

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

We Are a Church of Extravagant Welcome for All People!

March 1, 2026—10AM



Born On the Way

The Second Sunday of Lent

We are a Congregation that celebrates our LGBTQIA+ kindred

Rev. Lynice Pinkard, Pastor
Carolyn Scherer, Office Administrator
Marty Meyer, Music Director
Warren Cooper, Musician

Prelude *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

Parry, arr. Shackley

Pastoral Welcome

Announcements

Ringling of the Singing Bowl

Webb Mealy

Invocation

Pastor Lynice

***Call to Worship** (please see insert)

***Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer**

NCH 19 (1-3)

Listening To Our Sacred Text

Beth Sayler

Genesis 12: 1-4a (NRSVUE)

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Psalm 121 (NRSVUE)

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

2 My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved;

he who keeps you will not slumber.

4 He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

6 The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

8 The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

***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.

***Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

NCH 252(1-3)

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

Beth Saylor

John 3:1-17 (NRSVUE)

1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 11 “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Sermon Womb Space – Born on the Way

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** (please see insert)

Offertory Music *What Wondrous Love is This* Southern Harmony-1835

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.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

PASTOR:

At this table, all are welcome — not because we have arrived, but because we are on the way.

This is a table for travelers, for those who have heard a call and taken even one uncertain step. Here God meets us in the middle — between what we have left behind and what we are becoming.

Here new life is fed before it is fully born. Here the Spirit shelters what is fragile, strengthens what is beginning, and keeps what is not yet complete.

We do not come because we are finished. We come because God is still forming us.

At this table Christ gives himself again — bread broken, life poured out — food for the journey and strength for the long becoming.

So come, not as you were, but as you are becoming. Come trusting the promise you cannot yet see. Come held in God's keeping and born on the way.

So come,
not as you were,
but as you are becoming.

Come,
trusting the promise you cannot yet see.

Come,
held in God's keeping
and born on the way.

Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

And so, with people of every time and place,
and with all who have trusted your promise
and walked the road before us,
we praise you
and offer our lives again to you.

Words of Institution

PASTOR:

On the night that he was betrayed, Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks.
He broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup.
Again, he gave thanks and said:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
poured out for you and for many.

Whenever you drink it,
do this in remembrance of me.

Invoking the Holy Spirit

PEOPLE:

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God,
and upon these gifts of bread and cup,
that we may be healed and made whole,
strengthened in love—
for one another
and for the world.
Amen.

Distribution of the Elements

PASTOR:

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come. All things are ready.

Communion Hymn *Let Us Break Bread Together – NCH 330*

Verse 1

Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.

Verse 2

Let us drink wine together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees.

Verse 3

Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

PASTOR:

Take and eat.

This is the body of Christ, given for you.

PEOPLE:

Amen.

PASTOR:

Take and drink.

This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

PEOPLE:

Amen.

Proclamation of Faith

PASTOR:

And so, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Amen.

**Great Is Your Faithfulness*

NCH 423 (1-3)

***Benediction**

Go now, held in the keeping of God.

Trust the promise you cannot yet see.

Walk the road where new life is being formed in you.

And be born on the way.

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: Lay Reader(s)
:Lay Leader
Bonnie & Steve Yost: Fellowship Hour
Linda Ardao and Greg Sayler: Counters, Communion Servers

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, 3/8/26

: Greeters/Offering Collection
Bart Yost: Tech Support
: Lay Reader(s)
: Lay Leader
Webb Mealy: Fellowship Hour
Bart Yost and Sara Beam: Counters

Church Office Hours This Week

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

UCCEG Worship & Events

March 1: 9am: Bell Choir (church hallway)

March 4: 1-2 pm. Choir practice

March 4: 6 pm: Truth in the Wilderness-Lenten Study (Zoom)

March 8: Daylight Savings

March 8: 9am: Bell Choir (church hallway)

March 8: 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, Anne Phinney, Ron Rising, Family of Jim Wilson, Cherri Murphy, Marquita Kinard, fur baby Annie Watts, Jeff Fletcher and family, Roger Meacham, Joanie Youse, Rain Willover, Beth Anne Keates and Nancy Jane van Krieken, Andy and Thea Mahard, Johari Jabir, Jane and Frank Resides, Family of Walt Halberg, Barbara Booth and family, Phyllis Taylor, Rafael Barber, family and friends of Beverly Catt (Don Rising's sister), Debra Ann Leapheart, Family and friends of Jack Prior, husband of Paula Roe Prior.



Announcements and Community Notices

CAFÉ SCRIPT IS BACK — ALL ARE WELCOME!

Café Script meets Tuesdays from 1–2 pm on Zoom as we continue our journey through the Gospel of **Mark, with Matthew, Luke, and John** still ahead. All are welcome — come as you are, whether you join regularly or drop in from time to time.

****During Lent, Café Script will pause while we gather for Truth in the Wilderness, and it will resume on April 7. ****

We hope you will join us for this time of Scripture, reflection, and shared learning.

TRUTH IN THE WILDERNESS--A Lenten Journey of Repair and Renewal

TRUTH IN THE WILDERNESS

A Lenten Journey of Repair and Renewal

Lent is the season when God calls us into honesty—
into the quiet places where truth waits,
where wounds are named,
and where grace begins its hidden work.

We enter the wilderness together,
not as people abandoned,
but as people led—
drawn toward the God who meets us in silence,
heals what has been broken,
and carries us toward resurrection light.

This journey asks for courage.
It invites us to speak truth in love,
to face what has been hidden,
and to trust that wherever truth is welcomed,
the Spirit is already making new life possible.

Truth in the Wilderness is a six-week congregational Lenten study of Scripture, prayer, honest conversation, and shared practice—a sacred path of repair, reconciliation, and renewal.

Come seeking healing.
Come bearing questions.
Come exactly as you are.

Wednesdays, 6:00–7:00 PM on Zoom
February 25 – April 1

Information packets have been sent to all UCCEG members and friends. The packet includes the Zoom link, course description, and course outline for each of the six sessions.

All are welcome. The wilderness is waiting—and God is already there.

Pastor Lynice

SHARING THE GIFT OF HOSPITALITY

Dear Beloveds,

One of the ways we show love for one another is doing simple acts of service. Providing refreshments for the fellowship time after the Sunday service is a perfect example of this service.

THE ASK

Thank you to all who have signed up! If you have not, and you can, sign up for three slots on the calendar between now and the end of July. There is a generous budget for supplies each week—about \$50, so cost should not be an issue. All you have to do is put in for reimbursement. The Fellowship Hospitality Sign Up Sheet will be on the table in the Narthex.

I look forward to practicing generosity in this way with you all. Many hands make light work!

Webb Mealy - Chair, Congregational Life Committee

OPPORTUNITIES TO SET UP FOR COMMUNION

Linda Ardao is looking for volunteers to help with communion set up the first Sunday of each month. A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the Narthex. Linda will be doing a training on communion set up and where elements are stored on February 22, 2026 following the service. Please see her with any questions.

WEST CHESTER FOOD CUPBOARD (WCFC)

Thank you from WCFC: Thank you so much for your continued generosity to the West Chester Food Cupboard. In these especially challenging times, your support means more than ever – not just to us, but to the growing number of families who rely on us. Last year we served over 8,000 people. Many are turning to us for the first time. We are deeply grateful for your compassion and commitment. You are truly making a difference in the lives of so many people throughout our community, and we are so thankful for your loyal support. WCFC continues 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. No glass items please. Many thanks.

Or, 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.

OUTREACH FOR SAFE HARBOR

Thanks to all who contribute to this essential ministry of service to the houseless and those working towards a permanent housing situation. The Director of Operations reports that they would appreciate donations of the following practical items at this time: Lunch snack items (packaged chips, pretzels, and that sort of thing), water, juice boxes (or jugs), baked goods (e.g. brownies), and toilet paper. If you would like to learn about volunteering opportunities, please talk to me. It's very easy to get involved.

Monetary donations will support purchase of special baskets/bins for refrigerated food storage in the kitchens at Safe Harbor. If you care to donate to this effort, 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.

CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS-UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: RESCHEDULED to MARCH 1st and location change to Swarthmore

College: Mozart's Requiem: Death, Drama and Divine Music

Mozart's Requiem is arguably the cornerstone of the choral canon, but its composition is marked by remarkable circumstances and enduring intrigue. Don't miss this free event! Sunday, March 1, 2026 - 4:00 p.m., Lang Performing Arts Center, Swarthmore College Swarthmore, PA 19081

March 8: CCC Performs Mozart's Requiem:

Our older children in the Concert Choir have been preparing for this performance since last September. Mozart's *Requiem* is performed every three to four years because of its complexity and the time it takes the children to master the notes.

For nearly all of our children, this will be the only time in their lives they will sing this extraordinary piece of music, alongside 30 community singers, professional soloists, and an orchestra.

4PM at Swarthmore College. Or watch Live on YouTube or Facebook.

GOSPEL HEALING IN A TIME OF OPPRESSION: ONLINE COURSE

From The Alternative Seminary: AN ONLINE COURSE

Thursday evenings, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, February 26 – March 26, 2026

Contact Will O'Brien with any questions.



We are witnessing a daily barrage of oppressive violence, virulent racism, and increasing authoritarianism in the United States. Tragically, much of it is supported by a perverse Christian nationalism.

We cry out for healing – but what is the healing we need? How does this moment of societal crisis and vulnerability force us to ask deeper questions about who we are and what kind of world we need? And how we engage in self-healing practices?

For five weeks, we will explore together several Gospel accounts of Jesus' healings, reflecting on how these stories speak to the moment we live in. We will consider how they are challenging us to be faithful and build the Beloved Community in these harsh times.

This course will be co-facilitated by **Will O'Brien**. Will is coordinator of The Alternative Seminary and a member of the Vine & Fig Tree community in Philadelphia.

The cost for this course will be \$100 (or whatever you can afford).

REGISTER HERE:

<https://bit.ly/GospelHealing2026>

If you have any questions, please contact Will O'Brien at willobrien59@gmail.com or 267-339-8989.

The Alternative Seminary is a program of biblical and theological study and reflection designed to foster an authentic biblical witness in the modern world. For more information, see www.alternativeseminary.net.

***Call to Worship**

Womb Space – Born on the Way

Leader:

Before we knew where the road would lead,
God spoke a word:
Go.

Leave what is settled.
Leave what explains your life.
Leave what makes you feel safe enough to stay the same.

And somehow the promise came first—
a future not yet visible,
a blessing not yet born.

People:

So we come, not finished,
not certain,
but called.

Leader:

We lift our eyes to the hills—
to the steep places,
the unknown turns,
the long miles ahead—
wondering who will keep us
when we cannot keep ourselves.

People:

The One who made heaven and earth
keeps watch over our lives.

Leader:

God keeps our fragile beginnings.
God keeps the life forming inside us.
God keeps our going out
and our coming in.

People:

We are held on the way.

Leader:

And Jesus whispers to us still:

You must be born anew—
not once,
not safely,
but into a life the Spirit is still shaping.

People:

So we come to worship
the God who calls us forward,
the God who keeps us in motion,
the God who brings new life to birth among us.

All:

We rise to follow where God leads,
trusting the promise we cannot yet see.
Held in God's keeping,
we step forward in faith—
born on the way.

***Prayer of Commitment**

Leader:

God of the road that begins with a promise,
You call us out before we are ready.
You unsettle the ground beneath us.

You loosen our grip on what we thought was life.

You lead us into places where nothing is certain except your presence.

People:

Lead us forward, O God, even when we cannot see the way.

Leader:

And there—

in the long middle,

between what was and what will be—

you begin again with us.

You form new life in hidden places.

You reshape our hearts, our desires, our imaginations.

You make us new not in a moment of triumph but in the slow and trembling work of trust.

People:

Form new life within us, O God.

Make us new on the way.

Leader:

So here we are—not arrived,

not finished, not fully brave—but willing.

Willing to go where you lead.

Willing to release what we cannot carry forward.

Willing to be remade in ways we do not control.

People:

We place our lives in your hands, trusting the promise you have spoken.

Leader:

Keep watch over what is being born in us.

When fear tightens around us,

People:

Keep us.

Leader:

When the night stretches long,

People:

Keep us.

Leader:

When the way disappears beneath our feet,

People:

Keep us.

Leader:

Until the life you are shaping finds its breath in us and rises into the world.

All:

We offer ourselves to you again—

not as we were,

but as we are becoming.

Born on the way, through Jesus Christ.

Amen.