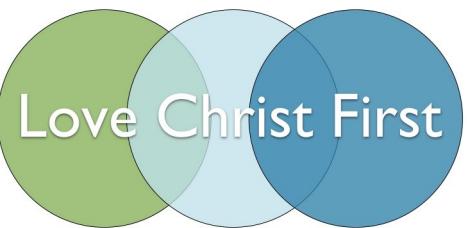




UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



February 2026



**Annual Meeting Announcement**  
**Our Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**will be held**

**Sunday, February 1, 2026**  
**immediately following worship.**

**Mission Projects for the Month of February**  
**Phoebe Home & Souper Bowl**



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





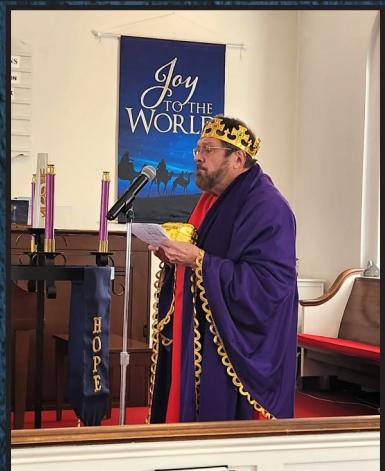
*Everyone knows by now that I am not a fan of winter or snow. As I was complaining recently, someone kindly offered me a reminder that the snow keeps the trees alive during the harshness of the winter season. One of my favorite places to be in warmer months is out among the trees. So, now every time I see a snowflake or the forecast calls for winter weather, I try to remind myself of the new life that will come in just a few short months and that the trees need the water. The roots of trees are amazing. They dig deep searching for water. It is awe-inspiring to think that some plants have root systems that stretch for miles.*

*I have been thinking of the trees a lot recently because we are approaching Lent and our theme will encourage us to look at our roots. As we approach that season I would like you to start asking yourselves a question. How are your roots? Our faith needs a strong root system. It is important that we nourish our faith just as all living, breathing things need nourishment. As Lent approaches I invite you to take the time to slow down and tend to your faith. Spend some time in the presence of the Divine, nourish your soul, and surround yourselves with people who help you on your faith journey.*

*In light and love,  
Pastor Becky*



**A Visit by the Three Kings**



## Snowy Days



Photos from both  
snowstorms in January.

Unfortunately the snow kept us away from worship for the second time this winter. Please know that your safety is important to us and taken into consideration when making the call to cancel worship. Many thanks to Budd and Molly for clearing the sidewalks and to David Heintzelman for clearing the parking lot. Also, thank you to our photographer, Karen Frankenfield, for the lovely, snowy photos of our church. Thanks also for all of you who attended church on January 24th to avoid having to cancel worship two weeks in a row. Our attendance that day was 47 people, from both First and Lower Saucon UCC. We were so happy that all of you could worship together before the large snowstorm. Again thanks to David Heintzelman, Budd and Molly Frankenfield for the wonderful job they did clearing the snow from the second storm in 2 weeks.



To the Family and Friends of  
Jeanette "Jan" Stoneback  
January 5, 2026  
Karyl E. Laub  
January 7, 2026

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.



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

**A gift given in loving memory of Jeanette "Jan" Stoneback**  
Terry Dornblaser      Pat Csencsits & Mary Ann Marchock  
Brenda Csencsits & Bruce Darnall      Fritz's Lanes and Pro Shop  
John & Sharon Musgnung

**A gift given in loving memory of Al & Aileen Werner**  
Jane Werner-Rutkowski

**A gift given in loving memory of Alice Yuille**  
Kathy A. Kaehler      John S. Yuille



Dear Friends from First UCC,

Thank you for your generous contribution to support our life-saving work with refugees and immigrants. We appreciate it more than ever in these challenging times.

For more than seven decades the CWS family has welcomed and served refugees. Today, we are faced with the worst global displacement crisis since World War II. Men, women and children are on the run, desperately seeking safety. They are resilient, and we are proud to connect them to supplies and services they need to build safe lives in the United States and in host communities worldwide. But they are also vulnerable, especially in times of uncertainty like these.

Your action in giving to CWS helps us to reaffirm our efforts. You have lent your voice to the call for welcome and acceptance. Thank you for being a part of this movement. Your generosity is a step towards building a better world for all our neighbors. We deeply appreciate your support and look forward to our continued partnership in the days and weeks ahead.

May God bless you for your kindness,

Rick Santos, Pres. & CEO, Church World Services



## SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Each Sunday, children begin in worship at 10:30am and are invited to class following the Children's Message. **Worship bags** are available in the coat room area for children during the service. Please remember to return the bags to the shelf following worship.

**Special Date: Ash Wednesday, February 18** 6pm soup supper at Lower Saucon followed by worship

Children will be learning a song to sing in worship in March. Date tbd

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.

Contact Marji Hughes - [mphughes22@gmail.com](mailto:mphughes22@gmail.com) 610-984-5053 - if you have any questions at all about Faith Formation at 1<sup>st</sup> UCC.



**February 18, 2026  
at Lower Saucon UCC**

**6 PM—Soup    7 PM—Worship**

7pm worship service (with ashes) in LSUCC sanctuary



**Mid-Week Lenten Soup & Services**

**Soup Meal @ 6 PM Worship Service @ 7 PM**

**The theme of this year's Lenten services is  
"Tell Me a Story"**



**Feb 25 Christ Lutheran Church, 69 Main Street, Hellertown**

**Mar 4 Friedens Lutheran Church, 2451 Saucon Valley Rd, Center Valley**

**Mar 11 First UCC, 501 Northampton Street, Hellertown**

**Mar 18 New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 3233 Apples Church Rd, Bethlehem**

**Mar 25 Lower Saucon UCC, 1375 Third Avenue, Hellertown**



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



Women's Bible Study

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

10:30am



February 2, February 16

We are reading "The Final Days, A Lenten Journey" by Matt Rawles



11:30am – 1:00pm in the Youth/Young Adult Room

February 1 First UCC's annual meeting with class to follow

February 15 service project at Country Meadows (3pm pick up)

March 8 & 29—11:30 AM—1 PM in the Youth Room

Please don't forget to attend worship as often as possible. Confirmation class includes participating in the life of the church - and the service on Sunday is an integral part of what it means to be 1st UCC.

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. 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 Feb 1-7—Lisa Fenon

Week of Feb 8-14—Ann Brown

Week of Feb 15-21—Sandy Panick

Week of Feb 22-28—Amy Mixa

Week of Mar 1-7—Phyllis Scherer

Week of Mar 8-14—Tammie Vosburg

Week of Mar 15-21—Georgie Stuempfle

Week of Mar 22-28—Letty Petruno

Week of Mar 29—Apr 4 — Carlann Broglie

Week of Apr 5—11—Doug Miller

Week of Apr 12-18 —Marji Hughes

Week of Apr 19-25— Andy Spear

## Attention All Dart Players—February Schedule

2/2 Away @ Trinity Edgeboro

2/9 Home vs, College Hill

2/16 City\*Suburban All\*Star Match

2/23 Away @ Holy Cross



for anyone who is interested in joining the group,

Please contact Lisa Fenon

## We are looking for Sponsors for 2026.

Sign-up sheets for **Newsletters** and **Bulletins** are posted on the Narthex Bulletin Board. Cost of sponsoring the monthly **Newsletter** is **\$70.00/mo.** **Bulletins** are **\$10.00/week**. The **Flower Chart** is in the Church Office. Please stop in or call to put your name on the list for sponsoring flowers. Cost is **\$40.00/week**.

## JFebruary Sponsors/Volunteers

### February 1

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers.....	Team 1
Acolyte .....	Sarah Beers
Altar Flowers.....	Phyllis Scherer
Bulletins .....	Tom & Donna Ball
Lay Reader .....	Sara Beers

### February 15

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers .....	Team 3
Acolyte.....	Liam Riehl
Altar Flowers .....	Denise Keen
Bulletins.....	Denise Keen
Lay Reader.....	Marie Laub

### February 8

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers.....	Team 2
Acolyte.....	Carter Mullen
Altar Flowers.....	
Bulletins.....	Bob Kervin
Lay Reader.....	Sandy Bender

### February 22

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers .....	Team 5
Acolyte.....	Madysen Schrammel
Altar Flowers.....	Sharon Jezick
Organ Piece.....	Doug & Brenda Miller
Bulletins.....	Wayne Packer/Andrea Danner
Lay Reader .....	Doug Major

The February Newsletter  
has been sponsored by:  
Janice Csrnko

Offerings may be made anytime electronically at [www.firstuccchellertown.org/give](http://www.firstuccchellertown.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.



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 610.838.9704 Elsie Stout 610.838.6470



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

February 10, 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

## YOUTH GROUP for all 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders

Sunday, February 15

11:30 am – includes lunch, Return approximately 3pm

Winter Olympics fun

With the residents at Country Meadows Bethlehem (This is a Confirmation requirement)

Questions - email or call:

**Pastor Becky** - [REDACTED]

**Ashlynn Mixa** - [REDACTED]

**Marji Hughes** - [REDACTED]





## 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 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 @ Lower Saucon UCC
	10:30 AM	22	Worship/Sunday School
Mar 2026	10:30 AM	1	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	8	Worship/Sunday School
	7:00 PM	11	Mid-Week Lenten Service—Soup @ 6:00 PM
	10:30 AM	15	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	22	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	29	Palm Sunday Worship/Sunday School
Apr 2026	7:00 PM	2	Maundy Thursday Worship
	10:30 AM	5	Easter Sunday Worship/Communion
	10:30 AM	12	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	19	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	26	Worship/Sunday School

### PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION NEEDED

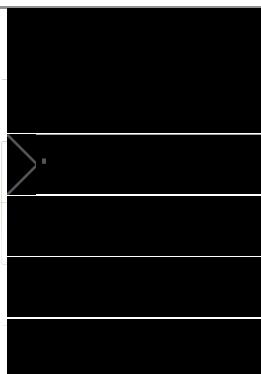
Discussions of church business should be reserved for after services on Sundays or during office business hours. Please allow our members and staff to prepare their hearts for worship.

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.

## 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

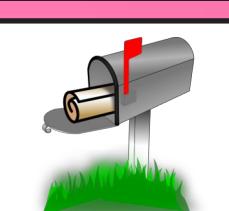
	Email address	Phone Number
<b>Elders</b>		
Sandy Bender	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Joan Kiak	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Amy Mixa	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<b>Deacons</b>		
Karen Frankenfield	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Ashlynn Mixa	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sandy Panick	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
<b>Trustees</b>		
Keith Lentz—Pres.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Wayne Packer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Chip Wagner	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Like us on Facebook

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



February Birthdays	
2/2 James Gebhardt	2/17 Gabe Harvey
2/2 Marji Hughes	2/17 Drew Harvey
2/4 Chuck Bender	2/17 Linda Kurtz
2/5 Joan Kiak	2/17 Debbie Wolst
2/5 William Mills	2/18 Diana Hill
2/5 Rachel Petraglia	2/18 Emma Hill
2/6 Aryana Myers-Farinhas	2/20 Stacy Ross
2/11 Edward Csencsits	2/26 Michelle Major
2/11 Tanya Scherer	2/27 Dinelle Kurz
2/11 Terry Snyder	2/28 Brianna Hill
2/13 Stephanie Oblas	2/28 Linda Schwartz
2/13 Rachel Panick	
2/13 Walt Wusatys	
2/14 Richard Yeakel	
2/15 Dawn Hacker	
2/16 Michele DeRenzis	
2/16 Kyleigh Weaver	

February Anniversaries	
2/16 Walt & Elaine Wusatys	
2/23 Doug & Brenda Miller	
	
	
<b>Change of Address:</b> Judy Slocum 1 Kirkland Village Circle 221 Briarhome Bethlehem PA 18018	

Stewardship of God's People at First Church				
Date	Contributions	Attendance	Special Offerings	
Dec 7	\$2,023.52	80	Christmas	\$3,039.00
Dec 14	0	0	Thanksgiving	\$20.00
Dec 21	\$3,642.42	74	Christmas Fund	\$341.00
Dec 24	\$6,997.20	138	OCWM	\$400.00
Dec 28	\$6,283.76	39	Disaster Relief	\$200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,946.90</b>			
<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>			
<b>Over/Short</b>	<b>\$2,946.90</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

## 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:**  
**\$120 for shared room**  
**\$140 for single room**  
(Scholarships available)



**Join us Online!**

To view website, go to: [firstucchellertown.org](http://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

Monday, January 18, 2026—Meeting Postponed due to inclement weather



### February Mission Project 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/cookies
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.

### Additional February Mission Project—Souper Bowl Sunday

February 8, 2026



The Souper Bowl of Caring is an annual event that mobilizes communities to fight hunger and encourage people to collect food or donations for local charities. For over 35 Years this initiative has raised more than \$220 million for food charities across the United States ensuring that no one goes without a bowl of soup. On February 8<sup>th</sup> please bring cans of soup or a donation which will be given to New Jerusalem Food Bank.

Registration and more information coming soon!

## Snowball Mountain Challenge

Vacation Bible School  
July 20-24, 2026!



### With God, I Am Strong!

Kids from Pre-K 3 through grade 7 are invited to an exciting winter sports event, where they become Challengers, gearing up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith. Guided by the Activities Director and Ollie the Arctic Seal puppet, challengers won't just play games; they will learn to draw strength from their faith through powerful stories of courage and hope. With a unique winter theme and solid theology at its core, this VBS delivers joy and meaning in equal measure, teaching kids that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13 NRSV).



Snowball Mountain Challenge is sure to be a mountain-top experience filled with laughter, life lessons, and lasting faith where kids find their strength in God!

### Your Help is Needed

Consistory is forming a new **Stewardship Committee** and needs volunteers to be a part of that committee. Please speak with Keith Lentz or notify the Office if you are interested or have any questions.



### February Fundraiser—Matey's Pizzas

We will be taking orders for frozen Matey's 12" Pizzas. There are Five Varieties to choose from: Mozzarella & Provolone (Regular Crust), [Three Cheese] Mozzarella, Provolone & Cheddar (Regular crust), Three Cheese (Thick Crust), Smoked Mozzarella & Provolone (Regular Crust), and Gluten Free-Three Cheese. All pizzas are \$7.50, except for the gluten-free variety which is \$9.50. All orders and payments must be received by February 27th. Make checks payable to First UCC. Pick-up will be on Friday, March 6 at a time TBD. You will find an order form in this Newsletter. Please call the church office (610-838-8811) if you have any questions.