

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



OCTOBER 2019

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburdis, 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.

Confirmation Class

Classes: October 6, chapel upstairs at 9:15 a.m. with mentors, October 13, chapel downstairs at 9:15 a.m., October 27 at 9:15 a.m. chapel downstairs (no lunch class this month).

We Need Your Vote At Worship on October 20

We have received an estimate to put a new roof on the chapel. Before we can spend the money (which is in our account) we need a special congregational vote to approve the expense. The estimate was slightly under \$42,000, but if it is discovered that we need to do some replacement work, we will incur additional costs, which we cannot estimate with any accuracy at this time. We will schedule a vote for October 20 at both worship services (as we did for the boiler replacement). We will need 70 persons for quorum, and a 2/3 majority to proceed with this necessary repair (roof leaks). Additional information will be forthcoming, as the vote nears. Please reserve the date. Anyone who is an active member at Huff's may vote (which includes our teenagers who have already been confirmed).

Blanket Tying

Please mark your calendar for another blanket tying event to aid the Allentown Rescue Mission on October 13 at 11:35, which includes a simple lunch. Sign up by October 6th. We will provide the material, but do bring a pair of sharp scissors, if you can.

A Big Thank You

We could not have had a 275th anniversary celebration without the help of our members who made telephone calls, brought covered dishes and those who served them, arranged for parking and welcoming, set up for the service and band concert, and did all sorts of tasks, many behind the scenes. Thank you so much.

Sunday, October 6, East Berks & West Best Berks Mission Districts, Synod (End of) Summer Road Trip: The Eastern Ice Cream Tour!

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at The Nesting Box Market & Creamery, 230 Snyder Rd., Kempton, PA.

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 PM at Way-Har Farms, 7701 Bernville Rd., Bernville, PA.

Bishop Zeiser invites you to talk about the upcoming election of a new Northeastern PA Synod Bishop in 2020 and the direction our synod will take. Come share the fun, buy yourself ice cream (or not), offer your ideas, and hear what others hope will happen in our NEPA Synod future.

Acolyte and Crucifer Schedule

10/6/19	Brooke Boyer, Avery Dixon, Alayna Watkins, Malachi Estrella and Gavin Hess
10/13/19	Maisy Funk, Kara Benfield and Jace Benfield
10/20/19	Tucker Ruch, Chase Longacre and Alayna Watkins
10/27/19	Bowie Richetti, Elijah Richetti and Logan Watkins

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention

QPR training session on Wednesday, October 16 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. upstairs in the Rohrbach Chapel. This program, for teenagers to adults, was developed by Dr. Paul Quinnett, in order to make talking about suicide something one may honestly discuss in order to help people find help and hope. The program features a powerpoint presentation and includes a handout with emergency information and phone numbers of suicide prevention hotlines and programs. Rev. Jane Kropa, a certified QPR instructor, leads this program.

Pet Blessing October 6

Sunday, October 6 at 4 p.m. we will have our annual Pet Blessing service in the park. Please bring a secured pet or a photo of your pet or pets. This brief service features scripture and prayers about animals, and an individual blessing for each pet or pet photo. Keith Brintzenhoff and Pastor Kerry Smart will assist Pastor Kropa with music and the blessing service. Any offering received will go to the church's General Fund.

Update on the Boiler

The boiler replacement began in early September, and is proceeding. A water treatment system will also be installed. Everything should be finished by the beginning of October, possibly as early as the end of September.

October's Special Offering

The special offering for the month of October is the UCC Neighbors in Need offering, which supports a variety of projects throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministry. You may give through your marked pew envelope, or use a special envelope found in the pew racks.

Oyster Pie Sale

Our next Oyster Pie Sale is Saturday, October 19, with pick-up between 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon. Cost is \$6.50. Orders are due by Sunday, October 13. The order form will be on the downstairs bulletin board.

Oyster Pie making dates are Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19. We can always use help for making oyster pies. Come out to cut potatoes on Friday at 9:00 a.m. (this is a sit down job). Come and help with making crusts on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. Help assemble pies, bag them, etc. on Saturday, beginning at 7:00 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.

Thank You to Our Garden Angels

We have had people in the past who have volunteered to weed Huff's chapel, church, and office areas. They have always done the work, without fanfare, to make our grounds look inviting. Thank you to these special people, and to the new group that stepped forward this year. We greatly appreciate your service!

Zion Choral – Save the Date

Zion Choral, a 120-voice choir, will present the gospel in song at Huffs Union Church on Sunday, November 17th, beginning at 3:00 p.m. A free will offering will be taken. Please plan to attend and invite others to come and hear this wonderful group (including a few from Huffs) praise the Lord through their music.

Ladies Aid Society

The next meeting of the Ladies Aid will be on Wednesday, October 2, 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.

October Small Group

We will meet on Saturday, October 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the **Church** to share our stories, do some Bible study (bring a Bible). We will share things we bring for lunch from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Come for all or part of the group time. Bring a friend; newcomers are welcome.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, October 15, at noon at the Bowers Hotel, Bowers, PA. Come and join us for fun and fellowship. There will be a "U" shaped table setup for our use. The Bowers Hotel offers a full menu, in addition to daily specials. You may select and pay for your own meal.

Allentown Rescue Mission

A meal is scheduled at the mission for Sunday, October 20. Check the bulletin board for food needed and for volunteering.

Food Preparation is at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Leave church at 2:00 p.m.

Serving the meals at 4:00-4:30 p.m. Contact Carl Arner at 610-861-0639.

Apple Dumpling Fundraiser

Our next Apple Dumpling Sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 2. Cost is \$3.50 per dumpling and orders are due by Sunday, October 27. Order forms will be on the downstairs bulletin board where you can sign up or call Howard Crump at (610) 966-9552 or the church office at (610) 845-2626. Pick up is on Saturday, November 2, in the Chapel between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet on the downstairs bulletin board in the church for volunteers willing to help make the apple dumplings. No experience necessary. Help is needed Friday evening and Saturday morning.

From the PSEC Conference Minister:

Christianity in dangerous places

Luke 14:26 “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

Helicopters flew over my home this morning. Several. The last time I saw that many helios “holding on station” I was in Iraq. These were responding to another shooting. This time at a veteran’s living facility in East Vincent Township.

Gun violence and mass shootings have filled the news since my last writing in this space when I suggested that all gun owners should be required to serve in their state’s militia (a suggestion that was too bold for some and not bold enough for others). It feels as if the world is more dangerous now than it ever has been. It *feels* that way but *is it* that way? The violence lived out on our streets and covered in our news is heart rending and defies both rational explanation and political solution. But it is not new to the human condition. I am not sure I could convince a first century Palestinian Jew living under the constant threat of crucifixion that our time is more dangerous than his. Or hers. Or theirs.

And yet that is exactly where Jesus invites his followers to go. With him. Into the danger. “Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” “When Christ calls a man,” wrote Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “he bids him come and die.” The transformative power of the gospel comes alive most vividly in dangerous places. In relationships that threaten the status quo. In conversations between drastically different people determined to stay in relationship. In prophetically pastoral sermons that challenge the perspectives of paying church customers.

If we wait for the spaces we minister in to be safe, we may wait for a long time. I expect that in dangerous places Jesus will show up very quickly. He has in those dangerous places my journey has taken me and I give thanks for the certain knowledge he always will.

May it be so, too, for you and the people you love.
Bill (Rev. William Worley, Conference Minister)

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHDAYS:

Marian Weller - 10/4

Katie Danner - 10/12

Jean Adam - 10/23

ANNIVERSARIES:

10/7 - Carl & Carolyn Drasher

10/24 - Carl & Minerva Arner

10/28 - Neil & Diane Gery

Church Family

Memorials

To the Capital Improvement Fund in memory of Ruth Crossley

Delores Crossley

Ellen A. Coleman

Paul & Joann Browning

Eleanor Yanus

In Memory of Kristen J. Oswald

Weddings

Barbara Preston and John Daniels who were united in marriage on Saturday, September 7.

Baptism

God's blessing on David Alexander Neville, daughter of James & Danielle Neville who was baptized on September 29.

Committee on Ministry

In our Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the the UCC, we function in Associations within the Conference. The Pastors have their standing in the Association. The Committee which oversees the Pastors is called the "Committee on Ministry." This committee supports and encourages and guides: 1) pastors who already have standing in the Association, 2) pastors who are retired, 3) persons who feel called to be a pastor. The Committee also wants to be interacting with the congregations of the Association. We are looking for several more people who would who feel let to serving on this committee and who would be appointed/elected at the Fall Meeting of the Covenant Association on Sunday, October 27. Contact Rev. Mary Etta Mest at 610-759-2775.

Pastor's Article

Dear Friends,

We have just celebrated our 275th anniversary, re-connected with old friends, met some new people, and heard inspiring words and prayers from our Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Minister, Rev. Bill Worley, and our Northeastern PA Synod Bishop Zeiser. It's good to celebrate, and take some time to recognize just how far we've come.

However, our job is never done, if we are followers of Jesus Christ. Early Germans from the Palatinate and Switzerland came to the colony of Pennsylvania for religious freedom, having suffered great hardships in religious wars. Often bringing with them the Bible, a hymnal and a catechism, they struggled to establish themselves in a place that must have seemed quite wild and primitive. Yet persevere they did, and we are the richer for it.

They were challenged to find new ways of organizing for worship since there were no church buildings, new ways of funding worship since there was no church tax collected by the government and given to the church, and finding Christians leaders who could be ordained to offer the sacraments and who could officiate at weddings and funerals. Because of their diligence in these matters, we have the church structure and organization of today.

Yet, times continue to change, and new challenges arise. Whoever would have thought that modern people would decide there is no God, or that the churches, rather than being a place to come to God, are places that are finger-pointing and self-serving? Institutions that grew to meet the demands of earlier ages are reeling from the quick pace of change, that makes many outside the church think that their message is obsolete. We read daily of young adults and their struggles, and statistics reveal they are not turning to either evangelical or mainline congregations for spiritual help. According to a recent article in Christian Century magazine, only 1.25% of white adults age 18-29 are church members in evangelical denominations, with the same percentage in mainline denominations. There is a need for a Christian voice of welcome and love, of support and care, yet young people are not finding their way into established religious institutions. What can we do?

I think of Jesus saying, "*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*" (Matthew 9: 37-38) Are we willing to

Pastor's Article (continued)

do the hard work to go out from the churches into the places that are hurting, in order to offer Jesus' words of hope? What might that look like? Where are we most needed? What talents do we have to equip us for such a different style of ministry—going out in order to bring people in?

We need to pray about where God is calling us, and just what sort of congregation God is calling us to be. Rather than jump on any bandwagon that promises rapid turnaround, we need to ask for God's direction to know where we may best serve God and neighbor. We may want quick and easy answers, but in such times of change, there is no quick fix.

We need to celebrate all we have been to many generations, even while we challenge ourselves to become a source of hope to new generations. We don't need a new gospel, but we might need a new way of telling the stories of people's lives changed by connection to Jesus.

Let's continue to pray our congregation into a future, led by God, and based upon the good foundation we have received from those who struggled for 275 years to be the church in Huff's Church. We are so privileged; we have such love to share; let's pray just how this might take place in our future.

In Christian Hope, Pastor Jane Kropa

St. Peter's Church Community Supper

Community Supper on Friday, October 4 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.

Topton Lutheran Home Peaches & Ice Cream

On Friday, August 23, we served 150 guests during our annual trip to the Topton Home.

Many thanks to our church crew who helped to peel the peaches and serve our guests at the Topton Home. They include: Carl and Minerva Arner, Berry Crum, Shirley Fluck, Dena and Maisy Funk, Elvin Keiser, Albert Muth and Mary Szilli.

As always the folks appreciate our presence. We are already scheduled for the year 2020.

You put many smiles on their faces - so thank you again.

Trees Donated and Planted

Two trees were recently planted in Huff's Church Memorial Park. A Pin Oak in memory of David G. Crum and a Kousa Dogwood in memory of grandson/son Logan Crum. As the current trees in the Park are aging, we appreciate the gift of new trees for

Take a Break Caregiving Conference

Open to any caregiver caring for a friend or family member of any age or condition who would like information about resources, and support from fellow caregivers. This is partly sponsored by Diakon Community Services and the First United Methodist Church. This will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Pottsville Four Square Church, 2300 Mahantongo St., Pottsville, PA. Seating is limited so register early. You must pre-register to attend (call 570-624-3018 (Diakon), to register or go online to schuylkillcaregiver.com) Free to attend; lunch will be provided; 20 surrounding Pennsylvania counties have been invited to publicize this event.

Puzzle!

Write the names of the parents of these biblical children.
For help, look up the verses in an NIV Bible.

Joash (<i>2 Kings 11:2</i>)	A _____
Obed (<i>Matthew 1:5</i>)	B _____
Joseph (<i>Genesis 35:22-24</i>)	_____ C _____
John the disciple (<i>Matthew 4:21</i>)	_____ D _____
John the Baptist (<i>Luke 1:13</i>)	_____ E _____
	F _____
Lo-Ruhamah (<i>Hosea 1:3, 6</i>)	G _____
Jezreel (<i>Hosea 1:2-4</i>)	H _____
Esau (<i>Genesis 25:28</i>)	I _____
David (<i>1 Samuel 16:19</i>)	J _____
Jacob (<i>Genesis 25:28</i>)	_____ K _____
Samuel (<i>1 Samuel 1:19-20</i>)	_____ L _____
Gershom (<i>Exodus 2:21-22</i>)	M _____
Samuel (<i>1 Samuel 1:19-20</i>)	_____ N _____
Jesse (<i>Matthew 1:5</i>)	O _____
Gershom (<i>Exodus 2:21-22</i>)	_____ P _____
	Q _____
Joseph (<i>Genesis 35:23-24</i>)	R _____
Isaac (<i>Genesis 21:3</i>)	S _____
John the Baptist (<i>Luke 1:13</i>)	_____ T _____
Jonathan (<i>1 Samuel 14:1</i>)	_____ U _____
Solomon (<i>1 Kings 2:1</i>)	_____ V _____
	W _____
	X _____
Jesus (<i>Matthew 1:18</i>)	_____ Y _____
Isaiah (<i>Isaiah 1:1</i>)	_____ Z _____

Answers: Ahaziah, Boaz, Jacob, Zebedee, Zechariah, Gomer, Hosea, Isaac, Jesse, Rebekah, Elikanah, Moses, Hannah, Obed, Zipporah, Rachel, Sarah, Elizabeth, Saul, David, Mary, Amoz

August 2019 Treasury Report

	August	Full Year Actual	Annual Budget
Monthly Income	\$22,780.34	\$199,463.61	\$319,352.00
Monthly Expense	\$26,031.52	\$221,643.93	\$318,885.00
Balance	-\$3,251.18	-\$22,180.32	\$467.00
40101 - Pass thru Income Account	\$199.78		
60100 - Pass thru Expense Account	\$1,460.00		
Account Balances	August 31		
Designated Fund	\$62,299.76		
General Fund	-\$7,918.02		
Total	\$54,381.74		
Comfest	\$919.45		
Holy Joe's Café	\$199.78		