First Fruits

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Love Christ First



Mission Projects for the month of November

Fill the Sill



Please bring in non-perishable food items for the Food Bank each Sunday and place them on the sanctuary window sills. We will dedicate our donations during worship on November 22nd.

Neighbors in Need

NEIGHBORS IN NEED
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.



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



Stewardship Moments











Marji Hughes, our Minister of Faith Formation, has accepted a position as a chaplain at a retirement community. Thank you for your ten years of devoted work here at First UCC. We wil certainly miss you.

Pastor Appreciation Day















Every year , as the leaves fall from the trees, I am reminded of the heaviness of this season. We are entering the point in the year that is often full of memories of people who are no longer with us. It is a time when grief resurfaces as we look around our holiday tables and notice the people who are missing. If we pause long enough, we can almost see their smiles and hear their voices or laughter. Memories and stories play through our minds as we pause to remember. I know that, like me, many of you are remembering the people who have shaped your lives in all sorts of ways.

Sometimes, I wonder what we are supposed to do with November. It sometimes feels like a messy month, between raking leaves and grieving. It begins with what, at least in my opinion, is one of the most powerful Sunday worship services. A day when we pause to remember all of the saints who have journeyed with us. Then the month shifts to giving thanks for the bountiful gifts the earth provides. All of this happening as we begin preparing our hearts for Advent. My prayer for you as we journey through this shifting season, is that you are gentle with yourselves. Take time to breathe, to rest, and to meet God in prayer.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky

Confirmation

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

November 8 & 22



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:
November 29 - Hanging of the Greens
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.

SOUP KITCHEN





NEW BETHANY HOSPITALITY CENTER BETHEHEM

First Wednesday of every month
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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 the sub list??
Contact: Jeannie Miller 610.838.9704



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

Ladies' Breakfast at the Hellertown Diner

Ladies Breakfast

Second Tuesday of each month - 8 AM

November 10, 2026

Come whenever you are able!
First one there, grabs a table!
Please feel free to join us!



Coffee &Conversation

Every Sunday Morning

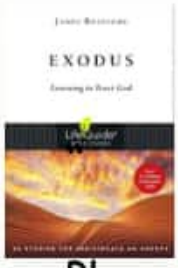
9:45 AM

before worship

in the Wimmer Room



Sunday Morning Adult 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

November 10, November 24

We will be discussing the book "An Unlikely Advent"

by Rachel Billups



HANGING OF THE GREENS—November 29th

10:30 AM worship

Potluck Luncheon



following the Service

Please sign up in the Narthex to bring a dish to share, and to help with clean-up.



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, a variety of soups and breakfast foods to keep our pantry stocked. Please—no glass jars.

Week of November 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
Week of Dec 20-26 - Becky Rosenberger
Week of Dec 27 - Jan 2 - Andy Spear
Week of Jan 3-9 - Lisa Fenon
Week of Jan 10-16 - Ann Brown
Week of Jan 17-23 - Sandy Panick

Attention All Dart Players - November Schedule

Nov2 - Double Elimination
@ Star of Bethlehem

Nov 9 bye
Nov 16 Home vs. Bethany UCC
Nov 23 Away @ East Hills
Nov 30 Away @ Star of Bethlehem



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

Remembrance Sunday
November 1, 2026
10:30 am worship
followed by Fellowship Hour
in the Wimmer Room

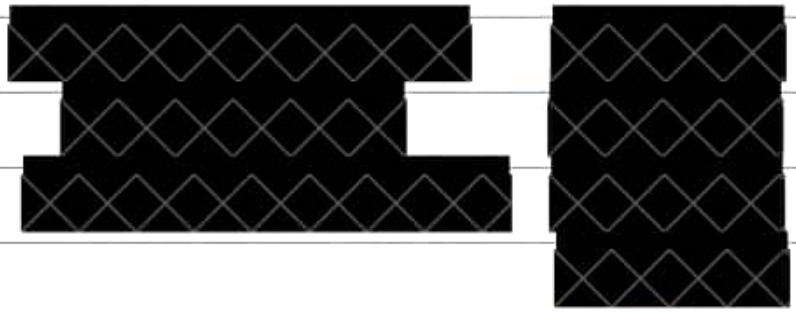
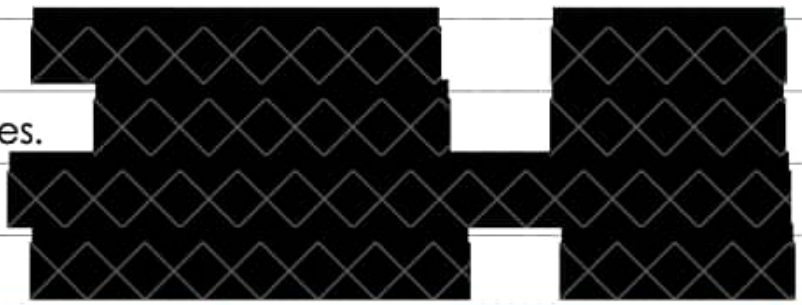




Staff

Rev. Becky Thomas, Pastor	610-297-2295
Pat O'Connell, Minister of Music	484-357-9764
Phyllis Scherer, Administrative Asst.	610-554-6223
Tammie Vosburg, Church Treasurer	610-533-8009
Budd Frankenfield, Sexton	610-360-7859

Consistory Members

	Email address	Phone Number
Elders		
Jane Hoff		
Joan Kiak		
Amy Mixa		
Tricia Shelly		
Deacons		
Karen Frankenfield		
Ashlynn Mixa		
Sandy Panick		
Trustees		
Keith Lentz-Pres.		
Doug Major-Vice Pres.		
Wayne Packer		
Chip Wagner		

First United Church Hellertown
Consistory Minutes
October 12, 2026

Call to Order: Meeting Called to order Keith Lentz at 6:30 - Absent : Joan Kiak

Opening Prayer: Pastor Becky

Minutes: October 12, 2026
Motion: *Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes made by Sandy Panick, second by Jane Hoff, all were in favor.*

Special Guest: Bob Turner: Bob Turner presented a power point with a projected five year plan of our investments, expenses and budget. Key points of his discussion included a Mission Plan, what we value and our vision for the church. Also our weekly attendance, number of giving units (families) and weekly giving. He discussed a five year outlook with the gap widening of our expenses vs giving. One major concern is our aging congregation vs no increase in new members. Bob also suggested we could seek legal advice on utilizing our investments to the fullest.

Treasurer's Report - Tammie Vosburg
Highlights: We continue to operate with a negative cash flow of $26,573.00. Our investments took a dip this 3rd quarter but overall year to date is doing well. We have four fundraisers coming up in the next few months that we hope will help towards the deficit.
A *motion was made to accept the proposed budget for 2027 by Wayne Packer and second by Karen Frankenfield. All were in favor.*
A date was set for November 15th to hold an annual meeting to review the budget with the congregation.

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

Faith Formation Report - Marji Hughes submitted a new Faith Formation email effective October 11, 2026 to be used for all correspondence regarding Sunday School, VBS and Bible Study concerns.The Faith Formation will monitor any inquiries since Marji has resigned.

Elders' Report - Amy Mixa October Mission, Church World Services. The Elders are gathering names for our college students to send out care packages. The next Elder meeting will be October 26th.

Deacons' Report - Next Communion is November 1st. Sandy Panick discussed reviewing the usher list as some people are resigning for 2027. Perhaps we will move to two ushers on non communion Sundays and have four for communion.Also Sandy will talk to ushering teams about the collection process. We do not need to wait for all ushers to be at equal pews on each side. We can move along if there is no one in the pews and if need be in the back of the church come around to help at the fuller pews. There will be a Fellowship hour after church with Consistory hosting.

Trustees' Report - EMB Construction will be at the church on October 21st to provide us with an estimate for the window siding to be done in 2027. Elderhorst Bells will be delayed due to another church bell emergency. We now expect them sometime in the second week of November.

Correspondence: AA is requesting to use New Fellowship Hall for Friday January 1, 2027 for their Chili Alcothan. It will be from 9:00-4:00 and they will bring in crock pots supplying their own food. They will pay $200 for the hall rental. Also they will pay $75.00 to our custodian Budd Frankenfield. A motion was made to accept the request for AA to use Fellowship Hall by Jane Hoff and second by Wayne Packer. All were in favor. Keith Lentz will let Steve Ferrari know.

Committee Reports:

Executive Meeting: Consistory Agenda set by Keith Lentz

Music and Worship:. October 25th will be Stewardship Sunday. The choir will be singing selected anthems and special music from the blue hymnals. The choir will be performing 15 minute concerts at our Fall Festival on October 17th between 10:00 and 12:00 noon. The screen in the Sanctuary will be utilized to showcase other music and VBS.

Safety and Security - No report

Fundraising - Fall Festival this Saturday October 17th. November 14th will be the coin party and the Nut Roll Sale will be in November.

Stewardship: Fall Festival is set for Oct 17th 10:00-3:00. Jane Hoff would love all hands on deck. We can still use volunteers and donations. Would appreciate it if consistory members can come out and volunteer.

Investment/Finance: Wayne Packer suggested a name for this committee to be Revenue Development Committee. Additional discussion was held after Bob's presentation regarding 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 and office space. Wayne will coordinate a time and text those interested to have their first meeting.

Altar: No report

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

Old Business: $425.00 was collected for the Ubert family who lost everything in a fire. Tammie Vosburg prepared the check and it was forwarded to the family.

New Business: A decision was made to use the donations that we get for serving hot dogs at the Halloween Parade to the New Jerusalem Food Bank. Wayne Packer presented some research he did on options in lieu of having a consistory. Two samples he had were Small Church Council and Ministry Teams. They would be similar to all our individual committees we have now. Pastor Becky is aware of these types of leadership plans. She will obtain more information. Further discussion will be needed on this matter.

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn by Amy Mixa at 8:28 pm and second by Ashlynn Mixa. Followed with the Lord's Prayer

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

Respectfully Submitted - Sandra Panick



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.

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.

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/Communion/Hanging of the Greens
Dec 2026	10:30 AM	6	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	13	Worship/Christmas Pageant
	10:30 AM	20	Worship/Sunday School
	7:00 PM	21	Longest Night Service
	7:30 PM	24	Candlelight Service
	10:30 AM	27	Worship/Lovefeast/No Sunday School
Jan 2027	10:30 AM	3	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	10	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	17	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	24	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	31	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

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.

November Sponsors/Volunteers

November 1

Counting Team	Team 2
Usher Team	Team 2
Acolyte	Carter Mullen
Altar Flowers	Pat O'Connell
Bulletins	Doug & Brenda Miller
Lay Reader	Andy Spear

November 8

Counting Team	Team 3
Usher Team	Team 3
Acolyte	Matthew Harvey
Altar Flowers	Chip Wagner/Gretchen Diehl
Bulletins	Dave & Georgie Stuempfle
Lay Reader	Sarah Beers

November 15

Counting Team	Team 4
Usher Team	Team 4
Acolyte	Madyson Schrammel
Altar Flowers	Dave & Georgie Stuempfle
Bulletins	Jane Parenti
Lay Reader	

November 22

Counting Team	Team 1
Usher Team	Team 5
Acolyte	Liam Riehl
Altar Flowers	
Organ Piece	Marji Hughes.
Bulletins	Wayne Packer/Andrea Danner
Lay Reader	Marie Laub

November 29

Counting Team	Team 2
Usher Team	Team 1
Acolyte	Carter Mullen
Altar Flowers	Wayne Packer/Andrea Danner
Bulletins	Sandy Panick
Lay Reader	Doug Major

The November Newsletter has been sponsored by Doug & Brenda Miller

November Birthdays

11/1	Jen Yonney	11/22	Jamie Miller
11/4	Paige Rosenberger	11/24	Andrea Danner
11/5	Nan Belcak	11/24	Bob Stetser
11/7	D. Alstair Ponzol	11/25	Jennie Cawley
11/9	Joshua Lamirand	11/27	James Panick
11/9	Elizabeth Mills	11/29	Jessica Fenon
11/11	Sandy Panick		
11/11	Jane Parenti		
11/18	Barb Thatcher		
11/20	Samantha Miller		
11/21	Cathy Lechner		
11/21	Pastor Becky Thomas		
11/22	Josiah Lamirand		



November Anniversaries

11/21	Jody & Diane Miller
11/21	Joseph & Nancy Talarico
11/27	Bob & Louise Krill
11/27	Michael & Rachel O'Connell
11/28	Bob & Doris Turner



Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Attendance		
Sept 6 Communion	$4,922.88	66	Pediatric Cancer	$70.00
Sept 13	$2,839.62	61	Save the Bell	$2,600.00
Sept 20	$463.06	0 (gas leak}		
Sept 27	$3,988.17	72		
Total	$12,213.73			
Budget	($16,000.00)			
Over/Short	($3,786.27)			

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.

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

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift to Special Olympics Pennsylvania of $276 on September 8, 2026. Your gift will support our athletes in the Greater Lehigh Valley Pocono Region, through the Lehigh Valley Plane Pull. The Special Olympics PA experience fills a critical need in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing programs fostering:

Competition: Through rigorous training, we witness incredible athletic triumphs that shatter stereotypes and inspire generations. Leadership: We educate and empower people with intellectual disabilities, helping athletes become confident and respected leaders.

Health & Fitness: We offer life-changing health programming that gives our athletes access to health screenings that improve their performance and well– being on and off the playing field.

Unified Sports: We build communities of acceptance, respect, and dignity among people of all abilities.

The benefits of participation in Special Olympics PA translate beyond sports, helping them to live more independent and rewarding lives. On behalf of our athletes, thank you for your life-changing support.

Sincerely,
Julie Benjamin, Executive Director, The Greater Lehigh Valley Pocono Region



HOLIDAY NUT ROLL SALE

Thank you to everyone who ordered Nutrolls.

Pick Up Date is

Thursday, November 19th

11am - 2 pm or 5-7 pm



COIN PARTY

Saturday, November 14, 2026 - Doors open at 12 noon. Game begins at 12:30

There will also be a 50/50 drawing. We are still looking for **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 hot dogs, chili, snacks, baked goods and beverages. We are in need of **bakers** to make items for the bake sale. Please sign up on the sheets on 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 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 AND invite your FAMILY, friends and neighbors to join you in this fun event.**

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!















Secret Prayer Partner Reveal Luncheon was held on Sunday, October 4th at Heintzelman's Carriage House.

A big Thank You to Georgie and Dave Steumpfle for arranging the event.

Fall Festival

These are some of the over 20 Vendors who participated in our Fall Festival









































Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make the Fall Festival a huge success. We were able to show what our church has to offer to the people attending our Fall Festival.



