

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Harvest Home Sunday

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.”

September 20, 2026

8:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary and Live Stream

Welcome to New Goshenhoppen Church

It might be human nature, especially for those who don't look to religion for answers, to try to come up with a theory of reality and life, the purpose of us being here and how long will all this last. An article in the Wall Street Journal reported on Elon Musk's theory.

"It can be hard to understand Elon Musk's reality—especially as he appears to be on track to become the world's first trillionaire this year. Even he questions that reality. For the longest time, Musk has talked about the possibility that we're living in a computer simulation.

"I do have this theory about predicting the future, which is that the most interesting outcome is the most likely," Musk said during a podcast appearance a few weeks ago. It is an idea rooted in the thinking that if our reality really is a simulation, we would get shut down if we were boring.

"Another way to think of it is like we could be an alien Netflix series and that series is only going to get continued if our ratings are good," Musk said. "If you apply Darwin to simulation theory then only the most interesting simulations will continue. Therefore, the most interesting outcome is most likely because it's either that or annihilation.

"So," he added, "really, we have one goal: Keep it interesting."

The Epistle lesson introduces us to true life today!

Source: Tim Higgins, Musk's Surreal Year Could Make Him Founding Member of Trillionaire Club, The Wall Street Journal, January 5, 2026, B1

We Praise and Confess
The * invites you to rise in body or spirit.

Prelude

Invitation to Worship

-

*Hymn of Praise: No. 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah - CWM Rhondda

Call to Confession

Before we can hear God's truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that obstructs us from honestly acknowledging our wrongdoing. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God,
**in your presence we confess
our sinfulness, our shortcomings,
and our offenses against you.**
**You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.**
**Have mercy on us, O Lord,
for we are ashamed and sorry
for all we have done to displease you.**
**Forgive our sins,
and help us to live in your light
and walk in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Word of Pardon

---James 5:15-16

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

*In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed and restored to God's path of righteousness. **Amen.***

Invitation to Praise

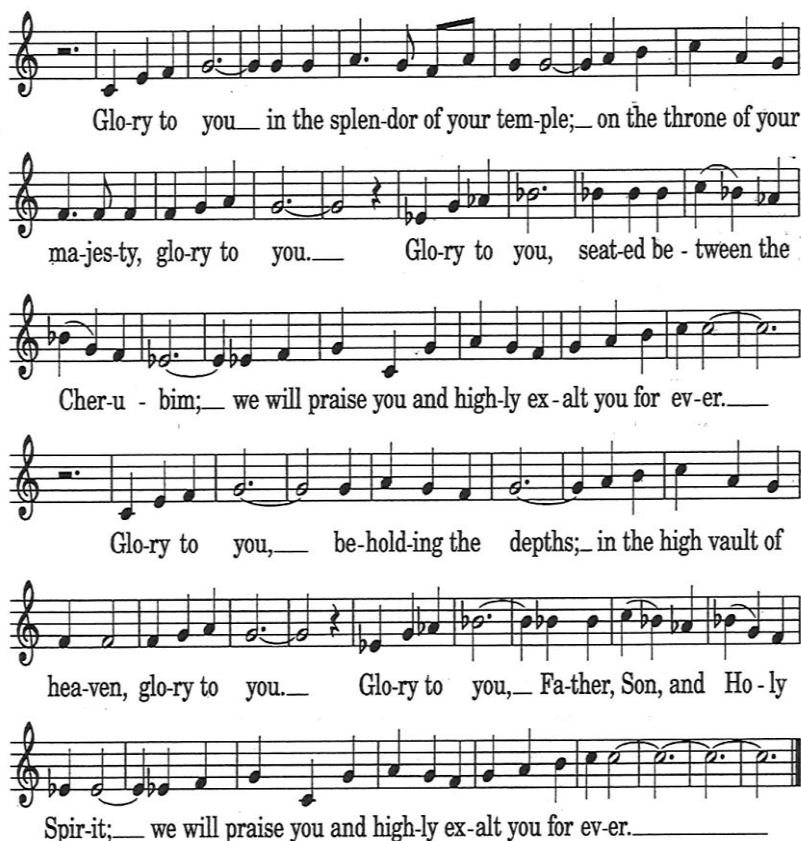
O Lord, open our lips;
and our mouth shall declare your praise.

*Praise

Benedictus es, Domine – John Rutter



Glo-ry to you, Lord God of our fa-thers; you are
wor-thy of praise; glo-ry to you. Glo-ry to you for the ra-di-ance
of your ho-ly Name; we will praise you and high-ly ex-alt you for ev-er.



Glo-ry to you in the splen-dor of your tem-ple; on the throne of your

ma-jes-ty, glo-ry to you. Glo-ry to you, seat-ed be - tween the

Cher-u - bim; we will praise you and high-ly ex-alt you for ev-er.

Glo-ry to you, be-hold-ing the depths; in the high vault of

hea-ven, glo-ry to you. Glo-ry to you, Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Spir-it; we will praise you and high-ly ex-alt you for ev-er.

We Hear and Respond

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. ¹

From the Psalter

Psalm 145:1-8

¹ I will extol you, my God and King,

and bless your name forever and ever.

² Every day I will bless you

and praise your name forever and ever.

³ Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,

and his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another,

and shall declare your mighty acts.

⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty,

and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,

and I will declare your greatness.

⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness

and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ²

*Gospel Hymn: No. 719

Come, Labor On – Ora Labora

*Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

St Matthew 20:1-16

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Savior.

¹ *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

² *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius¹ a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?'² ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last." ³

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Proclamation of God's Word

Dr. Williams – "PD"

That's Life, That's What People Say. . .

³ *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

**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.
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.**

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

*The Doxology: No. 606

Praise God!

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Thanks

*Hymn of Dismissal: No. 720

Jesus Calls Us – Galilee

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

*Dismissal and Blessing

*Going Forth

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SEPTEMBER 20, 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

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.

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY: Today we observe Harvest Home during our worship services. As we give thanks to God for His abundant blessings and daily provision, we are also reminded to care for those who are less fortunate. Please consider donating non-perishable food items to support Open Link and its mission to assist those in need. Donations may be placed in the large white collection box located in the Social Room throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity and compassion. The Health and Welfare Committee appreciates your support.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP'S MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS: Activity books, cards, and small craft kits are being collected to give to children and youth at CHOP (Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania). These items will help to occupy their time as they deal with medical needs. There is a collection box in the Social Room for your contributions.

OKTOBERFEST: The Reformation Sister Churches will host Oktoberfest on Wednesday, September 23, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Green Lane. Enjoy an evening of food trucks, beer, wine, and live music while gathering in fellowship with friends and neighbors. Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to support the Open Link Food Pantry. Volunteers are needed to assist with setup from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. and cleanup from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. If you are available to help, please contact 215-234-4888 and leave your name, email address and whether you are volunteering to help with setup or cleanup or both. For more information check out the website: <https://www.stjsumneytown.org/>

FULL MOON CAMPFIRE: The September Full Moon Campfire will take place on **Saturday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m.** Please join us at the Prayer/Meditation Wall. Bring a lawn chair, non-alcoholic drink, and a snack to share. Dress for the weather. Hope for a good clear moonlit night! Rain cancels.

ANNUAL PIG ROAST SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 27

Join us on Sunday, September 27, for our Annual Pig Roast and a day of worship, food, and fellowship. We will gather for a 10:30 a.m. worship service at the Church Park, followed by the Pig Roast meal. Thanks to the generosity of Dan Rodgers and his team, "Porky Pig" will be prepared and served along with all the fixings. Coffee, tea, and other beverages will be provided. Guests are asked to bring a covered dish and/or dessert to share and to bring place settings for their family. The 8:00 a.m. service will be broadcast from the Sanctuary that morning. Be sure to invite your friends, neighbors, and extended family to join us for community worship and the food of fellowship. In the event of rain, worship will be held in the Sanctuary, and the meal will be served in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Friendship Committee.

2027 CONSISTORY NOMINATIONS: Nominations are being received to serve on the 2027 Consistory. Qualifications include sound faith, wisdom and good discretion, regular attendance, and a positive attitude about the church. Members who serve on Consistory are elected to a three-year term and must be a member of New Goshenhoppen for at least one year before serving. Each year two Elders, two Deacons, and one Trustee are elected to serve the following roles:

- Elders focus on nurturing the faith and spiritual life of the congregation. Elders must previously have served on Consistory as a Deacon or Trustee.
- Deacons are persons who practice good stewardship. Deacons lead the church in service and love, encouraging and stimulating the connection and care between people in the church and the community.
- Trustees manage and care for the facilities and grounds. They are concerned with maintenance, improvements, and matters of security and safety.

Submit nominations to the Church Office (office@newgoshucc.org or 215-679-2041) by Sunday, September 27th with nominee name and office (Elder, Deacon, Trustee). Please obtain permission from the nominee before submitting their name.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

GENERAL FUND

In loving memory of the birthday anniversary of Dean Steinman

Love, Mom, sister Stacie, and brothers

In memory of Frank Eidle, Jr.

Delores Eidle

Greg Moser

Steve & Emy Moyer

Ken & Terry Vincent

MUSIC MINISTRY

In memory of Douglas Atno

Donna Kosteva

Steve & Emy Moyer

Lynn & Michael Nagel

Donald Weldner and Debra Beck & Family

STEEPLE FUND

In memory of Douglas Atno

Mary Schaeffer

In memory of Frank Eidle, Jr.

Donald Weldner and Debra Beck & Family

Advent Workshop Volunteers Needed. We are looking for individuals to provide leadership and assistance to our crafters, Sunday, November 29th, From 1 to 3 PM. Two volunteers will be assigned to each table. No need to design or create the craft all supplies and instructions are provided. If you are interested, please contact Denise Fox at d_foxucc@comcast.net or a sign-up sheet is available in the social room.

Thanks to everyone who took part in helping the Friendship Committee hand out delicious Snow Cones at Community Days! We handed out approximately 700 icy treats to some very grateful patrons!

BIBLE STUDY will begin on **Thursday, September 24th**. There will be two opportunities, 10:00 a.m. in the morning and 7:00 p.m. in the evening. We will be meeting in the Confirmation Room on the first floor of the education wing. There can be times when we must change the room in which we are meeting. A sign will be in the hallway indicating which room we are in. Everyone is invited, whether a member of New Goshenhoppen or not. Please bring your Bible and paper for notes. If you do not have a Bible or forget your Bible, there are extras in the classroom. Please do not stay home because you may not know where to find things in the Bible. There are several people who have difficulty finding passages, but that changes over time. We have all been there. If you would like to read ahead, we will begin with 1st Peter.

September 24th - November 19th

(No Bible Study on Thanksgiving)

December 3rd - December 17th

(No Bible Study for Christmas and New Year's)

January 7th - March 18th

(No Bible Study for Maundy Thursday)

April 1st - June 24th

(No Bible Study for July and August summer break)

Any questions, please contact Rev. Kern at 484-686-7325 or ejkern053@gmail.com. Blessings and hope to see you on September 24th!

BULLETINS are presented in memory of husband, Paul Gehman, parents, Catherine & Paul Krauss, and sister, Marion Weikel by Marlene Gehman.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented in memory of departed loved ones by Conrad Fisher; and in memory of mother, Barbara Haas by Deb Nester.

ATTENDANCE: 9/13/26 – 8:00 a.m. 47; 10:30 a.m. 48; Livestream 49; Sunday School 36.

OPERATING INCOME 9/13/26: Current & Benevolences including EFT \$3955; Building, Improvement & Maintenance including EFT \$972; Brass Buckets \$1013.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:

Year to Date Income	\$369,656.43
Less transfers from investments	\$0.00
Net	\$369,656.43
Year to Date Expenses	\$413,832.37
Special Income	\$1,264.00
Special Projects Expenses	\$10,536.48
Capital Campaign Income	\$9,865.00
Meadows Paid Back Year to Date	\$19,200.00

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary) – Harvest Home
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education building)
	9:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class (Confirmation room)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & livestreamed) – Harvest Home
Mon.	6:30 p.m.	Elders Meeting (Pastor Dave’s office)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (Pathfinder Room)
Thurs.	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study (Confirmation Room)
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (Confirmation Room)
Sat.	7:30 a.m.	Cemetery Work Day
	7:00 p.m.	Full Moon Campfire (Prayer Meditation Wall)
Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education building)
	9:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class (Confirmation room)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Park) – Christian Educators honored
	11:30 a.m.	Pig Roast (Park)

Thank you to our Service Participants

8:00 a.m.	Narthex: Stacie Miller Roberts’ Church Office: Janet Weikel Elevator: Donna Fried Upper Narthex: Delores Schuler Liturgist/Acolyte: Emy Moyer
10:30 a.m.	Narthex: Theodore Kutt Roberts’ Church Office: Terry Dworkin Elevator: Peter Hemperly Upper Narthex: Cindy Roma Liturgist/Acolyte: Sheri Ackerman

THE BLESSING BOX: Our new mission, **The Blessing Box**, is now up and open! Our Theme, "Give What You Can. Take What You Need", seems to be a success. It is being used by those in need. If you can donate anything on the list below, it would be so appreciated. Thank you to all who have been "Giving What You Can". You can place your items in the Blessing Box, next to the lower parking lot, or in the blue container in the social room.

NEEDED ITEMS FOR BLESSING BOX

- Boxes of any type of pasta
- Any canned protein such as tuna, chicken, or beans
- Rice and rice meals
- Mac and cheese
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Boxes of pudding and Jello
- Granola bars and fruit snacks
- Ramen noodles
- Boxed cake and muffin mixes
- Pancake Mix and syrup
- Jelly or jam
- Soups
- Crackers
- Tomato and spaghetti sauces
- Canned ravioli or spaghetti
- Gatorade
- Cereals and oatmeal
- Bottled water and juices
- Baby wipes, food, or diapers
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Laundry detergent and dish soap

Please check expiration dates.

No household items, such as lamps or clothing.

No items that will spoil or need refrigeration.

If Blessing Box is full, please put items outside of the church office door.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

TEXT: William Williams, 1762; stanza 1, trans. Peter Williams, 1771; stanzas 2–3, trans. William Williams, 1772
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

719

Come, Labor On

Capo 1: (G) (C) (G) (Em) (C) (G) (C) (D) (G)
 A^b D^b A^b Fm D^b A^b D^b E^b A^b



1 Come, la-bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har - vest plain
 2 Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;
 3 Come, la-bor on. Cast off all gloom - y doubt and faith - less fear!
 4 Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west - ern sky,

(Em) (B7) (Em) (B) (Em) (C) (D)
 Fm C7 Fm C Fm D^b E^b



while all a - round us waves the gold - en grain? And to each
 to young and old the gos - pel glad - ness bear. Re - deem the
 No arm so weak but may do ser - vice here. Though fee - ble
 till the long shad - ows o'er our path - way lie, and a glad

(G) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)
 A^b Fm D^b A^b B^bm E^b7 A^b



ser - vant does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."
 time; its hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.
 a - gents, may we all ful - fill God's righ - teous will.
 sound comes with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well done!"

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Using Jesus' harvest imagery in John 4:35–38 and Matthew 9:37–38/Luke 10:2, this urgent text sounds a compelling call to Christian service. The words gain energy from the strong unison tune in the English cathedral style, whose name echoes the Benedictine motto "Prayer is work."

TEXT: Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; rev. 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Thomas Tertius Noble, 1918

ORA LABORA
 4.10.10.10.4

Jesus Calls Us

720

1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -

sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Like many hymns that adults have come to cherish, this text based on Jesus' calling of the disciple Andrew was written for a 19th-century collection of hymns for children. The popular tune used here was composed for these words more than a quarter of a century later.

TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852
 MUSIC: William H. Jude, 1887

GALILEE
 8.7.8.7

**SERVICE OF
ORDINATION ~ INSTALLATION
WORD AND SACRAMENT
KIMBERLY E. CORNWELL, MDIV**



Sunday, October 4, 2026
at Three o'clock in the afternoon

**PEACE IN ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
204 BIG ROAD, ZIEGLERVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall

All Are Welcome

To ensure adequate seating and catering options

Please RSVP: cornwellke@gmail.com

