

**PENNSBURG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Pennsburg, PA 18073  
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*Address Service Requested*

**February 2024**

**Worship with PUCC every Sunday Morning at 9:00 am**

Worship services are streamed with Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/pennsburgucc>)

**Pennsburg United Church of Christ mission statement:**

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



**Consistory Officers & Employees:**

**Rev. Steven Myren**

**Cell #267 575-6773 Email - [penucc.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:penucc.pastor@gmail.com)**

President ..... Scott Mest

Vice President ..... Wendy Smedley

Treasurer & Admin Assist. .... Sharon Burns

Secretary..... Paula Sell

Organists: ..... Michael Huffman & Ernest Yeagley

Custodian ..... Lynn Sturdevant



I found the poem below and thought of you. As we continue our process for moving forward as a congregation, do not forget how God sees us, how God sees you.



"No Two Alike"

Mandy Williams

Beautiful, beautiful snowflakes, floating down to earth.  
All created to be unique, each one holding significant worth.  
Just like an intricate snowflake, we come from up above  
To bless the world with beauty, to sparkle the world with love.  
No two of us alike, we hold our own design  
And because we are so different, we get a chance to shine.  
When our Heavenly Father makes snowflakes  
I think he takes great care.  
He works on every detail  
He makes them precious and rare.  
He lovingly spends time on every one.  
He blesses them all the way through.  
If he cares this much about snowflakes  
Imagine what he thinks about you.

God bless you,  
Pastor Steve





## Special Congregational Meeting

As you may have read in the January newsletter, or heard through the grapevine from other members, Pennsburg UCC has an opportunity to help the homeless in the Upper Perkiomen valley that are in need of shelter on nights like we are experiencing this winter. Consistory recently met with Pastor John Buckley, who is one of the coordinators of the valley's Code Blue project. We have been in discussion with Pastor Buckley about the opportunity to use our House as a Code Blue shelter. This is where you, the congregation of PUCC, come in. On Sunday, January 14, Consistory called a Special Congregational meeting to be held on February 4th to further discuss using the House as a local Code Blue shelter. Consistory is presenting the congregation with the following recommendation:

“ Engage with Upper Perk Code Blue to use the House as a Code Blue shelter upon approval from the borough and/or county.”

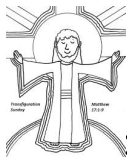
We are excited about this incredible opportunity for us to give back to the community and provide shelter for those that are in need. Please plan on joining us after worship on February 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss this, and vote on the recommendation. Your input is important to us as we look for opportunities to use the House in a way that is helpful to the community.



Worship

## What's Happening during Sunday Worship

On Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, please remember your change for February's Quarters for Sheep Heifer Project Offering.



On Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, please join us for Transfiguration Sunday, as Jesus begins his walk to Jerusalem.



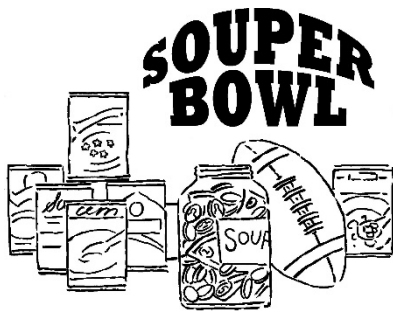
Please join us for worship on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> for the Baptism of Charlotte Huff. Charlotte is the daughter of Hailie Huff. A reception for Charlotte will be held following the service.



COMMUNITY DINNER

## First Monday Meal Help!

Pennsburg UCC has the honor of serving the First Monday Meal on February 5th . If you have the time, please come out to help. We are in need of help to set up and take down tables and chairs, plate food in the kitchen, and serve food to attendees. Food preparation will begin at 3:00 p.m. and food will be served at 6:00 p.m. Please arrive between 5 and 5:30 to help greet, seat and serve. And yes, you can eat too! Of course all helpers will be provided a meal and the opportunity to socialize and engage in a time of fellowship.



## Souper Bowl Sunday

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>

Bring your change from buying your Super Bowl party food to Sunday's worship service and donate it to the Souper Bowl of Caring offerings. This is a national fight Hunger campaign even though our offerings will be donated to The Open Link Pantry of Upper Perk to purchase food for our community people.



## American Red Cross Blood Drive

A reminder that Pennsburg UCC is hosting a Red Cross blood drive on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 7 pm. What better way to share the love after Valentine's Day than by giving the gift of life by donating blood at our upcoming blood drive. There are plenty of time-slots still available. Scheduling a donation is easy. If you want to donate, you can visit the Red Cross website at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter our sponsor code "Pennsburg UCC" in the 'Find a Blood Drive' search box, then select your preferred time and donation type (regular donation or Power Red). Please consider donating...your donation could help save a life.

Give blood. Help save lives.

# Lent



## 2024 Lent and Easter Seasons

Theme - "Forgiveness: The Journey to Health and Wholeness"

Our divided and angry world today is in desperate need of people who forgive others. During Lent and Easter, we celebrate the new life we have received from our God through the forgiveness we have received. But God's forgiveness raises serious questions about our lives and how we live our lives. When we talk about forgiveness as Christians, what exactly are we talking about? If we have been forgiven by God for our sins, why is it so difficult for us to forgive others? Why do we struggle to be the forgiving people needed today? Why is forgiveness so important in our lives? How can we become a forgiving person?

This Lent and Easter Seasons, PUCC is going to explore what the Bible has to say about forgiveness, God's mercy as we are forgiven and the struggles we face to forgive others. Our discussion will open on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at our Ash Wednesday Service. Below is the scheduled and other worship highlights that will be taking place over the next few months. Please come and join us on our Forgiveness Journey to Health and Wholeness.



Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

PUCC Service - 7:30 PM: "The Magic Eyes – A Little Fable"

Colossians 3: 12 -24 Communion

Community Services: 11 AM @ New Goshenhoppen UCC, 7 PM @ St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Drive-Thru Imposition of Ashes: 4 PM – 5:30 PM @ St. John's Lutheran Church

# Lenten Services at Pennsburg UCC

PUCC Communion First Sunday of Lent Service, February 18th

“Forgiveness is.....Forgiveness is Not.....” Romans 12: 9 – 21; 2 Timothy 4: 14 – 15

Second Sunday of Lent, February 25 th : “Ways We Are Hurt” John 5: 1 – 9

Third Sunday of Lent, March 3 rd : “Ways of Coping with Hurt” Luke 15: 11 – 32

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 10 th : “Consequences of Not Forgiving” Matthew 18: 21 – 35

Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 17 th : “Signs That You Need to Forgive” Psalm 32

Palm Sunday, March 24 th : “Barriers to Forgiveness” Luke 7: 36 – 50

Maundy Thursday Communion Service, March 28 th , 6:00 PM: “About Forgiveness”

If you would like to help lead worship during Lent and Easter Seasons, please talk to Pastor Steve.

## Community Mid-Week Lenten Services

Theme: Holy Lament

Again this year, Pennsburg UCC will be joining our Reformed Brethren in the Upper Perk Valley for Mid-Week Lenten Services. This year’s theme, “Holy Lament,” explores various kinds of lament found in scripture. Each week we will consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. This series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find there not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus’ death on the cross—the place to which the season of Lent leads us—is the reason we never mourn as those without hope.

All of the services will begin at 7 PM. The schedule of services is:

February 21 st : St. Mark’s Lutheran Church

**February 28 th : Pennsburg UCC - Please make note that when we host the service on February 28th , we will need refreshments and help for the reception following the service. Sign up sheet will be in tile room.**

March 6 th : New Goshenhoppen UCC

March 13 th : St. John’s UCC

March 20 th : Palm Schwenkfelder UCC

March 19 th Good Friday: Frieden’s UCC

Frieden’s UCC is also looking for readers for the Community Good Friday Service. If you would like to read for the service, please talk to Pastor Steve for more information. Thank you.



## Three Lenten Devotionals Available at PUCC

### Guided to the Cross

Lent is a season when we are guided to the cross. Throughout this holy time, we are drawn to Calvary to live in forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust and perseverance. These daily devotions reveal how Christ and his cross serve as examples for us of how to live our lives for and through our crucified Lord and Savior.

### Cross My Heart

Each of these children's messages, for the six weeks of Lent and Easter Sunday, highlights God's great love, given to us in the person of Jesus and shown to us through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Sermons will express how we are called to share the love of Jesus with all the world through our words and actions. Reproducible coloring pages and activity sheets are included with these simple-to-do children's messages for classrooms or worship settings.

### Jesus Loves Me

Learn about the great love of Jesus this Lent through rhyming stories and simple activities designed to engage the youngest children in church. The loving Passion story is told in a way that is certain to connect each child to the words "Jesus loves me!" What a wonderful message to share in a Lenten season that starts on Valentine's Day!

The Devotionals can be found in the back of the Sanctuary, starting on Sunday, February 11 th . Please pick up one or two or even all three for your personal devotions during Lent.

To help with your prayer life, pick up a **Three Nails Coin** in the back of the sanctuary. Keep it in your pocket, put it in your purse, place it in a convenient location in your home as a reminder to talk to God each day. Hold it as you pray as a physical symbol of God's presence with you as you talk to God.



**Please remember the following in your prayers:**

Dave Probst, Kerry Goodwin, Keith & Holly Goodwin, Carol Huff, Betty Althouse,

Robin Myren & Robert Anderson and Robert Myren



Sunday School for Elementary and younger children is held every Sunday. Children are invited to go downstairs for Sunday School following Children's Chat in Worship.

At their January Youth Group Gathering, Pennsburg's Youth put together a Calendar of Youth Events for the 2024 year. In addition to our monthly gatherings, the youth selected six other activities to sponsor:

February, Saturday the 24 th : Tubing @ Bear Creek  
April, Friday, April the 26 th : Trampoline Park (Urban Air)  
June: Camden Aquarium  
August: Paintball  
October: Go-Carts  
December: Ice Skating

In February, the youth will be going Tubing at Bear Creek Lodge on Saturday, February 24 th . With the Super Bowl being held on February 11 th , our Youth Gathering will be held one week later, from 6 PM – 7:30 PM on Sunday, February 18 th . Youth are encouraged to bring their friends to these two events!

## Thank you to.....

**Fellowship Committee for hosting January's Breakfast.**

**Everyone who donated to the Quarters for Sheep Offering in February.**

**February's Sunday School Staff and Youth Group Sponsors.**

**Terry and Gail Schmoyer, for donating a new computer for the church office.**



As we head into the winter months there is always a chance that inclement weather will impact our church services. In the event of bad weather and we need to cancel church, we will provide updates to the church website and phone message, social media sites, and WFMZ closure site. The safety of our members is of utmost importance.





## **Request for Ushers!**

Consistory is putting out a request for volunteers to serve as ushers for each Sunday service throughout 2024. If public speaking isn't your thing, then this is a great way for everyone in the congregation to contribute to the service, and speaking is not required! Since we're currently only using half of the sanctuary, only two stewards are required each week. There are sign-up sheets in the tile room; you are welcome to sign up for as many services as you want.



From the President of Pucc Consistory, Scott Mest

### **HELP WANTED!**

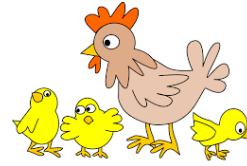
Pennsburg UCC is in need of a Treasurer, Administrative Assistant, and Financial Secretary to start as soon as possible. Consistory is asking our members first to see if any one of you are interested in any of these positions. The Treasurer is a paid position and involves paying the church bills, keeping track of payroll, maintaining bank and investment accounts, and other duties. The Administrative Assistant is a paid position that involves maintaining the church administrative office, reading church emails and checking the church voice mail and directing messages to the appropriate church committee or personnel, putting together the monthly newsletter and distributing it, maintaining the church directory, and other duties. The Financial Secretary is an unpaid position that involves recording the weekly member contributions, picking up the deposit bags from Univest, among other duties. If you are interested in any of these positions, or know someone that is, please speak with any member of Consistory or contact the Church office for more information. Sharon has agreed to train anyone interested in these positions.

## **Pennsburg UCC Membership Rolls**

Attention members of the congregation of Pennsburg UCC. The Consistory wanted to inform our members that over the next couple of months we will be going over our membership roll and beginning the process of contacting those that have not attended worship, contributed, and/or taken communion. According to Article V., point 4. of the Pennsburg UCC by-laws: "A member whose address has long been unknown or who for a period of one (1) year, in spite of spiritual care, has not attended the Church's worship, communed, or contributed to its support, shall be contacted regarding their membership status. If, after the expiration of another year, the relationship remains unchanged, the name may be dropped from the membership list (conditional roll) by a vote of the Consistory." It is important to maintain accurate rolls for the purposes of dissemination of information, as well as presenting the size of our congregation accurately within the UCC Pennsylvania Southeast Conference.



Plus 2 Flocks of



### Heifer Project at Pennsburg UCC: The Year of the Sheep!

After January's Offering, our Quarter Tube was filled to the top! Thanks to Dennis Hess, who sponsored a sheep in honor of his Wedding Anniversary to Joyce, we were able to sponsor TWO Sheep, bringing our total for this Sunday School year to FIVE sheep!

Because our Quarter Tube holds slightly more Quarters than the amount needed (\$120) to sponsor a sheep, so far this year we have also sponsored TWO flocks of CHICKS.

Lizzie our mascot sheep says "THANK YOU so much for your generosity".



The Outreach & Growth Committee is hosting a Valentine's Celebration! Join us in Miller Fellowship Hall following the worship service on February 11th for refreshments, snacks, and cookie decorating. Hope to see you there!

In addition, stay tuned for more information about our succulent planting event coming this spring!



**In February, PUC's Confirmation Class will meet three times:**

**10:30 AM to 11:30 AM on Sunday, February 4 th**

**5 PM to 6 PM on Sunday, February 18 th**

**1 PM to 2 PM on Sunday, February 25 th**

**Please continue to hold our two Confirmands, Madison Dwornick and Brody Lash, in your thoughts and prayers.**



**The next Pickled Beet Sale will be held in March. On Saturday, March 9th we will gather to make the Pickled Beets. Then, on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Beet Pick-up and Bake Sale will be held from 9 AM to 11 AM. Please look for the sign-up sheet in the Tile Room in February to place your orders.**

# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship Service & Sunday School 9:00 am Congregational Meeting 10:00 Confirmation 10:30	First Monday Meal Hosted by PUCC Prep 3:00 Serve & Clean-up 5:00	Scrapbooking	Pastor Steve Community Service 11:00 am  AA	Pastor Steve Office Hours 9 to 2		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 Worship & Sunday School Valentine's Day Fellowship Hour 10:00 am	Executive Meeting 6:45	Christian Ed 7:00  Scrapbooking	Pastor Steve Office Hours 9 to 2 Ash Wed. Service 7:30 AA	Red Cross Blood Drive 2 to 7 pm		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
First Sunday of Lent 9:00 am Worship & Sunday School Confirmation 5 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm	Consistory 6:30	Scrapbooking	Pastor Steve Office Hours 9 to 2 Community Lenten Service @ St. Mark's Lutheran 7:00 pm AA			Youth Group Tubing At Bear Creek
25	26	27	28			
9:00 am Worship & Sunday School Consistory Conversation 10 am Confirmation 1 pm	Local Clergy Breakfast 9:00 am	Scrapbooking	Pastor Steve Office Hours 9 to 2 Community Lenten Service @ PUCC 7:00 pm			

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## Pennsburg United Church of Christ Annual Reports for 2023

### Pastor's Report

#### Contacts:

Hospital: 5, In Person: 87, Telephone/Email/Text: 138 - 2023 Total: 230

#### Worship

Services led: 53, Mid-Week Lenten Services: 3, Community Good Friday Service: 1

Memorial Service: 3, Memorial Service Attended: 1, Wedding Ceremony: 0,

Baptism: 0, Community Memorial Day Service: 1

#### Fellowship Activities

Congregational Reception/Social Hour: 4, Pickled Beet Making: 2, Get-Acquainted Gatherings: 4, Congregational Breakfast: 1, Iron Pigs Game: 1, Church

Picnic@YMCA: 1, Church Lunch: 2, Rally Day Picnic: 1, Christmas Crafts & Lunch: 1

#### Christian Education Events

Youth Event: 7, Easter Egg Dying: 1, Vacation Bible School: 5, Confirmation

Meeting: 1, Confirmation Class: 4

#### Mission & Outreach Opportunities

First Monday Meal: 1, Make Music UP: 1, 4th of July Community Booth: 1, Peach Festival: 1, Community Day's Booth: 1, Trunk or Treat: 1, Halloween Parade Booth: 1

#### Meetings

Consistory: 12, Executive Committee: 12, Worship Committee: 8, Christian Education Committee: 11, Fellowship Committee: 3, Outreach & Growth Committee: 8, Peach Festival Planning: 3

Joint Worship Time with St. John's: 2

Social Media Director: 1

Annual Meeting: 1

Property

Beyond Pennsburg UCC

Conference Ethics Committee: 7 Conference Annual Meeting: 2 Days Conference  
Keystone Meeting: 1 Upper Perk Ministerium: 1 Lunch with Conference Ministers: 2  
Lunch with Area Pastors: 5 ZOOM Meeting - Conference Shared Ministry  
Workshop Leaders: 1 Conference Shared Ministry Workshop Leadership: 1

Continuing Education

Community of Practice: 7, 14 hours Clergy Convocation: 3 days, 10 hours  
Conference New Pastor Gathering: 2 hours Advanced Boundary Training - The  
Limits of Pastoral Care: 3 hours Conference Shared Ministry Workshop  
(leadership): 3 hours

Vacation Time 20 Days, 3 Sundays

Greetings My Brothers and Sisters,

Above you will find the raw statistics of my ministry in the past year with you. As always, as I reflect on the numbers, there is room for improvement in how I am allocating my time with you. In 2024 a particular emphasis for myself will be spending more time visiting, specifically with our shut-ins and nursing home members.

This past year we began to get to know one another. It has been a joy and a pleasure to get to know you as individuals and families. It has also been a joy and a pleasure getting to know you as a congregation. Every congregation has its own way of doing things and "rhythm" of life together. This can be the simple (your social hall is called Miller Hall) and the complex (learning the ministry of each committee and seeing how the parts fit together). I believe today I have a better sense of who you are as the people of God gathered at Pennsburg UCC. I imagine you also feel that you know me better, with all of my strengths and weaknesses and foibles. As you are well-aware, we have challenges facing us in 2024. A new ministry opportunity, utilizing our house as a Code Blue Shelter, arose late in 2023. As I am writing this, we are in the process of deciding whether to commit to this ministry

or not. If we do so, we will spend much time and energy in the next year working with the Code Blue Task Force in getting the shelter up and running. If we move forward with Code Blue, I am excited about the possibilities for growth and ministry for our congregation. We will also be moving forward in 2024 as we try to discern where God is leading us. As a part of that discussion, we will need to prepare ourselves so that we can make Spirit-filled decisions about our future. This will entail both working through past issues that continue to affect our life together today, and also understanding exactly who we are as a congregation today. Once we have a firmer grasp of our identity, then we will seek to discern and plan for our future together. I do not know where that path will lead us. Indeed, the decisions that need to be made are not mine to make - they are yours. I will do my best in the next year to guide you down that process so that the path that we walk and the decisions that we make will be beneficial to our congregation, a mission to our community and pleasing in the eyes of our God.

In Christ, Pastor Steve

## 2023 Worship Report

The Worship Committee has met the second Wednesday at 11:30 am. Members are Kathy Badman, Mary Jane & Thomas May, Ginger Witman, Sharon Burns and Michael Huffman, worship organist. January 1st, Pastor Steven Myren became our pastor and joined the committee & meetings. The Worship committee is responsible for the liturgical services on Sundays and other services throughout the church year. The committee changes the paraments (alter cloths) to go along with the liturgical seasons. The committee arranges for Easter and Christmas flowers. The committee also plans special services throughout the year, Souper Bowl Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Veteran's Sunday, All Saint's Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday, Harvest Home, Advent and Christmas Eve. The committee decorates the sanctuary for special services. This year the sanctuary window sills were decorated for the Advent season theme, Christmas Heritage. The Christmas Eve fellowship hour was hosted by the Worship committee. Pastor Steve has introduced P.U.C.C. to some different worship services. The Lenten theme was Walk with Jesus. On July 4th, he read and explained the The Declaration of Independence and the Advent & Christmas theme, Christmas Heritage. He has provided the Mother & Father's Day gifts and the oranges given to everyone on Christmas Eve.

The Worship committee appreciates all help and ideas from members of the congregation.

Yours in Christ. Kathy Badman

