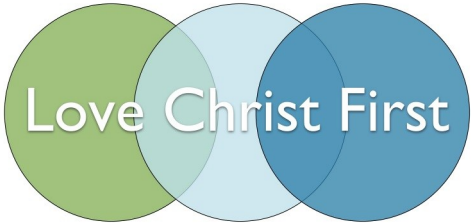




Community Day 8-15-26

Community Day was a wonderful success. Thanks to Willie, Tricia, and Beth Shelly for all their hard work. We also appreciate all of the volunteers who helped prepare the food and work the event. Finally, thank you to all of the sponsors who donated towards this event.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Mission Project for the month of September Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley



PCFLV provides family-centered programs and services throughout all stages of the pediatric cancer journey with compassion and integrity.

Their initiatives and activities offer financial assistance, emotional support, and social connection to ensure no family faces pediatric cancer alone. PCFLV is dedicated to bringing comfort, joy, and a sense of community to children impacted by cancer and their loved ones, for as long as needed.



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



Worship Services in August



Thank you to Ben & Krysti Wallace who provided special music on August 9th.



Andy Spear preaching
on 8-16-26



Ashlynn Mixa 8-16-26



Keith Lentz 8-23-26



The new Stewardship Committee officially formed this spring! Our committee members are: Pastor Becky Thomas, Diane French, Tammie Vosburg, Bob Turner, Jane Hoff, Keith Lentz and Andrea Danner.



Talking about Rocks

Join us for a *Fall* CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

SHOP LOCAL 🍁 SUPPORT SMALL 🍁 LOVE FALL



🍁 DATE: 🍁
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026



🍁 TIME: 🍁
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM



🍁 LOCATION: 🍁
FIRST UCC OF HELLERTOWN
501 Northampton St.,
Hellertown, PA., 18055

Unique Finds!
♥
Handmade
Goods!
♥
Something
for Everyone!

SHOP
LOCAL

Come shop, support,
and enjoy a fun day in
the community! ♥

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL
AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE!





August 19, 2026

Dear Members of First UCC,

Thank you for your charitable contribution of \$415.00 on 8/19/26 in support of Valley Youth House Programs. Your generosity makes a significant difference in our ability to provide programming to young people in desperate need of our services.

Valley Youth House supports young people who are experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, and loss of family connections to achieve healthy and independent futures. Personalized programs and services offer emergency shelter, stable housing, counseling, and life skills training.

For more than 50 years, Valley Youth House has provided crisis intervention and outcome-driven programs to more than half a million youth and families in our community. This is only possible with the assistance of philanthropic support, and therefore we are most appreciative of your donation.

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

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

COIN PARTY

(formerly called Penny Party)

Date & Time TBD

We are now accepting donations of items. 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.



Yesterday I was listening to the radio and I heard that pumpkin spice beverages are returning to stores in just a few days. I grumbled a bit and turned down the volume on the radio. Then a friend posted what they considered to be a funny meme on their Facebook page, celebrating the return of the “ber” months and the quickly approaching arrival of fall. I grumbled and closed the page. In reality, I know that I can't avoid the changing of seasons without moving far away from the place that has always been my home. But sometimes, I wish I could just hold on to summer. Then, I reminded myself of what Paul wrote in his letter to the church in Thessalonica, “Give thanks in all circumstances.”

That doesn't mean we have to be thankful for everything. The reality is, living in a spirit of gratitude isn't always easy. I will be the first to admit that I don't always succeed. It is far easier to long for days that felt better to us. It is also easy to feel overwhelmed by the many challenges we see happening in the world and experience in our lives. But, Scripture reminds us that gratitude is not about ignoring the difficulties that we face or pretending that life is perfect. Instead, gratitude helps us to center ourselves in uncertain times, focusing us back on God's presence and grace.

As we enter into this new season together, may we do so with grateful hearts. May we notice all of the blessings around us. May we take the time to celebrate all of the gifts that are present in our community - the kindness, the compassion, and the faithfulness that help us share God's love with the world. Gratitude is powerful. While it does not erase our struggles, it can bring hope in the midst of them.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky

Welcome Back Sunday

Sunday School begins

Celebrate

August 30 10:30am worship

PANCAKE BRUNCH

following the service

Join us as we come together at the close of summer to celebrate who we are, who God is, and the gifts God has given each of us.

Fill your spirit. Fill your soul. And fill your stomach!



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.

October 4 – World Communion Sunday

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

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

Confirmation

Confirmation class resumes Sunday, September 20, 2026 at 11:30/following worship in the Youth Room upstairs.



Flowers and More Gift Card Fundraiser

Arnold's Market
1776 Friedensville Rd. Bethlehem, PA 18015

Cards you ordered will be available for pick-up on September 13th.



To the Family and Friends of

Jane Yonney

August 13, 2026

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, sheep of your own fold, lamb of your own flock, sinner of your own redeeming. Receive ther into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.



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 Aug 30—Sep 5—Georgie Stuempfle

Week of Sep 6-12 - Letty Petruno

Week of Sep 13-19 — Carlann Broglie

Week of Sep 20-26—Doug Miller

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

Put this on your calendar:

*Women's
Retreat*

April 2-4, 2027

At Mariawald Retreat House,

Reading

September Sponsors/Volunteers

September 6

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers.....	Team 4
Altar Flowers.....	Letty Petrino
Bulletins	Letty Petrino
Lay Reader.....	Keith Lentz

September 13

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers.....	Team 5
Altar Flowers.....	
Organ Piece.....	Karen Frankenfield
Bulletins	Daphne Rodriguez
Lay Reader	Warren Kurz

September 20

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers.....	Team 1
Altar Flowers.....	Daphne Rodriguez
Bulletins	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader.....	Wayne Packer

September 27

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers	Team 2
Altar Flowers.....	Lisa Fenon
Bulletins.....	Wayne & Nadine Pavlinsky
Lay Reader.....	Marji Hughes

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

The September Newsletter
has been sponsored by:
Janice Csrnko

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.



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



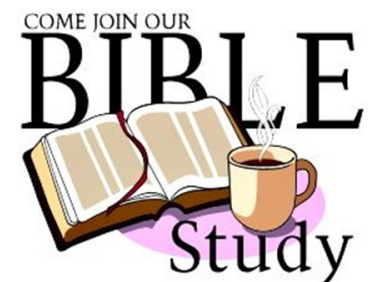
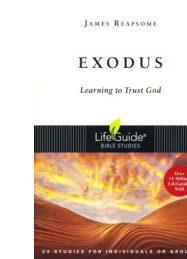
Sunday morning Adult Bible Study --

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



1st and third Mondays of each month

September 21, October 5, October 19

On Sept 21, we will finish our lively discussion on the topic

"Who is Mary Magdalene?"

We will choose a new book to begin in October. Come join us!

Secret Prayer Friends Ministry

Enclosed in this Newsletter is a form concerning our Secret Prayer Friend Ministry. Would you like to know that someone is praying for you throughout the year? Would you be willing to reach out in Christian fellowship and pray for someone in our congregation? We invite you to join in this rewarding ministry. If you choose to participate, you will be given the name of someone to pray for throughout the year. We ask that you also send some greeting cards during the year to your prayer friend. In the same way someone will be given your name to keep in prayer.

To be included in this program, please fill out the form and place it in the box in the narthex. New Prayer Friends will be assigned the week of October 5th and you will receive your prayer friend's name and instructions the following week.



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]



Women’s Breakfast at the
Hellertown Diner
Second Tuesday of each month– 8 AM
September 8, 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—September Schedule

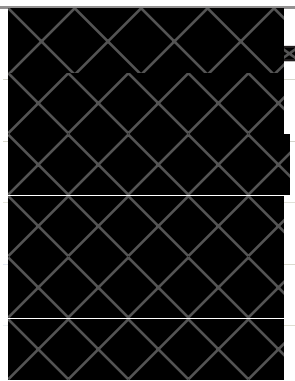
9/14 bye 9/21 Away @ Bethany UCC
 9/28 Home vs. East Hills

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



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
<u>Elders</u>		
Jane Hoff	[redacted]	[redacted]
Joan Kiak	[redacted]	[redacted]
Amy Mixa	[redacted]	[redacted]
Tricia Shelly		[redacted]
<u>Deacons</u>		
Karen Frankenfield	[redacted]	[redacted]
Ashlynn Mixa	[redacted]	[redacted]
Sandy Panick	[redacted]	[redacted]
<u>Trustees</u>		
Keith Lentz--Pres.	[redacted]	[redacted]
Doug Major-Vice Pres.	[redacted]	[redacted]
Wayne Packer	[redacted]	[redacted]
Chip Wagner	[redacted]	[redacted]

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/hellertownucc



September Birthdays

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



September Anniversaries

9/1	Willie & Tricia Shelly
9/4	Sarah & Doug Yohn
9/5	Emily & Christopher Morello
9/7	Nan & Ed Belcak
9/8	Stacy & Jeff Ross
9/18	Minga & Jack Ferencin
9/21	Amy & Mark Mixa
9/23	Emily & Tim Mann



The following member is celebrating a 90+ birthday this month. Perhaps you would like to send a birthday card or thinking of you card s to brighten his day.

Sep 23 Michael Santo
18910 Geraci Road
Lutz FL 33548

Stewardship of God's People at First Church

	Contributions	Attendance	Benevolences	
July 5	\$1,303.83	Combined Service	New Bethany	\$400.000
July 12	\$2,666.44	52		
July 19	\$3,694.36	58- Anniv. Sunday		
July 26	\$2,783.62	42		
Total	\$10,448.25			
Budget	(\$16,000.00)			
Over/Short	(\$5,551.75)			

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.

Sept 2026	10:30 AM	6	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	13	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	20	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	27	Worship/Sunday School
Oct 2026	10:30 AM	4	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	11	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	18	Worship/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/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.

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
August 10, 2026

Absent: Chip Wagner, Jane Hoff
Guest: Diane French
The meeting was called to order by Keith Lentz and opened with prayer by Pastor Becky Thomas at 6:32pm

Diane French spoke on the need for a Financial Committee to interpret how we may best utilize our funds including, Memorial, Wimmer and Endowment, with a reminder that Endowment is our liquid source. Discussion that Consistory was already in the process of forming a Financial Committee that was also pursuing possible streams of revenue for the church. Chip Wagner, Wayne Packer, Diane French, Keith Lentz and Doug Major are interested. Church members outside Consistory will also be approached. Chip Wagner had written up a short summary of how each fund works which will be sent to all Consistory members.

Minutes: There was a question about non-responsive Consistory members when asked to go over the minutes prior to them being given to the secretary for distribution and filing.

Motion was made by Doug Major and seconded by Amy Mixa to approve the July 13, 2026 minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Tammie Vosburg reported that our July deficit is \$21,662. Utilities are very high this summer, but ALL expenses are below budget by \$80. Giving and fundraising has been too low to support the budget. While our returns are positive for the year to date, our investments are down by \$18,483 in July. However this fluctuates all year long.

The 2027 budget will be distributed to Consistory at the September 14 meeting for review.

Stewardship: Tammie Vosburg handed out a letter crafted by herself and Bob Turner which will be sent to giving members individualized for their yearly giving. The Stewardship Committee is asking for a 1.2% increase commitment from each giving unit. Consistory asked that the following changes be made:

- 1/ Add in that we have recently created a Finance Committee which is investigating new streams of revenue and is trying its best
- 2/ Change financially prudent to as much as allowed by our by-laws
- 3/ Change pledge to commitment wherever it shows up in the letter
- 4/ Take out the words a pledge of in the second to last paragraph.
- 5/ The closing of the letter is to read: With appreciation and hope in Christ,
- 6/ Possibly put a box at the end of the letter that shows the giving and needs in table form.

Motion by Doug Major and seconded by Karen Frankenfield to approve letters with changes.

Stewardship has expenses that are not budgeted and would like to ask Wimmer for up to \$1000 for the Fall Festival and other stewardship needs. *Motion by Wayne Packer, Seconded by Tricia Shelly, motion carried.*

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Becky is on vacation August 16-22. Andy Spear is preaching on August 16. Coverage will be Rev David Charles-Smith Aug.16-18, and Rev. Patti Hoyt August 19-22. Pastor Becky continues work on her doctorate.

Faith Formation: Sunday School starts on August 30 with our Celebrate! Sunday worship centered around celebrating our church family and welcoming everyone back from summer schedules. Celebrate! continues with a Pancake Brunch following the service. Sign up to bring items or to help out.

We have purchased a new downloadable curriculum “Big Faith” which saves the church many dollars. Confirmation begins again September 20. Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS was a rousing success. Bibles and Brunch reunited on August 3 and will meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays. Sunday Bible study begins on August 30 at 9am. Faith Formation Committee will meet August 23 following worship.

Consistory Minutes (cont.)

Elders: Amy Mixa reported that the September Mission is the Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley

Deacons: Sandy Panick. There is a need for at least 1 usher. The next Communion Sundays are September 6 and October 4 (Worldwide Communion Sunday)

Trustees: Keith Lentz. Chip Wagner has been working very hard to find a contractor to restore our church windows. David Heintzelman suggested Michael and Edward Bachowsky.

Stewardship: Commitment cards are finalized and will be mailed to church members at the end of August. Fall Festival, October 17, 10am-3pm, planning is up and running. 30 tables at \$40 each have been reserved so far. Committees are working on their tables. The choir will perform a short concert. Music from previous services will possibly be ongoing throughout the festival. Many volunteers are needed that day.

On September 13, the Pastor will introduce the Stewardship Committee members. Keith Lentz will do the first “Why I Love Church” moment. Pastor is coordinating one member each week up until Stewardship Sunday on October 18. Beth Shelly and Carter Mullen were suggested to speak for the youth. Doug Major, Amy Mixa and Jane Hoff volunteered.

It was reported that the QR code on the Fall Festival poster is not working properly.

Safety and Security: The Durham Street door was left open one Sunday after worship. Ushers to be reminded that all doors need to be locked before leaving the building.

Fundraising: Tricia Shelly spoke on Community Day, August 15. Pulled pork sandwiches and Cole slaw will be sold for \$10. Tricia reported that Willy has all the lists and plans. Friday, August 14, the Cole Slaw Group will meet. Time tbd. Tricia will make homemade bbq sauce. Willy is creating dog treats from the pig skin for \$5 a bag . Wayne Packer offered his Walmart services for any last minute needs. The next Fundraising meeting is August 27 at 6:30pm. They will possibly vote to change the Coin Party to Saturday November 14 to avoid back to back events at church. Asking Phyllis to make sure there is a notice in the bulletin announcing the ongoing item collection.

Technology Committee: The new balcony camera should be installed in the near future.

Old Business: Marji Hughes asked for volunteers for the Treasure Chest Children’s Message once each month. Beth Shelly was voluntold to take September.

New Business: There will be a congregational meeting to vote on the 2027 budget in November. This is a change from previous years. Date to be determined once Coin Party date is settled. Consistory needs a president and vice-president for 2027.

The question arose re: giving out hotdogs for this year’s Halloween Parade, October 18? There was a poster on the Hellertown Facebook page, but no one has been asked. David Heintzelman will be contacted.

There will be a donation bucket at Community Day and in the narthex for the Ubert (sp?) family affected by the recent house fire.

Lisa Fenon reported that the Dart Team will resume practicing Monday evenings beginning August 17. Next meeting date: September 14, 2026, 6:30pm in the Wimmer Room

Sandy Panick made a motion to adjourn, Ashlynn Mixa seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Marji Hughes
Secretary of the Day