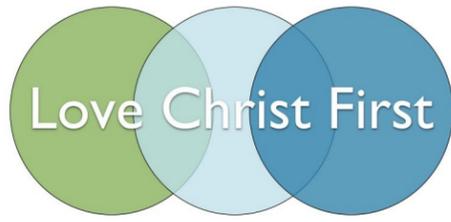




Women's Retreat
February 6-8



Mission Project for the Month of March

Easter Baskets



Members of First UCC are asked to donate items for Easter Baskets for children served by the **New Jerusalem Food Bank**. Coloring books, bubbles, chalk, individually wrapped Easter candy, snacks, Rice Krispie Treats, Matchbox cars, gum, juice boxes, 12 oz Gatorade, \$10 gift cards to McDonald's are needed to create 104 baskets. If you are not able to shop for items but would like to be part of the project, we will accept monetary donations which will be used to purchase items for these baskets. All donations must be in the church office by **Wednesday, March 18th**. Volunteers are needed to set up on **March 21st (10 AM–12N)** and fill the Baskets on **Sunday, March 22nd**, before & after worship. Please check the list in the Narthex for items still needed. There is an insert in this Newsletter listing the items to be included in the baskets.



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





Sometimes, March seems like an in-between month. The days are getting longer, the temperatures are getting a little warmer. As I write this, it is still winter, but it is almost as though I can smell spring on the air. I'm waiting longingly for the first signs of green to poke through the thawing soil. While also hoping that they don't come too soon and suffer the sting of winter's chill as it reminds us that it is still here. It is as though I can feel my mood getting lighter and more hopeful with every passing day. It seems fitting that as we move through the season of Lent we are also moving

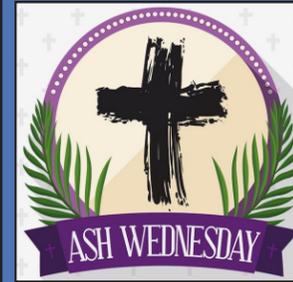
toward the end of the harsh winter months.

Lent is meant to be a time when we grow in our faith so that new life can burst forth. It is a time when we are meant to truly look within our own hearts and examine what we are carrying with us. It is a time when we are meant to consider what we need to let go of, or what we need to take on, in order to draw closer to God and to one another. My prayer for you, as we are in the middle of this Lenten season, is that you allow this to be a season of slowing down, pondering, and praying. Like the seeds buried in the frozen ground we need to take in the nourishment of this season that we may grow in Christ.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky

Our Annual Meeting was held on February 1, 2026.

Consistory President, Keith Lentz led the meeting. Treasurer, Tammie Vosburg reported on the financial status of the church.



Combined Choirs sing at the Ash Wednesday Lenten Service on February 18th at Lower Saucon UCC



Baptismal Plaque, stitched by Joan Kiak was dedicated on February 22nd.



Thank you to everyone who donated items for **Phoebe Home**.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Thank you to everyone who donated items for the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. Your donations will be delivered to New Jerusalem Food Bank.



The Trustees of the Remembrance Fund
 have received and gratefully acknowledged
 A gift given in loving memory of Helen B. Cochran
 John & Kathy Chapman

February 17, 2026

Dear Friends of the food pantry,

Our sincere thanks for your recent donation of \$506 to the community food pantry at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church. While many struggle to attain "the basics" of keeping food on the table and a roof overhead, your thoughtful generosity will bring comfort to those who find themselves in a position of being food insecure.

We are grateful for people like you who think of others. May a measure of the goodness you extend to others come around to bless you richly as well.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor, New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, March 29—10:30 AM



Joint Service—Thursday, April 2

7 PM at First UCC

Maundy Thursday



Joint Service—Friday, April 3 — 6 PM Cross Carry starting at First UCC

7 PM Worship at Lower Saucon UCC

good friday

Easter Sunday—April 5th

10:30 AM



SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Each Sunday, children begin in worship at 10:30am and are invited to class following the Children's Message. **Worship bags are available in the coat room area for children during the service.** Please remember to return the bags to the shelf following worship.

Special Dates:

Wednesday, March 11 - 6pm Lenten soup supper followed by worship

Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday. Children sing in worship before heading to class

Sunday, April 5 – Easter. Family worship 10:30am no Sunday School

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.

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

Mid-Week Lenten Soup & Services



Soup Meal @ 6 PM Worship Service @ 7 PM



The theme of this year's Lenten services is
 "Tell Me a Story"

Mar 4 Friedens Lutheran Church, 2451 Saucon Valley Rd, Center Valley

Mar 11 First UCC, 501 Northampton Street, Hellertown

Mar 18 New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 3233 Apples Church Rd, Bethlehem

Mar 25 Lower Saucon UCC, 1375 Third Avenue, Hellertown



Fellowship Hour –Welcome Spring

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Immediately following worship

In the Wimmer Room





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

Women's Bible Study

1st and 3rd Monday of the month

10:30am

March 2, March 16

We are reading "The Final Days, A Lenten Journey" By Matt Rawles

Don't hesitate to drop in



Confirmation class schedule:

11:30am – 1:00pm in the Youth/Young Adult Room

March 8 – How we worship

March 29 – a walk through Holy Week

Please don't forget to attend worship as often as possible. Confirmation class includes participating in the life of the church - and the service on Sunday is an integral part of what it means to be 1st UCC.

Questions, please contact Marji Hughes or Pastor Becky

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. 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 Mar 1-7— Phyllis Scherer
- Week of Mar 8-14—Tammie Vosburg
- Week of Mar 15-21—Georgie Stuempfle
- Week of Mar 22-28—Letty Petruno
- Week of Mar 29—Apr 4 — Carlann Broglie
- Week of Apr 5—11—Doug Miller
- Week of Apr 12-18 —Marji Hughes
- Week of Apr 19-25— Andy Spear
- Week of Apr 26—May 2—Lisa Fenon
- Week of May 3—9—Ann Brown
- Week of May 10—16—Sandy Panick
- Week of May 17-23—Amy Mixa

Attention All Dart Players—March Schedule

3/2 Home vs. Star of Bethlehem

3/9 Home vs. Fritz Wesleyan

3/16 Away @ Bethany UCC

3/23 Away @ East Hills

3/30—Holy Week—No Matches

for anyone who is interested in joining the group,

Please contact Lisa Fenon



We are looking for Sponsors for 2026.

Sign-up sheet for **Bulletins** is posted on the Narthex Bulletin Board. Cost of sponsoring the **Bulletins** is **\$10.00/week**. The **Flower Chart** is on the door to the Church Office closet. Please stop in or call to put your name on the list for sponsoring flowers. Cost is **\$40.00/week**.

March Sponsors/Volunteers

March 1

Counting Team..... Team 3
 Ushers.....Team 1
 AcolyteMatthew Harvey
 Altar Flowers.....Bob & Phyllis Scherer
 BulletinsTom & Donna Ball
 Lay ReaderAnn Brown

March 15

Counting Team..... Team 1
 UshersTeam 3
 Acolyte.....Carter Mullen
 Altar Flowers.....Daphne Rodriguez
 Bulletins.....Daphne Rodriguez
 Lay ReaderBecky Harvey

March 29

Counting Team..... Team 3
 UshersTeam 5
 Acolyte.....Madyson Schrammel
 Altar Flowers.....Marji Hughes
 Bulletins.....Jane Parenti
 Lay ReaderNan Belcak

March 8

Counting Team..... Team 4
 Ushers.....Team 2
 Acolyte.....Sarah Beers
 Altar Flowers.....Tammie Vosburg
 Bulletins.....Doug & Brenda Miller
 Lay Reader.....Georgie Stuempfle

March 22

Counting Team..... Team 2
 UshersTeam 4
 Acolyte.....Liam Riehl
 Altar Flowers.....Tricia Shelly
 Bulletins.....Janice Csrnko
 Lay ReaderBob Scherer

Put this on your calendar:

*Women's
Retreat*

April 2-4, 2027

The March Newsletter
has been sponsored by:
Letty Petruno

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.



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] Elsie Stout [REDACTED]



Women's Breakfast at the
Hellertown Diner
Second Tuesday of each month– 8 AM
March 10, 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

YOUTH GROUP for grades 5 - high school

April 12 meet at church 11:30 - Watch for details

Questions - email or call:

Pastor Becky - [REDACTED]

Ashlynn Mixa - [REDACTED]

Marji Hughes - [REDACTED]

Please let one of the leaders know you will be coming along





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.

Mar 2026	10:30 AM	1	Worship/Communion/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	8	Worship/Sunday School
	7:00 PM	11	Mid-Week Lenten Service—Soup @ 6:00 PM
	10:30 AM	15	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	22	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	29	Palm Sunday Worship/Sunday School
Apr 2026	7:00 PM	2	Maundy Thursday Worship
	10:30 AM	5	Easter Sunday Worship/Communion
	10:30 AM	12	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	19	Worship/Sunday School
	10:30 AM	26	Worship/Sunday School
May 2026	10:30 AM	3	Worship/Sunday School/Communion
	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

PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION NEEDED

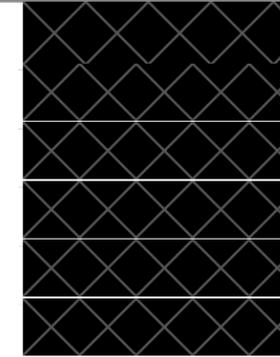
Discussions of church business should be reserved for after services on Sundays or during office business hours. Please allow our members and staff to prepare their hearts for worship.

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.

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
Elders		
Sandy Bender	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Joan Kiak	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Amy Mixa	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Tricia Shelly	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Deacons		
Karen Frankenfield	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Ashlynn Mixa	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Sandy Panick	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Trustees		
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



March Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 3/2 Sawyer Yohn | 3/17 Doug Major |
| 3/3 David Thatcher | 3/17 Brandon Pfanders |
| 3/6 Keith Lentz | 3/19 Joanne Thatcher |
| 3/6 Asher Moran | 3/22 Patricia Zelko |
| 3/7 Andrea Milliren | 3/23 Jenna Moran |
| 3/9 Sadie Mann | 3/24 Budd Frankenfield |
| 3/10 Pat O'Connell | |
| 3/11 Nancy Fegley | |
| 3/11 Louise Krill | |
| 3/11 Garrett Laub | |
| 3/12 Michael Kiak | |
| 3/14 Lauren Moran | |
| 3/14 Jackson Weaver | |
| 3/15 Sheri Musgung | |
| 3/16 Madysen Pritchard | |
| 3/16 Tara Reilly | |
| 3/17 Josh Frankenfield | |



March Anniversaries

- 3/3 Chris & Tara Reilly
 3/13 Leroy & Jeannie Miller
 3/18 Joseph & Lois Palmisano
 3/20 James & Rebecca Rosenberger
 3/20 David & Linda Thatcher
 3/23 Henry & Lisa Fenon



A Blessing

*Shared by Denise Keen at
 the Women's Retreat*
 May your heart share kindness.
 May your mind share peace.
 and,
 your presence be a light to the world.

Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions	Attendance	Special Offerings	
Jan 4	\$2,896.67	63	Food Bank	\$390.00
Jan 11	\$2,627.56	67		
Jan 18	\$400.36	0—Snow		
Jan 25	\$6,041.95	47		
Total	\$11,966.54			
Budget	\$16,000.00			
Over/Short	(\$4,033.46)			

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

Registration and more information coming soon!

Snowball Mountain Challenge

**Vacation Bible School
 July 20-24, 2026!**



With God, I Am Strong!

Kids from Pre-K 3 through grade 7 are invited to an exciting winter sports event, where they become Challengers, gearing up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith. Guided by the Activities Director and Ollie the Arctic Seal puppet, challengers won't just play games - they will learn to draw strength from their faith through powerful stories of courage and hope. With a unique winter theme and solid theology at its



core, this VBS delivers joy and meaning in equal measure, teaching kids that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13 NRSV).

Snowball Mountain Challenge is sure to be a mountain-top experience filled with laughter, life lessons, and lasting faith where kids find their strength in God!

Easter Flowers



We are taking orders for Easter flowers (tulips or lilies). The flowers will be used to decorate the sanctuary and may be taken home after the worship service on Easter Sunday. Please use the order form included in this Newsletter. You have a choice of pink or purple tulips and white lilies.



Orders, dedications, and payments must be received *no later than March 15th*.

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
February 11, 2026**

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Keith Lentz

Opening Prayer: Pastor Becky

Absent members: Karen Frankenfield, Marji Hughes, Wayne Packer and Chip Wagner

Minutes: December 8, 2025 (January meeting canceled/snow)

Motion: Approval of Minutes: Sandy Bender and second by Doug Major

Guests: Ann Brown joined the meeting to review changes made to the Treasury report included in our Annual Report. The changes were previously voted on at the Annual Meeting and Tammie has completed the update.

David Heinzelman joined our meeting to discuss the parking lot concerns of cars illegally using the lot, especially with the recent snowstorms. David encourages us to act upon removal of these vehicles. He stated that our signage is appropriate and warns that cars would be towed. He recommended establishing our church with Saucon Collision for future needs. Keith Lentz will contact Saucon Collision. Our protocol would be to call Saucon Collision to have the car towed and then contact police so they have a record in case the owner would report their car stolen. There was also discussion of putting a laminated warning card on the vehicle first. David kindly offered to provide us with these.

Treasurer's Report - Tammie Vosburg

Highlights: We are starting out the year with a deficit. On a positive note our investments are up.

WIMMER FUND: Special Discussion

1- Discussion to consider additional bonus be given to Budd and Molly for their efforts during the last ice and snowstorm. Also going forward we will double the payment per inch if it is an all ice event. **Motion** was made by Amy Mixa and second by Sandy Bender. All were in favor.

2- A new lock had to be installed on the office door after the first one failed.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Becky—Accepted Pastor Becky's report as presented

Faith Formation Report - Marji Hughes—Accepted Marji's report as presented

Elders' Report - Amy Mixa welcomed Tricia Shelly to her first meeting as a new Elder. Amy stated 3 Birthday cards were sent to members over 90 years old.

Our monthly mission for March will be Easter Baskets for New Jerusalem

Elders next meeting will be April 20, 2026

Deacons' Report - Sandy Panick nothing to report

Trustees' Report - nothing new to report

Correspondence: Request to use New Fellowship Hall for a birthday party was approved.

Committee Reports:

Executive Meeting: Today's agenda was prepared by Keith Lentz and Doug Major

Consistory Minutes (cont.)

Committee Reports:

Music and Worship: Ash Wednesday at LSUCC February 18 with soup at 6:00 and service at 7:00. March 11th we will host soup and service.

The date for Anniversary Sunday has been set for July 19.

A joint service for the 250th Anniversary of our country is being considered for July 5th. Pastor Becky will discuss with HAM.

Women's retreat was successful and fun was had by all!

Safety and Security - Sandy Bender nothing to report

Fundraising - Ashlynn Mixa - Current fundraiser underway is Matey's Pizza. Looking for another option for hoagie sales, Geritty's is not an option anymore. Tricia Shelly will talk to Kim at Bergstresser's. Jersey Mikes is being considered but they have not responded back yet.

Stewardship: Newly formed committee will have their first meeting February 10, 2026 at 11:00.

Altar: nothing to report

Tech: James Rosenberg believes it may be around \$1800.00 to replace the balcony camera. There is still an ongoing discussion regarding screens for the front of the church. Current estimate is \$3700.00 for wiring and installation this does not include cost of screens/TVs. Keith will ask James to get quotes for TVs vs. screens.

Keith said there has been some negative feedback from congregation members regarding screens. Amy Mixa discussed proposing the idea in church to the congregation, explaining the benefits, also assuring them that hymnals and bulletins will still be available.

Old Business: None

New Business: Pastor Becky suggested a member of Consistory should be on the Wimmer Committee. They meet 2 times per year. Doug Major has volunteered for this year.

Pastor Becky would like to have an installation of the Consistory in church on February 22.

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn 7:54 by Ashlyn Mixa and second by Tricia Shelly. All in favor followed with The Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: March 9, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Wimmer Room



**Save the Date
Dine to Donate at
Braveheart Highland Pub
Wednesday, April 8, 2026 4-8 PM
Dine-in or Takeout**

