

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

We Are a Church of Extravagant Welcome for All People!

July 5, 2026—10AM



Come To Me

Sixth 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

Prelude *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Nettleton, arr. Mayo

Pastoral Welcome

Announcements

Ringing of the Singing Bowl

Beth Saylor

Invocation

Pastor Lynice

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, all who are weary—not only in body, but in spirit.

People: We come, carrying our hopes, our burdens, and our longing for God.

Leader: Come, all whose hearts have been pulled in many directions.

People: We come, seeking the One who gathers what has been scattered.

Leader: The world has many voices that promise life but leave us weary.

People: Today, we come to listen for the voice of Christ.

Leader: Before fear named us...

People: God called us beloved.

Leader: Before shame told us to hide...

People: God called us into the light.

Leader: Before striving convinced us we had to earn our worth...

People: Christ welcomed us with grace.

Leader: Bring your joy.

Bring your questions.

Bring your grief.

Bring your hope.

Bring every part of who you are.

People: We come just as we are, trusting that Christ welcomes all of us.

Leader: The One who calls us is here.

The One who gathers us is here.

The One who makes us whole is here.

People: With grateful hearts, we come to worship the God who names us truthfully, loves us completely, and is making us whole.

All: Let us worship God.

**Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

NCH 459 (1-3)

Listening To Our Sacred Text

Ann Boohar

Romans 7:15–25a (NRSVUE)

15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. 17 But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but

not the ability. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, 23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

***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

Erica Britton

Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30 (NRSVUE)

16 “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

17 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

18 “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; 19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

25 At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Sermon

The Slow Work of Becoming Whole

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.]

**I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

NCH 489 (1,3,4,6)

***Prayer of Commitment**

Leader: Gracious God, there are so many voices competing for our hearts.

People: Too often, we have believed voices that never truly loved us.

Leader: We have listened to fear more readily than faith.

People: We have allowed fear to tell us who we are.

Leader: We have trusted shame more than grace.

People: We have hidden parts of ourselves that You have never stopped loving.

Leader: We have believed the voices that told us we were not enough, that we had to prove ourselves, protect ourselves, or earn our place.

People: Forgive us for trusting those voices more than Yours.

Leader: We have allowed resentment to shape our relationships, scarcity to shape our generosity, and anxiety to shape our imagination.

People: We confess that we have often looked everywhere but to You for our identity.

Leader: Gather together what has been scattered within us.

People: Heal what has been fractured.

Leader: Quiet the voices that accuse, diminish, and divide.

People: Help us hear again the voice of Christ saying, "Come to me."

Leader: Give us the courage to trust Your invitation.

People: Teach us to answer Your call with our whole lives.

Leader: Give us the honesty of Paul to tell the truth about our divided hearts.

People: And the grace to believe that You are making us whole.

Leader: Let Christ become the center around which our lives are gathered.

People: Let His love become our center, His truth become our guide, and His life become our life.

All: Loving God, keep forming us into people whose lives are no longer ruled by fear, shame, resentment, or scarcity, but by Your love. Make us into a people whose hearts are becoming whole, whose lives bear the likeness of Christ, and whose love becomes a witness to Your kingdom. We pray in the name of Jesus, who calls us, gathers us, and makes us whole. Amen.

Offertory Music *The Power of Your Love* Bullock, arr. Holstein

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:

There are tables that divide, tables that measure worth, and tables where only some are welcome. This is not one of those tables.

This is Christ's table—a table where strangers become neighbors, where burdens are shared, and where grace is given freely.

Here there is room for wonder, room for questions, room for healing, and room for hope.

So come with your whole self. Come and receive the bread of life and the cup of blessing.

For Christ welcomes all who seek love, all who hunger for mercy, and all who desire a deeper life.

The welcome is wide. The grace is free. Come and be nourished.
Amen.

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, and accompanied us through every season of our lives—through what we understood, and what remained a mystery, through familiar paths and unexpected turns.

You have come near to us in Jesus Christ, showing us that Your love is larger than our fears, and Your future larger than our imagining.

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 now ready.

Sharing the Bread

Let Us Break Bread Together - Verse one NCH330

Let us break bread together on our knees.

Let us break bread together on our knees.

(Servers distribute bread to congregation. Pastor serves them when they return to the table.)

PASTOR: Take and eat. This is the body of Christ, given for you.

PEOPLE: Amen

Sharing the cup

Let Us Drink Wine Together – Verse two NCH 330

Let us drink wine together on our knees.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.

(Servers distribute cups to congregation. Pastor serves them when they return to the table.)

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:

Christ will come again. Amen.

**Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing*

NCH 77 (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:

Beth Saylor: Greeters/Offering Collection

Susan Ward: Tech Support

Ann Boohar, Erica Britton: Lay Reader(s)

Beth Saylor and Greg Saylor: Fellowship Hour

Beth Saylor and Ann Boohar: Counters, Communion Servers

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, 7/12/26

: Greeters/Offering Collection

Susan Ward: Tech Support

Bonnie Yost, Carol Swingle: Lay Reader(s)

Carol Swingle, Kang Chen: Fellowship Hour

Susan Ward and 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

7/7/26: 1pm: Café Script (Hybrid-Come in person or join via Zoom)

7/11/26: CLS Workday 9am-12pm

7/11/26: Fostering Hope 10am-12pm (Church House in use)

7/12/26: 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, Jeanine Hiester

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.

A SUMMER WORSHIP POSSIBILITY

Pastor Jill Laufenberg and the people of **Church of the Living Shepherd** have graciously invited UCC East Goshen to join them for two **Healing & Prayer Sundays** this summer—**July 26** and **August 30**.

As I reflected on the invitation, it struck me that this could be a wonderful opportunity. During the summer months, when attendance is often lighter because of vacations and travel, perhaps we might consider worshipping together with another congregation once each month. I think two congregations praying together in the middle of the summer would be a quiet but beautiful witness that the Church is not a collection of isolated communities, but one Body learning to recognize itself in one another.

At this point, this is simply an invitation to discern together. Any decision to worship jointly would be a conversation for our

congregation and Council. Before we explore that possibility, I'd simply like to know whether there is interest.

If this possibility interests you, I'd love to hear from you.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit enlarges our lives by reminding us that the Church is always bigger than any one congregation, and that some of God's sweetest gifts are waiting for us in the fellowship we have not yet shared.

Pastor Lynice

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.