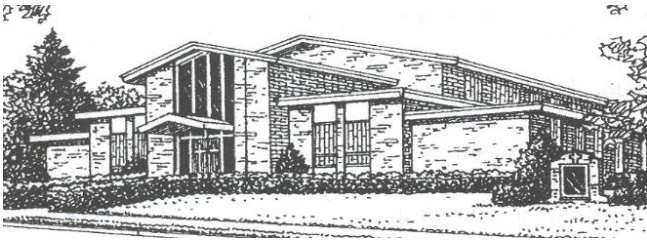


The BUZZ

Volume 32 Issue #9

SEPTEMBER 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

Usher of the Month Tim Mattes

Ushers/Greeters

Scripture Reader

Children's Sermon Sunday School

Sep 6 Carlene Barrell	Cheryl Christman	Paul Wilhelm	Nancy Gorkos	Nancy Gorkos
Sep 13 Tina Seifert	Diana Severn	Betty Byerley	Diana Severn	Diana Severn
Sep 20 Betty Byerley	Kris Breidenbach	Doug Lander	Tony Nauroth	Tina Seifert
Sep 27 Jo Ann Sofka	Tom Sofka	Nikki Meyer	Josh Sanders	Judy Koch

FROM PASTOR BECKY ...

Yesterday I was listening to the radio and I heard that pumpkin spice beverages are returning to stores in just a few days. I grumbled a bit and turned down the volume on the radio. Then a friend posted what they considered to be a funny meme on their Facebook page, celebrating the return of the “ber” months and the quickly approaching arrival of fall. I grumbled and closed the page. In reality, I know that I can’t avoid the changing of seasons without moving far away from the place that has always been my home. But sometimes, I wish I could just hold on to summer. Then, I reminded myself of what Paul wrote in his letter to the church in Thessalonica, “Give thanks in all circumstances.”

That doesn’t mean we have to be thankful for everything. The reality is, living in a spirit of gratitude isn’t always easy. I will be the first to admit that I don’t always succeed. It is far easier to long for days that felt better to us. It is also easy to feel overwhelmed by the many challenges we see happening in the world and experience in our lives. But, Scripture reminds us that gratitude is not about ignoring the difficulties that we face or pretending that life is perfect. Instead, gratitude helps us to center ourselves in uncertain times, focusing us back on God’s presence and grace.

As we enter into this new season together, may we do so with grateful hearts. May we notice all of the blessings around us. May we take the time to celebrate all of the gifts that are present in our community - the kindness, the compassion, and the faithfulness that help us share God’s love with the world. Gratitude is powerful. While it does not erase our struggles, it can bring hope in the midst of them.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky

Give Thanks
— in all —
CIRCUMSTANCES



I Can’t Sing by Quinn G. Caldwell

My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have rescued. — Psalm 71:23 (NRSV)

“I can’t sing.”

If you started to say, “Yes you can! Everybody can sing!” before you even finished reading that last line, this one is for you.

When someone says, “I can’t sing,” they are almost never saying they literally can’t. They’re almost never asserting that they are unable to make complex, repeatable, musical vocalizations. What they’re saying, usually, is that they’ve had painful experiences when singing.

These experiences might have been in the past: unpleasant looks or comments when they’ve sung. They might be ongoing: a sense of discomfort or disconnect, for whatever reason, when singing around others. They might be new and acute: a depression or a death that fills the throat with tears whenever the mouth opens in song. They’re not really saying they can’t do it; they’re saying it hurts when they do.

In that way, a jolly “Everybody can sing!” is a response that means well but doesn’t do well.

Christianity is one of the great singing faiths of the world. Where does that leave those for whom singing is painful, for whom “My life flows on in endless song” feels like a challenge at best and a prison sentence at worst?

As odd ones out, mostly. Unless somebody becomes curious and caring instead of declarative when they hear, “I can’t sing.” Unless somebody, especially one of the ones for whom singing seems to come so easily, says, “Tell me more about that” and then listens when they do.

Prayer

For all the singers—the pained and the lighthearted, the skilled and the enthusiastic, the divas and the shower soloists, the ones who sing out loud and the ones who sing inside—we pray. Amen.



Consistory Corner

There are no minutes to share this month because Consistory did not meet in August. They will resume meeting on the second Wednesday of September at 6:30 PM. Meetings are open to every member of our congregation. For comments, concerns or further details, please see any member of Consistory.



* H O M E * 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.

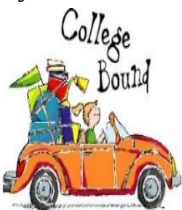
stewardship report July Income

\$4,547.00	Current Expenses
548.00	Benevolences
357.00	Fundraising
494.00	Facilities Use
\$5,946.00	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.



If you or someone in your family is heading off to college, or changing your residence for another reason, please reach out to us with your new contact information. Our Mission Committee will be sending packages at exam time and we'd all like to stay in touch.



AMONG OUR MEMBERS

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Family Game Event

September 12 2-5 PM

All are welcome to join us as we enjoy the pleasure of friendly, family competition playing games together. Bring your favorite game along or learn a new one. It's all part of the fun. Pickle Ball remains one of our game options.



SPIRITED AWAY BOOK CLUB

Come escape with us as we explore books that will nourish your Spirit! September 24, we will discuss *New Seeds of Contemplation* by Thomas Merton.



SHOO-FLY PIES



Shoo-fly pies will be baked on September 19. The price is \$12.00 and pies can be picked up from 10am – Noon. Pies should be pre-ordered on the sign-up sheet posted in the side hall or Fellowship Hall or

you can call Gerrie (610-838-9350) or the church office by September 16.



LSUCC will participate in the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends event on Wednesday, October 21st. If you or someone you know is interested in donating \$5 to our

church and receiving a 25% discount shopping pass, please see Diana or call the church office.

Grocery Gift Cards



Sign up for October Gift Cards by September 20 with delivery scheduled for Sunday, October 4. 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.



Gift Basket Bingo



September 20 2 pm

\$10 will get you one double bingo card for 20 games of bingo. Children accompanied by a paying adult, \$5.00. Extra cards are \$.50. Light refreshments served at intermission are included in admission.

Hope to see you there!

We welcome contributions of small giveaway baskets as well as prize basket donations. Please see Cheryl Christman.

Fellowship Hour

Sep 6:
Oct: 4: Gorkos
Nov 1:

Thank you to Tina Seifert for sponsoring fellowship hour in August. You can sign up to sponsor a Sunday Fellowship Hour on the side hall bulletin board. Contact Tina Seifert if you have questions.



Our JOYFUL NOISE campaign raised \$36.00 in July for Disaster Relief. In September the money collected will support CWS Tools: Harvest of Hope.

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

Recently, 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.



LSUCC QUILTERS

Our quilters have finished 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. Tickets are available in larger quantities by contacting the Church office.

#Phoebe Partnership

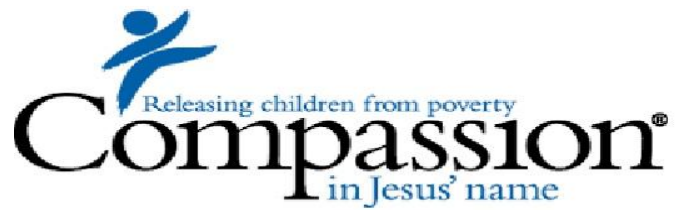
Thank you to everyone who donates or helps make items. Phoebe staff and residents appreciate our efforts. Donations of large print puzzle, word-search and fill-in books, adult coloring books, small boxes of crayons or colored pencils are always welcomed by the residents.



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



We've received letters from each of our 4 adopted children. Be sure to remember to fulfill your pledges and watch for updates on the bulletin board near the office.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

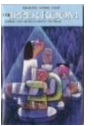


Sunday, September 13, rain or shine we will worship outdoors at 4PM and enjoy fellowship with a covered dish picnic to follow. The Mattes family will provide chicken, hot dogs, and hamburgers. In an attempt to avoid duplicates, there is a sign-up sheet in the side hall for bringing sides, desserts and/or yard games. There will be **NO MORNING WORSHIP** on that day.

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

LSUCC will host The Mountain Valley Association Annual Meeting 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.



Reprint of a Message Dated August 11, 2026

Members and Friends of Keystone Conference,

On Saturday, many gathered to celebrate the life of Jack Creswell, the husband of Sue Creswell, at St. Paul's UCC in Fleetwood. As many of you know, Sue is currently the Conference Minister's Administrative Assistant to the Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, a position she also held with Rev. Bill Worley of the former PSEC. Jack was an amazing man and beloved by so many, as reflected in the testimonials about his life and its impact on others, especially Sue and his family. For me, it was something Jack and Sue's pastor, the Rev. Dr. Rose Shepley, said about those gathered to remember him that stayed with me during the weekend. It may not be a direct quote, but she reminded us that we don't have to perfectly remember those we lose to eternity, because God does, because God surely remembers them perfectly. Memories may fade, histories may become harder to recount, but God's memory of Jack, of all of us, never does – we are remembered perfectly, for eternity.

As a pastor, I've had a few conversations with dying members of my congregations about how people will remember them, of what memories will be shared about them. Some worry that they'll be forgotten altogether, and a few, a rare few, want to be forgotten so as not to bring grief to those who will miss them. The latter is impossible, of course, but we all know that within 2-3 generations, many will not remember us or easily share stories about our lives. I think some of the mania by some people to name things after themselves – buildings, parks, wings of hospitals, etc. – is an attempt to fight that reality, that one day there will be no living people who really knew us at all.

That may be depressing for some, but only if we think that memory is solely a human trait. It isn't, of course, because having the gift of memory is part of being made in the image of God. The difference is that God's memory of us, and those we love, is forever and is perfect. No one is ever really lost to time and generations moving onward – God holds it all, perfectly. So, fear not: we are remembered, and those we loved on this side of eternity are as well, cradled by eternity and the grace of God.

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 proofreaders.

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/>

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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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**Quilt Raffle Drawing
December 6, 2026**

Name _____

Phone _____

Seller _____

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