

Sexagesima Sunday – Eighth Sunday before Easter

New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ



1070 Church Road † East Greenville PA 18041

www.newgoshucc.org † 215-679-2041

"Sharing the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people."

February 8, 2026

8:00 a.m. In Person Worship - Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. In person and Livestream Worship in Sanctuary

Welcome to New Goshenhoppen Church!

It is said that George Frederick Handel composed his amazing musical *The Messiah* in approximately three weeks. It was apparently done at a time when his eyesight was failing and when he was facing the possibility of being imprisoned because of outstanding bills. Handel, however, kept writing in the midst of these challenges till the masterpiece, which included the majestic, "Hallelujah Chorus," was completed.

Handel later credited the completion of his work to one ingredient: Joy. He was quoted as saying that he felt as if his heart would burst with joy at what he was hearing in his mind. Sure enough, listening either to the entire work of *The Messiah*, or to the "Hallelujah Chorus" brings great joy to one's heart.

Similarly, in the midst of the many challenges he faced, including chains, imprisonment, and slander, the Apostle Paul, filled with the joy that Christ gives, could say, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4). May the joy of the Lord fill your heart today!

Scripture Memory: *The fruit of the Spirit is: Love, JOY, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.* – Galatians 5:22-23

Today is approximately 60 days before Easter – it is called in the Latin – Sexagesima. The color for the "Gesima" Sundays is purple. It signifies penitence, preparation, mourning, humiliation, and the passion.

We Praise and Confess

*The * invites you to rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude ***Peace Like a River, Joy Like a Fountain*** – Herbert Colvin

Chiming of the Trinity

Presentation of the Flag by the Scouts – 10:30 a.m.

Prayer for the Scouts

Invitation to Confession

We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.

Invitation

Think About His Love – Harrah

Chorus:

**Think about His love, think about His goodness,
Think about His grace, that's brought us through.
For as high as the heavens above, so great is the measure,
of our Father's love. Great is the measure of our Father's love.**

Verse 1:

**How could I forget His love?
How could I forget His mercy?
He satisfies, He satisfies, He satisfies my desires. [to Chorus]**

Verse 2:

**Even when I strayed away,
His love has sought me out and found me.
He satisfies, He satisfies, He satisfies my desires. [to Chorus]**

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father,

We confess that we often see difficult circumstances and discouragement as barriers to doing the work you have called us to do. Rather than rejoicing in what you have provided, we lament that we do not have more. Help us to see the gifts that you give and the life that is possible in them. Make your Holy Spirit's work clear so that we can follow and glorify you, finding energy and encouragement on the way. We pray these things in Jesus' name, and we ask you hear our continued confession in silence. . .

Silence

Declaration of Pardon

Romans 3:22; Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 21

Righteousness from God comes
through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

**By faith I have a deep-rooted assurance,
created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel,
that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ,
not only others, but I too,
have had my sins forgiven,
have been made forever right with God,
and have been granted salvation.**

Praise

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall show forth Your praise.

*Hymn: No. 611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee – Hymn to Joy

*Greeting

To those who are called, who are beloved in God,
kept safe for Jesus Christ,
and sealed in the Holy Spirit:
May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.
Amen!

We Hear and Respond

From the Prophets

Isaiah 55:6-13

6 "Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
7 let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on
him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

12 "For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”¹
The Word of the Lord, the Light of the World.

Thanks be to God!

From a Letter of the Apostle Paul

Colossians 5:22-25

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.²

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.³

The Word of the Lord, the Light of the World.

Thanks be to God!

*Gospel Hymn: No. 623

I've Got Peace Like a River

*Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 5:13-20

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Savior.

¹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Is 55:6–13.

² *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Ga 5:22–25.

³ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Ro 5:1–2.

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that² they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.⁴

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.**

The third day he rose again from the dead.

⁴ *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

**He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Word of God Proclaimed

Dr Williams – "PD"

Joy Is an Inside Job

Ordination of Deacons and Elder* and Installation of Consistory

Deacons:

Janet Weikel*
Stacie Miller*
Terry Dworkin
Amy Hangey
Peter Hemperly
Gene Basara
Randy Peterson

Elders:

Cindy Roma*
Steve Lentz
Will Howe
Donna Fried
Thomas Bancroft
Denise Fox

Trustees:

Ted Kutt
Frank Eidle
Bruce Adam

Morning Prayer

Our Savior's Prayer [using **debts** and **debtors**]

Welcome and Announcements

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings
Give via PayPal, a Credit Card, or Debit Card by
scanning the QR code with your camera



Offertory

*Offertory Response: No. 606

The Doxology

*Offertory Prayer

*Dismissal Hymn: No. 80

You Shall Go Out with Joy!

Following the Light of Christ into the World

We go. . .

***To share the light, faith and love of Jesus
with all people!***

*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

Hymn to Joy – Richard Ellsasser

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SCOUTING NEWS: Cub Scouts is for boys and girls Kindergarten to 5th grade. If interested in joining, please call or text Kyle Moyer at 610-360-0924. **Scouts BSA** is for 11 to 18 year olds. If interested in joining, please call or text Scott Spaar at 484-431-3178.

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

The People of New Goshenhoppen, Ministers

Rev. Dr. David A. Williams, Senior Pastor and Organist

Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens, Pastor Emerita

Rev. Erick Kern, Associate Pastor

Rev. Elaine Ely, Minister of Grief Support

Kelly Johannsen, Lay Minister of Visitation

Susan Hemperly, Senior Choir Accompanist

Cindy Biehn, Administrative Secretary

Office Phone: 215-679-2041 Email: office@newgoshucc.org

Visit us online at www.newgoshucc.org

WELCOME VISITORS ~ we're glad you are joining us for worship! Please sign the visitor card located in the pew rack and drop in the offering plate.

WiFi PASSWORD: Network: NewGoshGuest, password: **wearethechurch**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MONTHLY OUTREACH is baby items and women's personal items. There is a collection container in the Social Room for your contributions which will be given to Genesis Women's Clinic in Pottstown.

HOAGIE SALE: For those who pre-ordered hoagies from the Youth Group, you may pick them up today in Fellowship Hall between 8:30 a.m. – noon. Thanks for your support!

CARD SHOWER: Kindly spread some birthday cheer by sending Ed George a birthday card in celebration of his 90th birthday on March 1. Please send to Ed George, The Village at Lifequest, 2100 Cherry Blossom Lane, Apt. 221, Quakertown, PA 18951.

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 18: The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 18. The Reformation Sisters invite you to join them for worship at 11:00 a.m. at New Goshenhoppen or 7:00 p.m. at Friedens UCC, Sumneytown. The service at New Goshenhoppen will be the Preparatory Service with Ashes and Holy Communion. The service will be followed by chicken noodle soup made by "PD" with warm bread and beverage in the fellowship area (Social Room) below the Sanctuary. Pastor Nick Pence will preach at New Goshenhoppen, and Pastor Dave will preach at Sumneytown.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The church is grateful for financial gifts received in the name of loved ones and friends.

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Shirley Fox

by the Renninger Family

THE RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKAGING EVENT has been rescheduled for March 22 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Red Hill. Volunteers are needed for setting up and meal packaging. Kindly sign up on the bulletin board located in the Social Room. Thank you!

MORE VOLUNTEERS are being sought for funeral luncheons. If you'd like to be added to the list, please call, text, or email Donna Yorkey at 215-679-7179 or DYorkey@icloud.com.

HILLEGASS SCHOLARSHIP FUND OPPORTUNITY: Through the generosity of the Foster C. and Florence (Moll) Hillegass Scholarship Fund, New Goshenhoppen U.C.C. is able to grant financial assistance to members of the congregation who have decided to further their education. The Scholarship Awards are for post high school students working for an undergraduate degree at an accredited school. All scholarships are awarded to full-time (12 or more credits per semester) students for a maximum of 5 years. Students applying to a community college, trade school, technical school, nursing school, as well as individuals pursuing a degree in ministry from an accredited school, are also eligible for this scholarship. Scholarships are given based on financial need, church involvement, and academic record. Members may stop by the New Goshenhoppen Church Office to pick up an application and information packet. Applications **MUST** be postmarked by Wednesday, April 15, 2026, in order to receive consideration. Students currently receiving a scholarship will get applications via the postal service in early April.

SYMPATHY is expressed to the family of **Shirley M. (Schlicher) Fox** who passed to eternal life on January 29, 2026. Please keep in your prayers her daughter, Sally Heimbach, and her extended family.

SYMPATHY is expressed to the family of **Mabel A. Rizzo** who passed to eternal life on February 2, 2026. Please keep in your prayers her children, Terry Bieler and his wife, Judie, and Carol Aldinger and her extended family.

BULLETINS are presented in honor of grandchildren, Sherri, Vaughn, Catherine, Wyatt, Lindsey and Cole, and great-grandchildren, Carson, Nicholas, Bryce, Declan, Harrison, Oaklyn, Adelaide and Morgan with love always, MomMom (Marlene Gehman).

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented in memory of the birthday anniversary of Barbara Walck by her daughters, Janis Croissette and Gail Gerhard and their families.

THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT (left) are presented in memory of the birthday anniversary of wife, Barbara Frank by husband, Donald.

THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT (center) are presented in memory of sister, Deborah Kaye Harpel and brother, Jerry Harpel by the families.

THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT (right) are presented in memory of "Uncle Eddie" (Edwin J. George) by Sarah and Emma.

THE FLOWERS BEHIND THE PULPIT are presented in memory of the birthday anniversary of mother, Cheria Kolb by Dawn & Bruce Ferketich.

ATTENDANCE: 2/1/26 – 8:00 a.m. 51, 10:30 a.m. 43, Livestream 65, Sunday School 54.

OPERATING INCOME 1/18/26, 1/25/26, 2/1/26: Current & Benevolences including EFT \$7,284; Building, Improvement & Maintenance including EFT \$374.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:

Year to Date Income	\$32,950.67
Less Investment Withdrawals	<u>\$0.00</u>
	\$32,950.67
Year to Date Expenses	\$50,613.32
Special Income	\$0.00
Special Projects Expenses	\$3,563.98
Capital Campaign Income	\$200.00
Meadows Paid Back Year to Date	\$13,100.00

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary) -Scout Sunday
	8:30 a.m.	Youth Group – Super Bowl hoagie sale pick up
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed) – Scout Sunday; Consistory ordained/installed
Mon.	6:00 p.m.	Friendship Committee (Heidelberg Room)
	6:30 p.m.	Assemble Care Packages (Fellowship Hall)
	6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee (Bible Fellowship Room)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (Pathfinder Room)
	3:00 p.m.	Code Blue Shelter meal preparation (Kitchen/Fellowship Hall)
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts (lower-level classrooms)
Thurs.	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study (Senior High Room)
	6:00 p.m.	Cardio Drumming (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (Senior High Room)
Sat.	10:00 a.m.	Wreath Removal (cemetery)
	2:00 p.m.	Boy Scout game night and pizza dinner (Fellowship Hall)
Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education Building)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)

Thank you to our Service Participants

8:00 a.m.	Narthex: Nancy Haines Roberts' Church Office: Bruce Adam Elevator: Melissa Jamison Upper Narthex: Gene Basara Liturgist/Acolyte: Janet Weikel
10:30 a.m.	Narthex: Amy Hangey Roberts' Church Office: Steve Lentz Elevator: Soren Mugridge Upper Narthex: Cindy Roma Liturgist/Acolyte: Terry Dworkin

ADORATION

611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-flect thy rays;
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan.



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, o - pening to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Love di - vine is reign-ing o'er us, join - ing all in heav-en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
 Ev - er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife.



Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.



This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

ADORATION

623 I've Got Peace like a River

1 I've got peace like a riv - er; I've got peace like a
 2 I've got joy like a foun-tain; I've got joy like a
 3 I've got love like an o - cean; I've got love like an

riv - er; I've got peace like a riv - er, in my
 foun-tain; I've got joy like a foun-tain, in my
 o - cean; I've got love like an o - cean, in my

soul. I've got riv - er, in my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain, in my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean, in my soul.

In the King James Version, the promise of "peace like a river" is twice mentioned in Isaiah (48:18; 66:12) as a blessing that comes from doing God's will. The water imagery of this African American spiritual also provides reminders of Christians' baptismal identity.

You Shall Go Out with Joy 80 The Trees of the Field

Em B7 Em B7 Em

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;

G C G D

the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be -

B N.C. Em B7 Em

fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the

B7 Em B7 Em B7 Em

trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

D7 N.C. G C G D

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;

* X X D7 G D7 G

the trees of the field will clap their hands;

C G D

the trees of the field will clap their hands

B7 Em B7 Em

while you go out with joy.

**Clap hands.*

This text paraphrases Isaiah 55:12, which is generally understood to describe a “second exodus,” this time from Babylon rather than from Egypt. This release of God’s people and their return to their own land gives rise to a joyful celebration involving all creation.

TEXT: Steffi Geiser Rubin, 1975
MUSIC: Stuart Dauermann, 1975
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THE TREES OF THE FIELD