



Remembrance Sunday

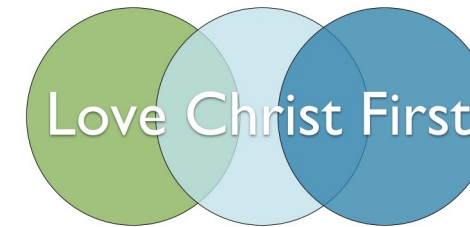


On Remembrance Sunday we lit a candle for our loved ones who had recently passed:

Martha Kemmerer
Arland Kemmerer
Gregory Lorah
Gary Weaver
Alice Yuille
Mark Lorah



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



December 2025

THE CHRISTMAS
FUND

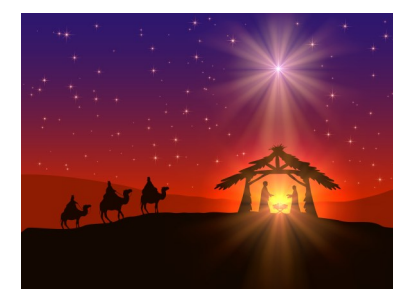


Mission Project for the Month of December

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

To make a donation to the Christmas Fund, you may include it with your regular offering. Please indicate the amount designated for The Christmas Fund. At the end of December, we will send one check directly to this Fund.



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





"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5
Hope, peace, joy, and love. These are the candles we light during the season of Advent. A season that invites us to slow down, despite it being one of the busiest times of year for many of us. Just as we get through the Thanksgiving holiday we are pushed to begin thinking about buying the perfect gifts, cooking another meal, baking delicious treats, and planning holiday gatherings all while dealing with the normal everyday stress we have from work, school, and family. This season leads us through the darkest time of year. A time where the winter chill begins to take hold and we

watch the world around us become frozen.

This time of year, the darkness can feel particularly heavy as we deal with grief, fatigue, and uncertainty of what the new year will bring. It has me wondering where you find the light when this season is over and the Advent wreaths and Christmas lights are put away. Perhaps this December we can slow down and notice the light that is flickering around us in the small things like kind words, shared meals, friends, and our faith community. Light is not meant to be dampened, it is meant to be shared. So, I pray that you carry it with you into the world and share your light, and Christ's light, with everyone you meet.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky

4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.



Wayne Packer tells everyone about the special "frig" magnet from his grandmother that reminds him about Faith. This was his item in the Treasure Chest.



Baptism of Kelsie Ball



Penny Party Fun

Wayne announcing winners



Thank you to Phyllis Heil-Henry for the photos!

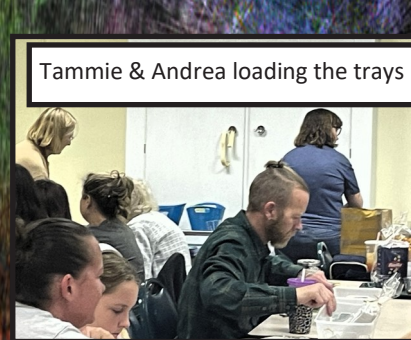


Thank you to the members who came for Fall Clean-Up.



Thank you to everyone who helped make our Penny Party a huge success, Thanks to our volunteers who worked in the kitchen, sold food, baked goodies, sold tickets, loaded trays, delivered winnings, cleaned up and so much more. (Thanks to the Scouts from Cub Pack 319. Thank you to those of you who donated items for bidding. We donated 10% of our total receipts (\$227.00) to New Jerusalem Food Bank. Our profit was \$2047.00. Thank you so much to all who participated!!!!!!

Tammie & Andrea loading the trays



It was great seeing so many participants at the Penny Party.



Beth & Chip



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 to keep our pantry stocked. Please—no glass jars.

Week of Nov 30 – Dec 6—Amy Mixa
Week of Dec 7-13 – Phyllis Scherer
Week of Dec 14-20—Tammie Vosburg
Week of Dec 21-27—Georgie Stuemfle
Week of Dec 28-Jan 3—Letty Petrino
Week of Jan 4-10 — Carlann Broglie
Week of Jan 11-17—Doug Miller
Week of Jan 18-24—Marji Hughes
Week of Jan 25—31— Andy Spear
Week of Feb 1-7—Lisa Fenon
Week of Feb 8-14—Ann Brown
Week of Feb 15-21—Sandy Panick

Attention All Dart Players—December Schedule



12/1 Home vs. Trinity Edgeboro

12/8 Away @ College Hill

12/15 Home vs. Holy Cross

For anyone who is interested in joining the group,
Please contact Lisa Fenon

Congratulations on your Graduation

Sophia Riehl, daughter of Jessica & Timothy Riehl, will graduate with a degree in Cyber Security Engineering from George Mason University in December. She will be commissioned a Second Lieutenant, with an 8-year commitment unless she chooses to serve longer.

Congratulations!!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

Special Dates:

Sunday, November 30 – Family Sunday, Hanging of the Greens during worship. No Sunday School classes, everyone stays in church to learn the meaning and purpose of our Advent decorations, followed by a **POT-LUCK luncheon in New Fellowship Hall.**

December 7, 14, 21 - All-ages Advent Craft in the Wimmer Room each Sunday following the service. One different craft each week

December 21 – Christmas Pageant 10:30am service. Followed by regular Sunday School classes. **Children will sing during worship.** Details to follow.

Sunday, December 28 – Love Feast during 10:30am worship. Singing, readings, and cookies! No Sunday School classes.

Sunday, January 4, 2026 – Epiphany Sunday Join us as the Wise "men" continue their journey to find the Holy Family.

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 - mpughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053 - if you have any questions at all about Faith Formation at 1st UCC.



Confirmation class schedule:

11:30am – 1pm in the Youth/Young Adult Room

December 7, December 21

Questions, please contact Marji Hughes or Pastor Becky



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



Sunday morning Adult Bible Study --

In the Youth room upstairs

Sundays 9:15am

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



BIBLES AND BRUNCH

1st and 3rd Mondays of the month



December 1st & 15th 10:30 am

We are finishing "The God You Need to Know" by Margaret Feinberg

YOUTH GROUP for all 5th-12th graders

Come for Advent Crafts, Dec. 7, 14, and 21!!

If you would like to read or help out at the Pageant during worship on
December 21, please contact Marji

No church affiliation is required. Bring your friends! Questions - email or call:

Pastor Becky - [REDACTED]

Ashlynn Mixa - [REDACTED]

Marji Hughes - [REDACTED]



HANGING OF THE GREENS—November 30th

10:30am worship
and

POT LUCK LUNCHEON
following the service

Please sign up in the
Narthex to bring a dish
to share, and to help with
clean-up.

December Sponsors/Volunteers

December 7

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers.....	Team 2
Acolyte	Liam Riehl
Altar Flowers.....	Denise Keen
Bulletins	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader	Becky Harvey

December 21

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers	Team 4
Acolyte.....	Matthew Harvey
Altar Flowers	Lisa Fenon
Bulletins.....	Denise Keen
Lay Reader.....	Marji Hughes

December 14

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers.....	Team 3
Acolyte.....	Madysen Schrammel
Altar Flowers.....	Janice Csrnko
Bulletins.....	Janice Csrnko
Lay Reader.....	Bob Scherer

December 24

Ushers	Team 5
Acolyte.....	
Altar Flowers.....	Leroy & Jean Miller
Organ Piece.....	Daphne Rodriguez
Bulletins.....	Daphne Rodriguez
Lay Reader	Becky Rosenberger

December 28

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers	Team 1
Acolyte.....	Sarah Beers
Altar Flowers.....	Diane French
Bulletins.....	Dave & Georgie Stuempfle
Lay Reader	Phyllis Scherer

The December Newsletter

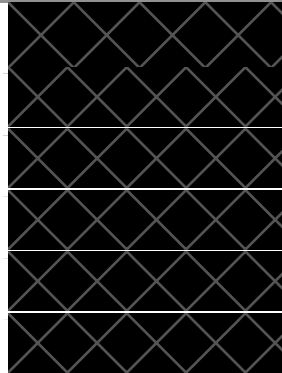
has been sponsored by:

Diane French

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.

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
 Budd Frankenfield, Sexton



Consistory Members

Email address

Phone Number

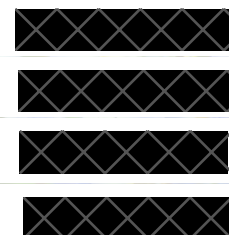
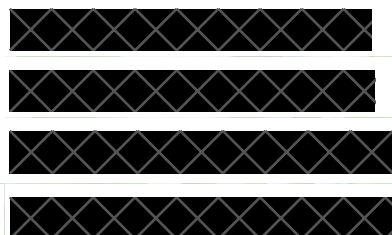
Elders

Sandy Bender
 Joan Kiak
 Amy Mixa



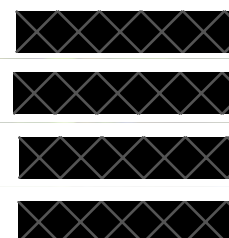
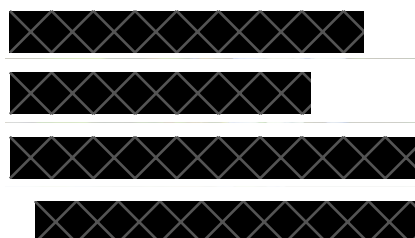
Deacons

Karen Frankenfield
 Diane French
 Ashlynn Mixa
 Sandy Panic



Trustees

Keith Lentz--Pres.
 Doug Major-Vice Pres.
 Wayne Packer
 Chip Wagner



Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/hellertownucc



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

December 9, 2025

Come as you are!

Come whenever you are able!

First one there, grabs a table!



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



Poinsettia Sale

We are now taking orders for Red Christmas Poinsettias. The Poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary and narthex and may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service. An order form is included in this Newsletter. **Payment of \$9.00 per plant is due when you place your order.** Please fill out and detach the order form with your dedication and turn in with your payment. Thank you. Please make checks payable to First United Church of Christ. The deadline for orders is **Sunday, December 7th.**



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.

Dec 2025	10:30 AM	7	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	14	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	21	Worship/Christmas Pageant/No Sunday School
	7:00 PM	21	Longest Night Service @ Lower Saucon UCC
	7:30 PM	24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
	10:30 AM	28	Worship/Lovefeast
Jan 2026	10:30 AM	4	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	11	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 PM	18	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	25	Worship/Sunday School
Feb 2026	10:30 AM	1	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	8	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	15	Worship/Sunday School
	7:00 PM	18	Ash Wednesday
	10:30 AM	22	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.

December Birthdays

12/2	Emily Morello	12/24	Bernie Musgnung
12/3	Lisa Fenon	12/24	Dr. Rachel O'Connell
12/4	Melanie Litz	12/27	Matthew Harvey
12/4	Shannon Parsons	12/27	Jan Stoneback
12/5	Keith Zurbano	12/29	Dylan Kurtz
12/7	Glenn Brown	12/29	Paul Laub
12/7	Albert Lishman		
12/7	Jeannie Miller		
12/8	Emily Stetser		
12/9	Search Willson		
12/10	Madelyn Ball		
12/12	Sharon Musgnung		
12/14	Jason Muldowney		
12/16	Michael O'Connell		
12/17	Janice Csrnko		
12/22	Julia Major		
12/22	Annie Policare		



December Anniversaries

12/9	Albert & Susan Lishman
12/15	Kevin & Milou Brown
12/29	Bill & Cindy Sabo
12/30	John & Kathy Chapman



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.

December 7 Jeannie Miller
829 Easton Rd.
Hellertown PA



Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Attendance		
Oct 5	\$2,438.83	63	Fundraiser	\$500.00
Oct 12	\$2,080.36	72	Food Bank	\$334.00
Oct 19	\$6,151.07	60	CWS	\$340.00
Oct 26	\$6,380.09	54		
Total	\$17,050.35			
Budget	(\$16,000.00)			
<u>Over</u> /Short	\$1,050.35			

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

All Ages



Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 21, 10:30am worship

No rehearsal needed – you know the story!

Costumes will be available in the narthex before the service. The Sunday School choir will be singing and there will be special music from our chancel choir.



THE LONGEST NIGHT

Join with folks from churches around our area at the HAM (Hellertown Area Ministerium)

Longest Night Service

December 21, 7:00pm

At Lower Saucon UCC

Love Feast

December 28, 2025

10:30am family worship

Our Christmas celebration continues with, Carols, readings, prayers and, of course, cookies!



Taste and See Women's Retreat

in combination with Lower Saucon UCC

Feb. 6-8, 2026

Mariawald Retreat House
Reading, PA

For all women ages 18 and up
Friday, 7pm- Sunday, 11am

Includes meals and linens

Sign up in the Narthex.

Speak with Pastor Becky or Marji Hughes
for more information



COST only:
\$140 for shared room
\$160 for single room
(Scholarships available)



Thank you to those who chose names from the **Angel Gift Mission**. All wrapped gifts (with the tag given to you attached where it can be easily seen) must be here at church no later than **December 5th**.

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 (in brief)

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

Keith Lentz opened the meeting at 6:31. Pastor Becky opened with prayer.

Attendance: Keith Lentz, Doug Major, Diane French, Karen Frankenfield, Ashlyn Mixa, Amy Mixa, Sandy Bender, Sandy Panick, Joan Kiak, Chip Wagner. Absent: Wayne Packer, Marji Hughes

Minutes approved with corrections. Motion Sandy Panick, 2nd Sandy Bender.

Treasurer's Report- Reported a \$13,000 deficit. Savings were used to meet the needs of the budget. Report on the Penny Party fundraiser as successful with \$2247 made. Thank you to all who participated. All those in attendance were encouraged by those serving from the church.

Treasurer also indicated the need for a Stewardship Committee and Campaign, separate from the Fundraising Committee. The Wimmer Fund and its governances were explained, Discussion of the Endowment and Memorial Funds and the access of 4% of those funds can be used if needed. Recommended a workshop for use of funds and congregation understanding financial opportunities for donations to the church. Preliminary budget was distributed to consistory and treasurer asked for questions regarding the budget be emailed to her before next meeting.

Pastor's Report approved as presented. Her continuing education is going well toward her doctorate. Trunk or Treat went well. Pastor suggested an information packet about our church. Discussion about having an additional Trunk or Treat in our own parking lot. Pastor attended the Penny Party. Confirmation classes are going well. They meet 2X month. Pastor will be using Nov 25,26 and week after Christmas as her vacation time.

Elders' Report-There is a suggestion box in the Narthex for Mission Project suggestions. College and Military gift card list has been completed.

Deacons' Report- More ushers are needed. Discussed possible additions. Kitchen committee list has been completed for 2026 year.

Trustees' Report-Parking lot light is being fixed. Discussion about 8 trucks that continue to be parked long term around the church. Noted on street parking is public parking.

Correspondence- AA has requested 2nd night (Tuesdays 6:45-8PM). Checking on insurance for church usage. Does staff have to open/close building? Scouts request to use Wimmer room 2X month and kitchen. Consistory will require more information for need of the room. Phyllis will check with the scouts. Requests for use of Wimmer room, kitchen, parking lot. Sexton fee also.

Safety and Security- There are now combination locks on Pastor's and Secretary's offices.

Altar Guild- New trees for altar area of church have been purchased.

Technology Report- Team will be getting quotes for possible screens on walls next to altar areas.

Nominations- Positions for an Elder and Deacon are needed.

New Business- Recommendation for separate committee for Stewardship. Motion for separate program by Amy Mixa. 2nd Doug Major, unanimous vote.

Consistory Minutes (cont.)

New Business (Cont.)

- ♦ Discussion regarding storage of project supplies. Anyone cleaning closets and storage areas needs to advise the office if they are moved to a different location.
- ♦ There are now 2 separate associations for conference. The Mountain Valley Association is the second. Consideration for financial support. Discussion for support and where finances would come from.

Motion to adjourn 8:20 by Amy Mixa. Second by Ashlyn Mixa. All in favor. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is December 8th, 6:30, in the Wimmer Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane French



Advent Crafts

December 7, 14, 21, 2025

Following 10:30 worship - in the Wimmer Room

One craft each week, suitable for adults or children

Join in the Advent spirit of fellowship and hope while creating a decoration to take home.

All are welcome. Come one Sunday or come all.

Contact Marji Hughes if you have any questions



Christmas Eve Worship 7:30 pm

Good News is Louder than Fear

Rejoice in the news that Christ is born. Join the angels in singing the joy of Jesus' birth. Hear the music of the chancel choir and Women's chorus. Treasure as did Mary the words of the shepherds who came to the manger.



On January 4 th

we will welcome the Magi

***to our sanctuary during worship as
they search for the Christ Child.***