



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Love Christ First





Mission Project for the month of October

Church World Services (CWS)

What is CWS? Our vision is a world where everyone has food, voice and a safe place to call home. We've been working to make this a reality for more than 75 years, and we know it's possible. We've welcomed thousands of refugees and other new neighbors into our communities, helped countless families put food on the table and lifted the voice of people who have been left out.

Moms are now skilled chefs, preparing healthy meals for their little ones. Families in arid regions have access to water, even during long dry spells. More children are attending school each day, ready to learn and dreaming big. Refugee families are settling into new homes and jobs, far from the conflict that forced them to flee.

You are part off this vision, Together, we're going to keep pushing and keep fighting until people everywhere have the tools, education and opportunity they need.



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





Welcome to our new members. Stan & Linda Czeck, and Jessica Brown. 9-13-26



Beth Shelly tells about the item she placed in the Treasure Chest. 9-13-26

Stewardship Committee members introduced on 9/13/26: Diane French Keith Lentz, Tammy Vosburg and Andrea Danner; Missing from Photo are: Bob Turner, Pastor Becky Thomas & Jane Hoff.







Pancake Brunch—8/30/26. Thanks to all who made this possible.







This article from the Mountain Valley Association Board helps us sort out how our congregation and the new Association function within the Keystone Conference UCC

Understanding the Difference Between the Association and the Conference

Since the formation of the Keystone Conference, many have asked about the relationship between the **Mountain Valley Association** and the **Keystone Conference**.

Simply put, the **Keystone Conference** serves as the regional expression of the United Church of Christ throughout Pennsylvania. It provides conference-wide ministries such as church vitality resources, youth and camping ministries, disaster response, financial administration, and support for the 20 Associations that make up the Keystone Conference.

The **Mountain Valley Association**, on the other hand, is the local covenant of neighboring congregations within the Keystone Conference. Our Association exists to strengthen relationships among our churches, encourage shared ministry, provide pastoral care and support to those seeking or have received a call to Authorized Ministry through the Authorization and Oversight Working Groups of the Committee on Ministry, coordinate local gatherings and educational opportunities, and connect congregations with one another in meaningful ways through the Local Congregational Support Working Group also of the Committee on Ministry. While we are part of the Keystone Conference, the Association focuses on ministry that happens close to home and among our neighboring churches.

Together, the Conference and the Association work in partnership to strengthen the witness and ministry of the United Church of Christ.

First and Lower Saucon UCC invite families from our community to attend and enjoy fun activities, refreshments and entertainment. Trunk entrants should phone LSUCC (610-838-8821) to register. In case of inclement weather we will set up in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, October 25

5:30-7 pm

held at

Lower Saucon UCC

1375 Third Ave

Hellertown, PA

Trunk or Treat







Dear First UCC Church,

Thank you very much for the Dan Deysher Music Scholarship. Having received this scholarship for a few years now, I am honored each time. I'm very excited to continue my violin education with the help of this scholarship and to play violin at First UCC in the near future.

Sarah

Dear First UCC,

Thank you for choosing me for the generous scholarship (Rev. Theodore E. and Robert Haas Scholarship). It will certainly help me as I pursue my degree in Communication Design, New Media.

Sincerely,

Andrew Harvey

Dear Members of First UCC,

Thank you for your generous contribution of $400.00 on 7/31/26 to New Bethany! Your gift allows us to offer wraparound services designed to remove barriers and assist individuals and families in reaching self-sufficiency.

We start with a meal and meet people where thev are with street-level human services, including showers, laundry services, mailing address, and monthly access to our food pantry, and continue with housing assistance, job search support and tools, and case management.

New Bethany offers hope and support to our neighbors who experience poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness. We believe that all people, regardless of circumstances, should be treated with dignity and care without judgement. No one who seeks help is turned away.

Each year, New Bethany serves 40,000 hot meals through our Southside Drop-in center; provides 2,000 showers, and mail and laundry services to over 200 households; distributes nutritious groceries to create over 230,000 meals through our Choice Food Pantry; shelters and offers supportive services to over 35 families and 25 individuals experiencing the trauma of homelessness through our supportive housing programming; prevents hundreds of households from losing their homes through Housing Advocates and Assistance; keeps over 90 people stably housed with Representative Payee services; and helps over 20 households avoid the crisis of homelessness through permanent housing units operated by New Bethany.

You are a crucial partner in this work. Thank you again on behalf of New Bethany's board, staff and most importantly, our neighbors who need assistance!

Sincerely,

Crystal Williams, Development Director 8/28/2026



As I child this season meant raking the leaves into a big pile, not to clean them up but to jump in them. It meant tossing leaves in the air and sometimes having leaf battles with my brothers or my cousins. It meant coming back inside the house with pieces of leaves and twigs stuck in my hair. It is the scent of fallen leaves that defines fall for me because it still lives in my memories. Fall meant laughter and fun, from corn mazes, to pumpkin carving, and bobbing for apples. It meant pumpkin pie and apple cider. It meant that I was going to dress up and be whoever or whatever I wanted to be for a day.

Fall also meant that the pastor was going to start talking about gratitude. As a child I didn't understand. Why did the adults need to be reminded so often to live in gratitude for what God has given us? Now, I understand how difficult it is to live in a spirit of gratitude. It isn't easy to pause and remember to thank God when your hours are consumed by work. It isn't easy to pause and lift your voice in praise when you are being called in a million different directions. It certainly isn't easy to be grateful when you are being bombarded with bad news. I have come to realize that gratitude is a spiritual practice. It takes time, energy, and intention. My prayer for you as we travel through this season, is that you remember to practice that gratitude.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky



Saturday, October 24, 2026

Bus Trip to Sight & Sound to see "Joshua"

9:30 AM—Depart from First UCC
12:00 N—Lunch at Hershey Farms
3:00 PM—Joshua Show
7:00 PM ish—arrive @ First UCC

Stewardship Sunday has been changed to October 25th.

A Fellowship Hour will be held following worship.





SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have 2 classes: Pre-k through grade 1, and Grades 2-6

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

Upcoming important dates:

October 4 – World Communion Sunday

October 25 – Bible Sunday – All second and third graders and anyone without a bible will receive one during worship. Please contact the Office if you wish to receive a bible.

October 25 – Trunk or Treat at Lower Saucon UCC

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. There is a child-sized bathroom and a changing table available as well.

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.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th

10:30am



Confirmation class meets at 11:30/following worship in the Youth Room upstairs.

October 4 and October 25.

The Trustees of the Remembrance Fund

have received and gratefully acknowledged

A gift given in loving memory of Jane Yonney

Carrie Minahan



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 Sept 27-Oct 3—Marji Hughes

Week of Oct 4-10— Andy Spear

Week of Oct 11-17—Lisa Fenon

Week of Oct 18-24—Ann Brown

Week of Oct 25-31—Sandy Panick

Week of Nov 1-7—Amy Mixa

Week of Nov 8-14– Phyllis Scherer

Week of Nov 15-21—Tammie Vosburg

Week of Nov 22-28—Georgie Stuempfle

Week of Nov 29-Dec 5 - Letty Petruno

Week of Dec 6-12— Carlann Broglie

Week of Dec 13-19—Doug Miller

COIN PARTY (formerly called Penny Party)

Saturday, November 14th, doors open at 12:00 noon

We are now accepting donations of items for the Coin Party .We are looking for **new** items of any kind, food (watch the expiration date), personal care items, beauty items, toys, art supplies, kitchen items, garage items, paper goods, almost anything that is **new** – any value item will work. We are, of course, looking for *lots of 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 baked goods, along with other food items and are asking our bakers to 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**, think about friends and neighbors you can invite, look around your house or shop for items to donate.

October Sponsors/Volunteers

October 4

Counting Team	Team 2
Ushers	Team 3
Acolyte	Carter Mullen
Altar Flowers	Wayne Packer& Andrea Danner
Bulletins	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader	Doug Miller

October 11

Counting Team	Team 3
Ushers	Team 4
Acolyte	Matthew Harvey
Altar Flowers	Janice Csrnko
Bulletins	The Ball Families
Lay Reader	Sandy Panick

October 18

Counting Team	Team 4
Ushers	Team 5
Acolyte	Madyson Schrammel
Altar Flowers	Wayne Packer& Andrea Danner
Bulletins	Wayne Packer& Andrea Danner
Lay Reader	Ashlynn Mixa

October 25

Counting Team	Team 1
Ushers	Team 1
Acolyte	Liam Riehl
Altar Flowers	Sandy Panick
Bulletins	Sandy Panick
Lay Reader	Dave Stuempfle

The October Newsletter has been sponsored by: Melissa & Andy Spear

We would like to keep in touch our college students. Please contact the Church office with the address of College students in your family so we can reach out to them during the school year.

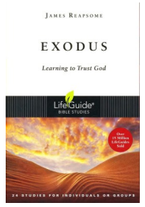
Offerings may be made anytime electronically at www.firstucchellertown.org/give This allows you to make a one time or repeating gift from your bank account or credit/debit card. You may also elect to give directly from your bank through a Bill-Pay option or mail your gifts and envelopes to the church office. The Church office is open Monday through Friday 9am to 1 pm if you care to drop off your gifts.

Coffee &Conversation

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



Sunday morning Adult Bible Study --



Sunday Bible Study 9:15 AM

We will be discussing

"Exodus Learning to trust God"

by James Reapsome



Please contact Tricia Shelly for more information, or just join us in the Youth Room upstairs.



BIBLES AND BRUNCH

Women's Bible Study

2nd and 4th Mondays of each month

October 12, October 26

We are beginning a new study this month. Come join us!





HOLIDAY NUT ROLL SALE

$18 each (Apricot, Lekvar, Poppyseed, Pumpkin Cheese, Seedless Raspberry and Walnut Rolls)

From Country Cottage Bake Shop, Tamaqua PA

Orders due: Friday, October 30st

Pick-up date is Thursday, November 19th (11am-2 pm or 5-7 pm)

As in past nutroll sales, if we sell 100 or more, the church earns $4/nutroll sold.



SOUP KITCHEN

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]

Ladies Breakfast

Women's Breakfast at the Hellertown Diner
Second Tuesday of each month– 8 AM
October 13, 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

Attention All Dart Players—October Schedule

10/5 Home vs Star of Bethlehem
10/12 Away @ College Hill
10/19 Away @ Holy Cross
10/26 Home vs Fritz Wesleyan



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

Staff

Rev. Becky Thomas, Pastor	[redacted]
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	janehoff0901@gmail.com	[redacted]
Joan Kiak	njbk77@gmail.com	[redacted]
Amy Mixa	athomeamy@hotmail.com	[redacted]
Tricia Shelly		[redacted]
Deacons		
Karen Frankenfield	gumbycat1@gmail.com	[redacted]
Ashlynn Mixa	ashlynnmixa@gmail.com	[redacted]
Sandy Panick	hygienist2000@msn.com	[redacted]
Trustees		
Keith Lentz--Pres.	keithlen56@gmail.com	[redacted]
Doug Major-Vice Pres.	pamajors@rcn.com	[redacted]
Wayne Packer	wayne.t.packer@gmail.com	[redacted]
Chip Wagner	rdmax723@hotmail.com	[redacted]

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/hellertownucc

Like

October Birthdays

10/1	Leroy Miller	10/18	Carter Mullen
10/1	Georgie Stuempfle	10/18	Sophia Riehl
10/3	Benjamin Henry	10/18	Becky Rosenberger
10/3	Julia Reilly	10/19	Colin Weiss
10/5	Douglas Hughes	10/20	Bill Roth
10/6	Kristi Ball	10/20	Ruth Thatcher
10/6	Tammie Vosburg	10/25	Doug Miller
10/7	Emily Mann	10/30	Doris Turner
10/8	Melissa Spear		
10/8	Jessica Yonney		
10/9	Henry Fenon		
10/10	Sharon Jezick		
10/11	Jason Miller		
10/14	Sally Kase		
10/14	Luke Rosenberger		
10/16	Linda Thatcher		



OctoberAnniversaries

10/2	Torey & Sarah Petruno
10/4	Jake & Allison 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
10/26	Michael Pilato & Sara Heintzelman
10/31	James & Sandy Panick





Stewardship of God's People at First Church

	Contributions	Attendance	Fundraisers	
Aug 2	$3,247.78	43	Community Day	$1,400
Aug 9	$1,472.06	39	Rita's	$70.00
Aug 16	$5,040.20	52		
Aug 23	$2,203.83	47		
Aug 31	$2,250.06	90		
Total	$14,213.93			
Budget	($20,000.00)			
Over/Short	($5,786.07)			



The following members are celebrating 90+ birthdays this month. Perhaps you would like to send birthday cards or thinking of you cards to brighten their day.

Oct 1 ***Leroy Miller***
829 Easton Rd.
Hellertown PA 18055

Oct 20 ***Ruth Thatcher***
c/o Gary Thatcher
226 Schlesser Road
Factoryville PA 18419

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



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 2026	10:30 AM	4	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	11	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	18	Worship/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	25	Worship/Sunday School
Nov 2026	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/Advent Communion/No Sunday School
Dec 2026	10:30 AM	6	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	13	Worship-Christmas Pageant
	10:30 AM	20	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	24	Candlelight Service
	10:30 AM	27	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
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.

First United Church Hellertown
Consistory Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2026

Call to Order: Meeting Called to order by Keith Lentz at 6:32
Opening Prayer: Pastor Becky
Absent : Jane Hoff, Joan Kiak
Minutes: August 10, 2026
Motion: Correction/Approval of Minutes: Corrections to August 10th minutes. First church will be cooking and serving hotdogs for the Hellertown Halloween Parade on October 18th. *Motion to approve minutes made by Amy Mixa all were in favor.*

Also the Trustees report from August had the incorrect spelling for the aluminum clad company EMB. The names should read Michael and Edward Beckowski.

Treasurer's Report - Tammie Vosburg
Highlights: Our YTD Net Cash Flow is negative ($26,583.00). Giving is under budget by $23,720.00. Overall expenses on budget except utilities. Gas and electric is up from last year 20%. Investments are doing good. Community day was a great success $1,797.00 which included donations. The preliminary budget for 2027 was distributed by Tammie Vosburg for Consistory review. Members are to review and submit any questions to Tammie prior to the October meeting. We will vote on the budget at that time. Bob Turner will be presenting a 30 minute presentation on the finances and future of our church. Keith Lentz will check with Bob to see if he is able to come to the October 12th Consistory meeting to present.
Tammie also distributed a copy of the Stewardship letter that will be mailed with the Commitment cards. Ashlynn Mixa suggested making a grid/chart to show the prior years total giving then list the suggested weekly increase and then annual increase. Tammie will work on that change.
Tammie would like to ask Wimmer for 50% of the cost of the steeple bell repairs.
A motion was made by Tricia Shelly to have Tammie make the request to Wimmer for 50% of the bell repair costs. Second by Wayne Packer. All were in favor.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Becky - Pastor Becky's report was accepted as presented.

Faith Formation Report - Marji Hughes, Accepted as presented.
Highlights: Last meeting was August 23rd. Ann Brown has joined Faith Formation. Sunday School started September 4th with a new curriculum called "Big Faith". Confirmation will begin September 20th. Faith Formation will have two tables at the Fall Festival. No Sunday School on October 18th due to the Halloween Parade. October 25 Reformation Sunday Bibles will be distributed to third graders.
Elders' Report - October Missions, Church World Services and Crop Walk

Deacons' Report - Next Communion is October 4th for World Wide Communion.

Trustees' Report - Wayne Packer is still looking for volunteers for shrubs and fall cleanup on October 3rd. He will make another announcement in church. Michael and Edward Beckowski have not called back yet regarding our siding project. They are currently finishing another job. Mike Elderhorst of Elderhorst Bells has given us a preliminary estimate to fix the bell of $2,900.00. We are waiting for the final estimate. We have received $2,000.00 from congregation donations to date.

Correspondence: No correspondence at this time.

Committee Reports:

Executive Meeting: Consistory Agenda set by Keith Lentz

Music and Worship: October 11th is Pastor appreciation Sunday. October 18th will be Stewardship Sunday. The choir will be singing selected anthems. The choir will be performing a 30 minute concert at our Fall Festival on October 17th.

Consistory Minutes (cont.)

Safety and Security - Keith Lentz mentioned that for two Sundays the Durham Street door was not locked during service. Sandy Panick will talk to ushering teams. Wayne Packer mentioned the windows in the upstairs Sunday School rooms were left open. He did speak to the teachers.

Fundraising - Arnolds gift cards were distributed September 13th. Dine to Donate is coming up September 24th at Get Joy from 5-8pm. Fall Festival October 17th. And the Coin Party is set for November 14th. The next meetings for the Fundraising Committee will be October 8th and 15th both at 6:30.

Stewardship: Fall Festival is set for Oct 17th 10:00-3:00. 27 Vendors have been secured to date. Jane would like each consistory member to sign up to help. Pledge cards and letters will be mailed in September. Pastor Becky introduced the Stewardship Committee members to the congregation on September 13th. Keith Lentz presented the first testimonial "Why I Love First Church"

Investment/Finance: Wayne Packer and Doug Major would like to discuss ways for additional revenue streams for our church. Examples mentioned were utilizing our building/parking lot in ways to bring in revenue. Offering space for rental for things like showers, birthday parties, meeting spaces etc. Wayne will talk to Tammie about insurance needs.
Altar: Nothing to report

Tech: James Rosenberger will be installing the new balcony camera shortly. He is trying to get us the best price for the new camera.

Old Business: Denise Keen reached out to Sandy Panick and asked who her daughter Rachel should reach out to for planning Tai Chi. Sandy agreed to be the contact person. Rachel has not reached out yet.
Over $200 was collected for the Ubert family who lost everything in a fire. Keith will check with Phyllis if that money was sent to the family.

New Business: Consistory received an email on September 14th from Marji Hughes notifying us of her resignation as Minister of Faith Formation. Her last Sunday will be October 11th and last work day October 14th. She will then use her last 2 weeks of vacation October 15th—30th. *A motion to accept Marji's resignation and pay her through Oct 30th was made by Wayne Packer, second was by Amy Mixa all were in favor.*

Discussion ensued regarding filling the Faith Formation position. Is there a need? Pastor Becky stated we will need to look at the job description for the position. Also Marji will be completing a list of all she did. We will need to review this as well. Pastor Becky, Wayne Packer and Sandy Panick will review the job descriptions to evaluate the need to fill the position and create a search committee.

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn by Ashlynn Mixa at 7:47 pm and second by Amy Mixa. Followed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: October 12, 2026 in the Wimmer Room at 6:30

Respectfully submitted
Sandy Panick

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our September fundraiser at GET JOY on Thursday, September 24th.