



1730 New Holland Road Reading (Kenhorst), PA 19607
Phone: 610-777-5211 Website: oneucc.org

A Season of Transition

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00am-Noon

Church Staff:

Rebecca Hoover, Pastor
Bob McNabb, Acting Treasurer
Donald Miller, Sexton and
Financial Secretary
Gloria Miller, Church Secretary
Jeff Miller, Director of Music

For the first time in 18 years I'm going back to school! I'm nervous, excited, and so very grateful to be sharing this new chapter in my life with you. I'm returning to the classroom to work on a Master of Education degree with initial certification in elementary education at Kutztown University. This semester I get to learn about child development and family and community partnerships, and fortunately both of my classes are online.

This change in my life means changes in our congregation's life. In February 2020 we voted to move forward with the Future of the Church Team's recommendation of option #3, which allows for a part-time pastor. As my M.Ed. program will be time consuming, I am moving to part-time ministry starting September 1st. For the rest of 2020, I will be working about 25 hours each week as my class load is lighter this semester. However, in the Spring 2021 semester (starting mid-January), my class load will be intense and so I will be moving to half-time. More details will be forthcoming later this year.

For the remainder of 2020, my office hours will be Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9am-noon. These are not the only hours I'm working, but they are the hours I will be consistently available at church if you need to reach me. My responsibilities will include: preparation and leadership of worship (crafting the liturgy, scripture study, sermon prep, including bulletin preparation, finding and guiding lay

liturgists, preaching, prayers, etc); some faith formation and vitality work (Bible study/confirmation, service, identifying helpful resources and opportunities and helping lay persons take advantage of them); some leadership development mainly with Council and the Worship Committee; pastoral care in collaboration with lay visitors and crisis pastoral care; weddings, funerals, and baptisms; participation in wider church meetings and activities such as conference and association meetings as time permits; and inspiring and energizing and deepening spiritual connections and faith understanding.

Unless you are actively involved on church Council or staff, not much will look different for you with these changes. I still will be preaching and leading worship every Sunday I'm not on vacation. I still will be available in the office if you need something. I'm still available for funerals, weddings, baptisms, hospital visits as conditions allow, crises, and emergencies. **If something major comes up in your life and your need to talk to your pastor, please, please, please be in touch with me.** What will change is I will not have the time to work as closely with our committees as I have. Our committees will need to step up in their planning of activities and programs. We will need to rely more on the gifts of our lay leaders, which are considerable. I will not be doing as much regular visitation of our homebound

members. We are going to be developing a lay visitation program this fall and working to connect all our homebound members with a visitor from our congregation. My activities in the wider United Church of Christ will not be as extensive.

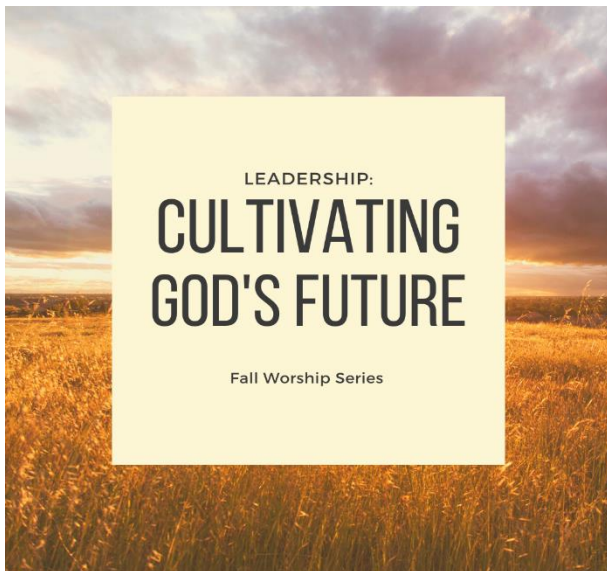
The biggest challenge for me is going to balancing my time as your Pastor, my time as a grad student, and my time as a family member and friend. **To that end, I ask your understanding and help protecting my time off. To the fullest extent possible, I am going to be keeping Saturdays as my day off from church and school.** That will be time for me to spend with Matt and Katie, to connect with my family and my friends, and to clean my house! I ask for your help to keep Saturdays as sabbath time for me. If you contact me on Saturday, I will not respond unless it is an emergency. I will be screening my calls and messages, so please leave me a message if you have an emergency. An emergency is a crisis or something that absolutely cannot wait until Sunday. Someone dying is an emergency. Someone hospitalized is an emergency. If you are having a breakdown and need to talk with someone, that is an emergency. A spiritual thought you have is not an emergency, and I would love to hear it on Sunday. A question you have about an activity or meeting, likewise, is not an emergency, and I would love to talk with you about it not on Saturday.

Moving to part-time ministry is a big change for us all. We will need time to get used to these changes, and there will be bumps along the way. If you have questions, concerns, or accolades about my changing role and responsibilities within the congregation, please talk with me. Please know I am praying for our congregation as we live into this new situation, and I covet your prayers as well. Whatever this fall holds for us all, may we remain deeply rooted in prayer and discernment, leaning upon God's grace and wisdom for the living of these days.

Peace,

Becky

Fall Worship Schedule



Leadership is an art that cultivates God's future. All of us have the capacity to be leaders in our homes and families, in our work, at church, and in any other group of people we're a part of. Part of being a disciple of Jesus Christ is being a leader in the world. This fall we'll explore what leadership is (and isn't), different biblical models of leadership, and we'll be challenged to grow as disciple leaders!

Worship continues to be available by podcast on our website (www.oneucc.org) or YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHUua_X9q0AuoIlgEn7vahQ?view_as=subscriber

Date	Scripture	Themes/Special Happenings
September 6, 2020	2 Kings 18:5-8; 2 Kings 20:12-19	What is Leadership?
September 13, 2020	1 Samuel 25:14-19, 23-31	The Visionary Leader; Drive-in/Outdoor Worship
September 20, 2020	1 Samuel 16:1-13	The Intuitive Leader
September 27, 2020	Luke 10:38-42 and John 12:1-8	The Learning Leader; Drive-in/Outdoor Worship; Holy Communion
October 4, 2020	Mark 6:30-32	The Centered Leader; World Communion Sunday (so communion again!)
October 11, 2020	John 4:5-42	The Vulnerable Leader; Drive-in/Outdoor Worship
October 18, 2020	TBD	
October 25, 2020	Mark 4:26-34	The Storytelling Leader; Drive-in/Outdoor Worship; Holy Communion

Reopening Updates

The leadership of One UCC met and discussed reopening to in-person, indoor worship. Noting the rising number of cases, the increased evidence Covid-19 spreads through aerosols, the quality of our sanctuary's ventilation, and the limited capacity of people who can safely be in the sanctuary at one time, we are not returning to indoor worship at least through the fall. We will continue with Drive-in/Outdoor worship and with recording worship. We will continue to keep everyone updated on changes.

Relatedly, many events we know and love that happen in the fall will not be happening this fall. The annual September Church Picnic is cancelled. Choir is not restarting any time soon. The Doors to Understanding fine art photography show is postponed until 2021. Candy making is not happening this fall. **The church Bazaar as we have known it is not happening, but we are discussing a soup and barbeque sale** around the first Saturday in November. More details will be available soon.

We have made these decisions with heavy hearts. We miss being together. We look forward to our fall activities—both for the connections we make with each other and the ways we can serve God through them. Our first priority right now is showing love for God and neighbor by doing our part to keep people safe and to keep the virus from spreading. It would be spiritually and emotionally devastating if anyone contracted Covid from attending an event here or if our congregation became a hotspot in the community. Please know we are discussing ways to build community as safely and faithfully as this time allows. Friends in Christ, please keep praying, and keep doing the things we all need to do to protect ourselves and others: wearing masks in public, avoiding crowds, washing hands, and physical distancing. This time, too, shall pass, and with our prayers and efforts pass more quickly.

Church News and Updates Email List

We've started an email list for church news and updates! **We need your permission to add you to the email list.** If you don't currently receive the emails and you wish to do so, please contact Pastor Becky (revrjph@outlook.com) to be added to the list.

Drive-in/Outdoor Worship Continues!

Given that outside is safer than inside, and the ventilation system in the sanctuary does not provide adequate exchange of air and filtration right now, we are continuing outdoor worship as long as we can. Save the dates for September 13th, 27th, October 11th, 25th, and November 15th and 29th.

Here are the details for how Drive-in/Outdoor worship works:

- The service is at 10:30am
- **If you are sick, feeling unwell, or have been in a crowd within the past two weeks, we kindly ask you to worship from home.**
- Please park in the designated spaces only (those that are not marked off).
- **We must maintain social/physical distance of 6 feet or more at all times.**
- You may stay in your vehicle or if you wish to bring your own chairs to sit immediately outside your vehicle, you are welcome to do so. You are welcome to sit anywhere else on church grounds as long as you maintain 6 feet from people not in your bubble.
- Please bring your own bulletin. Limited numbers of bulletins will be available.
- While the weather is still warm, you might wish to bring sunscreen, insect repellent, an umbrella or sun shade. The parking lot can be bright and hot.
- As the weather changes, you might wish to bring a blanket or whatever you would use to keep warm if you were attending an outdoor sports event, parade, festival, or such.
- **Non-worship leaders have to wear masks at all times, and worship leaders will wear masks when not leading worship.**
- If you wish to sing, you have to be in your car with your windows rolled up and doors shut.
- **Use of the bathrooms on Sunday is highly discouraged. Please use the bathroom before you come to church. The service is going to be shorter than normal. We are not blocking off the bathrooms but would be most grateful if they are not used unless absolutely necessary.**
- Unfortunately, we cannot offer transportation to drive-in worship at this time.

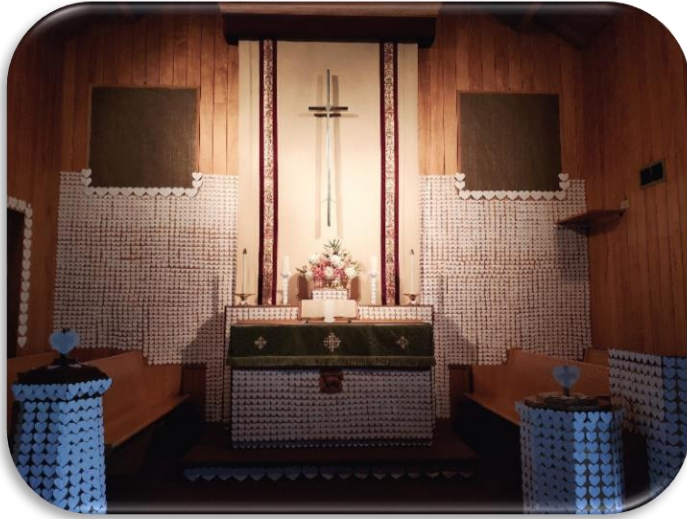
If participating in a drive-in worship service is uncomfortable for you or if you are in a higher risk group and it's better for you to not attend, please know we understand, love, and support your decision to stay home. **Worship still will be available on YouTube as we have been worshipping these past couple of months even on Sundays when we are having drive-in worship.**

If you look outside on Sunday morning and see pouring down rain, assume we aren't worshipping outside. If the weather is showery or uncertain, we will decide by 8:30am at the latest what we are doing with the service. We will announce any cancellation of outdoor worship Sunday morning on Facebook and by the church email list. If you are unsure or don't have a computer, call or text Pastor Becky (301-471-3185) on Sunday morning to check about the service.

September 2020

by Linda Schrieber

God has touched the leaves on the trees
In colors of red and gold.
They fall on the ground with a little breeze
And at night it starts to get cold.



Hearts Full of Prayer

Our sanctuary continues to hold hearts of remembrance for the over 7,600 Pennsylvanians who've died from Covid-19. While these hearts honor the deceased, they are a call to prayer for us to keep doing the things we need to do to value each other's lives. May God bring us strength and hope for these wearisome days.

“Dear Revs.” Continues

Taking inspiration from the every day, Pastors Becky and Matt Hoover answer your questions, address things you're curious about, and discuss finding the holy in all kinds of places in a video series called “Dear Revs.” Check out the videos on One UCC's YouTube channel (same link you go to for worship) and Facebook page on Wednesdays. Also, if you have a burning faith question or something you would like to see us discuss, contact Pastor Becky. All askers will be kept anonymous.

A Meaningful Way to Give Back Right Now

This is a school year like no other. We've heard about the changes this year is bringing to children, their families, and our entire community. If you're looking for a way you can do something to help kids learn and help families juggle this wild season, consider making a donation to Opportunity House's Second Street Learning Center. Our congregation is not equipped to help schools in the area meet the enormous challenges of right now, but our friends at Opportunity House are. For years our congregation has supported the work of Opportunity House. Their Second Street Learning Center will be operating a virtual school on-site for children from kindergarten through elementary school. They write about this program, “Each child will be getting their own Chromebook computer from their respective schools and we will provide supervision for virtual learning for over 100 children each day. Even though the computers are provided by the school, we will need sturdy bags to store them in, electric power strips, extension cords and headphones to make this work.” If you would like to make a contribution, please contact Opportunity House at (610) 374-4696 or visit their website www.opphouse.org.