

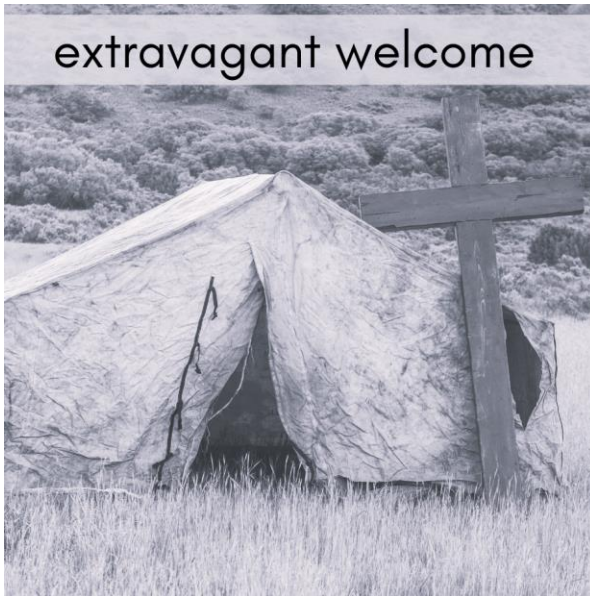
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Hospitality, Grace, and Hope are Offered to All!

May 5, 2024 – 10 AM

EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME



Rev. Jocelyn Emerson, Interim Pastor

Dana Kacyon, Music Director

Rev. Marvin A. Marsh, Guest Preacher

1201 North Chester Road, West Chester, PA 19380

Office: 610-692-2951

office@ucceastgoshen.org

www.ucceastgoshen.org

THANK YOU to ALL helping with Worship Today

Bart Yost: Tech Support

Lucy Barber: Conversation for All Ages

Beth Sayler: Lay Reader

Linda Ardao and Andy Grim: Communion Servers

Todd Speece and Carol Swingle: Fellowship Hour

Linda Ardao and Andy Grim: Counters

Worship volunteers for next Sunday, 5/12

_____ : Greeter/Offering Collection

Susan Ward: Tech Support

_____ : Lay Reader

_____ : Fellowship Hour

Bonnie Yost and Ann Boohar: Counters

Living In God's Love Together, We Gather

** Please stand as you are able.*

Bold type = Congregation P = Pastor

PRELUDE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Lizzie S. Tourjée // arr. Harold DuCou

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE SINGING BOWL

WE CENTER OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

Be Still and Know

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Be Still and Know'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system covers the first six measures, and the second system covers measures 7 through 12. The music is a simple, slow hymn tune with a steady bass line and a melody in the treble clef.

~ Music from eHymnBook.org <http://ehymnbook.org/CMMS/music.php?id=mr00016>

*WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

P: So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

P: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; **that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.**

P: So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us;

we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

~ 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 [NRSV]

*HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

NCH 23

*OPENING PRAYER

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit. 1 Cor. 12:4

P: Blessing God, whose caring hands cupped beneath the elements of the universe and – like a potter – fashioned the very vessels of our being,

Reach out your hand in blessing on us this morning.

P: As you drew the lines of our palms and shaped the idiosyncrasies of our fingers,

Teach us to reach out our hands to others in love.

P: Help us not to raise a threatening fist but to warmly grasp the possibilities of new-found reconciliations.

Soften our touch, O God:

P: For your creation suffers from warring and pollution and your people reach out for help and solace.

Encourage and strengthen us with your wisdom until we become like You, fashioners of justice and love, hands open for peace and benediction, gathering blessing and flourishing life for all. Amen.

~ written by Bobbi Paterson, *Shaping Sanctuary*, ed. by Kelly Turney (2000).

*PASSING THE PEACE *(in a safe 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.

CONVERSATION FOR ALL AGES

Lucy Barber

CHOIR ANTHEM

Take My Hand

Patsy Ford Simms

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Holy Love, Blessed Light and Sacred Life,
Fill us with Your Presence until we are empty of all but You.

[During this moment of silence you are invited to sit fully in the Presence of the Sacred.]

P: Next, we share out loud our prayers of concern for family, friends, and our community, for wounded places and people burdened with care.

[You are invited to offer your prayers of concern.]

P: Lord, in Your Mercy
Hear our prayers.

P: Now we share our joys and gratuudes, the ways in which God has blessed us this week, and the moments we felt God's presence.

[You are invited to offer your prayers of thanksgiving, celebration, blessings, and gratitude.]

P: Lord, in Your Joy
Hear our prayers.

P: Having shared our prayers of concern and our prayers of gratitude, we now recommit ourselves to following the Way of Jesus who taught us to pray saying...

**O Breathing Life,
your Name shines everywhere!
Release a space to plant your Presence here.
Imagine your possibilities now.
Embody your desire in every light and form.
Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.
Untie the knots of failure binding us,
as we release the strands we hold of others' faults.
Help us not forget our Source,
Yet free us from not being in the Present.
From You arises every Vision, Power and Song from
gathering to gathering.
Amen.**

~ Emergent Church translation

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Ubi Caritas

Taizé

F C Dm /C B^b /C D G C

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

5 F C Dm Gm C g F

u - bi car - i - tas De - us i - bi est
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

WE LISTEN TO OUR SACRED TEXT

Acts 10: 9-23

Beth Saylor

About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?"

The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say." Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.

WE LISTEN TO OUR CONTEMPORARY TEXT

Beth Sayler

If you are standing with other women in a circle and there is a woman standing alone in your circle's vicinity – the thing to do is notice her, smile at her, move over a bit and say "Hi, come join us!"

Even if she decides not to join your circle – even if she looks at you like you're crazy, inviting her is still the thing to do. Widen your circles. All the time. Horseshoes are better than circles. Leave space. Always leave space.

~ Glennon Doyle

MEDITATION/SERMON

Rev. Marvin A. Marsh

[In the silence after the sermon, we allow the sacred text and dialogue of the sermon to settle in our hearts, bones and bodies, and soul. We do this by opening our hearts and inviting God to settle the message we each needed to receive.]

WE ARE INVITED TO GIVE

P: God has blessed us beyond measure and our own generosity is an opportunity to use a portion of our blessings to minister to others. As Jesus gathered the eleven and sent them into the world to share their witness and wisdom,

Christ is calling us to gather our gifts and offer them to God in worship. Let us gather our gifts and worship through our generosity.

~ **Authority: Service Prayers for Trinity Sunday Year A** was written by Rev. Derek Terry is the current pastor of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Cincinnati, OH

[Our communion offering for May goes to Strengthen Our Church, one of the UCC 5 for 5 offerings.]

WE GIVE GENEROUSLY

Communion Meditation

John S. B. Hodges // arr. Victor C. Johnson

EASY OFFERING OPTION

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.**

*WE DEDICATE OUR OFFERINGS

God of the Resurrection, help us use these gifts to offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where there is chaos and love where there is fear. We can do incredible things because your Spirit lives within us. Amen.

~ Peace Be With You: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter were written by Rev. Jacob Nault, Pastor of Union-Congregational Church in Waupun, WI.

WE GATHER AROUND THE COMMON TABLE AND SHARE IN THE COMMON MEAL



WE PREPARE OURSELVES TO COME TO THE TABLE

P: Dearest friends,
at this table the Spirit welcomes us all.
Here she gives special honor
to the hungry and the poor.

Here she renews creation
with healing and peace.
Here she pledges a graceful world to come,
a world of joy and dignity for all.
And here she lets us taste it,
the new way of being together:
bearing each other's burdens,
sharing each other's joys,
practicing pardon,
eating in peace,
justice in all we say and do.
So come to the Spirit's table.
Receive new life.
It is for you, for me, for everyone.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

P: Let us pray:

From the first day to the last, O God,
you are generous and kind,
filling the world with mercy's bread,
pouring the cup of mercy's joy.
**You give us gifts too many to count:
our hearts overflow when we remember you.**

P: Even in death, life abounds.
And so we praise you, singing your glory
with every creature you made, saying,
**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty,
The whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.
Blessed is the one
Who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

WE REMEMBER OUR STORY OF COMMUNION AND CONNECTION

P: And now, O God, with grateful hearts,
we remember Jesus.

P: When all seems lost,
when we are stuck in shame,
when nothing we try
resurrects our fading hope,
he comes to us;
he brings the morning's light.

P: He tells us where to cast our nets.
The catch is abundant;
our nets are full.

P: He knows we are always hungry;
he feeds us hope.

P: On the lakeshore he lights the breakfast fire,
grills fish for us, and bread.
In the mist of morning,
guilt is gone, shame fades away.
We eat together, speaking only of love.
It is always this way with him—
food and pardon, mercy and life.

P: Even on that night when we betrayed him,
he gave us bread and wine
and told us to remember him
and all his mercies
whenever we gather to eat.

P: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion,
Jesus took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in
thanksgiving and said,

(The pastor lifts up the bread.)

“Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

P: In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said,
(The pastor lifts up the cup.)

“Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it.

WE BLESS THE BREAD AND CUP

P: Then come, Holy Spirit,
bless this bread and cup,
signs of the Living One
truly present here in love.

**For all who receive these gifts in faith,
make them food and drink of lasting life,
until the new age of justice comes
and every creature beholds it.
In Christ’s name we pray.
Amen.**

WE SHARE IN THE COMMON MEAL

P: These are the gifts of God made ready for the people of God.
Let us share in this Common Meal.

[All are invited forward to receive Communion.]

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

NCH 330

Verses 1 & 3

while bread is being served

Verses 2 & 3

while cup is being served

WE GIVE THANKS AFTER THE MEAL

P: Gracious God,
we thank you for this meal
and for all of the ways you nourish us.

Grow in us that we may nourish others.

**Sustain us as we press toward the goal of your call in Christ
Jesus. Amen.**

~ Easter Season Communion Liturgy. Written by Mary Lutti.
From Worship Ways, UCC; based on John 21:1-14.

*HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other

NCH 388

*BENEDICTION

P: Mine is the church where everybody's welcome.
I know it's true 'cause I got through door.
We are a dazzling bouquet of ev'ry kind of flower.
Jump in the vase, 'cause we've got space for more.

We don't simply tolerate each other;
We ask and tell; we don't just turn away.
We give attention to ev'ry bud and blossom.
Let ev'ry face come grace the grand bouquet.

~ Bret Hesla (1995)

*SUNG BENEDICTION

(Verse 1)

Deep Peace

201

$\text{♩} = 44$

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.____

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.____

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

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

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

POSTLUDE

Room at the Cross for You

Ira Stanphill // arr. Fred Bock

Our worship has ended, and our service has just begun...
Please join us for fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.

UCCEG Worship & Events

May 7 – No Café Script

May 9 – 7 PM Choir rehearsal

May 12 – 8:30 AM Mother's Day
Breakfast and 10 AM Worship

Community Meetings

May 6 – 7 PM AA Meeting

May 7 – 10 AM Makin' Music

May 8 – 10 AM Makin' Music

Church Office Hours This Week

	<u>Pastor Jocelyn</u>	<u>Office</u>
<i>Monday</i>	---	---
<i>Tuesday</i>	---	---
<i>Wednesday</i>	---	---
<i>Thursday</i>	---	---
<i>Friday</i>	---	---
<i>Saturday</i>	---	---

While Pastor Jocelyn is away, if there is an emergency, you may contact Bonnie Yost or Linda Ardao.

Prayer Requests

Please fill out a **prayer request form** (on the table in the Narthex) or email office@ucceastgoshen.org for any updates or additions to our prayer list.

We pray for the following members and friends of UCCEG:



Cliff Keljikian, George Litzke, Mary Ann Meacham, Louise and Jim Elkins, Patty Berkheimer, David Ardao, Don & Carol Beideman, Amy, Jose Francisco, Charlene, Ashley Vogel, Mary Ellen, Blakelyn, Roy Garlisch, Don B., Eileen, William Walker, Nancy Walker, Roxanne, Michelle Meisten, Steve Jurcyk & family, Suzanne Emmas, Erik, Donald van Krieken Sr., AJ, Gwen Webb, Lurch Hill, Rev. Suzanne Spaulding, Family and friends of David

Financial Update

The Finance Team is working to be very transparent and informative about our financial situation as we move forward with the sale of our building. We have been blessed that many members have pre-paid a portion or their entire pledge in the first three months of the year. This has allowed us to make it through March without any significant issues. The numbers and data below reflect this pre-paid giving. As we move into April and May the income we receive will drop as a result of having pledges pre-paid in Jan/Feb/March.

Budgeted Monthly expenses: \$13,234

Surplus Income from March: \$5150

NOTE: This is because pledges were pre-paid and the PSEC Bridge Loan

Total April Income: \$9586

Amount still needed: -\$1502 (surplus)

Offerings:

April 7: \$3220

April 14: \$2250

April 21: \$1821

April 28: \$705

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$430

Amount received from PSEC Bridge Loan: \$40,000

NOTE: This will be re-evaluated in July.

Amount of PSEC Bridge Loan used: \$0.00

Thanks to the PSEC Bridge Loan, we had enough to meet our April expenses. Because pledges have been pre-paid it will mean that we will have greater deficits each month as the year continues.

Communion Offering

Our Communion Offering for **May** is Strengthen our Church.

This Communion offering goes to support one of the UCC 5 for 5 offerings. UCCEG commits annually to being a 5 for 5 congregation, meaning that we participate in all 5 UCC denominational offerings. We invite you to give as your feel led.

Request from the Transition Task Force

The TTF is looking for two people who would be interested in organizing some dates in May and June to begin cleaning out the 2nd floor of the Education Wing. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Greg Saylor at say433pow@comcast.net or 610-256-6588.



Easter Season Worship



LIVING INTO HOPE AND
RESURRECTION:
Becoming a Mission-Driven Congregation



May 5: Extravagant Welcome. Rev. Marvin Marsh preaching.

May 12: Service is Worship. Pastor Jocelyn preaching.

May 12: Mother's Day breakfast.

May 19: Pentecost – Becoming a Mission-Driven Congregation. Pastor Jocelyn preaching.

What “Extravagant Welcome” Means in the United Church of Christ

(Information from <https://ucc.org/who-we-are>)

“Jesus didn’t turn people away, neither do we.” When you’re gutsy enough to make such a claim, it’s not always easy to make good on it. Following Jesus’ lead, the United Church of Christ strives to keep doors open to all. By God’s grace—in the past and today—we do what needs to be done to be bold people of God’s welcome...

The church, since its beginning, continues to “extend hospitality to strangers (Roman 12:13).” The church, after all, is a blessed company of strangers held together by the grace of God.

UCC churches express God’s extravagant welcome in a variety of ways. Our welcome embraces both those we invite to participate in our congregations, as well as those outside the church, with whom we work for God’s justice and compassion. That is our prayer, our hope.

Who is welcome? Our churches are among those whose doors are open to God’s children of different cultures, races, genders, ages, sexual orientations, abilities, economic situations, and theological traditions. It isn’t always easy to be so open. Each UCC congregation prayerfully discerns and expresses how wide their doors and arms are open...

Once one enters the door, it’s not a matter of “sit back, be quiet, speak only as we do.” You, your heart’s questions and your gifts, are vital to the congregation. Both we and you grow together in faith and witness. Your distinct story of faith joins with centuries of stories that make up the Church, and specifically the United Church of Christ. In God’s grace, you change: we change. We make a holy difference in each other’s lives, and, together, in the world.

In gratitude, because God welcomes us, we are called to make bold stands. In behalf of and along with those who remain oppressed, suffering, alienated, and poor in God’s world, we speak and act act...Inspired by God’s gift of hospitality, we work for God’s welcoming world of love and justice.