

First United Church of Christ

501 Northampton Street • Hellertown, PA 18055-1838

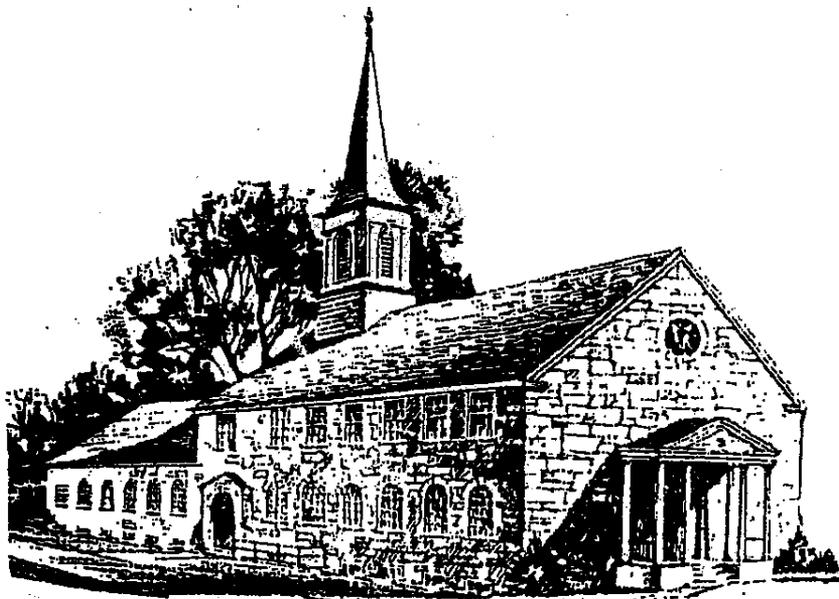
Phone: 610-838-8811 • Fax: 610-838-8929

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Pastor Susan Lishman, Supply Pastor

Ms. Marjorie P. Hughes, D.C.E.



FIRST FRUITS
March 2018



Worship Services

March 4	10:30 AM	Worship
March 11	10:30 AM	Worship
March 14	6:00 PM	Mid-Week Lenten Soup & Service
March 18	10:30 AM	Worship
March 25	10:30 AM	Worship/Palm Sunday
March 29	7:30 PM	Maundy Thursday

Staff

Pastor Susan Lishman, Supply Pastor	610-682-6420
Ms. Marjorie P. Hughes, D.C.E.	610-984-5053
Mrs. Phyllis Scherer, Administrative Asst.	610-554-6223
Mr. Robert Turner, Church Treasurer	703-626-0641
Mr. Sherwood Stauffer, Sexton	610-838-7391

Pastor Susan is available for hospital and recovery when informed.

Please don't assume that the hospital will call.

Our hospital code is 428.

Pastor Susan can be reached at 610-682-6420

Church Office Hours:

Office Hours are 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Please make your calls to 838-8811 and conduct your business during those hours. Other calls will be recorded on voice mail. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and cooperation.

Our New Minister *Pastor Joel Risser*

Congregants shook off the snow from the previous evening to attend a special Congregational Meeting on February 18 to vote on a new ministerial candidate.

Pastor Joel Risser was approved overwhelmingly as our new Minister after he conducted a wonderful Call Service. His wife, Jessica, and son, Stanton (almost 4 years old) were in attendance to meet everyone.

During Call Week, Pastor Joel attended church committee meetings, the men's and women's breakfast, a "Meet and Greet" at the Grist Mill so that congregants could get to know him prior to the vote.

Pastor Joel comes from St. John's UCC in Jonestown, PA where he served for 10 years. He sensed, after lots of prayer, that his future included a new calling. That calling led him to us. The Search Committee worked tirelessly for over a year to find just the right minister. His skills with scripture, community out-reach, elder care visitations, youth groups, organization, social technology, music, and growing the congregation make him perfect for our church.

There is great excitement in the air as we look forward to him beginning this new chapter with us. His first day of preaching will be Sunday, **April 29**. Put it down on your calendar and be sure to attend that day to welcome him.



Easter Flowers

March 11th is the deadline for ordering your Easter flowers. lilies are \$7.00 and tulips are \$6.00. They can be picked up after the Easter service on April 1st. Please see the form included in this issue or call the church office for more information.



First Fruits February 2018

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501 Northampton Street
Hellertown, PA 18055
Volume 65, Number 3

With the support of:

- Marji Hughes
- Phyllis Scherer
- Ann Brown
- Carlann Broglio



Pastor Susan's Reflections

A Sunday School teacher asked a group of 1st graders if any one of them knew what Lent was. One little girl, holding her hand high and proud, stated that she knew what Lent was. The little girl explained that "Lent" was the little things that her mom picked off the clothes when they came out of the dryer.

As grown-ups we know that Lent has nothing to do with picking "fuzzy" things off our clothing and everything to do with picking the "fuzzy" things off our lives. Through self-examination we can see that we have fallen short of God's expectations for us. Through prayer and silence we can listen to God's will for us. Lent is a season both of repentance and anticipation, a time for reflection, and for taking stock of the direction of our lives. We look back on the promises we made – but didn't keep. We hear a rooster crow and remember, like Peter, the times we denied knowing Christ; maybe not in spoken words but in our actions. We look forward and find hope; we see the sunrise and know we have another day to try to get it right.

May your Lenten journey be blessed with self-revelation and new beginnings as we move toward the new life that the resurrection brings.

Peace,
Susan

First United Church of Christ Family,

Henri Nouwen wrote that “waiting is a period of learning. The longer we wait, the more we hear about him for whom we are waiting.” I know there is spiritual truth to what Nouwen says. The Bible bears that out, when I tried to count the passages that talk about waiting, I lost count three times. Most of the references to waiting are about waiting for God in some way, whether it is God’s salvation, or God’s presence, or God’s intervention. One of my favorite verses about waiting is Micah 7:7

But me! I will keep watch for the Lord;
I will wait for the God of my salvation;
my God will hear me.

If we don’t have faith that what we are waiting for will happen, it is easy to lose hope. I know Tom Petty was right when he sang “You take it on faith, you take it to the heart. The waiting is the hardest part.”

I have never been great at waiting. Whenever I buy a gift for my wife, Jess, I struggle to wait until the occasion I intended to give it to her. A part of me was glad when our son was born six weeks early; he was perfectly healthy, and waiting for him to arrive was driving me absolutely bonkers.

During our “call week,” as I got to know many of you, when I was asked if I was nervous about the trial sermon I would dodge the question by saying “I just want to do it, I can’t stand waiting!” It would be easy to say I was denying my true feelings; that I was just exhausted from being nervous about my trial sermon, and your vote. I know the truth; my nervousness was very real, but I am always terrible at waiting.

Thank you for welcoming me, and my family, to your church family. Excited skims the surface of how I feel about being called to be your pastor. As I go through the sadness of ending my ministry at St. John’s United Church of Christ in Jonestown this month I will be buoyed by knowing that something special is on the horizon at First United Church of Christ, Hellertown. I hope Henri Nouwen is right; that the waiting will help me learn about God and grow in my faith. In the meantime, my mantra is “the waiting is the hardest part.”

Grace and peace,

Pastor Joel



Farewell to Ben and Megan Durham

Ben and Megan Durham came to us 4 ½ years ago after supplying upon Mike Schmidt's retirement. We have been so blessed by their talent and caring. The children's and adult choir consider them our church family. As they move on with their lives, we wish them the very best. We will miss them dearly and appreciate all they have done for us.



Suggestion Box

There is a suggestion box in the Narthex with sheets of paper to use for anyone who has a comment, question, or suggestion. Please fill out the sheet with your thoughts and drop it in the box. Our goal is to improve communication within the church, and, one way is to make every voice heard. Please leave your name, phone number

or email if you wish so that we can reply to you. All of them will be responded to in some fashion.



Consistory News: *Congregational Meeting*

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on February 18 after the luncheon for Pastor Risser. Matt Milliren, Consistory President, called the meeting to order. Matt reviewed the accomplishments of the past year. Bob Turner (Church Treasurer) reviewed the financial status of the church and our budget for 2018. Elections were held for Consistory. New members include: Carlann Broglie, Ann Brown, Bill Hoff, Georgie Stuempfle, Elsie Stout and Andy Spear. Those leaving Consistory were applauded for their service. Andy Spear then talked about some goals for the church for 2018. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.



Sunday School

Sunday School begins each week at 9:15am in the Sanctuary with **Opening Worship**. Children are asked to sit with their classmates. **Parents and caregivers welcome!**

Dates to Remember:

3/11 - 9:15am Mentors meet with Confirmation Class
10:15am Easter Baskets for Food Bank filled

3/14 - Mid-Lenten Soup and Discussion 6pm

3/20 - Palm Cross making

3/25 - Palm Sunday
Journey to the Cross 10:30am

3/29 - Maundy Thursday
7:30pm worship

4/1 - Easter
8:30am and 10:30am worship
No Sunday School

Pre-K through Grade 6 uses the curriculum, **Deep Blue**. Each lesson begins with a short video clip which the students watch together before heading to their classrooms. Check it out at deepbluekids.com

Please speak with Marji Hughes if you have any questions or concerns.



Palm Cross Making

Please join us at 7:00 PM on **Tuesday, March 20th** in New Fellowship Hall for our annual palm cross making session. Everyone is invited to help.



www.facebook.com/1st-UCC-Hellertown



FILL THE EASTER BASKETS

Once again, the youth are making Easter Baskets for the less-fortunate children of Hellertown. This year there is a need for 89 baskets.

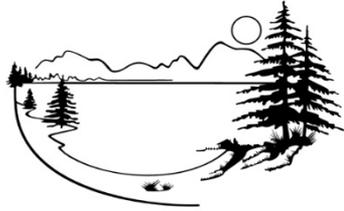
Please bring in individually wrapped candies, bubbles, chalk, juice boxes or even a cash donation.

All donations may be dropped off in the narthex until **March 9**.

Set up for Basket filling is **March 10**. Baskets will be filled on **March 11**.

Please speak with Andrea Milliren 610-217-5604, if you have questions or wish to help out.

*My Soul Longs for You,
O God*



*Mid-Lenten Event
Soup and...*

Wednesday, March 14 - 6pm

Sign up in the Narthex to bring soup and/or to attend.

Childcare provided if requested by **March 11**. Please speak with Marji Hughes 610-984-5053

Join us Palm Sunday for



a series of scenes and hymns taking the congregation through Jesus' last week on earth- as portrayed by our teens and voiced by adult volunteers.

*during 10:30am worship,
March 25*

Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions + Capital Campaign		Attendance
January 7	\$0.00	\$ 0.00	church cancelled
January 14	\$ 3,967.00	\$ 0.00	108 (communion)
January 21	\$ 2,811.00	\$ 0.00	199
January 28	\$ 2,461.00	\$ 0.00	84

2018 Greeters Needed – A sign-up sheet is posted on the narthex bulletin board. Please consider serving in this way on a Sunday morning.

2018 Bulletin Sponsors – A sign-up sheet is also posted on the narthex bulletin board for those who would like to be a bulletin sponsor. The cost is \$10.00 per Sunday. Checks should be made out to First UCC and marked for bulletins.

Newsletter Sponsors – if you would like to sponsor a church newsletter, please sign up on the narthex bulletin board. The cost is \$60.00 per month. Please make checks out to First UCC and mark for newsletter sponsor and the month you are sponsoring.

Altar Flower Sponsors – If you wish to sponsor altar flowers or would like to have a organ/piano piece placed for Sunday worship or a rosebud for a birth/baptism, please see or contact Minga Ferencin at 610-213-9036 to make the arrangements. The cost for altar flowers is \$30.00 and checks should be made out to First UCC and marked for altar flowers and the date you are sponsoring.

Those Serving in March

	3/4/18	3/11/18	3/18/18	3/25/18	3/29/18
Ushers	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 6	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> Consistory
Greeters	Brian & Colin Weiss	Louise & Bob Krill	Emily & Bob Stetser	Jane Parenti Sandy Belletti	
Nursery 0 – 6yrs.	Carol Petruno & Ashlynn Mixa	Becky & Emma Harvey	Tricia Shelly and Becky Rosenberger	Ann Brown & Jorryn Kyra	
Lay Reader	Georgie Stuempfle	Denise Keen	Becky Rosenberger	Phyllis Scherer	

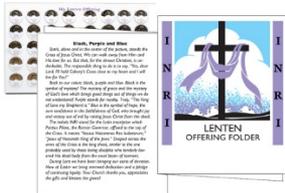
Those Sponsoring in March

	3/4/18	3/11/18	3/18/18	3/25/18	3/29/18
Bulletins	Brian & Colin Weiss	Daphne Rodrigues	Doug & Brenda Miller	Sponsored	Len & Diane French
Altar Flowers	Richard Carl	Andy & Melissa Spear	Jane Parenti	Nan Belcak	
Organ Piece					
Piano Piece					

This edition of First Fruits has been:

Sponsored

Newsletter Deadline – Next newsletter deadline is March 10th. Please email articles to the office at office@firstucchellertown.com or place them in the church office. Please include your name & phone number.



Lenten Coin Folders
 Lenten Coin Folders are available for pick-up in the Narthex.



**Daylight Savings Time
 Sunday, March 11th**

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead Saturday night. During the Sunday Service we will take a **“Joyful Noise Offering”**.

**One Great
 HOUR
 OF SHARING**

One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and developmental actions, The offering date for this offering is **March 18**.

Sharing resources through One Great Hour of Sharing is an invitation to imagination! Through our sharing we get a taste of the generosity of God, who does “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine”. When we look at suffering in the world, we can become discouraged, unable to see past the difficulty. But when we think of the wonders God works, our imaginations so wild! God is at work doing so much more than we can imagine! When we contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing, we are part of God’s work in the world.



March Birthdays
Happy Birthday to:

- 3/1 Jon Paul Letko
- 3/1 Katie Paparelli
- 3/3 David Thatcher
- 3/4 Richard Hacker
- 3/6 Irene Heller
- 3/6 Keith Lentz
- 3/7 Andrea Milliren
- 3/9 Frank Zelko
- 3/11 Nancy Fegley
- 3/11 Betty Heffner
- 3/11 Louise Krill
- 3/12 Matthew Kiak
- 3/15 Sheri Musgnung
- 3/16 Tara Reilly
- 3/17 Jean Kuhns
- 3/17 Douglas Major
- 3/19 Joanne Thatcher
- 3/22 Patricia Zelko
- 3/24 Maxwell Daniel
- 3/29 Harlan Breisch



March Anniversaries

- 3/3 Irene & Dennis Csekitz
- 3/3 Kimberly & Philip DeWire
- 3/3 Tara & Chris Reilly
- 3/7 Leonard & Diane French
- 3/13 Leroy & Jean Miller
- 3/13 Sharon & Richard Yeakel
- 3/20 James & Rebecca Rosenberger
- 3/20 David & Linda Thatcher
- 3/23 Henry & Lisa Fenon
- 3/31 Stephen & Barbara DeLade



To the family and friends of:
LeRohn “Dan” Deysher
February 11, 2018



**The Trustees of the
Remembrance Fund**
*Have received and gratefully
acknowledged gifts given in
loving memory of Dan Deysher:*

- M/M Wayne Packer
- Friends of Donna & Bruce Rader
- M/M Ray Pioresan
- Robert H Reimer III
- Joanne Abel
- American Legion Band of
Bethlehem
- Carlann Broglie
- William Roth
- M/M Glenn Brown
- Betty Heffner & Family
- M/M Sherwood Stauffer
- Claire Moran
- M/M Richard Keen
- Betty Parsons
- Walter Markotic
- Harry F.W. Johnson American
Legion
- M/M Ronald Fenstermaker
- Linda Silowka

Consistory Members

Elders

Ann Brown	610-462-7056
Phyllis Heil-Henry	484-764-9107
Andy Spear	610-317-0104
Georgie Stuempfle	610-838-7493

Deacons

Carlann Broglie	610-838-6093
Warren Kurz	610-442-0968
Andrea Milliren	610-838-9948
Elsie Stout	610-838-6470

Trustees

Bill Hoff	610-807-9663
Matthew Milliren	610-838-9948
Robert Scherer	610-554-6084
Dean Shaffer	610-838-7206

Mid- Week Lenten Services

Christ Lutheran Church has invited our congregation to join them for the mid-week Lenten services. Each service will begin with Soup at 6 PM and follow with fellowship which runs from 6:45 to 8:00 pm.

2/21 What did Jesus believe about God?

Is God vengeful, judging and angry?

Do we become the God we imagine?

Is the God of the Hebrew Scriptures, vindictive and the New Testament, loving?

2/28 Is there such a thing as divine healing?

Why do we need doctors if we believe in Divine Healing?

Can we persuade God to change the course of our illness?

What do we do with the passages of Jesus healing in the Bible?

3/7 Why Do We live with Fear?

Are we able to live without Worry?

Am I a good Christian if I fear?

Is all fear bad?

3/14 **SEDER MEAL** Lead by Rabbi Seth Phillips 6pm

3/21 Is what we believe about Jesus important?

Is it good to question our beliefs?

What is essential to believe?

Can we pick and choose?



March 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 4:00 Saucon Phoenix Softball Spaghetti Dinner
4 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee&Conversation 10:30 Worship 6:30 Troop 319	5 7:00 BCE Meeting 7:00 Dart Baseball Away/Bethany UCC	6 7:45 Men's Breakfast 9-11 Work Crew 6:00 Bear Den 6:00 Webelos II	7 9-1 New Bethany Ministries Lunch Group	8 6:00 Lion Den	9	10 Easter Basket Set-up
11 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee&Conversation 9:15 Confirmation/Mentors 10:30 Worship 11:30 Assembly of Easter Baskets	12 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Dart Baseball Home/Trinity UCC	13 8:00 Women's Breakfast Meeting 9-11 Work Crew	14 6:00 Mid-Week Lenten Soup & Service 6:00 Tiger Den 7:00 Webelos I 7:30 Adult Choir	15 6:00 Wolf Den	16 6:00 Pack 319 Meeting	17
18 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee&Conversation 10:30 Worship 6:30 Troop 319	19 7:00 Dart Baseball/ Away/Christ UCC	20 9-11 Work Crew 6:00 Bear Den 6:00 Webelos II 7:00 Palm Cross Making	21 7:30 Adult Choir	22 7:00 Wolf Den	23	24
25 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee&Conversation 10:30 Worship/Journey to the Cross 6:30 Troop 319	26 6:30 Girl Scouts	27 9-11 Work Crew	28 6:00 Tiger Den 7:00 Webelos I 7:30 Adult Choir	29 Maundy Thursday 7:30 Communion/ Tenebrae	30 Good Friday	31