

Dive into God's Word

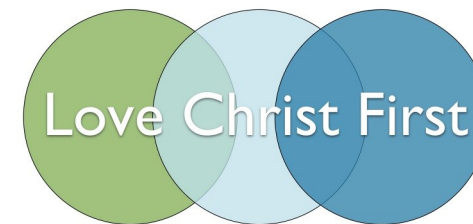
with us each Sunday Morning



Sunday, September 17th was our first day of the new Sunday School Year. Children pre-K through grade 6 leave for classes following the Children's Message in worship.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



OCTOBER 2023



October Mission Project

**JOIN 1st UCC's CROP WALK on
Sunday, OCTOBER 29th, 8:30 am**

We begin (and end) on the front steps of the church. Walk as much as you can. Continental breakfast will be served to all walkers once we return – in time for worship, of course. Sign up in the Narthex or speak with Marji Hughes. For more information about Crop Walk see p. 6 of the Newsletter.



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



Congratulations to our Confirmation Class of 2023



A huge thank you to all who donated items for the Penny Party Fundraiser. There were so many wonderful items up for bid. Thank you to everyone who donated food, baked goods, soda, water and their time and talents to this event. It would not have been a success without you all! We send a special thanks to Barbara Coleman who coordinated the event! Thank you! Thank you!.





Dear Caring Friends,

Few things are more meaningful and vital than reaching out to America's wounded service members in their times of need just like you did with your generous gift of \$402.00 to Wounded Warrior Project (WWP). Thank you so much for your remarkable compassion, and welcome to our caring community of patriotic Americans.

As soon as wounded heroes leave the war zone and arrive at a hospital, you're at their bedsides, hand in hand with Wounded Warrior Project. Through a wide range of WWP programs and services, you stay with them throughout their recoveries and beyond, as they build successful new futures. *Many people will say they support our troops, but you put those words into action with your recent gift.*

Just think of a warrior who sacrificed limbs or sight in Iraq or Afghanistan now starting college, helping a fellow wounded warrior, building new skills, or beginning a new, exciting career! When they're ready to start their next mission we're ready to help, backed by the strong and generous support you provide. Thank you for helping our wounded warriors build fulfilling new futures upon their return home to our great nation, which they so fearlessly defended for you and me.

Saluting your generosity,

Michael S. Linnington
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army, Retired
CEO, Wounded Warrior Project



Dear Members of First UCC Hellertown,

Thank you all so much for your caring support and love for our beloved Aunt, Dorothy Freeman. Your visits, cards and thoughtfulness were very much appreciated by our Aunt and our entire family. Your words and remembrance at her service were beautiful.

Much Love,

Jill Csekitz & family

September 18, 2023

Dear Members of First UCC,

Thank you so much for your generous support of our youth as they start their new school year. We received your letter and check in the mail and are very appreciative. Many of the young people we serve do not have adequate school supplies or clothes to be set up for success this school year. Your funding will go a long way in helping ensure youth in foster care, counseling, and/or experiencing homelessness or housing instability are ready to start this school year off right.

Please share our appreciation with all who donated.

On behalf of those we serve, thank you.

Emily Conners Henry, M.S.

Assoc. Director
Advancement & Marketing
Valley Youth House



I've been watching the leaves on the tree in the front of my house change color little by little since the end of August. Every now and then I see one fall to the grass and I sigh or groan.

While I appreciate the beauty of the changing leaves, I find myself dwelling unhappily on the fact that winter is just around the corner. I've never been a fan of the dark, frigid time of year. As silly as it may sound, sometimes, I wish humans hibernated for the winter. As I sat on my front step pondering the leaves, I couldn't get this verse from Psalm 139 out of my

head, "Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?"

I think I will write that on colorful little notes and place them in different spaces for myself to see as winter approaches. Maybe, it can be a reminder for us all that even in the darkest and coldest of times, when we want to hide from everything, including God, we are not alone. As the seasons change and our nights get darker and colder, may you find light and warmth in God's presence.

In light and love,

Pastor Becky

CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS!

Sunday, October 1, 2023, 11:30am.

for students and parents

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.

If there is a scheduling conflict, a parent is asked to

please still attend in order to receive the information..

Classes are led by Pastor Becky Thomas and Marji Hughes.

To sign up or with questions, please contact Marji Hughes

610-984-5053 or mpughes22@gmail.com.



Join us Online!

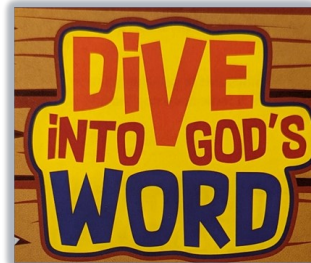
To watch on Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/hellertownucc> and you will see the live stream as the top post.

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!**



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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.

We learn from *Grow, Proclaim, Serve!* by Abingdon Press which incorporates Bible stories, activities, crafts, and games into a full faith experience. Contact Marji Hughes -

mphughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053 if you have any questions at all about Faith Formation at 1st UCC.

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.

7th-12th grade YOUTH GROUP

October 8, 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 to **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 610-297-2295

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



CHEEEEEEESE!!

October - Sponsors/Volunteers

October 1

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers.....	Team 5
Altar Flowers....	Dave & Georgie Stuempfle
Bulletins	Doug Miller
Lay Reader	Nan Belcak

October 15

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers	Team 2
Altar Flowers...	Andrea Danner/Wayne Packer
Bulletins ...	Andrea Danner/Wayne Packer
Lay Reader	Ann Brown

October 29

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers.....	Team 4
Altar Flowers	Joan & Nick Kiak
Bulletins.....	Dave & Georgie Stuempfle
Lay Reader.....	Georgie Stuempfle

October 8

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers.....	Team 1
Altar Flowers.....	Karen Frankenfield
Bulletins	Alice Totenbier
Lay Reader.....	Doug Major

October 22

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers.....	Team 3
Altar Flowers	Sandy Panick
Bulletins.....	Sandy Panick
Lay Reader.....	Bob Scherer

The October Newsletter has been sponsored by:

Glenn & Ann Brown



*The Trustees of the Remembrance Fund
have received and gratefully acknowledged
a gift given in loving memory of Dorothy Freeman:*

Mary K Vanya Jill Csekitz

a gift given in loving memory of Jeffrey Petruno:

Kimberly A Bluder

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
Sherwood Stauffer, Sexton	610-838-7391

Consistory Members

Email address

Phone Number

Elders

Sandy Bender

Amy Mixa

Georgie Stuempfle

Deacons

Minga Ferencin

Karen Frankenfield

Diane French— Pres.

Sandy Panick

Trustees

Ann Brown—Sec.

Keith Lentz

Doug Major

Aaron Kelley

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 1st UCC women members & friends!

Mondays– October 9 & 23

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 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

October 10th, 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 !



Sunday, October 15th

The honor of Pastor Emeritus will be bestowed on our beloved, retired Pastor Rich Teitsworth during worship on Sunday, October 15th. A celebratory luncheon will follow at the Carriage House at 12 Noon. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex Bulletin Board.

You must sign up to attend the luncheon.



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



CWS and CROP Hunger Walks

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Background

The Crop Project began in 1947 when farmers were asked to donate food and seed crops to our hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. The first CROP Hunger Walks took place in Bismarck, North Dakota (1969), and York, Pennsylvania (1970). Since then CROP Hunger Walk events have been held in hundreds of communities, large and small, raising millions of dollars to eradicate hunger and poverty.

October Birthdays

10/1	Leroy Miller	10/16	Linda Thatcher
10/1	Georgie Stuempfle	10/18	Carter Mullen
10/3	Benjamin Henry	10/18	Sophia Riehl
10/3	Julia Reilly	10/18	Rebecca Rosenberger
10/4	Megan Scherer	10/19	Colin Weiss
10/5	Doug Hughes	10/20	Bill Roth
10/6	Kristi Ball	10/20	Ruth Thatcher
10/6	Tammie Vosburg	10/23	Judy Slocum
10/6	Greg Lorah	10/25	Douglas Miller
10/7	Emily Mann	10/28	Jennifer Lasso
10/8	Melissa Spear	10/30	Brandon Petruno
10/8	Jessica Yonney	10/30	Doris Turner
10/9	Henry Fenon		
10/10	Sharon Jezick		
10/14	Sally Kase		
10/14	Luke Rosenberger		



October Anniversaries

10/2	Torey & Sarah Petruno
10/4	Jake & Alison Weaver
10/7	Bill & Jane Hoff
10/8	Ory & Kristi Ball
10/13	Doug & Marji Hughes
10/16	Wayne Packer & Andrea Danner
10/20	Timothy & Jess Riehl
10/22	Bernie & Sheri Musgnung
10/24	Bob & Emily Stetser
10/31	James & Sandy Panick



Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Benevolences	Attendance
Aug 6	\$2,212.06	\$688.00– Valley Youth House	58
Aug 13	\$2,073.17	\$423—Hawaii Fire Relief	42
Aug 20	\$3,426.03		72
Aug 27	\$3090.03		59
Total	\$10,801.29		
Budget	-\$16,000.00		
Over/ <u>Short</u>	(5,198.71)		

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

\$17 each

Apricot, Lekvar, Poppyseed, Pumpkin Cheese, Seedless Raspberry,
and Walnut Rolls from

Country Cottage Bake Shop

Tamaqua, PA

Orders due: Tuesday, October 31st

Pick up Date: Thursday, Nov. 16th (11am-1pm or 5-7pm)

As in past Nutroll sales, if we sell 100 or more, the church earns
\$4/nutroll sold. **An order form is included in this Newsletter.**



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—October Schedule



10/2 Away @ Trinity UCC

10/9 Away @ Holy Cross

10/16 Home vs. Fritz Wesleyan

10/23 Away @ College Hill

10/30 Home vs. East Hills

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



Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/hellertownucc



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.

Oct 2023	10:30 AM	1	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	8	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	15	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	22	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	29	Worship/Sunday School
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/Sunday School
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/Sunday School
	7:00 PM	24	Candlelight Service
	10:30 AM	31	Worship

2024 Sponsors

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 1-7—Marji Hughes

Week of Oct 8-14 — Andy Spear

Week of Oct 15-21—Phyllis Scherer

Week of Oct 22-28 —Ann Brown

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 Petrundo

Week of Dec 10-16— Carlann Broglie

Week of Dec 17-23—Doug Miller



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 September 11, 2023

The Minutes for the August 14 Consistory Meeting and the August 20 Congregational Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash flow continues in a positive direction
Fundraising for the month was \$4,380.

Members have generously donated many needed items to the church using "Gift in Kind".; We received the Covid Tax Credit totaling \$31,283 minus the processing fee of \$2,100. The 2024 Budget meeting is scheduled for October.

Pastor's Report:

Total Hours: 101

Breakdown of hours for major responsibilities

Hours Dedicated to Worship: 37.5

Hours Dedicated to Pastoral Care: 8

Continuing Education Hours: 2

Office Hours: 19

Meetings: 9

Pastor's vacation Sept 21-28

Pastor's Installation: Sunday, November 12 at 3:00 pm.

Faith Formation:

Pastor Becky and Marji will start a cooperative Youth Group for 7th-12th grade with Lower Saucon UCC on Sunday, October 8, from 5 pm-7 pm at Lower Saucon.

November 17 & 18 is the "Walking Together" Women's Retreat here at 1st church.

December 3 - the first Sunday in Advent

We discussed having a Longest Night service (December 21) jointly with HAM.

Sunday, December 24, 10:30 am, discussed possibilities for a Pageant.

Trustees' Report:

HiTech Security monitoring system completed. There are new cameras on the side doors and a new electronic key lock/open on the front door. Four panic button portable units were purchased.

Dave Phillips inspected the sound system and advised updating the system, as there are no replacement parts or units for our 11-year-old system.

We motioned to hire Arbor Doctor Tree Service to trim bushes and prune our trees around the church grounds.

Music and Worship:

October 1 - World Wide Communion Sunday. Themed hymns, Anthem, Children's Message

October 15 - Pastor Emeritus celebration for Reverend Richard Teitsworth, and Dr. Becky Beckwith is preaching.

November 19 - Thanksgiving Sunday - Fill the Sill

November 26 - Hanging of the Greens service (10:30 am)

December 3 - 1st Sunday in Advent.

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

Next Meeting will be October 16, 2023 at 6:30 PM in the Wimmer Room