



Welcome Back!

See what's poppin' at First UCC!!"

Our '25-26 school year Sunday School program
begins **September 14, 2025**

Classes Pre-K through Grade 1,
Grades 2-6

Following the Children's message
during worship .

Popcorn poppin' fellowship hour after the service





Our first informational Confirmation get together
with parents and youth

Sunday, September 21 at 11:30 am

For all youth in 7th-8th grade along with your parents/caregivers.
Please contact Pastor Becky or Marji if you have any questions ahead of
time.





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





I am writing this sitting out on the porch at my grandfather's house, staring out on the fields that I used to run barefoot through as a child. Thirty years ago feels like yesterday right now. As I sit here, I have already begun to notice some leaves changing colors and falling from the trees. While I was mourning the end of summer and inevitable slow move toward my least favorite seasons, a hummingbird hovered by the window before finding its way to the feeder that hangs nearby. I paused my writing to sit for a moment in awe of this tiny beautiful creature. It reminded me of this verse that I came across as I was preparing a sermon a few weeks ago. Jesus said, "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly

Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

That little bird felt like a reminder. We worry about so many things. We are almost constantly moving. There is always something or someone calling for our attention. The anxieties of this life and this world can often feel overwhelming. In the middle of all of it, I pray that you realize that you are valuable, that you are loved. I hope you are taking time to pause for wonder. The beauty of nature and of other people can remind us of the love that God has for us and for creation. Days like this are the ones where I wish I could just pause time and sit with God for a long while. As we enjoy the last bit of summer, may you be overwhelmed only by the beauty of the world and people around you.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR



Our '25-26 school year Sunday School program begins on **September 14**

with

"See what's poppin' at First UCC"

Classes for pre-k through grade 1, and Grades 2-6 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.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 – 5:30-7pm Trunk or Treat – together 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.

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

VBS 2025





*The Trustees of the Remembrance Fund
have received and gratefully acknowledged
A gift given in loving memory of Alice Yuille
Sharon Jezick*



*The Trustees of the Remembrance Fund
have received and gratefully acknowledged
A gift given in loving memory of Mark Lorah
Fred & Karen Ackerman*

*Carlann Broglie Ann & Glenn Brown
Christ Lutheran Church of Hellertown Diane French
Bill Roth Andy & Melissa Spear Alice Totenbier
Laurie & Timothy Williams Bob & Phyllis Scherer
Fred & Karen Ackerman Marie Laub Jean & Terry Stanglein*

CONFERENCE NEWS

CONTEST TO NAME OUR ASSOCIATION

Penn Northeast Conference will become an Association of the Keystone Conference on January 1, 2026. **We need a name for the new Association** (cannot include our current name or the name "North Penn" which is an Association in PSEC). Please send your suggesting to Cecilia Baxter at ceciliafbaxter@gmail.com by September 1, 2025. There will be a prize for the winning name!



Change of Address:

Jane Joyce
25540 Ann's Choice Way
Warminster PA 18974

Michael & Edna Santo
18910 Geraci Road
Lutz FL 33548



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



Sunday morning Adult Bible Study --

In the Youth room upstairs

Sundays 9:15am

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



BIBLES AND BRUNCH

is changing back to Mondays

1st and 3rd Monday of the month beginning,

September 15 - 10:30am

Come ready for actual brunch our first day back together!!

Bibles and Brunch next meetings: Monday, October 6, October 20



YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, October 19

Pizza and games

11:45am – 1pm

5th grade through high school

Join us for fun and fellowship

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

Pastor Becky - pastorbecky1121@gmail.com 610-297-2295

Ashlynn Mixa - ashlynnmixa@gmail.com 610-730-3334

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





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 610.838.9704 Elsie Stout 610.838.6470



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 every 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.



**Women's Breakfast at the
Hellertown Diner**
Second Tuesday of each month
September 9, 2025

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

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 7-13—Amy Mixa
Week of Sept 14-20 – Phyllis Scherer
Week of Sept 21-27—Tammie Vosburg
Week of Sept 28-Oct 4—Georgie Stuempfle
Week of Oct 5—11—Letty Petruno
Week of Oct 12– 18— Carlann Broglie
Week of Oct 19-25—Doug Miller
Week of Oct 26 –Nov 1—Marji Hughes
Week of Nov 2-8 — Andy Spear
Week of Nov 9-15—Lisa Fenon
Week of Nov 16-22—Ann Brown
Week of Nov 23-29—Sandy Panick



Dear Pastor Becky, Marji & Phyllis,

Thank you all so much for the emotional and spiritual support during such a difficult time with the passing of our mom, Alice Yuille.

You were all so kind and loving to my brothers and I. Pastor Becky, you were so compassionate and supportive to my brother and I when we met with you.

We appreciate you listening intently to our memories of our mom, and then included them at the service. All while you had a concussion!!

Please give my thanks to Pastor John Smith who visited her at Arden Courts.

We appreciate the love you all showed my mom in life and in her passing.

Kathy Kaehler



Vacation Bible School participants learn about the Blessing Box.

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 Sponsors/Volunteers

September 7

Counting Team.....	Team 2
Ushers.....	Team 4
Altar Flowers.....	Sandy Bender
Organ Flowers.....	Letty Petruno
Bulletins	Jim & Linda Exley
Lay Reader	Andy Spear

September 14

Counting Team.....	Team 3
Ushers.....	Team 5
Altar Flowers.....	Daphne Rodriguez
Bulletins.....	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader.....	Warren Kurz

September 21

Counting Team.....	Team 4
Ushers	Team 1
Altar Flowers	Doug & Brenda Miller
Organ Flowers.....	Bob & Phyllis Scherer
Bulletins.....	Wayne Packer/Andrea Danner
Lay Reader.....	Wayne Packer

September 28

Counting Team.....	Team 1
Ushers	Team 2
Altar Flowers...	Andrea Danner/Wayne Packer
Bulletins	Janice Csrnko
Lay Reader	Doug Miller

**World
Communion
Sunday**



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
10:30am

The September Newsletter
has been sponsored by:
Joan Kiak

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.

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 2025	10:30 AM	7	Worship/Communion/No Sunday School
	10:30 AM	14	Worship/First Day of Sunday School
	10:30 AM	21	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	28	Worship/Sunday School
Oct 2025	10:30 AM	5	Worship/World Communion/ Sunday School
	10:30 AM	12	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	19	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	26	Worship/Sunday School
Nov 2025	10:30 AM	2	Worship/ Remembrance Sunday/Communion/ Sunday School
	10:30 AM	9	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	16	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	23	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	30	Worship/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.



September Hoagie Fundraiser

Hoagies will be made by Gerrity (Valley Farm Market)

Our September fundraiser is 9" hoagies - all come with lettuce, tomato, and side condiments (no onions). You can order: Italian, American, Roast Beef, Turkey or Ham & Cheese. The price is \$8.00/hoagie.

*Orders must be in by Friday, September 12th
Pick-up will be Saturday, September 20th from 12-2 pm
in the Wimmer Room.*

HOLIDAY NUT ROLL SALE

We will be again selling Nutrolls as a fundraiser. More information will be available in upcoming Newsletters. Pick-up will be in November, before Thanksgiving.



1 Day Women's Retreat

IMAGES OF GOD

*for 1st UCC, Lower Saucon UCC and friends
breakfast and lunch provided
September 27, 2025. 9am-3pm
at Lower Saucon UCC*

What does God look like?

*A time of community,
learning, worship and
fun.*



Who is God to you?

*Where do you see
God in your life?*

*Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or
call the office 610-838-8811*



Attention All Dart Players—September Schedule

9/8 Away @ Star of Bethlehem 9/15 Away @ Fritz Wesleyan
9/22 Home vs. Bethany UCC 9/29 Home vs East Hills

For anyone who is interested in joining the group,
Please contact Lisa Fenon 610-295-8688

Staff

Rev. Becky Thomas, Pastor	610-297-2295
Marji Hughes, Minister of Faith Formation	610-984-5053
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>		
Sandy Bender	purplepeep@rcn.com	
Joan Kiak	njbk77@gmail.com	
Amy Mixa	athomeamy@hotmail.com	
<u>Deacons</u>		
Karen Frankenfield	gumbycat1@gmail.com	
Diane French	dcfrench48@gmail.com	
Ashlynn Mixa	ashlynnmixa@gmail.com	
Sandy Panick	hygienist2000@msn.com	
<u>Trustees</u>		
Keith Lentz--Pres.	keithlen56@gmail.com	
Doug Major-Vice Pres.	pamajors@rcn.com	
Wayne Packer	wayne.t.packer@gmail.com	
Chip Wagner	rdmax723@hotmail.com	

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/hellertownucc



September Birthdays

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



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
9/18	Jack & Minga Ferencin
9/21	Mark & Amy Mixa
9/23	Tim & Emily Mann
9/26	Chuck & Sandy Bender



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

Jane Yonney
566 Spruce St
Hellertown PA
(Sept 7)

Michael Santo
18910 Geraci Rd
Lutz FL 33548
(Sept 23)



Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Attendance		
July 6	\$2,363.10	49		
July 13	\$2,398.75	49		
July 20—Anniv. Sunday	\$5,175.32	54		
July 27	\$5,516.39	54		
Total	\$15,453.56			
Budget	(\$16,000.00)			
Over/Short	—\$546.44			

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

Community Day 2025

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped with our stand at Community Day. Thanks also to those who stopped by and donated to the flood victims in Texas.



PENNY PARTY

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

There will also be a 50/50 drawing. We will be 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.

First United Church Hellertown
Consistory Meeting Minutes (in brief)
Monday August 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the Wimmer Room

Call to Order: Douglas Major
In Attendance: Douglas Major, Amy Mixa, Ashlynn Mixa, Diane French, Karen Frankenfield, Sandy Panick, Joan Kiak
Absent Members: Keith Lentz, Wayne Packer, Sandy Bender, Jane Joyce
Opening Prayer: Becky Thomas
Minutes: Date: July 14 2025—Minutes approved

Treasurer's Report – Tammie Vosburg, report Accepted
Highlights: Church is doing well. Deficit of \$1313

- More information is needed to understand what is covered by the yearly cost of \$1290 yearly contract with E.F. Laudenslager. Is this a new line item we want to add to the budget? \$800 was specifically received for the AC repairs.
- Keith's appeal to the congregation for donations for special projects has been effective and yielded positive results. VBS has received donations from parents of children who are attending VBS.
- Congregation donations are up.
- Motion to move ER funds (\$1900) back to a savings type account to yield interest and close ER bank account. All in Favor

Pastor's Report: Pastor Becky,. Report Accepted

Faith Formation Report: Marji Hughes, Report accepted
Highlights: VBS was a great week. Thanks to Marji Hughes and all our volunteers.
Discussion: Amy Mixa suggested consideration to hold VBS during evening hours versus the traditional 9-12 due to parents working during the day. There will be a survey sent out to the volunteers via text / email to gather thoughts on potential to change VBS hours. Additionally, consider dates that don't coincide with Bethlehem Musikfest as this may have had a negative impact on attendance. (32 First UCC, 25 Lower Saucon UCC)

Elders' Report: Amy Mixa (9/11/25 Next Meeting)

- Jane Joyce resigned from Consistory.
- WORD-FM Radio allows churches to advertise on the station
- Hellertown Community Day will be taking collections for flood victims during the selling of popcorn.

Deacons' Report: Sandy Panick
Next Communion 9/7/25.

Correspondence: Doug Major read 2 resignation letters from Jane Joyce and Owen Ross. Owen submitted letter of resignation for lawn responsibilities due to his attending college. He is able to continue until 8/24/25. Another person will be needed to pick up lawn responsibilities. Jane Joyce submitted letter of resignation from Consistory and is relocating out of the area.

Committee Reports: Kitchen committee has 10 people signed up with 2 teams for upcoming events. Annual report shall define job descriptions for workers..

Executive Meeting: Doug Major, Pastor Becky met 8-7-25 to plan today's meeting.

Music and Worship: Keith Lentz Next meeting 9/8/25.

Safety and Security: N/A

Stewardship/ Fundraising: Ashlynn Mixa, Next Meeting 9/14/25, 11:00am.
Only 3 people signed up for Community Day. Popcorn for sale or donation for flood victims. Doug will provide 10 cases of water as donation for First UCC Popcorn Booth.

Altar: Pastor Becky will meet with the Altar Committee to discuss Parament schedule.

Tech Committee: Thanks to James Rosenberger for his expertise and work in updating the video and audio platforms for VBS. It worked very well. Still more updates to the entirety of the system to be done. This is a process over time and James Rosenberger will continue to make suggestions to make this system more reliable and easier to operate / train people to operate. Pastor Becky expressed her desire to have 2 projectors and 2 screens on either side of the altar (removing main centered screen) to project lyrics, announcements and scripture readings etc... during service. .

Consistory Minutes (cont.)

Tech Committee (cont.)
Microsoft Publishing licensing permissions expire 10/25. Is this a software support issue or licensing issue for Phyllis's new computer? Need more information.

Old Business: Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) only has Ann Brown so far. Pastor Becky recommends 2. Another candidate is front of mind for Pastor B and she will reach out to them. Consistory suggests 2 candidates as well.
New Business: Need to advertise Church Events and be able to share congratulations. Concern was expressed about updates being made to the First UCC website. Currently, Ann Brown is the only one making the updates. A call to the congregation for volunteers to help in this endeavor may be needed.

Nominations for Consistory Members needed (1 Deacon, 1 Elder, Secretary)
Feb 6-8 Women's Retreat – Motion was made for \$300 to help offset costs of attendance. All in favor. Diane will ask Wimmer Fund Committee for approval.

Adjournment: Motion made by Amy Mixa, 2nd Ashlyn Mixa

Next Meeting: September 8, 2025, in the Wimmer Room at 6:30 pm.



Do not hesitate to ask any questions!
Please consider and speak with Marji Hughes.

We are looking for a couple 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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THANK-YOUs

An unbelievable number of adults and teens joined in to make Road Trip VBS a smashing success!! Station leaders, group leaders 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 on our Road Trip:

Sarah Beers, Ann Brown, Minga Ferencin, Denise Keen, Kristen Rantz, Grayson Rantz, Andy Spear, Renate Geisinger, Carter Mullen, Shea Scorce, Liam Riehl, Madyson Schrammel, Ashlynn Mixa, Wyatt Rantz, Kaylie Scorce, Michelle Major, Ava Major, Joaquin Rojo, Charles Knecht, Melissa Spear, Elsie Stout, Beth Shelly, Callie Spirk, Greta Geisinger, Lila Nansteel, Jayden Humphries, Nathan Scorce, Letty Petruno, Charlotte Miller, Jean Miller, Brenda Miller, Amelia Roberts, Luke Rosenberger, Samantha Major, Paige Rosenberger, James Rosenberger, Doug Major, Doug Miller, Joan Kiak, Georgie Stuempfle, Budd and Molly Frankenfield, Phyllis Scherer, Pastor Becky Thomas.

