

Baptism of Christ

Doug Miller portrays John the Baptist

People come to be baptized by John the Baptist.

Jesus comes and asks to be baptized.

Nan Belcak explains the items she placed in the Treasure Chest. They were paint brushes with which she could paint something with the beautiful colors we get to see everyday. She showed us a painting she had made. She reminds us of the colors God gives us in many things around us, such as sunrises and sunsets, encouraging us to look for them.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



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

1st and 3rd 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.....	Madyson 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.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.

SOUP KITCHEN

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 5th-12th 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 -

Ashlynn Mixa -

Marji Hughes -





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

Elders

Sandy Bender

Joan Kiak

Amy Mixa

Deacons

Karen Frankenfield

Ashlynn Mixa

Sandy Panick

Trustees

Keith Lentz—Pres.

Wayne Packer

Chip Wagner

Like us on Facebook

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 Wusaty	
2/14 Richard Yeakel	
2/15 Dawn Hacker	
2/16 Michele DeRenzis	
2/16 Kyleigh Weaver	



February Anniversaries

2/16 Walt & Elaine Wusaty
2/23 Doug & Brenda Miller



Change of Address:

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
Total	\$18,946.90			
Budget	\$16,000.00			
Over/Short	\$2,946.90			

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

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/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.

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 8th 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.