

# HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



**SEPTEMBER 2018**

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Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburtis, 18011  
Church office: 610-845-2626 Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541  
Pastor Home Office: 610-944-5923  
Office email: [office@huffschurch.com](mailto:office@huffschurch.com)  
Website: [www.huffschurch.com](http://www.huffschurch.com)  
Facebook Page: Huff's Union Church, Inc.  
Facebook Group: Huff's Union Church

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**We, the members of Huff's Union Church, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become evermore the Body of Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a ministry which includes increasingly meaningful worship, creative Christian Education, intentional witnessing, dedicated service, and responsible support.**

**Making Disciples: Inside and Out. UCC slogan: God is still speaking. ELCA slogan: God's work, our hands.**

## **Permission Slips for Children & Youth**

Huff's Church has a one-year permission slip which covers all programs that we sponsor during the year for children and youth under age 18. Each year we must update permission slips to be sure they have the most current information. Please fill out new slips for 2018-2019, and mark these years on the form. New forms are hanging on the Sunday School bulletin board.

## **Confirmation Classes Begin Sept. 9**

Confirmands will meet at 9:15 in the chapel basement on Sept. 9. Confirmands should bring the completed copy of the Luke worksheet, your Bibles and a 3-ring notebook. During the worship service on Sept. 9, you will be introduced to the congregation. Please plan to be at either the 8 or 10:30 a.m. worship service that day.

On Saturday, September 22, we have our Mentor and Confirmand retreat from 9-3. Mentors, please bring food to share for our lunch; beverages and table service will be provided. Confirmands please bring your workbooks and Bibles. Please mark your calendars for the Confirmation trip to the Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg scheduled for November 3. Be at the museum by 10 a.m.

## **Protecting Our Children**

Huff's Union Church has adopted a child protection policy, which we share with our congregation yearly (found in this newsletter on the back of the calendar page). As part of the Commonwealth of PA regulations, we are required to ask that all adults who are working with children and youth have a PA criminal background check, a PA child abuse clearance, sign an affidavit stating the person has not been convicted of a list of crimes, and Huff's asks that all sign a sexual abuse and harassment prevention policy. If you are with our children and youth on a regular basis, please be sure we have your recent (less than 5 years old) clearances on file in the church office.

## **Walk Through the Bible "O.T. (Old Testament) Live.**

This event will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2018, from 8 a.m. (light breakfast) to noon at St. John's ELCA, Boyertown. Cost is \$10 per person for materials. Sign up by Sept. 3 (sign up at church or call office with number attending). Exciting presentation (not a Bible study, but a live performance) to teach how the Bible connects with modern lives. All ages welcome. Confirmation credit given for attendance. More information at: <http://www.walkthru.org/live-events>.

## **Sunday School News**

We will not be having an early start time for Sunday School on September 9, but will have Sunday School after the children's moment of the 10:30 worship service. It will be held outdoors on the tables near the refreshment stand.

We could always use some new teachers or helpers to work with our children. If you are interested, please contact Rachel Welch at 484-226-0333 or [rahelwelch@yahoo.com](mailto:rahelwelch@yahoo.com) to advise her of your intentions, and to get your background clearances.

Both 8 and 10:30 worship services will feature the theme of baptismal renewal (recommitting our lives to Christ's service including a time to come forward and touch the waters). The 10:30 worship service will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

Because we will be holding the Corn Fest and Hoedown from 4-7 p.m., we will not have a covered dish meal this year.

## ***Acolyte Schedule***

- 9/2/18 Paige Geist, Austin Hall & Luke Geist
- 9/9//18 Outdoor Worship, No Acolytes
- 9/16/18 Logan Scott, Chase Longacre & Logan Watkins
- 9/23/18 Riley Miller, Wyatt Miller & Madelynn Miller
- 9/30/18 Spencer Hess, Easton Albert & Gavin Hess

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

We are honoring our members who celebrate their 80th birthday or older and also honoring those members who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary or more. Please let us know if we missed anyone.

### **Birthdays**

- 9/10 - Ethel Funk
- 9/23 - Mary Szilli
- 9/29 - Mildred Miller
- 9/19 - Frieda Merkel
- 9/29 - Ernest Kemp

### **Anniversaries**

- 9/15 - Jerome & Judith Barnes

## **Village Volleyball Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who set up for Village Volleyball. Our second year was a success due to you!

## **Choir Schedule**

Senior Choir begins September 6th at 7:30 p.m.

Children's Choir begins September 12th at 6:30 p.m.

Bell choir begins September 18th at 7:30 p.m.

Day Bells have not yet been scheduled.

## **CORNFEST AND HOEDOWN**

Please join us on **Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** for a special event in the **church park!** We are calling it "**Cornfest**", and it includes a **free outdoor hoedown** (we're just asking for band donations). From **4:00 to 6:00 pm** we will be selling meal plates in the church park for only \$5. These will include corn on the cob, hotdogs with or without sauerkraut, melons, and drinks. **Keith Brintzenhoff and The Toad Creek Ramblers** will be playing music from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. so we can also enjoy a hoedown under the band pavilion! This will be a **rain or shine community event!** Please spread the word to friends and neighbors. We hope to see you there!

Help may be needed with food prep and serving, as well as moving benches ahead of time so we can dance under the band pavilion. Please contact Tess Woloszanski at [tess314@windstream.net](mailto:tess314@windstream.net) or 610-682-2652 if you can help!

## **St. Peters Church Community Supper**

Community Supper on Friday, September 7th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The meal is served in St. Peter's Place, next door to St. Peter's Church. All are welcome. There is no charge for this meal. A freewill offering can be made to help offset costs. The men of Huffs Church are invited to help prepare and serve this meal. Typically, around 100 people enjoy this supper each month. Please come out to support our sister church and enjoy good food and fellowship.

## **Preparing A Meal for Someone Who Was Hospitalized**

If you would like to volunteer to prepare a meal for someone who has been hospitalized (non maternity, at this time) please contact Gary Fogel at 610-845-2509 to have your name added to the list of those who are willing to do this good deed. Pastor Kropa will suggest names, so please notify the office of members who might appreciate such a meal.

## **Committee Chairpersons and Budget Committee**

You should have received your budget request forms, which need to be returned to Tess Woloszanski's mailbox (Union Council Vice President) by September 9th. Please contact Tess if you have not received your updated budget form. We use a three-year budgeting process, so if you foresee an expense that will come up within the next three years, do put it in so we may try to prepare for it.

The Budget Committee (an ad hoc team composed of the treasurer, council and congregational officers) will meet in September. Please pray for the team as they draft the budget for 2019. We want to be faithful stewards of what God is giving to us, as well as a creative team that imagines new ways God wants us to be relevant in today's society.

## **Covenant Association UCC Day at The Potato Project**

On September 15, beginning at 9 a.m. anyone from Covenant Association (which is the UCC Association for Huff's Union Church) is invited to come help harvest potatoes. The plot is Becker's St. Peter's Cemetery Plot, 265 Maiden Creek Rd., Fleetwood (Molltown) PA 19522. Please let the pastor know by September 9th if you plan to pick potatoes on this day, since we are asked to provide a rough total of how many will attend.

For those who are not free this day, but who wish to help with the harvest - IHartHarvest, Inc., The Potato Project, has asked us for help with the harvest of their crops in September. Acres of sweet and field corn, white and sweet potatoes, carrots, cabbage, onions and melons need volunteers to pick and get these products to local food pantries and the Greater Berks Food Bank. This extraordinary faith-based mission welcomes individual walk-ins to join other registered groups in the harvest. As the day, time and location can change during the busy harvest season, it is best to refer to their online website and calendar: <https://sites.google.com/site/ihartharvestinc/home/calendar>

If you want to lend a hand but don't understand computer jargon, call Sue Stockdale at 610-845-3374 and she will let

## **Harvest Home**

September 16 is Harvest Home Sunday. Please bring something that might be given to the Allentown Rescue Mission - fresh produce welcome as well as canned or boxed goods.

## **Small Group**

Small group will meet in the chapel on Saturday, September 1, at 10:00 a.m. for Bible study and conversation. You are welcome to bring a food item to share and have lunch together from 11:30-12:30.

## **Ladies Aid Meeting**

The next meeting of the Ladies Aid Society will be on Wednesday, September 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel. All ladies are invited to attend. Please continue to save your Redner's & Radcliffe's receipts. There is a basket for these on the Food Bank cabinet near the men's room in the church.

## **Lunch Bunch**

All are welcome to attend our Celebrate the End of Summer Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, September 18, at noon at the Alburdis Tavern in Alburdis with an optional walk in the Loch Ridge Park after lunch. The luncheon menu is available for this "pay for your own" lunch. Come and join us for lunch and fellowship.

## **QPR: Suicide Prevention Training**

Our fall Suicide Prevention Training Workshop will take place on Tuesday, September 26, at 7 p.m. in the upstairs of the chapel. Question, Persuade, Refer is a method developed by Dr. Paul Quinett, to offer hope to people who are thinking about ending their life. Participants will learn how to bring up the subject, how to encourage people to get help, and receive a list of places which offer hotlines or other help.

## **Holly Pilgert's Telephone Number**

Holly Pilgert has a temporary telephone number to use. You can reach Holly by using her mother, Diana Pilgert's telephone number which is 610-682-7864.

## **Special Offering Opportunity for September Campaign for the ELCA**

Always Being Made New is the name of the campaign for the ELCA. This is a 5 year campaign, which began in 2015, that is hoping to raise \$198 million for ministry and mission in our denomination. If you would like to give to this campaign, please use the special envelope in the pew, or write “campaign for the ELCA” on the blank line of your offering envelope.

## **Pastor's Article**

Dear Christian Friends:

I continue to read Ronald Rohlheiser's book, Sacred Fire, which features a discussion on prayer. Last month we talked about having dry periods in prayer life and how to keep on going through the humdrum times. This month, I'd like to talk about liturgical and private prayer.

Rohlheiser distinguishes between the prayers we pray as a group assembled for worship, and prayers we pray when we are alone and speaking to God. Liturgical prayers don't always speak to our personal needs. Sometimes liturgical prayers might leave us feeling rather un-moved. Liturgical prayers are crafted to talk to God on behalf of global concerns - the big issues, such as pollution, poverty, violence, those facing diseases and death. They are, not necessarily specific to the issues we might choose to bring before God, but we do so because, as a community of God's people, we have the Christian duty to pray for the world. A wonderful example of a liturgical prayer is the sung prayer in the green hymnal (LBW) that begins: In peace let us pray to the Lord. The congregation sings: Lord, have mercy. The prayer then leads us to pray for the peace from above, for our salvation, the peace of the whole world, the well-being of the Church of God, the unity of all, for this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, that all may be helped, comforted, saved and defended. We also have Prayers of the People, which lift up many of these areas which always need prayer.

When we pray for ourselves, we pray the particulars—the persons in our family, those we know in our community who need our prayers, our private concerns for things like employment, financial help, getting along with others, being able to forgive, rejoicing at a family birthday or anniversary, etc. These are also important prayers, because they bring our troubles and joy to God, just as Jesus advised—as a child would bring things to a loving parent. We might include a few prayers for the world, for God to help us to stand firm against evil, for our particular worries and causes that may be national or global, but it is our informal list, rather than an exhaustive list.

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## **Pastor's Article** *(continued)*

Rohlheiser suggests that individuals pray both liturgically, using devotional prayers, prayers from hymnals, and prayers from other sources that cover the big issues of our world, as well as pray prayers that we compose, pouring out to God what is on our minds and in our hearts. For people who feel rather insecure in praying from the heart, be reassured that God is not looking for perfect prayers, but for communication from us, just as a parent loves to hear from children how their day went and what is on their minds.

You will find that the more you pray, the easier it will be to feel relaxed before God in prayer. Sometimes prayer is the letting go of hurts and fears, and can bring tears. Sometimes prayer is a time for counting blessings, and can bring joy. Sometimes prayer is just a simple conversation, and brings a sense of relationship.

Whatever prayers you pray, may you feel blessed by your time spent in the presence of God in prayer.

Pastor Jane Kropa

## **Pastor's Sabbatical Report**

Due to the length of September's newsletter, the Pastor's Sabbatical Report will be published in the October newsletter.

## **Church Family**

### **Funerals:**

Please pray for the family and friends of Cheyanne Carwell who died on July 13, 2018.

Please pray for the family and friends of Lori Meitzler who died on July 26, 2018.

### **Meditation**

Our beautiful church will be open for personal meditation and reflection every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. In our busy and sometimes chaotic lives, we need a quiet place in which to find serenity.

This is a new endeavor here at Huff's Church. Two people need to be here anytime the church is open. Please contact Jane Arndt at 610-462-8164 if you have a few hours to dedicate to this new adventure.

## **Union Council Highlights**

Conner Isamoyer and Robert Arner will work on podcasting the sermons and posting them through the church's website. There is sometimes a problem with sound, and this will be discussed with CSI (the people who installed and maintain our sound system).

We will be collecting toothpaste to send to help with the Schuylkill area flooding through the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Schuylkill Association Disaster Relief. There will be a box on the gift book table near the front entrance of the church for your donations.

Recommendations for a portable media system will be obtained the end of August from CSI.

We have revised the job description of the Ministry Assistant and have added organization and planning of children's and youth events, in order to take advantage of the expertise of one of the applicants for the position. We hope to offer the position to our candidate with a start date of September 4, 2018.

We need a site manager with some construction experience to follow the plans and lead the volunteer team in building a ramp to help a handicapped member. Jim Meitzler, Sr. will organize a work crew. Please contact him if you can volunteer to help (610-845-2581)

John Moll and Sheri Shaner have resigned from council for personal reasons. When we have our budget approval and election of new council members' meeting in December, we will need two persons willing to accept 2-year terms to finish their terms of office.

The Endowment Committee will give \$750 to the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Schuylkill Association Disaster Relief fund. They will also give \$500 to I Hart Harvest (the potato project)

Kane Weller has been given permission, with the help of scouts, to clean up the Old Testament trail that starts near the labyrinth.

Committee and group chairpersons are asked to have their budget forms to Tess Woloszanski by September 9.

## **Untion Council Highlights** (continued)

Plans for two lighted cabinets to be built in the niches of the upstairs church hallway will be shown to the anonymous donor for his/her approval. These cabinets will display some of our church historic items. Upon the donor's approval, the work will begin.

### **Oyster Pie & Wixon Shoo Fly Pie Sale - Save the Date**

Our next Oyster Pie & Wixon Shoo Fly Sale is Saturday, October 20, with pick-up between 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon. Cost has not been determined yet and will be decided by the October Newsletter. Watch for news in the Sunday Bulletins. Orders are due by Sunday, October 14. The order forms will be on the downstairs bulletin board for both Oyster Pies and Shoo Fly Pies.

Oyster Pie making dates are Friday October 19 and Saturday, October 20. We can always use help for making oyster pies. Come out to cut potatoes on Friday at 9 a.m. (this is a sit down job). Come and help with making crusts on Friday evening at 6 p.m. Help assemble pies, bag them, etc. on Saturday, beginning at 7 a.m. Come for all the time or part of the time. Confirmation credit given (1 credit for 2 hours work). If you like, bring a snack to share. If you are new to Huff's, or want to bring a friend, this is a great way to get to know our folks "at play" while they work on one of our big fund-raising projects.

### **Apple Dumpling Fundraiser (proceeds go to the Youth Fund).**

Our next Apple Dumpling Sale is Saturday, October 27. Cost is \$3.50 per dumpling and orders are due by Sunday, October 22. Order forms will be on the downstairs bulletin board where you can sign up or call Deb Bortz at (215) 679-4383. Pick up is on October 28 in the chapel between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Anyone interested in helping to make dumplings, look for sign-up sheets in church. Spare an hour or more. No experience necessary. Will train. Help is needed Friday evening and Saturday morning. Some of this year's proceeds will fund the youth attending the November 5th trip to the Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg, which includes the one-hour program on being a Civil War soldier as well as the museum entrance fee.

## **Pennsylvania Southeast Conference News**

The week which began on July 22 became devastating for quite a few residents of Schuylkill County. By the time the rains stopped on Wednesday, Tremont and Pine Grove had the most damage; while residents of Tower City Borough, Porter, Pine Grove, Frailey, Hegins, Hubley, Upper Mahantongo and Barry Township also felt the wrath.

Pine Grove has seen this situation before. Therefore, their recovery began early. The borough brought in dumpsters for damaged goods and a shelter was opened for a few days. Many people were prepared with sump pumps and have avoided storing much in the basement. Clean-up buckets were made available throughout the community. Pastor Jason Stump, St. Peter's UCC in Pine Grove, has taken the lead and continues to serve the people of the community.

Tremont is another story. They had about 85 homes with water, some of which had several feet on the first floor. St. Peter's UCC, Tremont, had water in the basement and in the parsonage. When the water was gone, both basements were covered with a slimy mud. So that the congregation could hold services on July 29, volunteers from the area, as well as a group from a United Methodist Church in Gilbertsville, joined together to thoroughly clean the basement. St. Peter's pastor, the Rev. Claude Schach, is very appreciative of the offers from the UCC churches in Donaldson, Ravine and Pine Grove for the use of their facilities.

There is a need for funding. Therefore, a Disaster Fund has been established with the Schuylkill Association. Checks should be written to the Schuylkill Association and mailed to Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy, 618 Arlington St., Tamaqua, PA 18252. One of the first purchases will be dehumidifiers, which will be used throughout the communities to assist in the drying out process.

Schuylkill County Emergency Manager, John Matz, does not think that there will be a Presidential Declaration for Individual Assistance. Therefore, he says: "I foresee a need in the aftermath to provide assistance through the faith-based and VOAD groups. With the increasing number of disasters, the

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## **Pennsylvania Southeast Conference News (continued)**

impacted residents will be best served within a neighbor to neighbor, inclusive network of caring individuals.”

State Senator David G. Argall, who serves western Schuylkill County, said, “In western Schuylkill County, we often see floods. Whenever this happens, our faith-based communities are always willing to help a neighbor in need. Churches bring supplies and offer a helping hand to let residents know that they are not alone. To quote from the Book of Proverbs ‘Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.’”

Schuylkill County pastors who are helping to guide this work are: Jason Stump, Claude Schach, Maureen Duffy-Guy, Shawn Van Dyke and Karl Jones.

### **Toothpaste**

We are collecting toothpaste to donate to the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Schuylkill Association flood relief. There will be a collection box on the table near the front entrance of the church. Please bring in your donations by September 9.

### **Baptismal Renewal Worship Service:**

On September 9, at both worship services (the 10:30 worship is outdoors, weather permitting) we will have a service that invites us to reflect on our baptism and how it has changed the path of our lives.

We will not have 9 a.m. children’s Rally Day Sunday School, but children will be dismissed for a Sunday School lesson outdoors at the picnic tables after the time of baptism renewal. There will not be a covered dish, since all are invited to return for the Corn Fest and Hoe Down from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

### **Local Need Special Offering**

Our Local Needy Fund has helped more people than ever before. To be sure we will still have money to disperse, we will take up a Special Offering for this Fund on October 7th. You may also designate money for this offering by writing it onto your offering envelope.

**Thank You Notes Received  
From CWS (Church World Service)**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$300 to the CWS Blankets program. As families and communities around the world recover from emergencies and struggle in the face of challenges, you are outstanding with them. You are providing relief and hope.

Your contribution provides hope to neighbors near and far, from migrant families facing cold and wet conditions to refugees who have just arrived in the United States to build a new future to guests at homeless shelters. Around the world, your support of this program means vital supplies and support for those in need.

Rev. John L. McCullough  
President and CEO  
Church World Services

**Pastor Led Bible Study**

The pastor received a request for a pastor-led Bible study a few times a year, to aid in member spiritual growth. In the past, when the pastor picked the day of week and time, it has not worked out. When small group began, the pastor challenged 5 people to commit to attending, and let them choose the day of the week and time, and Small Group thrives to this day.

In order for the pastor-led Bible study to begin, there will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board with request for day of the week and time of day that would work for interested participants. If we get 5 who commit to the same day of week and time of day, we will schedule the first Bible study, and go from there. If you invite someone not from our congregation, and that person wishes to commit to attending, we can count them.

If this sounds interesting to you, please check the bulletin board and request a day of the week and time of day. We will proceed from there to check for commitment, and will then publicize the finalized time to the congregation with an invitation to join us.

## **Confirmation Statement**

We are proud of the seven new members who joined Huff's Union Church through Confirmation on May 20, 2018. They have each written a statement explaining why they wish to be congregational members. We will be printing their statements in the next several newsletters.

### **Billy Geist**

I've gone to Huff's Church my whole life. I was baptized here and so were my parents. They went to confirmation and wanted me to go to confirmation too, so I did.

The people at Huff's Church are so nice that it makes me feel like I belong here. It was fun getting to know the people at church and it was a learning experience when helping at church.

My favorite part about confirmation was going to Gettysburg. That was really fun! Getting to confirmation class has helped me know more about God and how the church works.

My favorite Bible verse is *John 3:16 - God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.* That verse is important to me because I feel like God loved me so much that he would send his son to die for our sins, and if we truly believe, we will live forever with God.

One of the things I will do after confirmation is go to church and help when I can. I will also acolyte from time to time.

## **Huff's Church Dutch Players**

I've planned a typical PA Dutch free meal for everyone that participated in our plays, Fersommling & Dutch Dinner Theaters from 1975-2017.

The meal is scheduled for Sunday, September 30, 2018 in the chapel at 12:00 and will be prepared by Duane & Debbie Bortz. I have a list of 42 people that participated, however, please inform either Joyce Reinert, Rachel Woodhead, Marvin & Audrey Diehl or LeRoy Marks by Sunday, August 26, 2018 so we can obtain an accurate count.

Ich will oll fun eich sehna. Es gebt gut essa un blenti lacha un gshposs.

Danka, Carl Arner  
610-841-0639

## June - July 2018 Treasury Report

	June	July	July YTD Actual
Monthly Income	\$ 11,683.47	\$21,429.79	\$ 169,745.16
Monthly Operating Expense	\$ 32,352.62	\$19,097.28	\$ 198,876.75
Balance	\$ (20,669.15)	\$2,332.51	(29,131.59)
40101 - Pass thru Income Account	\$ 270.00	\$505.00	
60100 - Pass thru Expense Account	\$ 5,206.13	\$2,317.38	
Account Balances:	6/30/18	7/31/2018	
Designated Fund	\$ 54,532.76	\$52,680.16	
General Fund	\$ (6,137.33)	(\$2,928.32)	
Sunday School		\$8,817.12	
Youth Group		\$18,813.61	