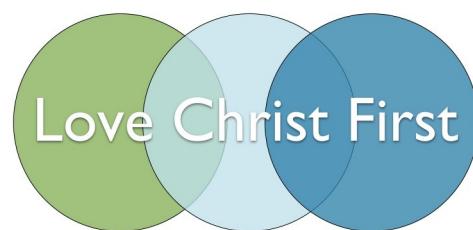




UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



January 2026



Annual Meeting Announcement
Our Annual Congregational Meeting
will be held

Sunday, February 1, 2026
immediately following worship.

Mission Project for the Month of 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





I've always struggled with the transition from Christmas into the New Year. The beautiful lights that seemed to light my way home on the dark cold nights are slowly disappearing as people put them away until next year. Hidden in boxes, in basements and in attics, those brightly shining lights no longer provide a source of warmth in the icy world. While the longest night has been past us for a few weeks now and the days are slowly getting longer, it still feels too dark and too cold to hold on to the hope that Advent and Christmas carried with it. It hasn't been long, but the flames of hope, peace, joy, and love, feel as though they have been dimmed to a dull ember.

It seems silly to me, as I write this, that I miss those little lights so. Still, I am fairly certain that winter is a difficult time for many of us and that the glow of those lights has been a source of hope for others as well. So, I light a candle and I pray for each of you during these winter months that the Spirit may move through you and fill you with hope. Perhaps we can be the light for one another. As we enter into this New Year may we continue to shine hope, peace, joy, and love into the world.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky

Advent Candle Lighting



Christmas Pageant





October 2025

Dear Members of First UCC,

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$50.00 to New Bethany as we celebrate 40 years of serving our neighbors! Your gift allows us to offer wraparound services designed to remove barriers and assist individuals and families in reaching self-sufficiency.

We start with a meal and meet people where they are with street-level human services, including showers, laundry services, mailing address, and monthly access to our food pantry, and continue with housing assistance, job search support and tools, and case management.

New Bethany offers hope and support to our neighbors who experience poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness. We believe that all people, regardless of circumstances, should be treated with dignity and care without judgement. No one who seeks help is turned away.

Each year, New Bethany serves 40,000 hot meals through our Southside Drop-in Center, provides 2,000 showers, and mail and laundry services to over 200 households; distributes nutritious groceries to create over 230,000 meals through our Choice Food Pantry; shelters and offers supportive services to over 35 families and 25 individuals experiencing the trauma of homelessness through our supportive housing programming; prevents hundreds of households from losing their homes through Housing Advocates and Assistance; keeps over 90 people stably housed with Representative Payee services; and helps over 20 households avoid the crisis of homelessness through permanent housing units operated by New Bethany.

You are a crucial partner in this work. Thank you again on behalf of New Bethany's board, staff, and most importantly, our neighbors who need assistance!

Sincerely,

Crystal Williams

Development Director

November 26, 2025

Dear Friends of the Food Pantry—

God's blessings be with you.

Our sincere thanks for your recent donation of \$558.30 and 15 boxes of food to the community food pantry at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church. While many struggle to attain "the basics" of keeping food on the table and a roof overhead, your thoughtful generosity will bring comfort to those who find themselves in a position of being food insecure.

We are most grateful for people like you who think of others. May a measure of the goodness you extend to others come around to bless you richly as well.

Yours in Christ.

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell

Pastor, New Jerusalem Lutheran Church



Change of Address:

Gerald & Linda Lennon
559 Village Drive
Bethlehem PA 18018



SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

Special Date: Sunday, January 4, 2026 – Epiphany Sunday Join us as the Magi 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 - mphughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053 - if you have any questions at all about Faith Formation at 1st UCC.



On January 4th

we will welcome the Magi

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



Confirmation class schedule:

**11:30am – 1pm in the Youth/Young Adult Room
January 4 and January 18**

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

Women's Bible Study

1st and 3rd Monday of the month 10:30am

January 5



We are finishing "The God You Need to Know" by Margaret Feinberg and choosing our next study topic!

January 19

We will begin a new bible study, tbd on January 5

YOUTH GROUP for all 5th-12th graders

Coming in January—Check for details

No church affiliation is required. Bring your friends! Questions: No church affiliation is required. Bring your friends!

Questions - email or call:

Pastor Becky - pastorbecky1121@gmail.com 610-297-2295

Ashlynn Mixa - [REDACTED]

Marji Hughes - mphughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053

Blessing Box Schedule



Week of Dec 28-Jan 3—Letty Petruno

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

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

Attention All Dart Players—January Schedule

1/5 Away @. Star of Bethlehem

1/12 Away @ Fritz Wesleyan

1/19 Home vs. Bethany UCC

1/26 Home vs. East Hills



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.**

January Sponsors/Volunteers

January 4

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers.....	Team 2
Acolyte	Carter Mullen
Altar Flowers.....	Teitsworth Family
Bulletins	Bob & Phyllis Scherer
Lay Reader	Doug Miller

January 18

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers	Team 4
Acolyte.....	Madysen Schrammel
Altar Flowers	Daphne Rodriguez
Organ Piece.....	Packer/Danner Family
Bulletins.....	Denise Keen
Lay Reader.....	Ashlynn Mixa

The January Newsletter
has been sponsored by:
Daphne Rodriguez

Offerings may be made anytime electronically at 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.

January 11

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers.....	Team 3
Acolyte.....	Liam Riehl
Altar Flowers.....	Janice Csrnko
Bulletins.....	Bob Kervin
Lay Reader.....	Sandy Panick

January 25

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers	Team 5
Acolyte.....	Matthew Harvey
Altar Flowers.....	Letty Petrunic
Organ Piece.....	Glenn & Ann Brown
Bulletins.....	Wayne Packer/Andrea Danner
Lay Reader	Dave Stuempfle



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 [REDACTED] Elsie Stout [REDACTED]



Women's Breakfast at the

Hellertown Diner

Second Tuesday of each month– 8 AM

January 13, 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



The new year begins, let us pray,
It will be a year with a new peace,
New happiness, & the abundance of friends,
God bless you through out the new year

happy
New Year



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 2026	10:30 AM	4	Worship/Communion/Sunday School/ Visit of the 3 Kings
	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
Mar 2026	10:30 AM	1	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	8	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	15	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	22	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	29	Palm Sunday 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	610-297-2295
Marji Hughes, Minister of Faith Formation	610-984-5053
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	purplepeep@rcn.com	
Joan Kiak	njbk77@gmail.com	
Amy Mixa	athomeamy@hotmail.com	
Deacons		
Karen Frankenfield	gumbycat1@gmail.com	
Diane French	dcfrench48@gmail.com	
Ashlynn Mixa	ashlynnmixa@gmail.com	
Sandy Panick	hygienist2000@msn.com	
Trustees		
Keith Lentz--Pres.	keithlen56@gmail.com	
Doug Major-Vice Pres.	pamajors@rcn.com	
Wayne Packer	wayne.t.packer@gmail.com	
Chip Wagner	rdmax723@hotmail.com	

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/hellertownucc



January Birthdays	
1/1 Donald Gingles	1/23 Kim Johnson
1/3 Ashlynn Mixa	1/23 Daphne Rodriguez
1/3 Dave Stuempfle	1/24 Emily Hoff
1/5 Ava Riehl	1/25 Thomas Lechner
1/6 Ronald Anders	1/27 Charles Holmberg
1/6 Wayne Pavlinsky	1/30 Ann Brown
1/10 Harold Fulmer	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	
1/8 Paxton Searfoss	
1/19 Elsie Stout	
1/20 Jill Holmberg	
1/23 Bethany Geisinger	



January Anniversaries	
1/14 John & Sharon Musgnung	
1/26 Thomas & Donna Ball	



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 his day.

January 10 Harold Fulmer

The Vero at Bethlehem
4700 Bath Pike, Rm 206
Bethlehem PA 18017



Stewardship of God's People at First Church				
Date	Contributions	Attendance	Fundraisers	
Nov 2	\$2,534.14	65	Nutrolls	\$733.00
Nov 9	\$995.36	70		
Nov 16	\$3,085.05	78	Penny Party	\$2,275.06
Nov 23	\$5,520.41	82		
Nov 30	\$833.00	72		
Total	\$12,967.96			
Budget	(\$16,000.00)			
Over/Short	\$3,032.04			

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:
\$140 for shared room
\$160 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 (in brief)**

Monday December 8, 2025 at 6:31 pm in the Wimmer Room

President Keith Lentz called the meeting to order. Attendance: Chip Wagner, Marji Hughes, Sandy Bender, Amy Mixa, Sandy Panick, Karen Frankenfield, Joan Kiak, Diane French, Tammie Vosburg, Doug Major, Keith Lentz, and Pastor Becky, Absent: Wayne Packer

Pastor opened with prayer.

November meeting minutes approved. Sandy Bender motion, Karen Frankenfield—2nd, unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report- there is a deficit to date of \$11,320. A strong need for a Stewardship program to assess giving is needed. Our investments continue to grow, but they cannot be used to balance our budget. Reviewed actual expenses vs budget. Discussion re: increase in giving. Consistory has agreed to increase their giving and will present our discussion to congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Discussion of year-end requests from the Wimmer Fund for project requests. Conferences have merged and we are now the Keystone Conference and an additional association of Mountain Valley. Consistory voted to support the Mountain Valley Association from the Wimmer Fund. Request sent to Wimmer committee for approval. Proposed 2026 budget approved by Consistory. Will be presented at annual meeting to congregation.

Pastor's report- approved

Faith Formation report- approved

Elders' report- Gift cards for our college students were sent out.

Deacons' report- Sandy Panick reported that her search for additional ushers has 5 new members joining the teams. Communion dates for 2026 have been set.

Trustees' report- Repair to parking lot light and circuit box done.

Correspondence- the AA has requested and been approved by consistory to add a Tuesday meeting along with Wednesday evening meeting in the Wimmer room. Our sexton, Budd will come back to the church after the meeting to check that the church is locked.

Keith is now liaison to the scout program. He has completed safe child training online and will get a signature card at the bank. Also, the scouts will not use the stove/oven in kitchen, which would affect our 14 events-usage allotment.

Consistory Minutes (cont.)

Committee reports:

Stewardship- a committee is needed to be formed. A chairperson is needed and volunteers to help. This committee will enable the church to have financial security for our budget.

Altar Committee- new trees were purchased for altar and narthex.

Technology Committee- Research for screens/TV's for the front of church. James Rosenberger is working with GC Pro.

Old Business:

Marji has corrected the church by-laws to remove old wording for Penn Northeast Conference to new Keystone Conference.

New Business:

A 24" snowblower is being donated to the church to help defray costs of a professional snow removal. Our sexton Budd will handle the snow removal and provided an additional cost for that service. Consistory approved. Church will store the snowblower and provide gas/can, and calcium chloride for walks/steps. Chip will check with David Heintzelman about the plowing of the church parking lot.

Chip Wagner also suggested use of the church to the Meadows events after the fire.

Annual Meeting- Consistory has approved Sunday, February 1st, as the date of annual meeting.

Next Consistory meeting- Monday January 12, 6:30 in the Wimmer Room.

Adjournment- the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane French

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.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Committee Heads, please submit your yearly Reports no later than January 9th. They must be included in the Annual Report for 2025.