

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

We Are a Church of Extravagant Welcome for All People!

June 14, 2026—10AM



Seeking God's Future Together

Third Sunday after Pentecost

We are a Congregation that celebrates our LGBTQIA+ kindred

Rev. Lynice Pinkard, Pastor

Carolyn Scherer, Office Administrator

Marty Meyer, Music Director

Warren Cooper, Musician

Pastoral Welcome

Announcements

Ringing of the Singing Bowl

Invocation

Pastor Lynice

Holy God,
We thank you for this day,
for the gift of life,
for the breath in our bodies,
for the people gathered beside us,
and for your presence among us.

You have carried us through days
we never imagined we would face.
You have sustained us through joys and sorrows,
through celebrations and disappointments,
through clarity and uncertainty.

And still,
you are here.
Still speaking.
Still calling.
Still creating possibilities
we cannot yet fully see.

Open us this day to your presence.
Quiet what is anxious within us.
Strengthen what is weary within us.
Awaken what has grown dormant within us.
Give us ears to hear your Word.

Give us hearts that are open to your Spirit.
Give us wisdom for the journey before us
and courage for whatever faithfulness may require.

Remind us that we do not walk alone.
Remind us that we belong to one another.
Remind us that we belong to you.

And in this time of worship,
lift our eyes beyond ourselves,
beyond our assumptions,
beyond our fears,
that we might catch a glimpse
of your love,
your truth,
and your hope for the world.

We ask all these things
in the spirit of Jesus,
who continues to teach us,
challenge us,
and lead us.

Amen.

***Call to Worship**

Leader:

Beloved of God, come.

People:

We come.

Leader:

Come with your gratitude and your questions.

People:

We come.

Leader:

Come with your certainty and your uncertainty.

People:

We come.

Leader:

Come with your hopes for the future.

People:

We come.

Leader:

Come with your weariness and your wonder.

People:

We come.

Leader:

The God who formed us is here.

People:

The God who sustains us is here.

Leader:

The God who calls us forward is here.

People:

We come to worship the living God.

All:

Let us worship together.

Amen.

**God of Grace and God of Glory*

NCH 436 (1,2,4)

Listening To Our Sacred Text

Carol Swingle

Romans 5: 1-8 (NRSVUE)

1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, 4 and

endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

***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.

**Special Music: Lord I Want to Be a Christian*

Negro Spiritual, arr. Warren B. Cooper

Listening To Our Sacred Text

Webb Mealy

Matthew 10:1-8 (NRSVUE)

1 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. 2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. 5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' 8 Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Sermon

The Trouble with Grace

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 grace, you loved us before we were ever oriented toward you.

People:

Your love preceded every step we have taken toward you.

Leader:

You love us when we move through our days without giving you a second thought.

People:

Your mercy remains steadfast.

Leader:

You love us when we take for granted the gift of life itself.

People:

Your mercy remains steadfast.

Leader:

You love us when we fail to notice the people you love.

People:

Your mercy remains steadfast.

Leader:

You love us when our concerns become small, and our compassion grows narrow.

People:

Your mercy remains steadfast.

Leader:

You love us when fear overrules courage.

People:

Your mercy remains steadfast.

Leader:

You love us when comfort dulls our curiosity about the lives of others.

People:

Your mercy remains steadfast.

Leader:

You love us when we settle for what is familiar rather than growing toward what is possible.

People:

Your mercy remains steadfast.

Leader:

You love us not because we have earned your love.

People:

But because love is your nature.

Leader:

You love us not because we have arrived.

People:

But because your grace continues to meet us on the way.

Leader:

For such love,

People:

We give you thanks.

Leader:

For such grace,

People:

We offer ourselves anew.

All:

Teach us to love more deeply, see more clearly, and follow more faithfully.

Amen.

Offertory Music *O How He Loves You and Me*

Kurt Kaiser

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'm Already Ready (To Trust In The Love of God)*

Negro Spiritual, Arr. Warren B. Cooper

Lyrics:

I'm al-ready Re-e-ea-dy, I'm al-ready Re-e-ea-dy

I'm al-ready Re-e-ea-dy, Lord

Ready to Trust In the Love of God. (Peace)(Grace)(Love)

***Benediction**

Go now in the love that has sustained you
through every season of your life.

Go now with hearts made wider by mercy,
eyes opened by compassion,
and lives ready to participate
in God's healing work in the world.

And may the love of God,
the companionship of Christ,
and the power of the Holy Spirit
go with you,
remain with you,

and work through you,
this day and always. Amen.

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:

Beth Saylor: Greeters/Offering Collection
Bart Yost: Tech Support
Carol Swingle, Webb Mealy: Lay Reader(s)
Denise Casey, Beth Saylor: Fellowship Hour
Linda Ardao, Webb Mealy: Counters

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, 6/21/26

: Greeters/Offering Collection
Susan Ward: Tech Support
Erica Britton, Naomi Washington-Leapheart: Lay Reader(s)
Cheryl Litzke, Naomi Washington-Leapheart : Fellowship Hour
Bart Yost, Ann Boohar: 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

6/14/26: 11:30am: Congregational Meeting

6/15/26: 6pm: Council Meeting (Zoom)

6/16/26: 1pm: Café Script (Hybrid-Come in person or join via Zoom)

6/19/26: Juneteenth

6/21/26: 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, Bunny 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, Cathie Bonner (cousin of Carolyn Scherer), Lurch Hill, Sierra Pelligrine (Greg and Beth Sayler's granddaughter), Paul Bosse

Announcements and Community Notices

SUMMER CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT

Come sing in a Summer Choir on June 21. We'll meet at 9:20am that Sunday and learn a new song for worship that day. Come join the fun!

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.

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. You are truly making a difference in the lives of so many people throughout our community. Needs: Cereal, non-grape jelly, canned meat, canned fish, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce (cans or plastic jars), hearty soups, and canned fruit. Personal care items are always needed. Please put items in the bin in the foyer. No glass items please. 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. Safe Harbor would appreciate donations of the following 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. Monetary donations will support purchase of special baskets/bins for refrigerated food storage. 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.