

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

We Are a Church of Extravagant Welcome for All People!

October 11, 2026—10AM



When God Comes Close

Twentieth 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

Prelude

The Storm is Passing Over

AAHH

Pastoral Welcome

Announcements

Ringling of the Singing Bowl

Invocation

***Call to Worship**

PASTOR: God is nearer than we know.

PEOPLE: God meets us where we are.

PASTOR: Come with all that you carry.

PEOPLE: We are held in the presence of God.

PASTOR: Beloved, God is here.

ALL: Let us worship God.

**There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place*

AAHH 326

***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.

Special Music: *Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior*

AAHH

performed by Pastor Lynice and Warren Cooper

“Vulnerability”

written and performed by Rain Willover

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

Isaiah 25: 6-9 (NRSVUE)

Erica Britton

6 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples

a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,

of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

7 And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
8 he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

9 It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

**Just A Closer Walk with Thee*

AAHH 455 (1-3)

Sermon

When God Comes Close

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.]

Special Music: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

AAHH

performed by Warren Cooper

Prayer of Commitment

PASTOR: God of life, destroy the shroud that keeps us from seeing one another and You.

PEOPLE: Swallow up all that diminishes life, and wipe the tears from every face.

PASTOR: Come close to us, until fear gives way to trust and sorrow makes room for joy.

PEOPLE: Teach us to care for one another with the tenderness You have shown us.

PASTOR: Remind us again of the goodness of being alive.

ALL: And send us out leaning into Your everlasting love. Amen.

Offertory Music *You Can't Beat God Giving*

AAHH

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.

“Green Is”

written and performed by Rain Willover

**Leaning On the Everlasting Arms*

AAHH 371 (1-3)

***Benediction**

(People gather in a circle up front to participate in the 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:

: Greeters/Offering Collection

Susan Ward: Tech Support

Erica Britton: Lay Reader(s)

Kang Chen and Ann Boohar: Fellowship Hour

Beth Sayler and Carol Swingle: Counters

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, 10/18/26

Bonnie & Steve Yost: Greeters/Offering Collection

Bart Yost: Tech Support

Bonnie Yost, Rain Willover: Lay Reader(s)

Bonnie Yost and Rain Willover: Fellowship Hour

Bonnie Yost and Greg Sayler: 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

10/13/26: 1pm: Café Script (Hybrid-in person or join via Zoom)

10/15/26: 10am-12pm: Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ-WEBINAR

10/18/26: 9:25am: Pop-Up Choir

10/18/26: 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, 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), Jeanine Hiester, Lizzy Hinton, family and friends of Don Rising, Denise.

Announcements and Community Notices

CHOIR REHEARSAL-POP UP CHOIR

Sunday Pop-up Choir will happen next Sunday, Oct 18. If you enjoy singing, come join other singers next Sunday morning. We'll meet at 9:25am and learn an anthem. Then we'll sing it in worship that day. See Marty if you have questions.

HYMN SING

Our new hymnal has many familiar songs as well as new ones. On Oct 25 before worship, we'll have a 20-minute hymn sing. You choose a hymn and we'll all sing a verse. Come a little early and start your day singing!

UCCEG FAITH FORMATION INTEREST SURVEY

Faith formation is about the practices, relationships, learning, reflection, and experiences that help us deepen our faith and become more fully the people and community God is calling us to be. As we plan future formation opportunities at UCCEG, we want to hear from you. What would nourish you? What are you curious about? What kinds of gatherings or practices would you genuinely make room for in your life?

This interest survey should take about 5–7 minutes. Your responses will help us prioritize offerings that reflect both the interests and the actual capacity and commitments of our community. Grab a paper copy of the survey from the table in the vestibule, scan the QR code below, or visit this link to complete the survey digitally:

<https://bit.ly/UCCEGformation>.

QR CODE:



SCAN ME

VIRTUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FOR KEYSTONE CONGREGATIONS

Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ

October 15 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Virtual Event

This webinar qualifies for 2 hours of diversity, anti-racism or cultural competency credits. Open to lay and clergy

General Synod in 2023 recognized a fifth stream of historical significance for the United Church of Christ. Here in Keystone, most of our congregations were nurtured in the Reformed stream. However, we

do have a few from the other prevalent streams: Congregational, Christian, and Evangelical. This fifth stream was historically grouped with the (white) Christian stream, but there is much that distinguished them as a separate entity in our founding. At that Synod, then General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, offered an official apology stating there were “always five” and shared his “grief that this fifth tradition had been willfully subjugated” for so long.

Rev. Dr. Nora Foust is planning a continuing education event on October 15th, open to lay and clergy, to continue the conversation started at Synod and with the publication of “Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ” that same year. In this time of learning together, we will explore the Afro-Christian Convention and refresh existing knowledge around the Christian, Congregational, Evangelical, and Reformed traditions also present at our founding.

“Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ” is available from Pilgrim Press, Amazon, and your favorite local bookseller. This continuing education event is being offered with no fee in hopes that you will purchase, and read, the book ahead of our session for which we do ask that you register. The link below will take you to the information and registration page:

Details

- Date: October 15
- Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Event Categories: [Continuing Education](#), [Keystone Conference](#)
- Website: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/xrn8jza/lp/7f6eafc6-fdd8-4e68-9f84-2063dc5968ae>

CAFÉ SCRIPT — 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 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 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.

Nearer Than We Know

Dear UCC East Goshen,

Sometimes we imagine that God is easiest to find in the extraordinary—the answered prayer, the unmistakable sign, the moment when everything suddenly makes sense.

But much of life with God is quieter than that.

Sometimes God is found in morning light coming through a window. In a song we have known for years. In the voice of someone we love. In laughter that catches us by surprise. In the meal somebody places before us. In the strength that arrives when we were certain we had none left.

And sometimes there is no particular feeling at all.

Still, God is near.

I have been thinking about how much of faith is learning to trust that nearness—not because everything is settled, not because every prayer has been answered, but because the presence of God does not depend upon our ability to perceive it.

The old spiritual wisdom of the church has always known this. God meets us in bread and cup, water and touch, music and silence, ordinary people and ordinary days.

Perhaps holiness is nearer than we imagine.

Perhaps grace has been brushing against us all along.

Perhaps there are moments when we don't need to reach for God at all.

We simply discover that **God has already come near to us.**

Wherever this Friday finds you, I hope there is some small moment of beauty, rest, laughter, music, tenderness, or peace.

And I hope you receive it simply as gift.

With love,
Pastor Lynice