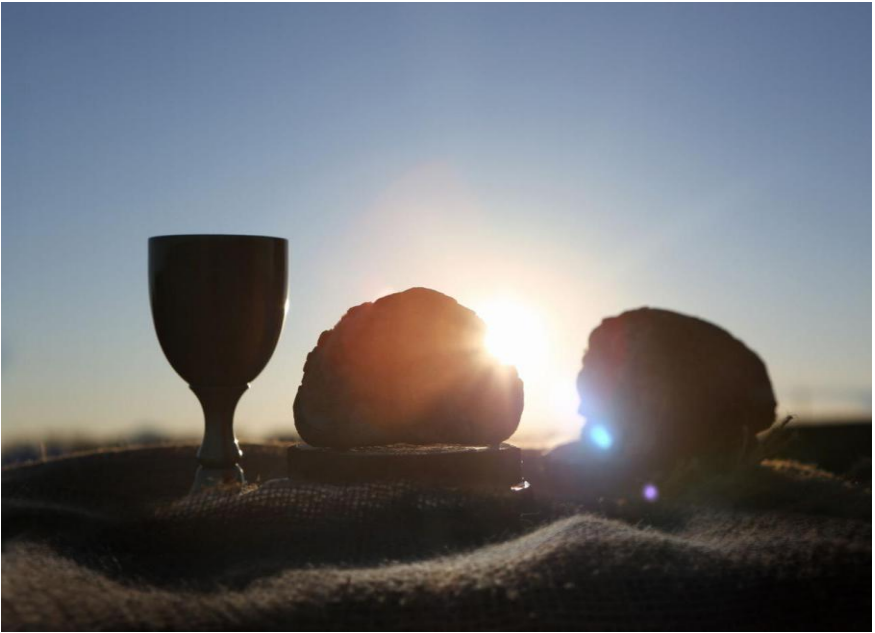


UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

We Are a Church of Extravagant Welcome for All People!

May 3, 2026—10AM



What Holds Fifth Sunday of Easter

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 *In Christ Alone*

Townsend, Getty, arr. Shackley

Pastoral Welcome

Announcements

Ringing of the Singing Bowl

Invocation

Pastor Lynice

***Call to Worship**

Leader:

We come as we are—
steady and unsettled,
certain and searching,
near and distant.

People:

We come, bringing our whole lives with us.

Leader:

Some of us come with hearts that feel secure.
Others, with sadness, anger, and grief, with questions we cannot name.

People:

God meets us where we are.

Leader:

What is shaping our heart in these days?
What are we trusting without thinking?
What holds us when we are not paying attention?

People:

We come to be formed in what is true.

Leader:

God does not wait for us to feel ready.

God calls us even now—

to trust,

to follow,

to be shaped by love that does not fail.

People:

We turn toward God, who holds us.

Leader:

Come—

not to perform,

not to pretend—

People:

but to be present,

to be open,

to be formed.

All:

Let us worship God.

Amen.

**Bring Many Names*

NCH 11 (1,5,6)

Listening To Our Sacred Text

Bonnie Yost

Psalms 31: 1-5, 15-16 (NRSVUE)

1 In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

2 Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.

3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;
4 take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

15 My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

***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.

Prayers of the People

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

Webb Mealy

John 14: 1-14 (NRSVUE)

1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” 8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Sermon Before Life Asks More of Us Than We Expect
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.]

**Day Is Done*

NCH 92 (1-3)

***Prayer of Commitment**

Leader: God of what is steady
and what is shifting—

People: you meet us in the lives we are living.

Leader: Not the lives we imagine
or perform—

People: but the lives we carry each day.

Leader: You know what feels secure;
you know what we trust
without noticing.

People: You know what we rely on most.

Leader: And still—you call us.

People: Not in fear, not in pressure, but in love.

Leader: You call us to grow
into what will hold us
when life changes.

People: So, we ask for your help.

Leader: Help us notice
what is forming us;
help us release
what cannot sustain us.

People: Help us trust you—not only when we must,
but also when we are tempted to take life for granted.

Leader: Form in us a steadiness
beyond circumstance;
teach us your way.

People: Shape in us a faith that is lived,
that we may follow with honesty, courage,
and open hearts.

Leader: We offer ourselves—

People: not perfectly,
but willingly.

All: Continue your work in us.
Amen.

Offertory Music *May the Mind of Christ* Barham-Gould, arr. Schrader

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: This is not a table for those who are certain.

This is a table for those who are willing—to come as we are, to be met where we are, to be formed for what is ahead.

We do not come because we are ready. We come because Christ calls us. Here, bread is broken, and something in us has opened.

Here, the cup is shared, and we are gathered into a life deeper than our own. Christ is not distant. Christ is present—to meet us, to hold us, to shape us in love that does not fail.

Let us be formed here.

Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

PASTOR:

God of life,

You have made us, held us,
walked with us—
through what holds
and what does not.

You have come near to us
in Jesus Christ—
to show us what it is
to trust you
with a whole life.

And so
we give you thanks.

Words of Institution

On the night that Jesus was betrayed

He took bread, gave thanks,
broke it, and said:

“This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After that, he took the cup, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
poured out for you and for many.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Invoking the Holy Spirit

ALL: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God,
and upon these gifts of bread and cup,

that this bread and cup may be Christ among us,
and we may become a people formed by Christ.

Ground us in what holds. Shape us in what is true.

That we may be the body of Christ
alive in the world—strengthened in love,
filled with life.

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

PASTOR:
Christ has died.

PEOPLE:
Christ is risen.

ALL:
We are a people formed, grounded and held in Christ.

**There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

NCH 23 (1,2)

***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:

- Bonnie Yost: Greeters/Offering Collection
- Bart Yost: Tech Support
- Bonnie Yost, Webb Mealy: Lay Reader(s)
- Bonnie and Steve Yost: Fellowship Hour
- Susan Ward and Carol Swingle: Counters, Communion Servers

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, 5/10/26

- : Greeters/Offering Collection
- Susan Ward: Tech Support
- : Lay Reader(s)
- Cheryl Litzke: Fellowship Hour
- Linda Ardao and Webb Mealy: 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

5/5/26: 1pm: Café Script (Hybrid-Come in person or join via Zoom)
5/9/26: 9am-1pm: Spring Workshop Series Part I Tending Transformation
5/9/26: 9am-12pm: CLS Workday
5/9/26: 10am-12pm: Fostering Hope event at Church House
5/10/26: 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:

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, Nancy Jane van Krieken (mom of Beth Anne Keates), 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 and family, Family and friends of Jack Prior, husband of Paula Roe Prior, Lanning and Deanne Risher as they deal with serious health issues, Lester Allen (uncle of Bonnie Jackson and brother of Beverly Myles), Bonnie Jackson and family on the loss of her brother Roy Garlisch, Bayleigh and her husband Ian and baby who are facing a health crisis during pregnancy, Pete Speece, Annie Sherman, Claudia Morrow



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. Cafe Script is now hybrid—taking

place at the Church House and on Zoom. Carolyn sends the Zoom link out every week. We hope you will join us for this time of Scripture, reflection, and shared learning.

FROM ACCEPTANCE TO ADVOCACY SPRING WORKSHOP SERIES

UCCEG holds at its center a commitment to welcoming all into the wholeness of God's love and the flourishing of God's justice. This commitment summons us to an ongoing journey of transformation. And on every journey there come moments when we grow weary or are tempted to stop, satisfied with having moved some, even if we're not all the way there. This series of workshops is designed to meet us where we are and help us discover the new paths that await us on this journey. Come deepen your skills and capacities for this work of transformation toward Beloved Community and expansive belonging. We can take the next steps toward our vision of interconnectedness and deep belonging if we take them together!

May 9, 9am-1pm | Tending Transformation: Community Care for Culture Change

May 30, 9am-1pm | Loving the Stranger: Moving toward Collective Liberation

June 13, 9am-1pm | Wrestling toward a Blessing: Fostering Generative Conflict in Community

Location: UCCEG Church House Parlor

Find out more about each workshop [here](#). This workshop series will be facilitated by **Rev. Dr. Sharon R. Fennema**—an experienced worship leader, gifted trainer, and skilled facilitator who has helped congregations grow in depth, imagination, and faithfulness.

This series is part of our ongoing intercultural work through the *Belonging Beyond Whiteness* project, supported by the National Church of the UCC. It is a meaningful opportunity for us—not just to learn something new, but to be formed together. This is an invitation into transformation—for our church, for our shared life, and for the communities we are called to serve.

GIVING STATEMENTS

As your new financial secretary, I'm trying out a new process that offers you the opportunity to receive your giving statements by email. I've already sent a message to pledging members and friends with a request to indicate your preferred delivery method: hard copy or electronic. Quarterly statements will be sent to all those who pledge. Unless otherwise requested, giving statements will be sent at the end of the year for all non-pledging individuals. Please feel free to reach out to me at financialsecretary@ucceastgothen.org with any questions. Many thanks for your generous support of UCCEG!

Blessings, Susan Ward

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, etc.), water, juice boxes (or jugs), baked goods (e.g. brownies), and toilet paper. If you would like to learn about volunteering opportunities, please see Webb Mealy. 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE UCCEG OFFICE

If you would like to receive the church's Friday email 'blast' but haven't seen it coming to your inbox, kindly check your spam folder as it seems that the software will sometimes send it there first. If you have any questions please contact Carolyn via the church phone or office email: office@ucceastgoshen.org. Thank you.

CHESTER CHILDREN'S CHORUS

FINAL CONCERTS LED BY JOHN ALSTON:

Founding Artistic Director of the Chester Children's Chorus, Dr John Alston, will be leading his final concerts before his retirement in August. A third concert has been added due to the extraordinary interest in these shows. Overflow seating will be provided in the building next door, where the concerts will be live-streamed. Receptions will follow each performance. Don't miss your chance to hear the beautiful children of Chester PA sing their hearts out for their community, families, and beloved John Alston. Featuring the music of The Beatles as well!

Saturday, May 9, Saturday May 16, and Sunday May 17, all concerts at 4:00 PM. Lang Music Building, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore PA. Use 6 Whittier Drive, Swarthmore, in your GPS to get to the DuPont Parking Lot. You can drop off people at the door but there is limited handicapped parking only near the venue. There will be signage directing you to the concert hall. All concerts are free, first-come, first seated.