

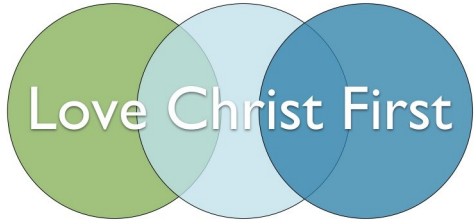


**Christmas Pageant**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's pageant. What an exciting time to see our youth involved in the worship service!



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**JANUARY 2025**

**Annual Meeting Announcement**  
 Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship on **Sunday, January 26, 2025**

**Mission Project for January**  
**New Jerusalem Food Bank**



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



Lighting the Candle of Hope



Lighting the Candle of Peace



Lighting the Candle of Joy



Lighting the Candle of Love



Adam Leferovich and Pat O'Connell performing preludes on 12-15-24

Sandy Panick sharing her "treasure" from the Treasure Box



Pastor Becky & Ann Brown visit with Mark Lorah



Baptism of Griffin Bruce Mann



Service of the Longest Night 12/22/24



Christmas Eve



## Advent Luncheon

A delicious spaghetti luncheon was prepared by the Faith Formation Committee. Salads and desserts were provided by members of our congregation. Creches belonging to our members were on display during the luncheon.



*I'm writing this message in the middle of the Advent season. A season in which we have been talking about new beginnings. So, I've been thinking about this coming year and I realized that I really don't want to. I don't like that a new year begins in the middle of the long, cold, winter months. Where does one find hope for a new year when the ground is frozen solid and the plants show no signs of life? Why couldn't the new year begin in the spring as new life is bursting forth from the earth and the sun warms up the soil? Maybe, if that were the case, I would be able to look forward to the new year feeling a little bit*

*of the warmth of hope. Instead, I just want to sink into a warm blanket and wait out the darkness. Perhaps that is what hope really looks like during certain periods of our lives. Maybe it is about knowing that there are times you need to just wrap yourself in warmth and safety to get through periods that are dark and cold. I know that I can't change the timing of the seasons or rework the calendar to make the new year come at a more agreeable time. What I can do is surround myself with things and people that warm my soul. So, I leave you with a question to ponder as you enter into another new beginning. 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*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

### Special Dates:

January 5 – Epiphany Sunday with a visit from the three Wise Men during worship

February 23– Mini-Golf following worship for 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mphughes22@gmail.com) 610-984-5053 - if you have any questions at all about Faith Formation at 1<sup>st</sup> UCC.



## January - Sponsors/Volunteers

### January 5

Counting Team..... Team 3  
 Ushers.....Team 2  
 Altar Flowers.....Teitworth Family  
 Bulletins .....Teitworth Family  
 Lay Reader .....Doug Miller

### January 12

Counting Team..... Team 4  
 Ushers.....Team 3  
 Altar Flowers.....Becky Harvey  
 Bulletins.....Bob Kervin  
 Lay Reader.....Sandy Panick

### January 19

Counting Team..... Team 1  
 Ushers .....Team 4  
 Altar Flowers.....Daphne Rodriguez  
 Organ Piece.....Janice Csrnko  
 Bulletins .....Tom & Donna Ball  
 Lay Reader .....Ashlynn Mixa

### January 26

Counting Team..... Team 2  
 Ushers ..... Team 5  
 Altar Flowers .....Leroy & Jeannie Miller  
 Organ Piece.....Wayne Packer/Andrea Danner  
 Piano Piece.....Mark & Amy Mixa  
 Bulletins.....Wayne Packer/Andrea Danner  
 Lay Reader..... Dave Stuempfle

The January Newsletter  
 has been sponsored by:

***Dave & Georgie Stuempfle***

## 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., Bulletins—\$10.00/wk., and  
 Flowers—\$40.00/wk. Sign-up for Newsletters, Bulletins & Flowers  
 in the Church Office.



***On January 5***

***we will welcome the Magi  
 to our sanctuary during worship as they  
 search for the Christ Child.***

## 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.

|          |          |    |                                 |
|----------|----------|----|---------------------------------|
| Jan 2025 | 10:30 AM | 5  | Worship/Communion/Sunday School |
|          | 10:30 AM | 12 | Worship/Sunday School           |
|          | 10:30 AM | 19 | Worship/Sunday School           |
|          | 10:30 AM | 26 | Worship/Sunday School           |
| 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           |
|          | 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           |

**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.

### 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

# 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 - 1:45am**

**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](mailto:pastorbecky1121@gmail.com) 610-297-2295

**Ashlynn Mixa** - [ashlynnmixa@gmail.com](mailto:ashlynnmixa@gmail.com) 610-730-3334

**Marji Hughes** - [mphughes22@gmail.com](mailto: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  
 January 14, 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



A luncheon was held at the Hellertown Diner honoring Woody Stauffer on his retirement as Sexton of First UCC. Thank you Woody, for your many years of service to our church.



## 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.     | 610-554-6223 |
| Tammie Vosburg, Church Treasurer          | [REDACTED]   |
| Sherwood Stauffer, Sexton                 | [REDACTED]   |

## Consistory Members

|                        | Email address  | Phone Number |
|------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Elders</b>          |  |              |
| Sandy Bender           | <a href="mailto:purplepeep@rcn.com">purplepeep@rcn.com</a>       | [REDACTED]   |
| Amy Mixa               | <a href="mailto:athomeamy@hotmail.com">athomeamy@hotmail.com</a> | [REDACTED]   |
| Georgie Stuempfle      | <a href="mailto:gdflea@yahoo.com">gdflea@yahoo.com</a>           | [REDACTED]   |
| <b>Deacons</b>         |  |              |
| Karen Frankenfield     | <a href="mailto:gumbycat1@gmail.com">gumbycat1@gmail.com</a>     | [REDACTED]   |
| Diane French— Pres.    | <a href="mailto:dcfrench48@gmail.com">dcfrench48@gmail.com</a>   | [REDACTED]   |
| Ashlynn Mixa           | <a href="mailto:ashlynnmixa@gmail.com">ashlynnmixa@gmail.com</a> | [REDACTED]   |
| Sandy Panick           | <a href="mailto:hygienist2000@msn.com">hygienist2000@msn.com</a> | [REDACTED]   |
| <b>Trustees</b>        |  |              |
| Ann Brown—Sec.         | <a href="mailto:forglan@verizon.net">forglan@verizon.net</a>     | [REDACTED]   |
| Keith Lentz-Vice-Pres. | <a href="mailto:keithlen56@gmail.com">keithlen56@gmail.com</a>   | [REDACTED]   |
| Doug Major             | <a href="mailto:pamajors@rcn.com">pamajors@rcn.com</a>           | [REDACTED]   |

## 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>.

**January Birthdays**

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1/1 Donald Gingles     | 1/23 Bethany Geisinger |
| 1/3 Ashlynn Mixa       | 1/23 Kim Johnson       |
| 1/3 Dave Stuempfle     | 1/23 Daphne Rodriguez  |
| 1/5 Ava Riehl          | 1/25 Thomas Lechner    |
| 1/6 Ronald Anders      | 1/30 Ann Brown         |
| 1/6 Wayne Pavlinsky    | 1/31 Kevin Miller      |
| 1/11 Becky Harvey      |                        |
| 1/11 Joel Stoneback    |                        |
| 1/13 Joan Yelovich     |                        |
| 1/14 James Rosenberger |                        |
| 1/16 Bill Hoff         |                        |
| 1/17 Joseph Searfoss   |                        |
| 1/18 Denise Laub       |                        |
| 1/18 Paxton Searfoss   |                        |
| 1/19 Elsie Stout       |                        |



**January Anniversaries**

- 1/14 John & Sharon Musgnung
- 1/26 Thomas & Donna Ball



**Stewardship of God's People at First Church**

| Date       | Contributions | Attendance | Fundraisers  |
|------------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| Nov 3      | \$2,411.53    | 76         | \$533.00     |
| Nov 10     | \$2,601.53    | 73         | Benevolences |
| Nov 17     | \$2,319.57    | 64         | \$45.00      |
| Nov 24     | \$4,129.52    | 109        | Thanksgiving |
|            | \$11,462.15   |            | \$320.00     |
| Budget     | -\$16,000.00  |            |              |
| Over/Short | (\$4,537.85)  |            |              |

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

*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 610.838.9704 Elsie Stout 610.838.6470



**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)

An order form is included in this bulletin. 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 (Times to be announced at a later date)



**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.

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

**First United Church Hellertown**  
**Consistory Minutes in Brief**  
Monday December 9, 2024, at 6:30 pm Wimmer Room

**Treasurer's Report – Tammie Vosburg** Report accepted as presented Present and approve the 2025 church budget Highlight • We have a year -to-date operating cashflow deficit as of November of \$10,975 . • Our Investment Portfolio has made positive gains for year to date. - PNEC suggests a 3% raise for all staff, Pastors, Administrators, Ministers of Faith Formation, and Ministers of Music. - The budget includes a monthly professional cleaning service at approximately \$550 or \$6,600 annual. - The sexton salary is included in the budget until a final resolution is determined. - Discussion: We need to increase giving as we can not sustain our proposed budget with a continued deficit. Possible weekly testimonials from members to express the joy they received from our church. The Stewardship Committee, under the new leadership of Ashlynn Mixa, will meet to discuss a plan.

*Motion: Keith Lentz made a motion to accept the 2025 church budget presented “by Tammie Vosburg, to include a 3% increase for all staff as suggested by the PNEC guidelines, except for the sexton salary. Amy Mixa seconded the motion. The vote was 9 in favor and 1 abstained. Motion passed.*

**Pastor's Report: Pastor Becky Report** accepted as presented Highlights:  
Breakdown of hours for major responsibilities- Total Hours: 102.5” Hours Dedicated to Worship: 28, Hours Dedicated to Pastoral Care: 9, Continuing Education Hours: 1, Office Hours: 24, Meetings: 8.5, • Woman's Retreat( including preparation time) 18

**Worship:**

• The Lent theme from Sanctified Art has been released. It is “Everything in Between: Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes.”

**Other:**

I would like to attend a Women's Clergy Retreat 1/14-1/16 (Tuesday Thursday)  
Motion: Keith Lentz made a motion to approve Pastor Becky for a Women's Clergy Retreat at Mariawald, January 14 -16, and pay the retreat cost of \$190 using Wimmer Fund, Spiritual. Sandy Panick seconded the motion. All in were favor and the motion passed.

**Faith Formation Report: Marji Hughes Report** accepted as presented Highlights:

The Three Kings, Epiphany, is planned for January 5.  
Confirmation is diving into the question - Who were Mary and Joseph?

**Elders' Report: Georgie Stuempfle**

The monthly mission for January is New Jerusalem Food Bank and February is Phoebe Home. We have a meeting after Consistory Monday night.

**Deacons' Report: Sandy Panick-**

• New ushering schedule for 2025 completed and mailed.  
• Christmas Eve service ushering needs. The plan is to ask team members from all teams if they will volunteer to usher that evening.

**The Consistory Minutes in Brief (cont)**

**Trustees' Report: Ann Brown** • Fire Inspection: BEI completed the updates to our emergency lights; we received an official inspection certificate for 2025-26. • Meiser HVAC reviewed our furnace and completed a cleaning. • With the retirement of our Sexton, Woody Stauffer, at the end of December, we will contract with JMS Cleaning Service for twice a month cleaning. The dates have been scheduled for January and February. • We completed a general job description for the sexton position. We will open the job to our church community first, and then open it up to a larger community. • The Limited Kitchen state certificate was issued for 2025.

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive Meeting:** Keith Lentz, Diane French, and Ann Brown met on 12/2 to set the agenda for the Consistory meeting and finalize all staff evaluations for 2024.

**Music and Worship: Keith Lentz** There was no meeting this month.

**Altar: Ann Brown** We purchased blue battery-operated candles for the sills for the Advent season.

**Stewardship/ Fundraising:** Georgie Stuempfle Starting in 2025 10% of profits made from a fundraiser will be donated to the mission of that month.

**Tech Committee: James Rosenberger**

We purchased the HP computer, keyboard, and additional external hard drive on Cyber Monday to enjoy the discounts of the season. Installation will likely happen in January.

**Old Business:**

- CPR Training by Debbie Anthony provided Sunday dates in January for certification training after church around noon. We are looking to book January 19 for training.
- David Heintzelman signed a “Do No Harm” contract with our church for plowing of the church parking lot.
- All Annual Reports must be in by January 7, 2025.

**New Business:** • **Pastor Becky** would like to schedule a formal installation of the all Consistory members for 2025 after the Annual Meeting. She feels strongly that presenting the people to the congregation would help members know who to talk to if there is a concern. February 2 is a proposed date to consider.

**A copy of the full minutes is available in the office upon request.**  
Next Meeting: January 13, 2025, in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm.

Like us on Facebook

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

