

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Bausman Memorial United Church of Christ

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



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May 3, 2026

9:30am Worship

WELCOME TO BAUSMAN!

1ST TIME GUESTS: Most everything you need is found in this bulletin. Plus, those around you are glad to help and an usher is always available at the main rear entrance. If there are ways we can better extend God's hospitality, leave us a note on the Welcome Card. Your insights are essential as we continue to grow into the community God is calling us to be. Thank you!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Congregational readings are in bold with an *All*, *People*, or *Unison* designation. Songs are in the bulletin or pew hymnal. Times for standing and sitting are listed, with it always being okay to remain seated.

"BUSY BAGS": Coloring books and crayons are available in the north narthex (lobby) for use during worship. Please return all items following the service for others to use the following week. See an usher for assistance.

NURSERY CARE: Available during worship for children birth-kindergarten. The nursery is past the office, to the right. See an usher for assistance.

RESTROOMS: Ladies and a unisex/accessible bathroom (with wall mounted baby changing table) are available through the doors at the front of the sanctuary. Follow the signs to the office. Bathrooms are on the left.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS: Contain printed scripture and music, in addition to being in a larger font. Ask an usher for a copy.

HEARING ASSISTANCE: Ask an usher at the rear entrance to the sanctuary who will provide you with a device directly tied into the sanctuary sound system. Please return the device to an usher at the conclusion of worship.

GET CONNECTED: Use the pew holder Welcome Card to register your attendance, share contact information, ask questions, and more. Once completed, place it in the offering plates during the offering time.

WIFI & DEVICES: Thank you for silencing all your devices during worship. Bausman's guest wifi is accessible with the passcode: "gladurhere!"

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WE GATHER TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE

Centering Thoughts: Have you tasted the goodness of God? At any point in time of your life have you come to a place where you realized God was not only real, but God was with you and God's love surrounded and filled you? It doesn't happen all the time, and it certainly doesn't happen often enough. But when it does, everything suddenly changes – our perspectives, thoughts, hopes, struggles, and faith itself change. What if we could live every day with a taste of God's goodness right on the tip of our tongue?

Opening Chimes

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing of Christ's Peace

(Rise in body or spirit to share Christ's peace using customary forms of greeting or by using a peace sign. Please be seated once the prelude begins.)

Prelude: "Prelude on JEFFERSON" - James Boeringer

(The acolyte carries the light of Christ into our presence, calling us to worship)

(Please rise in body or spirit)

Call to Worship

Pastor: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

People: God's goodness is from everlasting to everlasting.

Pastor: God binds up the broken-hearted and rescues the afflicted.

**People: God answers the prayers of the humble
and raises up those cast down.**

Pastor: For in Christ Jesus, God has come to us.

**People: He has entered our despair, shared in our joy, suffered our death,
and opened the way to new life.**

Pastor: Thus we come to worship the living Lord,
the One who leads us in the way, the truth, and the life
that we may come into the presence of the Father.

People: Amen!

Processional Hymn: "I Greet You, Sure Redeemer" (p. #251)

WE CONFESS OUR NEED FOR HEALING & GRACE

Call to Confession

Corporate Confessional

All: Saving God, you call us to be your people –
a spiritual house, a holy priesthood who witness to your glory.
Yet, we shrink back and shy away from your calling
out of confusion and uncertainty.
Who are we to be your priesthood?
Who are we to witness to your glory?
Like Thomas we believe we couldn't possibly know the way,
and yet in Jesus you have given everything we, and all people, need.
Forgive our troubled hearts as you rekindle within us the truth –
in Jesus you have shown us the way, the truth, and the life
of who we are to be in this life.
Come Holy Spirit, setting our feet upon Jesus' way. Amen.

Personal Silent Confession

(Personal prayers for God's healing and redeeming peace)

Assurance of Grace

Pastor: ...for it is God's good desire that you be set free to life.
People: May God, who raises us from death to life, be eternally praised.
All: Amen!

Confession Response *(Unison)*

Leader *Equal voices*

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Mixed voices

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

(Please be seated)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S LIVING WORD

Message for the Young & Young at Heart

(All youth are invited to come forward to the front steps. No Sunday School today.)

Prayer of Illumination

**All: Lord God, you have declared that your kingdom is among us.
Open our eyes to see it, our ears to hear it, our hearts to hold it,
and our hands to serve it.**

Let us receive your living Word

that we may share in the way and the truth of the resurrection.

Through Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Epistle Testament Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10 (p. #233)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Gospel Lesson: John 14:1-14 (p. #108)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have

told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Living With A Taste of God”

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (sins)

All: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

*(Electronic & physical giving options are available through the pew envelope.
Register your attendance with a Welcome Card or using Realm’s mobile check-in.)*

Offertory: “Sojourner” - African-American Spiritual, arr. by Roger Summers

(Please rise in body or spirit)

Offering Response *(Unison)*

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." The score consists of two systems of two staves each.

Prayer of Dedication

All: Blessed God, in the joy of Christ’s resurrection
we offer ourselves, and our gifts, for the service of your reign.

Multiply these our offerings
for the purposes of bringing life out of death, hope out of despair,
joy out of grief, that through our faithfulness
all creation may come to know and rejoice in you.

Through Jesus’ glorious name, we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Chancel Choir Anthem: “Communion Canon” -

Ruth Elaine Schram and Niel Lorenz

Invitation

Pastor: Come all of you who hunger for life.
Come to this table prepared by Christ our Lord.

People: We come in faith of Christ,
who invites us to share in the fullness of God’s salvation.

Great Communion Prayer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: ...With the faithful in every place and time,
we praise with joy your holy name:

Seraphic Hymn *(Sung in Unison)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth.

Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Pastor: ...and that we may become one in him, in you, and in one another.

**All: May Christ's coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer,
strong in truth and love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread.
Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Sharing of Elements – Pew Communion

(All who seek to unite their lives in discipleship to Christ are welcome to receive communion. Ushers will serve the bread – gluten free option in the center. Then the trays of red wine and white grape juice. Hold each element until invited to consume that we may be united as one body in our receiving. Place empty cups in the pew holders.)

(Please rise in body or spirit)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All: Blessed God, thank you for offering us the gift of your life,
for uniting us with Christ and one another,
and for sharing the foretaste of your heavenly banquet**

of the kingdom that has been set free.
Send us now in the power of your Spirit, to live and work,
to your praise and glory, for the sake of our risen Savior. Amen.

WE GO WITH GOD'S CALLING

Recessional Hymn: "Peace, I Leave with You, My Friend" (p. #249)

(The acolyte carries the light of Christ into the world, as the choir leads us in the way.)

Commissioning & Benediction

Chimes

Postlude: "A Joyous Acclamation" - Lani Smith

(As the postlude concludes, go in peace to love and serve at the calling of God.)

THIS WEEK AT BAUSMAN

Sunday, May 3

- 8:30 AM Chancel Choir
- 9:30AM Worship, Pew Communion, Nursery, First Sunday Fellowship
- 1:00 PM Girl Scouts 1693 – Room 22
- 3:00 PM Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall
- 4:30 PM Girl Scouts 192 – Fellowship Hall
- 6:45 PM Boy Scouts – Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 4

- 8:15 AM 815 Morning Meeting – Fellowship Hall
- 9:00 AM Exercise Group – Upper Level
- 11:00 AM Turning Point Group, AA – Fellowship Hall
- 7:30 PM Recovering Couples Group – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 5

- 8:15 AM 815 Morning Meeting – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, May 6

- 8:15 AM 815 Morning Meeting – Fellowship Hall
- 9:00 AM Exercise Group – Upper Level
- 11:30 AM Turning Point Group, AA – Fellowship Hall
- 2:00 PM Generosity – Fellowship Hall

Thursday, May 7

- 8:15 AM 815 Morning Meeting – Fellowship Hall
10:30 AM Women’s Recovery Group, Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM Bell Choir, Sanctuary
7:30 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, May 8

- 8:15 AM 815 Morning Meeting – Fellowship Hall
11:30 AM Turning Point Group, AA – Fellowship Hall

Saturday, May 9

- 9:00 AM Flower Sale – Bausman Circle Parking Lot

Sunday, May 10 – Mother’s Day

- 8:30 AM Chancel Choir
9:30AM Worship, Sunday School, Nursery

PRAYERS & CARES

Congregational Cards of Care

God invites us to share life-giving love through our faith. One way to do this is to weekly join in our “Cards of Care” ministry. This week we are uplifting Carolyn Hildebrand, who is one of our Home Congregants. Stop by the table in the front left corner of the sanctuary to add your name and care to this week’s card. Thank you!

Prayer Requests

Thank you for joining in the joy and care of others by including the following prayers in your prayer times. Submit your prayer requests by using a Prayer Card, contacting the church office, or the prayer chain coordinator (Cece Wagner). Prayer requests are maintained for up to four weeks and can be resubmitted an unlimited number of times. When possible, please check with the person before submitting their name.

Praise & Celebrations: St. Paul’s UCC, Birdsboro & Pastor Deborah Parker-Hill; Gifts to Bausman's Endowments

Healing & Strengthening: Ellen; Helen Fisher; Kathy Bailey; Rev. Millard Fisher

Care & Support: Randy Ulmer; Commander Alison (Derr) Maruca & Family; Discernment for May 17th Congregational Meeting; VBS Planning; Peaceful resolution to conflicts in the Middle East

Comfort In Time of Loss: The Family of Priscilla Walsky

Birthdays Celebrated this Week

5/3 Kaitlyn Brunner

5/9 Stella Spayd

Anniversaries Celebrated this Week

5/9 Richard & Michele Rhoads Jr.

5/10 Ron & Mary Rebecca Keller

Worship Information

Sponsorships

Bulletins: To the Glory of God by Nancy Helbig

Today's Worship Leaders

Ministers: All Members

Head Usher: Nevin Hollinger

Ushers: Tom Wentzel, Jodi Reardon, Jim Payne, Cindra Payne

Acolyte:

Reader: Nevin Hollinger

Welcome: Cece Wagner

Minister of Music: Sharon Luyben

Preacher: Rev. Joseph Motz

Nursery: Amalia Cannon

Livestream: Olivia Motz

Sound: TBD

Altar Guild: Michele Wolfskill & Marjorie Huyett

Elders: *Tom Wentzel, *Jodi Reardon, Jim Payne, Cindra Payne, Sue Wentzel (choir) (*uncover and cover elements)

Fellowship Host: Peggy Brown

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Last Week's Worship

Worship Attendance: In Person: 80

Online: 18

Offerings Received for God's Ministry:

General Fund: In person \$1882 Online: \$140

“LOOK AND SEE”
WHAT IS HAPPENING AT BAUSMAN!
May 3, 2026

(Visit bausmanucc.org and sign up for the weekly e-blasts as well)

Strengthen The Church Offering - From May 3-31, 2026, we will be collecting for our 2nd UCC offering. The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. Please join us in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our denomination by making a gift to the Strengthen the Church Offering.

First Sunday Fellowship – Following worship today, stay for a time of connection and light refreshments. This is a great opportunity to build new relationships and strengthen old ones. You don’t want to miss it! To ensure accessibility for all, the fellowship time, with its light refreshments, will be held in the sanctuary.

Mother’s Day Flower Sale – May 9, 2026 / 9am-Noon - The Flower Sale will take place in the half-circle drive of the church. In the event of rain, items will be in the Fellowship Hall. There will be various plants, deck and memorial boxes available for purchase.

Special Congregational Meeting – May 17, Following Worship - Mark your calendar to attend a special congregational meeting that will directly impact Bausman’s ministry for the next 10-20 years. In other words, this is a really important special congregational meeting. The primary focus is to evaluate Consistory’s recommendation to move forward with a building site assessment and accessibility study that will serve as the basis for beginning a major capital campaign, in the next 1-3 years, to begin implementing needed care and improvements to the church building. Members are welcome to attend the meeting in person or online. Look for a special member communication with additional details on the proposal, the full meeting agenda, and guidance on how to participate remotely.



William N. Luyben Memorial Scholarship - Applications are currently being accepted for the William N. Luyben Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is to be presented to members of Bausman Memorial United Church of Christ seeking further education following graduation or enrolled in a post-secondary education program. For the full list of qualifications and the application, please scan the QR code or contact Jodi Reardon. **Application deadline is May 17, 2026.**

Last Day of Sunday School will be May 17 - Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 20, 2026.



Memorial Day Sunday—Honoring of Loved Ones - This year, Memorial Day Sunday & Pentecost Sunday fall on May 24. To help us honor both, we are seeking the names, rank, and branch of service of Bausman’s members, friends, and family members who served in the United States Military and are no longer alive. Individuals need not have died in active service, nor in an armed conflict. The names will be included in a special Sunday insert and uplifted during the prayers of the people. The information for your loved ones and family members can be shared through the QR code or by contacting the church office.

Wear Red for Pentecost - May 24, 2026 - Sunday, May 24, we along with Christians across the world will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into the lives of Christ’s followers and the birth of God’s church. This movement of the Spirit is liturgically symbolized by the color red. Let’s celebrate together by wearing red this Pentecost.

Looking for Summer Musicians - Bausman is asking our members – children and adults – to play for Sunday Worship during the months of June, July and August. Instrumentalists, pianists and singers of all abilities are invited to play for the Special Music segment of our church service during the summer months. Please contact our Minister of Music, Sharon Luyben (610-334-6479) to choose a date to share your talent.

Summer Nursery - *No Nursery Attendants Available* -Starting June 7 there will not be paid or volunteer attendants in the nursery. Parents and guardians are welcome to use the nursery so long as they provide supervision for their children while they are in the nursery. The worship service audio is directly broadcast into the nursery so parents can continue to be connected to the worship service. Nursery attendants are tentatively planned to resume on September 20.

Seeking Nursery Attendants - *This is a Paid Position* - We are so thankful for the service provided this past year by Amalia Cannon and Ella Anders as our paid nursery attendants. With both of them graduating this spring, they will not be returning this fall to serve in this role. Therefore, we are seeking new nursery attendants to support our nursery ministry starting this fall. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact Mary Rebecca Keller to learn more.

Seeking Partner Leaders - Vacation Bible School planning is moving into high gear. Bausman's young families have selected the week of July 12-16, 5:30-8:00pm, the curriculum is being selected, Volunteers are beginning to sign up, and registration is planned to open by early May. If you are interested in helping, contact Pastor Joe. We are still seeking volunteers for: **Meals | Games | Crafts | Decorations | Teaching.** (Note: PA criminal history and PA child abuse clearances less than 5 years old are required for all volunteers except the decorating team. Clearances are free for volunteers and easily completed online).

I Greet You, Sure Redeemer

John 11:25-27

Anon., from Strasbourg Psalter, 1545
Transl. Elizabeth L. Smith, 1868; alt.

1 I greet you, sure Re - deem - er, with my heart,
2 You are the source of mer - cy and of grace,
3 You are the life, by which a - lone we live,
4 You have the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness,
5 Our hope is all in you and you a - lone;

glad for the sav - ing love that you im - part,
reign - ing om - ni - po - tent in ev - ery place;
and all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive.
no harsh - ness have you and no bit - ter - ness;
we trust the prom - ise that your word makes known.

Who pain did un - der - go for my poor sake;
So rule in us and our whole 'be - ing sway.
Sus - tain us by your faith and by your power,
Grant us the grace that flows in you so free
O dear Re - deem - er, make us calm and sure,

I pray you from our hearts all cares to take.
Shine on us with the light of your pure day.
and give us strength in ev - ery try - ing hour.
that we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.
that in your strength we ev - er - more en - dure.

This hymn first appeared in a sixteenth-century Strasbourg Psalter edited by John Calvin. The original tune Old 124th and text were both shortened to the present meter—the tune for an early English psalter and the text for the 1920 Hymnal of the Reformed Church in the United States.

Tune: TOULON 10.10.10.10.
Adapt. from OLD 124th
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

John 14:18-29

Ray Repp, 1967

Refrain

D Em G D F#m

Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom, my peace, in

Em Gm D Em G D F#m

all you do. Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to

Bm Em G D 1-2 3

you so you can give to oth - ers, too.

D Em G D

1 To share God's love is why I came,
 2 Take my hand and be at peace;
 3 With this love now all will know

F#m Em/G Gm

to show God's kind - ness with - out end.
 the spir - it of our love I send.
 that lone - li - ness is at an end.

Songwriter Ray Repp has composed and recorded numerous albums of liturgical songs since 1965, when he introduced guitar into worship with his "Mass for Young Americans."

Tune: PEACE, MY FRIENDS Irr. with refrain
 Ray Repp, 1967
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

D Em G D

Go now, my friends, and do the same,
 And with this love you will be free,
 Re-joice, my friends, al - though I go,

F#m G A7 *to Refrain*

un - til I come a - gain.
 un - til I come a - gain.
 for I will come a - gain.



The Keystone Connection

A Message to the Conference

April 28, 2026

Members and Friends of Keystone Conference,

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2:2-3

This is such an interesting line from one of the Lectionary texts assigned to us this week. This feminine metaphor of God feeding us milk as our mothers once did, so that we might grow into salvation, into wholeness, is striking and beautiful. And yet children don't need to be told to long for their mother's or other milk – it's instinctual because it's needed for survival. But the author seems to know that later in life, we will need to be told to yearn for the purity of God's goodness, as we so often confuse good and bad milk, good and bad things. It becomes a choice later, a daily choice to seek the best kinds of spiritual food, to choose from a menu that the world offers us that offers so many options, most of which are not good for the work of growing into salvation.

But the latter part of the sentence is important as well: if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. The hopeful response by us is that we have indeed tasted that the Lord is good, so that we know what good or bad milk tastes like. Last Sunday, in a sermon I preached, I talked about how to discern the voice of the Good Shepherd against the other voices floating in our heads and in the world. The only way to do so is by listening to what that voice is telling us to do, whether to love or hate, to heal or hurt, and practice mercy or judgment. It's also the recipe for knowing the difference between fresh milk and sour milk. In our best moments, surely, we tasted that the Lord is good, so good, and the work still before us to continue to seek that good milk, day by day, so that we may grow into wholeness.

Rev. Kevin J. McLemore

Transitional Regional Conference Minister for Region I

Keystone Conference UCC

Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ's first Annual Meeting will be held June 5-7 at Millersville University in Millersville. Overnight accommodations will be on campus as well as the DoubleTree Hilton in Lancaster. Registration is now open! Register here: <https://keystoneconference.regfox.com/2026-spring-meeting> (or go to keystoneucc.org and click on the Annual Meeting tab under News & Events.)

Our theme is "Joy at the Table Together" and our centering scripture is Acts 2:46-47 "Every day they met together, breaking bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God." The meeting will include a Service of Consecration for Keystone Conference.

Speakers will include Rev. Dr. Marcia McFee, author of *Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship for Unforgettable Messages*; Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ; Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, author of *Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living*; Rev. Greg Edwards, Executive Director of POWER Interfaith, Secretary Russell Redding, PA Secretary of Agriculture, and Rev. Freeman Palmer, Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic Conference.

50 Days of Easter Food Challenge

A People of the Table Mission Project for Keystone Conference's 1st Annual Meeting

The Challenge: Churches across the Conference are challenged to donate non-perishable food to a local food bank between Easter (04/05/2026) and Pentecost (05/24/2026) and to report the quantities of their donations.

Each church will report its totals (by category) via a web link, and the Conference-wide total will be revealed at the 1st Annual Meeting, June 5–7, 2026. Using categories such as canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, pasta and rice, toiletries, and more will provide an easy-to-visualize picture of the breadth of donations.

Learn more at keystoneucc.org/people-of-the-table/

Attention Youth Campers and Families,

Please read the following information carefully, as the Conference policy for supplementing youth summer camping has changed.

For the 2026 summer season, the Keystone Conference will campership or reimburse 30% of the cost for one youth to attend one summer camping experience. If a youth attends more than one camp during the summer, only one camp will be eligible for the 30% reimbursement. Please use the application for additional camps if this creates a hardship.

Learn more and download the application under the campership section of keystoneucc.org/mission-grants-committee/

Living Waters Camp & Conference Center Schellsburg, PA

Trustin' Jesus! Summer Camps

Fishing Camp - June 28 to July 2, for grades 6 to 12

Primary (grades K - 3) - July 5 to 11

Elementary Camp (grades 4 - 6) - July 5 to 11

Junior-Senior High Camp - July 12 - 18

Grandparent / Grandchild Camp is July 12 to 15

Learn more at livingwaterscamp.org

HC Spirit Camp is hosted at Hartman Center Campground, Milroy, PA . The theme for HC Spirit 2026 is "In the Wilderness." Camp runs from July 26 - August 1, 2026. Registration is now open—check hcspiritcamp.org for more info and registration.



The Covenant Association of the Keystone Conference UCC

News from around the Association / May 3, 2026

Greetings!

On Sunday, April 26, 2026, the Covenant Association met at St. John's Gernants Church in Leesport. It was a wonderful gathering, and we thank the Rev. Fran Merkel and the members of St. John's Gernants for their hospitality and refreshments. It was great to see friends, colleagues, and new faces as 70 people from around Covenant Association came together as one body.

As we worshiped God together, you could feel the Holy Spirit with us. Thanks to the Rev. Linda Kozlowski, the Rev. Selina Hamilton, the Rev. Rebecca Hoover, and the Rev. Fran Merkel for a wonderful worship experience.

With the creation of the Keystone Conference there was a lot of work that we needed to be about. The first item was to adopt The Conflict-of-Interest Policy. You can find this policy on the Covenant Association Website (covenantassociation.org). Each member of the Executive Committee will be asked to sign that they will abide by that policy. This will be done on an annual basis.

Our second item was to create the "Clergy Care Team" (CCT). Here is a short description of what this team will be about:

The Clergy Care Team serves as a vital support resource for authorized ministers, their spouses, and families within the Covenant Association. Committed to fostering well-being, the team coordinates prayer requests, stays in touch with Conference leadership, and offers both training and guidance to ensure the needs of clergy are met. With a dedication to confidentiality and a strong understanding of United Church of Christ beliefs and theology, members are respected for their administrative and visitation skills.

After much discussion about this proposal around the "term limits" that each of these folks would serve, this proposal was accepted.

The Rev. Mark Johnson, the Rev. Melissa Burkhart, the Rev. Bob Witmyer, the Rev. Mark Stryak, and the Rev. Linda Meredith were introduced as our new Clergy Care Team.

Our third item was discussion about what to do when people were not available for open positions on the Executive Committee. As you may or may not know, we have not had a Vice Moderator for one year. With concerns raised that our lay people need to know how important they are to the well-being of the Covenant Association, the following sentence was added to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Covenant Association:

"Though it is desired to alternate between authorized ministers and lay persons for the position of Moderator and Vice-Moderator, and if this is not possible, then an appropriate volunteer (authorized ministers and lay persons) may fill the role."

One of the final items we discussed was the election of offices. The following were elected to positions in the Covenant Association:

Mrs. Alexis Ames: Standing side of the (COM)

(COM stands for the Committee on Ministry)

Rev. Domenik Ackerman to the COM

Rev. Jayme Babczak to the COM

Rev. Donald Epps to the COM

Mrs. Linda Lash to fill the unfinished term of Vice Moderator

Rev. Tammie Wisniewski as Treasurer

Mr. Rick Deerfield as Secretary

We celebrated our work and worship together by ending our gathering with communion and singing.

I would like to thank everyone who attended and everyone who helped to make this an amazing gathering! It was a beautiful day in the life of the Covenant Association.

If you missed this gathering, we will be gathering again on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at Huff's Church, 540 Conrad Road, Alburtis, PA. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!** Spread the word in your congregation!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Covenant Association, feel free to reach out to your Executive Committee and we will be happy to meet with you.

In the June insert, we would like to begin to highlight our churches in the Covenant Association. **PLEASE** send one or two pictures of your congregation and include the exciting things that are happening. Send to Rev. Sharon Morris at revsmorris@gmail.com.