

# PENNSBURG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

775 Main Street  
Pennsburg, PA 18073



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To our Members & Friends

*August 2020*  
CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Pastor: Rev. Matthew Gorkos**

**Consistory Officers:**

President ..... Jane Bernhard  
Vice President ..... Dana Heimbach  
Treasurer ..... Sharon Burns  
Secretary ..... Paula Sell  
**Director of Music:** ..... Audrey Reinhart  
**Custodian**..... Lynn Sturdevant  
**Administrative Assistant**..... Jane MacNeill

Pennsburg U.C.C.

**10:00 AM Morning Worship**  
**Re-opening Sunday, August 9th**  
**See you then!**

**Our Mission Statement:**

We are a welcoming  
congregation that  
celebrates  
and shares God's  
unconditional love with  
each other, the community  
and the world.

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Dearest siblings in Christ,

The circumstances of the coronavirus have challenged our community in ways we've never been challenged before. We have deeply missed being able to worship together, fellowship together, and serve our neighbors together. Myself, and our Consistory, thank you for your patience and continued support as we have sought to navigate these uncharted waters with an eye towards what is wisest and safest for our congregation and our wider community.

We are excited to inform you that, with Montgomery County have entered the green phase (and conditional upon there being no increase on restrictions before then), we will be re-opening the church building for in-person worship as of Sunday, August 9th. At that time, we will celebrate our being back together and our long-awaited Easter service.

However, there are a number of safety guidelines that will be in place and must be followed in order for us to ensure that gatherings continue to be as safe as possible. All attendees will be asked to sign in and provide contact information. By signing in, you will be accepting the potential risk and agreeing to abide by the guidelines as follows. If you are uncomfortable with the risk or unwilling to follow the guidelines, you are not being forced to attend in person. An online livestream of worship will continue to be offered via Zoom in the church's Zoom room (which is different than the previous number we'd been using so take note. For those calling in by phone, the initial call in number will remain the same 1 (929) 205-6099). This is the Meeting ID for Zoom worship beginning August 9th: 328 526 4749

These are the safety guidelines that will be in place:

1. **First and foremost, please DO NOT ATTEND worship services if you feel sick, are having symptoms of COVID-19, or have been in recent contact with another individual who is sick.** This is a matter of Christian responsibility to our fellow church members and our larger community. Even if you are asymptomatic, if there is the chance that you may transmit the virus to others, please stay home.
2. **Masks must be worn, appropriately over nose and mouth, at all times during the service and while in the building.** If you forget your mask, extra masks will be available at the church.
3. **Maintain proper social distancing (6' or more) between yourself and individuals not in your family at all times.** Although we are re-opening the building, we are still discouraging against close socialization or physical contact. Please refrain from handshakes or hugs with non-family members. And, please do not congregate before or after the worship service.

4. **Hand sanitizer will be available and placed throughout the church building.** Use it liberally.
5. **Due to sanitary concerns, please limit the use of the restroom. If you must use the restroom, ensure that you are washing your hands adequately before returning to worship.** Additionally, the women's restroom in the nursery will be closed. The men's restroom will be designated a single occupant unisex restroom.
6. **Only enter and exit the building through the backside glass door. The nursery and Miller Hall will be closed during services.** This will help limit the amount of traffic through the church building as well as still allow access to the chair lift and restroom.
7. **The church building will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each service, including light switches, door knobs, railings, and pews.**

These are the adjustments that we are making to our worship in order to aid in following the safety guidelines:

8. **We will be holding worship in the sanctuary at 10 AM.** Even though it may be warm initially, the ability to block off pews and having more open space will be more conducive to maintaining the social distancing guidelines.
9. **Offering plates will be placed at the entrance to the sanctuary.** Please deposit your offering upon arriving or exiting.
10. **All materials will be removed from the backs of the pews.** The less that there is to touch, the less opportunity there is for transmission of germs, and the less there is to clean.
11. **We will continue worshipping without bulletins by using the projection system.**
12. **There will NOT be corporate singing.** But, we will have the ability to listen to both live and recorded music as part of worship.
13. **Communion will be served using self-contained disposable cups to avoid any contamination of the elements.** This includes the first Sunday we return when we will celebrate our long-awaited Easter service.

Again, thank you for your patience and your cooperation as we return to in-person gatherings. We look forward to seeing you!

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Matt



### July 2020 Financials

Income: \$6,243.60

Expenses: \$10,840.52

### In Search Of: Tech Savvy Church Person

We are looking for a member of the congregation interested in learning and helping to keep the church's website and Facebook page up-to-date and active with important information and church activities. Pastor Matt has been handling most of this responsibility, but it is important moving forward that others are involved. If you are willing to learn, training can be provided. Contact either Pastor Matt or Consistory if you are interested.



### Virtual VBS Registration!

In light of restrictions put in place for COVID-19, many churches have had to cancel a beloved staple of summertime ministry—Vacation Bible School. Together with our neighbors from the other Lutheran and UCC churches in the Upper Perk Valley, we are excited to be offering a **virtual** VBS experience! Join us August 3rd-8th in celebrating and learning about God's Creation by participating in a daily video series. Follow this link to register and start getting excited!

<https://forms.gle/N2178nVwMGcumYb59>



### **1st Monday Meal is August 3 at 6pm. (Drive thru)**

Menu will be Hoagie w/fixins on the side, chips, drinks and cookies for dessert. Served by St. John's Lutheran.

## Update on Zoom Worship

Even with the return to in-person worship, we are planning to continue the option of real-time virtual worship on Zoom for anyone uncomfortable or unable to worship in person. For those who haven't used Zoom before, you can access the "room" using either your computer or a phone. To connect to our worship service at 10 AM on Sunday morning, you can either go to this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5526804390>

Or, call this number: 1-929-205-6099 and enter the Meeting ID: **328 526 4749**

Note, this Meeting ID number has changed from the one we'd been using throughout June and July. The previous number was Pastor Matt's personal meeting room. This number is now our church's own permanent meeting room number. Beginning August 9th, all future Zoom worship will occur at this Meeting ID.

## Upcoming Worship

With the changes involved in the return to in-person worship, as well as with Pastor Matt's upcoming departure, the worship schedule for August will be as follows:

**\*August 2nd** = there will be no in-person worship or live Zoom worship; there will be a recorded service on Facebook at 10 AM, or you may join Calvary UCC Barto at 9 AM either in person or on their Facebook live-stream.

**\*August 9th** = we will return to in-person worship or Zoom live-stream; it will be an Easter celebration service with Communion; 10 AM

**\*August 16th** = there will be in-person worship or Zoom live-stream; it will be Pastor Matt's last in-person Sunday leading worship; 10 AM

**\*August 23rd** = there will be in-person worship or Zoom live-stream; Service will be conducted by a supply pastor TBD soon; 10 AM

**\*August 30th** = there will be in-person worship or Zoom live-stream, but it will be held **at Calvary UCC Barto at 9 AM.**

**\*September 6th** = there will be in-person worship or Zoom live-stream held **at Pennsburg UCC at 9 AM**; service will be conducted by a supply pastor TBD soon.

**Greetings,**

The wall in the sanctuary has been fixed. Bachman Construction did a wonderful job of fixing it, and matching the paint color. The \$8,000 bill has been paid in full. Thank you so much to everyone who generously donated toward the repairs.

*The Property Committee*

**Update on looking for a Shared Pastor**

After a few combined consistory meetings with Calvary UCC, and help from Pastor Morris and Pastor Matt, we have put together a joint profile to look for a shared "interim" pastor that has been sent to Penn Southeast Conference. Hopefully we will be interviewing in the next few weeks.

**Thank You and Best Wishes**

As stated before in the "Upcoming Worship News", Sunday, August 16th will be Pastor Matt's last live service at Pennsburg UCC.

To say thank you and wish him well, cake and coffee, lemonade and ice tea, will be served on the church lawn immediately following our worship service. Unfortunately, due to restrictions, we must celebrate outside to allow for social distancing.

PUCC will be giving Pastor Matt a monetary gift in appreciation for his devotion and work. If you would like to contribute to the gift, please put your contribution in an envelope and mark it "PMG" and place in the offering plate or mail to the church.

*PUCC Executive Committee*