UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

We Are a Church of Extravagant Welcome for All People!

November 22, 2026—10AM



Already Precious

Twenty-sixth 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 *Come, Ye Thankful People Come* arr. Choplin

Pastoral Welcome

Announcements

Ringing of the Singing Bowl

Invocation

*Call to Worship

The God Who Comes Looking

Leader: Before we knew how to find our way, God was already coming toward us. Before we could name our wounds, Love had drawn near. Before we could imagine ourselves worthy of such devotion, God had already called us beloved.

People: We come to worship the God who knows our worth, who seeks us when we are scattered, and whose love does not grow weary of finding us.

Leader: Hear the promise of the Holy One: I myself will search for my sheep. I will seek the lost, gather the scattered, bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak. No life is too small for my attention. No wound is beyond my tenderness.

People: We are not forgotten. We are not forsaken. We belong to the One whose love will not let us go.

Leader: And Jesus tells us of a merchant who discovers a pearl of surpassing beauty and gladly gives everything for its sake. What if the wonder is not only what we are willing to surrender for God, but how extravagantly God has loved us?

People: Then let our hearts awaken to the wonder of such love! Let us receive the mercy that seeks us, the grace that restores us, and the joy of knowing we are already beloved.

Leader: Come, then, all who are weary, all who are wandering, all who have forgotten their own preciousness. The Shepherd is searching. The table is spread. The doors of mercy stand open.

All: We come with gratitude and wonder, to worship the God who calls us precious, gathers us in love, and makes us whole. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* NCH 43 (1-4)

***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.

Listening to Our Sacred Text

Rain Willover

Ezekiel 34: 11-16 (NRSVUE)

11 For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them

from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

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.

*****_Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us_ NCH 252 (1-3)

Listening To Our Sacred Text

Rain Willover

Matthew 13: 45, 46 (NRSVUE)

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine
pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that
he had and bought it.

Sermon

Worth Everything

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

Teach Us to Treasure What You Treasure

Leader: God of immeasurable love, you have sought us in our wandering, held us in our brokenness, and cherished us when we could scarcely cherish ourselves. You have never confused our wounds with our worth, nor our failures with the fullness of who we are.

People: Open our hearts to receive the love we cannot earn, and free us from the exhausting labor of trying to become worthy of what you have already given.

Leader: Teach us to see with the eyes of the Shepherd—to recognize the preciousness of every life, to draw near to the wounded with tenderness, and to cherish one another without measuring anyone's worth by their strength, success, or usefulness.

People: Give us hearts spacious enough for mercy, courage strong enough for justice, and love generous enough to make room for every precious life.

Leader: Forgive us for the ways we have mistaken success for worth, strength for goodness, and belonging for something that must be earned. Deliver us from the habits of a world that prices everything and treasures so little.

People: Teach us to recognize the pearl beneath the dust, the dignity beneath the wound, and the beauty that suffering has not destroyed.

Leader: And when we are tempted to hold tightly to what cannot give life, remind us of the merchant who recognized what was truly precious. Give us the freedom to release what diminishes love and the courage to give ourselves to what makes life flourish.

People: May we spend our lives on what love declares precious—not on what the world rewards, but on what your heart has never ceased to treasure.

Leader: Faithful Shepherd, make us participants in your searching, your gathering, your healing, and your joy. Let those who encounter us discover something of your tenderness, and let our common life bear witness to the astonishing generosity of your reign.

All: We belong to you, O God. Not because we have earned your love, but because your love has claimed us. Send us into the world with open hands, courageous hearts, and eyes awakened to the sacred worth of every life. **May the love that came looking for us become the love by which we live. Amen.**

Offertory Music *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

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.

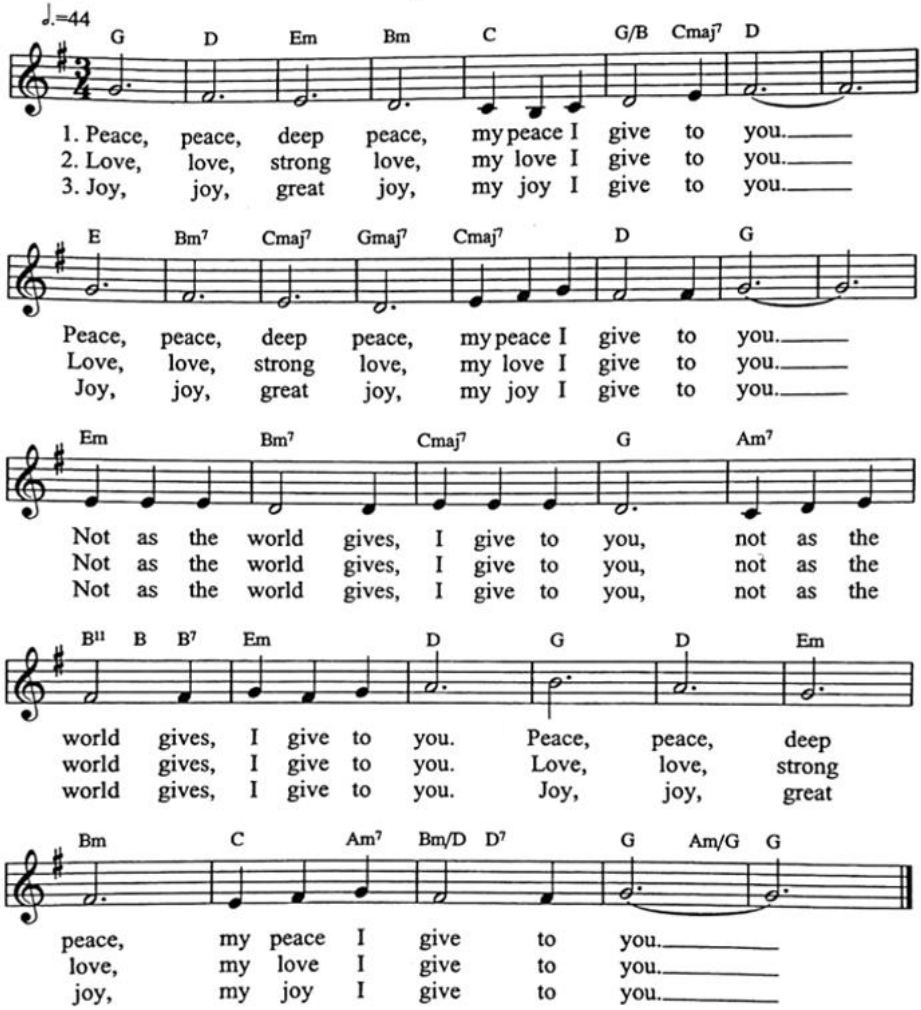
**O Love That Will Not Let Me Go* NCH 485 (1-3)

*Benediction

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

Deep Peace

201



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
Rain Willover: Lay Reader(s)
Beth Sayler, Kang Chen: Fellowship Hour
Bonnie Yost, Webb Mealy: Counters

Worship Volunteers for Sunday, 11/29/26

: Greeters/Offering Collection
Bunny Watts, Rain Willover: Advent Candle Lighters
Susan Ward: Tech Support
Rain Willover: Lay Reader(s)
Todd Speece, Carol Swingle: Fellowship Hour
Susan Ward, Webb Mealy: Counters

Church Office Hours This Week

	Pastor Lynice	Administrator
Monday	*Day Off*	*Work from home*
Tuesday	10-4	*Work from home*
Wednesday	10-4	*Work from home*
Thursday	Thanksgiving Day	*Thanksgiving Day*
Friday	*Day Off*	*Church House*
Saturday	*Work from home*	---

UCCEG Worship & Events

11/22/26: Congregational Meeting (following service)

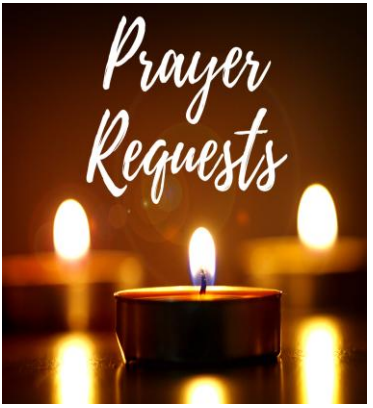
11/24/26: 1pm: Café Script (Hybrid-in person or join via Zoom)
11/26/26: Thanksgiving Day
11/29/26: 10am-Worship (Advent begins)

Save the Date:
12/24/26: Christmas Eve Service: 3pm: Church House

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, David Brubaker, Marilyn, Sallie Kinard, Wallace Panel, Lurch Hill

Announcements and Community Notices

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER

We will again be selling 6 inch pots of poinsettias for Christmas available in Red, White and Pink with a decorative pot cover for $9.00/pot. The order forms must be in by November 29th. The orders forms are in the hallway. Any questions, please contact Bonnie Yost.

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. 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 general needs at Safe Harbor. 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.