



Josh Gulotta, from Christ Lutheran Church, led the congregation in worship on 3-1-23



Sunday School Students learn about Communion



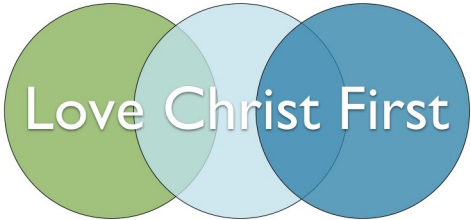
Keith Lentz—Soloist on 2-26-23



Luke Rosenberger accompanied the choir on 3-12-23



Congratulation to Marji Hughes in celebration of 40 years as a Christian Educator.



April Mission —Heifer Project

Nutritious food. Shelter. Clean water. A decent education, Access to health care. And a safe and secure environment.

All fundamental for a life free from hunger and poverty. Yet millions of people can't afford them.

Heifer International works to end hunger and poverty in partnership with the communities they serve in 19 countries across four continents.

It begins with a seed investment of livestock or agriculture, followed by mentorship to help project participants build a business, and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets.

These families are able to earn a living income and continuously lift up their communities as they train the next generation of leaders.

Each Sunday in April a member of the Confirmation Class will present a mission moment about the work of Heifer International. Please consider donating to their class mission for 2023 by using the envelope included in your bulletin. Whether the giving for April equals \$20 which will purchase a flock of chicks to \$500 for a Heifer, our gift won't stop with the recipient. Each family enjoys the dignity of becoming a donor by Passing on the Gift of one or more of its animals' offspring to a neighbor in need. This chain of giving reaches thousands of families, as animals continue to grow and multiply.



First United Church of Christ
 Pastor Becky Thomas
 501 Northampton Street
 Hellertown PA 18055
 (610)838-8811
 office@firstucchellertown.org





Ash Wednesday– Soup Supper



Joint Choirs (Lower Saucon and First UCC)
Sang at Ash Wednesday Service

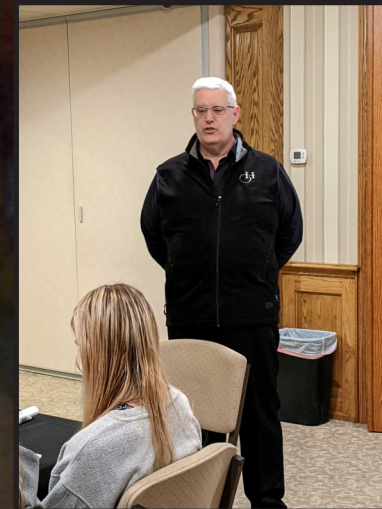


Imposition of Ashes

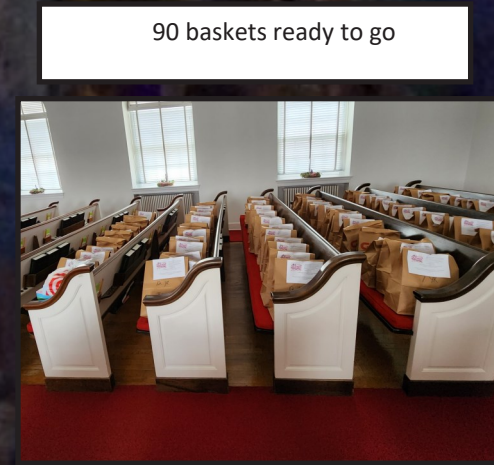
**Welcome to the New Members joining
on February 26, 2023:
Anthony Servedio,
Richard, Jackie & Michael Teitsworth**



Joint Confirmation classes from First UCC and Lower Saucon UCC, their parents and sponsors, joined Pastor Becky and Marji Hughes at the Heintzelman Funeral Home as part of their focus on Death and Dying. Thank you to David Heintzelman and his staff for leading the class and providing the visiting group with lunch after their meeting.



Easter Basket for New Jerusalem Food Bank
Clients were assembled on 3-12-23. Thank you to
all who donated & participated.



90 baskets ready to go



**The Trustees of the Remembrance Fund
Have received and gratefully acknowledged**

**a gift given in loving memory of Margaret "Peg" Masiado:
Norine Haas**

**In loving memory of Ruth Hill:
Norine Haas**

In loving memory of Jeffrey Petruno:

**David & Debra Rohner John & Kathy Chapman Norine Haas
Nicholas & Joan Kiak Rich & Jackie Teitsworth**

**In loving memory of Kay Stauffer:
Rich & Jackie Teitsworth**

The Pastoral Search Committee is in the final stages of completing the Local Church Profile. We anticipate the profile will be submitted to Consistory and then the Penn Northeast Conference for approval prior to our committee posting our advertisement for a half-time pastor by the end of April. Once the advertisement is posted, we will begin to collect and review the applications of candidates. Prior to interviewing candidates, we will conduct a mock interview with a designated mock candidate provided by the Penn Northeast Conference. This will help our team to practice the interview process and receive feedback from the candidate. We ask for your patience and prayers as we move forward with this process.

**Search
Committee
Spotlight**



THANK YOU to all of you who helped with set-up and assembly of the 90 Easter Baskets that were taken to New Jerusalem Food Bank. Thank you to the "Tuesday Men" who transported the bags to the Food Bank.



I have been longing for spring. Not because I simply can't wait for spring cleaning. Honestly, I've never quite understood the whole concept. Why wait until spring to thoroughly clean and organize your home? I'm longing for spring because it always feels like a chance to begin again. The back and forth weather that we have been having feels like the earth is teasing me. I watched as flowers began to break through the cold dirt, some of them even blooming, and suddenly...snow. The flowers reminded me that, despite the cold, we are so close to new life.

One of the most beautiful things about our faith, in my opinion, is that we are an Easter people. People who believe in new beginnings and new life. Our God is constantly making things new and offering us new opportunities. As you are doing your spring cleaning this year, perhaps you can take time to do a spiritual inventory. What new opportunities, new callings, does God have for you as we enter this new season? What brings you life?

In light and love,
Pastor Becky

Sunday, April 2nd

10:30 AM



Joint Service

Thursday, April 6

7 PM at First UCC

**Maundy
Thursday**

Joint Service—Friday, April 7th—7 PM at Lower Saucon UCC





Each child, 3 years through grade 6. should have received a Lent Activity book to guide children and families to Easter. Please let Marji know if your child has not received a booklet and you would like one.

Sunday School classes meet each week for 3 year olds through grade 6!
The **Nursery** is open and staffed if you need it.
Children Kindergarten and below may stay in the nursery until the Children's Message in worship and then go to class.

Each week children begin in the sanctuary at 10:30am and leave for Sunday School Classes following Children's Message in Worship
Confirmation Class meets Sundays, 11:45am - 12:45pm.

Easter - April 9 Family worship. There is no Sunday School or Confirmation
Youth Sunday - May 14. All Sunday School & Confirmation youth participate.
Sundaes on Sunday - May 21 - Last Day of Sunday School

Questions, concerns, ideas, or joys to share? Speak with Marji Hughes.
mphughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053 Consider the Board of Faith Formation as you prayerfully contemplate where God is calling you to ministry with First UCC [in the coming year.](#)

Sunday, April 23rd 8:30 am



sponsored by the

Confirmation Class

Join us before worship for
pancakes, sausage, coffee, fruit,
pastries.

Speak with Charles Knecht or Marji Hughes if you are able to help with kitchen, set up, or Cleanup.

April Sponsors/Volunteers

April 2

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Counting Team..... | Team 3 |
| Ushers..... | Team 3 |
| Ushers..(Maundy Thursday)..... | Team 4 |
| Altar Flowers..... | Bob & Phyllis Scherer |
| Bulletins | Doug Milller |
| Lay Reader | Phyllis Heil-Henry |

April 9

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Counting Team..... | Team 4 |
| Ushers..... | Team 5 |
| Altar Flowers..... | Dawn Pender |
| Organ Flowers | Bob & Louise Krill |
| Bulletins | Phyllis Scherer |
| Lay Reader..... | Andy Spear |

April 16

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Counting Team..... | Team 1 |
| Ushers | Team 1 |
| Altar Flowers..... | Gretchen Diehl |
| Bulletins | Jane Parenti |
| Lay Reader | Warren Kurz |

April 23

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Counting Team..... | Team 2 |
| Ushers..... | Team 2 |
| Altar Flowers | Bob & Doris Turner |
| Bulletins | Sandy Belletti |
| Lay Reader..... | Wayne Packer |

April 30

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Counting Team..... | Team 3 |
| Ushers | Team 3 |
| Altar Flowers..... | |
| Bulletins | Joan & Nick Kiak |
| Lay Reader | Doug Miller |

Weekly worship services are available on our Facebook page.
1st UCC Hellertown

The April Newsletter has been sponsored by Alice Totenbier

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/hellertownucc



Staff

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Rev. Becky Thomas, Designated Interim Pastor | 610-297-2295 |
| Marji Hughes, Minister of Faith Formation | 610-984-5053 |
| Pat O 'Connell, Minister of Music | 484-357-9764 |
| Phyllis Scherer, Administrative Asst. | 610-554-6223 |
| Tammie Vosburg, Church Treasurer | 610-533-8009 |
| Sherwood Stauffer, Sexton | 610-838-7391 |

Consistory Members

Elders

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Sandy Bender | 610-248-4978 |
| Amy Mixa | 610-428-0583 |
| Georgie Stuempfle | 610-838-7493 |

Deacons

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Minga Ferencin | 610-213-9036 |
| Karen Frankenfield | 484-554-6621 |
| Diane French— President | 610-360-8897 |
| Sandy Panick | 610-838-1695 |

Trustees

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Ann Brown—Secretary | 610-462-7056 |
| Keith Lentz | 610-838-1171 |
| Doug Major | 610-392-0503 |
| Aaron Kelley | 203-313-0072 |

Church Office Hours: — The Office will be open **9:00 am to 1:00 pm**, Monday thru Friday. Please make your calls to 610-838-8811 and conduct your business during those hours. Other calls will be recorded on voicemail. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and cooperation.

Always inform the church office if you are hospitalized. Please do not trust that word will get to the office through the grapevine. **Our hospital code is 428.** You can mention that if you are admitted.

**Bibles and “Brunch”
for all 1st UCC women members
& friends!**

2nd & 4th Mondays -

April 10 and April 24



We will finish our discussions of “Failure: What Jesus Said about Sin, Mistakes and Mucking Stuff UP” by Emma Ineson. Books are available in the Wimmer Room.

Masks are optional. Coffee, tea, cold beverages and light snacks available.

Participants are not required to attend every session. Drop-ins are welcome!

For more information, speak with Marji Hughes mpughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053



Sunday Morning Study 9:15 each week

in the YA Café. Just come and join any Sunday

for Max Lucado’s “Life Lessons from Matthew”.

Speak with Tricia Shelly 610-657-3828 for more information.



Every Sunday morning

9:45 AM

before worship

in the Wimmer Room



Join us Online!



To watch on Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/hellertownucc> and you will see the live stream as the top post.

To watch on YouTube, go to <https://www.youtube.com/@firstucchellertown/streams>.

To view a playlist of our choir anthems, go to <https://tinyurl.com/FirstUCCMusicMonday>.

Each Monday, the choir anthem from Sunday is posted on the playlist.

All of these links will soon be embedded into our new website. **Stay tuned!**



Dine-to-Donate

Braveheart Highland Pub

430 Main Street, Hellertown PA

Monday, April 24th—5:00—8:00 PM

Pick up your **green** voucher at church to present when dining that day.





Annual Spring Yard Clean Up

April 22 9-1 pm.
Bring your garden gloves and tools.

We are looking for donations
of bags of brown mulch



FIRST UCC RETURNING TO SOUP KITCHEN

AT NEW BETHANY HOSPITALITY CENTER BETHLEHEM
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3.....9:30 AM – 1:00PM

Our monthly crew visits to the soup kitchen stopped because of Covid. Brandy, Coordinator of the Center, informed us noontime meal service resumes in April.

First UCC is signed up for the first Wednesday of every month. Five members are needed to chop, prepare, and serve meals at noon finishing at 1:00.

WE HAVE OUR FIRST CREW READY TO GO!

Interested in starting a second crew or be put on a sub list???? Contact

Jeannie Miller 610.8389704 Elsie Stout 610.8386470 Jane Joyce 610.8387593



YOUTH SUNDAY

May 14

10:30am worship

Join our Confirmation youth
and Sunday School children as they
lead us in worship.

Sundaes on Sunday! Sunday, May 21

immediately following worship

Join us outside for our annual
end of the Sunday School year tradition

Sign up in the Narthex to donate a topping. We will be in the Wimmer Room if the weather does not cooperate.



April Birthdays

| | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|--------------------|
| 4/3 | Madison Jezick | 4/16 | Charlotte Kupstas |
| 4/3 | Maleea Servedio | 4/16 | Jake Weaver |
| 4/4 | Juliana DiTroia | 4/16 | Elaine Wusaty |
| 4/4 | Jackson Scheidler | 4/21 | Bill Sabo |
| 4/5 | Renate Geisinger | 4/22 | Amy Mixa |
| 4/6 | Becky DiTroia | 4/23 | Larry Muldowney |
| 4/6 | Marie Laub | 4/25 | Zachary Thatcher |
| 4/7 | Noah Yonney | 4/27 | Sandy Belletti |
| 4/8 | Kyle Laub | 4/27 | Landon Packer |
| 4/8 | Bradley Letko | 4/29 | Ava DiTroia |
| 4/9 | Nick Oblas | 4/30 | Karen Frankenfield |
| 4/9 | Tricia Shelly | | |
| 4/9 | Mary Stoneback | | |
| 4/9 | Alice Yuille | | |
| 4/10 | Jorryn Kyra | | |
| 4/10 | Matt Milliren | | |
| 4/12 | John Musgnung | | |
| 4/12 | Jan Weaver | | |
| 4/13 | Zoe Jezick | | |
| 4/15 | Steve Kyra | | |
| 4/15 | Jameson Packer | | |



April Anniversaries

| | |
|------|-----------------------|
| 4/27 | Bernie & Debbie Wolst |
| 4/30 | Dean & Brenda Shaffer |



Stewardship of God's People at First Church

| Date | Contributions | Capital Fund | Attendance |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| February 5 | \$2,270.03 | | 81—Scout Sunday |
| February 12 | \$4,137.03 | | 83 |
| February 19 | \$7,887.19 | | 89—Baptism |
| February 22 | \$520.00 | | 75—Ash Wednesday |
| February 26 | \$2,352.93 | | 73—New Members |
| Total | \$17,167.18 | | |
| Revenue required | \$16,277.00 | | |
| Over/Short | \$890.18 | | |



Saturday, May 6th First UCC Yard & Bake Sale (9:00 AM to 1:00 PM)

Drop-off in basement, [please no electronics (computerware) or clothing] **6:30-7:30 PM** on **May 4th and 5th for yard sale items** or during church office hours, Drop off for baked goods—Friday May 5th—same hours. Please present individually wrapped baked goods for sale in small increments (\$1-2-3 dollar size) as opposed to whole cake or pie. 1/2 pie or cake is fine. Volunteers are needed to help on drop-off days, Friday for pricing and set-up, Saturday before, during, and after the sale. See sign-up sheets on the Narthex bulletin board.

UCC Day at the Iron Pigs

Coca-Cola Park
Saturday, June 4th
1:35 PM



Tickets are \$12
which includes
\$2 Food vouchers

We have 30 tickets together in the same section.

Coca Cola Park is again a cashless stadium so please bring a card for any purchases. See Phyllis Scherer or Marji Hughes or sign up in the narthex.



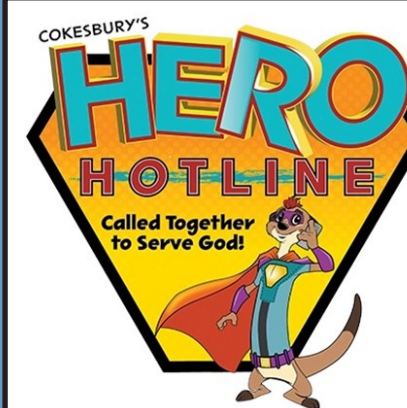
BUS TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND ...MOSES
SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023—BUS WILL LEAVE FROM FIRST UCC @ 8 AM
DINNER @ MILLER'S SMORGASBORD
Cost : \$199.00...WIMMER FUND WILL PAY \$99/PARISHIONER
NON-PARISHIONERS' OUT -OF-POCKET WILL BE \$199
COST FOR EACH CHILD (3-12 year of age and younger) will be \$85.00
PAYMENT DUE BY JUNE 4, 2023



Our Blessing Box Food Pantry is being used heavily. We are blessed to be able to help. Obviously, there are many in our community who are aided by your generosity. We need to replenish our emergency supply. Always needed are: breakfast foods, tomato sauce, spaghetti noodles, soup, vegetables, canned tuna, other pasta, etc. However, please do not purchase large boxes of cereal or extra large jars of tomato sauce because they do not fit in the box. We suggest buying items in cans and plastic containers.

Blessing Box Schedule

Week of April 2—8 — Carlann Broglie
Week of April 9—15 —Doug Miller
Week of April 16—22—Marji Hughes
Week of April 23-29 — Andy Spear
Week of April 30-May 6 —Phyllis Scherer
Week of May 7- 13—Ann Brown
Week of May 14—20—Sandy Panick
Week of May 21—27—Amy Mixa
Week of May 28-June 3 —Diane French
Week of June 4—10—Phyllis Heil-Henry
Week of June 11-17—Georgie Stuempfle
Week of June 18 -24 - Letty Petrundo



Mark Your Calendars
**Hero Hotline
Vacation Bible School
July 31 – August 4, 2023
9am – Noon**

Children Pre-K through grade 6
Leaders and Helpers will be needed.



**Women's Breakfast at
Hellertown Diner
April 11 , 8 am
Second Tuesday of each month
Come as you are!
Come whenever you are able!
First one there, grabs a table!**





Upcoming Schedule of Services

You will be notified by Facebook or One Call of any changes to the schedule listed below. If you are not receiving messages by One Call, please contact the Church Office with your contact information. If you have recently changed your email address, or phone number, please update your information in the church office. Thank you.

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|--|
| April 2023 | 10:30 AM | 2 | Worship/Sunday School-Palm Sunday |
| | 7 :00 PM | 6 | Maundy Thursday Worship |
| | 7:00 PM | 7 | Good Friday Worship at Lower Saucon UCC |
| | 10:30 AM | 9 | Worship—Easter Sunday |
| | 10:30 AM | 16 | Worship/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 23 | Worship/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 30 | Worship/Sunday School |
| May 2023 | 10:30 AM | 7 | Worship/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 14 | Worship/Sunday School—Youth Sunday |
| | 10:30 AM | 21 | Worship/Sunday School/Sundaes on Sunday |
| | 10:30 AM | 28 | Worship |
| June 2023 | 10:30 AM | 4 | Worship |
| | 10:30 AM | 11 | Worship |
| | 10:30 AM | 18 | Worship |
| | 10:30 AM | 25 | Worship |

2023 Sponsors

We are looking for sponsors for Newsletters, Bulletins and Altar Flowers for 2023. The cost to sponsor Newsletter is \$60.00/mo., Bulletins - \$10.00/wk., and Flowers- \$40.00/wk. Sign-up sheets for the Newsletter, Flowers and Bulletins may be found in the Narthex.

Consistory in Brief

First United Church of Christ Hellertown
Monday, March 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm (In-Person)

Tammie Vosburg, our Treasurer, informed us that for the first time in more than a year, we had income exceeding expenses to date for the year. However, our Investment Market Gains are 3.45%, down from January 2.55%. Some good news is that we may be eligible to receive money through the Employee Retention Tax credit given for 2020 -2021. Another effort to save money is our contract renewals; renegotiations are in process and could result in savings for us.

Pastor Becky Thomas noted that the Thursday Zoom Bible Study for Lent has been successful and plans for an Advent study that may include both a morning and evening study to accommodate more members. Breakdown of hours for primary responsibilities: Hours Dedicated to Worship: 35, Hours Dedicated to Pastoral Care: 7, Continuing Education Hours: 5, Office Hours: 26, Meetings: 5

Faith Formation Minister, Marji Hughes, shared the news that 90 Easter Baskets were filled for children. We owe a great appreciation to the volunteers and to Sandy Panick's leadership. Also, the Faith and Fun Day scheduled for March 26 will move to a future date.

Georgie Stuempfle reported that the Elders are sending cards to recognize special milestone birthdays among our members as well as get sell cards.

Sandy Panick reported the Deacons are planning for a Maundy Thursday Communion combined worship service with Lower Saucon UCC.

The Trustees noted we were issued a "Temporary Certification" status for the use of our kitchen area. This license will allow meal preparations for 14 days a year and must be renewed yearly. We, however, must replace the kitchen's 8ft fluorescent light bulbs with LED to meet regulations. The annual Yard Spring Clean up is April 22, 9 - 12 noon.

Pastor Becky reported from Music and Worship Committee that our The Maundy Thursday service plan is to strip the altar of items as was done in the past. The choir will assist in this effort during the service. On May 14, we will celebrate Youth Worship Sunday and Mothers' Day.

Georgie Stuempfle, Stewardship Committee Leadership Chair, has gathered a team with several volunteers to work on a monthly project throughout the year to raise additional funds to supplement our income and expenses. Members of the Stewardship Committee are David and Georgie Stuempfle, Carl Ann Broglie, Bob Turner, and Tammie Vosburg. Georgie is the liaison to Consistory. The first official event in March – The Cottage and Shepherd's Pie Sale.

Next Meeting is April 10 2023 at 6:30 pm in person in the Wimmer Room.

A copy of the full minutes is available in the Church Office.

Annual Spring Flower Sale

Lehigh Valley Garden Center
Order your beautiful hanging baskets and flats of flowers

ALL SALE FORMS ARE DUE
April 16, 2023

"Where Flowers Bloom So Does HOPE!"
Forms are included with the Newsletter

