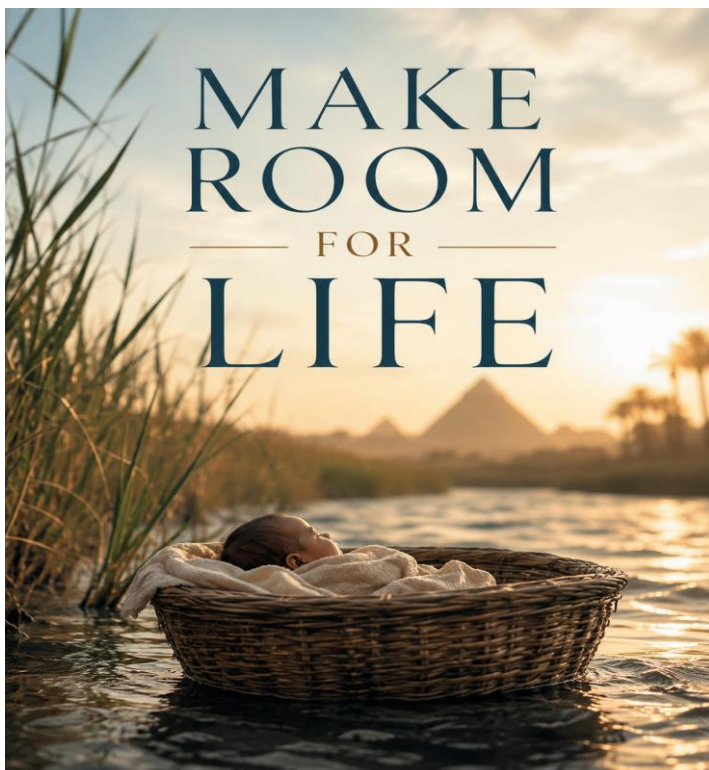


UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

We Are a Church of Extravagant Welcome for All People!

August 23, 2026—10AM



Make Room for Life **Thirteenth Sunday of 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

Ringling of the Singing Bowl

Invocation

***Call to Worship**

Leader:

Come, beloved of God,
with the life you have been given
and the life you are still becoming.

People:

We come to offer ourselves to God.

Leader:

Come with what you can give,
and with your need for what others carry.

People:

We come to receive one another as gifts.

Leader:

Come asking for eyes that notice,
hearts that remain open,
and courage for the choices before us.

People:

Form us, O God, in the ways of love.

Leader:

Let us worship the One
who is still making room for life.

All:

With gratitude and hope,
we worship God.

Amen.

**O for a World*

NCH 575 (1-5)

Listening To Our Sacred Text

Carol Swingle

Romans 12:1–8 (NRSVUE)

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8 the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

***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

Rain Willover

Exodus 1:8–17, 22; 2:1–10 (NRSVUE)

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. 9 He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. 10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” 11 Therefore they set taskmasters over

them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. 13 The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude 14 and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16 "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." 17 But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.

22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. 3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. 4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. 6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" 8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. 10 When the child grew up,

she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Psalm 124 (NRSVUE)

1 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side
—let Israel now say—

2 if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,

3 then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;

4 then the flood would have swept us away;
the torrent would have gone over us;

5 then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

6 Blessed be the LORD,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the hunters;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

Sermon

While the Child is Still in the Water

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 life,
in the ordinary places where our lives unfold,
teach us to notice what is ours to do.

People:

Give us wisdom to discern,
courage to respond,
and humility to know that we do not act alone.

Leader:

When fear narrows our vision,
open us again.
When habit governs our choices,
make us attentive.
When we are tempted to believe
that what we have to offer is too small to matter,
remind us that faithfulness often begins
with what is already in our hands.

People:

Teach us to offer what we have
and to receive what others have to give.

Leader:

Shape our lives toward compassion.
Make us trustworthy with whatever power we possess.
Help us use our words, our choices,

our presence and our gifts
in ways that make more life possible.

People:

Form us into people
who make room for life.

All:

And when we cannot see the whole way ahead,
give us grace to be faithful
to the next thing love requires.
Amen.

Offertory Music *Interlude III*

Hayes

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.

*Benediction

(People gather in a circle up front to participate in the benediction)

Deep Peace

201

♩ = 44

G D Em Bm C G/B Cmaj7 D

1. Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.____
 2. Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you.____
 3. Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.____

E Bm7 Cmaj7 Gmaj7 Cmaj7 D G

Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.____
 Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you.____
 Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.____

Em Bm7 Cmaj7 G Am7

Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the
 Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the
 Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the

B¹¹ B B⁷ Em D G D Em

world gives, I give to you. Peace, peace, deep
 world gives, I give to you. Love, love, strong
 world gives, I give to you. Joy, joy, great

Bm C Am7 Bm/D D⁷ G Am/G G

peace, my peace I give to you.____
 love, my love I give to you.____
 joy, my joy I give to you.____

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

Carol Swingle, Rain Willover: Lay Reader(s)

Todd Speece, Carol Swingle: Fellowship Hour

Linda Ardao and Carol Swingle: Counters

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, 8/30/26

: Greeters/Offering Collection

Susan Ward: Tech Support

: Lay Reader(s)

Ann Boohar, Rain Willover: Fellowship Hour

Bart Yost and Carol Swingle: 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	<i>Church House</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Day Off</i>	<i>Work from home</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Work from home</i>	---

UCCEG Worship & Events

8/25/26: 1pm: Café Script (Hybrid-Come in person or join via Zoom)

8/30/26: 10am-Worship: **Service of Healing & Prayer** with CLS

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, Barbara Booth and family, Rafael Barber, Debra Ann Leapheart and family, 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, Pete Speece, Annie Sherman, Claudia Morrow, Cathie Bonner (Carolyn Scherer's cousin), Lurch Hill, Jeanine Hiester, Lizzy Hinton, Amanda Runyan, Jim Dormond.

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.

SERVICE OF HEALING AND PRAYER

On **Sunday, August 30**, we will step just across the way and worship with our neighbors and fellow followers of Christ at **Church of the Loving Shepherd**, the congregation with whom we share this beautiful piece of land.

Throughout the summer, Loving Shepherd has gathered on the final Sunday of each month for a special **Service of Healing and Prayer**, and they have warmly invited us to join them. Over time, they have also extended several gracious invitations for our two congregations to worship and share fellowship together. We have not yet had the

opportunity to say yes, and this fifth Sunday offers a lovely occasion to do so. And while we will be worshipping in a different setting, **the time and rhythm of our Sunday morning will remain familiar.** Worship will begin at our usual time of **10:00 a.m.** We will follow Loving Shepherd's Healing and Prayer service, they will offer the music for our worship, and **I will offer a brief sermon.** The service will conclude at approximately the same time as our Sunday worship ordinarily does. There is something beautifully simple about this opportunity. We do not have to travel far or do anything complicated. We are simply accepting the hospitality of neighbors who have invited us to worship with them and allowing ourselves the gift of becoming a little better acquainted.

So, on **August 30 at 10:00 a.m.,** come with an open heart and a spirit of neighborliness. Let us cross the short distance between us, receive this invitation with gratitude, and share the blessing of worship with people who, for this season, have been quite literally **our neighbors on the journey.**

WEST CHESTER FOOD CUPBOARD (WCFC)

Thank you from WCFC: Thank you so much for your continued generosity to the West Chester Food Cupboard for the growing number of families who rely on us. 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. 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, 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.