

PENNSBURG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

775 Main Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073



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To our Members & Friends

July 2020
CHURCH DIRECTORY

Pennsburg U.C.C.

9:00 AM Sunday School

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

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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Pennsburg United Church Of Christ

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Rev. Matthew Gorkos, Pastor

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While I do wonder what else we may have accomplished together had these last few months not been spent at home away from one another, I also think it is perhaps fitting that the end of my time with PUCC should coincide with the church preparing to re-open. Think of it like a new beginning.

My term here was always “designed” to help move the church from one place to another—the optimal destination being revitalization. I’m not sure we quite got to revitalization in the sense that the most optimistic of us would have envisioned, in which the pews are suddenly full again and the offering plates are overflowing. But, I’ve told you from the start that I’m not sure that’s what church revitalization means anymore. Instead, I think we have achieved progress together. I think we have gotten from one place to a better place.

As I was thinking back through the three years we’ve spent together, I made a list of a few of the significant moments or highlights that I think were parts of the new life the church is beginning once I leave:

- the congregational vote to open the communion table — I believe that the conversation leading to that vote and what it represents about the church’s commitment to welcoming and involving every person who gathers there are the groundwork for any future conversations about radical hospitality.
- the church metaphor series and affirming ourselves to be a family-table congregation — I believe that the metaphor series enabled us to think creatively and critically about the identity and character of the community and arrive at a clearer articulation of who we are and why we are passionate about the ministries we are passionate about.
- the congregational vote to more strongly support the First Monday Meal ministry — I believe the First Monday Meal is one of the essential ministries of the church and certainly one of the most notable in the larger community. I think the congregation’s assent to ensure it continues is indicative of its closeness to the church’s heart.

These are just some of the highlights, but I think they’re the most notable. Certainly, other small milestones have occurred: the shifts in worship to be willing to forego bulletins and use a projector, the multi-generational Sunday school curriculum, the continual willingness of people to grow through book studies and film studies, and the expanding relationships and effective ministry being done with the Reformers group of local UCC and Lutheran churches.

All in all, I am convinced that as the church re-opens and begins this next chapter in its story, it does so with a clearer sense of who it is as a congregation and why its ministry matters to its community. I believe it also does so knowing it has permission (and the responsibility) to be creative with how it stewards its resources in order to remain true to its identity and true to its mission. Thank you, Pennsburg UCC, for allowing me to be a part of your story. It has truly been a blessing! Peace, Pastor Matt



May 2020 Financials

Expenses \$13,153.86

Donations \$ 3,416.50

Transfer from Morgan Stanley Investments \$35,000.00



Birthdays

7/1: Tom May

7/3: Taylor Smith

7/8: Ferne Fite, Jackie Lauchnor

7/13: Earl Brey

7/16: Elizabeth Royer

7/17: Paul Seip

7/19: Fay Czarnecki, Ruth Nice

7/21: Grant Beard, Blaine Ruthy

7/25: Carol Kuzmission

7/28: David Bickley

7/29: Derek Lash

Anniversaries

7/19: Michael & Suzanne Cleary (23)

7/29: Glenn & Estella Beard (36)





Virtual VBS

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! Our collection of churches will be releasing a series of videos with all of the favorite aspects of VBS—songs, Bible stories, activities, crafts, games, and even snack ideas—all for being able to do at home. The theme is Creation. Videos will be launched on August 3-8. Stay tuned to announcements for registration in mid-July.



Community Meal

First Monday Meal—Drive-thru Edition!

Now that Montgomery County has entered the “yellow phase,” we thought it important to renew the First Monday Meal ministry that is so central to our church and necessary in our community. On July 6th from 6-7 PM, we are going to host a Monday Meal drive-thru, which will allow us to serve meals while also maintain appropriate social distancing. The menu for the evening will be: *Pulled Pork sandwich, Baked Beans, Applesauce, Macaroni Salad, and Cookies.*

Zoom Worship

For the past few months, we have been holding Sunday morning worship via a recorded video on Facebook. However, beginning June 21st we have begun trying real-time virtual worship on Zoom. 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: 552-680-4390

If you are unable to join us live at 10 AM, no worries. The recorded version of services will continue to be posted on Facebook.