

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



June 2018

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

Website: www.huffschurch.com

Facebook Page: Huff's Union Church, Inc.

Facebook Group: Huff's Union Church

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.

Congratulations to our Confirmands!

Received into membership on May 20 were the following Confirmands: Luke Geist, Paige Geist, William Geist, Spencer Hess, Raegan Pilgert, Reilly Rollman and Kane Weller.

Huff's Union Church welcomes you!

Eagle Scout

Congratulations to Codey Geist upon completion of the requirements to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is quickly approaching. Our theme this year is Rolling River Rampage. Our VBS will be held on July 9-13, 2018, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. for children ages 3 to 12; younger children welcome if with parent. Throughout the week the children will be participating in storytelling, music, science, crafts and games. Each evening the children will receive a light snack before going home. Questions? Please get in contact with Rachel Welch at 484-226-0333. See Registration Form on the website (www.huffschurch.com).

VBS Help Needed

VBS is in need of help for the following areas:

Preschool: One person to help our youngest group. We have had a large turnout the past 2 years and need some extra help in this area.

Crafts: One person to lead crafts and a few extra hands to help the children to create their crafts.

We also need a few people to help children with bathroom breaks throughout the night.

If you are interested in any of these areas, please contact Rachel Welch at 484-226-0333.

Confirmation Class for 2020

The 2020 Confirmation Class will meet with parents for orientation on Sunday, June 3 at 4 p.m. on the street level of church. If your child is in grade 7 or older, please call the office to register your child (610-845-2626) or e-mail Pastor@huffschurch.com. If you cannot be at the orientation meeting, please contact Pastor Kropa to arrange for a make up.

Father's Day Brunch

We invite you to a brunch (free will donation--think about what you'd pay in a restaurant for this sort of meal) held on the Huff's Church picnic grounds after the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, June 17. We thank Duane Bortz for organizing this brunch at Huff's. To assist Duane with set up, cooking, or clean up, please call 215-679-4383)

Acolyte Schedule

- 6/3/18 Reilly Rollman, Kara Benfield, Raegen Pilgert
Maisy Funk and Kane Weller
- 6/10/18 Logan Watkins, Alex Hersh and Chase Longacre
- 6/17/18 No Acolytes—outdoor worship
- 6/24/18 Billy Geist, Paige Geist and Luke Geist

Village Volleyball is Coming Back!

Summer is on its way, and on Wednesday evenings beginning on June 20th and continuing through August 22nd, Huff's will once again be inviting its members and the community to play recreational volleyball in the park from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Last year we had some regular participants, and we hope even more will come out to join the fun this year! Any age or ability is welcomed! The net will already be set up at our June 16th picnic so you can get a head start on the action!

We are now looking for volunteers to be greeters for this. You will be asked to open the bathrooms, get out the ball and set up a water cooler, and then, of course, welcome players! The net will already be set up. Please sign up on the list hanging on the bulletin board if you can help. You need to have your background checks on file in the office (or get them done and turned in to us).

Please contact Tess Woloszanski if you have any questions about helping (610-618-6399).

May God bless our efforts to gather some folks in some wholesome family fun!

Ladies Aid

There will be no Ladies Aid Meeting in June due to a scheduling conflict with the Choir Picnic on Wednesday, June 6th. It will be held on Wednesday, May 30th.

The Ladies Aid officers for 2018-2019 are:

President - Joyce Kemp

Vice President - Mary Szilli

Financial Secretary - Marie Bower

Recording Secretary - Carolann Moody

Treasurer - Kay Kriebel

St. Peter's Church Offers a Community Supper

St. Peter's offers a Community Supper on the first Friday of each month from 5pm to 7pm. 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 free will 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. The next Community Supper is **Friday June 1**. Please come out to support our sister church and enjoy good food and fellowship.

Church Family

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

6/1 - Ruth Leibensperger

6/1 - Barbara Rupp

6/5 - Joyce Grim

6/23 - Marion Miller

6/24 - Dolores Haas

6/29 - Harold Kemp

6/30 - Betty Kline

ANNIVERSARIES

6/20 - Bruce & Shirley Cressman

6/24 - Charles & Nancy Hoffman

6/25 - Richard & Patricia Fenstermacher

6/26 - Milton & Mary Kerchner

6/29 - Marvin & Audrey Diehl

Christian Music Concert

Bryan Sirchio concert at New Goshenhoppen UCC, Sunday, June 17 from 6-7:30 p.m. Free will offering. All are welcome.

Small Group

Small Group meets on June 2 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.. Please bring your Bible. You may bring food to share and stay for lunch from 11:30-12:30.

Labyrinth Walk

Have you walked our labyrinth? It is located at the far end of the parking area next to the Chapel. We are hosting a Labyrinth Walk on Monday, June 4, 2018 at 7PM. Rain date: Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 7PM. Come and join us in a spiritual journey that will conclude with light refreshments in our Chapel.

June Church Picnic

Every summer Huff's Church hosts three important picnics: June picnic funds park repair and upkeep, July picnic supports Ladies Aid, and August picnic supports our general fund.

FIRST PICNIC – SATURDAY JUNE 16, 4-8PM Music is Midnight Special 5-8PM

***Free Children's games and activities 5-6PM at each picnic –** Contact Tess Woloszanski 610-682-2652 or email tess314@windstream.net if you have current background checks on file with the Church office and would like to help with children's games. Volleyball net will be up for the season.

***Help is Needed is needed in many places and times-** Signup sheet at Church, or contact Joanne Benfield at 610-845-2978 or email: jobenfield1213@gmail.com

***Picnic Food Preparation and Baking in Chapel lower level**
Thursday June 14 – 6 to 9PM

Friday June 15- 7AM to About Noon

Saturday June 16 - 7AM to About Noon - Both food prep and Park set up

There are many projects throughout each time and a lot of help needed, so even if you can't come right at the beginning, please come as soon as you can and give about 1-4 hours of your time.

***Serve and prep food in Refreshment Stand and other tasks during the picnic**

Generally 2 shifts for servers and food prep during the picnic of 3:30-6 and 6-8:30 including cleanup but various areas have different shifts so check sign-up schedule.

***Baked Goods for Sale & Cake Walk** – Sheet cake, layer cake, nut bread, brownies (about 20 in pack), cookies (about 20 in pack), cupcakes or muffins (about doz in pack). Made from scratch or box mix. Put on disposable tray or plate with a note listing flavor. Bring to Chapel on Friday by 11AM, or Saturday to Park until 1PM, or after 3PM.

At all Huff's Church picnics, for the enjoyment and safety of all, please leave animals at home other than Service Animals

Tools of Hope for Father's Day

If you would like to honor an important man in your life, or give something in his memory, we are sponsors of the Tools of Hope offering through Church World Service. Cost is \$10.00 for each person honored. Please use the form available on the bulletin table in the upper Narthex (after Mother's Day) or the one included with the June newsletter. Place money or check and filled-out form in an envelope and put in the offering plate or office manager Edwina Fox's mailbox downstairs (in the back room between the stair towers) by June 11. We will have the names of those honored in the bulletin on Father's Day, June 17.

Manna Contemporary Worship Service

Our contemporary worship service will be held in the upstairs of the chapel on Sunday, June 17 at 9 a.m.

Lunch Bunch

Meets Tuesday, June 19, 2018, at noon, at PC's Pub in Pennsburg, for our Rejoice, it's Lunch Bunch.

June Special Offering

June's offering will be for Lutheran Congregational Services, who provide lay Eucharistic visitor training grief groups, and many other services without our communities. They also sponsor Camp Noah, a week of daily summer camp for children who live in areas where tragedies or disasters have occurred . This year Camp Noah will be held in Reading for the children displaced from Puerto Rico because of the hurricane last year.

Father's Day Special Music

For our outdoor worship service on June 17, we will have the Good News Travelin' Band providing country style special music.

Pastor's Article

Dear Christian Friends,

In the past year, several times people have asked, "Where is our over-arching goal in our mission and ministry here at Huff's Church?" To try to better discover and articulate what God is calling us to do in this place, at this time, we are working on compiling a church profile. The United Church of Christ has a form they recommend congregations complete every 3-5 years, which helps congregations answer just these questions. This profile document, when available through Shared Ministry, is also used by our synod to help them understand a congregation. Although this profile document might be used when calling a new pastor, my plans are to remain at Huff's Church for years to come. I think it is exciting to consider what else God might be calling Huff's to think about, perhaps with additional or a different sort lay or pastoral leadership in the future.

The first requirement to creating a profile is to pray. Pray for God's guidance in leading us forward so we remain relevant to new generations. Pray for God's guidance in evaluating our ministries, let some things go and to add some things, where we feel called to do so. Pray that God can help us put others first, to help us envision ways of sharing how much a Christian community has meant to us, and to listen to others who might not understand how or why this might happen for them.

We have created a small group who is willing to consider questions around creating a church profile. The group is composed of Aurel Arndt, Elaine Crump, Tom Mitchell, Gary Moll, and Ian Richetti. They have accepted the task of listening to the congregation around the following areas:

- 1) What God is doing right now through Huff's Church?
- 2) Tell us a story about Huff's church that is meaningful to you.
- 3) What might happen (curiosity) in our congregation's future?
- 4) What do you value about living in our area?
- 5) What three core competencies (qualities) do we find in our present minister, and what might we hope for when we seek lay or pastoral leadership going forward (possibly two different answers)?
- 6) What would we like to work on (goals) in the future of Huff's Church?

Pastor's Article

- 7) How will a pastoral leader help us to make an impact beyond our walls (think bold and imagine new things that we might want to seek in additional lay or pastoral leadership)?

You may certainly seek out any of the profile team members to share your experiences, hopes and dreams, or use the Dream Box (near the water fountain) but please do sign any communication you make so any comments may be followed up if there are questions.

We know that our community is always changing. We no longer use German as our language of worship; we podcast sermons, which would have been unthinkable just a few years ago. You get the idea. What might God want us to consider as we prayerfully try to have an impact on those not yet present in our church family? As the angels often tell people in our scriptures—Do not be afraid.

In Christian Community, Pastor Jane Kropa



The Nativity of St. John the Baptist Sunday

On Sunday, June 24 at both 8 and 10:30 a.m. worship, the theme will be John the Baptist. John is often honored with celebrations that involve water, because he was known for a offering a baptism of repentance, and because he baptized Jesus.

Union Council Highlights

We will be building a handicapped ramp for a congregational family. We are hoping to organize a team, and supply the materials. Details will be provided once we have the necessary leadership. Men and women both may volunteer; mention your interest to Martin Kriebel.

The church, office and chapel has been wired for wi-fi. We need to install three pieces, one on the outside of each building, which will require rental of a high lift.

The gas stoves have been checked and the pilot lights cleaned.

The 2020 confirmation class will have its orientation meeting with parents on June 3 at 4 p.m. on the street level of church.

We are awaiting drawings of display cabinets to build into the two door niches in the church upstairs hall. A donor will pay for cabinets to be created.

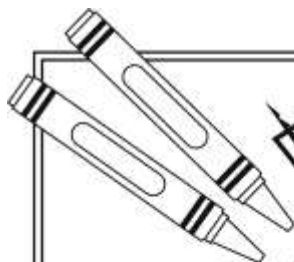
The fire alarms will be cleaned, the park readied for its first use, and the chapel floor will be professionally cleaned and polished downstairs. We are looking into replacing batteries in emergency lights and keeping up with water filter changes.

Village Volleyball begins on Wednesdays from June 20-August 22. (We skip Independence Day, July 4) Please sign up to be one of our two persons to welcome, set up, and open bathrooms. We are hoping for two persons with background clearances. These clearances may be obtained free for volunteers on-line. Contact Tess Woloszanski (610-682-2652) with any questions. The Sign up sheet will be hanging on the downstairs bulletin board.

We can always use one or two helpers with our children's games at the picnics (this year from 5-6 p.m.) Please contact Tess Woloszanski to volunteer. (610-682-2652)

Hearing Assist Devices

Hearing assist devices are available on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. You may use these to hear the worship service anywhere in the building. If you feel you need to sit downstairs because you are coughing, these enable you to hear the service. We are having the broken devices repaired. If you find a device that isn't working, please let someone know so we may have it fixed. Sometimes it just means the batteries need to be replaced.

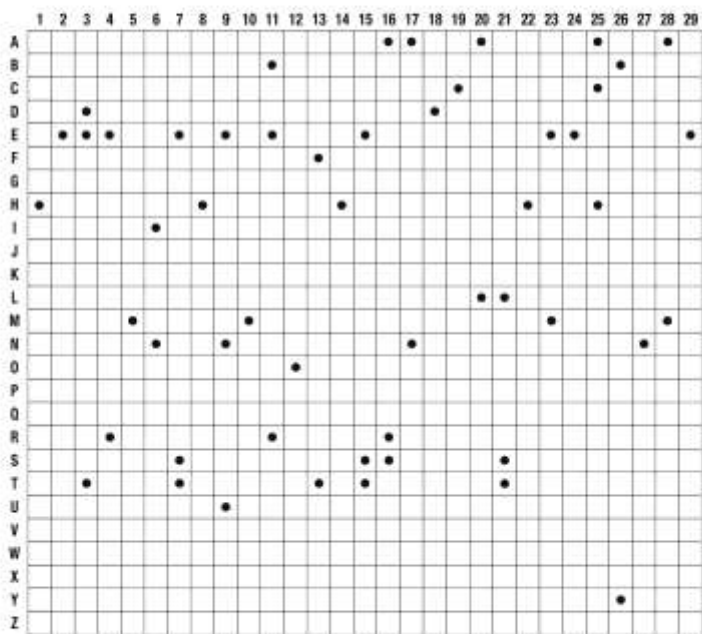


PUZZLE

Wonders of creation

Our Creator is in control of the entire universe!

Directions: Beginning with column 1, go down each column until you come to a dot. Write the letter that's found to the left of the dot on the blank below to complete Psalm 147:4, NIV. (Some columns have more than one letter.)



 ----- PSALM 147:4, NIV

Answer: He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Psalm 147:4, NIV

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference news for June 2018

Dear Christian Friends,

Is there any fire left in the belly of the body of Christ?

If we didn't know it before, we surely know it now, as the second chapter of Acts unfolds: this is no tame God who comes to us, no safe and predictable deity-- certainly not the one you worship from your safe and predictable pew. This is the God whose loving sometimes takes the form of scorching. And should. There are fears, "-isms", and cynical spirits that need to be burned away from your church your Christian life.

Before he left, Jesus told his friends he would send them the Advocate, the Comforter. Now, on Pentecost Sunday, the Comforter comes as wind and flame, reminding us that comfort is not always comfortable. It makes itself known in community where we find the most searing challenges—and the deepest blessings—we will ever know.

Jan Richardson writes about that blessing in a manner that is particularly relevant for your church: "To bear this blessing, you must first take yourself to a place where everyone does not look like you or think like you; a place where they do not believe precisely as you believe, where their thoughts and ideas and gestures are not exact echoes of your own. Bring your sorrow. Bring your grief. Bring your fear. Bring your weariness, your pain, your disgust at how broken the world is...by its fighting, its hungers, its penchant for power, its ceaseless repetition of the history it refuses to rise above. I will not tell you this blessing will fix all that. But in the place where you have gathered, wait. Watch. Listen. Lay aside your inability to be surprised, your resistance to what you do not understand. See then whether this blessing turns to flame on your tongue, sets you to speaking what you cannot fathom or opens your ear to a language beyond your imagining that comes as a knowing in your bones that...this is the reason we were made, for this ache that finally opens us, for this struggle, this grace that scorches us toward one another and into the blazing day."

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference news for June 2018

(continued)

The world outside your church is wondering, ‘is there any fire left in the belly of the body of Christ? Does anything ignite the souls of the people who go there? Are they the carriers of the flame that transforms the world?’ Today is our day to offer the world a resounding “YES!”

Rev. William P. Worley, Conference Minister

MEMORIALS:

In Memory of Harry Crossley

Marie Bower

Melvin & Norma Greiss

In Memory of Paul Ritter

Marvin & Audrey Diehl

Bob & Sue Stockdale

George W. Bayer

Scott & Emelie Swackhammer

James & Joan Lutz

Dennis & Sherry Bellesfield

Allentown Mack Trucks

Traud Law Offices

Bruce & Audrey Eames

Bernadine Schumaker

Debbie & John Thomas

Eric & Robin Diehl

McDevitt Trucks, Inc.

Carl & Minerva Arner

Young’s Advisory Group

America On Wheels

Dennis & Bea Miller

Thomas Luckey

John B. Curcio

In Memory of Margaret Moll

Carl & Minerva Arner

John & Jane Lesser

phen Wullert

Virginia Flamish

Ste-

In Memory of Ray Funk

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Greiss

Marion & Sandra Miller

Betty M. Reed

Sarah Fox

Doris Sieger

Linda & Ray Lorish

Marvin & Audrey Diehl

Martin & Kay Kriebel

Pat Crossley

Dennis & Bea Miller

Karla Oswald

Joe & Connie Szilli

Robert Warner

Scott & Emelie Swackhammer

Carl & Minerva Arner

Pearl Hoffman

Lucy Grampp

Ethel Funk

In Memory of John & Irene Brensinger

Darlene Wertman

Memorials (continued)

In Memory of Ray & Dolly Funk

Tess Woloszanski John & Jane Leeser
Betsy Wallace & Family

In Memory of David Shaner

Sheri Shaner

In Memory of Clarence Funk

Ethel Funk

Thank You Notes Received

From The Lehigh Conference of Churches

Dear Friends at Huffs Union Church,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$200 to the Lehigh Conference of Churches. Because you answered our call, we can do the same for others.

Every day we are deeply grateful for donors like you who enable us to provide a path of hope for people who are struggling.

Abigail Goldfarb
Director of Administration

From St. Vincent Mission, Inc.

Dear Carl Arner & Members of Huff's Union Church

We would like to thank you for your continued support of our Mission and we are excited to accept the wonderful seed donation. This is the season that we get daily enquiries for seeds and garden assistance. Without your support, 681 seed packets with a value of \$1,513.86, we would be hard pressed to find ways to bless the people in Appalachia. We would like to wish you and all of your loved ones a blessed Spring season, and we pray for continued good health.

Lori Gearheart
Grow Appalachia Garden Mgr.
Grant Management

Erin Bottomlee
Executive Director

April 2018 Treasury Report

	April	YTD Actual	Annual Budget
Monthly Income	\$40,584.11	\$115,790.24	\$308,189.00
Monthly Expense	\$40,606.45	\$115,950.49	\$307,843.00
Balance	-\$22.34	-\$160.25	\$346.00
40101 - Pass thru Income Account	\$80.00		
60100 - Pass thru Expense Account	\$17,780.00		
Account Balances	April 30		
Designated Fund	\$59,051.45		
General Fund	\$18,711.15		
Oyster Pie Fundraiser			
Income:	\$4,947.25		
Expenses:	\$3,060.18		
Profit:	\$1,887.07		

TOOLS OF HOPE FOR FATHER'S DAY - JUNE 17, 2018
\$10.00 EACH
Deadline is June 11, 2018

Examples:

In Memory of:
In Honor of

Our Father, Jim Smith by Karen, Steve & Annie Smith
Pete Walters by Sue, Bobby & John

In Memory of:

By:

In Honor of:

By:

Please make checks payable to Huff's Union Church.
Note: Tools of Hope deposits can be put in the Office Manager's Mailbox.
Your kind donation will be sent to the Church World Service.