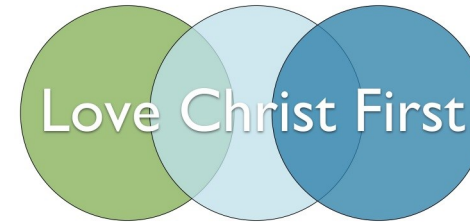


Our Sunday worship Services were filled with music, lessons, and lots of Fun!!! Pat and Marji taught us Sunday School camp songs on July 2nd, David Heintzelman had the “children” making joyful noise during the Children’s Sermon as Catherine led the Kazoo Band (July 9th). Sara Heintzelman and Emily Morello provided the special music that day. On July 23rd, Marji and Nathan Diehl provided the Special music. Marji led the “children” in learning about Jacob and his dream as found in the book of Genesis.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Special Meeting

Important Special Congregational Meeting

The Pastoral Search Committee is pleased to recommend Pastor Becky Thomas for the position of half-time Pastor to be considered by the congregation at a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 20th, 2023. There will be a Meet and Greet Fellowship time in the Wimmer Room from 10:00—10:30 am, prior to worship. The special meeting and vote will be held immediately following worship.



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



Anniversary Sunday—July 16th



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Blueberry/Cherry Pie
Fundraiser



THANK YOU

to Jane Hoff and her team of
Blueberry and Cherry Pie Bakers



Congratulations!

To our very own, **Keith Lentz**, who participated in the **Bethlehem Garden Club's Show**. Keith's table presentation took first place for place settings and centerpieces, best in show and took best in Pennsylvania Garden Clubs.

How wonderful!!!!





Dear Friends at First UCC,

There is big news. After months of anticipation, preparation and training, a family in Honduras received your gift.

Ariel Oviedo is a member of one of those families and is part of the Leveraging Success project where your gift went. The day his family received their gift, they celebrated! They knew the life-changing power it would bring, and they were ready to continue their transformational journey to self-reliance. Today, the family who received your gift is celebrating too. They're already seeing the benefits of nutrition, fertilizer and hope—and the best is yet to come!

As the family graciously welcomes the new addition to their farm, know it's all because of your generosity. The journey of your gift truly is remarkable, and I'm excited to share more updates as the cycle of change you set in motion continues to unfold. Thank you for starting this transformative journey with your gift!

Sincerely,

Christy Moore
Heifer International



Ariel and his family

Thank you to Susan Lishman who led us in worship on July 23rd when Pastor Becky was on her vacation.

Good seeing you again, Susan!



Thank you to Nathan Diehl who substituted for Pat O'Connell during her vacation. Nathan has worked as a professional musician and music educator in the Lehigh Valley for almost 20 years. He directed and conducted over 25 collegiate and regional musical theatre productions as well as the Freddy Awards. He is currently on the faculty at Moravian Academy,



I was sitting on the bank of a creek with my friend, after dipping my toes in the cold water, and being taught how to skip stones. I found myself watching bees as they flew from clover flower to clover flower. We were talking about clover and how both of us, despite childhood efforts, had never found a four leaf clover. I examined the beautiful green that was all around me and just a few moments later, had a four leaf clover in my hand. I'm not sure if they really bring luck, but that day was a blessing. It has me thinking about how often I neglect to put my phone away and do these simple things. Sit and have a conversation with a friend with no screens interrupting us. Take time to dip toes in water and laugh at myself as I learn something new. Just wonder at the beauty of this amazing world. So, as I was pondering what I should write to you, I decided that I wanted to encourage you to do something. I know our lives are busy and it is hard to slow down. But, I wonder if you could take one day a week, or every two weeks, and put your electronics away. Sit by a creek, talk with a friend, learn something new, or just sit in the beauty of creation. Give yourself the gift of rest.

*In light and love,
Pastor Becky*



September 10

10:30am worship

Join us for the rite of Confirmation with three of our youth who have completed 2 years of journeying and study together.

A special Fellowship Hour to welcome our new adults in faith will follow the Service.

CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS!

If you are going into grade 7 or 8, you are invited to become part of our Confirmation program! Confirmation is 2-years of learning, discussion, and doing, to prepare you to claim Jesus for yourself and become an adult member of 1st UCC.

Class day and time will be decided at our first meeting

Parents and youth need to attend.

Confirmation classes will be led by Pastor Becky Thomas and Marji Hughes

To sign up or with questions, please contact Marji Hughes 610-984-5053 or mphughes22@gmail.com.





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.

Confirmation Class is on break until their last two classes, August 27 and September 3 following the service. Confirmation Sunday is September 10 at 10:30 worship.

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP

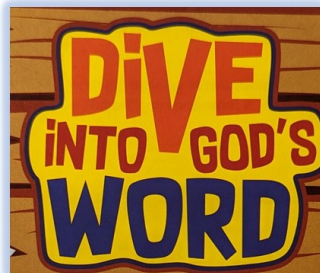
HERO HOTLINE - Vacation Bible School

July 31 - August 4 9am - Noon

Register online at <https://hellertownheroes.mycokesburyvbs.com>

Volunteers 7th grade and up may register online as well --- or contact Marji Hughes.

"Dive Into God's Word" '23-'24 school year program begins on September 10 with a very special worship service for all ages including the Rite of Confirmation for our 9th and 10th graders followed by Fellowship Hour.



Sunday School classes start officially on September 17 with options for Pre-K through grade 1 and Grade 2-6.

Contact Marji Hughes - mphughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053 - if you did not receive a "Dive Into God's Word" activity book or if you have any questions at all about Faith Formation at 1st UCC.

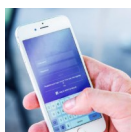
Don't forget: when you come to Sunday School in September, there is a prize for everyone who can show that they finished their "Dive Into God's Word" booklet !!



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
Colossians 3:16



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!**

August Sponsors/Volunteers

August 6

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Counting Team..... | Team 1 |
| Ushers..... | Team 2 |
| Altar Flowers..... | Rich & Jackie Teitsworth |
| Bulletins | Doug Miller |
| Lay Reader | Phyllis Heil-Henry |

August 20

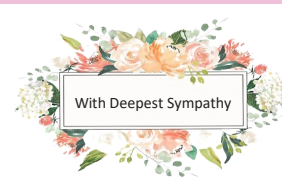
| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Counting Team..... | Team 3 |
| Ushers | Team 4 |
| Altar Flowers..... | Bob & Phyllis Scherer |
| Bulletins | Bob & Louise Krill |
| Lay Reader | Wayne Packer |

August 13

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Counting Team..... | Team 2 |
| Ushers..... | Team 3 |
| Altar Flowers..... | Carlann Broglie |
| Bulletins | Alice Totenbier |
| Lay Reader..... | Warren Kurz |

August 27

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Counting Team..... | Team 4 |
| Ushers..... | Team 5 |
| Altar Flowers | |
| Bulletins | Bob Kervin |
| Lay Reader..... | Andy Spear |



To the Family and Friends of:
Mark Diehl
June 22, 2023

Dorothy Freeman
July 22, 2023

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

Dine-to Donate—August 15th 5-8 pm
at DiMaio's Italian Ristorante & Pizzeria
27 Main Street, Hellertown

We will receive 10% of the food purchased that evening. This will include dine-in and take-out orders. We will hand out vouchers to present the evening of the event. You can get yours in church on Sunday, or in the church office during Office hours.

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.

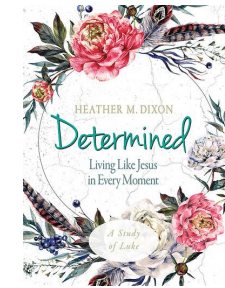
Always inform the church office if you are hospitalized. Please do not trust that word will get to the office through the grapevine. **Our hospital code is 428.** You can mention that if you are admitted.

“Bibles and “Brunch”

for all 1st UCC women members & friends!

Monday – August 7

10:30am in the Wimmer Rm



We will finish our video study “Determined” and take a summer break for the remainder of August. Coffee, tea, cold beverages and light snacks available. Participants **are not required** to attend every session. Drop-ins are welcome! We will resume our studies in September.



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

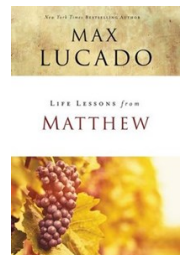
610-984-5053

Sunday Morning Study 9:15 each week

in the YA Café. Just come and join any Sunday

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

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



Coffee
& Conversation

Every Sunday morning

9:45 AM

before worship

in the Wimmer Room



Women's Breakfast at the Hellertown Diner

August 8th , 8 am

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 !



FIRST UCC RETURNING TO SOUP KITCHEN
AT NEW BETHANY HOSPITALITY CENTER BETHLEHEM
First Wednesday of every month—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 has resumed.. 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.

HERE ARE PHOTOS OF OUR CREW AND THEIR CHEF

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

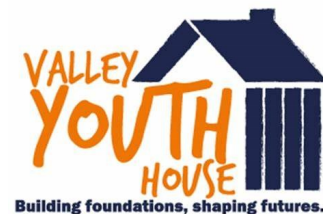
Valley Youth House — August Mission Project

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



August Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 8/1 Kevin Brown | 8/17 Rose Lasso |
| 8/1 Keira Mullen | 8/18 Violet Lasko |
| 8/8 Diane French | 8/21 Matt Kiak |
| 8/8 Robert Krill | 8/22 Emma Harvey |
| 8/8 Samantha Major | 8/22 Tom Kase |
| 8/9 Sandy Bender | 8/24 Phyllis Herman |
| 8/9 Jane Hoff | 8/27 Katie Milliren |
| 8/10 Nick Kiak | 8/27 David Moran |
| 8/10 Jared Thatcher | 8/28 Sara Heintzelman |
| 8/10 Jake Yonney | 8/28 Christopher Hill |
| 8/12 Donna Ball | 8/28 Mark Mixa |
| 8/12 Edna Santo | 8/30 Nathan Yonney |
| 8/14 Robert Turner | 8/31 Woody Stauffer |
| 8/15 Letty Petrundo | |
| 8/17 Lainie Ball | |

August Anniversaries

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



Stewardship of God’s People at First Church

| Date | Contributions | Benevolences | Attendance |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|
| June 4 | \$2,606.17 | \$706.17 | 62 |
| June 11 | \$4,459.86 | | 68 |
| June 18 | \$1,315.56 | Fundraisers | 57 |
| June 25 | \$3,538.53 | | 44 |
| Total | \$11,920.12 | | |
| Revenue required | -\$16,000.00 | | |
| Over/Short | (\$4,079.88) | | |

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.



Hero Hotline Vacation Bible School 2023 Mission Project

We will be collecting Disposable diapers,
wipes and receiving blankets for
The Caring Place in Allentown.

Items may be placed in the Pack and Play in the Narthex.



The Caring Place **931 Hamilton Street** **Allentown PA 18101**



Mary Griffin, Executive Director, gave birth to The Caring Place in June 1996 after seeing firsthand the unmet needs of troubled children and teenagers. She was compelled to create a child-centered organization, a place where she could carry out God's call to "take care of my kids." Griffin started The Caring Place with only her personal savings for funding and her faith in God. Mary Griffin opened The Caring Place to show young people they are loved and provide them an opportunity for a better future. Since 2004, it has secured its current Hamilton street location and grown from its twelve initial youth participants to serve more than 500 young people per year.

Programs at the Caring Place such as Mentoring, Entrepreneurship, College prep, Sign Language, Gardening, Science, After School care are educational as well as entertaining and maintain the interest of the children and youth while providing for their daily needs. Under the guidance of caring volunteers, these young people also learn life skills that will empower them throughout their lives.



Penny Party—September 17—12 noon



We are asking for donations of items for participants to bid on at the event. Items should be non-perishable. Examples of items (but not limited to: six-pack soda, spaghetti sauce, pickles, toilet paper, paper towels, beauty products, doggie treats, canned vegetables. **Use your imagination** for other items. We are accepting them at any time. See Phyllis in the Office if you have questions, or you are bringing in donations. This is always a fun event. You don't want to miss this one! Bring your change!!!!

We will need volunteers to help on the day of the event.



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.

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|----|------------------------------------|
| August 2023 | 10:30 AM | 6 | Worship |
| | 10:30 AM | 13 | Worship |
| | 10:30 AM | 20 | Worship |
| | 10:30 AM | 27 | Worship |
| Sept 2023 | 10:30 AM | 3 | Worship |
| | 10:30 AM | 10 | Worship/Confirmation/Communion |
| | 10:30 AM | 17 | Worship/First Day of Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 24 | Worship/Sunday School |
| Oct 2023 | 10:30 AM | 1 | Worship/Communion/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 8 | Worship/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 15 | Worship/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 22 | Worship/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 29 | Worship/Sunday School |

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/hellertownucc



The August Newsletter has been sponsored by
Kevin Brown

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 July 30-Aug 5 —Ann Brown

Week of Aug 6—12 —Sandy Panick

Week of Aug 13—19—Amy Mixa

Week of Aug 20—26—Diane French

Week of Aug 27-Sept 2—Phyllis Heil-Henry

Week of Sept 3-9—Georgie Stuempfle

Week of Sept 10-16 - Letty Petrino

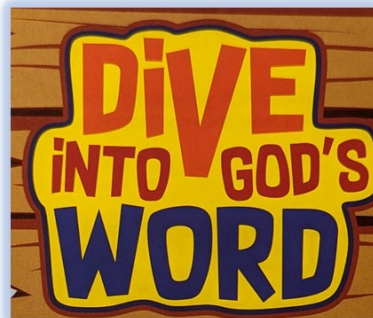
Week of Sept 17-23— Carlann Broglie

Week of Sept 24-30—Doug Miller

Week of Oct 1-7—Marji Hughes

Week of Oct 8-14 — Andy Spear

Week of Oct 15-21—Phyllis Scherer



Time for picnics and swimming and ball games and sunshine and watermelon and practically anything one can think of! Most kids are trying hard to NOT think about school and maybe not thinking about church, either. But, even when you are not thinking about church, God is thinking about and watching over you. When you are not at Sunday School, God is hoping that you will still take time to pray, think about Jesus, and listen for the Holy Spirit.

All Sunday School kids should have received a book called "Dive Into God's Word" which "dives" into the Bible in different ways - including sea-themed activities, fun facts, and stories. Every page teaches about the love and saving grace of Jesus with a different book for older and younger kids.

When you come to Sunday School in September, there is a prize for everyone who can show that they finished their booklet !!



The Consistory Minutes in Brief July 11, 2023

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Tammie Vosburg. Here are some highlights:

- We have had successful fundraisers year to date. Our profit YTD is \$3,455.
- Our major improvements YTD: our new church signage from the Jane Kemmerer and Jeff Petrino Remembrance Fund, steeple lighting and kitchen lighting from the Kay Stauffer Remembrance, and the parking lot lots from the Wimmer Major Improvements Fund.
- Our Investment Returns YTD June are a positive 5.3%.
- Our Employment Retention tax credit is pending \$28,300 plus interest.
- A committed review of cost-saving activities continues; completed updates on tax certificates with vendors, reduced One Call plan, reduced membership giving envelopes, an audit reduced premium for Workers Compensation, and reviewed copier lease expiring October 30, 2023.
- We reviewed proposals from Hi-Tech Security Alarms for updates to fire alarms, installed new electric push button entry for the front door, and accessed video monitor system for the office. Install alarm communicator to replace the broken Knight System. Motion passed to complete this update. The Employment Retention Tax Credit will pay for this update.

Pastor Becky Report:

Highlights:

Total Hours: 90
Breakdown of hours for major responsibilities
Hours Dedicated to Worship: 30
Hours Dedicated to Pastoral Care: 5
Continuing Education Hours: 2 I met with my Community of Practice.
Office Hours: 25
Meetings: 8 - Special meetings held with Staff, Elders, and Music and Worship

Other Business:

- First Aid and CPR Training: Minga Ferencin – Minga contacted Robert Kempf of Eastern PA EMS Council about setting up a training session with our members.
- **Community Days Update** - Keith Lentz and Sandy Bender: We have collected over \$200 to purchase supplies, strawberries, and whipped cream for Community Days on August 19.
- **Safety Committee** - Sandy Bender: The Committee will meet on August 1, at 7:00pm and review the needs of our church.

Nest meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Wimmer Room. A copy of the full minutes is available in the Church Office.