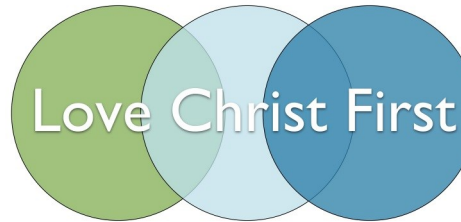


Easter 2025



May 2025

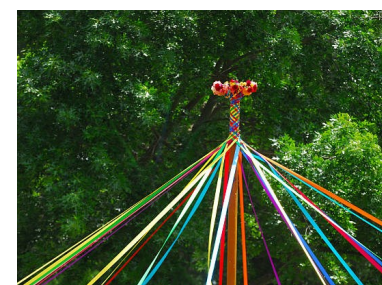


Mission Project for May—Heifer Project International

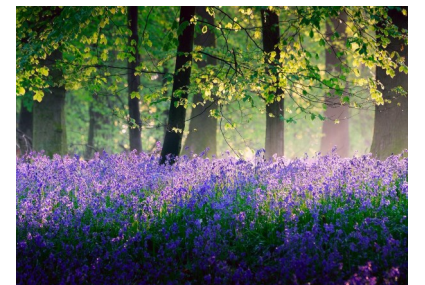
THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Heifer is partnership-driven in the countries where they work – with farmer groups, businesses, governments and more – to scale impact and strengthen local ownership.

They offer a variety of ways to partner with them to improve the lives of farming families.



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





"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

It always amazes me when I watch the trees in the springtime. The new life starting out as tiny buds and becoming leaves that shade my lawn. It always seems like a miracle when flowers and green start to appear. It reminds me that life was sleeping there all winter and I couldn't see it. A new raised garden bed has been built in my yard, a place to grow tomatoes and lettuce. Herbs are being planted in little growing boxes on

my back deck.

This scripture from the book of Isaiah always seems relevant in spring time, when things are coming back to life. The question, "do you not perceive it" is really standing out to me this year. I think it is easy for us to miss the ways that God is working in our midst, the new things that God is doing. We are always so busy with the things that we have to get done and all of the responsibilities we have. It doesn't leave us much time to stop and look at what is growing around us. God is always calling us to grow, to dig our roots deep and reach toward heaven. How is God calling you to grow in this season?

In light and love,

Pastor Becky

Palm Sunday 2025



The children prepare the way for Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. They also welcomed him with a song.



To the Family and Friends of

Gary R. Weaver

April 2, 2025

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, sheep of your own fold, lamb of your own flock, sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him 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 Gary Weaver:*

Bill Roth



**Easter
Basket
Assembly**

Many thanks to those of you who donated items for the Easter Baskets. With the help of lots of volunteers, the baskets were assembled on Friday 4/4 and Sunday 4/6. Our Tuesday Men's Group transported them to New Jerusalem Food Bank. A special thanks to Sandy Panick, who co-ordinated this project.



ROAD TRIP VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

AUGUST 4-8, 2025

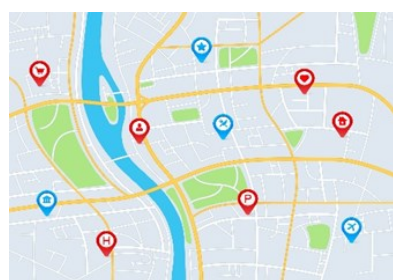
9am – Noon



Register at: <https://1sthellertown2025.mycokesburyvbs.com>

Questions? Call or email:
mphughes22@gmail.com
610-838-8811

Road Trip takes place out on the open road in an imagination-powered vehicle big enough to take all VBS “Travelers”, on amazing adventures to exciting destinations. Travelers will join the Navigator and Scout - the energetic and curious dog - and learn that God is with them in whatever situation they face. Each day, Scout and the Navigator lead the Travelers to fictitiously familiar locations, where they face new challenges and encounter new people and animals. With the help of great stories from the “Navigators’ Guide”, Travelers will explore timeless Bible stories that show how people from the Old and New Testaments journeyed with God through many locations and situations and found strength in God’s presence wherever they went.



Joshua 1:9 reminds us that God’s presence is always near, no matter where the journey of life takes us.

Road Trip takes us on an exciting journey as we discover new places, new friends, and ways that we can discover God’s goodness and presence everywhere.



Children and Youth Sunday

May 18, 2025

10:30am worship

Confirmands and all children of our church family will share in leading worship.

Hot Dog and Sundae picnic immediately follows the service.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

Special Dates:

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.



Confirmation Sunday

June 1

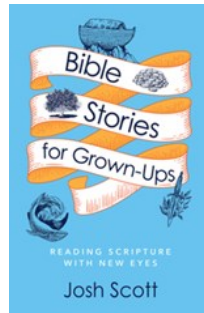
10:30am worship

Fellowship Hour to follow

in the Wimmer Room



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



Bibles & Brunch

May 6 & May 20



We will finish our study of "Bible Stories for Grownups"
by Josh Scott

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the 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

We are beginning *Abide*

A Study of 1, 2, and 3 John
by Jen Wilkin

Please contact Tricia Shelly for more information, or just join us!



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

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 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 Petrundo
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
Week of May 25-31—Phyllis Scherer
Week of June 1-7—Ann Brown
Week of June 8—14—Sandy Panick
Week of June 15-21 —Amy Mixa



**Women's Breakfast at the
Hellertown Diner**
Second Tuesday of each month
May 13, 2025

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

May Sponsors/Volunteers

May 4

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers.....	Team 1
Altar Flowers.....	The Teitsworth Family
Bulletins	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader	Warren Kurz

May 11

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers.....	Team 2
Altar Flowers.....	Dave & Georgie Stuempfle
Bulletins.....	Janice Csrnko
Lay Reader.....	Wayne Packer

May 18

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers	Team 3
Altar Flowers	Daphne Rodriguez
Bulletins.....	Sandy Belletti
Lay Reader.....	Doug Miller

May 25

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers	Team 4
Altar Flowers.....	Denise Keen
Bulletins	Daphne Rodriguez
Lay Reader	Sandy Panick

The May Newsletter
has been sponsored by:
Jim & Linda Exley

2025 Sponsors Needed

We are looking for sponsors for
Altar Flowers for 2025.
The cost to sponsor Flowers is \$40.00/wk.

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.

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/Hot Dog Picnic /Sundaes on Sunday
	10:30 AM	25	Worship/No Sunday School
June 2025	10:30 AM	1	Worship/Confirmation/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	8	Worship/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	15	Worship/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	22	Worship/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	29	Worship/No Sunday School
July 2025	10:30 AM	6	Worship/ No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	13	Worship/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	20	Anniversary Sunday Worship/Communion/ No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	27	Worship/No 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.

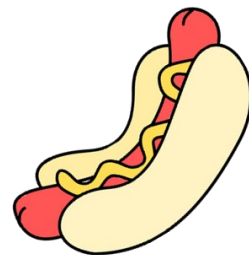
THANK YOU

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.



All Church

Hot Dog Picnic and Sundaes on Sunday



**Sunday, May 18
11:30am**



following Youth Sunday worship

Join in the fun as we celebrate summer's beginnings with hotdogs, cold salads, baked beans, watermelon, and, of course, ice cream sundaes! Signup in the Narthex to bring a side dish.

Please speak with a Faith Formation member if you'd like to help.

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>.

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
Budd Frankenfield, Sexton	610-360-7859

Consistory Members

	Email address	Phone Number
<u>Elders</u>		
Sandy Bender— Sec.	purplepeep@rcn.com	610-248-4978
Jane Joyce	djanejoyce@verizon.net	610-248-2337
Joan Kiak	njbk77@gmail.com	610-704-6904
Amy Mixa	athomeamy@hotmail.com	610-428-0583
<u>Deacons</u>		
Karen Frankenfield	gumbycat1@gmail.com	484-554-6621
Diane French	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>		
Keith Lentz--Pres.	keithlen56@gmail.com	610-838-1171
Doug Major-Vice Pres.	pamajors@rcn.com	610-392-0503
Wayne Packer	wayne.t.packer@gmail.com	610-731-4559
Chip Wagner	rdmax723@hotmail.com	717-708-6660

May Birthdays

5/5 Sarah Snyder
 5/6 Alice Totenbier
 5/8 James Exley
 5/8 Richard Teitsworth
 5/9 Chris Scherer
 5/10 Kathleen Chapman
 5/12 Jane Joyce
 5/14 Ryan Williams
 5/15 Sarah Beers
 5/19 Piper Policare
 5/24 Kate Ross
 5/26 Gwen Singer
 5/31 Scott Henry



May Anniversaries

5/2 Wayne & Nadine Pavlinsky
 5/8 Michael & Michelle DeRenzis
 5/15 Jim & Linda Exley
 5/15 Joe & Kim Johnson
 5/20 Chip Wagner & Gretchen Diehl
 5/22 William & Melissa Mills



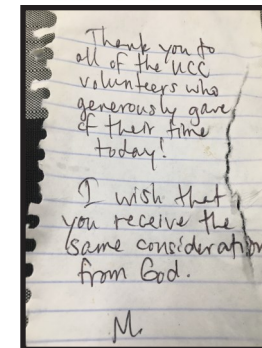
Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Attendance		
March 2	\$3,690.85	85		
March 9	\$3,239.53	66		
March 16	\$3,952.93	75		
March 23	\$1,651.67	73		
March 30	\$2,508.36	75		
Total	\$15,043.34			
Budget	\$20,000.00			
Over/ <u>Short</u>	(\$4,956.66)			

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



Thank you Note

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 Jane Joyce 610.838.7593



Saturday, May 3rd
First UCC Yard & Bake Sale
(9:00 AM to 1:00 PM)

Drop-off in basement, [please no electronics (computerware) or clothing]
6:30-7:30 PM on May 1st & 2nd for yard sale items or during church office hours, drop off for baked goods—Friday May 2nd—same hours. Please present individually wrapped baked goods for sale in small increments (\$1-2-3 dollar size) as opposed to whole cake or pie (1/2 pie or cake is fine). Volunteers are needed to help on drop-off days, Saturday before, during, and after the sale. See sign-up sheets on the Narthex bulletin board.

YOUTH LOCK-IN



Saturday, May 17 through Sunday, May 18

7pm - 11:45am
for all youth grades 7 - high school
(Confirmation class requirement)



After our night in the church, we will lead Youth Sunday worship together!!!
 No church affiliation is required. Bring your friends! Questions:

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

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

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

Please let one of the leaders know you will be coming!

First United Church Hellertown Consistory Minutes
Monday April 14, 2025, at 6:30 pm

Present: Sandy Bender, Diane French, Marji Hughes, Jane Joyce, Keith Lentz, Joan Kiak, Doug Major, Amy Mixa, Ashlynn Mixa, Wayne Packer, Sandy Panick, Rebekah Thomas, Tammie Vosburg and Chip Wagner

Absent: Karen Frankenfield

Minutes: Date: 3/10/202 Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Tammie Vosburg Highlights: Operating deficit for 2025 YTD ending March 31 is \$1,400. This value excludes Remembrance funds and benevolence contributions

- Receipts are short by \$1,675 over last year but short of budget by \$5,150.
- Expenses are less than 2024 by \$1,100 and under budget our 2025 by \$790
- Our contributions are well below budget and the previous year's giving
- Insurance Cost: GuideOne our current carrier has come back with some credits and is still evaluating other possible credits. Security and fire upgrades resulted in a credit of \$49. Waiting on possible additional credit for electrical upgrades. Next year GuideOne will no longer offer a \$1,000 deductible, if we move to the \$2,500 deductible in 2025, we can save \$482 resulting in a premium increase of 11% rather than 25% Total annual package \$9,133
- Erie Insurance placed a bid for both a \$1,000 deductible and \$2,500 deductible. Both totals were well over GuideOne \$12,804 and \$12,494 respectively. The other two insurance companies were unable to compete and declined to bid.
- Tammie's suggestion at this point would be to stay with GuideOne and since our church has the capital improvement accounts for that the church increases the deductible to \$2,500. Motion was made and approved to increase our insurance deductible from \$1,000 to \$2500 in order to achieve savings on premium.

Pastor's Report– Highlights: Pastor Becky: Total Hours: 119— Breakdown of hours for major responsibilities Hours: Worship: 43 Hours. Pastoral Care: 17, Continuing Education: 7, Office Hours: 31 Meetings: 5

Discussion: Pastor Becky asked to be a delegate for the General Assembly July 11-15 in Kansas City, Missouri. Pastor Becky will investigate the price. A Motion was made and approved to pay for Pastor Becky to attend the General Assembly as a delegate.

Faith Formation Report: Highlights: The young children sang Palm Sunday, April 13. Children and Youth Sunday, May 18th theme will be the early followers of Jesus. This will be followed by an indoor picnic with sundaes and is the last Sunday School until fall. Combined meeting with teachers and Faith Formation is in the works. Sunday a.m. Adult Bible Study beginning a new book "Abide" about 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. Bibles and Brunch will meet through June, starting up again in the fall. Confirmation class is finishing our 2 years together, heading toward Confirmation Sunday, June 1. Road Trip VBS August 4-8, registration website is up and running. Leader and helper meeting next month tba. This month Marji attended 2 workshops given jointly by Penn Northeast and Southeast Conferences on current issues and trends that affect local churches.

Elders' Report: Amy Mixa: One Great Hour of Sharing is scheduled for the month of April and the Heifer Project is scheduled for May.

Deacons' Report: Communion will be on Maundy Thursday and Easter. Usher Team 3 is assigned for Maundy Thursday. Team 4 will be assigned for Easter.

Trustees' Report: Thank you to our new Sexton, Budd, for painting the smaller bathroom. Also, thank you to Wayne Packer, Chip Wagner, Michael Teitsworth, and Jackie Teitsworth for mulching the side of the church. Thank you everyone who purchased the mulch. The Trustees will walk around the church to evaluate the cosmetic issues that need to be done.

Correspondence: We have received a request from Rebecca Pieper to use our church for her concert on June 1. Her group is called The Music Makers. She will need the Wimmer Room for four hours so that light refreshments can be served after the concert. It was unanimous by the Consistory to have the recital at the church.

Executive Meeting: The Executive Committee met on April 7, 2025, to plan the Consistory Meeting on April 14, 2025.

Consistory Minutes (cont.)

Music and Worship: The Music and Worship committee met on March 17th in the Wimmer Room. Lenten Wednesday Soup service was at First UCC on April 9th at 6:00 PM. Palm Sunday April 13th at First UCC 10:30 AM. Maundy Thursday Worship at First UCC is April 17th at 7:00 PM. Good Friday Service is at Lower Saucon UCC on April 18th at 7:00 PM. Easter Sunday Worship April 20th at 10:30 AM. The new Member Sunday date is pending for May or June. Youth Sunday is May 18th with hotdogs and Ice cream after church. Confirmation and Communion is June 1st. Next Music and Worship Committee Meeting is April 28th at 11:00 AM at church.

Safety and Security- Sandy Bender: Two new things have been added to the kitchen downstairs and the Wimmer Room. 1. LifeVac Choking Rescue Device. It contains a pediatric and adult mask. The home kit is used in case a child or adult is choking. The directions are simple and are mounted above the box that holds the LifeVac. 2. There are two fire blankets, one in the kitchen downstairs near the stove and the second in the Wimmer Room near the extinguisher. Please familiarize yourself with these devices and how they work. Many thanks to Mark Mixa for mounting the LifeVac boxes.

Stewardship/ Fundraising: Ashlynn Mixa: Fundraising/Stewardship met on March 20th. Total profit for the Hoagie sales was \$264 and the total profit for the pierogi sale was \$206.50. Next fundraiser is Dine to Donate at Braveheart on April 23rd. Next meeting will be April 24th at 6:30 pm in the Wimmer Room if anyone is interested in joining us.

Altar: The Advent Wreath banners have been selected but not yet ordered.

Tech Committee: MicroSoft working with Tammie and James to reset the password and install everything from the old computer. As soon as Phyllis is up and running, James Rosenberger will work on installing a new sound system.

Old Business: The Consistory investigated our current incident report form. Wayne Packer volunteered to update the form and report back at the next meeting. Discussion: There is a need to have a Consistory representative in communication with committees. This subject was tabled for the next meeting to gather more information.

New Business: Recommendations were made by the Trustees to formulate a list of volunteers to help with small projects around the church. A suggestion was made to insert a special sheet in the bulletin for anyone who is willing to volunteer their time and talents to help beautify the church. Keith will work on it.

Adjournment: 7:43 pm Motion made by Ashlynn Mixa, Seconded by Diane French

Next Meeting: Date: May 12, 2025, in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm

A full copy of the minutes is available in the Church Office.



Puzzle Party at 1st UCC Hellertown

All are welcome!

Saturday, June 14th 2025

Doors open at 11:30, competition starts at 12

Join us for an afternoon of puzzling fun! Compete to finish a 500 piece puzzle in groups of 2-3 or 4-5. Adults and kids welcome! We'll have optional mini jigsaw, crossword and word search competitions for small prizes during quick breaks! The fastest groups of each size to finish their 500 piece puzzle will win a special prize. (gift card or gift basket). Door prizes, too!

Pizza slices, snacks, drinks and baked goods for sale during the afternoon. **Registration and payment must be received by June 6th. See form included in this Newsletter.**