

June at First UCC



Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following students:
Scholarships were presented on June 16, 2024

Sarah Beers—Dan Deysher Music Scholarship
Gabriel Harvey—Tom Snyder Academic Scholarship
Andrew Harvey—Tom Snyder Academic Scholarship
Paige Rosenberger— Tom Snyder Academic Scholarship
Morgan Mixa—Rev. Theodore & Robert Haas Memorial Scholarship



Women's Choir—6-2-24



Learning to "Walk by Faith"



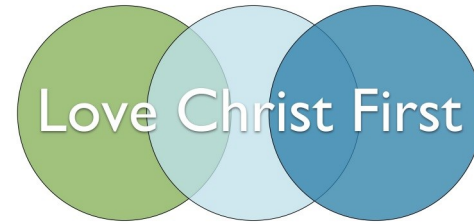
Lynn Flickinger, Guest Soloist
6-16-24



The power of a tiny seed



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



July Mission Project New Bethany Ministries

New Bethany Ministries offers hope and support to people who experience poverty, hunger, and homelessness. They believe that all people, regardless of circumstances, should be treated with dignity and care without judgment. No one who seeks help is turned away.

This organization is home to many in need throughout the Valley, and their additional sites in Bethlehem, Allentown, and Coplay allow the organization to magnify its Valley-wide impact. Their services provide food support, hygiene support, wellness programming, transitional housing, permanent affordable housing, and financial case management to individuals and families who are working toward self-sufficiency.

You can show God's love and provide hope to your neighbors by making a donation with your contribution to First Church. Please note the amount you want to go to this project and First UCC will send a single check to them with the donations.



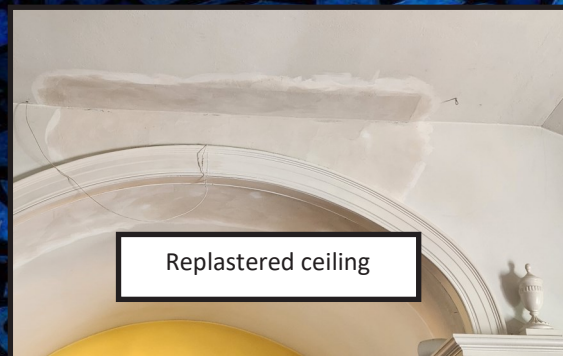
First United Church of Christ
Pastor Becky Thomas
501 Northampton Street
Hellertown PA 18055
(610)838-8811
office@firstucchellertown.org



Ceiling Repair



Ceiling before repair



Replastered ceiling



Repairs were recently made to the ceiling in the Sanctuary. There was a leak in the roof which seeped through the ceiling. After the roof was repaired, it was necessary to wait to see if there was any other leakage.. The projection screen needed to be removed, the area of the leak was plastered and repainted, and the screen was re-positioned.



*The Trustees of the Remembrance Fund
have received and gratefully acknowledged
a gift given in loving memory of Mildred Lewis:*

Linda Sidor

Dear Members of First UCC,

Thank you so much for the Tom Snyder Academic Scholarship! This will help offset the cost at Virginia Tech! I appreciate all the love and support my church family has given me throughout the years!

Love,

Paige Rosenberger

May 31, 2024

Dear First United Church of Christ,

One thing is certain. You understand the importance of helping others, wherever they live in the world. As caring supporters of Heifer, you're setting an example of what it means to live out your beliefs with generosity and compassion. That's why I want to extend my warmest appreciation for your recent gift of \$298.19 to Heifer International.

I can't stress enough just how much you're changing everything for families in desperate need. They've been trying to break free from the vicious cycle of hunger and poverty that has shaped their lives for far too long. And now, you've given them a promising path forward.

Thanks to you, hardworking families are receiving the animals, education, seeds and tools to create thriving farms and brighter futures. Whether you give a goat, cow, hive of bees or flock of chicks, these animals provide vitamin-rich milk, honey and eggs that can keep a family fed. They also provide families with life-sustaining products to sell and earn a steady income.

Thank you for opening your heart to health, hope and happiness for families in some of the poorest corners of the world. You are incredible change-makers.

With appreciation,

Christy Moore,

Senior VP of Marketing (Heifer International)

June 5, 2024

Dear Friends,

On June 16th families throughout the country will gather to celebrate Father's Day. I would like to introduce you to **CO-TA** parents, Stephanie & Tim McGuire. Stephanie donated a kidney to another recipient, and son Ean benefited by receiving his new kidney from another donor the following year. This gift of life ensured that the family would celebrate this holiday with their son—and many more in the future! Tim and Stephanie have these words to share about their experience with Children's Organ Transplant Association (**COTA**).

"Through COTA's fundraising, guidance and expertise, our volunteers inspired and motivated our community to be an important part of Evan's transplant journey. There is so much thought and energy and preparation that goes into the transplant itself. At times, it is all-consuming. But it is hard to prepare for 'the after' and 'the lifetime of after'. The lifetime of medications...the lifetime of doctor's appointments...the lifetime of worry. Knowing that COTA is there for a lifetime is priceless."

As I look to the future these words are even more touching knowing Evan's family many years of Father's Days to celebrate together. Your personal support as one of our Miracle Makers is truly life-saving and that is why I am pleased to acknowledge your recent gift of \$180.00 in honor of **COTA** Hope Fund.

You can read more about our patients, the latest **COTA** news, Miracle Maker initiatives and activities by visiting our website, **COTA.org**. Thank you for helping us remain the trusted leader in supporting transplant families like Evan, Stephanie and Time!

Gratefully,

Rick Lofgren, President

Blessing Box Schedule



- Week of June 30-July 6 —Ann Brown
- Week of July 7—13 —Sandy Panick
- Week of July 14-20 - Amy Mixa
- Week of July 21-27—Diane French
- Week of July 28- Aug 3 —Tammie Vosburg
- Week of Aug 4-10—Georgie Stuempfle
- Week of Aug 11- 17 - Letty Petruno
- Week of Aug 18-24— Carlann Broglie
- Week of Aug 25-Sept 1—Doug Miller
- Week of Sept 1-7 —Marji Hughes
- Week of Sept 8-14— Andy Spear
- Week of Sept 15-21—Phyllis Scherer

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.

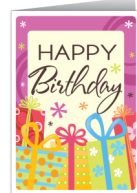
BLESSING BOX EMERGENCY!!!!



Our cupboard is almost bare. We need almost everything to re-stock our shelves. The blessing box is emptied almost every single day.

Always needed are: breakfast foods, snack items, tomato & spaghetti sauce, pasta, noodles, soup, vegetables, canned tuna, canned chicken etc. However, please do not buy large boxes of cereal or extra large jars of tomato sauce because they do not fit in the box.

If you are not able to shop for these items, you may make a donation to blessing box. Please indicate on your offering envelope that you are donating to the Blessing Box. Thank you for your help!!!!



The following members are celebrating 90+ birthdays this month. Perhaps you would like to send a birthday card or thinking of you card to brighten their day.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------|
| James Reiss | July 6 |
| 5259 Grange Rd | |
| Schnecksville PA 18078 | |
|
 | |
| Betty Parsons | July 12 |
| 3328 Jacksonville Rd | |
| Bethlehem PA 18017 | |



In June I traveled to State College for a weekend in order to attend a meeting of all four of the Pennsylvania UCC conferences. We are currently in the process of talking about joining together into one Keystone Conference. I heard a lot of excitement during these conversations. Excitement about what it would mean for all of us to get together and share resources and demonstrate how to be faithful stewards of the gifts that we have been blessed with. But, I also heard a lot of fear. I know that I shouldn't have found the fear surprising. It is a very human reaction to the thought of change and, the truth is, this would be a big change.

Still, I am reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples as he prepared them to continue his ministry without him, "That they may all be one." As I looked around that large room full of people, I found myself pondering how different we all are. Yet, we are also similar, we are all children of God, called to continue Christ's work in this world. Jesus' prayer didn't mean that he wanted us all to be the same. Our world would be so boring if everyone was exactly the same. It meant that, despite our differences, our gifts are stronger together. So my prayer for our church and for all churches is that we can overcome differences and work together to be the body of Christ in this world.

*In light and love,
Pastor Becky*



COMMUNITY DAY—FUNDRAISER

Saturday, August 17th
We need your help.
We will be selling Strawberry Shortcakes

Volunteers are needed to clean and cut strawberries on August 16th. (3-5pm) On August 17th, volunteers are needed to set up, "man" the booths, and finally break-down & return items to the church. Signup sheets are on the Narthex bulletin board with more information on hours for each time of need. We are also looking for sponsors for the items we will be selling. If you would like to sponsor these items, please drop off \$\$ donations in the church office. We will be purchasing strawberries, shortcakes, and whipped cream and would appreciate your support in making this fundraiser a huge success.

Summer



SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

The **Nursery** is open all summer for young children during Sunday worship.

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. There is a child-sized bathroom and a changing table available as well.

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.

Children Pre-K through grade 6 in the fall should have received a "Soaking Up God" Summer activity packet in the mail. Please let Marji know if you did not receive one.

KICKOFF SUNDAY and Teacher Appreciation, September 8, 2024 10:30am - children begin in worship and leave for class following our recognition of 3 teachers who have served long and well in our Sunday School who are retiring. Keith Lentz, Barb Thatcher and Stacey Ross.

NEEDED this Fall



We are looking for 2 adults for our Pre-K through grade 1 class and two for our 2nd-6th graders. Experience and Bible knowledge not necessary. Desire to be part of this vital ministry to our children is!

With enough teachers we will rotate so no one misses worship every week. Do not hesitate to ask any questions! Please consider and speak with Marji Hughes



July - Sponsors/Volunteers

July 7

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers.....	Team 1
Altar Flowers.....	Teitsworth Family
Bulletins	Bob Kervin
Lay Reader	Becky Harvey

July 21

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers	Team 3
Altar Flowers.....	Estate of Arthur Clay
Bulletins	Bob & Doris Turner
Lay Reader	Marji Hughes

Upcoming Mission Projects

- August—Valley Youth House
- September—Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering

Upcoming Fundraisers

- Aug—Dine-to-Donate @ DiMaio's - Strawberry Shortcake Sale @ Community Day
- Oct—Penny Party
- Nov - Nutroll Sale

July 14

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers.....	Team 2
Altar Flowers.....	Bob & Doris Turner
Bulletins.....	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader.....	Bob Scherer

July 28

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers	Team 4
Altar Flowers	Carlann Broglie
Organ Piece.....	Larry Muldowney
Bulletins.....	Denise Keen
Lay Reader.....	Becky Rosenberger

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

The July Newsletter

has been sponsored by:

Andy & Melissa Spear

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/hellertownucc



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	610-533-8009
Sherwood Stauffer, Sexton	610-838-7391

Consistory Members

	Email address	Phone Number
<u>Elders</u>		
Sandy Bender	purplepeep@rcn.com	610-248-4978
Amy Mixa	athomeamy@hotmail.com	610-428-0583
Georgie Stuempfle	gdflea@yahoo.com	610-838-7493
<u>Deacons</u>		
Karen Frankenfield	gumbycat1@gmail.com	484-554-6621
Diane French— Pres.	dcfrench48@gmail.com	610-360-8897
Ashlynn Mixa	ashlynnmixa@gmail.com	610-730-3334
Sandy Panick	hygienist2000@msn.com	610-838-1695
<u>Trustees</u>		
Ann Brown—Sec.	forglan@verizon.net	610-462-7056
Keith Lentz-Vice-Pres.	keithlen56@gmail.com	610-838-1171
Doug Major	pamajors@rcn.com	610-392-0503

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>.

Coffee & Conversation

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



Women's Breakfast at the Hellertown Diner

July 9, 2024 (Second Tuesday of each month.)

*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



2nd & 4th Mondays –

10:30am in the Wimmer Room

Bibles and Brunch will begin
again in September.

Start date and topic/reading tba. For more information, speak with Marji Hughes
mpughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053



Confirmation Class

Confirmation class will meet September 8 at
11:30 am jointly with the

children and adults to attend our Communion workshop.

Please remember your required summer assignment must be
completed and handed in by September 8.

Questions, please contact Marji Hughes or Pastor Becky





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.

July 2024	10:30 AM	7	Worship
	10:30 AM	14	Worship/Anniversary Sunday/Communion
	10:30 AM	21	Worship
	10:30 AM	28	Worship
Aug 2024	10:30 AM	4	Worship
	10:30 AM	11	Worship
	10:30 AM	18	Worship
	10:30 AM	25	Worship
Sept 2024	10:30 AM	1	Worship
	10:30 AM	8	Worship/Sunday School Kick-off
	10:30 AM	15	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	22	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	29	Worship/Sunday School

Always inform the church office if you are hospitalized. Please do not trust that word will get to the office through the grapevine. **Our hospital code is 428.** You can mention that if you are admitted.

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.

July Birthdays

7/3 Michael Teitsworth	7/21 Madyson Schrammel
7/3 Amy Thatcher	7/21 Beth Shelly
7/4 Jacob Scherer	7/21 Brian Weiss
7/6 James Reiss	7/22 Natalie Miller
7/8 Cindy Sabo	7/22 Will O'Connell
7/8 Chloe Schultz	7/22 Brenda Shaffer
7/8 Sarah Yohn	7/23 Andreas Borelli
7/9 Bob Kervin	7/24 Phyllis Scherer
7/12 Betty Parsons	7/26 Dean Shaffer
7/13 Thomas Ball	7/29 Thomas Moran
7/14 Natalie Ball	7/30 Diane Miller
7/14 Timothy Getz	7/31 Aleaya Myers
7/15 Thomas Vosburg	
7/17 Carson Petruno	
7/18 James Thatcher	
7/19 Sharon Yeakel	
7/20 Jack O'Connell	



July Anniversaries

7/3 Nathan & Jen Yonney
7/15 Chris & Tanya Scherer
7/18 Bradley & Madison Miller
7/19 Joel & Mary Stoneback
7/21 Steph & Stephen Oblas
7/25 Michael & Melissa Mullen
7/30 Rocco & Annie Policare
7/30 Gary & Jan Weaver



Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Attendance	
May 5	\$4,425.39	73	Fundraisers
May 12	\$5,471.53	90	\$1,546.00 Yd. Sale
May 19	\$4,309.53	91	\$260.00 Flower Sale
May 26	\$2,632.53	50	\$80.00 Other
Total	\$16,838.98		
Budget	(\$16,000.00)		
Over/Short	\$838.98		

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
 Jane Joyce 610.838.7593



PENNY PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT

We are excited to announce that the Penny Party is back on! This year we'll be having a Fall themed penny party along with a 50/50 raffle and a small auction of special items on **Saturday, October 19th at 3pm**. We are now accepting donations of items. We are looking for **new** items of any kind, food (watch the expiration date), personal care items, beauty items, toys, art supplies, kitchen items, garage items, paper goods, almost anything that is **new** – any value item will work. This is a great time to re-gift any dusty Christmas presents you received, but aren't using (*but please keep the fruit cake!*). We are looking for larger unique items, handmade items or services to offer in the auction. We are of course looking for lots of helpers the day of the event to help with the kitchen, clean-up, selling tickets, runners to hand out items won and more. So, mark it on your calendar, start collecting your change, think about friends and neighbors you can invite, look around your house or shop for items to donate and please see Tammie Vosburg or Andrea Milliren if you would like to help or have any questions.

July Fundraiser—Hoagie Sale



Pick-up is Thursday, July 11th - 11am-1pm and 5-7 pm.

Thank you to all who participated in this fundraiser.

10% of the profits from this fundraiser will go to Victory House (Homeless Veterans)

Vacation Bible School
At 1st UCC Hellertown
July 29 – Aug. 2, 2024

It's time for a summer camp adventure with God! Explore timeless Bible stories that demonstrate how people trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name.

Kids will learn ways they can put their trust in God when they are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work and share the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ.



REGISTER AT:

<https://1sthellertowncampers.mycokesburyvbs.com>

Adult volunteers and Helpers 7th grade and over are needed. Please register online.

Questions? call 610-838-8811

Needed for Vacation Bible School - Cases of Small Water Bottles, Small Juice Boxes (100% Juice), and Life-Size Artificial Christmas Trees (without lights) and/or plants. We can return the trees/plants after VBS.

Camp Firelight

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL LEADERS MEETING

Monday, July 1, 2024 -

6:30 pm in the Wimmer Room

All Volunteers 7th grade through adults are asked to attend

Station leaders please have a list of any needs for your classrooms.



First United Church Hellertown
Consistory Minutes
Monday June 10, 2024, at 6:30 pm Wimmer Room

Treasurer's Report – Tammie Vosburg

Report accepted as submitted.

Highlights:

- We have a surplus at present due to a generous gift to the Remembrance Fund designated for General Use. (\$1,187 surplus)
- Insurance repairs are completed, and we will file for a Depreciation Insurance Recovery Claim.
- Our financial investment report is positive for this month.
- Our giving for May had a nice recovery, but we are still below budget for the year.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Becky

Report accepted as submitted.

Highlights:

Total Hours: 93—Hours Dedicated to Worship: 18, Hours Dedicated to Pastoral Care: 8, Continuing Education Hours: 11, Office Hours: 27

Meetings

- HAM met on 5/15. We discussed a joint Service of the Longest Night. The Service was requested to be held at the Carriage House. More details to come.
- I attended the Keystone Conference meeting at Penn State from 6/7-6/9. We discussed the potential merger of the four Pennsylvania conferences of the UCC.

Faith Formation Report: Pastor Becky and Marji Hughes

Highlights:

- We discussed the composition of a letter regarding open-table communion that will go out to the congregation.
- The VBS volunteers' meeting is scheduled for July 1.

Curriculum: Discussion about policy for selecting curriculum for our children through adult education. We need to ensure that the chosen curriculum aligns with the policies and beliefs of the United Church of Christ.

Motion: Amy Mixa moved that the Pastor, the Minister of Faith Formation, and the Faith Formation Committee shall approve all selected curricula for children to adult education for any group meeting within our church building. Sandy Bender seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed.

Elders' Report: Georgie Stuempfle

We spoke with the pastor about the Caring Spirits program and homebound parishioners and reviewed the entire church directory list.

Deacons' Report: Sandy Panick

Discussion: We propose adding communion opportunities to the church calendar year. After discussion and a general vote by Consistory members, we suggest scheduling communion at least once a month in addition to our regularly scheduled yearly communions. An additional communion will be scheduled on the first Sunday of each month unless it falls on a regular holiday.

Trustees' Report: Ann Brown

- The church restoration project was completed, but we contacted the painter to review the project, as painting at the altar archway is unacceptable.
- Additional Electric Lighting for choir area estimates are pending. We continue to seek a provider to complete this project.
- Cleaning Services will be scheduled for August after VBS. Two companies have been contacted for a final estimate and project review.

Stewardship/ Fundraising: Georgie Stuempfle

1. Pierogi sale over
2. Hoagie sale on now
3. Dine to Donate at DiMaio's. August 14, 4 to 8 pm
4. Community Day – August 17

The Consistory Minutes in Brief (cont)

Stewardship/Fundraising (cont.):

5. Nothing for September as October is busy
 1. Penny party
 2. Silent Auction
 3. Hot dogs-parade if asked
6. Nut Roll sale in November

New Business:

Incident Report and Procedure –

Consistory approved the Incident Report form and procedure for First Church. For any incident within our church building, an Incident Report must be completed and submitted to the office.

Next Meeting: July 8 at 6:30 PM in the Wimmer Room

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

NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE – FIRST UCC Day at the Iron Pigs

Coca Cola Park

Sunday, September 22

1:35 PM



Tickets are \$12

and include a

\$2 food coupon.

We have 25 tickets in the same section!

Please see Marji Hughes or sign up in the narthex.

Youth Group For 7th-12th graders from 1st UCC and LS UCC

AUG 4, 5-7PM at Lower Saucon UCC

PICKLEBALL

No church affiliation is required. Bring your friends!

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

Ashlynn Mixa - ashlynnmixa@gmail.com 610-730-3334

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



Come and Join Us!