



Wentz's United Church of Christ

April 2019

Reflections

In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.

- Mark Twain, writer

Let laughter 'spring' forth! Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush. - Doug Larson, columnist

Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all of your eggs in one basket.

-Evan Esar, humorist

"Spring is the time of year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade."

-Charles Dickens, writer

The world is mud-luscious and puddle wonderful.

-e.e. cummings, poet

In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.

-Margaret Atwood, writer

If you've never been thrilled to the very edges of your soul by a flower in spring bloom, maybe your soul has never been in bloom.

- Audra Foveo, writer

Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life.

-Janine di Giovanni, writer

Easter Egg Hunts: proof your child can find things when they really want to.

-anonymous

I see trees of green, red roses too
I see them bloom, for me and for you
and I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

-Louis Armstrong, composer & vocalist



Sunday Gatherings in April 10:00 am

April 7 —	My Opening Farewell, Part II	Lovaas
April 14—	Palm Sunday/ Confirmation Sunday	Morris
April 18 —	Maundy Thursday/ @7:30 pm Communion	Worley
April 21 —	Easter Sunday/Communion @ 7:00 am & 10:00 am	Worley
April 28 —	Holy Humor	Bickle



2019 Community Lent Worship Services
Theme: The Prayers of Christ
All Services begin at 7:30 pm
Our offering this season will be given to:
Refugee Resettlement through Church World Service

April 3	Trinity Christian UCC Skippack 2009 Church Rd, Skippack (gps: Schwenksville)	Rev. Leslie Mamas
April 10	Methacton Mennonite Church 3081 Mill Road, Norristown	TBA



Wentz's United Church of Christ Easter Schedule 2019

Palm Sunday/Confirmation Sunday
April 14 at 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday/Communion
April 18 at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday/Communion
April 21 at 7:00 am & 10:00 am



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Palm Sunday, April 14 following the worship service. We will need donations of candy to fill the eggs. Please note, WE DO NOT NEED PLASTIC EGGS this year because we have so many. We will need volunteers to help set up the egg hunt as there is no youth group this year and they are usually the helpers. Anyone who would like to volunteer, please contact Debi Kinsky.



College Care Packages

The Christian Ed committee will be collecting for College Student Care Packages and plan on preparing them to mail on Sunday, April 7th.

Suggestions for donations are: licorice, gum, popcorn, granola bars, cookies, candy, chips and pretzels. Please place your donations in the collection box in the Guild Room by April 7th.



Attention Graduating Seniors

If you are graduating from high school, college, or higher education this year, please email the church office by April 1 so that we can prepare. We will be celebrating our graduates May 19.

HIGHSCHOOL SENIORS!

The 2019 Women's Guild Scholarships are now available for all senior students who are planning to continue their education. PLEASE pick up your Women's Guild \$500 Application in the Women's Guild box by the office. All applications should be submitted to Barb Bustard by May 1, 2019.

Stewardship Auction Saturday, April 27



Please remember Wentz's Auction as you begin your Spring Cleaning. Our auction has been a great source of adding to our General Fund. Please contact Gerald Rader, 610.613.2766, if you have items that you would like to donate.

Prayer Requests

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition present your requests to God. ~ Philippians 4:6



*Bill Detwiler
Nancy Domurat
Jay Fenstermacher
Jamie Jagers
Donna Kriebel
Claire Metzger
Pauline Thacker*

**Please make sure we have permission to add names to the prayer list. Please contact the church office if you would like your loved one to continue to be listed on the prayer list next month.*

Conference/Association Happenings

One of the things that we are committed to doing, through the Bridge Builder Program is providing more information about Pennsylvania Southeast Conference and the Ursinus Association of which Wentz's is a member. In my initial note, I thought it important to provide some information regarding the general structure of the United Church of Christ.

The United Church of Christ is made up of 38 regional conferences, each with its own distinct identity. Pennsylvania Southeast Conference covers a diverse area: Philadelphia and its suburbs are in the southern region, but the conference also includes several small cities, and stretches into farming communities and the heart of anthracite coal region. The churches are just as diverse, with memberships ranging from 1,500 to just a dozen.

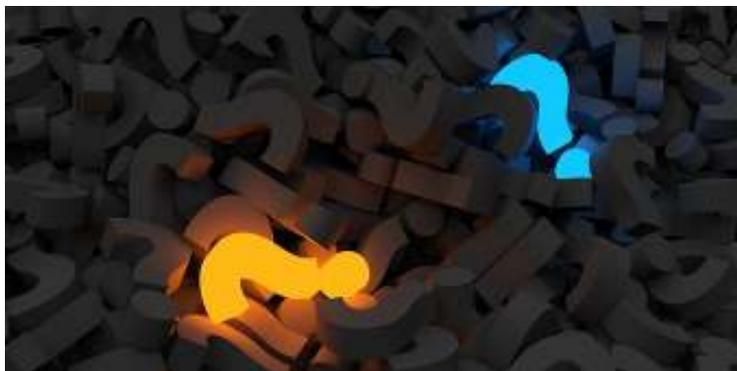
PSEC is made up of 165 churches with 42,000 members in Philadelphia and the surrounding six counties. The conference is a unique blend of congregations, some that stem from the colonial foundations of our nation, to new ethnic and multicultural congregations that have become part of the UCC in recent years.

The area encompassed by the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference is the heartland of the German Reformed Church. The Conference continues to welcome new congregations to the United Church of Christ, enriching its history and broadening knowledge of God's works in throughout the combined history. While the conference has identified primarily with the Reformed traditions, with some churches claiming a Congregational tradition, the growth in the Conference has been through the addition of African-American, Indian, and Hispanic congregations. The addition of these congregations deepens and broadens the historic roots while also enriching our community life and worship.

Due to the compact nature of local geography, the PSEC is one of the smallest conferences of the United Church of Christ geographically, and yet numerically one of the larger ones. Hence, many opportunities for support, training, and congregational formation to strengthen our local churches can be offered. The Administrative Center, headquarters for the Conference, is in Pottstown and no congregation is more than 2 hours away. This proximity makes it possible for both clergy and lay people alike to attend worship services, seminars, and workshops; and to participate in the Ministry and Mission Teams of the Conference.

Approximately every three months, I will be updating the Congregation of PSEC activities and news. Should you be interested, the PSEC website is: <https://psec.org>

-Doug Leach



My Opening Farewell, Part II

The time has come for me to move on. I will always remember my time here at Wentz's UCC. I want to end with some poetry. Poetry, like scripture and good literature, has the power to start a fire in your life. Emily Dickinson writes about her experience of reading poetry:

If I read a book {and} it makes my whole body so cold no fire can warm me,
I know *that* is poetry. If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off,
I know *that* is poetry. There are the only ways I know it. Is there any other?

Great writing, like a great church, can alter the way we see ourselves. It can change the way we see the world. Faith and the arts at its best calls forth our deep Being, bids us live by its promptings; it dares us to break free from the safe strategies of the courteous mind; like the wild geese, from an open sky.

One day you finally knew
what you had to do, and
began,
though the voices around you
kept shouting
their bad advice—
Though the whole house
began to tremble
and you felt the old tug
at your ankles.
“Mend my life!”
each voice cried.
But you didn't stop.
You knew what you had to
do,
though the wind pried
with its stiff fingers
at the very foundations,
though their melancholy
was terrible.
It was already late
enough, and a wild night,
and the road full of fallen
branches and stones.
But little by little,
as you left their voice behind,
the stars began to burn
through the sheets of clouds,
and there was a new voice
which you slowly
recognized as your own,
that kept you company
as you strode deeper and
deeper
into the world,
determined to do
the only thing you could do—
determined to save
the only life that you could
save.



The Journey, by Mary Oliver

Read the words of Jan Richardson in her poem
How the Light Comes

How the Light Comes
A Blessing for Christmas Day

I cannot tell you
How the light comes.

What I know
Is that it is more ancient
than imagining.

That it travels across
an astounding expanse
to reach us.

That it loves
searching out
what is hidden
what is lost
what is forgotten
or in peril
or in pain.

That it has a fondness
for the body
for finding its way toward flesh
for tracing the edges of form
for shining forth
through the eye,
the hand,
the heart.

I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
Though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape
you did not foresee.

And so
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still

To the blessed light
that comes.





Finally, a poem by Wendell Berry

I Go Among Trees

I go among trees and sit still.
All my stirring becomes quiet
Around me like circles on
water.
My tasks lie in their places
where I left them, asleep like
cattle.

Then what is afraid of me
comes
and lives a while in my sight.
What it fears in me leaves me,
and the fear of me leaves it.
It sings, and I hear its song.

Then what I am afraid of
comes.
I live for a while in its sight.
What I fear in it leaves it,
And the fear of it leaves me.
It sings, and I hear its song.

After days of labor,
mute in my consternations,
I hear my song at last,
and I sing it. As we sing,
the day turns, the trees move.

It is my hope that Wentz's will continue to explore,
faith, and the world.

Blessings,
Scott Lovaas



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Flowers to grace the altar on Easter Sunday are now being ordered. The cost of the flowers is **\$11.00** each. Or you may contact the church office. **DEADLINE FOR ALL ORDERS (Including other contributions) is Wednesday, April 3 2019.** Make checks payable to *Wentz's United Church of Christ*.

Your Name _____

Telephone Number _____ email: _____

I would like to order the following number of plants:

_____ Easter Lilies _____ Yellow Daffodils _____ Red Tulips _____ Pink Tulips

_____ Purple Tulips

In Memory Of _____

In Honor Of _____

Thanks, but I prefer to make a special Easter gift to one of the special funds at Wentz's Church.

Endowment Fund

Music Fund

Handbell Fund

Outreach Fund

Improvement Fund

Memorial Fund

Youth Fund

General Fund

OCWM

Electronic Equipment

Benner Endowment Fund

Women's Guild

Other _____ *Please specify*

In Memory Of _____

In Honor Of _____

Received \$ _____

Cash

Check # _____

☼ 10:00 am Worship Service
 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Saxophones
 Cherub Choir/Junior Choir/following Children's Message
 9:45 am Prelude chimes & Allegro Ringers
 ☼ Summer Schedule: 9:30 am Worship Service

April 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30pm AA (Women Only)	2 7:30pm AA	3 6pm Tai Chi 7:30pm Lenten Service at Trinity Christian UCC 8pm AA EASTER FLOWER ORDER DUE	4 6:30pm Journey Band 7:30pm AA	5 8pm AA (Men)	6
7☼	8 6:30pm AA (Women Only)	9 6pm Elders 7pm Consistory 7:30pm AA	10 6pm Tai Chi 7:30pm Lenten Service at Methacton Mennonite 8pm AA	11 6:30pm Journey Band 7:30pm AA	12 8pm AA (Men)	13
14☼ Palm Sunday Confirmation 11am Easter Egg Hunt	15 6:30pm AA (Women Only) <u>Articles for May Newsletter Due</u>	16 6pm Flute Choir 7pm Resounding Ringers	17 6pm Tai Chi 7pm AA	18 7:30pm Maundy Thursday 7:30pm AA	19 8pm AA (Men)	20
21☼ 7am & 10am Easter With Communion	22 6:30pm AA (Women Only)	23 6pm Flute Choir 7pm Resounding Ringers 7:30pm AA	24 6pm Tai Chi 8pm AA	25 6:30pm Journey Band 7:30 Chancel Choir 7:30pm AA	26 8pm AA (Men)	27 <i>9am Auction</i>
28☼	29 6:30pm AA (Women Only)	30 6pm Flute Choir 7pm Resounding Ringers 7:30pm AA				

Staff

Scott Lovaas, Interim Minister
scott@wentzsucc.org

June Wright, Organist
ihvlucy3@verizon.net

Steven Reilley, Chorister
stevenreilley@gmail.com

Laura McLennan, Handbell Director
dlrnmclennan@gmail.com

Mike Todd, Head Usher
miketodd68@verizon.net

Megan Darde, Sexton
megandarde910@comcast.net

Kim Bauer, Pre-School Director
wentzkidz2thruk@gmail.com

Cianne Landis, Secretary
office@wentzsucc.org

Officers of Wentz's UCC

Rick Wilkie, *Consistory President*; Doug Leach, *Treasurer*; Mark Landis, *Financial Secretary*;
Hilda McFarland, *Recording Secretary*; Rita Cipriano, Ruth Geisel, John Grebe, Jim O'Donnell,
Mike Todd, *Elders*; Aimee Shelton, Matthew Slater, Corey Taragna, Kathy Wells, *Deacons*;
William Anderson, Bob DuBree, Gerald Rader, Jennifer Schultz, Richard Wilkie, *Trustees*.