

Installation of 2025 Consistory Members



Baptismal Plaque, stitched by Joan Kiak, was dedicated on February 2, 2025.



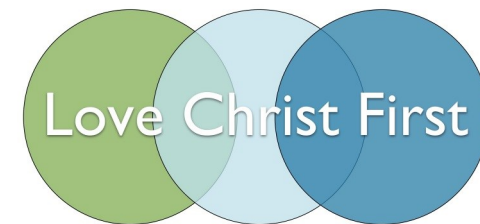
Pastor Becky leads the Communion Service on February 2nd



Andy Spear shows his "treasure" rock to the children during the children's message time on February 16th. The rock was painted by his son.



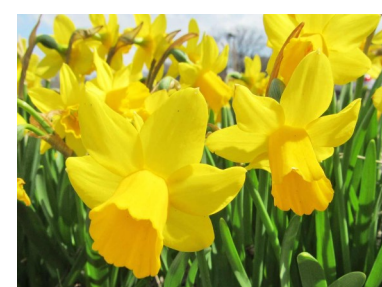
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Mission Project for March Easter Baskets



Members of First UCC are asked to donate items for Easter Baskets for children served by the New Jerusalem Food Bank. Coloring books, bubbles, chalk, individually wrapped Easter candy and snacks, Rice Krispie Treats, Matchbox cars, small Easter stuffed animals, construction paper, kid scissors, gum, chocolate rabbits, \$5 gift cards to McDonald's are needed to create 91 baskets. If you are not able to shop for items but would like to be part of the project, we will accept monetary donations which will be used to purchase items for these baskets. All donations must be in the church office by Wednesday, April 2nd. Volunteers are needed to set up on April 4th (4-6 pm) and filling the Baskets on Sunday, April 6th, before & after worship. Please check the list in the Narthex or contact Sandy Panick for specific numbers of items needed.



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





In just a few weeks Lent will begin. On Ash Wednesday we will once again pause to ponder our own mortality. I will speak these words over and over again, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." I've been thinking a lot about that worship service lately, not only because I am preparing the liturgy, but also because I think it is one of the most important worship services we have each year. I know that it isn't easy to think about the shortness and uncertainty of life. Still, every year as I ask you to do just that.

At the beginning of Lent it sets a tone for us to begin the process of taking that deep look at ourselves and our relationships with God. Perhaps there are some things that you need to let go of during this Lenten season. Perhaps there are things that need to fall away from your lives, that they may nourish the soil for something new that wants to grow. Maybe there are things that you need to add to your lives, things that may help you to draw closer to God. My prayer for you this Lenten season is that you use the journey to grow closer to God and one another.

In light and love,

Pastor Becky

Friends, I want to take a moment to remind you that your pastor will never request money from you or ask you to purchase gift cards, whether by phone call, text message, or email. Technology has made it so that scams are becoming more and more a part of our everyday life. Recently, I was told that a friend of a colleague had phone calls go out to their congregation. It sounded like the pastor's voice and looked like the pastor was calling them. Scammers were able to use Artificial Intelligence to replicate the pastor's voice based on sermons that were posted online and use it to create a message asking for gift cards. If a request for any financial contributions hasn't been made by a member of the congregation in person during Sunday announcements, or in our church's newsletter, please be cautious and verify that it is not a scam before making any contributions.

March

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

Special Dates:

April 13 – Palm Sunday – children sing during worship

April 20 Easter – no Sunday School classes

May 18 – Children and Youth Sunday – all participate in worship end of Sunday School for the summer

May 18- Hot Dog Picnic and Sundaes on Sunday 11:30am

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.



Thank you to everyone who donated items for Phoebe Home. The items will be delivered at the end of February. Thank you all for your generosity.



Easter Flowers

We are taking orders for Easter flowers (tulips or lilies). The flowers will be used to decorate the sanctuary and may be taken home after the worship service on Easter Sunday. Please use the order form included in this Newsletter. You have a choice of red, pink, purple or yellow tulips and white lilies.

Orders, dedications, and payments must be received by April 6th.



Our Youth Group enjoyed a round of Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf on February 23rd at Two T's Entertainment Center in Easton.



1/31/25

Dear Friend of Bethany,

As we begin 2025, please accept my sincere thanks for your support of Bethany Children's Home and our 161-years of serving vulnerable youth last year. Since our early days, we have grown into a specialized care facility providing safety and healing for children who have endured severe trauma.

Bethany's mission remains essential:

"To provide a safe, nurturing place of protection and supportive care to aid our residents in their self-understanding, growth, and healing toward a brighter future." We are proud to be joint Commission accredited and one of only two facilities in Pennsylvania to serve youth affected by human trafficking.

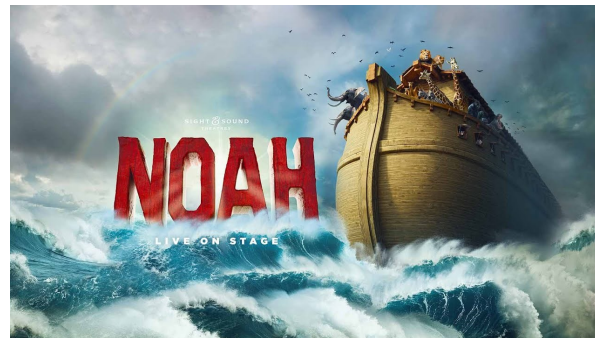
As we begin a new year, please accept our gratitude for believing in Bethany's mission and supporting a healing of our community's most vulnerable children. We could not provide that vital safe refuge without donors like you alongside us.

Sincerely,

Dana L. Hoffman

Director of Development
Bethany Children's Home

**MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US on a
BUS TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND
to see**



SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025

Lunch will be

at the New Hersey Farms

More information to follow



**Mark Your Calendars
For a "Road Trip"
August 4—8, 2025
Vacation Bible School
9am – Noon**

Children Pre-K through grade 6
Leaders and Helpers will be needed.
Registration opens in April.
Watch for more information!!

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/hellertownucc



Mark Your Calendar

**Lower Saucon UCC and First UCC
are joining for a Women's Mini One Day
Retreat 9am—3 pm
at Lower Saucon UCC
September 27, 2025**

More details to follow

Attention All Dart Players—March Schedule

3/3 City All Star Match

3/10 Home vs College Hill

3/17 Home vs East Hills

3/24 Away @ Bethany UCC

3/31 Away @ Star of Bethlehem

For **anyone** who is interested in joining this group,
please contact **Leroy Miller at 610-838-9704.**

March Fundraiser—Pierogies



The fundraiser for March will be Pierogies. These are made by Fork'd in Hellertown PA. They are delivered frozen in vacuum-sealed 6 packs— and sold by the dozen. Flavor choices and prices per dozen: Plain—\$10, Three Cheese—\$13, Cheddar Onion \$13, Garlic Parmesan—\$13, Egg, Sausage & Cheese—\$15, Bacon Cheddar- \$16, Buffalo Chicken—\$16, and Cheese Steak—\$16. Gluten free options are also available at a cost of \$2 more per dozen but may be delivered on a different date.

Orders and Payments are due by March 17th. Pickup will be on March 29th at a time to be determined.



Save the Date

Dine to Donate @

Braveheart Highland Pub

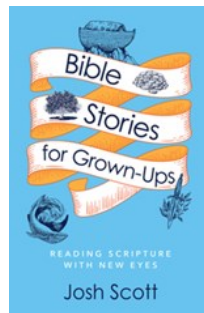
Wednesday, April 23, 2025 4-8 PM

Dine-in or Takeout





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



Bibles & Brunch

March 4 & March 18

We will continue our study of "Bible Stories for Grownups" by Josh Scott 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month 10:30am
Feel free to drop in and try us out!

Sunday morning Bible Study --

9am in the Youth room upstairs

Sundays 9:15am

Please contact Tricia Shelly for more information,



Confirmation class schedule:

March 2 – a look at ourselves - the book of James (lunch included)

March 16 – major world religions

April 6 – digging deep

April 27 – the worship service (Youth Sunday planning) 11:30am – 1pm

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.

Week of Mar 2-8—Andy Spear (***)

Week of Mar 9-15—Ann Brown

Week of Mar 16-22—Sandy Panick

Week of Mar 23-29 —Amy Mixa

Week of Mar 30-Apr 5- Diane French

Week of Apr 6-12—Tammie Vosburg

Week of Apr 13-19 —Georgie Stuempfle

Week of Apr 20-26—Letty Petruno

Week of Apr 27-May 3— Carlann Broglie

Week of May 4-10—Doug Miller

Week of May 11-17 —Marji Hughes

Week of May 18-24— Andy Spear

Mid-Week Lenten Soup & Services

Soup Meal @ 6 PM Worship Service @ 7 PM

Revised Schedule

The theme of this year's Lenten services is "What are you up to? Get up to something instead of giving up something this Lent."

Mar 5 First UCC, 501 Northampton Street, Hellertown (Ash Wednesday)

Mar 12 Friedens Lutheran Church, 2451 Saucon Valley Rd, Center Valley

Mar 19 Christ Lutheran Church, 69 Main Street, Hellertown

Mar 26 Lower Saucon UCC, 1375 Third Avenue, Hellertown

Apr 2 New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 3233 Apples Church Rd, Bethlehem

Apr 9 First UCC, 501 Northampton Street, Hellertown



March Sponsors/Volunteers

March 2

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers.....	Team 5
Altar Flowers.....	Gretchen Diehl/Chip Wagner
Bulletins	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader	Ann Brown

March 9

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers.....	Team 2
Altar Flowers.....	Tammie Vosburg
Bulletins.....	Daphne Rodriguez
Lay Reader.....	Georgie Stuempfle

March 23

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers	Team 4
Altar Flowers	Bob & Phyllis Scherer
Bulletins.....	Jim & Linda Exley
Lay Reader.....	Bob Scherer

March 5-Ash Wednesday

Ushers.....	Team 1
Altar Flowers.....	
Bulletins	Janice Csrnko

March 16

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers	Team 3
Altar Flowers.....	Daphne Rodriguez
Bulletins	Denise Keen
Lay Reader	Becky Harvey

March 30

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers	Team 5
Altar Flowers	
Bulletins.....	Andy & Melissa Spear
Lay Reader.....	Marji Hughes

The March 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.

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.

Mar 2025	10:30 AM	2	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	7:00 PM	5	Ash Wednesday Worship (Soup @ 6 PM)
	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
Apr 2025	10:30 AM	6	Worship/Sunday School
	7:00 PM	9	Mid-Week Lenten Worship (Soup @ 6 PM)
	10:30 AM	13	Palm Sunday Worship/Sunday School
	7:00 PM	17	Maundy Thursday/Communion at First UCC
	7:00 PM	18	Good Friday Worship at Lower Saucon UCC
	10:30 AM	20	Easter Sunday Worship/Communion/ No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	27	Worship/Sunday School
May 2025	10:30 AM	4	Worship/Sunday School/Communion
	10:30 AM	11	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	18	Youth Sunday Worship/ Last Day of Sunday School/Sundaes on Sunday
	10:30 AM	25	Worship/No 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.



YOUTH GROUP

for grades 4 - high school

March 30 meet at church @ 1:30

Watch for details

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

Ashlynn Mixa - ashlynnmixa@gmail.com [REDACTED]

Marji Hughes - 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**

March 11, 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

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>.

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. [REDACTED]

Tammie Vosburg, Church Treasurer [REDACTED]

Budd Frankenfield, Sexton [REDACTED]

Consistory Members

Email address

Phone Number

Elders

Sandy Bender— Sec. purplepeep@rcn.com [REDACTED]

Jane Joyce djanejoyce@verizon.net [REDACTED]

Joan Kiak njbk77@gmail.com [REDACTED]

Amy Mixa athomeamy@hotmail.com [REDACTED]

Deacons

Karen Frankenfield gumbycat1@gmail.com [REDACTED]

Diane French dcfrench48@gmail.com [REDACTED]

Ashlynn Mixa ashlynnmixa@gmail.com [REDACTED]

Sandy Panick hygienist2000@msn.com [REDACTED]

Trustees

Keith Lentz--Pres. keithlen56@gmail.com [REDACTED]

Doug Major-Vice Pres. pamajors@rcn.com [REDACTED]

Wayne Packer wayne.t.packer@gmail.com [REDACTED]

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. and Flowers—\$40.00/wk.

Sign-up for Newsletters & Flowers in the Church Office.

March Birthdays

3/3 David Thatcher	3/17 Doug Major
3/6 Keith Lentz	3/19 Joanne Thatcher
3/6 Asher Moran	3/23 Jenna Moran
3/7 Andrea Milliren	3/24 Budd Frankenfield
3/9 Sadie Mann	
3/10 Pat O'Connell	
3/11 Nancy Fegley	
3/11 Louise Krill	
3/11 Garrett Laub	
3/12 Michael Kiak	
3/14 Lauren Moran	
3/14 Jackson Weaver	
3/15 Sheri Musgnung	
3/16 Madysen Pritchard	
3/16 Tara Reilly	
3/17 Joshua Frankenfield	



March Anniversaries

3/3 Chris & Tara Reilly
3/13 Leroy & Jeannie Miller
3/18 Joseph & Lois Palmisano
3/20 James & Becky Rosenberger
3/20 David & Linda Thatcher
3/23 Henry & Lisa Fenon



Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Attendance	Food Bank	
January 5	\$3,623.72	70	\$250.00	
January 12	\$2,089.36	95	CA Wildfire	
January 19	\$15,055.07	57	\$1718.00	
January 26	\$3,244.70	70		
	\$24,012.85			
Budget	-\$16,000.00			
Over/Short	\$8,012.85			

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

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

Elsie Stout

Jane Joyce



**March 5, 2025
at First UCC**

6pm - soup in New Fellowship Hall

7pm—Worship

**Please sign up in the Narthex if you
are bringing soup!!**

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

First United Church Hellertown
Consistory Minutes—in brief

Monday February 10, 2025 at 6:32 pm in the Wimmer Room

Call to Order: Keith Lentz, president

Opening Prayer: Pastor Becky

Present: Diane French, Ashlynn Mixa, Sandy Bender, Keith Lentz, Amy Mixa, Sandy Panick, Karen Frankenfield, Jane Joyce, Joan Kiak, Wayne Packer

Absent: Doug Major, Tammie Vosburg

Minutes: Date: January 26, 2025

Motion: Approval of Minutes: Diane French, second by Sandy Panick

Treasurer's Report – Tammie Vosburg

Highlights: Positive cash flow for January 2025 as reported by Keith Lentz for Tammie Vosburg. Accepted as presented.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Becky

Highlights:

Total hours: 84—Breakdown of hours for major responsibilities: worship-28, pastoral care - 7, continuing education - 7, Office hours- 27, Meetings 8. Report accepted as presented

Faith Formation Report: Marji Hughes

Highlights: Discussion of church calendar through September. Treasure chest children's messages have been filled through May.

Discussion: Report accepted as presented

Elders' Report: Amy Mixa

Elders will meet February 17 at 5 pm in Wimmer room.

Deacons' Report: Sandy Panick

Discussed how to let congregation know which is wine, water, and juice in the communion tray.

Discussed Easter baskets which need to be completed by April 6, 2025.

Trustees' Report: Head Trustee still needed

- New relay switches were purchased at All Phase for a total of \$83.20. Woody will install them.

- Dominion Inspected the stairlift. The certificate is good to 2026, but stairlift must be inspected yearly. We have not received the invoice for this inspection.

- Kitchen inspection certificate now framed and is good thru December 2025.

- Wind took down spouting at front of church and downspout at the rear. Alan Kunsman has repaired it for a cost of \$200.00 to be paid out of the regular budget.

Correspondence: Noah Ernst made a generous donation for use of New Fellowship Hall for his father's funeral..

Committee Reports:

Executive Meeting: Keith Lentz, Doug Major, Pastor Becky met 2/5/25 to set the agenda for today's meeting. Absent: Sandy Bender

Music and Worship: Dates discussed for upcoming worship

- March 5- First Lenten service at First UCC. Bread and soup at 6 pm. Service at 7 pm.

- April 9- Next joint Lenten service (at First UCC) soup and bread at 6 pm. More dates announced next month.

Consistory Minutes (cont.)

Safety and Security: In process of purchasing Two (2) LifeVac home kits wall holders to be mounted in Wimmer room and kitchen. Cost- \$55 each. Wayne Packer moved to accept. Karen Frankenfield seconded. Motion accepted.

Stewardship/ Fundraising: Ashlynn Mixa reports committee met on 01/30/25. General discussion on fund raising for 2025. Sandy Bender moved to explore selling First UCC apparel (t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.) as a future fund raiser.

Altar: Altar and Choir room have been cleaned and reorganized.

Tech Committee: James Rosenberger will set-up new computers for Phyllis within the next 3 weeks.

Old Business: Our new sound board is still not installed. James Rosenberger needs help. He is exploring the company (Sweetwater) to provide assistance with the instillation to be completed before Vacation Bible school.

. CPR classes will be scheduled after Easter. We need at least 10 people.

- Leaf blower/Snowblower was donated.

New Business: Hi-TechSecurity Alarms submitted a proposal for \$2,655 to update our cameras and data. Consistory moved to accept the proposal by High Tech.

Bus trip to Sight and Sound (Noah) was discussed. Senior Wimmer Fund will subsidize \$75.00 for each church member.

Adjournment: Ashlynn Mixa moved for adjournment. Seconded by Diane French.

Time 7:58 pm

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

Next Meeting: March 10, 2025, in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm.

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, April 13—10:30 AM



Joint Service -Thursday , April 17

7 PM at First UCC

**Maundy
Thursday**

Joint Service—Friday, April 18—7 PM at Lower Saucon UCC

good **friday**

Easter Sunday—April 20th

10:30 AM