



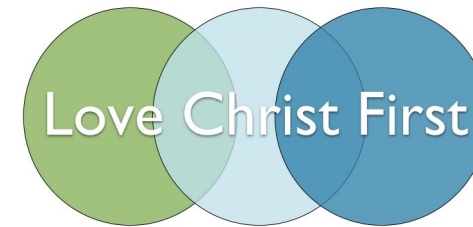
Thank you to our Members/friends who helped serve hotdogs following the Hellertown Halloween Parade. They had a box for donations which will be given to the New Jerusalem Food Bank. They collected a total of \$334.00. Thank you to all who donated.



Did you notice how long the lovely flowers lasted during the cooler weather? Thank you to all of the gardeners who took such good care of them throughout the growing season.



For the past year, Secret prayer friends were asked to remember their "secret friends" in concern, prayer, celebration, etc. This lovely luncheon was the Reveal Party, held at the Carriage House, All secrets were revealed and all participants found out who had been praying for them this past year.



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



November 2025

Mission Projects for the Month of November

Fill the Sill



Please bring in non-perishable food items for the Food Bank each Sunday and place them on the sanctuary window sills. We will dedicate our donations during worship on November 23rd.

Neighbors in Need

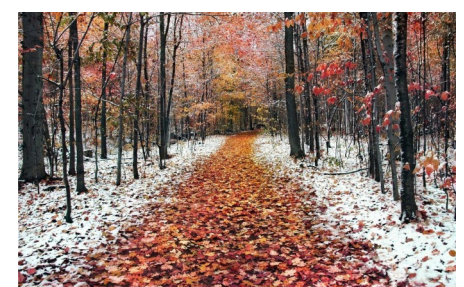
**NEIGHBORS
IN NEED**



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.



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





SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

Special Dates:

November is *Fill the Sill* month where we try to fill the sanctuary window sills with non-perishable food items for the New Jerusalem Food Bank

Sunday, November 2 – Fellowship Hour following Remembrance Sunday

Sunday, November 23 – Thanksgiving Sunday, **CHILDREN SING**

Sunday, November 30 – **Family Sunday, Hanging of the Greens** during worship. No Sunday School classes, everyone stays in church to learn the meaning and purpose of our Advent decorations, followed by a **POT-LUCK luncheon in New Fellowship Hall.**

December 7, 14, 21 - **All-ages Advent Craft** in the Wimmer Room each Sunday following the service. One different craft each week

December 21 – **Christmas Pageant 10:30am service.** Followed by regular Sunday School classes. **Children will sing during worship.** Details to follow.

Sunday, December 28 – **Love Feast** during 10:30am worship. Singing, readings, and cookies! No Sunday School classes.

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 - if you have any questions at all about Faith Formation at 1st UCC.



Confirmation class schedule:

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

November 9, November 23, December 7, December 21

Questions, please contact Marji Hughes or Pastor Becky

Children's Messages in October

Children's Message on the Parable of the Ten Lepers:

Brenda Miller portrayed Jesus and Doug Miller, the thankful leper.

In this scene, Doug was "prostrating" himself at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Jesus asked, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"



Georgie Stuempfle tells about her "treasure" that was in the Treasure Box on 10/19.



Pastor Becky explaining to the children even when we wear masks, God knows what's in our hearts.





September 26, 2025

Good afternoon, First United Church of Christ,

I wanted to reach out to share my deepest appreciation for your very generous donation to Valley Youth House! It was so kind of you to support our organization as your monthly mission. Know that these funds will be put to good use to support youth experiencing foster care, families experiencing homelessness, and other young people in our community who are vulnerable. At Valley Youth House, we envision a world in which every young person belongs to a nurturing community, and we thank you for being a part of our community.

With gratitude,

Emily

Emily Conners Henry, M.S.
Director
Advancement & Marketing
Valley Youth House



October 13, 2025

Dear Members of First UCC Hellertown,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering, Inc., our dedicated volunteers, and especially our street neighbors, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your recent tax-deductible donation of \$348.00, dated September 30, 2025.

Your generosity plays a vital role in providing shelter and a supportive network to restore hope to those experiencing homelessness in Bethlehem. Your contribution will be directed toward supporting men and women in our community who seek emergency overnight shelter, nutritious evening meals, and essential support services.

Should you have any questions about Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering, Inc. or wish to learn more, please feel free to contact the office at (484) 379-6694.

Thank you once again for your kindness and support.

Peace & blessings,

Robert "Bob" T. Rapp, Jr.

Executive Director

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>.



As I sit and write this I am thinking about how quickly the church year is passing. I am in the middle of my preparation for Advent already! It is hard to believe that I am planning for the beginning of a new church year. We are about to enter a season of busyness for all of us. A season where we have to plan holiday gatherings and purchase gifts for our friends and family. A season that can often feel hurried. On top of that, it is a season where many emotions can come to the surface. Many of us are thinking about loved ones who are no longer with us. Still others are thinking of families that are divided or disconnected.

Whether it is work, or family, or just life in general, this can be a particularly stressful season. So, I invite you to join me in pausing to take a breath. There is a verse that I use often to center myself when I am feeling overwhelmed. "Be still, and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)." I share this with you as we prepare for this time of stress and busyness, so that you have a reminder to pause, breathe, and remember that God is with you. I am using it as a way to remind myself to approach each day with gratitude. May you take the time to pause and reconnect with God before all of the busyness of the holiday seasons take over.

*In light and love,
Pastor Becky*

Remembrance Sunday,

November 2, 2025

10:30am worship

followed by

Fellowship Hour

in the Wimmer Room, hosted by Consistory



Fall Clean-Up

Saturday, November 15th 9:30 AM

Please sign up on the Narthex Bulletin Board if you can help with leaf clean-up around the church. Landscape work has already been completed. We just need to remove leaves from the window wells.



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

1st and 3rd Mondays of the month

November 3 & 17 - 10:30am

We are reading

"The God You Need to Know" by Margaret Feinberg

Future meetings:

December 1 & 15



YOUTH GROUP for all 5th-12th graders

Have you signed up to help with the Penny Party, Nov.9?

Don't forget to put Advent Crafts, Dec. 7, 14, and 21 on your calendar.

If you would like to read or help out at the Pageant during worship on December 21, please contact Marji.

Join us for fun and fellowship

No church affiliation is required. Bring your friends! Questions - email or call:

Pastor Becky - [REDACTED]

Ashlynn Mixa - [REDACTED]

Marji Hughes - [REDACTED]

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 to keep our pantry stocked. Please—no glass jars.

Week of Nov 2-8 — Andy Spear
Week of Nov 9-15—Lisa Fenon
Week of Nov 16-22—Ann Brown
Week of Nov 23-29—Sandy Panick
Week of Nov 30 – Dec 6—Amy Mixa
Week of Dec 7-13 – Phyllis Scherer
Week of Dec 14-20—Tammie Vosburg
Week of Dec 21-27—Georgie Stuempfle
Week of Dec 28-Jan 3—Letty Petrundo
Week of Jan 4-10 — Carlann Broglie
Week of Jan 11-17—Doug Miller
Week of Jan 18-24—Marji Hughes



HOLIDAY NUT ROLL SALE

Thank you to everyone who ordered
nutrolls. Pick-up date is Thursday,
November 20th (11am-2 pm or 5-7 pm)

Attention All Dart Players—November Schedule

11/3 Double Elimination Tournament @ Star of Bethlehem

11/10 Home vs. Fritz Wesleyan

11/17 Away @ Bethany UCC

11/24 Away @ East Hills

For anyone who is interested in joining the group,
Please contact Lisa Fenon



November Sponsors/Volunteers

November 2

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers.....	Team 2
Acolyte	Liam Riehl
Altar Flowers.....	Daphne Rodriguez
Bulletins	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader	Sandy Bender

November 9

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers.....	Team 3
Acolyte.....	Madyson Schrammel
Altar Flowers.....	Daphne Rodriguez
Bulletins.....	Jane Parenti
Lay Reader.....	Marie Laub

November 16

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers	Team 4
Acolyte.....	Matthew Harvey
Altar Flowers	Dave & Georgie Stuempfle
Bulletins.....	Janice Csrnko
Lay Reader.....	Dour Major

November 23

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers	Team 5
Acolyte.....	Carter Mullen
Altar Flowers.....	Karen Frankenfield
Organ Piece.....	Doug & Marji Hughes
Bulletins...	Wayne Packer/Andrea Danner
Lay Reader	Ann Brown

November 30

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers	Team 1
Acolyte.....	Sarah Beers
Altar Flowers...	Wayne Packer/Andrea Danner
Bulletins	Janice Csrnko
Lay Reader	Georgie Stuempfle

The November Newsletter
has been sponsored by:
Glenn & Ann Brown

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.



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 [REDACTED] Elsie Stout [REDACTED]



Women's Breakfast at the Hellertown Diner

Second Tuesday of each month– 8 AM

November 11, 2025

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



BAKERS NEEDED

We can use your help in baking items for the bake sale being held the same day as the Penny Party. Please present individually wrapped baked goods for sale in small portions to be sold for \$1.00. Please sign up on the

Bulletin Board in the Narthex, indicating what you will be making. Thank you.





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 2025	10:30 AM	2	Worship/ Remembrance Sunday/Communion/ Sunday School
	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/Communion/ 1st Sunday of Advent/No Sunday School
Dec 2025	10:30 AM	7	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	14	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	21	Worship/Sunday School
	7:30 PM	24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
	10:30 AM	28	Worship/Sunday School
Jan 2026	10:30 AM	4	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	11	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 PM	18	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	25	Worship/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.

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

Sandy Bender

Joan Kiak

Amy Mixa

Deacons

Karen Frankenfield

Diane French

Ashlynn Mixa

Sandy Panick

Trustees

Keith Lentz--Pres.

Doug Major-Vice Pres.

Wayne Packer

Chip Wagner

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/hellertownucc



November Birthdays

11/1 Jen Yonney	11/22 Jamie Miller
11/3 David Moran	11/24 Andrea Danner
11/4 Paige Rosenberger	11/24 Bob Stetser
11/5 Nan Belcak	11/25 Jennie Cawley
11/7 Justin Kyra	11/27 James Panick
11/7 D. Alastair Ponzol	11/29 Jessica Fenon
11/9 Joshua Lamirand	
11/9 Elizabeth Mills	
11/11 Sandy Panick	
11/11 Jane Parenti	
11/13 Rick Musgung	
11/14 Jim Zawick	
11/18 Barbara Thatcher	
11/20 Samantha Miller	
11/21 Cathy Lechner	
11/21 Pastor Becky Thomas	
11/22 Josiah Lamirand	



November Anniversaries

11/21 Jody & Diane Miller
 11/21 Joseph & Nancy Talarico
 11/27 Bob & Louise Krill
 11/27 Michael & Rachel O'Connell
 11/28 Bob & Doris Turner



Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Attendance		
Sept 7 Communion	\$2,730.03	55	BES	\$348.00
Sept 14	\$1,785.67	60	New Bethany	\$50
Sept 21	\$4,521.74	75		
Sept 28	\$2,157.53	71		
Total	\$11,194.97			
Budget	(\$16,000.00)			
Over/Short	—\$4,805.03			

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

PENNY PARTY

Sunday, November 9, 2025 - Doors open at 12:30 pm, Game begins at 1:00

There will also be a 50/50 drawing. We are still looking for helpers the day of the event to help with the kitchen, clean-up, selling tickets, runners to hand out items won and more. We will also be selling hot dogs, chili, snacks, baked goods and beverages. We are in need of bakers to make items for the bake sale. Please sign-up on the sheets in the Narthex Bulletin Board. If baking isn't your "thing", you can donate food/beverages for the day of the party. (Soda, water, snacks) See the Narthex bulletin board to sign-up to bring these items. We are also accepting donations to help buy supplies for the event. So, **start collecting your change AND invite your FAMILY, friends and neighbors to join you in this fun event. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!**

Taste and See Women's Retreat

in combination with Lower Saucon UCC

Feb. 6-8, 2026



Mariawald Retreat House
Reading, PA

For all women ages 18 and up
Friday, 7pm- Sunday, 11am

Includes meals and linens

Sign up in the Narthex.

Speak with Pastor Becky or Marji Hughes
for more information

COST only:
\$140 for shared room
\$160 for single room
 (Scholarships available)

First United Church Hellertown
Consistory Meeting Minutes (in brief)
Monday October 13, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the Wimmer Room

Keith Lentz called the meeting to order. Pastor Becky offered the opening prayer:

Treasurer's Report by Tammie Vosburg. **Wimmer Fund** (Memorial Fund): Originally endowed with \$550,000, now valued at ~\$950,000. Generates investment income used for approved church purposes under strict donor restrictions. Financial advisor manages and provides forecasts on fund performance.

The church manages **five primary “buckets” of Wimmer funds**: Major Improvement Fund,- available for major improvements (e.g., roof, boiler, or sewer repairs). Spiritual Fund – Restricted for ministry-related expenses., Youth Fund – Restricted for youth activities, Senior Fund – Restricted for senior ministry activities., and Wider Church Fund – Supports Penn Northeast Conference and broader church mission work. Example: Wimmer funds helped purchase a new office computer by allocating portions across multiple restricted accounts. These funds cannot be used for general operating expenses such as utilities or salaries.

Capital Fund: Established approximately three years ago, initially funded through COVID-related federal support (PPP) and memorial gifts. Current balance ~\$63,000. Intended for long-term capital projects like the slate roof replacement and boiler maintenance.

Market Performance, Risks: Investment growth has benefited from strong stock market performance, but members noted potential risk if markets decline (loss of income). A 20% market drop would significantly affect available funds for operations.

Operational Challenges: General operating fund down by ~\$15,000. Funds cannot be used for day-to-day expenses (utilities, salaries). Lowest operating cash levels since 2023..Decline attributed to membership losses and flat giving patterns (some members still giving at historic rates).

Future Planning , Sustainability: Consensus that membership growth and a stewardship campaign are critical. Suggestion to use memorial funds as matching incentives for future fundraising campaigns. Encouragement to run a stewardship emphasis (potentially November-focused) to encourage recurring giving. Members acknowledged the seriousness of the financial situation.. All agreed transparency was important. Appreciation expressed for the pastor’s recent stewardship message and leadership on the topic.

Elders Report – Supply Pastor Discussion Members discussed recent feedback regarding a Supply Pastor’s sermon. It was agreed that Supply Pastors bring varying styles and perspectives, and occasional disagreement is natural. Pastor Becky clarified that she does not pre-approve sermons, but reviews any concerns afterward. She emphasized her role in maintaining balance, unity, and open communication.

Missions Update: Discussed member feedback about mission selections. Decision made to add a suggestion box in the Narthex for congregational mission ideas. Reminder that donations are voluntary; multiple mission options will continue to be provided. The College Student Gift Card Ministry will continue this year (cards and Starbucks gift cards to be distributed in November/December). The Hot Dog Mission at the Halloween Parade will include a donation can; Phyllis to confirm details.

Deacons Report: Nothing new to report. Next communion is scheduled for November 2. Preparation for 2025 usher letters and schedule will begin in December.

Correspondence: A letter of appreciation was received from the AA Group that meets in the building.. They requested use of the Fellowship Hall on New Year’s Day (9 a.m.–6 p.m.) for a recovery event. Motion by Sandy Panick to approve the use of space for the quoted rental and custodial fee. Seconded by Amy Mixa. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Committee: Doug Major and Keith Lentz met to prepare agenda during Pastor Becky’s vacation.

Music and Worship: Church decorating for Advent scheduled for November 24–25, ready by November 30 for Hanging of the Greens.

Safety and Security: Concern raised that church doors were not locked and monitors were not watched during a recent Sunday. Issue occurred due to absent ushers; noted as a one-time fluke. Discussion on developing a backup plan if usher team members are unavailable.. Consensus: current system generally works well; no new committee needed.

Consistory Minutes (cont.)

Stewardship and Fundraising: Committee will review Penny Party inventory and prepare for upcoming event. Volunteers and donations being organized.

Old Business:

Technology: Ongoing computer and screen updates nearly complete; James assisting..

Website: Rachel Panick volunteered to assist Ann Brown.

Consistory Vacancies: Still seeking a new Deacon and Elder.

Office Security: Pastor Becky reported her office heat was turned on without authorization. Mark Mixa to recommend keypad locks for office doors; purchase to be made with church credit card. Access codes will remain confidential. Budd will research lock boxes for thermostats to prevent unauthorized changes.

New Business:

Conference Delegate—Marji volunteered to serve as delegate to the Penn Northeast Conference (PNEC) for the November 1 meeting.. A motion by Diane French to approve Marji as delegate, with \$35 fee covered by Wimmer funds. Motion seconded and approved.

Fellowship Hour: Consistory will host a Fellowship Hour following Remembrance Sunday (November 2) in the Wimmer Room, with light finger foods.

Adjournment With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ashlyn Mixa, seconded, and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Pastor Becky thanked members for their time and concluded with closing remarks and prayer.

Next Meeting: *Date:* November 10, 2025, in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm.



POT LUCK LUNCHEON

November 30, 2025

Following our Hanging of the Greens service

Please sign up in the Narthex to bring a dish to share, and to help with clean up.



Advent Crafts

December 7, 14, 21, 2025

following 10:30 worship - in the Wimmer Room

One craft each week, suitable for adults or children

Join in the Advent spirit of fellowship and hope while creating a decoration to take home.

**All are welcome. Come one Sunday or come all.
Contact Marji Hughes if you have any questions**

