

# July News

## We're getting ready

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.



## Camp Firelight Mission for 2024

*Our VBS leaders and helpers have chosen William Penn Elementary School in Bethlehem as the focus of our mission this week.*

*We are collecting school supplies of all kinds for the underserved classrooms there.*



*Please consider donating reusable water bottles with a straw, and WIRED*

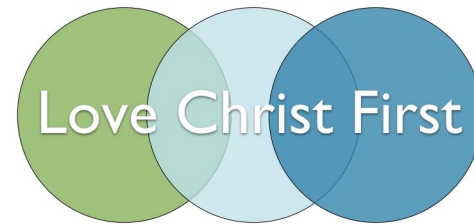
*over the ear headphones. Also needed are pencils, tissues, Crayola markers, multi-cultural crayons (Crayola), school scissors, hand sanitizer, glue sticks, rulers, etc., as you begin to purchase for your own child's class or just would like to donate items to the mission.*



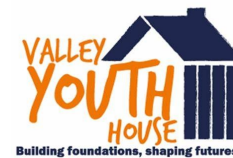
**Keith Lentz—Soloist**  
July 21, 2024



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## August Mission Project Valley Youth House



Valley Youth House (VYH) began in 1973 as a single shelter in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley. **Valley Youth House** was open day and night, ensuring that vulnerable, abused and homeless young people in the community had access to shelter and counseling. Even then, they represented more than just a roof and beds; they were an organization committed to building a solid foundation for every individual who came through their doors.

That same dedication still drives them today, as they have grown from that first house in the Valley to over 300 residential sites throughout Pennsylvania. Though their reach and programming has vastly expanded, their mission remains the same.

For over 50 years, they have been proud to be there for generations. **VYH** stand ready to be there for the next generation as well. Their doors remain open – they just have more of them now.

You may add your donations to **Valley Youth House** with your contributions to First UCC. Indicate the amount you wish to go to **VYH** and we will send a single check to them at the end of the month of August.



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



Anniversary Sunday Choir



**SPECIAL MUSIC FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST**

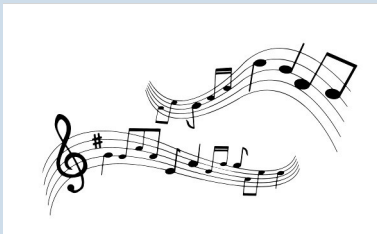
August 4—Our guest accompanist will be Cindy Cicconi-Ernst, who is filling in for the vacationing Pat O’Connell.

August 11—Special Music featuring Marji Hughes singing a contemporary selection “How Sweet the Sound” by Ben and Josh Calhoun, as performed by Citizen Way.

August 18th—Special music featuring Ashlynn Mixa and Becky Harvey

August 24th—Special music featuring Sarah Beers on the violin

**Choir rehearsal begin on Wednesday, August 28th at 7:30 pm. If you have an interest in joining for the fall, please see Pat O’Connell.**



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

*a gift given in loving memory of Clair Moran:*

*John & Kathy Chapman*

*Norine Haas*

*a gift given in loving memory of Richard Hacker:*

*John & Kathy Chapman*

*a gift given in loving memory of Mildred Lewis:*

*Norine Haas*

*a gift given in loving memory of Gerry Schmell:*

*Norine Haas*

*a gift given in loving memory of Catherine Underkoffler:*

*John & Kathy Chapman*

*a gift given in loving memory of Aileen Werner:*

*Norine Haas*



July 11, 2024

Dear Members of First UCC Hellertown,

The Miracle League of Northampton County’s Officers and Board of Directors would like to extend a sincere Thank You for your donation in the amount of \$425.00. This donation will help sustain our non-profit charitable organization with our baseball field complex that is designed specifically for the special needs of children with physical and intellectual disabilities. We look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Terry A. Leh  
Treasurer

Dear First United Church of Christ,

I would like to thank you for giving me the Tom Snyder Scholarship. It was very kind of you to gift it to me. I feel honored to receive it. It will be beneficial to me in helping with my college tuition this fall.

Thank you again,  
Andrew Harvey

Dear Members of First United Church of Christ,

I want to extend my gratitude for receiving the Tom Snyder Academic Scholarship. It will certainly come in handy with this semester's tuition and expenses.

Thank you,  
Gabriel Harvey

## Blessing Box Schedule



- Week of Aug 4-10—Georgie Stuempfle
- Week of Aug 11- 17 - Letty Petruno
- Week of Aug 18-24— Carlann Broglie
- Week of Aug 25-Sept 1—Doug Miller
- Week of Sept 1-7 —Marji Hughes
- Week of Sept 8-14— Andy Spear
- Week of Sept 15-21—Phyllis Scherer
- Week of Sept 22-28 —Ann Brown
- Week of Sept 29– Oct 5 —Sandy Panick
- Week of Oct 6-12 - Amy Mixa
- Week of Oct 13-19—Diane French
- Week of Oct 20-26 —Tammie Vosburg

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.

### Message from Our Delegate

Exciting worship experiences, spirit-filled meetings, meaningful workshops, delicious meals at a gathering of 400+ pastors, delegates, visitors at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center and I had the privilege of representing First UCC as a delegate at the first PA UCC Spring meeting June 7-9. The purpose was for the 4 Pennsylvania Conferences (Penn West, Pennsylvania Southeast, Penn Central and Penn Northeast where First UCC is a member) to be together as one and to learn what the pastors and delegated will be voting on November 9, 2024. Voting will decide on whether to merge the four conferences into becoming the Keystone Conference in the United Church of Christ, In January 2022, the Conference Ministers of the 4 PA Conferences began gathering statistics, holding informational and feedback workshops through the region to discern God's call for the future. Reading and discussing the 67 pages at the meeting about the possible merger, declining memberships, and churches closing there has been an awareness that something has to change. TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER is the theme and throughout our time together it was indeed good to have the four conferences assembled to begin the exciting possibility of becoming the Keystone Conference in the United Church of Christ in Pennsylvania and represent First UCC as delegate at the vote in November. Thank you.

*Jane Joyce*



*I have always felt most connected with God when I am near the water. As a child I was drawn to creeks and ponds. I loved summer showers when I could stand outside in the rain. This summer I had the opportunity to float down a creek in a tube. It was peaceful, serene. I saw a turtle sunning itself on a rock. I watched as a bald eagle dove and grabbed a fish from the water. I spent a lot of time wondering at the beauty of the world that God created as I listened to the sound of the water flowing. If I close my eyes it is almost like I am back there, resting in God's presence.*

*As a pastor, I am always curious about where people feel closest to God. Honestly, I don't think we consider it often enough. Nor do we take enough time to sit in those places. Where do you feel closest to God? Is it in the church sanctuary or in nature? Is it in the mountains, the forest, or on a lake? I believe that the presence of God is everywhere and each of us connects with God differently. My prayer for you is that, despite the busyness of this life, you are able to take the time to sit with God.*

*In light and love,  
Pastor Becky*



## COMMUNITY DAY—FUNDRAISER

Saturday, August 17th  
We need your help.  
We will be selling Strawberry Shortcakes

Volunteers are needed to clean and cut strawberries on August 16th. (3-5pm) On August 17th, volunteers are needed to set up, "man" the booths, and finally break-down & return items to the church. Signup sheets are on the Narthex bulletin board with more information on hours for each time of need. We are also looking for sponsors for the items we will be selling. If you would like to sponsor these items, please drop off \$\$ donations in the church office. We will be purchasing strawberries, shortcakes, and whipped cream and would appreciate your support in making this fundraiser a huge success.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

The **Nursery** is open for young children during Sunday worship.

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. There is a child-sized bathroom and a changing table available as well.

**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.

Our '24-'25 school year Sunday School program begins on **September 8** with

### "Soaking Up God"

a very special "watery" worship service.

Classes for pre-k through grade 1, and Grades 2-6

begin following the Children's Message. After worship we hope all will stay for our Open Table Communion workshop/fellowship hour.



## NEEDED this Fall

We are looking for **at least 2 adult** leaders for our Sunday School. Experience and Bible knowledge not necessary. **Desire to be part of this vital ministry to our children is!** With enough teachers we will rotate so no one misses worship every

week. Do not hesitate to ask any questions!

Please consider and speak with Marji Hughes.



## August - Sponsors/Volunteers

### August 4

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers.....	Team 5
Altar Flowers.....	Teitsworth Family
Bulletins .....	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader .....	Phyllis Scherer

### August 18

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers .....	Team 2
Altar Flowers.....	Richard Carl Family
Organ Piece.....	Bob & Phyllis Scherer
Bulletins .....	Bob & Doris Turner
Lay Reader .....	Andy Spear

### August 11

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers.....	Team 1
Altar Flowers.....	Carlann Broglie
Bulletins.....	Bob & Louise Krill
Lay Reader.....	Phyllis Heil-Henry

### August 25

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers .....	Team 3
Altar Flowers .....	Daphne Rodriguez
Bulletins.....	Bob Kervin
Lay Reader.....	Warren Kurz

### Upcoming Mission Projects

August—Valley Youth House

September—Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering

### Upcoming Fundraisers

Aug—Dine-to-Donate @ DiMaio's

- Strawberry Shortcake Sale @ Community Day

Oct—Penny Party

Nov - Nutroll Sale

### 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

The August Newsletter

has been sponsored by:

**Letty Petrino**

Like us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/hellertownucc](http://www.facebook.com/hellertownucc)



## 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	610-533-8009
Sherwood Stauffer, Sexton	610-838-7391

## Consistory Members

	Email address	Phone Number
<b><u>Elders</u></b>		
Sandy Bender	purplepeep@rcn.com	██████████
Amy Mixa	athomeamy@hotmail.com	██████████
Georgie Stuempfle	gdflea@yahoo.com	██████████
<b><u>Deacons</u></b>		
Karen Frankenfield	gumbycat1@gmail.com	██████████
Diane French— Pres.	dcfrench48@gmail.com	██████████
Ashlynn Mixa	ashlynnmixa@gmail.com	██████████
Sandy Panick	hygienist2000@msn.com	██████████
<b><u>Trustees</u></b>		
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>.

## Coffee & Conversation

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



### Women's Breakfast at the Hellertown Diner August 13, 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



**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays –**  
**10:30am in the Wimmer Room**  
 Bibles and Brunch will begin again in September.  
 Start date and topic/reading tba.



**Confirmation Class**  
 Confirmation class will meet September 8 at 11:30 am  
 jointly with the children and adults to attend our  
 communion workshop.

**Please remember your required summer assignment must be  
 completed and handed in by September 8.**  
**Questions, please contact Marji Hughes or Pastor Becky**





## 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.

Aug 2024	10:30 AM	4	Worship
	10:30 AM	11	Worship
	10:30 AM	18	Worship
	10:30 AM	25	Worship
Sept 2024	10:30 AM	1	Worship
	10:30 AM	8	Worship/Sunday School Kick-off
	10:30 AM	15	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	22	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	29	Worship/Sunday School
Oct 2024	10:30 AM	6	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	13	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	20	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	27	Worship/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.



### July Fundraiser—Hoagie Sale

Thank you to all who participated in the Hoagie Sale fundraiser. *10% of the profits from this fundraiser goes to Victory House (Homeless Veterans). We sold 120 hoagies.*

### August Birthdays

8/1 Kevin Brown	8/18 Violet Lasso
8/1 Kiera Mullen	8/21 Matthew Kiak
8/8 Diane French	8/22 Emma Harvey
8/8 Bob Krill	8/22 Thomas Kase
8/8 Samantha Major	8/24 Phyllis Herman
8/9 Sandy Bender	8/27 Katie Milliren
8/9 Jane Hoff	8/27 David Moran
8/10 Nick Kiak	8/28 Sara Heintzelman
8/10 Jared Thatcher	8/28 Christopher Hill
8/10 Jake Yonney	8/28 Mark Mixa
8/11 Denise Keen	8/30 Nathan Yonney
8/12 Donna Ball	8/31 Woody Stauffer
8/12 Edna Santo	
8/14 Bob Turner	
8/15 Letty Petruno	
8/17 Lainie Ball	
8/17 Rose Lasso	



### August Anniversaries

8/5 Paul & Denise Laub
8/5 James & Barbara Thatcher
8/12 Thomas & Cathy Lechner
8/12 Matt & Andrea Milliren
8/13 Richard & Barbara Shook
8/15 Scott & Phyllis Henry
8/17 Andy & Melissa Spear
8/21 Bob & Phyllis Scherer
8/22 Michael & Edna Santo
8/29 David & Nancy Heintzelman
8/30 Ben & Tanya Clements



Happy Diamond (60th)  
Wedding Anniversary  
Mike & Edna Santo

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

Date	Contributions	Attendance	
June 2	\$2,686.53	55	
June 9	\$2,086.67	47	
June 16	\$1,887.53	63	
June 23	\$1,301.39	47	
June 30	\$5,073.00	46	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,035.12</b>		
<b>Budget</b>	<b>-\$20,000.00</b>		
<b>Over/Short</b>	<b>-\$6,964.88</b>		

*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



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



**NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE – FIRST UCC Day at the Iron Pigs**

Coca Cola Park

**Sunday, September 22**

1:35 PM



Tickets are \$12

and include a

\$2 food coupon.

We have 25 tickets in the same section!  
 Please see Marji Hughes or sign up in the narthex.



**PENNY PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT**

We are excited to announce that the Penny Party is back on! This year we'll be having a Fall themed penny party along with a 50/50 raffle and a small auction of special items on **Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm**. We are now accepting donations of items. We are looking for **new** items of any kind, food (watch the expiration date), personal care items, beauty items, toys, art supplies, kitchen items, garage items, paper goods, almost anything that is **new** – any value item will work. This is a great time to re-gift any dusty Christmas presents you received, but aren't using (*but please keep the fruit cake!*). We are looking for larger unique items, handmade items or services to offer in the auction. We are of course looking for lots of helpers the day of the event to help with the kitchen, clean-up, selling tickets, runners to hand out items won and more. So, mark it on your calendar, start collecting your change, think about friends and

neighbors you can invite, look around your house or shop for items to donate and please see Tammie Vosburg or Andrea Milliren if you would like to help or have any questions.



**Last chance to register for  
 Vacation Bible School**  
 at 1<sup>st</sup> UCC Hellertown  
**July 29 – Aug. 2, 2024**

Campers and volunteers **REGISTER** at:

<https://1sthellertowncampers.mycokesburyvbs.com> Questions? call 610-838-8811

**Needed for Vacation Bible School - Cases of Small Juice Boxes (100% Juice), and Life-Size Artificial Christmas Trees (without lights) and/or plants. We can return the trees/plants after VBS.**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SET-UP**

**Sunday, July 28, 2024 -**

**Immediately following worship. All help welcome!**

**Spend an hour with us decorating for our week at Camp Firelight.**

**We could use some strong arms to help move large items.**



**Might Griefshare be for you?**



GriefShare is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, built around a video curriculum, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. Meetings last between one and a half to two hours.

First UCC will be starting a Griefshare group, beginning on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, starting at 7 PM in the Wimmer Room of the church. Pastor Rich and Jackie Teitsworth will lead the group. Our church will provide all the materials that you will need.

Please call the church office to register for the group. You may also contact Pastor Rich or Jackie if you have questions at 484-851-3605.

**First United Church Hellertown  
Consistory Minutes  
Monday July 8, 2024, at 6:30 pm Wimmer Room**

Treasurer's Report – Tammie Vosburg  
Report accepted as submitted.

Highlights:

- Our current YTD deficit is \$442.00
- Our annual giving is under budget by \$15,000.
- We received our insurance depreciation payment of \$1,239 from the roofing and ceiling project. Repairs are completed.
- Our investment returns have improved this month.
- Our expenses are under budget YTD, utilities under \$1300, office/copier under \$1200.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Becky  
Report accepted as presented.

Total Hours: 72—Breakdown of hours for major responsibilities: Hours Dedicated to Worship: 24, Hours Dedicated to Pastoral Care: 6, Continuing Education Hours: 2, Office Hours: 23, Meetings: 8

Vacation: 8/25-8/31

Continuing Education:

I met with my Community of Practice. We finished Jeffrey MacDonald's book Part-time is Plenty. I submitted my application for the Doctorate of Ministry program at Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Faith Formation Report: Marji Hughes  
Accepted as presented.

Highlights:

- VBS leaders and helpers met on July 1. School supplies for teachers in two underfunded schools in Bethlehem were chosen as our mission for the week after a good discussion of possibilities.
- Pastor Becky and I are working on the letter for the whole congregation regarding open table communion, which will begin the first Sunday in October.
- I put together and sent out a "Soaking Up God" summer activity packet to Sunday School children in grades Pre-K through 6. We will also use Soaking Up God as our theme for Kick-Off Sunday on September 8.
- Youth Group will meet at Lower Saucon UCC to play Pickleball on August 4

Elders' Report: Georgie Stuempfle

We plan to meet with the pastor in August to discuss/choose causes for September through November fundraisers.

Deacons' Report: Sandy Panick

Our Anniversary Sunday is July 14, and there is communion.

We decided to have communion once a month. The designated first Sunday of the month will offer communion unless it falls on a holiday.

Trustees' Report: Ann Brown

• Additional electric lighting for the choir area estimate and for wiring and camera placement in balcony is pending from BEI.

• Cleaning Service contract proposal from (JMS). The first cleaning is scheduled for August 9 after VBS. We need to approve the proposal provided by JMS, including time and cost.

*Motion: Keith Lentz motioned to hire JMS Cleaning service for \$500 per cleaning session, which we will review after several cleanings and continue their services throughout the church year. Amy Mixa seconded the motion. After discussion the Motion passed: All were in favor, and none were opposed. The motion passed.*

Committee Reports:

Executive Meeting: Keith Lentz, Ann Brown, and Pastor Becky met to review and set the Agenda for the 7/8 meeting.

**The Consistory Minutes in Brief (cont)**

**Music and Worship:** There was no meeting in July. We will meet in August. The choir will sing for Anniversary Sunday.

**Tech Committee:**

James Rosenberger will meet with Marji to continue setting up VBS sound and video equipment.

**Stewardship/ Fundraising: Georgie Stuempfle**

- Hoagie sale was very successful. We made a \$450.00 profit.
- Spoke with David Heintzelman regarding manning the hot dog stand for the Halloween parade. It is ours if we choose to do so. I told him we were interested, and we would receive \$500.00 for our church.

**Old Business:**

**Community Day: August 17- Keith Lentz**

On 8/16, we plan to prep the strawberries and cake items for serving at Community Day. We have staff to man the tents and table setups and breakdown equipment. We are looking for volunteers to run the "Nose" game and support staff with these duties.

**Special Dinner:** Elsie Stout proposes a special dinner to honor our seniors.

**New Business:**

**Front Steps:** We are looking for estimates and services to paint the steps leading to our church's front doorway. Ann will contact painting personnel to complete this effort. Doug Major suggested using epoxy paint for longevity and wear.

**Special Show:** Karen Frankenfield suggested as another senior activity for this year. Could we plan to see "Noah" or another show at a local theater? If approved the cost is approximately \$15.00 or less a person and Wimmer could pay for this. We would have a sign up sheet posted on Bulletin Board.

**Next Meeting: August 12 at 6:30 PM in the Wimmer Room**

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

**Youth Group For 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders from  
1<sup>st</sup> UCC and LS UCC**

**AUG 4, 5-7PM at Lower Saucon UCC**

**PICKLEBALL**



No church affiliation is required. Bring your friends!

**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** - [mphughes22@gmail.com](mailto:mphughes22@gmail.com) 610-984-5053

**Come and Join**

