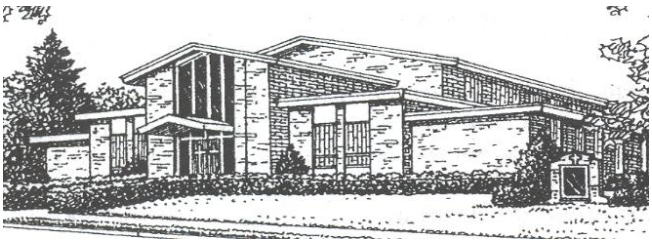
The BUZZ

Volume 32 Issue #11 **NOVEMBER 2026**



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.

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***

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	***Tuesday-Thursday 9 am to 12 noon***
Church Office	***(610) 838-8821***
Fellowship Hall/Kitchen	***(610) 838-2659***
Website	***www.lowersauconucc.org***
Church Email	***churchoffice@lowersauconucc.org***
Pastor's Email	***pastorbecky1121@gmail.com***
Online Giving	***lowersauconucc.org/donate/***
Visit us on Facebook	***facebook.com Lower Saucon UCC***
Email for BUZZ Articles	***info@lowersauconucc.org***

Lay Leader Schedule **Usher of the Month** Tina Seifert

Ushers/Greeters		**Scripture Reader**	**Children's Sermon**	**Sunday School**
Nov 1	Carlene Barrell / Cheryl Christman	Betty Byerley	Nancy Gorkos	Tina Seifert
Nov 8	Tina Seifert / Diana Severn	Doug Lander	Diana Severn	Judy Koch
Nov 15	Betty Byerley / Kris Breidenbach	Nikki Meyer	Tony Nauroth	Lindsey Sanders
Nov 22	Jo Ann Sofka / Tom Sofka	Tony Nauroth	Josh Sanders	Andrea Mattes
Nov 29	Kate Griffiths / Judy Kovacs	Lindsey Sanders	Alan Byerley	Nancy Gorkos

FROM PASTOR BECKY …

Every year, as the leaves fall from the trees, I am reminded of the heaviness of this season. We are entering the point in the year that is often full of memories of people who are no longer with us. It is a time when grief resurfaces as we look around our holiday tables and notice the people who are missing. If we pause long enough, we can almost see their smiles and hear their voices or laughter. Memories and stories play through our minds as we pause to remember. I know that, like me, many of you are remembering the people who have shaped your lives in all sorts of ways.

Sometimes, I wonder what we are supposed to do with November. It sometimes feels like a messy month, between raking leaves and grieving. It begins with what, at least in my opinion, is one of the most powerful Sunday worship services. A day when we pause to remember all of the saints who have journeyed with us. Then the month shifts to giving thanks for the bountiful gifts the earth provides. All of this happening as we begin preparing our hearts for Advent. My prayer for you as we journey through this shifting season, is that you are gentle with yourselves. Take time to breathe, to rest, and to meet God in prayer.

In light and love,
Pastor Becky





Day to Day, Sing to God
by **Talitha Arnold**

Sing to the Lord; bless God's name; tell of God's salvation from day to day. – Psalm 96:2 (NRSV)

As I write this reflection, there's a skunk in my bathroom and an odiferous dog in my laundry room. They've been there since last night when I'd innocently let my dog out, and all hell broke loose in the backyard. Dog found skunk, skunk sprayed dog, dog chased skunk into house, owner drove dog (not skunk) to emergency vet, then made a fruitless midnight search for hydrogen peroxide and baking soda.

As I write this reflection, it's also my birthday. I'd planned to start my new year with quiet time and coffee, followed by a walk with the aforementioned dog. I'd planned to finish this reflection, then ease into prep for a Saturday funeral and Sunday worship. Now, I just want to growl my way into the year ahead. Psalm 96 changes my tune. Day to day, the psalmist sings, "Sing to God, bless God's name, tell of God's salvation." Not just on the good days, but every day. So, by the grace of God, I follow the ancient composer's advice and start the morning with a hymn I learned in seminary, "How Can I Keep from Singing?"

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I hear the sweet though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

With the smell of last night's escapades wafting through the house (and no plan yet for getting the skunk out of the bathroom), the hymn's promise of a new creation feels quite far off. Yet the hymn has already sustained my life and ministry for decades. This morning is no exception.

Prayer
God of endless song, "through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing. It sounds an echo to my soul—how can I keep from singing?"

Consistory Corner

LSUCC CONSISTORY MINUTES (Pending Approval)
September 9, 2026

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

Alan called the meeting to order. Paul led devotions with a reading called "My Scars." Pastor Becky led us in prayer.

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

Treasurer's report: 2027 Proposed budget was discussed under New Business. Everything for YTD 2026 is on track.

Pastor's Report:
9/7/26 – 10/11/26

Period	Hours	PCE	Notes on Activities
9/7-9/13	22	2	Consistory
9/14-9/20	21	2	MVA Nominating Committee; Committee on Ministry; HAM
9/21-9/27	25	4	Authorization Working Group
9/28-10/4	21	2	Community of Practice
10/5-10/11	22	2	Intensive Week; MVA Nominating Committee
Total	**111**	**12**	

Notes:
Baptism scheduled for 10/25

President's Communication:
Congregational meeting will be held after worship on November 22nd

Committee reports:

- Property –
  - Decided NOT to do the donation box in the parking lot
  - Started waxing the floors
  - Will be doing a thorough cleaning prior to the Conference meeting in November
- Service –
  - Baking shoofly on October 17.
  - Baking Pumpkin pies and Pecan pies on November 24
  - Starting Christmas candy in November
- Christian Ed –
  - Fellowship Hour activities during Advent (Beginning Nov 29th)
  - Caroling – December 20th
  - Family Movie Night – January 16th (Moana or Brave)
  - Next meeting – January 3rd
- WISE –
- Mission –
- Worship –
- Supper –

Concerns from the Past:

Concerns for the Future:

- The quilters requested to set up a Square account to accept credit card payments. Kirk made a motion to approve the request. Paul seconded. All voted to approve.
- Kirk prepared the preliminary budget for 2027. Consistory voted to make one change, which will be sent out via email. The final proposed budget will be provided to the Congregation prior to the Annual Meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 11th at 6:30pm. Meeting was adjourned, and all joined in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsey



Annual Congregational Meeting

will be held after worship on Sunday, November 22nd.



HELPING OUR MEMBERS IN EMERGENCY

FUND

A good portion of the money that has been accumulating in our "**H**elping **O**ur **M**embers **E**mergency" 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

September Income

$4,788.00	Current Expenses
563.00	Benevolences
1088.00	Fundraising
164.00	Facilities Use
$6,603.00	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.



AMONG OUR MEMBERS

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



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ADVENT FAMILY FELLOWSHIP



Each Sunday during the Advent Season, immediately after worship we will gather in fellowship hall for a family advent project planned by members of our Christian Ed Committee. Each week we will hear a bit about a Christmas Tradition and participate in activities to help us prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's arrival. Please plan to extend your time at church on Sunday mornings beginning on November 29.

.CHRISTIAN SERVICE NEWS

Christmas Candy Order forms are attached near the end of this Buzz.

Grocery Gift Cards

Sign up for December Gift Cards by November 15 with delivery scheduled for Sunday, November 29. The Church earns 5% of the amount we sell. Remember to include your Christmas Gifts and Holiday needs in your order. 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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Family Game Event

November 14 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.

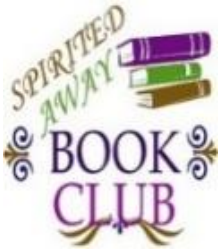
Pumpkin and Pecan Pie Sale



The bakers will make pumpkin and pecan pie on November 24 with pickup 3-5 pm. Orders will be due by November 15. The cost is still to be determined.

SPIRITED AWAY BOOK CLUB

Our Spirited Away Book Club will take a break for November and December holidays. We're planning to come back strong for our meeting on January 28 at 7 PM. Community friends as well as church members are welcome to join the group. Upcoming book suggestions are also welcome and choices will be announced soon.



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

.EVANGELISM & MISSION NEWS

Fellowship Hour

Nov 1: Keller/Mattes
Dec 6:
Jan 3:

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

Releasing children from poverty
Compassion
in Jesus' name

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. Two of our children have birthdays coming in the first week of November.

Christmas Cookie Trays



The Mission Committee and others from the church will once again be making and selling cookie trays for pickup December 12 noon to 1PM or December 13, 10-11AM. The cost is $20 per pound. Orders are due by November 29th. Sign up on the Side Hall Bulletin Board or Fellowship Hall. Please let Martha Sterling know if you are interested in helping to bake cookies. Proceeds from cookie sales will benefit a variety of mission outreach programs.

community food bank

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.



LSUCC QUILTERS

This year's raffle quilt is pictured above. Our quilters 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

Phoebe Partnership

the Church office.

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

Make a JOYFUL NOISE

Our JOYFUL NOISE campaign raised $45.00 in September for CWS Tools Kits. In November the money collected will support Bethany Children's Home.

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

S.T.A.R. is currently in need of:

Hospitality items-
Body wash
Shaving cream (m&w)
Toothpaste
Deodorant (m&w)
Toilet Paper
Tissues (Individual packs)
Lip Balm

Clothing-
Socks (m&w)
Underwear (m&w)
Under shirts (m)
Thermals (m&w)
Hats (m&w)
Gloves (m&w)
Pajamas (m&w)

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

Calling All College Students



Is there is a college student in your family? Regardless of age, on campus attendance or cyber schooling, we would like to have their contact information in order to keep in touch. You can call the church office or Martha Sterling.

Paint Like Bob Ross Event

December 13, 3 PM

Sign up today for this or any other up-coming class online at **https://www.letspaintapicture.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.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Our Upcoming Worship Schedule

11/1 Communion Worship, All Saints Observed
11/15 Harvest Home
11/22 Hanging of the Greens
11/29 Advent Begins
12/21 7PM HAM Longest Night Service 1st UCC
12/24 Christmas Eve Communion Service
12/27 Hymn Sing

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.

If you would be interested in baking or providing assistance in the kitchen the day of the meeting, please let the office know or see the signup sheet posted in the short hall by the Gardner Room.

The Keystone Connection

Reprint of a Message Dated October 6, 2026
Members and Friends of Keystone Conference,

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice." – Philippians 4:4 NRSV

Rejoicing doesn't sound like something I'd be doing if I was stuck in a first century prison, but here Paul is, advocating for it to the Philippians. The Philippians were in a bit of a bind themselves, trapped in conflicts and troubles that Paul addresses throughout his letter. But Paul steadfastly calls them, in an imperative voice, to rejoice, and with good reason.

When we find ourselves in conflicts or troubles, typically the amygdala, the flight or fight part of our brains, is what lights up. We can stay there, too, as we wade through emotions evoked by trapped pools of adrenaline and cortisol in our systems. But when we move in our minds and bodies into the neocortical section of our brains, we can tap into creative, higher order thinking that allows us access to feelings of love and joy that are inaccessible to us when we are trapped in fight or flight. I think that one of the greatest aspects of our faith is how it moves us, both individually and collectively, from one way of thinking and being to another. It requires spiritual discipline, self-differentiation, breathing, movement, and in many ways playfulness for us to get there. But when we do, I believe we embody the Gospel.

Even if Paul didn't know the neuroscience of all this, he still knew it. In Philippians 4:8, he writes, "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

When we find ourselves in situations of trouble or conflict in our churches, let's recall this to our minds and bodies, so that we are not trapped in prisons of flight or fight but are free to move toward creative possibilities suffused with love and joy. I think it's one of our greatest callings and opportunities as Christians to do so!

David

Rev. David Ackerman
Transitional Regional Conference Minister, Region 3
Keystone Conference, United Church of Christ

Search-A-Word Puzzle

Based on Psalms 16:7-11 (NRSV)

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

Psalms 16:7-11

I **bless** the LORD who gives me **counsel**;
in the **night** also my heart **instructs** me.
I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right **hand**, I shall not be **moved**.

Therefore my **heart** is **glad**, and my **soul** **rejoices**;
my **body** also **rests** **secure**.
For you do not give me up to **Sheol**,
or let your **faithful** one see the **Pit**.

You show me the **path** of life.
In your presence there is fullness of **joy**;
in your **right** hand are **pleasures** for evermore.

****

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/

FREE Thanksgiving Community Meal

Saturday, November 21
2 - 4 pm

New Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran
3233 Apples Church Rd.

Registration Required by Nov. 14 Please call 610-838-9471

No group registrations - each household must register
No takeout orders

Hosted by your local Churches & Organizations

LOWER SAUCON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHRISTMAS CANDY ORDER 2026

NAME _____

PHONE _____

MILK	DARK		TOTAL UNITS		TOTAL COST
		Peanut Clusters			
		1/2 lb.		$7.00	
		1 lb.		$14.00	
		Raisin Clusters			
		1/2 lb.		$7.00	
		1 lb.		$14.00	
		Pretzel Bark			
		1/2 lb.		$7.00	
		1 lb.		$14.00	
		Non Pareils			
		1/2 lb.		$7.00	
		1 lb.		$14.00	
		P'nut Butter Cups			
		1/2 lb.		$7.00	
		1 lb.		$14.00	
		Lollipops 2/pkg		$1.50	
		Pretzel Rods 4/pkg		$1.50	
		TOTAL ORDER			

LAST DAY TO ORDER IS NOVEMBER 22, 2026

Gerrie Koch 610-838-9350

or email to gkoch3@verizon.net

LOWER SAUCON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHRISTMAS CANDY ORDER 2026

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PHONE _____

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

$1 each or $5 for 6

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

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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6th Prize	$50 Copperhead Grille Gift Card
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