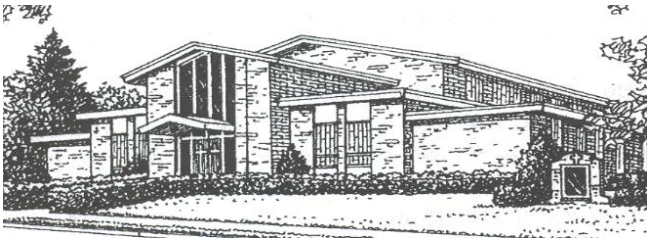


The BUZZ

Volume 32 Issue #8

AUGUST 2026



Lower Saucon United Church of Christ
Reverend Rebekah Thomas
1375 Third Avenue
Hellertown, PA 18055
610-838-8821

Sunday Worship 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:15 am

Lower Saucon UCC, a progressive congregation rich in history, exists to:

- Promote spiritual growth in all people of all ages
- Nurture a loving and caring Christian community
- Worship our Living God through faithful service

Lower Saucon UCC: a place to believe, belong and worship together.

2026 CONSISTORY

Alan Byerley (Pres.)	Kirk Gorkos (Treas.)
Kate Griffiths	Judy Koch
Judy Kovacs	Tim Mattes
Tony Nauroth	Lindsey Sanders (Sec.)
Tina Seifert	Paul Wilhelm (VP)

Church Office Hours
Church Office
Fellowship Hall/Kitchen

Tuesday-Thursday 9 am to 12 noon
(610) 838-8821
(610) 838-2659

Website
Church Email
Pastor's Email
Online Giving
Visit us on Facebook
Email for BUZZ Articles

www.lowersauconucc.org
churchoffice@lowersauconucc.org
pastorbecky1121@gmail.com
lowersauconucc.org/donate/
[facebook.com Lower Saucon UCC](https://facebook.com/LowerSauconUCC)
info@lowersauconucc.org

Lay Leader Schedule

Ushers/Greeters

Aug 2 Carlene Barrell	Cheryl Christman
Aug 9 Tina Seifert	Diana Severn
Aug 16 Betty Byerley	Kris Breidenbach
Aug 23 Jo Ann Sofka	Tom Sofka
Aug 30 Kate Griffiths	Judy Kovacs

Usher of the Month Lindsey Sanders

Scripture Reader Children's Sermon Sunday School

Doug Lander	Nancy Gorkos	Tina Seifert
Nikki Meyer	Diana Severn	Diana Severn
Tony Nauroth	Tony Nauroth	Judy Koch
Diana Severn	Josh Sanders	Lindsey Sanders
Lindsey Sanders	Alan Byerley	Andrea Mattes

FROM PASTOR BECKY ...

We are currently in the season of the church year known as ordinary time. Admittedly, I'm not extremely fond of that name. Mostly because it can give the impression that this time of year is uneventful. The truth is this time of year is special. So many amazing things happen during this time of year! We celebrate Vacation Bible School, outdoor worship services, and World Communion Sunday. On All Saints Sunday we remember and celebrate members of our congregation who touched our lives during their time in this world, and we thank God for the bounty of the earth as we celebrate Harvest Home. There are far too many wonderful things happening for this time to be simply ordinary.

The green of our paraments during ordinary time symbolizes growth. The word ordinary just comes from the Latin for order. These are days of growth. Maybe we can start to think about this time of year in a different way. I know the excitement of Easter and Christmas can outshine the order of the rest of the year. Days, weeks, months, all fly by so quickly. Especially when we do the same thing over and over again. Many of us get so caught up in the routine of our days that we don't pause to think about what God is doing. This time of year, can be a reminder that God journeys with us even in the ordinary. This is my prayer for you: May your ordinary days be extraordinary as you grow your faith in Christ.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky

Every Ordinary Day
Is Truly
An Extraordinary Day



The Sabbath Elevator

by John Allen

If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day ... then you shall take delight in the Lord. – Isaiah 58:13-14a (NRSV)

One Friday night during my rotation as a hospital chaplain in New York City, a nurse warned me: “Watch out for the sabbath elevators.”

From sundown Friday until sundown Saturday, the buttons in this elevator were deactivated. The cars just stopped on every floor. This allowed Orthodox Jewish visitors to move through the towers of the hospital without violating their sabbath observance.

I decided to give the sabbath elevator a try.

After three floors, it felt like every cell in my body was screaming: “You could see two patients in the time it will take to get to the 12th floor! How are you going to code this time in the charting software? Aren't you just being lazy?”

My ambition, my disquiet, and my frantic heart were trampling over this briefest idle moment. And I realized I needed to learn how to take a break. I needed the regular and intentional practice of keeping the sabbath. Otherwise rest is something I just do if I have time. I'll take a break after things slow down ... in a couple weeks. I'll be able to relax after that next deadline.

Somehow though, that imagined future never comes, and I end up trampling over every idle moment until I am empty and exhausted.

So I'm learning to embrace idle moments, a train ride without checking my phone, a walk without headphones, an afternoon with no plans at all. I am hoping to quiet myself enough to listen for the voice of God. I'm hoping that the next time I find myself on the sabbath elevator, I'll last for four floors. Maybe even five.

Prayer

Slow me. Stop me. Amen.



Consistory Corner

LSUCC CONSISTORY MINUTES (Pending Approval) July 8, 2026

In attendance: Kirk Gorkos, Tina Seifert, Alan Byerley, Tim Mattes, Paul Wilhelm, Judy Koch, Tony Nauroth, Pastor Becky Thomas, Judy Kovacs, Lindsey Sanders, and Blue the Dog. Missing: Kate Griffiths

Alan called the meeting to order and led devotions with a reading of Joshua 24: 14-15. Pastor Becky led us in prayer.

Secretary's report: Lindsey sent the Secretary's report ahead of time. Kirk made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Tim seconded. All voted to accept.

Treasurer's report: Kirk presented the 2026 budget vs actual for the first half of the year. Tony made a motion to accept. Judy Koch seconded. All voted to accept.

Pastor's Report:

6/8/26 – 7/5/26

Period	Hours	PCE	Notes on Activities
6/8-6/14	22	3	Consistory
6/15-6/21	16	2	Off for illness
6/22-6/28	33	4	VBS
6/29-7/5	21	3	
Total	92	12	

Notes:

Vacation 8/16-8/22

President's Communication:

- Please provide dates for events to the office as soon as possible so they can be included on the calendar and website to avoid conflict.
- August 19th – Mountain Valley Conference will be on site to do a walkthrough of our space.

Committee reports:

- Property –
 - Installed some benches in the serenity garden
 - Fixed the door on Miller St
- Service –
- Christian Ed –
- WISE –
- Mission –
 - Tony mailed out a letter to our Compassion child FiiFi
- Worship –
 - Next Communion – August 2nd
 - November 1 – All Saints' Day

- November 15 – Harvest Home
- November 22 – Hanging of the Greens

- Supper –

Concerns from the Past:

- We reviewed and approved two additional changes to the Consistory Packet.
 - Updated reference to "Penn Northeast Conference" in Pastor job description
 - Updated committee size requirements for Pastor-Parish Relations Committee
- The money from our CD has been moved into the Endowment account

Concerns for the Future:

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30pm. Meeting was adjourned, and all joined in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey



*** H O M E ***
HELPING OUR MEMBERS IN EMERGENCY
FUND

A good portion of the money that has been accumulating in our "Helping Our Members Emergency" fund was recently used. Donations to help replenish the fund would be greatly appreciated. You can give to this fund anytime simply by writing "HOME" on your church envelope. The amount you give will be credited to your church offering statement. LSUCC will also add to the HOME fund by giving 10% of all fundraising profits.

Summer Cooking Camp

 June 22-26 BEGINNER BITES Ages 6-8 \$275	 July 6-10 BAKING ACADEMY Ages 10-15 \$275
 July 27-31 SUMMERTIME EATS & TREATS Ages 7-10 \$275	 August 13-14 ITALIAN FAVORITES Ages 10-15 \$110
 August 10-12 DECORATING & TREAT MAKING Ages 10-15 \$165	 ALL CLASSES ARE HELD AT LOWER SAUCON UCC IN HELLERTOWN 9AM-12:15PM

To Register: Lauramysweets.com

stewardship report

June Income

\$4,265.00	Current Expenses
396.00	Benevolences
1,987.00	Fundraising
310.00	Facilities Use
\$6,958.00	Total



Our church family wants to share in your joys and sorrows. Hospitals and care facilities do not notify churches or share information, so please contact the church office with information about family members who are hospitalized, in care, or would welcome prayer for any reason. We'd also like to share your joys so be sure to let us know those as well.

Paint Like Bob Ross Event

September 19, 3 PM



Sign up today for this or any other upcoming class online at <https://www.letsaintapicture.art/>. There are a limited number of seats available in each class. Share the information with your friends and neighbors. It's really a lot of fun and you may discover a talent you never knew you had. The cost is \$60 and all supplies are included except a roll of paper towels.



AMONG
OUR
MEMBERS

Information has been
omitted from this
online version for the
privacy of our members.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 1	Remus Sanders
August 2	Kaleb Hill
August 4	Lisa Sattizahn
August 6	Steve Donchez Jr
August 10	Jennifer Bernhard
August 12	Rick Repash
August 15	Paige Bernhard
	Wilbur Johnson
August 17	Amber Wolst
August 18	Sydney Meyer
August 21	Nathan Gorkos
August 23	Hailey Rodrigues
August 26	Beverly Koch
	Caleb Roth
	Natalie (Sofka) Smith
August 31	Tyler Seifert

happy
birthday
to you!



AUGUST ANNIVERSARYS

August 6	Rod & Carol Reichard
August 28	Greg & April Baylock
August 30	Kim & Kate Griffiths



If you, or your family members, were omitted from the celebration lists please accept our apologies and contact the church office to see that the information is updated.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Our Rainforest Falls VBS week was a WOW, GOD adventure.

Thank You to:

- Our VBS Coordinator: Nancy Gorkos
- Our VBS leaders: Katelyn Aguilar, Alan Byerley, Lily Day, Kirk Gorkos, Judy Koch, Andrea, Sage & Tim Mattes, Joaquin Rojo, Josh & Lindsey Sanders, Arianna, Danaka, Tina & Tyler Seifert, Diana & Don Severn, Danika & Deanna Spengler, Pastor Becky Thomas, and Amber Wolst.
- Our Snack Suppliers: Debbie Keller, Tina Seifert, Tom & JoAnn Sofka, Deanna Spengler, Martha Sterling, and Pam Wolf.
- All 23 of the children for attending and joining in the fun.
- And the parents and families of the children for allowing us to share the week and the nature of God with their children.



SPIRITED AWAY BOOK CLUB



Come escape with us as we explore books that will nourish your Spirit! August 27, we will discuss *Freeing Jesus* by Diana Butler Bass.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE NEWS

Grocery Gift Cards



Sign up for September Gift Cards by August 16 with delivery scheduled for Sunday, August 30. The Church earns 5% of the amount we sell. If there are any questions please see or call Gerrie Koch. You can sign up for cards in the side hall, Fellowship Hall or by phoning Gerrie or the church office.



EVANGELISM & MISSION NEWS

Fellowship Hour

Aug 2:
Sep 6:
Oct 4:

Thank you to everyone who participated in our joint picnic with First UCC in July. You can sign up to sponsor a Sunday Fellowship Hour on the side hall bulletin board. Contact Tina Seifert if you have questions.

Make a
JOYFUL NOISE

Our JOYFUL NOISE campaign raised \$28.00 in June for the Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society. In August the money collected will support the Lehigh Conference of Churches.

STAMP MINISTRY

Please continue to be on the lookout for the envelopes you receive with stamps. Just trim your used envelope postage so there is 1/3 inch of paper surrounding the stamp, and then drop them in one of the collection containers located in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall. If you want to know more about this ministry visit:
https://youtu.be/jb8Ew38PypQ?si=fhYeM_YiOpeLkqNF



Please continue to support both of our area Food Banks. Monetary donations can be made through your church offering or directly to: New Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, ATTN: Food Bank, 3233 Apples Church Road, Bethlehem, PA 18015, or the Emergency Food Bank at Word of Life, ATTN: Food Bank, 3221 Bingen Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18015.

S.T.A.R.-Serving to Aid & Restore



With the closing of the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter, S.T.A.R. has had many requests for TENTS, SLEEPING BAGS, and BACKPACKS – they almost always

welcome:

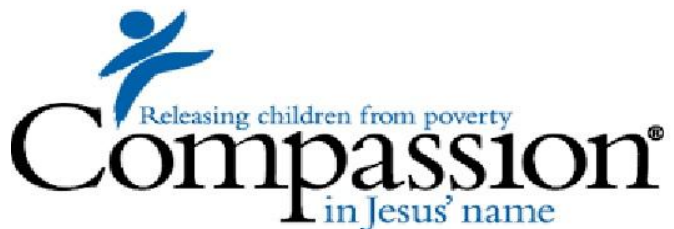
Hospitality items-

Body wash
Shaving cream (m&w)
Toothpaste
Deodorant (m&w)
Toilet Paper
Tissues (Individual packs)

Clothing-

Socks (m&w)
Underwear (m&w)
Thermals (m&w)
Hats (m&w)
Gloves (m&w)

Clothing can be new or gently used. Cash donations are welcome as well. The Sterlings will deliver any items brought to LSUCC.



Due to the generosity of the people who have pledged to help release children from poverty in Jesus' name, we have adopted 4 children through Compassion International. Be sure to remember to fulfill your pledges and watch for updates on the bulletin board near the office. We are still in need of two volunteers willing to correspond with our hosted children. There are forms to help guide you and postage paid envelopes available. If you are willing to help with correspondence, please let Diana know.

People will forget how fast you did a job, but remember how well you did it.



LSUCC QUILTERS

Our quilters have working hard on this year's raffle quilt. They meet each Tuesday from 9 AM to 3 PM. They will participate in several craft events over the next few months. New members are always welcome. No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn. Quilt raffle tickets are attached at the end of this Buzz. They are available in larger quantities by contacting the Church office.

#Phoebe Partnership

Thank you to everyone who donates or helps make items. Phoebe staff and residents appreciate our efforts. Donations of large print puzzle, word-search and fill-in books, adult coloring books, small boxes of crayons or colored pencils are always welcomed by the residents.



Look for a collection basket in the side hall. If you'd like to do some simple sewing to help create prayer items or if you knit, crochet or have extra yarn – any colors, prayer blankets size 3'x3', are being made for our ministry at Phoebe Richland.

Yarn and/or blankets can be dropped off at the church or if you let us know, someone can pick them up.

Questions, call or text Cheryl at 610-657-1787

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS



We expect to have Outdoor Worship and a picnic, Sunday, September 13, but we have no further information at this time, so please save the date and follow our Sunday morning announcements and website for updates.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The new "These Days" & "Upper Room" are in. If you want one dropped off to you, call or email the church. If you are more techno-savvy and would like a free



Stillspeaking daily devotional message delivered to your email inbox visit <http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/daily-devotional/>



MOUNTAIN VALLEY ASSOCIATION

This fall, our church has been privileged with the hosting of the *first* Annual Meeting of the Mountain Valley Association. If that name seems unfamiliar, you may recall that the four former UCC Conferences in Pennsylvania were granted approval at last years' General Synod to become one Conference. As of January 1st, we are part of the Keystone Conference. There are three geographic regions, each with a Regional Conference Minister. Each of the regions includes multiple Associations. Our region now includes three additional Associations and our boundaries have grown a bit further west and southwest. The former Penn Northeast Conference is now the Mountain Valley Association.

The Mountain Valley Association Annual Meeting will be held on November 7th, from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. While the planning committee will assemble at our church on November 6th to prepare the Sanctuary for the meeting, we're also requesting assistance from our members for setup of breakout rooms, Fellowship Hall, and overseeing morning refreshments during registration. Morning refreshments typically include coffee, tea, juice, water, fruit, yogurt and muffins and/or pastries.

More details will be provided closer to the meeting. Please mark your calendars now if you will be available to assist in the preparation for this historic meeting.

Thank you.

Chris Lander, Planning Team Member and Doug Lander, Technical Support



Members and Friends of Keystone Conference,

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'" Lamentations 3:22-24



When I served as an Associate Pastor at First Congregational Church of Houston, Texas, many years ago, I asked LaVerne Meline, the church secretary, how she survived the brutal Houston summers before the age of inexpensive air

conditioning. I had spent most of my high school years in Hemphill, Texas, so I had experienced the kind of heat Houston was experiencing that particular summer, but she grew up in the 30's and 40's, without being able to dive into air-conditioned indoor spaces to escape the relentless, humid heat. She laughed at me and said, "I don't really know – we just did it because we had to."

Not surprisingly, I thought of her this past week, with the heat being what it was, and our long-ago conversation, and I couldn't help but be reminded of how resilient human beings are, how they seem to be able to survive awful, painful things that most of us couldn't imagine surviving. Admittedly, Texas heat is mild compared to the other ways human beings survive the worst things, ones we can see in Ukraine, the Middle East, and the earthquake devastation in Venezuela. But some things must be gotten through, or, as LaVerne said better than I ever could: "we just did it because we had to."

What keeps many of us going forward through the "what must be gotten through" is the steadfast love of God, which the writer of Lamentations speaks of in the passage quoted above. He writes this amid the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, amidst the rubble and the grief that forms the heart of this beautiful book. I don't know what you must get through in your own life, but I offer two pieces of traveling advice: lean heavily on the love and mercy of God, which is as dependable as the sun coming up

every morning, and know that you can get through this, because others have done so before you, including Jesus, who has the scars in his hands and feet to prove it.

Rev. Kevin J. McLemore
Transitional Regional Conference Minister for Region 1
Keystone Conference UCC

Search-A-Word Puzzle

Based on Psalm 139:14 (NRSV)

Y	W	O	N	D	E	R	F	U	L	L	Y	E	K
E	Y	F	G	D	K	F	K	N	S	T	Q	C	T
Q	L	N	S	C	Y	Y	B	C	Q	J	N	R	Y
J	L	B	H	K	S	R	H	W	E	L	L	J	W
O	U	Y	W	A	N	L	E	S	Q	Q	Q	H	O
C	F	Y	O	I	U	O	M	V	E	N	K	W	N
F	R	B	R	U	F	U	W	W	B	S	T	Q	D
N	A	D	K	B	R	D	C	U	K	J	B	E	E
B	E	I	S	W	V	C	L	Q	X	P	C	D	R
I	F	O	B	N	K	Y	E	B	R	Q	B	A	F
O	R	X	S	X	A	C	M	A	G	Y	W	M	U
N	J	C	C	L	B	Y	I	I	X	T	E	D	L
X	X	K	F	P	A	S	R	B	X	B	R	D	J
T	J	D	P	Y	E	V	A	X	K	Y	A	F	T

Psalm 139:14

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

A special thank you to Betty Byerley & Tony Nauroth for acting as proof readers.

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY INFORMATION FOR THE BUZZ BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH TO

info@lowersauconucc.org

I WILL REPLY SO YOU KNOW I RECEIVED IT.

OUR CALENDAR PAGE

Please see

<https://lowersauconucc.org/our-calendar/>

Rainforest Falls VBS

25 images, June 2026



Lower Saucon UCC
1375 Third Ave
Hellertown, PA 18055
610-838-8821

www.lowersauconuccc.org
churchoffice@lowersauconucc.org

Worship at 9:00 am
Sunday School at 9:15 am

\$1 each or \$5 for 6

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1 st Prize | Original Design, hand
Quilted Queen Size Quilt |
| 2 nd Prize | Crochet Afghan |
| 3 rd Prize | \$100 Giant Gift Card |
| 4 th Prize | \$50 Home Depot Gift Card |
| 5 th Prize | \$50 Braveheart Gift Card |
| 6 th Prize | \$50 Copperhead Grille
Gift Card |
| 7 th Prize | \$25 Kohl Gift Card |
| 8 th Prize | \$25 CVS Gift Card |
| 9 th Prize | Hand Knit Throw |
| 10 th Prize | 6 qt Slow Cooker |
| 11 th Prize | 2 Slice Toaster |
| 12 th Prize | Handmade Hat & Mittens |

Drawing: December 6, 2026

Sept 19 Shoofly Pie
Nov 24 Pumpkin & Pecan Pie
Easter & Christmas Candy

View our website for future
fundraisers and church events.

Thank You! Good Luck!

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Hellertown, PA 18055
610-838-8821

**Quilt Raffle Drawing
December 6, 2026**

Name _____

Phone _____

Seller _____

Lower Saucon UCC
1375 Third Ave
Hellertown, PA 18055
610-838-8821

**Quilt Raffle Drawing
December 6, 2026**

Name _____

Phone _____

Seller _____

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**Quilt Raffle Drawing
December 6, 2026**

Name _____

Phone _____

Seller _____