

First United Church of Christ

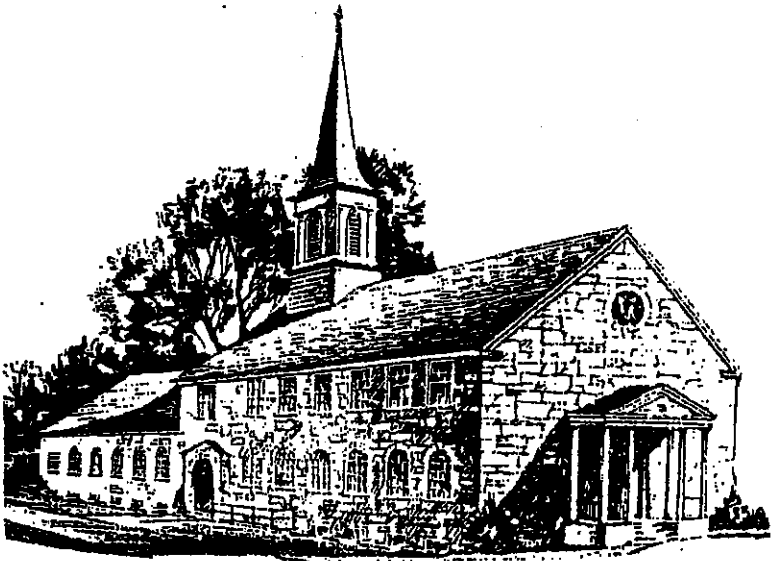
501 Northampton Street • Hellertown, PA 18055-1838

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

E-mail: office@firstucchellertown.com

Website: www.firstucchellertown.com

Rev. Joel D. Risser, Pastor
Ms. Marjorie P. Hughes, D.C.E.



FIRST FRUITS

May 2018



Worship Services

May 6	10:30 AM	Worship
May 13	10:30 AM	Worship-Mother's Day
May 20	10:30 AM	Worship/Pentecost/Communion
May 27	10:30 AM	Worship-Memorial Day

Church Office Hours:

Office Hours are 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Please make your calls to 610-838-8811 and conduct your business during those hours. Other calls will be recorded on voice mail. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and cooperation.

Like us on Facebook!

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





Dear Friends of First UCC,

Alan and I would like to thank you for your generous gift. Alan, as you may know, is facing considerable health challenges at this time. We will use your gift to help with his medical expenses. Alan has always told me how much he enjoyed preaching and visiting your congregation.

In Christ,
Candy & Alan Miller

Church Family,

I would like to thank you for the special Easter bag. I also attend your VBS and appreciate your kindness! See you in July,

Happy Easter,
David Wint



First Fruits May 2018

Published monthly by First
United Church of Christ
501 Northampton Street
Hellertown, PA 18055

Volume 65, Number 5

With the support of:

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

Dear First Church Family,

Please accept my humble gratitude for all the blessings I received while serving as your supply pastor these past six and a half months. You have touched my heart and I leave here knowing that I will miss you all.

Thank you for the heartfelt card, the beautiful flowers, and the lovely framed lithograph of First Church. We hung the lithograph in our living room. Every time I see it I will remember the loving and supportive congregation that presented it to me.

Best wishes and many blessings as you begin a new chapter in the life of First Church.

Peace and Love,
Susan

Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

Thank you for your recent contributions to the New Jerusalem Food Bank. Financial support enables us to purchase necessary food and supplies, and to maintain the operations of the distribution and storage facility. Donations of canned goods and boxed food help us to sustain a stocked inventory of our shelves, but food is always needed-especially during the holidays and summer months. Your support makes a significant difference in the lives of the families in our community. Many thanks for your kindness and generosity.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Lauren Applegate
New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

From the Pastor's Pen



There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:18-19 (Common English Bible)

Fear is a powerful motivator. If you need some proof, go to the track and time your best 100 meter dash. Later, go to the zoo, jump in the lion habitat just before feeding time, with a raw steak pinned to your shorts, and have a friend time your 100 meter dash. I'm confident that if you make it 100 meters without getting caught, your time will be faster in the lion's cage. I hope you will take my word for it, because this was a ridiculous suggestion.

Your body is perfectly designed to respond to fear. Every system of your body does something to help you survive if you are fighting (or running) for your life. If you ever wondered how it works, howstuffworks.com has an article about fear and the "fight or flight" response. Human beings would not be here today if we had not evolved this way. Unfortunately, fear has many drawbacks, too.

Criminals have learned that our fear can be used against us. Internet security hoaxes and robocalls claiming we owe back taxes or are facing lawsuits can convince otherwise intelligent people to do unintelligent things. These fear inducing tactics are getting more and more convincing and technologically advanced. Many of them even have a menacing computer voice that says your name to give it the personal touch. By creating a sense of panic, scammers know they can increase their success.

The first defense against these things is recognizing our fear and slowing down. If our response to a problem is rooted in our fear, the problem is likely to get worse. This does not only apply to phone calls and computer pop-ups. Fear is at the heart of so many problems in our lives. Fear causes us to not ask doctors enough questions. Fear causes us to lash out at our loved ones and co-workers. Fear causes us to see the unfamiliar as a threat. Fear feeds all of our worst impulses.

As 1 John 4:18-19 says, love is the ultimate weapon against fear. Because God loves us, we do not need to fear anything. That doesn't mean caution isn't necessary. Trusting God and acting in love inspires us to act appropriately in the face of a real threat. Our actions cannot be dictated by our fears. Be steered by your faith, not your fear.



**May Birthdays
Happy Birthday to:**

- 5/01 Claire Moran
- 5/02 Paula Roberts
- 5/05 Sarah Snyder
- 5/06 Emily Silberman
- 5/06 Alice Totenbier
- 5/08 Maverick Borelli
- 5/08 James Exley
- 5/08 Richard Teitsworth
- 5/09 Kinsley Keim
- 5/09 Christopher Scherer
- 5/10 Kathleen Chapman
- 5/10 Samantha Erceg
- 5/12 Jane Joyce
- 5/12 Ina Voortman
- 5/14 Michael Luttinen Jr
- 5/14 John Roberts III
- 5/14 Ryan Williams
- 5/17 Gordon Fegley
- 5/18 Victor Bock
- 5/19 Piper Policare
- 5/21 James Lentz
- 5/22 Rosemarie Buss
- 5/24 Katherine Ross
- 5/24 Kylie Williams
- 5/26 Gwendolyn Singer
- 5/27 Allison Nickles
- 5/31 Scott Henry

**The Trustees of the
Remembrance Fund**

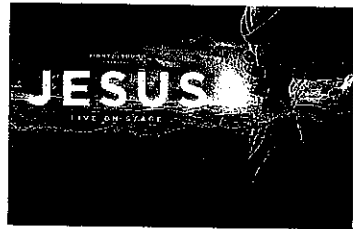
*Have received and gratefully
acknowledged gifts given in
loving memory of Dan Deysher :*

Dorothy Freeman
Donna, Bruce and Alana Rader



May Anniversaries

- 5/02 Wayne & Nadine Pavlinsky
- 5/08 Michael & Michael DeRenzis
- 5/15 James & Linda Exley
- 5/15 Kimberly & Joseph Johnson
- 5/21 Denise & Richard Keen
- 5/21 Daphne & Filiciano
Rodriguez
- 5/22 Melissa & William Mills
- 5/25 Donald & MaryAnn Gingles
- 5/27 Stanley & Linda Czeck
- 5/29 Jon Paul & Kristen Letko



**Senior Bus Trip to
Lancaster**

Hop on board for our bus trip to **Sight and Sound** in Lancaster County to see the performance, "Jesus". The date is **Saturday, August 11th**. The bus will leave the church at 8:30 AM. The play begins at 11:00 AM. It is 2.5 hours long. A sit-down lunch will be held at Hershey Farms at 1:30 PM. The bus should return home at 6:00 PM. We will post a sign-up sheet with cost as soon as it is available.



First UCC Annual Yard Sale will be held on **Saturday, May 5th** from **9 AM to 1 PM**. We will not be taking electronics or clothing again this year.

Drop off Days:

Drop off item at the church

Tuesday, May 1

9-1 PM

6-7 PM

Wednesday, May 2

9-1 PM

6-7 PM

Thursday, May 3

9-1 PM

6-7 PM

Friday, May 4

9-1 PM

DAN DEYSHER MUSIC
SCHOLARSHIP 2018
TOM SNYDER ACADEMIC
SCHOLARSHIP 2018

The Dan Deysher Music Scholarship and the Tom Snyder Academic Scholarship were founded in 2012 with a gift from Jim Santo, a longtime member of First Church, now residing in Florida with his family. Dan Deysher and Tom

Snyder played an important role in Jim's life.

The scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$1000- each by application and review of the applicants. The Dan Deysher scholarship is awarded to any church member, grades K-12, studying music or voice, or pursuing music education after graduation. The Tom Snyder Academic Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from our congregation pursuing further education in college, business school, or technical institute.

Applications will be available in the church office starting April 15th.

Diane French

Scholarship Chairperson



Care Package Ministry

The Elders are organizing a Care Package Ministry for college students and service persons within our Congregation. If you think your children or grandchildren would enjoy receiving a package, please contact the church office (610-838-8811) with the name and address of the person so we may send some Christian cheer from our church congregation and let them know we haven't forgotten them.



Sunday School

Sunday School begins each week at 9:15am in the Sanctuary with Opening Worship.

May 6 – Volunteer Appreciation
Breakfast 8am

May 20 – YOUTH SUNDAY –
Pentecost Celebration

May 27 – Sundaes on Sunday
Last day of our regular Sunday
School Year. Children meet in
New Fellowship Hall –
ICE CREAM for BREAKFAST and
special activities.

June 3 – Confirmation 10:30am
Reception immediately following
worship

June 17 – August 26

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

For 4 year olds through grade 4
(older children welcome as
helpers). Children begin in
worship at 9:30am and leave
following the Children's message
for activity and craft.

ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE

Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting

Monday, April 30

6:30pm

supper provided

Please sign up in the
narthex or call the church
office 610-838-8821

Whether you are a talented
story-teller, would like to
hand out snacks, or are not
even sure how you might fit
in, you are invited to
attend.

Don't hesitate to speak
with Marji Hughes
mphughes22@gmail.com
610-984-3053 or 610-838-8821
with questions, to RSVP,
or to volunteer!

Join your church family at
Fellowship Hour
1st Sunday of each month
Beginning **May 6**



Coffee and
light refreshments
in the Narthex
immediately following worship

May is sponsored by
Music & Worship Committee
Sign up in the narthex
to host one Sunday!

YOUTH SUNDAY
Pentecost
"Filled with
the Holy Spirit"



Our youth and children
prepare and lead worship –
10:30am

the Board of Christian
Education is hosting its
Volunteer
Appreciation

Breakfast

Sunday, May 6, 8am
to thank all those who have
given their time and talents
to our CE programs
this year.
Speak with any BCE
member for details.

**Don't know who your
Board of Christian
Education members are?**

Andrea Danner
Andrea Milliren
Stephanie Oblas
Carol Petruno
Tanya Scherer
Tricia Shelly
And

_____?

How about you?
There is an open spot on
BCE. The committee meets
the 1st Monday of each
month for planning and
discussion. See above with
questions or to say "YES!"



Our suggestion box in the narthex has seen a dozen or so suggestions so far in about two months. I encourage anyone who has a suggestion, recommendation, blessing, concern, joy - whatever, please put it on a suggestion sheet and drop it in the box. Please add your name and I will get back to you personally.

Here are the suggestions to date:

- 1. Fix water fountains** - the Trustees inspected the fountains and agree that the upstairs and downstairs ones are out of order. The one on the main floor leaks. There has been discussion on how to replace them, but no decision has been made yet.
- 2. Care Packages to College kids and military folks** - first round out and will be ongoing twice a year.
- 3. Send money to Rev. Alan Miller's Family to defer medical costs.** Done
- 4. Make it possible to have electronic transfers for weekly tithing.** We're looking into the best way to do that. It will happen!
- 5. Seal and recoat parking lot.** That work was done a few years back and admittedly it's got lots of cracks in it now, but we're going to hold off on that at least until next year due to higher priority projects.
- 6. More upbeat music and praise hymns.** Consistory likes the idea.

Music and worship will work with our organist to bring more variety into our service.

7. Name Tag Sunday - give everyone name tags on Pastor Joel's first Sunday. Done

8. Small group gatherings at homes for Bible Study and/or fellowship. We have a few Bible study groups going now. If you are interested in hosting one, starting one, attending one - please let someone on Consistory know.

9. Paint main entrance and three side doors. We are getting estimates to do that as well as all the windows.

10. Dan Deysher Memorial: Ideas so far - a trellis at the serenity garden with roses, a fountain, a plaque, continue planting Mother's Day flowers in the garden after church (Dan donated the flowers in memory of his wife), commission Ryan O'Connell to write a patriotic piece, or something for a brass quartet and piano, or an adaption of O Holy Night (his favorite). Ryan is willing to do something but not until August because of a busy schedule.

11. Rename Old and New Fellowship Halls: Since there was not a lot of enthusiasm for this, we are not going to change their names at this time.

As you can see, we're listening. This is your church. Make a suggestion. It's just another way to be a part.

Andy Spear



Consistory News:

Consistory met on Tuesday, April 3. Here are the highlights:

- Preparations will be made for an updated Congregational Directory with pictures. This may be something we can do on the internet as we can keep it more current. More to come.
- There were several discussions about how we could do a better job welcoming guests into our church. One idea is asking them to stand at the beginning of the service and have the ushers give them pamphlets with information about our church.
- The church is going to allow electronic giving once we select the proper software. 'I give electronically' cards will be handed out to those who do give that way, so they will have something to place in the collection plates.
- Consistory is going to revisit how our congregational rolls are updated. Our bylaws have a very strict process for removing names that has not been closely followed.
- Our newsletter will also be sent out electronically in the future.
- Trustees are working on getting costs for painting, roof repairs, security measures, and lawn care.
- Deacons reported that permits and sign permissions have been obtained for the yard sale.
- The Senior Trip to see "Jesus" at Sight and Sound is being planned for early August. The Wimmer fund will help defray costs for Congregational members.
- There was preliminary discussion about a church picnic.
- Elders will be responsible for performance reviews of all staff, seeking guidance from groups who interact with the staff.
- College Care packages will be sent out to our college students. Our military personnel will also get them.
- The Security Committee is looking at new door installations and locks, cameras, and alarms. Other action items include fire drills, CPR training, updating our medical equipment, and a safety seminar.
- Wimmer Fund money was approved for a family fun night, the prayer partner luncheon, and mics and

Consistory News (cont.)

transmitters for the pastor and presentation apparatus.

- We are looking into new lighter tables for New Fellowship Hall.
- We will have a volunteer fair in the Fall. More emphasis will be made on how congregants can do more for the church.
- Thanks to Andrea Milliren for doing a fine job with the meeting minutes.



Message from Your Consistory President

What a glorious day Easter was! We had well over 200 congregants. The flowers adorned our window sills and altar. The congregation sounded like the Tabernacle Choir singing the hymns. Everyone joined in celebrating the resurrection. Then, the next Sunday, we're back down to 69 in attendance. Where did everyone go? We'd love to have you all back! Worshipping is not just for holidays. Please come help us spread the good news. Great things are happening here at First Church!

Andy Spear
Consistory President



PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

We have a prayer chain ministry here at First Church that prays for someone in need of prayers during an illness, crisis, or any other stressful time. All you have to do is call Carlann Broglie at 610-838-6093 with your prayer concern. She will then begin calling the other people on the chain. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain ministry, see Carlann to add your name to the list of callers. All that is required is one phone call to another member on the list to continue the prayer chain. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carlann.



Dear First Church Family,

Thank you so much for the kind box you sent and the warm thoughts you always bring me and my family. I am so grateful to be part of such a closely knit corner of the community and so blessed to say that I am a part of First UCC (of Hellertown) Family. School is tough, but I am working hard to give back to my community that has given so much to me. Sending warm thoughts and prayers your way and thank you so much again for thinking of me!

Be home soon,
Katie Hoff

Stewardship of God's People at First Church

Date	Contributions + Capital Campaign		Attendance
February 4	\$ 2,986.00	\$ 0.00	123
February 11	\$ 1,707.00	\$ 0.00	75
February 18	\$ 4,122.00	\$ 0.00	119 (Call Sunday)
February 25	\$ 7,494.00	\$ 0.00	84
March 4	\$ 2,136.00	\$ 0.00	80
March 11	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 0.00	83
March 18	\$ 3,185.00	\$ 0.00	82
March 25	\$ 2,407.00	\$ 0.00	127 (Palm Sunday)

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.

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

Staff

Rev. Joel D. Risser, Pastor	484-852-1889
Ms. Marjorie P. Hughes, D.C.E.	610-984-5053
Mr. Mark Helms, Interim Organist/Choir Director	
Mrs. Phyllis Scherer, Administrative Asst.	610-554-6223
Mr. Robert Turner, Church Treasurer	703-626-0641
Mr. Sherwood Stauffer, Sexton	610-838-7391

Consistory Members

Elders

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

Deacons

Carlann Broglie	610-838-6093
Warren Kurz	610-442-0968
Andrea Milliren, Recording Secretary	610-838-9948
Elsie Stout, Head Deacon	610-838-6470

Trustees

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

Pastor Joel will be available for hospital and recovery when informed. Hospitals, rehabilitation facilities and nursing homes do not communicate well with churches. Always inform the church office if you are hospitalized or would like a pastoral visit. Please do not trust that word will get to the pastor through the grapevine. **Our hospital code is 428.** You can mention that if you are admitted.

Those Serving in May

	5/6	5/13	5/20	5/27
Ushers	Team 6	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
Greeters	Peg Masiado	Carlann Broglie	Bill Roth	Elsie Stout
Nursery 0 – 6yrs.	Becky & Emma Harvey	Tricia Shelly Becky Rosenberger	Ann Brown Jorryn Kyra	Tanya Scherer Kristen Milliren
Acolyte	Owen Ross	Paige Rosenberger	Julia Major	Josiah Lamirand
Lay Reader	Becky Harvey	Doug Miller	Sandy Panick	Dave Stuempfle

Those Sponsoring in May

	5/6	5/13	5/20	5/27
Bulletins	C. Allen Yost	Jane Parenti	Denise Keen	Sponsored
Altar Flowers	Claire Moran	Richard Carl	Bill Roth	
Organ Piece	Kay & Woody Stauffer			
Piano Piece				

**This edition of First Fruits has been sponsored by:
Daphne Rodriguez**



May 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:45 Men's Breakfast 9-11 Work Crew 6-7 Drop-off for Yard Sale 6:00 Bear Den 6:00 Webelos II 6:30 Consistory Meeting	2 9-1 New Bethany Ministries Lunch Group 6-7 Drop-off for Yard Sale 7:30 Adult Choir	3 6-7 Dropoff for Yard Sale	4	5 9-1 Annual Yard Sale
6 8:00 Teacher Apprecia- tion Breakfast 9:00 Song/Dance Practice 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee&Conversation 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Hour 6:30 Troop 319	7 10:00 Women's Bible Study Group 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Board of Christian Education Mtg	8 8:00 Women's Breakfast 9-11 Work Crew	9 6:00 Tiger Den 7:00 Webelos I 7:30 Adult Choir	10 6:00 Lion Den 7:00 Wolf Den	11	12 5:30 Family Fun Night
13 9:00 Song /Dance Practice 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee&Conversation 10:30 Worship	14	15 9-11 Work Crew 6:00 Bear Den 6:00 Webelos II	16 7:30 Adult Choir	17	18	19
20 YOUTH SUNDAY 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee&Conversation 10:30 Worship/ Communion 12:00 Baby Shower 6:30 Troop 319	21 10:00 Women's Bible Study Group 6:30 Girl Scouts	22 9-11 Work Crew	23 6:00 Tiger Den 7:00 Webelos I 7:30 Adult Choir	24 7:00 Wolf Den	25	26
27 9:15 Sundaes on Sunday 9:15 Consistory/2nd year Confirmands 10:30 Worship	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 9-11 Work Crew	30 7:30 Adult Choir	31		

**Family Fun
Night
May 12
5:30 PM**

Join us for our next Family Fun Night on Saturday, May 12th at 5:30 PM. We'll start with a light dinner, followed by fun games, prizes and a little friendly competition for all! Family Fun Night is a great night out for adults and children of all ages. Invite some friends, neighbors or extended family members! Desserts and drinks welcome. Please sign up in the narthex if you are planning to attend. This event is funded by the Wimmer Fund and is free for everyone. Please call 610-838-9948 (Andrea Milliren) with any questions. We'd love to see you there!!!



**Vacation Bible
School**

Join us on a whitewater rafting adventure to experience the ride of a lifetime with God! Discover that you can trust God to be with you through anything.

For children 4 years old through grade 6 in the fall. 7th grade and up are invited to be assistants!

**July 9-13
9am-Noon**

Registration form can be found in this newsletter, and they are available in the narthex or call the church office at 610-838-8811.



Rolling River Rampage VBS Registration Form

Student's Name

Parent/Family/Guardian Name

Address

E-mail Address

Phone Numbers

Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Age Information

Date of birth _____ Age _____

Last school grade completed _____

Home Church

Special Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Other:

Emergency Contacts

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Dismissal Information:

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS

Other Information (church use only)

Rafter Group
