

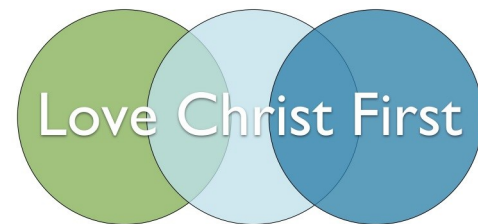


First Fruits

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SEPTEMBER 2024



**September Mission Project
Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering**

Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering is a faith-based partnership that provides a network of care and hospitality for the homeless in the community. .

Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering, Inc. (BES) operates an emergency shelter which is open every night, November 15th to April 30th.

BES policies and procedures have been created to be in accordance with city, county, state, and federal regulations. Shelter rules have been implemented for the safety of their guests, staff, volunteers, and visiting service providers. Dinner is provided ever night and showers are available.

Free bagged lunches are provided every Saturday and Sunday from 11:45 AM—1:00 pm to anyone needing a lunch that day.



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





I walked into the little store attached to the restaurant I was meeting a friend at this past week and I almost had to turn and walk out. You see, to my right as I walked in the door were all sorts of Halloween decorations and to my left Christmas decorations. We are quickly approaching the time of year that I dislike the most. So, this felt like a cruel reminder that summer is coming to an end and fall is practically on our doorstep. I've never been a fan of fall, it is like the world that I watched come alive in spring is dying before my eyes.

I've been thinking for quite a few years now that I need a shift in how I look at the season. Fall is not really an ending, after all. As a person of resurrection faith, I believe that there is always something new about to break forth. Someone wise once said, "In every end, there is a beginning." It is important for us to remember that the things that fall to the earth now will be nourishment for the new life that grows in the spring. What extra things are you carrying now that you need to allow to fall to the earth so that you may have nourishment to become something new?

*In light and love,
Pastor Becky*

BREAD BAKING for Worldwide Communion Sunday

JOIN US in baking breads for our celebration of Worldwide Communion Sunday

on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 10am**



in the church kitchen. We will bake for Communion on Sunday the 6th, and for our Fellowship hour following worship.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

10:30am Family service

No Sunday School

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

in the Wimmer Room following worship

World Communion Sunday



COME TO THE PUMPKIN PATCH!

OCTOBER 6, 2024 meet at church 1pm

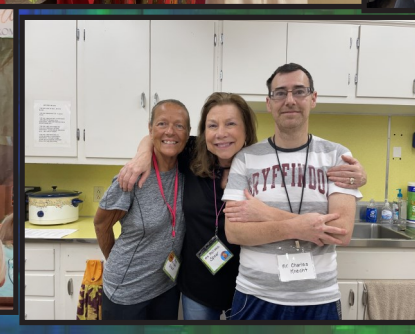
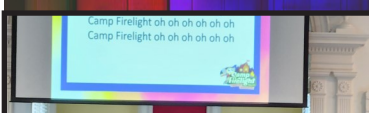
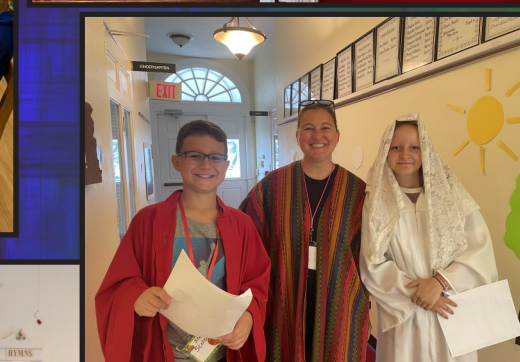
We are headed to Hausman Fruit Farm Fall Festival

2822 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg

Everyone is welcome!! Please sign up in the narthex so we know how many to expect. Fun for all ages. Drive yourself or hitch a ride with another member of our church family.



VBS Fun





August 2, 2024

Thank you for a great week at VBS! Claire, Ethan and Aubrey had so much fun!

The Braxmeier Family



Thank You to Cleaning Angels

Many thanks to Sandy Panick and Phyllis Heil-Henry for their support in cleaning our church sanctuary after VBS. And also to our Spring Cleaning Angels: Denise Keen, Jackie Teitsworth, Letty Petruno, Minga Ferencin, Elsie Stout & Sandy Panick. Your role is appreciated and thanks to your dedicated efforts, all the cushions were swept, pews, woodwork and window shades dusted, and floors wet-mopped.

A special thank-you to Jackie Teitsworth and Sandy Panick for their continued support in watering all the flowers this summer. We understand the personal time and effort it took to ensure our church looks beautiful, and we are truly grateful for your dedication.

Sincerely,
Your Church Family



Dear First UCC Church,

Thank you very much for the Dan Deysher Music Scholarship!!! I thoroughly enjoyed the scholarship last year, and I look forward to practicing wholeheartedly again this year!

I'm hoping to play in church other than just Youth Sunday.

Sincerely,
Sarah Beers

August 5, 2024

Dear Members of First UCC,

Grace and peace be with you!

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 \$230 to the Community Food Pantry 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 in financial donations 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



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

Michael Santo
558 Henry Street
Hellertown PA 18055

September 23



Our '24-'25 school year Sunday School program begins on **September 8** with "Soaking Up God"

a very special "watery" worship service. Classes for pre-k through grade 1, and Grades 2-7 begin following the Children's Message.



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

Special Dates:

SUNDAY, September 29 – during Sunday School, all children will have a special time of **communion education**. What is the Lord's supper? Why do we participate? How does our church prepare and partake in Jesus' meal? All in preparation for our Open Table on Oct 6.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 – FAMILY WORSHIP – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

classes. We will share in **WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY** with Christians across the globe. And children will share in the Lord's Supper as we begin Open Table Communion.

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. Contact Marji Hughes - mpughes22@gmail.com 610-984-5053 - if you did not receive a "Soaking Up God" activity book or if you have any questions at all about Faith Formation at 1st UCC.

NEEDED this Fall

We are looking for **at least 2 adult** leaders for our Sunday School. Experience and Bible knowledge not necessary. **Desire** to be part of this vital ministry to our children **is!** With enough



teachers we will rotate so no one misses worship every week. Do not hesitate to ask any questions! Please consider and speak with Marji Hughes.



Coffee & Conversation

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



Bibles & Brunch is Changing to Tuesdays!

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month

beginning, **September 17 10:30 AM**

Bibles and Brunch will also meet Tuesday, **October 1, October 15**

We will discuss "Context- Putting Scripture in Its Place" by Josh Scott. Sign up and pick up your book in the Wimmer Room. \$10 donation



Sunday morning Bible Study --

9am in the Youth room upstairs

We will be studying **Genesis** beginning

September 8, 9:15am

Please contact Tricia Shelly for more information, or just join us on Sundays!



Refill Your Cup Women's Retreat

in combination with Lower Saucon UCC

November 15-17, 2024

at 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

"A cup is a container for holding something. Whatever it holds has to eventually be emptied out so that something more can be put into it. Our spiritual journeys are like that -- a constant process of emptying and filling, of giving and receiving, of accepting and letting go...The cup of our spiritual life must be cared for and replenished as it pours its contents away in loving service." Joyce Rupp "The Cup of Life"

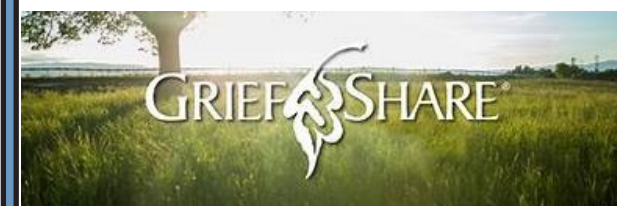
COST only:
\$140 for shared room
\$160 for single room
(Scholarships available)

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.

- Week of Sept 1-7 — Marji Hughes
- Week of Sept 8-14— Andy Spear
- Week of Sept 15-21—Phyllis Scherer
- Week of Sept 22-28 —Ann Brown
- Week of Sept 29- Oct 5 —Sandy Panick
- Week of Oct 6-12 - Amy Mixa
- Week of Oct 13-19—Diane French
- Week of Oct 20-26 —Tammie Vosburg
- Week of Oct 27-Nov 2—Georgie Stuempfle
- Week of Nov 3- 9 - Letty Petrano
- Week of Nov 10-16— Carlann Broglie
- Week of Nov 17-23—Doug Miller



Might GriefShare be for you?

GriefShare is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, built around a video curriculum, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. Meetings last between one and a half to two hours.

First UCC will be starting a Griefshare group, beginning on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, starting at 7 PM in the Wimmer Room of the church. Pastor Rich and Jackie Teitsworth will lead the group. Our church will provide all the materials that you will need.

Please call the church office to register for the group. You may also contact Pastor Rich or Jackie if you have questions at 484-851-3605.

September - Sponsors/Volunteers

September 1

Counting Team..... Team 1
 Ushers.....Team 4
 Altar Flowers...Letty Petruno/Kelly Kemmerer
 BulletinsDoug & Brenda Miller
 Lay ReaderWayne Packer

September 8

Counting Team..... Team 2
 Ushers.....Team 5
 Altar Flowers.....Daphne Rodriguez
 Bulletins.....Letty Petruno
 Lay Reader.....Doug Miller

September 15

Counting Team..... Team 3
 UshersTeam 1
 Altar Flowers.....
 Organ Piece.....Sandy Bender
 BulletinsDaphne Rodriguez
 Lay ReaderSandy Panick

September 22

Counting Team..... Team 4
 Ushers Team 2
 Altar FlowersBob & Doris Turner
 Bulletins...Wayne Packer & Andrea Danner
 Lay Reader.....Dave Stuempfle

Upcoming Mission Projects

September—Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering
 October—Church World Service
 November—Fill the Sill

Upcoming Fundraisers

Oct— Penny Party
 Nov - Nutroll Sale

September 29

Counting Team..... Team 1
 Ushers Team 3
 Altar FlowersNorine Haas
 Bulletins.....Jim & Linda Exley
 Lay Reader.....Sandy Bender

The September Newsletter

has been sponsored by:

Glenn & Ann Brown

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.

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|----|--|
| Sept 2024 | 10:30 AM | 1 | Worship |
| | 10:30 AM | 8 | Worship/Sunday School Kick-off |
| | 10:30 AM | 15 | Worship/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 22 | Worship/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 29 | Worship/Sunday School |
| Oct 2024 | 10:30 AM | 6 | Worship/Communion/No Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 13 | Worship/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 20 | Worship/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 27 | Worship/Sunday School |
| Nov 2024 | 10:30 AM | 3 | Remembrance Sunday/Communion/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 10 | Worship/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 17 | Worship/Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | 24 | Worship/Sunday School/Thanksgiving Sunday |

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.

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THANK-YOUS

An unbelievable number of adults and teens joined in to make Camp Firelight VBS a smashing success!! Station leaders, counselors, kitchen crew, all the behind the scenes work before, during and after – we couldn't have done it without you.



We were blessed to include the following people at Camp Firelight: Sarah Beers, Ann Brown, Faith Bruch, Minga Ferencin, Renate Geisinger, Greta Geisinger, Dawn Hacker, Becky Harvey, Douglas Hughes, Marji Hughes, Sharon Jezick, Denise Keen, Charles Knecht, Linda Lennon, Ava Major, Michelle Major, Brenda Miller, Charlotte Miller, Doug Miller, Jean Miller, Ashlynn Mixa, Morgan Mixa, Lila Nansteel, Letty Petruno, Gabby Pfanders, Elliot Policare, Piper Policare, Grayson Rantz, Kristen Rantz, Wyatt Rantz, James Rosenberger, Luke Rosenberger, Paige Rosenberger, Kaylie Scorce, Shea Scorce, Phyllis Scherer, Andy Spear, Melissa Spear, Elsie Stout, and Pastor Rebekah Thomas



The Mission Project for VBS this year was to collect supplies for an under-served school in the Bethlehem School District. The supplies were delivered to William Penn Elementary School. They were thrilled with the generosity of those who participated !! Thank you to everyone who donated to this Mission.



Women's Breakfast at the Hellertown Diner September 10, 2024 (Second Tuesday of each month.)

*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



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 | purplepeep@rcn.com | [REDACTED] |
| Amy Mixa | athomeamy@hotmail.com | [REDACTED] |
| Georgie Stuempfle | gdflea@yahoo.com | [REDACTED] |
| Deacons | | |
| Karen Frankenfield | gumbycat1@gmail.com | [REDACTED] |
| Diane French— Pres. | dcfrench48@gmail.com | [REDACTED] |
| Ashlynn Mixa | ashlynnmixa@gmail.com | [REDACTED] |
| Sandy Panick | hygienist2000@msn.com | [REDACTED] |
| Trustees | | |
| Ann Brown—Sec. | forglan@verizon.net | [REDACTED] |
| Keith Lentz-Vice-Pres. | keithlen56@gmail.com | [REDACTED] |
| Doug Major | pamajors@rcn.com | [REDACTED] |

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>.

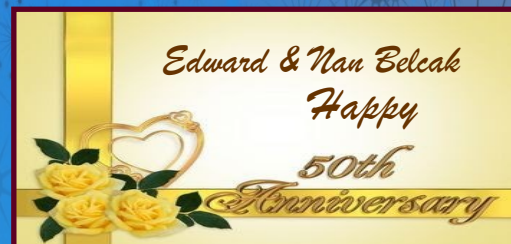
September Birthdays

| | | | |
|------|------------------|------|-------------------|
| 9/1 | Torey Petruno | 9/23 | Michael Santo |
| 9/3 | Elliot Policare | 9/23 | Karen Shields |
| 9/6 | Connor Yohn | 9/24 | Diane Donnelly |
| 9/7 | Jane Yonney | 9/24 | Warren Kurz |
| 9/11 | Susan Lishman | 9/24 | Wayne Packer |
| 9/12 | Justin DeLade | 9/24 | Daniel Ponzol |
| 9/12 | Charles Knecht | 9/26 | Michael DeRenzis |
| 9/13 | Kristen Milliren | 9/28 | Nadine Pavlinsky |
| 9/16 | Karen Masiado | 9/29 | David Heintzelman |
| 9/16 | Gary Weaver | 9/30 | Jess Riehl |
| 9/17 | Ava Major | 9/30 | Carson Yohn |
| 9/18 | Brenda Miller | | |
| 9/18 | Leroy Wagner | | |
| 9/21 | Linda Exley | | |



September Anniversaries

| | |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 9/1 | Willie & Tricia Shelly |
| 9/4 | Doug & Sarah Yohn |
| 9/5 | Christopher & Emily Morello |
| 9/7 | Edward & Nan Belcak |
| 9/8 | Jeff & Stacy Ross |
| 9/14 | Tom & Sally Kase |
| 9/16 | Charles & Jill Holmberg |
| 9/18 | Jack & Minga Ferencin |
| 9/12 | Mark & Amy Mixa |
| 9/23 | Steve & Kim Kyra |
| 9/23 | Tim & Emily Mann |
| 9/26 | Chuck & Sandy Bender |
| 9/26 | Richard & Mary Hanner |



**Happy
60th
Anniversary
Mike & Edna
Santo**



Stewardship of God's People at First Church

| Date | Contributions | Attendance | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------|--|
| July 7 | \$3,175.03 | 49 | |
| July 14 | \$2,432.70 | 44 | |
| July 21 | \$8,038.93 | 44 | |
| July 28 | \$4,781.53 | 53 | |
| Total | \$18,428.19 | | |
| Budget | -\$16,000.00 | | |
| Over/Short | +\$2,428.19 | | |

SOUP KITCHEN

NEW BETHANY HOSPITALITY CENTER BETHLEHEM

First Wednesday of every month

10:00 AM – 1:00PM

Our monthly crew visits to 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 be put on a sub list????

Contact : Jeannie Miller 610.838.9704 Elsie Stout 610.838.6470
Jane Joyce 610.838.7593



A Big Thank-you to those who helped with Community Day.



PENNY PARTY—Saturday, October 19th at 3 PM

The Penny Party will be happening soon. Are you saving your change?? This year we'll be having a Fall themed penny party along with a 50/50 raffle and a small silent auction of special items on **Saturday, October 19th at 3pm**. We are still accepting donations of items. We are looking for **new** items of any kind. We could use smaller items such as: soups, canned goods, cleaning products, paper products, personal care products, kitchen gadgets, towels, almost anything that is **new but please watch expiration dates**. 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. So, mark it on your calendar, start collecting your change, bring in donations of smaller items, think about friends and neighbors you can invite. Please see Tammie Vosburg or Andrea Milliren if you would like to help or have any questions.

**First United Church Hellertown
Consistory Minutes in Brief
Monday August 12, 2024, at 6:30 pm Wimmer Room**

Treasurer's Report – Tammie Vosburg

Report accepted as submitted.

Highlights:

- We are not meeting our annual budget by \$13,842 so far. Summer months have always shown less giving.
- Our investments did very well this month.
- Wimmer Fund has covered several capital projects this year

Pastor's Report: Pastor Becky

Highlights:

Total Hours: 113

Hours Dedicated to Worship: 33, Hours Dedicated to Pastoral Care: 6, Continuing Education Hours: 6, Office Hours: 25, Meetings: 9, VBS: 23

Other

- I was home with COVID on 7/14. Marji led worship, and Diane French read my sermon.
- I assisted with VBS.
- Vacation 8/25-8/31, Susan Lishman preaching on 8/25.
- I was accepted into the Doctorate of Ministry program at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Classes begin 9/16. I will be in Lancaster for an intensive from 10/7-10/11.

Faith Formation Report: Marji Hughes

- Faith Formation met on July 15. We put together all VBS loose ends and talked about the beginning of the Sunday School program year. Our next meeting is on August 19.
- The open-table communion informational letter for the whole congregation went out on August 6. Following worship on Sunday, September 8, there will be an information session and Fellowship Hour for all.
- Soaking Up God is our theme for Kick Off Sunday on September 8.
- October 5 - 10 am - All are welcome to come and bake bread for World Communion Sunday.
- October 6 is World Communion Sunday and Family Sunday, followed by Fellowship Hour
- Grief Share will begin September 10, led by the Teitsworths.
- Lower Saucon UCC has been offered the first UCC day at Iron Pigs on September 22, as we have fewer than half the sign-ups we need.
- Instead of Youth Group this fall, Pastor Becky and I have decided to try a couple of friendly activities, such as Mini-Golf or an Escape Room. As details are completed, there will be announcements and sign-ups.
- The Women's Retreat is November 15-17.

Additional Discussion: A revision to the June motion to address curriculum suggestions is proposed after Pastor Becky met with staff and Bible Study members.

- Discussion: New revision to curricula motion from June meeting proposed:
- Motion: Keith Lentz motioned that any group meeting within the church building shall communicate their curriculum choice with the Faith Formation Committee and the pastor. Sandy Panick seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Elders' Report: Georgie Stuempfle

We will meet in September with the pastor to discuss the spiritual life of our church.

Deacons' Report: Sandy Panick

A schedule for communion 2024-25, with the addition of communion offered on the first Sunday of each month unless it conflicts with a holiday, was proposed.

Trustees' Report: Ann Brown

- BEI –Electrical work completed August 12-13.
- JMS – The First Church building cleaning was on August 9.
- Lehigh Valley Painting and Epoxy: The start date is August

The Consistory Minutes in Brief (cont)

Committee Reports:

Music and Worship: Keith Lentz

- Open Table Communion Education will be held on 9/8/24 during the Sunday School hour for children and after church service for adults.
- During September, Pastor Becky will provide a treasure box for those who are giving the children's message.
- The First Sunday of Advent is 12/01. The Hanging of the Greens will be done the week of November 24, rather than after church on Sunday November 24th.
- The longest night service has been discussed for December 21. HAM has suggested an ecumenical service. If this does not work out, we can do a joint service with Lower Saucon UCC, as we did last year.
- Pastor Becky is using a theme from Sanctified Arts for Advent this year. Our church will coordinate the Christmas Pageant and Lovefeast together on December 22.

Altar Committee – Ann Brown – A group of volunteers met on August 7 and 8 to clean the church sanctuary.

Tech Committee:

BEI will complete moving the camera and antennae and encase all wiring in the balcony. We need to replace the HDM1 box. James Rosenberger is exploring some options and costs.

Stewardship/ Fundraising: Georgie Stuempfle

- August... 10% of profits from the Community Day strawberry shortcake sale and DiMaios Dine to Donate will be given to Suicide Prevention.
- October... 10% of the profits from the Penny Party and Silent Auction will be donated to the Alzheimer's Association.

Old Business:

- CPR: Debbie Anthony – Should we schedule a date for training? Ann will contact Debbie Anthony to get some dates and times for training.

New Business: Trunk or Treat: Lower Saucon UCC is having Trunk or Treat night from 5:30 to 7:00 pm on Sunday, October 27 at Lower Saucon UCC. They have welcomed us to be a part of this event.

Next Meeting: September 9 at 6:30 PM in the Wimmer Room

A copy of the full minutes is available in the office upon request.

FIRST UCC Day at the Iron Pigs

Coca Cola Park

Sunday, September 22

1:35 PM



Tickets are \$12

And includes a

\$2 food voucher

Attention All Dart Players—September Schedule

9/9 Home vs. Fritz Wesleyan/Crosspoint

9/16 Away @ College Hill

9/23 Away @ East Hills

9/30 Away @ Bethany UCC



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