



June 12, 2016

God Is Still Speaking,

Stillspeaking. It's the shorter form of "God is still speaking," a campaign by the United Church of Christ to remind us that God still has a lot more to say. Since 2004, Stillspeaking has worked with thousands of UCC churches and individuals across the country to make religion relevant again and to extend an extravagant welcome to all—**because no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here. Here at the United Church of Christ.**

In 2004, it was concluded that there was a present and real need for the United Church of Christ to spread its message of extravagant welcome which continues to historically re-shape our understanding of the Christian faith and proclamation. The UCC responded to this call and challenge with a new [identity and marketing campaign](#) to let all others know that anyone could find a spiritual home in the United Church of Christ, be strengthened and nurtured in their faith and be blessed to reach out to others with their God-given gifts and talents.

Today, under one collective identity, we can enthusiastically lift up that the UCC is a welcoming, justice-minded Christian community. At a time when religion is too often portrayed as narrow-minded and exclusive, many are raising their VOICES for an alternate vision:

- Where God is all-loving and inclusive
- Where the Church of Jesus Christ welcomes and accepts everyone as they are
- Where your mind is nourished as much as your soul
- Where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary
- Where together we grow a just and peaceful world

Getting to Know :

Epler's Church UCC

1151 W. Leesport Rd., Leesport, PA 19533



Epler's Church is a 278-year-old congregation that is only in its third building. We have 200 members and a wonderful and diverse group of people with a number of young families up to our oldest member at 103. Our current pastor, Rev. Gary Rarick, has been serving since November of 2013.

Our worship services are enhanced by the singing by our children about once a month; our monthly healing service held as a part of our regular service the last Sunday of each month; and the musical talents of our 20 member choir under the professional direction of Mr. Brian Gibson. During the school year, we have three Sunday school classes including an adult discussion group.

On our church grounds next to our historic cemetery dating back to the Revolutionary War we have our Labyrinth. This is open to the community and once a year we hold an Interfaith Labyrinth Walk with participants from many different faith traditions. We focus on building relationships with many people which includes those that we interact with at the distribution at the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry when we participate once or twice a year sharing the responsibilities with other local faith communities. A special outreach includes our annual Easter Dawn Service that we hold at Blue Marsh Lake for the community.

In May of 2016, Epler's Church sanctuary became the worship space for House of Restoration Church. This Pentecostal and predominately Hispanic congregation worships every Sunday afternoon. Our building and church grounds are also the host of a Boy Scout Troop, Cub Pack, and Little Lamb Nursery School



Prayers are requested for Epler's UCC in Leesport and Rev. Gary Rarick.