



Jesus is born

*For unto you is born...a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11*

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

Rev. Lynice Pinkard, Pastor
Rev. Homer Royer, Visiting Pastor

We Are a Church of Extravagant Welcome for All People!

Christmas Eve-
December 24, 2025—3PM

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

1066 South New Street, Church House,
West Chester, PA 19382

Office: 610-692-2951 office@ucceastgoshen.org
www.ucceastgoshen.org

**Please stand as you are able.*

Office = Congregation P = Pastor

Prelude *Still Is the Night (Choir Anthem)*

Martin

Pastoral Welcome

Announcements

Ringling of the Singing Bowl

Invocation

Rev. Royer

Listening To Our Sacred Text

Beth Sayler

Hebrews 1: 1-3a (NRSVUE)

God Has Spoken by His Son

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,^[a] whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains^[b] all things by his powerful word.

Advent Candle Lighting and Song - Christ

Away in a Manger, NCH 124

Verse 1

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the
little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The
stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the
little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Royer

(Inspired by Isaiah 9 and Psalm 96)

Sing to the Holy One, a new song. Sing praises to the Creator, Maker, and Sustainer of all things seen and unseen.

From the depth of deep hope, a great light shines. We shine the light of hope.

For a child has been born named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

From the depth of deep peace, a great light shines. We shine the light of peace.

Honor and majesty are before the Glorious God; strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.

From the depth of deep joy, a great light shines. We shine the light of joy.

For great is the Righteous and Just God. Declare the marvelous works and wondrous ways of God with us!

From the depth of deep love, a great light shines. We shine the light of love.

We shine the light of Christ! Glory to God!

****Angels, from the Realms of Glory***

NCH 126

***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.

Special Music Welcome to Our World

Rice

(Performed by Cathy, Eva and Lily Yost)

Prayers of the People

Rev. Royer

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.

Luke 2: 1-14 (NRSVUE)

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room. **8** Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Meditation/Sermon

Rev. Royer

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.]

Offertory Music

O, Holy Night

Adams

Performed by Cathy & Eva Yost

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**

Generous God,
thank you for every good and perfect gift that we have received from you. We offer our gratitude that you invite, enable, and empower us to bless others through these gifts. Amen.

Ceremony of Light

[We come to a special portion of today's service. As Christ comes bringing the light of God's love, we light our individual candles to signify our individual and collective commitment to live as Christ's faithful in the world. Please touch the tip of your unlit candle into the flame so that it may take hold. Remember to hold your candle upright.]



CHRISTMAS

Silent Night, Holy Night

134

Joseph Mohr, 1818

Transl. John F. Young, c. 1863; alt.

Luke 2:1-20

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight,
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Child of God, love's pure light,

Round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
 Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav-en-ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia;
 Ra - diant beams from your ho-ly face bring the dawn of re - deem - ing grace;

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, sleep in heav-en-ly peace.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.
 Je - sus Christ at your birth, Je - sus Christ at your birth.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. MacDonald

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
Bart Yost: Tech Support
Beth Sayler, Lucy Barber: Lay Reader(s)
: Lay Leader
Congregation: Fellowship Hour
: Counters

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, 12/28/25
: Greeters/Offering Collection
: Tech Support
: Lay Reader(s)
:Lay Leader
Linda Ardao: Fellowship Hour
:Counters

Church Office Hours This Week

Please note: Pastor Lynice will be away from 12/22-12/27.

	<u>Pastor Lynice</u>	<u>Administrator</u>
<i>Monday</i>		<i>Work from home</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>		<i>Work from home</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>		<i>Work from home</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	Christmas	Christmas
<i>Friday</i>		<i>Work from home</i>
<i>Saturday</i>		---

Marty Meyer, Musician
Carolyn Scherer, Office Administrator

UCCEG Worship & Events

(Please note: Café Script will resume in January)

December 28: 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, 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, Steve and Bonnie Yost and Family, Andy and Thea Mahard, Jane and Frank Resides.

Announcements and Community Notices

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO FILL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

As we enter a new year in 2026, it is time to fill committee chairperson positions. Please consider an opportunity to serve as committee chair for the coming year. We have positions open for Council President, Vice President, Assistant Treasurer, Worship & Music, Congregational Life, Spiritual Life, and Building & Grounds.

Those who are presently serving are happy to answer any questions you may have about the responsibilities of these positions or you may ask Linda Ardao, Todd Speece or Bonnie Yost. If you would like to apply,

please inform Linda Ardao and sign up on the clipboard in the hallway at the church house. The health of our church community and our church depend on filling these positions. Consider using your gifts and talents to serve.

Blessings, Personnel Committee Chair, Linda Ardao

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.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years by providing emergency grants, supplementing small annuities and health premiums, and giving Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. As we continue to participate in UCC 5 for 5, we are collecting donations for The Christmas Fund from **December 1st through December 28th**. If you care to donate please write a check payable to UCCEG with Christmas Fund on the memo line or put cash in a church envelope, label it Christmas Fund”, and drop it in the collection plate. Thank you for your kind generosity.

Christmas Poinsettias

Given By:

Linda Ardao

Todd Speece & Carol Swingle

Susan Ward

Steve & Bonnie Yost

In Memory Of:

Manuel and Iberia Ardao

Susan Morey, and,
Our Loved Ones whom we miss,
especially Beth Kressly, Teri
Speece and Joy Roberts

Wendell and Carol Ward

Steve's parents-David & Helen
Yost, Bonnie's parents-Ray &
Gloria Renninger

Given By:

Todd Speece & Carol Swingle

Steve & Bonnie Yost

In Dedication To:

Our Children: Pat and Noni, Lizzy
and Jake

Our children Bart & Cathy and
Adam & Nina; and our
grandchildren Kyle, Eva, Lily,
Natalie & Harper

*Please see Bonnie Yost if you would like a poinsettia to take with you
today to deliver to a homebound or other appreciative person.*