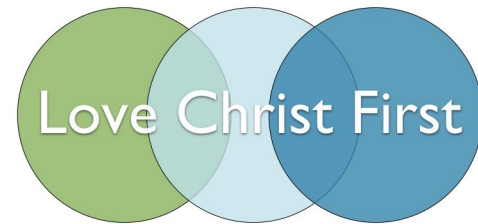




Palm Sunday



Love Christ First

April Mission Project One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing



Every gift makes a difference
in the life of someone
who deserves God's love and support.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing provide immediate aid and long-term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis around the world. The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. It is time to share.

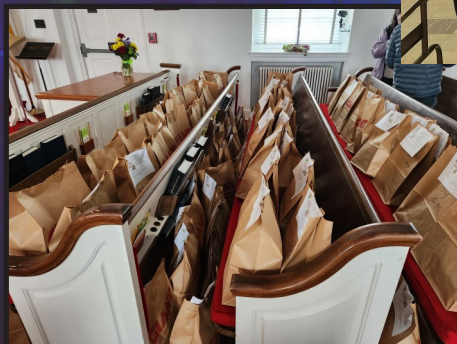


First United Church of Christ
Pastor Becky Thomas
501 Northampton Street
Hellertown PA 18055
(610)838-8811
office@firstucchellertown.org



Pat O'Connell.

Easter Basket Mission Project



136 Easter baskets were delivered to New Jerusalem Food Bank on March 12th. Thank you to all who donated and volunteered your time!



Scout Blue and Gold Banquet and Crossing Over Ceremony

March 2, 2024



To the Family and Friends of Catherine Underkoffler

March 14, 2024

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, sheep of your own fold, lamb of your own flock, sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints. in light. Amen.



*The Trustees of the Remembrance Fund
have received and gratefully acknowledged
a gift given in loving memory of Catherine Underkoffler:*

<i>Michael & Edna Santo</i>	<i>Albert & Jane Parenti</i>	<i>Sandra Belletti</i>
<i>Andy & Melissa Spear</i>	<i>Bob & Louise Krill</i>	<i>The Teitsworth Family</i>
<i>Diane French</i>	<i>Glenn & Ann Brown</i>	<i>Bob & Phyllis Scherer</i>
<i>Ryan & Samantha Pudloski</i>	<i>Jeffrey, Richard & Marianne Derr</i>	
<i>Cindy Smith</i>	<i>Diana & Donald Severn</i>	<i>Joanna Staly Matey</i>
<i>Zachary Dengler</i>	<i>Curtis & Donna Doll</i>	<i>Sharon Jezick</i>
<i>Nancy Fegley</i>	<i>Linda Moreno</i>	<i>Lois Palmisano</i>
<i>Jeanette Boos</i>	<i>Joan Diaz</i>	<i>Denise Keen</i>
<i>Carlann Broglie</i>	<i>Wayne Packer/Andrea Danner</i>	
<i>Dean & Brenda Shaffer</i>	<i>Dave & Georgie Stuempfle</i>	

2024 Sponsors Needed

We are looking for sponsors for Altar Flowers for 2024. The cost to sponsor Flowers is \$40.00/wk. Sign-up sheets may be found in the Narthex.

Blessing Box Schedule



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.

Week of Apr 7-13 —Ann Brown
Week of Apr 14-20 —Sandy Panick
Week of Apr 21-27 - Amy Mixa
Week of April 28—May 4—Diane French
Week of May 5—11 —Tammie Vosburg
Week of May 12-18—Georgie Stuempfle
Week of May 19—25 - Letty Petruno
Week of May 26– June 1— Carlann Broglie
Week of June 2– 8—Doug Miller
Week of June 9-15 —Marji Hughes
Week of June 16-22 — Andy Spear
Week of June 23-29—Phyllis Scherer



Faith Crosses

Our skilled Woodcraftman, Doug Miller, has created Faith Crosses. They are approximately 6 inches tall by 2.5 inches wide. They will be available in the Wimmer Room. Donations will be gratefully accepted and added to the General Fund of the church. Thank you, Doug, for your lovely creation!



Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Easter Basket Mission. Thanks also to those who helped assemble the baskets and take them to New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, the home of the Food Bank.

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/hellertownucc



As I write this, the flowers have begun to emerge, the birds are starting to sing, and the sun is shining brightly. There is still a cold wind that blows through and the rain is still mixed with some snow at times. But, we are on the edge of spring. I've found myself getting frustrated at the clutter around me the past few weeks. Perhaps it is because I'd rather be outside in the sun than sitting in my office. The papers on my desk, the boxes in the corners, the disorganized books, all of it has been making me feel a little claustrophobic lately. Alas, there are sermons to write, worship services to prepare, meetings to attend, phone calls to make, and emails to answer.

When you read this, Lent will be over and that time of deep reflection will be through. Easter will have been celebrated and your minds will have moved on to the longing for summer vacations. I find myself hoping that you don't forget your spring cleaning. And, no, I'm not just talking about washing the windows, airing out the house, cleaning the cobwebs from corners, the dark corners of your living room. I'm talking about doing those same things, but in your heart. Opening yourselves up, decluttering, and making room for God. Lent was a time for us to examine ourselves, to start making changes. Now it is time to practice those changes, to continue drawing closer to God.

*In light and love,
Pastor Becky*



Holy Humor Sunday

April 7, 10:30 AM worship



Bring your funny bone and your happy faces!

Laugh in the joy of the Christian Faith

Colorful clothes suggested to add to the joy of the day

Worship immediately followed by

all church **PANCAKE PARTY**

Sunday, April 7, 11:30 am

We continue our Easter celebrations with humor and fun and Pancake games!!

Speak with Charles Knecht or Marji Hughes if you are able to help with kitchen, set up, or cleanup. Signup in the narthex to donate Various syrups, toppings, fruit, pastry, or juice



SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Children pre-K through grade 6 leave for classes following the Children's Message in worship.

3-6 year old children may play in the nursery or come to worship prior to the Children's Message.

April 7 – Holy Humor Sunday 10:30am and
Pancake Party 11:30am following worship/Sunday School

May 12 – Mother's Day (regular Sunday School)

May 19 - **Children and Youth Sunday** All children participate in the Worship service at 10:30am

Sundaes on Sunday Fellowship Hour immediately after worship.

Check for special family activities throughout the summer

Contact Marji Hughes - mphughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053 if you have any questions at all about Faith Formation at 1st UCC.



We are looking for volunteers 16 years and up to help staff the nursery on Sunday mornings. Please contact the office 610-838-8811 or Tricia Shelly if you'd like to sign up. With enough helpers it would be not more than once a month.

Child care is currently not available on Sunday mornings during worship in our nursery. However, the nursery is open and available for parents to stay with their child during worship. Adults may listen to the service while in the nursery. There is a child-sized bathroom and a changing table available as well. An adult is required to remain in the room when anyone under age 16 is present.



Confirmation Class

Confirmation class for 7th and 8th graders meets two Sundays a month 11:30-1pm

Upcoming classes are:

April 7 --- Pancake Party 11:30am – 2pm

April 21 --- 11:30am – 1pm regular class

May 5 --- 11:30am – 1pm regular class

May 19 --- Youth Sunday 9:30am – 12:30pm

There will be special activities/assignments over the summer.

Questions, please contact Marji Hughes or Pastor Becky



April - Sponsors/Volunteers

April 7

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers.....	Team 3
Altar Flowers.....	Carlann Broglie
Bulletins	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader	Phyllis Heil-Henry

April 21

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers	Team 5
Altar Flowers...	Andrea Danner/Wayne Packer
Bulletins	Andrea Danner/Wayne Packer
Lay Reader	Warren Kurz

April 14

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers.....	Team 4
Altar Flowers.....	Janice Csrnko
Bulletins	Sandy Belletti
Lay Reader.....	Andy Spear

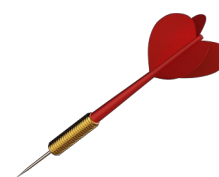
April 28

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers	Team 1
Altar Flowers	Denise Keen
Bulletins.....	Denise Keen
Lay Reader.....	Wayne Packer

The April Newsletter

has been sponsored by:

Janice Csrnko



Attention All Dart Players—April Schedule

4/1 Home vs Trinity UCC

4/8 Home vs Holy Cross

4/15 Away @ Fritz Wesleyan

4/22 Home vs. College Hill

For anyone who is interested in joining this group,
please contact Leroy Miller at [REDACTED]



Thank you to Bob and Louise Krill who donated a lawn mower to First UCC. We appreciate your generosity

Staff

Rev. Becky Thomas, 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	
Sherwood Stauffer, Sexton	

Consistory Members

Email address

Phone Number

Elders

Sandy Bender	purplepeep@rcn.com	
Amy Mixa	athomeamy@hotmail.com	
Georgie Stuempfle	gdflea@yahoo.com	

Deacons

Karen Frankenfield	gumbycat1@gmail.com	
Diane French— Pres.	dcfrench48@gmail.com	
Ashlynn Mixa	ashlynnmixa@gmail.com	
Sandy Panick	hygienist2000@msn.com	

Trustees

Ann Brown—Sec.	forglan@verizon.net	
Keith Lentz-Vice-Pres.	keithlen56@gmail.com	
Doug Major	pamajors@rcn.com	

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>.



“Bibles and “Brunch”

for all 1st UCC women members & friends!



2nd & 4th Mondays – 10:30am

April 8 and 22, May 13

Coffee, tea, cold beverages and light snacks available. Participants are not required to attend every session. Drop-ins are welcome! Join us in the Wimmer Room

For more information, speak with Marji Hughes mphughes22@gmail.com

610-984-5053

Sunday Morning Study 9:15 each week

in the YA Café. Just come and join any Sunday

Speak with Tricia Shelly tricia.shelly@hellertownucc.org more information.



Every Sunday morning

9:45 AM

before worship

in the Wimmer Room



Women's Breakfast at the Hellertown Diner

April 9, 2024 (Second Tuesday of each month.)

Come as you are!

Come whenever you are able!

First one there, grabs a table!

Please feel free to join us !



Tuesday Morning Men's Group

Every Tuesday at 8:00 AM

At the Hellertown Diner

After breakfast they come to the church to do various jobs or projects

All men are welcome to join this group



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.

Apr 2024	10:30 AM	7	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	14	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	21	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	28	Worship/Sunday School
May 2024	10:30 AM	5	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	12	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	19	Children & Youth Sunday/ Sundaes on Sunday
	10:30 AM	26	Worship/No Sunday School
June 2024	10:30 AM	2	Worship/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	9	Worship/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	16	Worship/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	23	Worship/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	30	Worship/No Sunday School

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.

Church Office Hours: — The Office will be open **9:00 am to 1:30 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.

April Birthdays

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



April Anniversaries

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



The following member is celebrating a 90+ birthday this month. Perhaps you would like to send a birthday card or thinking of you card to brighten her day.

Alice Yuille
Arden Court
5151 Hamilton Blvd
Allentown PA 18106

April 9th

Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Benevolences	Attendance
February 4	\$2,267.67		74—Scout Sunday
February 11	\$5,853.03		75—New Member Sunday
February 18	\$1,911.39		67
February 25	\$2,724.53		88— Annual Meeting
Total	\$12,756.62		
Budget	(16,000.00)		
Over/Short	(\$3,243.28)		

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:6-7

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS



APRIL—DINE TO DONATE FUNDRAISER

AT BRAVEHEART HIGHLAND PUB
430 MAIN STREET, HELLERTOWN, PA
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH 5-8 PM

DINE-IN OR TAKE-OUT



Pick up your Blue Vouchers at church to present when dining that day.



Saturday, May 4th First UCC Yard & Bake Sale

(9:00 AM to 1:00 PM)



The Stewardship Committee is in search of a person to lead the Penny Party Fundraising Project.

If you are interested or have any questions, please call the Church Office.

Upcoming Mission Projects

May—Heifer Project
June—Miracle League
July—New Bethany Ministries

Upcoming Fundraisers

May—Yard Sale and Flower Sale
June—Pierogi Sale
July—Hoagie Sale



Coming this Summer—July 29 to August 2

9 AM—12 Noon

Vacation Bible School

CAMP FIRELIGHT

It's time for a summer camp adventure with God! Explore timeless Bible stories that demonstrate how people trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. Kids will learn ways they can put their trust in God when they are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work and share the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ.



Children Pre-K through grade 6

Leaders and Helpers will be needed.

Campers and volunteers REGISTER at:
<https://1sthellertowncampers.mycokesburyvbs.com>

Questions? call 610-838-8811

7th – 12th grade Youth Group

APRIL 7 Pancake Party 11:30am

APRIL 28 5-7pm in the Wimmer Room

No church affiliation is required. Bring your friends!



Pastor Becky - pastorbecky1121@gmail.com 610-297-2295
Ashlynn Mixa - ashlynnmixa@gmail.com [REDACTED]
Marji Hughes - mphughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053

The Consistory Minutes in Brief March 11, 2024

Treasurer's Report: Tammie Vosburg, Treasurer - Highlights:

- YTD records show a positive cash flow for the year.
- Our insurance claim for our roof and plaster repairs is complete with a \$1000 deductible.
- Our Remembrance Funds have supported many projects, including plumbing, the front door Locking system, and a new Old Fellowship Hall door.
- Investment Contributions supported major projects, including contributions to the OCWM and Resi streaming contract.
- We ordered new offering envelopes. To save money, they will include designated Offerings, Building Funds, and Mission spaces on each, replacing individual envelopes for each area.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Becky Thomas Highlights:

Total Hours: 101, Mileage: 71

Breakdown of hours for major responsibilities : Hours Dedicated to Worship: 41, Hours Dedicated to Pastoral Care: 7, Continuing Education Hours: 4, Office Hours: 26, Meetings: 8. I co-led a confirmation class and went mini-golfing with the youth group. Vacation scheduled from 6/24-6/30.

Faith Formation Report: Marji Hughes

- Walking Together - Women's Retreat had so much community building and fun for 1st UCC and Lower Saucon women. We look forward to our overnight stay at Mariawald Retreat House in November 2024.
- Bibles and Brunch ordered extra books for our Lenten discussion. There are 14 participating twice a month on Monday mornings.
- Our Prek -K class grows on Sunday mornings, but the older class remains small.
- We need at least two teachers to rotate weeks for the older class in the fall.
- An Easter packet went out to 20 children ages 2 through 12 with activities for Holy Week.
- Children and Youth Sunday is May 19, and the Confirmation Youth and Sunday School children lead us in worship, followed by Sundaes on Sunday at 11:30.

Discussion:

- Faith Formation has prayerfully discussed the communion age for our children over the last six months. We want to present to Consistory for consideration, changing the official age for first communion to 2nd grade. This would include communion education for children and their families each year. In discussion, we learned that many other UCC churches have an "open communion table" for all ages. With education and parent involvement, we want to make this change with Consistory approval.

Motion: Keith Lentz motioned to adopt an Open Communion policy for children of all ages with parent consent and education, including a yearly education lesson about communion for all our students. Sandy Bender seconded the motion. The vote was 7 in favor and 1 undecided.

Elders' Report: Georgie Stuempfle

On February 29, Elders met with Pastor Becky to review the spiritual affairs of the church and its members.

Deacons' Report: Sandy Panick

- March 28, 2024, Maundy Thursday Communion Service. Communion with communion offered by intinction.

Trustees'; Report: Ann Brown

- Acorn Stairlift Service Scheduled
- We updated and recorded yearly Building Code Papers and Parking Lot Validation Paperwork with the Borough.

The Consistory Minutes in Brief (cont)

Stewardship/ Fundraising: Georgie Stuempfle

- Meeting of March 3 to review upcoming fundraising events fundraisers; July, Hoagie Sale again; August, Dine to Donate at DiMaio's
- Discussion: We would like Consistory to consider a proposal to give 10% of all fundraiser profits for a mission or cause.

Motion: Georgie Stuempfle motioned that 10% of future fundraiser profits be donated to a designated mission or cause approved by Pastor Becky and Consistory. Sandy Panick seconded the motion, and all were in favor, none opposed.

Tech Committee: Mark Mixa and James Rosenberger were asked to investigate creating a stabilized platform for the balcony camera and create a **plan to hide hanging wires and access electricity.**

New Business:

Elsie Stout requested that Consistory consider another Sight and Sound trip to see Daniel playing in Lancaster between March 14 and December 31, 2024.

Next Meeting: April 8 at 6:30 PM in the Wimmer Room

A copy of the full minutes is available in the office upon request.



NEW BETHANY HOSPITALITY CENTER BETHLEHEM

First Wednesday of every month

10:00 AM – 1:00PM



Our monthly crew visits to the soup kitchen at New Bethany Hospitality Center. First UCC is signed up for the **first Wednesday of every month**. Four members are needed to chop, prepare, and serve meals at noon finishing at 1:00. pm

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

Contact : Jeannie Miller 610.838.9704 Elsie Stout 610.838.6470

Jane Joyce 610.838.7593



Annual Yard Clean Up April 20 9:30 - 12 noon

Give us a helping hand!
Bring your gloves, rakes and garden
tools

Refreshments served for workers

