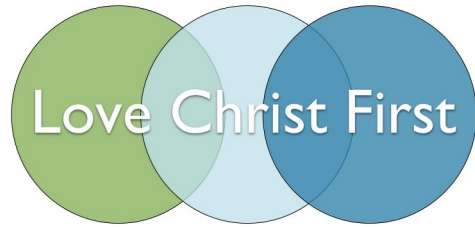


Easter 2026



# First Fruits

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



### Mission Project for the Month of May

**What is Heifer's Mission?** They work to end hunger and poverty in partnership with the communities they serve. Heifer's programs support entrepreneurs around the world, creating lasting change from the ground up. It begins with a seed investment of livestock or agriculture, followed by mentorship to help project participants build a business, and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets.

These families are able to earn a living income and continuously lift up their communities as they train the next generation of leaders.

By supporting and training the world's farmers, ranchers, and business owners, Heifer is investing in a new breed of success.



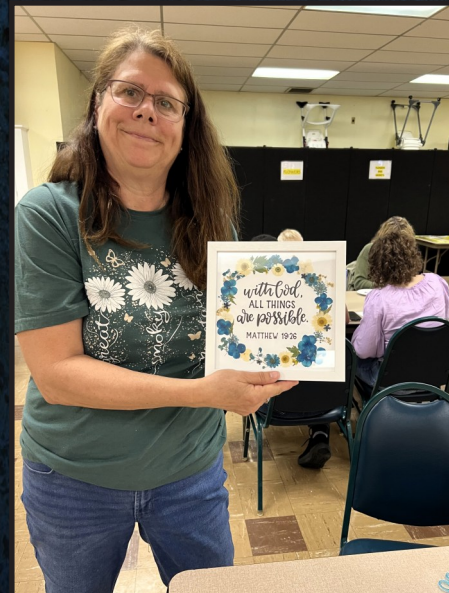
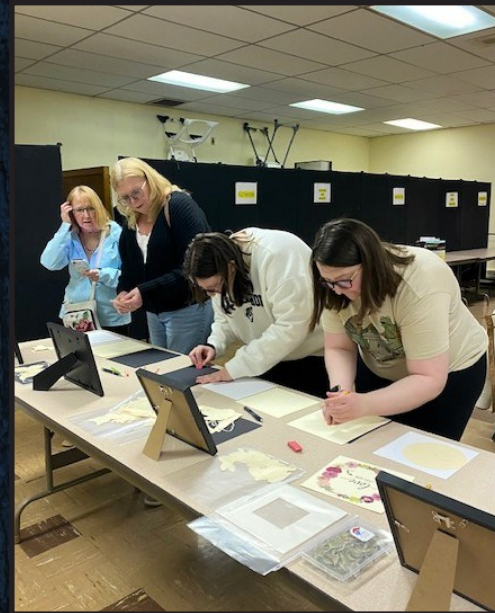
First United Church of Christ  
Pastor Becky Thomas  
501 Northampton Street  
Hellertown PA 18055  
(610)838-8811  
office@firstucchellertown.org



# Palm Sunday



# Pressed Flower Fundraiser





## Saturday, May 2nd First UCC Yard & Bake Sale (9:00 AM to 1:00 PM)

Drop-off in basement, [please no electronics (computerware) or clothing] **6:00-7:00 PM on April 30th & May 1st for yard sale items** or during church office hours (April 27–May 1). Drop off for baked goods is Friday May 1st—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, Friday for pricing and set-up, Saturday before, during, and after the sale.

April 9, 2026

Dear members of First UCC ~

*Grace and peace be with you in this beautiful Easter season!*

On behalf of the congregation and the growing community that we serve, I would like to extend a sincere "Thank you" for your recent donation of Easter baskets to the food bank at New Jerusalem. Your partnership in this outreach ministry is so very much appreciated as provisions are given to those who are experiencing more of a challenge putting meals on their tables.

Your expression of generosity and ongoing prayers has abundantly blessed many in our immediate community and for that, we remain grateful.

With heartfelt appreciation,

*Pastor Lisa*

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell

April 13, 2026

Dear members of First UCC ~

On behalf of the congregation and the growing community that we serve, I would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" for your recent donation of \$525 to the food bank at New Jerusalem. Your partnership in this outreach ministry is so very much appreciated as provisions are given to those who are experiencing more of a challenge putting meals on their tables.

Your expression of generosity and ongoing prayers has abundantly blessed many in our immediate community and for that, we remain grateful.

With heartfelt appreciation,

*Pastor Lisa*

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell

## SUNDAES ON SUNDAY

### MAY 17

immediately following worship

Join us in the Wimmer Room  
for make-your-own Ice Cream Sundaes  
to welcome the warm summer season!



Where does time go? I find myself sitting and looking out my window, taking in all of the signs of spring and wondering how it just suddenly appeared. I walked out my front door this morning and saw tulips and bleeding hearts. I have been waiting in anticipation for so long, how did I miss spring's arrival? Ok, so the truth is I know how I missed it. My calendar is overflowing with tasks for work and school. I am nearly constantly on the move. Whether that means I am running from one meeting to the next or writing a newsletter article, a sermon, or a paper for my class, I feel all of the weight of everything holding me down and wonder if I'll ever get a moment to pause and breathe.

Not that I'm complaining, because my life is full of many wonderful things. I know that most of you have similarly busy lives. You are working, volunteering, caring for family. For many of us, it never seems like there is enough time in a day. Many of us are overwhelmed with all of the things we need to get done, all of the responsibilities we have. Every now and then I steal a glimpse out my window. I watch a bumble bee hovering over a flower. I watch the trees gently moving in the wind. I pause to smile at the brightly colored flowers. And then I say a prayer for all of you, that you may find at least a moment to notice the beauty of creation amidst the busyness of this life.

In light and love,  
Pastor Becky



## SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Each Sunday through May 10, children begin in worship at 10:30am and are invited to class following the Children's Message. **Worship bags are available in the coat room area for children during the service.** Please remember to return the bags to the shelf following worship.

Special Dates:

**Sunday, May 10** – Mother's Day

**Sunday, May 17** – Children and Youth Sunday – The Confirmation class and the Sunday School lead our worship service together. End of Sunday School until August 30

**Sunday, May 17** – Sundaes on Sunday in the Wimmer Room following worship

**July 20-24** – Snowball Mountain challenge Vacation Bible School

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 - n  
at 1<sup>st</sup> UCC

if you have any questions at all about Faith Formation

# Coffee & Conversation

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  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month  
10:30am May 4 & 18



We are reading "The Final Days, A Lenten Journey" by Matt Rawles  
Don't hesitate to drop in



**Confirmation class schedule:**

**11:30am – 1:00pm in the Youth/Young Adult Room**

We are currently delving into the Echo the Story series that uses creative Bible storytelling to engage students and help connect the Bible to their own lives.

**May 3, May 31, and June 14**, we continue through the Old Testament 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. We are very low on spaghetti sauce and we need a variety of soups and breakfast foods to keep our pantry stocked. Please—no glass jars.

- Week of Apr 26—May 2—Lisa Fenon
- Week of May 3—9—Ann Brown
- Week of May 10—16—Sandy Panick
- Week of May 17-23—Amy Mixa
- Week of May 24—30—Phyllis Scherer
- Week of May 31—June 6—Tammie Vosburg
- Week of June 7-13—Georgie Stuempfle
- Week of June 14-20—Letty Petrano
- Week of June 21-27 — Carlann Broglie
- Week of June 28-July 4—Doug Miller
- Week of July 5-11—Marji Hughes
- Week of July 12-18— Andy Spear



## 2026 Graduates



If you have 2026 graduates (high school or college) in your family, please notify the Office with their information so that we may acknowledge them in the June Newsletter.

## We are looking for Flower Sponsors for 2026.

Sign-up sheet for the Flower Chart is on the door to the Church Office closet. Please stop in or call to put your name on the list for sponsoring flowers. Cost is \$40.00/week.

Like us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/hellertownucc](http://www.facebook.com/hellertownucc)



## May Sponsors/Volunteers

### May 3

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers.....	Team 1
Acolyte .....	Madyson Schrammel
Altar Flowers.....	Teitworth Family
Bulletins .....	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader .....	Warren Kurz

### May 17

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers.....	Team 3
Acolyte.....	Sarah Beers
Altar Flowers.....	Bob & Doris Turner
Bulletins.....	Daphne Rodriguez
Lay Reader.....	Marji Hughes

### May 31

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers .....	Team 5
Acolyte.....	Liam Riehl
Altar Flowers.....	Larry Muldowney
Bulletins.....	Wayne & Nadine Pavlinsky
Lay Reader .....	Sandy Panick

### May 10

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers.....	Team 2
Acolyte .....	Matthew Harvey
Altar Flowers.....	Karen Masiado
Bulletins .....	Karen Masiado
Lay Reader .....	Wayne Packer

### May 24

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers .....	Team 4
Acolyte.....	Carter Mullen
Altar Flowers.....	Daphne Rodriguez
Bulletins.....	Sandy Belletti
Lay Reader .....	Doug Miller

The May Newsletter  
has been sponsored by:  
Chip Wagner & Gretchen Diehl



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.



## 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 : [Redacted]



Women's Breakfast at the  
Hellertown Diner  
Second Tuesday of each month– 8 AM  
May 12, 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



## Snowball Mountain Challenge Vacation Bible School

VBS Leaders and Helpers meeting

May 4, 2026 at 6:30pm

in the Wimmer Room for all station leaders, crew leaders and assistants of all kinds and ages!

Feel free to start looking for wintery decorations! Don't hesitate to contact me with questions or ideas.

Marji Hughes

PS - all volunteers - all ages, please register online at <https://1sthellertown2026.mycokesburyvbs.com>





## 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 2026	10:30 AM	3	Worship/Sunday School/Communion
	10:30 AM	10	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	17	Worship/Youth Sunday
	10:30 AM	24	Worship
	10:30 AM	31	Worship
June 2026	10:30 AM	7	Worship
	10:30 AM	14	Worship
	10:30 AM	21	Worship
	10:30 AM	28	Worship
July 2026	10:30 AM	5	Worship
	10:30 AM	12	Worship
	10:30 AM	19	Anniversary Sunday Worship/Communion
	10:30 AM	26	Worship

### 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.

### Join us Online!

To view website, go to: [firstucchellertown.org](http://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>.

## Staff

Rev. Becky Thomas, Pastor

Marji Hughes, Minister of Faith Formation

Pat O'Connell, Minister of Music

Phyllis Scherer, Administrative Asst.

Tammie Vosburg, Church Treasurer

Budd Frankenfield, Sexton

## Consistory Members

Email address

Phone Number

### Elders

Jane Hoff

Joan Kiak

Amy Mixa

Tricia Shelly

### Deacons

Karen Frankenfield

Ashlynn Mixa

Sandy Panick

### Trustees

Keith Lentz--Pres.

Doug Major-Vice Pres.

Wayne Packer

Chip Wagner

May Birthdays

- 5/5 Sarah Snyder
- 5/6 Alice Totenbier
- 5/8 James Exley
- 5/8 Richard Teitsworth
- 5/9 Chris Scherer
- 5/10 Kathy Chapman
- 5/12 Jane Joyce
- 5/15 Sarah Beers
- 5/19 Piper Policare
- 5/22 Rosemarie Buss
- 5/24 Kate Ross
- 5/25 Robert Casterline
- 5/26 Gwen Singer
- 5/30 Scott Henry



May Anniversaries

- 5/2 Wayne & Nadine Pavlinsky
- 5/8 Michael & Michele DeRenzis
- 5/15 Jim & Linda Exley
- 5/16 Joe & Kim Johnson
- 5/20 Leroy Wagner & Gretchen Diehl
- 5/22 William & Melissa Mills



Put this on your calendar:

*Women's Retreat*

April 2-4, 2027

Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Attendance	Special Offerings	
Mar 1	\$2,731.38	71	Facility Use	\$360.00
Mar 8	\$8,916.36	67	Pizza Fundraiser	\$170.00
Mar 15	\$2,381.27	72	Lenten	\$810.00
Mar 22	\$2,158.50	80	Roof Repair	\$1045.00
Mar 29	\$2,487.26	78		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,674.77</b>			
<b>Budget</b>	<b>(\$20,000.00)</b>			
<b>Over/Short</b>	<b>(\$1,325.23)</b>			

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

# Snowball Mountain Challenge

## Vacation Bible School

### July 20-24, 2026!



**With God, I Am Strong!**

Kids from Pre-K 3 through grade 7 are invited to an exciting winter sports event, where they become Challengers, gearing up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith. Guided by the Activities Director and Ollie the Arctic Seal puppet, challengers won't just play games - they will learn to draw strength from their faith through powerful stories of courage and hope. With a unique winter theme and solid theology at its core, this VBS delivers joy and meaning in equal measure, teaching kids that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13 NRSV).



Snowball Mountain Challenge is sure to be a mountain-top experience filled with laughter, life lessons, and lasting faith where kids find their strength in God!

please register online at <https://1sthellertown2026.mycokesburyvbs.com>

## Scholarship Opportunities

We come to another year of scholarship opportunities. The **Dan Deysher Music Scholarship** and the **Tom Snyder Academic Scholarship** are both \$1000 Scholarships sponsored by Jim Santo, a former member of First UCC. Dan and Tom were mentors to Jim, now living in Florida. Dan and Tom have now passed. Dan and Tom were so dedicated to our church. Dan performed over 3000 tributes to veterans in his playing Taps at their funerals and attended and played Taps at the Arizona Memorial Anniversary in Hawaii. The Music Scholarship is open to any member who is an active participant of First UCC, grades K-12 who is studying voice, instrument, dance, or pursuing music in college. "Uncle Tom", as we called him, was a dedicated Sunday School teacher and church volunteer. The Academic Scholarship is open to any high school senior who is a member and active participant of First UCC pursuing further education after high school, including college, technical school, or business school.

The **Reverend Theodore and Robert Haas Scholarship** was established by Mrs. Norine Haas in memory of her late husband and son. Reverend Haas served as Pastor of First UCC from 1955-1975. This scholarship is awarded to assist a student already enrolled in college, trade school or business school. The \$1000 scholarship is awarded annually.

Scholarship Application forms are available in the Church Office and are **due by June 1st**. Scholarships will be awarded in June.

**First United Church Hellertown  
Consistory Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2026**

**Meeting opened** at 6:30pm by Keith Lentz with a prayer by Pastor Becky Thomas.

Missing: Karen Frankenfield and Doug Major

Minutes were approved – Motion by Sandy Panick, Second by Amy Mixa, all in favor

The Wimmer Committee was in attendance to hear the request by Elsie Stout on funding for the Sight and Sound trip in October. An appropriate request form needs to be submitted by Elsie prior to discussion and decision. David Heintzelman handed out new Wimmer fund explanatory brochures, which each person requesting Wimmer assistance will be using every time from now on.

**Treasurer:** Tammie Vosburg reported that we still are running with a deficit of \$9622 as of March 31 in our operating budget, but it is less than last month. She also reminded us that the regular savings account which is part of our operating budget, may also include memorial funds that are unspecified by the donors. Tammie met with our insurance company and brought a few savings considerations to Consistory for future discussion. Concerns were again raised over our church's future.

Motion by Tricia Shelly, second by Sandy Panick to approve \$3700 for the sanctuary wiring upgrade for the sound system which includes possibilities for screens in the future. To be completed by Heavenly AVI. Motion was approved.

Pastor Becky and Marji Hughes were approved for \$460 total – from the continuing education budget line to attend the Keystone Conference Annual meeting June 5-7 at Millersburg University.

**Pastor's Report:** as emailed - Breakdown of hours for major responsibilities . Hours Dedicated to: Worship-50, Pastoral Care-6, Continuing Education Hours-7, Office Hours- 36, Meetings -12  
Pastor Becky has begun her last class to complete her doctorate! She would like to form a staff relations committee, similar to Pastoral relations. Motion by Wayne Packer, Second by Amy Mixa, motion carried. Pastor will look at the by-laws for the appropriate wording and set-up.

**Faith Formation:** as emailed by Marji Hughes - Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS July 20-24, online registration is up and running. **May 4, 6:30 pm** VBS Leaders in the Wimmer Room. More helpers/assistants are needed. Pastor Becky and Marji are still working on forming a Youth Group --- had a successful bowling trip with 4 youth. **Children and Youth Sunday is May 17** during worship, followed by the traditional Sundaes on Sunday to end the program year. Marji is working on a summer packet for the Sunday School Children. Sunday School will resume August 30.

**Elders:** Amy Mixa reported that the next Elders meeting is April 20. Consistory approved Jane Hoff to fill the spot vacated by Sandy Bender.

**Deacons:** Sandy Panick found 2 bottles of wine in the Wimmer Room closet. Thanks to whomever made the purchase.

**Trustees:** Keith Lentz reported that over \$1100 was collected for the roof repair, which has been finished, but we have not received the bill. Wayne Packer is working with the town for our fire inspection. Large cracks in the organ side door have been noticed and this will be addressed.

**Stewardship:** The Stewardship committee is in the midst of discussion on how to get people to invest the three T's – time, talent, and treasure – in the church. Keith Lentz reported that a fall Stewardship festival is in the works.

Consistory Minutes (cont.)

**Music and Worship:** Keith Lentz reported that the committee met prior to Easter week to go over the last details needed for the services.

**Fundraising:** Ashlynn Mixa reported that the Braveheart Dine-to-Donate collected over \$300. There is a Pressed Petal workshop to be led by Diane Miller on April 26 with 20 people registered. The Arnold's Gift Card sale is ongoing. Signs are up for the Yard Sale, May 2. Please do not bring in items until the last week of April. Help is needed, sign up in the Narthex. The Fundraising Committee will meet on April 23 at 6:30pm

**Tech:** working with Trustees on the wiring upgrade. Heavenly AVI is also testing the balcony camera.

**Old Business:** If HAM decides not to hold a 250<sup>th</sup> celebration we will join with Lower Saucon UCC and create one ourselves. Ann Brown went to the police to ask again about the trucks that are continuously parked around our church, with no luck. Chip Wagner offered to do some more work on this and will bring back any info.

**New Business:** Chip Wagner will put out for bids for painting for the Penn Street side of the church as well as new aluminum cladding for the 19 windows. Ann Brown requests that the Dan Deysher garden on Durham Street be upgraded to Hellertown's specifications which includes raising the bricks to sidewalk level. The benches also need to be replaced. Shrubs be removed with the spring cleaning. Rachael Keen would like to hold Tai Chi classes in New Fellowship Hall. Details to be discussed, including rent and insurance as it is a business and not a non-profit.

**Community Day:** August 15. Willie and Tricia Shelly are donating a pig roast – roasted pig. We will be selling Pulled Pork sandwiches, cole slaw, macaroni and cheese, and beverages tbd. Donations and volunteers are needed. Keith Lentz will take care of registering for a spot with electricity and the insurance certificate for the day.

**Gentle reminder** that there are no office hours on Sunday mornings before worship. Accordingly, staff (this includes the pastor) should not be approached with any business or needs that are not emergencies. **PLEASE** contact the office during business hours. Monday-Friday – 9am – 1:30pm We will put a reminder back in the bulletin, and a verbal reminder will be given during announcements.

**Meeting was adjourned** at 8:03 pm motion by Amy Mixa, second by Tricia Shelly, all in favor and ended with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
*Marji Hughes*

**Next Meeting:** May 11, 2026 in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm

**Children and Youth Sunday May 17, 2026**

**10:30am worship "God's Promises"**



Worship will be led by our  
Confirmands and the children/youth  
of our church family

Sundaes on Sunday immediately  
follows the service.

**YOUTH  
SUNDAY**