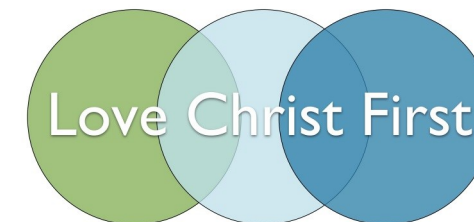


**Luncheon at the Carriage House  
celebrating Pastor Richard Teitsworth's honor**



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



## November Mission Project



Please bring in non-perishable food items for the Food Bank and for our Blessing Box each Sunday and place them on the sanctuary window sills. We will dedicate our donations during worship on November 19th.



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





## Pastor Emeritus Honor bestowed on Rev. Richard Teitsworth at the service on October 15th



## Secret Prayer Friend Reveal Luncheon







September 8, 2023

Dear Members of First UCC,

Thank you for your charitable contribution of \$688.00 on 9/7/23 in support of Valley Youth House Backpack Challenge 2023. Your generosity makes a significant difference in our ability to provide programming to young people in desperate need of our services. Valley Youth House supports young people who are experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, and loss of family connections to achieve healthy and independent futures. Personalized programs and services offer emergency shelter, stable housing, counseling, and life-skills training. For the last 50 years, VYH has provided crisis intervention and outcome-driven programs to more than 446,000 youth and families in our community. This is only possible with the assistance of philanthropic support, and therefore we are most appreciative of your donation.

Thank you for supporting our mission to be the catalyst for youth to achieve their desired future through genuine relationships that support families, ensure safe places and build community connections.

Sincerely,

Christina J. Schoemaker, MBA, CFRE  
Senior Vice President of Advancement

10/17/23

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for the service on 10/15/23. We could feel the love in your church. The service and luncheon following were so welcoming to us and well-planned.

We attended St. James UCC in West Reading for many years and were married 52 years ago by Richard's father.

God bless your church

Jim & Melva Cremer

October 18, 2023

Dear Friends,

I find it difficult to express the depth of my gratitude to Pastor Becky Thomas, the planning team, Consistory and the congregation of First UCC for the wonderful day on Sunday, October 15. Your bequest of the title Pastor Emeritus is especially dear to me at this time in my life. Everything was just terrific and your willingness to include my family and our other guests made it extra special for us. The flowers you gave us, graced our dining room table throughout the week. Jackie and I are most grateful for everything you did!

With love,

Pastor Rich



October 5, 2023

Dear Members & Friends of First UCC,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering Inc., its many volunteers and especially our homeless neighbors, I thank you for your recent gift of \$295. Please know these funds to BES will be used to help provide for the needs of men and women within our community who will seek emergency overnight shelter, an evening and morning meal, and related support services. We greatly appreciate your generosity and partnership.

Peace and blessings,

Bob Rapp, Executive Director



"I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart; I will talk about all your wonderful acts. I will celebrate and rejoice in you; I will sing praises to your name, Most High." (Psalm 9:1-2)

**November always has me thinking about thankfulness. Nearly every year I find that when November rolls around I regret not focusing on gratitude more often. But, the truth is, it is easy to get caught up in everything that is going on throughout the year. There is so much to do, so much to worry about, so much to plan. It is also easy to lose sight of the things I am thankful for when there is so much tragedy in our world. So, here I am once again thinking of all of the days that have gone by during the previous year that I neglected to focus on gratitude.**

**I have found that every year I grow older, every journey of grief I walk with a family, makes me think more and more of the shortness and uncertainty of human life. This November my plan is to pause each day and express thankfulness to God for all of the amazing people I have in my life, for the people in my communities of faith, for my family and for my friends. Perhaps this is the year it will stick and next November I will be able to say that I spent more time in gratitude. I pray that all of you will join me on this journey. So I close this article with thankfulness for all of you, I am truly grateful for each and every one of you.**

**In light and love,**

*Pastor Becky*



Special Service for the Installation  
of Pastor Becky Thomas

Sunday, November 12—3:00 PM

Catered Luncheon to follow

in New Fellowship Hall

Please sign-up to attend the luncheon

Sign-up sheet can be found on the Narthex Bulletin Board



**CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS!**  
**Sunday, November 26, 2023, Noon-1:30**  
**following the soup luncheon**  
**for students**

If you are going into **grade 7 or 8**, you are invited to become part of our Confirmation program! Confirmation is 2-years of learning, questions, discovering more about yourselves and God, and even bringing your doubts. This is a space of learning together where youth can make their own decisions about their beliefs - to prepare you to claim Jesus for yourself and become an adult member of 1st UCC.

Classes are led by Pastor Becky Thomas and Marji Hughes. Beginning in December, class will meet twice a month. Our next two classes are Dec 3 and Dec 17 11:30am-1pm. To sign up or with questions, please contact Marji Hughes 610-984-5053 or mphughes22@gmail.com.





# November



## SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

### Dive into God's Word

Children pre-K through grade 6 leave for classes following the Children's Message in worship. 3-6 year old children may play in the nursery or come to worship prior to the Children's Message.

**November 26** we will have a Hanging of the Greens service in the sanctuary for our whole church family. This is followed by a soup luncheon in New Fellowship Hall.

**December 5** following Sunday School will be an Advent Craft and Fellowship Hour in the Wimmer Room. We will create cards and a craft for our homebound members as well as crafts to take home – PLUS have some good snacks!

**December 24** – 10:30am worship is our Pop-Up Christmas Pageant and Love Feast! When you show up for church you will be given a costume to help tell the Nativity story. Adults and children!! Then sit back and join in the singing of traditional Christmas songs and enjoy cookies juice and hot chocolate.

**December 24** – 7pm traditional Christmas Eve service.

**NURSERY** care is offered on Sunday mornings during worship for babies and toddlers as needed. Adults may still listen to the service while in the nursery. There is a child-sized bathroom and a changing table available as well. *An adult is required to remain in the room when anyone under age 16 is present.*

*We are looking for volunteers 16 years and up to help staff the nursery on Sunday mornings. Please contact the office 610-838-8811 or Tricia Shelly if you'd like to sign up. With enough helpers it would be not more than once a month.*



## HANGING OF THE GREENS 10:30am worship-November 26, 2023

Join in this special family service where we worship and learn together about the traditions and meaning of our holiday decorations.



A soup luncheon follows in New Fellowship Hall  
**PLEASE** sign up in the Narthex to bring soup.

## November - Sponsors/Volunteers

### November 5

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers.....	Team 5
Altar Flowers.....	Nan Belcak
Bulletins .....	Doug Miller
Lay Reader .....	Becky Harvey

### November 19

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers .....	Team 2
Altar Flowers.....	Dave & Georgie Stuempfle
Organ Flowers.....	Marji & Doug Hughes
Bulletins ...	Andrea Danner/Wayne Packer
Lay Reader .....	Becky Rosenberger

### November 12

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers.....	Team 1
Altar Flowers.....	Tammy Vosburg
Bulletins .....	Alice Totenbier
Lay Reader.....	Sandy Panick

### November 26

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers.....	Team 3
Altar Flowers ...	Andrea Danner/Wayne Packer
Bulletins.....	Andrea Danner/Wayne Packer
Lay Reader.....	Phyllis Scherer

The November Newsletter has been sponsored by:

*Dave & Georgie Stuempfle*



**Fellowship Hour and  
Advent Workshop  
Sunday, December 3, 2023  
in the Wimmer Room  
immediately following worship**



**Create Christmas cards and a craft for our  
homebound and make a craft or two**





## 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.	
Tammie Vosburg, Church Treasurer	
Sherwood Stauffer, Sexton	

## Consistory Members

Email address Phone Number

### Elders

Sandy Bender	purplepeep@rcn.com	
Amy Mixa	athomeamy@hotmail.com	
Georgie Stuempfle	gdflea@yahoo.com	

### Deacons

Minga Ferencin	mingaf1@gmail.com	
Karen Frankenfield	gumbycat1@gmail.com	
Diane French— Pres.	dcfrench48@gmail.com	
Sandy Panick	hygienist2000@msn.com	

### Trustees

Ann Brown—Sec.	forglan@verizon.net	
Keith Lentz	keithlen56@gmail.com	
Doug Major	pamajors@rcn.com	
Aaron Kelley	aaronpaulkelley@gmail.com	

**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.

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.

## “Bibles and “Brunch”

for all 1<sup>st</sup> UCC women members & friends!

Mondays–November 13 & 27

10:30am in the Wimmer Rm

We have begun discussing the 5 session video and book study “The Big Picture” seeing God’s Dream for your Life by Jevon and Nicole Caldwell-Gross. Using the story of Joseph in Genesis, we will discover God’s presence in what seems like random events of our lives, whether triumph or trauma.

Coffee, tea, cold beverages and light snacks are available. Participants are not required to attend every session. Drop-ins are welcome!

For more information, speak with Marji Hughes [mphughes22@gmail.com](mailto:mphughes22@gmail.com) 610-984-5053



## Sunday Morning Study 9:15 each week

in the YA Café. Just come and join any Sunday

Speak with Tricia Shelly 610-657-3828 for more information.



Every Sunday morning

9:45 AM

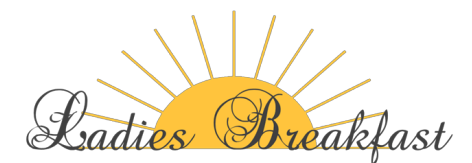
before worship

in the Wimmer Room



## Women’s Breakfast at the Hellertown Diner

November 14th, 8 am



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 !*





NEW BETHANY HOSPITALITY CENTER BETHLEHEM

**First Wednesday of every month**

**10:00 AM – 1:00PM**



Our monthly crew visits to the soup kitchen has resumed. First UCC is signed up for the **first Wednesday of every month**. Five members are needed to chop, prepare, and serve meals at noon finishing at 1:00.

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

**Rescheduled!!!! See you there!**  
**7th-12th grade YOUTH GROUP**  
**November 5, 2023 from 5-7pm**

Make your own

**WALKING TACOS**

at **Lower Saucon UCC**, 1375 Third Ave., Hellertown

Join Pastor Becky, Ashlynn, Morgan and Marji.

No church affiliation is required. Bring your friends!

We will explore what a Youth Group should be --- fun, mission, service, learning, leadership, just hanging out. We hope to build some community and friendships, maybe make a difference, but most of all **be a place where all feel safe, supported and accepted for who you are.**

We will figure out together when, where, and how often is best to meet!

If you cannot make our first meeting, PLEASE let us know you still want to give us a try. If you don't like tacos we will have other options!

Any questions, just ask!!

**Pastor Becky** - [pastorbecky1121@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbecky1121@gmail.com) 610-297-2295

**Marji Hughes** - [mphughes22@gmail.com](mailto:mphughes22@gmail.com) 610-984-5053



Like us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/hellertownucc](https://www.facebook.com/hellertownucc)



### November Birthdays

11/1	Jen Yonney	11/21	Cathy Lechner
11/2	Nancy Talarico	11/21	Pastor Becky Thomas
11/4	David Moran	11/22	Josiah Lamirand
11/4	Paige Rosenberger	11/22	Jamie Miller
11/5	Nan Belcak	11/23	Adam Luybli
11/7	Justin Kyra	11/24	Andrea Danner
11/7	D. Alastair Ponzol	11/24	Bob Stetser
11/9	Joshua Lamirand	11/25	Jennie Cawley
11/9	Elizabeth Mills	11/27	James Panick
11/11	Mary Hanner	11/29	Jessica Fenon
11/11	Sandy Panick		
11/11	Jane Parenti		
11/13	Rick Musgung		
11/14	Jim Zawick		
11/18	Barbara Thatcher		
11/20	Samantha Miller		



### November Anniversaries

11/4	Richard & Dawn Hacker
11/21	Jody & Diane Miller
11/21	Joseph & Nancy Talarico
11/27	Robert & Louise Krill
11/27	Michael & Rachel O'Connell
11/28	Robert & Doris Turner



### Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Benevolences	Attendance
Sept 3	\$4,050.03		52
Sept 10	\$2,881.50	Bethlehem Emergency	80-Confirmation
Sept 17	\$3,645.70	\$295.00	60
Sept 24	\$1,706.89	Harvest Home	61
		\$230.00	
Total	\$12,284.12		
Budget	\$16,000.00		
Over/Short	(\$3715.88)		

*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**





## Holiday Nut Roll Sale

Pick- up in the Wimmer Room

Thursday, Nov. 16th

(11am-1pm or 5-7pm)



## Faith Crosses

Our skilled Woodcraftman, Doug Miller, has created Faith Crosses. They are approximately 6 inches tall by 2.5 inches wide. They will be available in the Wimmer Room. Donations will be gratefully accepted and added to the General Fund of the church. Thank you, Doug, for your lovely creation!

## Attention All Dart Players—November Schedule



11/6 Away @ Bethany UCC

11/13 Away @ Star of Bethlehem

11/20 Home vs. Trinity UCC

11/27 Home vs. Holy Cross

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



## Sunday, November 5th—Remembrance Sunday

We will remember those of our congregation who have passed from this life to eternal life, since our last Remembrance Sunday. During the service we will light a candle for each loved one who has passed. A fellowship time will follow in the Wimmer Room after worship.

## 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>. Each Monday, the choir anthem from Sunday is posted on the playlist.

All of these links will soon be embedded into our new website. **Stay tuned!**



## 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.

Nov 2023	10:30 AM	5	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	12	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	19	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	26	Worship/Hanging of the Greens
Dec 2023	10:30 AM	3	Worship/Sunday School/Communion
	10:30 AM	10	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	17	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	24	Worship/Pop-up Pageant
	7:00 PM	24	Candlelight Service
	10:30 AM	31	Worship
Jan 2024	10:30 AM	7	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	14	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	21	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	28	Worship/Sunday School

## 2024 Sponsors Needed

We are looking for sponsors for Newsletters, Bulletins and Altar Flowers for 2024. The cost to sponsor Newsletter is \$60.00/mo., Bulletins - \$10.00/wk., and Flowers- \$40.00/wk. Sign-up sheets for the Newsletter, Flowers and Bulletins may be found in the Narthex.



# 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. Always needed are: breakfast foods, tomato sauce, spaghetti noodles, soup, vegetables, canned tuna, other pasta, etc. However, please do not purchase large boxes of cereal or extra large jars of tomato sauce because they do not fit in the box. We suggest buying items in cans and plastic containers.

Week of Oct 29 — Nov 5 —Sandy Panick  
Week of Nov 6—12 - Amy Mixa  
Week of Nov 13– 19—Diane French  
Week of Nov 20-26 —Phyllis Heil-Henry  
Week of Nov 27—Dec 2—Georgie Stuempfle  
Week of Dec 3-9 - Letty Petrino  
Week of Dec 10-16— Carlann Broglie  
Week of Dec 17-23—Doug Miller  
Week of Dec 24-30—Marji Hughes  
Week of Dec 31-Jan 6 — Andy Spear  
Week of Jan 7—13—Phyllis Scherer  
Week of Jan 14—20 —Ann Brown



## Walking Together—Women's Retreat

in combination with Lower Saucon UCC

November 17-18, 2023

At First UCC Hellertown

For all women ages 18 and up

Friday Evening 7pm-11pm

Saturday 8am—3 pm

Sign up will be in the Narthex. Watch for details.

Speak with Pastor Becky or Marji Hughes for more information

## The Consistory Minutes in Brief October 16, 2023

### Treasurer's Report: Tammie Vosburg, Treasurer

- Annual investment returns for 2023 is 3.78%
- We have not met our budgeted expenditures for the last two months through income contributions.
- Our new copier monthly lease is 10% less than the previous contract and print page per page is 7% less.
- The 2024 Budget Collection is underway.

### Pastor's Report: Pastor Becky Thomas

Total Hours: 71—Hours Dedicated to Worship: 28, Hours Dedicated to Pastoral Care: 3

Continuing Education Hours: 6, Office Hours: 17, Meetings: 6

### Collaboration services with Lower Saucon UCC

- Longest Night service with First UCC and Lower Saucon, to be held at Lower Saucon on 12/21 at 7 pm.
- Christmas Eve will be at 7 pm at First UCC (5:30 at Lower Saucon)
- Ash Wednesday will be at Lower Saucon this year (we will alternate years). Maundy Thursday will be at First UCC, Good Friday will be at Lower Saucon

### Faith Formation Report: Marji Hughes

- At the end of December, the 2nd-6th grade teachers - Keith Lentz, Barb Thatcher, and Stacy Ross are retiring. Brenda Miller has volunteered her time and energy beginning in January. At least one more teacher is needed.
- Pastor Becky and Marji met with the Confirmation class parents and youth. Official classes will begin on November 26 following the soup luncheon.
- Women will take over the church on Nov. 17-18. All First UCC and Lower Saucon women are invited to the Women's Retreat.
- December 3 - 1st Sunday in Advent --- followed by Fellowship Hour and Crafts in the Wimmer Room.
- December 24 -10:30 am worship will include the ever-popular Pop-Up Pageant, and the return of the Love Feast complete with cookies. Volunteers are needed.

### Elders' Report: Georgie Stuempfle

- Our quarterly meeting with Elders and Pastor Becky is scheduled for October 23.
- Yearly Staff evaluations are planned for October and November.

### Deacons' Report: Sandy Panick

- Communion is December 3, the First Sunday in Advent.

### Trustees' Report:

- HiTech completed setting up the fourth camera for the steaming video studio and four portal panic units were delivered.
- The new Stratix Copier installation and training provided by Stratix is October 17. When the new copier is installed the combination safe will be installed by Doug Hughes.
- Arbor Doc Tree Service Update: They informed us he scheduled our work for the last week of October.
- October 29 - Reformation Sunday -- Bibles given to 3rd graders (Matthew Harvey)
- November 5 - Remembrance Sunday - We'll display eight candles this year.
- November 12 at 3 pm. Pastor Becky's installation service with special music-Susan Lishman preaching and catered dinner will follow in NFH.
- November 19 - Thanksgiving Sunday. Blessing of the Fill the Sill donations
- November 26 - Hanging of the Greens during the 10:30 am service.

### Other Important Dates:

- October 29 - Reformation Sunday -- Bibles given to 3rd graders (Matthew Harvey).
- November 26 - Hanging of the Greens during the 10:30 am service. A SOUP luncheon will follow. A sign-up sheet for soup donations is posted in the Narthex. Children remain for the entire service.

### Next Meeting: November 13, at 6:30 pm in the Wimmer Room

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