



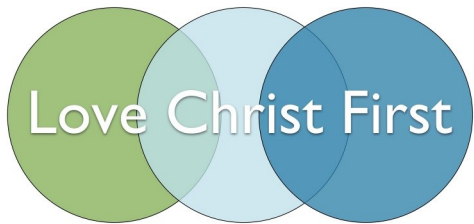
Baptism of
Owen Jeffrey Petruno



Welcome to our new sexton, Budd
Frankenfield and his family—wife, Molly
and children, Hannah and Joshua,



Our Annual Congregational
Meeting was held on
Sunday, January 26, 2025.
Pres. Diane French led the
meeting. Our Treasurer,
Tammie Vosburg, reported
on the financial status of
the church.



Mission Project for February

Phoebe Home—Valentine Gifts

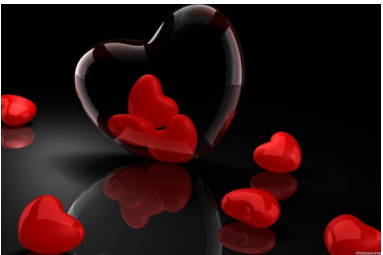


During the month of February, our congregation will be collecting gifts for the Phoebe Home in Allentown. The items collected will be used as Bingo prizes or welcoming gifts for new residents. Please help us to spread some cheer to these shut-ins by bringing in any of the items listed below during the month of February.

There is a box located in the Narthex for your gifts.

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Assorted markers | Pens, paper, envelopes, stamps | Flavored teas/coffees |
| Assorted toiletries | Liquid soap | Calendars |
| Nail polish | Shaving Cream | Books and magazines |
| Cosmetics | Tissues | Jewelry/trinkets |
| Hand and Body Lotion | Toothpaste/tooth brushes | Candy (sugar free are great!) |
| Hair Accessories | Large Print wordsearch books | Peanut butter |
| | Small packets of crackers, cookies | |

Thank you for participating in this ministry to Phoebe.



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





The days may be frigid, but the sun is setting later each day. These are the words that get me through these cold winter months. With snow and colder temperatures in the forecast, I find myself longing for spring. I know that there are people that love the cold temperatures and the snow. But, I am one of those people that wish they could just hibernate through the winter. Still, I remind myself that scripture says that there is a season for everything and that the cold will turn into warmth and the darkness will turn into bright light soon.

It has me thinking a lot about what faith means. Some might define faith as simply believing God exists. But, I think it is more than that. I think having faith means believing in God and allowing God to guide us even in the hard seasons of our lives. So, when the light is dim and the cold chills us to our bones and the world seems frozen and hopeless, we look to God and ask where we go from here. Knowing that God will guide us through all of the seasons of our lives, as long as we pause and listen for that still small voice. May the warmth of God's love get you through your coldest days and the light of Christ cast away the shadows. Praying that you, too, surround yourselves in things and people that warm your souls. What are you hoping for in the coming year?

In light and love,

Pastor Becky

Pastor Becky



SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

Special Dates:

February 23– Mini-Golf following worship for 4th grade and up at Two T's in Forks.

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



Visit of the Three Kings



credit: @simpleacresblog

Gratitude Scavenger Hunt



1. Find something that makes you happy.
2. Something to give someone else to make them smile.
3. Find one thing that you love to smell.
4. Find one thing you enjoy looking at.
5. Find something that's your favorite color.
6. Find something you are thankful for in nature.
7. Find something that you can use to make a gift for someone.
8. Find something that is useful for you.



Installation of our Consistory members for 2025, FEBRUARY 2 during 10:30 worship,

Fellowship hour
to follow
in the
Wimmer
Room



Dear Friends from First UCC,

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$195.00 to help strengthen communities worldwide. Through your support of Church World Service, you are helping to fight the connected challenges of hunger, lack of access to safe water and improved sanitation and extreme poverty.

The men, women and children with whom CWS works are both strong and determined. They are building the future they deserve, and we are proud to help them as they do. I am so moved by the determination of generous people like you, who are standing in solidarity with families in need in the United States and around the world.

May God bless you for your support

Rick Santos, President & CEO
Church World Services

To stay informed and how you're helping people in need, at home and around the world, visit

www.cwsglobal.org and follow us on Facebook, and Instagram.

**MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US on a
BUS TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND
to see**



SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025

**Lunch will be
at the New Hersey Farms
More information to follow**



**Mark Your Calendars
For a "Road Trip"
August 4–8, 2025
Vacation Bible School
9am – Noon**

Children Pre-K through grade 6
Leaders and Helpers will be needed.
Watch for more information!!

**Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/hellertownucc**



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—February Schedule

2/3 Home vs. Star of Bethlehem 2/4 Home vs Fritz Wesleyan/Crosspoint

2/10 Away @ Trinity/Edgeboro 2/17 Away @ Holy Cross

2/24 Away @ Fritz Wesleyan/Crosspoint

For **anyone** who is interested in joining this group,
please contact Leroy Miller at [REDACTED]



February Fundraiser –Hoagie Sale



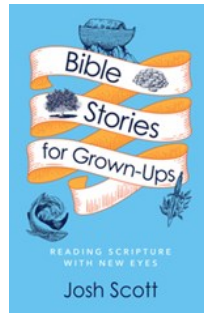
Hoagies will again be made by Gerrity's (formerly Valley Farm Market). Hoagies are 9 inches long and all come with lettuce, tomato and side condiments (no onions)

Hoagies are \$8.00 and there is a choice of the following: Italian, Roast Beef, Ham & Cheese, Tuna, or Turkey. All orders and payments must be received by **February 8th**,

Pick-up will be **February 15** from 12 noon—2 pm.



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



Bibles & Brunch

February 4 and February 18

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:

February 2

February 16

11:30am – 1pm

Questions, please contact Marji Hughes or Pastor Becky

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 Feb 2-8— Carlann Broglie

Week of Feb 9-15—Doug Miller

Week of Feb 16-22 —Marji Hughes

Week of Feb 23-Mar 1— Andy Spear

Week of Mar 2-8—Phyllis Scherer

Week of Mar 9-15—Ann Brown

Week of Mar 16-22—Sandy Panick

Week of Mar 23-29 —Amy Mixa

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 Petrino

Mid-Week Lenten Soup & Services

Soup Meal @ 6 PM Worship Service @ 7 PM



The theme of this year's Lenten services is "What are you up to? Get up to something instead of giving up something this Lent."

Mar 5 First UCC, 501 Northampton Street, Hellertown (Ash Wednesday)

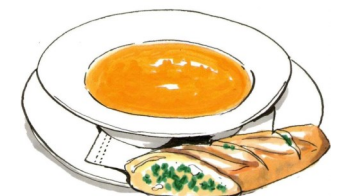
Mar 12 Friedens Lutheran Church, 2451 Saucon Valley Rd, Center Valley

Mar 19 Lower Saucon UCC, 1375 Third Avenue, Hellertown

Mar 26 Christ Lutheran Church, 69 Main Street, Hellertown

Apr 2 New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 3233 Apples Church Rd, Bethlehem

Apr 9 First UCC, 501 Northampton Street, Hellertown



February Sponsors/Volunteers

February 2
Counting Team..... Team 3
Ushers.....Team 1
Altar Flowers.....Karen Frankenfield
BulletinsDoug & Brenda Miller
Lay ReaderSarah Beers

February 9
Counting Team..... Team 4
Ushers.....Team 2
Altar Flowers.....Glenn & Ann Brown
Bulletins.....Janice Csrnko
Lay Reader.....Sandy Panick

February 16
Counting Team..... Team 1
UshersTeam 3
Altar Flowers.....Diane French
BulletinsJane Parenti
Lay ReaderMarie Laub

February 23
Counting Team..... Team 2
Ushers Team 4
Altar FlowersDoug & Brenda Miller
Bulletins.....Andy & Melissa Spear
Lay Reader..... Doug Major

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

2025 Sponsors Needed

We are looking for sponsors for Newsletters, Bulletins 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 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.

Feb 2025	10:30 AM	2	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	9	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	16	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	23	Worship/Sunday School
Mar 2025	10:30 AM	2	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	7:00 PM	5	Ash Wednesday Worship (Soup @ 6 PM)
	10:30 AM	9	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	16	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	23	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	30	Worship/Sunday School
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
	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.

February 23, 2025
Glow-in-the-Dark

At Two T's Entertainment Center in Easton
Cost: \$9.00 for golf. Any snacks are extra
Immediately following worship - 11:45am
YOUTH GROUP - for grades 4 through high school
(Note our new time) No church affiliation is required. Bring your friends! Questions:
Pastor Becky - pastorbecky1121@gmail.com 610-297-2295
Ashlynn Mixa - ashlynnmixa@gmail.com [REDACTED]
Marji Hughes - mphughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053



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



Women's Breakfast at the
Hellertown Diner
February 11, 2025
(Second Tuesday of each month.)
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

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.	[REDACTED]
Tammie Vosburg, Church Treasurer	[REDACTED]
Budd Frankenfield, Sexton	[REDACTED]

Consistory Members

	Email address	Phone Number
Elders		
Sandy Bender— Sec.	purplepeep@rcn.com	[REDACTED]
Jane Joyce	djanejoyce@verizon.net	[REDACTED]
Joan Kiak	njbk77@gmail.com	[REDACTED]
Amy Mixa	athomeamy@hotmail.com	[REDACTED]
Deacons		
Karen Frankenfield	gumbycat1@gmail.com	[REDACTED]
Diane French	dcfrench48@gmail.com	[REDACTED]
Ashlynn Mixa	ashlynnmixa@gmail.com	[REDACTED]
Sandy Panick	hygienist2000@msn.com	[REDACTED]
Trustees		
Keith Lentz--Pres.	keithlen56@gmail.com	[REDACTED]
Doug Major-Vice Pres.	pamajors@rcn.com	[REDACTED]
Wayne Packer	wayne.t.packer@gmail.com	[REDACTED]

February Birthdays

2/2 James Gebhardt

2/2 Marji Hughes

2/4 Chuck Bender

2/5 Joan Kiak

2/5 William Mills

2/5 Rachel Petraglia

2/6 Aryana Myers-Farinhas

2/11 Edward Csencsits

2/11 Tanya Scherer

2/11 Terry Snyder

2/13 Stephanie Oblas

2/13 Rachel Panick

2/13 Walt Wusaty

2/14 Richard Yeakel

2/15 Dawn Hacker

2/15 Andy Spear

2/16 Michele DeRenzis

2/16 Kyleigh Weaver

2/17 Drew Harvey

2/17 Gabe Harvey

2/17 Linda Kurtz

2/17 Debbie Wolst

2/18 Emma Hill

2/18 Diana Hill

2/20 Stacy Ross

2/26 Michelle Major

2/27 Dinelle Kurz

2/28 Brianna Hill





February Anniversaries

2/16 Walt & Elaine Wusaty

2/23 Douglas & Brenda Miller

Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Attendance	Christmas	Thanksgiving
December 1	\$2,889.75	86	\$2,510.00	\$10.00
December 8	\$1,901.67	81	Christmas Fund	OCWM
December 15	\$5,279.07	78	\$290.00	\$200.00
December 22	\$6,118.30	93	Pastor Discretionary Fund	Hurricane Relief
December 29	\$4,617.67	52	\$200.00	\$200.00
	\$20,806.46			
Budget	-\$20,000.00			
Over/Short	\$806.46			

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 [redacted] Elsie Stout [redacted]

Jane Joyce [redacted]





March 5, 2025

at First UCC

6pm - soup in New Fellowship Hall

7pm—Worship

Please sign up in the Narthex if you are bringing soup!!

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

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

Monday January 13, 2025, at 6:30 pm Wimmer Room

Consistory Needs: Need for new Consistory Secretary discussed and tabled prior to opening of meeting. Must be a consistory member. No volunteers. One trustee still needed for 2025.

Treasurer's Report – Tammie Vosburg - Report accepted as presented.

Highlights:

The 2024 operational receipts excluding remembrance donations were \$216,212 while our operational disbursements were \$222,714 resulting in an operational short fall of \$6,502.

Remembrance donations total \$30,865. \$5,000 donated for general use and \$25,000 transferred to Capital Improvement Investment account for major church building repairs.

Cash on hand as of December 31, 2024 was \$45,944.

Remembrance funds were used for:

Bathroom leak, toilet replacement and cleaning sewer lines, \$1,177.

Broken lock and replacement on the front door, \$1000

Emergency lights and battery replacements, \$878

Durham and Penn Street doors stripped and painted, \$2000.

Insurance Claim - Roof leak and Sanctuary repairs, \$14,735 With \$1000 deductible, Insurance paid \$13,735.

Fund Raising New Proceeds- \$7,594 a 5% gain over 2023

Benevolence excluding Wimmer Funds, \$7,370, does not include donated items.

Further investment streaming worship platform has increased outreach to our community.

We continue to pay our bills and have not withdrawn funds from our investment or savings accounts to meet 2024 operational needs.

Decision by consensus to have Treasurer make a One-Call quarterly to let members know where we stand, and what are the church's current needs.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Becky Report accepted as presented

Highlights: Total Hours: 111 - Breakdown of hours for major responsibilities - Hours Dedicated to Worship: 38, Hours Dedicated to Pastoral Care: 12, Office Hours: 32, Meetings: 2

Future Meetings

- A HAM meeting is being scheduled in January to meet and discuss Midweek Lenten services.
- Pastor attending the Women's Clergy Retreat 1/14-1/16

Music and Worship: Keith Lentz - Meeting scheduled for January 6 canceled and rescheduled for 1/27.

Faith Formation Report: Marji Hughes -report accepted as presented

Highlights:

• Committee hosted and cooked the Spaghetti Luncheon and Creche/Nativity displays on December 8. Thanks to Douglas Hughes, Willie Shelly, Beth Shelly and Charles Knecht for the extra kitchen help.

• Pageant and Love Feast December 22. Thank you to Charles Knecht, Phyllis Scherer and the ushers for their assistance.

• Children's Worship bags were updated for Advent.

• The three kings visited January 5. Thanks to Michael Teitsworth, Andy Spear and Keith Lentz, Our Magi, and to Torey, Sarah and Owen Petruno, our Holy Family.

• Confirmation, Bibles and Brunch, Adult Bible Study, Ladies Breakfast, all flowing smoothly.

• Grief Share finished its 13-week group sessions.

• Once-a-month Treasure Box Children's Messages will continue in 2025. *The Baptismal cross-stitch will be dedicated in the coming weeks. Thank you to Joan Kiak for again creating this lovely hanging.*

Elders' Report: Georgie Stuempfle, Sandy Bender, Amy Mixa - Met on December 9th.

The New Jerusalem Food Bank will be the mission for January and Phoebe Home will be the mission for February. Amy Mixa will be the Head Elder for 2025 and will schedule a meeting in February with the Elders and pastor to discuss missions for the remainder of the year.

Deacons' Report: Sandy Panick— General duties letters sent out to each usher with added instructions re: one usher wearing panic lanyard each Sunday. February 2, next Communion date. Ash Wednesday – 7pm worship, March 5-Soup supper at 6pm

Trustees' Report: Ann Brown

- Tuesday December 17, we interviewed for the sexton job for First UCC. Budd Frankenfield was voted in as our new sexton. Starting date is 1/2/2025.
- We contracted with Dominion Elevator Inspections VDA company. Inspection to be completed in January.
- Doug Major switched all light bulbs in the sanctuary chandeliers to LED dimmable bulbs.
- Inline relay units for heating system need to be replaced to address uneven heating in building. Ann Brown will purchase from All Phase for \$129 and trustees will install. Trustee book with all updated information has been put in the main office. Head trustee and secretary will keep it updated.

Committee Reports:

Executive Meeting: Diane French, and Ann Brown met on 12/16 to set the agenda for the January Consistory meeting and completed a dialogue with Pastor Becky to finalize her 2024 evaluation.

Music and Worship: Keith Lentz - Our Music and Workshop meeting scheduled for January 6 was canceled due to snow and rescheduled for January 27th.

Safety Committee: Sandy Bender - Choking safety kits have been received. One will be placed in the New Fellowship Hall kitchen and one in the Wimmer Room. Kitchen fire blankets have been ordered.

Altar: Ann Brown

- De-tinsel happened 1/05 after church for inside items. Keith will take down lights as weather permits.
- New altar candles were ordered as well as small five-inch candles for special evening services.

Stewardship/ Fundraising: Ashlynn Mixa - Hoagie Sale is ongoing. Orders must be placed by February 8, pick up is February 15. – 12 noon to 2 pm.

Tech Committee: James Rosenberger - January date to set up new computer still to be scheduled.

Old Business:

- Installation of Consistory members date set for February 2. Fellowship Hour to follow.

• CPR Training by Debbie Anthony date to be announced likely in early spring. We need 10 people. The goal is to have at least one person from every ushering team trained.

Owen Ross will mow the lawn for the 2025 season.

Decision by consensus to ask new sexton Budd Frankenfield if he would like to take care of snow if 2 inches or less has fallen at \$100 per snowfall. (Budd agreed- details tbd)

A leaf blower will be purchased to be used in spring & fall as well as for light snow.

Decision by consensus to hold a second offering on Sunday, January 19 for Los Angeles Fire Relief. Marji Hughes will make a One-Call to let members know, followed by announcements for a few weeks.

Continued discussion of need to allow staff to prepare for worship prior to the service each Sunday when "issues" can wait until Monday a.m.

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

Next Meeting: February 10, 2025, in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm.