



Special Music—Bonnie Banks-Beers and Sarah Beers accompanied the choir on 3-2-25



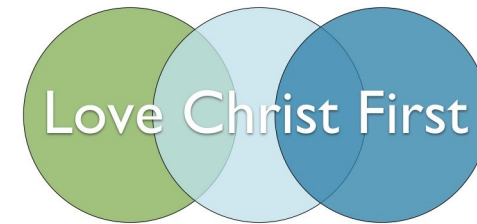
Marji leads a re-enactment of the Transfiguration story.



Doug Major shares his love of boating with this month's Treasure Chest story.



Thank you to everyone who made soup for our Ash Wednesday Soup & Service. Thanks also to those who helped with setup & cleanup.



THE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Mission Project for April



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







Everything is starting to turn green again. I know that I'm about to see signs of my favorite flower popping up around the tree in my front yard. For me it has become a bit of a bittersweet sight. You see, I can no longer decorate my house with my favorite flower as it is now the flower that I'm most allergic to. Still, there is something about the purple hyacinth that just makes me want to smile. Just looking at them makes me remember the scent that I used to love. For me, that is and always will be the scent of Easter.

It always feels a little odd to be journeying with Jesus to the cross, remembering his suffering, just as everything comes back to life at the beginning of spring. But, then again, both spring and Easter bring hope of new life. Just as we need to deal with the dreary April rains to see the flowers burst forth, we must walk through the darkness of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to get to the joy of Easter. So, I sit here waiting for the rain to pass and the sun to begin shining, remembering that we are a people of Easter faith. We are people that believe in new beginnings even while this world threatens to weigh us down. May your Easter faith be strong, my friends, and may you always look for those signs of new life.

In light and love,

**Pastor Becky**

Friends, I want to take a moment to remind you that your pastor will never request money from you or ask you to purchase gift cards, whether by phone call, text message, or email. Technology has made it so that scams are becoming more and more a part of our everyday life. Recently, I was told that a friend of a colleague had phone calls go out to their congregation. It sounded like the pastor's voice and looked like the pastor was calling them. Scammers were able to use Artificial Intelligence to replicate the pastor's voice based on sermons that were posted online and use it to create a message asking for gift cards. If a request for any financial contributions hasn't been made by a member of the congregation in person during Sunday announcements, or in our church's newsletter, please be cautious and verify that it is not a scam before making any contributions.

# April

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Each Sunday, children begin in worship at 10:30am and are invited to class following the Children's Message.

### Special Dates:

April 13 – Palm Sunday – children sing during worship

April 20 Easter – no Sunday School classes

May 18 – Children and Youth Sunday – all participate in worship, end of Sunday School for the summer

May 18- Hot Dog Picnic and Sundaes on Sunday 11:30am

The **Nursery** is open for young children during Sunday worship as needed. An adult is required to remain in the nursery when anyone under age 16 is present. Adults may still listen to the service while in the nursery.

**Worship bags** are available in the coat room area for children during worship. Please remember to return the bags to the shelf following the service.

Contact Marji Hughes - [mphughes22@gmail.com](mailto:mphughes22@gmail.com) 610-984-5053 - if you have any questions at all about Faith Formation at 1<sup>st</sup> UCC.



To the Family and Friends of  
**Gregory A. Lorah**  
March 7, 2025

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 him 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 Gregory Lorah:**

**William Roth**

**Richard & Jackie Teitsworth**

**Carlann Broglie**

**Justina McCardle**

**Alyssa Yen & Ryan Lorah**

**Laurie & Tim Williams**

### ATTENTION—Safety and Security

Two new things have been added to the main kitchen downstairs and the Wimmer Room:

1. Lifevac Choking Rescue Device known as "Lifevac."  
(Contains pediatric and adult masks).

The home kit is used in case a child or adult is choking. The directions are simple, and they are mounted above the box that holds the Lifevac.

2. There are two fire blankets, one in the kitchen downstairs near the stove and the second in the Wimmer Room near the fire extinguisher.

Please familiarize yourself with these devices and how they work.

Many thanks to Mark Mixa for mounting the Lifevac boxes.

Be Safe and Save Lives  
Sandy Bender, Chairlady



Fire Blanket near stove  
in the kitchen



Lifevac located outside the  
kitchen door in Fellowship Hall.



Lifevac & Fire Blanket located in  
Wimmer room near the stove



# ROAD TRIP VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

AUGUST 4-8, 2024

9am – Noon



Registration available soon

Questions? Call or email:  
[mpughes22@gmail.com](mailto:mpughes22@gmail.com) 610-838-8811

Road Trip takes place out on the open road in an imagination-powered vehicle big enough to take all VBS “Travelers”, on amazing adventures to exciting destinations. Travelers will join the Navigator and Scout - the energetic and curious dog - and learn that God is with them in whatever situation they face. Each day, Scout and the Navigator lead the Travelers to fictitiously familiar locations, where they face new challenges and encounter new people and animals. With the help of great stories from the “Navigators’ Guide”, Travelers will explore timeless Bible stories that show how people from the Old and New Testaments journeyed with God through many locations and situations and found strength in God’s presence wherever they went,



Joshua 1:9 reminds us that God’s presence is always near, no matter where the journey of life takes us.

Road Trip takes us on an exciting journey as we discover new places, new friends, and ways that we can discover God’s goodness and presence everywhere.



## Mark Your Calendar

Lower Saucon UCC and First UCC  
are joining for a Women’s Mini One Day  
Retreat 9am—3 pm  
at Lower Saucon UCC  
September 27, 2025

*More details to follow*



## Attention All Dart Players—April Schedule

4/7 Home vs Trinity/Edgeboro

4/21 Home vs Holy Cross

For **anyone** who is interested in joining this group,  
please **contact Leroy Miller at 610-838-9704.**

Save the Date

Dine to Donate @

Braveheart Highland Pub

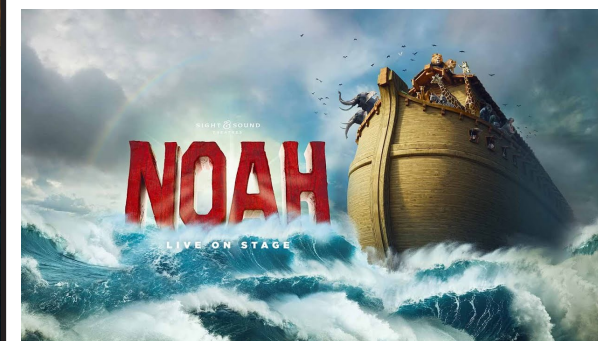
Wednesday, April 23, 2025 4-8 PM

Dine-in or Takeout



SIGN UP TO JOIN US on a  
BUS TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND  
to see Noah  
SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025

Lunch will be  
at the New Hersey Farms

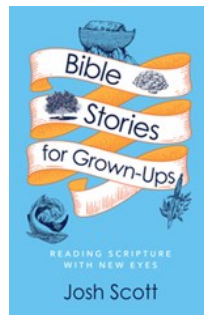


*Sign-up sheets & more information are found on the Narthex Bulletin*





Every Sunday morning  
9:45 AM  
before worship  
in the Wimmer Room



## Bibles & Brunch April 1 & April 15



We will continue our study of "Bible Stories for Grownups" by Josh Scott 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month 10:30am  
**Feel free to drop in and try us out!**

**Sunday morning Bible Study --**  
9am in the Youth room upstairs  
Sundays 9:15am  
Please contact Tricia Shelly for more information,



### Confirmation class schedule:

April 6, April 27, May 4  
May 17-18 – Lock-in and Youth Sunday  
June 1 – Confirmation Sunday!  
Questions? please contact Marji Hughes or Pastor Becky



Like us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/hellertownucc](http://www.facebook.com/hellertownucc)



## 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.

Week of Mar 30-Apr 5- Diane French  
Week of Apr 6-12—Tammie Vosburg  
Week of Apr 13-19 —Georgie Stuempfle  
Week of Apr 20-26—Letty Petrundo  
Week of Apr 27-May 3— Carlann Broglie  
Week of May 4-10—Doug Miller  
Week of May 11-17 —Marji Hughes  
Week of May 18-24— Andy Spear  
Week of May 25-31—Phyllis Scherer  
Week of June 1-7—Ann Brown  
Week of June 8—14—Sandy Panick  
Week of June 15-21 —Amy Mixa



## Saturday, May 3rd 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 1st & 2nd for yard sale items** or during church office hours, Drop off for baked goods—Friday May 2nd—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.



We are still taking orders for Easter flowers (tulips or lilies). The flowers will be used to decorate the sanctuary and may be taken home after the worship service on Easter Sunday. You have a choice of red, pink, purple or yellow tulips and white lilies. Additional order forms are available in the Church Office.

Orders, dedications, and payments must be received by April 6th.





## April Sponsors/Volunteers

### April 6

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers.....	Team 1
Altar Flowers.....	Carlann Broglie
Bulletins .....	Sandy Belletti
Lay Reader .....	Becky Rosenberger

### April 13 (Palm Sunday)

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers.....	Team 2
Altar Flowers.....	Janice Csrnko
Bulletins.....	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader.....	Phyllis Scherer

### April 17 (Maundy Thursday)

Ushers.....	Team 3
Bulletins .....	Phyllis Scherer

### April 20 (Easter Sunday)

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers .....	Team 4
Altar Flowers.....	Dawne Pender
Organ Flowers.....	Bob & Louise Krill
Bulletins .....	Janice Csrnko
Lay Reader .....	Phyllis Heil-Henry

### April 27

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers .....	Team 5
Altar Flowers .....	Bob & Phyllis Scherer
Bulletins.....	Wayne Packer & Andrea Danner
Lay Reader.....	Andy Spear

The April Newsletter

has been sponsored by:

***Dave & Georgie Stuempfle***

### 2025 Sponsors Needed

We are looking for sponsors for Newsletters, and Altar Flowers for 2025.  
The cost to sponsor Newsletters is \$70.00/mo. and Flowers—\$40.00/wk.  
Sign-up for Newsletters & Flowers in the Church Office.

Offerings may be made anytime electronically at [www.firstucchellertown.org/give](http://www.firstucchellertown.org/give) This allows you to make a one time or repeating gift from your bank account or credit/debit card. You may also elect to give directly from your bank through a Bill-Pay option or mail your gifts and envelopes to the church office. The Church office is open Monday through Friday 9am to 1 pm if you care to drop off your gifts.

## 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 2025	10:30 AM	6	Worship/Sunday School
	7:00 PM	9	Mid-Week Lenten Worship (Soup @ 6 PM)
	10:30 AM	13	Palm Sunday Worship/Sunday School
	7:00 PM	17	Maundy Thursday/Communion at First UCC
	7:00 PM	18	Good Friday Worship at Lower Saucon UCC
	10:30 AM	20	Easter Sunday Worship/Communion/ No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	27	Worship/Sunday School
May 2025	10:30 AM	4	Worship/Sunday School/Communion
	10:30 AM	11	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	18	Youth Sunday Worship/ Last Day of Sunday School/Hot Dog Picnic /Sundaes on Sunday
	10:30 AM	25	Worship/No Sunday School
June 2025	10:30 AM	1	Worship/Confirmation/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	8	Worship/Communion/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	15	Worship/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	22	Worship/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	29	Worship/No Sunday School

**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.





## YOUTH GROUP

for grades 4 - high school

March 30 meet at church @ 1:30



\$16.00 for 2 hours - includes shoes

Plus any snacks you may wish to purchase

No church affiliation is required. Bring your friends! Questions:

**Pastor Becky** - [pastorbecky1121@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbecky1121@gmail.com) 610-297-2295

**Ashlynn Mixa** - [ashlynnmixa@gmail.com](mailto:ashlynnmixa@gmail.com) 610-730-3334

**Marji Hughes** - [mpughes22@gmail.com](mailto:mpughes22@gmail.com) 610-984-5053

**Please let one of the leaders know you will be coming along.**



### Women's Breakfast at the Hellertown Diner

Second Tuesday of each month

**April 8, 2025**

*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

## 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>.

## 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.

Tammie Vosburg, Church Treasurer

Budd Frankenfield, Sexton

## Consistory Members

Email address

Phone Number

### Elders

Sandy Bender— Sec.

[purplepeep@rcn.com](mailto:purplepeep@rcn.com)

Jane Joyce

[djanejoyce@verizon.net](mailto:djanejoyce@verizon.net)

Joan Kiak

[njbk77@gmail.com](mailto:njbk77@gmail.com)

Amy Mixa

[athomeamy@hotmail.com](mailto:athomeamy@hotmail.com)

### Deacons

Karen Frankenfield

[gumbycat1@gmail.com](mailto:gumbycat1@gmail.com)

Diane French

[dcfrench48@gmail.com](mailto:dcfrench48@gmail.com)

Ashlynn Mixa

[ashlynnmixa@gmail.com](mailto:ashlynnmixa@gmail.com)

Sandy Panick

[hygienist2000@msn.com](mailto:hygienist2000@msn.com)

### Trustees

Keith Lentz--Pres.

[keithlen56@gmail.com](mailto:keithlen56@gmail.com)

Doug Major-Vice Pres.

[pamajors@rcn.com](mailto:pamajors@rcn.com)

Wayne Packer

[wayne.t.packer@gmail.com](mailto:wayne.t.packer@gmail.com)

Chip Wagner



### April Birthdays

4/3	Liam Riehl	4/16	Elaine Wusaty
4/3	Maleea Servedio	4/21	Bill Sabo
4/4	Hannah Frankenfield	4/22	Amy Mixa
4/5	Renate Geisinger	4/22	Larry Muldowney
4/6	Marie Laub	4/23	Sandy Belletti
4/7	Noah Yonney	4/30	Karen Frankenfield
4/8	Kyle Laub	4/30	Megan Weber
4/9	Tricia Shelly		
4/9	Mary Stoneback		
4/10	Matt Milliren		
4/12	John Musgung		
4/12	Jan Weaver		
4/15	Steve Kyra		
4/15	Katie McCullough		
4/16	Charlotte Kupstas		
4/16	Jake Weaver		



### April Anniversaries

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



### Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Attendance	Facility use	
February 2	\$1,992.03	71	\$540.00	
February 9	\$367.53	0- Ice	Hoagie Sale	
February 16	\$3,498.07	59	\$275.00	
February 23	\$3,066.03	66		
Total	\$8,923.66			
Budget	-\$16,000.00			
Over/ <u>Short</u>	-\$7,076.34			

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

## SOUP KITCHEN



NEW BETHANY HOSPITALITY CENTER BETHLEHEM

**First Wednesday of every month**

**10:00 AM – 1:00PM**

Our monthly crew visits 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 being put on a sub list????

Contact : Jeannie Miller

Elsie Stout

Jane Joyce



**April 9 ,2025**

**at First UCC**

**6pm - soup in New Fellowship Hall**

**7pm—Worship**

**Please sign up in the Narthex if you are bringing soup!! We also need help with setup and cleanup.**

### PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION NEEDED

Discussions of church business should be reserved for after services on Sundays or during office business hours. Please allow our members and staff to prepare their hearts for worship.

**THANK YOU**



**First United Church Hellertown**  
**Consistory Minutes—in brief**

Monday March 10, 2025, at 6:30 pm in the Wimmer Room

**Call to Order:** Keith Lentz

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Becky

**Present:** Keith Lentz, Amy Mixa, Ashlynn Mixa, Doug Major, Jane Joyce, Joan Kiak, Karen Frankenfield, Marji Hughes, Pastor Becky, Tammie Vosburg, Sandy Bender, Chip Wagner, Sandy Panick

**Absent:** Diane French, Wayne Packer

**Minutes:** **Date:** February 10, 2025, Motion: Approval of Minutes: Amy Mixa: second: Karen Frankenfield  
Highlights: Reviewed minutes from last month

**Treasurer's Report** – Tammie Vosburg

Discussion: Explained income, expenses and budget, Positive investment- Camera expense taken from Wimmer Fund.  
Insurance premium renewal up 25%. She will speak to our representative about all our church improvements to explore and lower our rate.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Becky

Highlights: Total hours: 92—Breakdown of hours for major responsibilities: Worship: 34, Pastoral care:12  
Continuing education: 9, Office: 26, Meetings:8

**Faith Formation Report:** Marji Hughes

Highlights: Marji reported on the activities of the committee. Her report details those activities that are scheduled and notes that the curriculum will be reviewed for appropriateness to our church. Adult Bible Study, Bibles and Brunch are well attended as is Ladies Breakfast.

**Elders' Report:** Amy Mixa: Mission projects for the year will be announced monthly

January: New Jerusalem Food Bank

February: Phoebe Home

March: Easter Baskets

April: One Great Hour of Sharing

May: Heifer Project

June: Strengthen the Church

July: New Bethany Ministries

August: Valley Youth House

September: Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering

October: Church World Service

November: Fill the Sill, Neighbors in Need

December: Christmas Fund, Angel Gifts

**Deacons' Report:** No report

**Trustees' Report:** Welcomed Chip Wagner, new trustee.

**Correspondence:** Boy Scouts requested to use the parking lot in May for an event.

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive Meeting:** Present: Keith Lentz, Doug Major, Pastor Becky Absent: Sandy Bender

**Music and Worship:** Next Meeting March 17

**Safety and Security:** Sandy Bender

Life Vac boxes installed, and directions mounted. Fire blankets hung.

**Stewardship/ Fundraising:** Ashlynn Mixa—The current fundraiser is the pierogi sale. April fundraiser is Dine to Donate at Braveheart on 4/23 from 4-8 pm. Next meeting: Thursday, March 13

**Consistory Minutes (cont.)**

**Altar:** Easter Flower sale in March. Marji is looking into the blue Advent Candle Wreath Banners.

**Tech Committee:** James Rosenberger Progress Report on New Office Computer. Phyllis will make an appointment to have her new computer installed. All security programs from the old computer will be replaced in the new one. This installation will be done by High Tech Security.

**Old Business:** Arbor Doc will be pruning and trimming trees within our \$1500 budget.

**New Business:** Boy Scouts approved to use parking lot for May event.

Approved \$220 for Marji to attend one day women's music and yoga retreat. Motion by Karen Frankenfield, second-Jane Joyce.

Concerns were made about cleanup after Soup Suppers. Suggestions were made to have a set-up & clean-up signup sheet for these church functions with a phone number next to the person's name.

**Adjournment:** **Time:** 7:31 PM. Motion by Sandy Panick, seconded by Amy Mixa

**Next Meeting:** *Date:* April 14, 2025, in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sandy Bender, Secretary

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

**PALM SUNDAY SERVICE**

**Sunday, April 13—10:30 AM**



*Joint Service -Thursday , April 17*

*7 PM at First UCC*

**Maundy  
Thursday**

**Joint Service—Friday, April 18—7 PM at Lower Saucon UCC**

*good friday*

**Easter Sunday—April 20th**

**10:30 AM**

