spirit alive in the words and deeds of Jesus. May that same Spirit rest upon us.

It is the Spirit of openness to the world and to all people as our kin, the Spirit of continual searching and learning that prays, 'We believe; help our unbelief.' This is the Spirit that stirs us toward growth and renewal in many forms. Together, we share that Spirit as members of Christ's body.

ON THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Pastor: To affirm one's baptism is to remember and renew the covenant of grace God made with us in the waters of baptism. It is to say "yes" again to the love that claimed us before we could speak and to the call that continues to shape our lives.

In affirming baptism, we turn again toward the One who names and claims us—renouncing the powers that destroy, breaking down what

divides, and embracing the freedom, forgiveness, and belonging we find in Christ.

This act is both personal and communal: a declaration of faith and a commitment to live as part of Christ's body in the world. We do not make this promise alone—the Spirit strengthens us, and the Church walks beside us in faith and love.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Pastor: Friend in Christ, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and seek the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidate: Yes, I do.

Pastor: Do you promise, by God's grace, to follow Christ—to resist oppression and evil, to live with love and justice, and to witness to Christ's word and work as you are able?

Candidate: I promise, with God's help.

Pastor: Do you promise to grow in faith, to be a faithful member of Christ's Church, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering his mission in the world?

Candidate: With God's help, I will.

ON THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: To affirm our faith is to join our voices with the great cloud of witnesses—those who through the ages have placed their trust in the living God. It is not a recitation of perfect belief, but an act of belonging—a way of standing together in the mystery of grace.

We speak these ancient words not as a test of certainty
but as a declaration of hope—
that the God who has been faithful through the ages
remains faithful in and through us today.
Let us now unite with the Church in all times and places
in confessing our faith in the Triune God.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Candidate: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord—
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the
dead. On the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven, and is
seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come to judge the living
and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Candidate: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting.

COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATION

Bonnie: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this
church—sharing in worship, offering your gifts, and serving this
community and the world?

Candidate: I do, with God's help, sharing my gifts for the building up of
Christ's Church here at UCC East Goshen.

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

Linda: Let us, the members of United Church of Christ East Goshen,
welcome and affirm our new members in Christ.

All: We welcome you into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of Christ's mission. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we grow together in faith, love, and witness to our risen Savior.

GREETING IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

Bonnie: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of United Church of Christ East Goshen, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into this community of faith.