



VBS 2026



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



August 2026



Love Christ First

Welcome
Back Sunday

Sunday School
begins



August 30 10:30am worship

PANCAKE BRUNCH

following the service



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







Dear Friends of First UCC,

Thank you for the beautiful cards and best wishes for my birthday, 90 plus years on this earth.

Your kindness is much appreciated.

With love,
Betty Parsons

Save The Date
Saturday, October 24, 2026
Bus Trip to Sight & Sound to see "Joshua"
9:30 AM—Depart from First UCC
12:00 N—Lunch at Hershey Farms
3:00 PM—Joshua Show
7:00 PM ish—arrive @ First UCC

SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Thank-yous!



Thank-yous are not enough to express our appreciation for the teens and adults who volunteered for our 2026 VBS this summer.

Anne Brown, Minga Ferencin, Denise Keen, Charles Knecht, Elsie Stout, Melissa Spear, Andy Spear, Michelle Major, Kristen Rantz, Wyatt Rantz, Ashlynn Mixa, Morgan Mixa, Grayson Rantz, Keira Flannery, Juju Nansteel, Carter Mullen, Madyson Schrammel, Willow Lentz, Charlotte Miller, Renate Geisinger, Jean Miller, Brenda Miller, Letty Petrino, Greta Geisinger, Ryder Starkweather, Beth Shelly, Mason Polgar, Lila Nansteel, Luke Rosenberger, Tammie Vosburg, Doug Miller and, last but certainly not least, Sarah Beers and Pastor Becky Thomas.

A special thank-you to Sara Heintzelman, Michael Pilato and **Get Joy** for providing the ice cream snack on the last day of VBS!!!!

Their energy, faithful spirit and caring made our week together a complete success!

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Phil 4:13

Food & Games 7-5-26





We are currently in the season of the church year known as ordinary time. Admittedly, I'm not extremely fond of that name. Mostly because it can give the impression that this time of year is uneventful. But, the truth is this time of year is special. So many amazing things happen during this time of year! We celebrate Anniversary Sunday, have outdoor worship services, we celebrate World Communion Sunday, on Remembrance Sunday we remember and celebrate members of our congregation who touched our lives during their time in this world, and we thank God for bounty of the earth as we celebrate the harvest. There are far too many wonderful things happening for this to be simply ordinary.

The truth is that the green of our paraments during ordinary time symbolizes growth and ordinary just comes for the Latin for order. These are days of growth. Maybe we can start to think about this time of year in a different way. I know the excitement of Easter and Christmas can outshine the order of the rest of the year. The truth is, days, weeks, months, they all fly by so quickly. Especially since we do the same thing over and over again. Many of us get so caught up in the routine of our days that we don't pause to think about what God is doing. This time of year can be a reminder that God journeys with us even in the ordinary. This is my prayer for you: May your ordinary days be extraordinary as you grow your faith in Christ.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky

Mission Projects for the month of August

PA Special Olympics & Bethany Children's Home

Special Olympics Pennsylvania offers a wide variety of sports where athletes of all abilities can challenge themselves, build confidence, and experience the joy of competition.

Bethany Children's Home, Womelsdorf, PA. Their vision is of a community where all youth and staff are safe in their environment and feel safe within themselves. To bring this vision into reality, they provide the resources needed for children and families to work through their losses, enabling them to have a brighter future. In their unique and specialized programs, youth have access to a variety of therapeutic, spiritual, and cultural services in addition to recreational activities. Youth reside on campus in one of their historic cottages with dedicated team members and resident advisors.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS August 30



2 Classes: Pre-k through grade 1, and Grades 2-6

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

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

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. We are very low on spaghetti sauce and we need a variety of soups and breakfast foods to keep our pantry stocked. Please—no glass jars.

Week of July 26-Aug 1—Ann Brown
Week of Aug 2-8—Sandy Panick
Week of Aug 9-15—Amy Mixa
Week of Aug 16– 22– Phyllis Scherer
Week of Aug 23-29—Tammie Vosburg
Week of Aug 30—Sep 5—Georgie Stuempfle
Week of Sep 6-12 - Letty Petrundo
Week of Sep 13-19 — Carlann Broglie
Week of Sep 20-26—Doug Miller
Week of Sept 27-Oct 3—Marji Hughes
Week of Oct 4-10— Andy Spear
Week of Oct 11-17—Lisa Fenon



Flowers and More Gift Card Fundraiser

Arnold's Market
1776 Friedensville Rd. Bethlehem, PA 18015

For more information see the order form included with this Newsletter,

*The Trustees of the Remembrance Fund
have received and gratefully acknowledged
A gift given in loving memory of Judith (Judy) Slocum*

Sue & Bill Weber The Beccone Family
Anna & Barry Slocum Carlann Broglie

August Sponsors/Volunteers

August 2

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers.....	Team 4
Altar Flowers.....	Tricia Shelly
Bulletins	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader.....	Becky Harvey

August 9

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers.....	Team 5
Altar Flowers.....	Teitsworth Family
Bulletins	Bob & Louise Krill
Lay Reader	Phyllis Scherer

August 16

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers.....	Team 1
Altar Flowers.....	Carlann Broglie
Organ Piece.....	Daphne Rodriguez
Bulletins	Daphne Rodriguez
Lay Reader.....	Nan Belcak

August 23

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers	Team 2
Altar Flowers.....	Bob & Phyllis Scherer
Bulletins.....	Bob Kervin
Lay Reader.....	Becky Rosenberger

August 30

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers.....	Team 3
Altar Flowers.....	Andy & Melissa Spear
Bulletins	Denise Keen
Lay Reader.....	Bob Scherer

Put this on your calendar:

*Women's
Retreat*

April 2-4, 2027

At Mariawald Retreat House, Reading

The August Newsletter
has been sponsored by:
Glenn & Ann Brown

Offerings may be made anytime electronically at 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.

**Coffee
& Conversation**

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



Sunday morning Adult Bible Study --

Sunday Bible Study begins
AUGUST 30- We will be discussing
"Exodus Learning to trust God"
by James Reapsome

COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE
Study

Please contact Tricia Shelly for more information, or just join us.



BIBLES AND BRUNCH

Women's Bible Study



1st and third Mondays of each month

August 3 at 10:30am

August 17 at 10:30am

we will gather to have a lively discussion on the topic

"Who is Mary Magdalene?" using the fragments of the Gospel of Mary as our starting point. If you need a book, contact Marji Hughes – We will talk about Chapters 1-3. Come join us!

YOUTH GROUP - grades 5 through high school

Date: TBD at Lucky Strokes Golf and Isabella's Pizza, Airport Rd., Bath

Cost: \$15 for golf and pizza Meet at church 5pm

8pm return to church If you're not riding with your parent you will need a permission slip No church affiliation is required. Bring your friends!

Questions: **Pastor Becky** -



Mar i Hu hes -



**MINI
GOLF**

&





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



Women's Breakfast at the Hellertown Diner Second Tuesday of each month– 8 AM

August 11, 2026

*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

Community Day –FUNDRAISER Saturday, August 15th

WE NEED YOUR HELP - We will be selling **Pork Sandwich/Cole Slaw Platters**.

Volunteers are needed to set up, “man” the booths, and 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 items needed to make the platters.** If you would like to sponsor these items, please drop off **\$\$ donations** in the church office. We will be purchasing cabbage, carrots, condiments, seasonings, paper goods & utensils. We would appreciate your support in making this fundraiser a huge success.



Staff

Rev. Becky Thomas, Pastor

Marji Hughes, Minister of Faith Formation

Pat O 'Connell, Minister of Music

Phyllis Scherer, Administrative Asst.

Tammie Vosburg, Church Treasurer

Consistory Members

Email address

Phone Number

Elders

Jane Hoff

janehoff0901@gmail.com

Joan Kiak

njbk77@gmail.com

Amy Mixa

athomeamy@hotmail.com

Tricia Shelly

Deacons

Karen Frankenfield

gumbycat1@gmail.com

Ashlynn Mixa

ashlynnmixa@gmail.com

Sandy Panick

hygienist2000@msn.com

Trustees

Keith Lentz--Pres.

keithlen56@gmail.com

Doug Major-Vice Pres.

pamajors@rcn.com

Wayne Packer

wayne.t.packer@gmail.com

Chip Wagner

rdmax723@hotmail.com

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/hellertownucc



August Birthdays

8/1	Kevin Brown	8/21	Jackie Teitsworth
8/1	Kiera Mullen	8/22	Emma Harvey
8/8	Diane French	8/22	Tom Kase
8/8	Robert Krill	8/24	Phyllis Herman
8/8	Smanatha Major	8/26	Owen Petruno
8/8	Saige Yohn	8/27	Katie Milliren
8/8	Kanan Yohn	8/27	David Moran
8/9	Jane Hoff	8/28	Sara Heintzelman
8/10	Nick Kiak	8/28	Christopher Hill
8/11	Denise Keen	8/28	Mark Mixa
8/12	Donna Ball	8/31	Woody Stauffer
8/12	Edna Santo		
8/14	Robert Turner		
8/15	Letty Petruno		
8/17	Lainie Ball		
8/18	Violet Lasko		
8/21	Matt Kiak		



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	Mike & Edna Santo
8/29	David & Nancy Heintzelman
8/30	Ben & Tanya Clements



The following members are celebrating 90+ birthdays this month. Perhaps you would like to send birthday cards or thinking of you cards to brighten their day.

Aug 18 Violet Lasko
401 E. State St., Apt 210
Coopersburg PA 18036

Aug 24 Phyllis Herman
4450 Cottonwood Drive
Nazareth PA 18064

Stewardship of God's People at First Church

	Contributions	Attendance	Benevolences	
June 7	\$13,097.34	60	VYH	\$415.00
June 14	\$1,888.31	46		
June 21	\$2,131.86	51-Father's Day		
June 28	\$3,524.01	88- Pastor-Becky's Anniversary		
Total	\$20,641.52			
Budget	(\$16,000.00)			
Over/Short	\$4,641.52			

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 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 2026	10:30 AM	2	Worship
	10:30 AM	9	Worship
	10:30 AM	16	Worship
	10:30 AM	23	Worship
	10:30 AM	30	Worship/Sunday School Begins
Sept 2026	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
Oct 2026	10:30 AM	4	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	11	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	18	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	25	Worship/Sunday School

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

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.

Join us Online!

To view website, go to: firstucchellertown.org

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>.

First United Church Hellertown
Consistory Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2026

Call to Order: Meeting Called to order by Doug Major at 6:35 PM—Meeting held via Zoom

Opening Prayer: Pastor Becky - Absent : Keith Lentz, Amy Mixa, Ashlynn Mixa

Minutes: June 8, 2026

Motion: Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Sandy Panick and seconded by Karen Frankenfield. All in favor motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Tammie Vosburg

Highlights: Our YTD Net Cash Flow is negative (\$16,818.00). Giving is under budget by \$14,000.00 and Utilities are over budget by \$3,000.00. Good news our investments have rebounded in the second quarter and our return rate is currently at 4.4%.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Becky—Pastor Becky's report was accepted as presented.

Faith Formation Report - Marji Hughes. Accepted as presented.

Highlights: Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS coming up beginning July 20th.The sanctuary will be decorated after church on Sunday July 19th. Registration is currently lower than previous years at this time. Confirmands and their sponsors will meet July 14th for dinner and discussion. Sunday School will resume August 30th. Marji will be on vacation from July 25th through July 29th.

Elders' Report - Amy Mixa absent however note our August Mission will be supporting the Special Olympics and Bethany Children's Home.

Deacons' Report - Sandy Panick would like help with after communion clean up on Sunday July 19th. Sandy will not be at church. Karen Frankenfield and Tricia Shelly will handle it. Sandy will set up communion on Saturday

Trustees' Report - The Barberry shrubs have been trimmed down, Doug Major will be removing the stumps on Tuesday. Doug asked about disposal of the stumps. Sandy Panick and Tricia Shelly both offered to collect and dump into the woods on their properties. Wayne Packer will be looking for volunteers to help with the shrubs on the Penn Street side of the church. He stated we should get the grounds in order before the Fall Festival.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Executive Meeting: Consistory Agenda set by Doug Major and Keith Lentz

Music and Worship: No updates Keith is on vacation meeting will be rescheduled.

Safety and Security - None

Fundraising - July 23 will be Rita's fundraiser from 5-8 PM with 10% proceeds for our church. August will be Community Day. Tricia and Willie Shelly are providing a pig roast for our community day booth. The pig has been purchased (125 pounds)! Tricia will be making homemade cole slaw and Barbeque sauce, Tricia has ordered double sided take out containers from Amazon. At our next meeting we will discuss donations for the food purchased and take inventory of forks, napkins etc. Decisions need to be made on the price for combo meals with water and bag of chips.

Jane Hoff will be chairing the Fall Festival. She would like to know if we have a budget for the Festival. The discussion was to utilize both upstairs and downstairs for the festival. There should be room for about 40 tables for the vendors and committees from our church. We need food ideas. Discussion to set up a VENMO for our church as well. Will discuss in further detail at the next Fundraiser Meeting.

Arnolds Gift Cards will also be an August fundraiser.

The next meeting for the Fundraising Committee will be July 23rd at 6:00

Consistory Minutes (cont.)

Stewardship: The stewardship committee is finalizing pledge cards. The first article is out in the newsletter regarding Stewardship. Updates will be posted on bulletins boards. A letter along with a half year annual giving statement will be sent to congregants. The stewardship motto is Rooted in Gratitude and Growing in Generosity. The next meeting is July 14th.

Altar: Nothing to report

Tech: James Rosenberger worked out some bugs in the new system. There was a popping sound due to the amplifier coming on before the audio mixer. A power sequencer for the AV rack was purchased and has resolved the issue. James has been doing an amazing job getting our new system setup!

Old Business: Sandy Panick spoke with Denise Keen regarding Rachel Keen holding the Tai Chi classes. Denise will be talking to Rachel. Her thought will be to consider classes in later fall.

Chip Wagner has been working tirelessly on the sanctuary side door and window projects. He has gotten a quote for \$1,100.00 for sanding, wood filler and paint for the door. Much less than buying a new door for about \$5,000.00. The window project involves 42 windows. At least 10 have rotted wood sills and some rot extending up the vertical frames. The solution being explored currently is to cap everything in aluminum, except for the areas over the arches. Paint and plexiglass over the Mullions will be needed. This project is roughly projected at \$17,100.00. Chip is waiting for explicit details and estimates

New Business: Discussion regarding ramp leading into the Old Fellowship Hall and bathrooms. Concerns about it being slippery. Chip Wagner will measure and look into rubber matting or carpet. Wayne Packer advised checking ADA regulations. There can be tripping hazards with mats as well. Suggested checking with the borough for any ruling on this.

Wayne Packer filled out required paperwork and will be submitting for an EIN number for our church. Wayne also stated that he and Tammie briefly discussed the VENMO idea as well. Discussion was held to decide if we want to go forward with a Financial Committee to provide a clear understanding of the financial stability of our church. Doug Major discussed the importance of a better understanding for everyone to know how the balances in our funds can be utilized. Also provide a clear definition on the usage of each fund.

Wayne Packer made a motion to set up a Temporary Finance Committee to explore revenue streams. Seconded by Sandy Panick. All were in favor.

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn by Tricia Shelly at 7:45 pm and seconded by Karen Frankenfield. Followed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: August 10, 2026 in the Wimmer Room at 6:30

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Panick

COIN PARTY (formerly called Penny Party)
Sunday, October 11, 2026 (More details to follow)

We will now be 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. 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. We will also be selling baked goods, along with other food items and are asking our bakers to sign-up on the sheets in the Narthex Bulletin Board. If baking isn't your "thing", you can donate food /beverages for the day of the party. (soda, water, snacks) See the Narthex bulletin board to sign-up to bring these items. We are also accepting donations to help buy supplies for the event. So, **start collecting your change**, think about friends and neighbors you can invite, look around your house or shop for items to donate.