

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



FEBRUARY 2019

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburton, 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

Feb. 3 - 9:15 a.m. in the chapel basement. 10 commandments

Feb. 10 - 9:15 a.m., upstairs chapel with a video

Feb. 24 - 11:30 - 2:00 p.m. (remember to bring a lunch and beverage) street level church. Ways to pray; write a Lenten prayer.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The first Sunday of February is the day for our Souper Bowl of Caring offering, which will go to support the four agencies who feed the hungry in our area (Pennsburg Open Link, Boyertown Multi Service, Friend, Inc. and the Allentown Rescue Mission) We will accept monetary donations, cans of soup and/or boxes of crackers.

Confirmands and Youth Event

Tom and Joanne invite Confirmands and young people 12-18 years of age to gather at their home in the village of Huff's Church after the 10:30 Worship Service on Sunday February 10. Lunch will be provided of assorted deli cold sandwiches and a drink followed by gametime (pinball, ping pong, foosball, Pac-man type arcade vide games). Between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. the group will watch the movie "Risen" with intermission for discussion and snacks, followed by more gametime. Pickup time is 4:00 p.m. If Confirmand/Youth have not already let us know you will be attending, please let us know by Sunday February 3 by emailing Joanne Benfield at jobenfield1213@gmail.com so we can plan for food and space for all. We will also provide directions to our home at that time if you need them.

February Small Group

The small group will meet on Saturday, February 2, at 10 a.m. Come with your Bible. If you'd like to stay for lunch, please feel free to bring something to share and eat with us from 11:30-12:30.

Offering Envelopes for 2019

The offering envelopes for 2019 are in the church office. If you have not yet picked yours up, please call to have the envelopes ready for you to pick up on the Sunday you'll be at worship, or pick them up in the office (610-845-2626) In an effort to be good stewards of the church's resources, we have not been mailing boxes of church envelopes. We can mail you a few envelopes, if this is your wish, or you may always use a Welcome envelope from the pew rack. We credit to your giving statement any offering mailed to the church office.

Acolyte Schedule

- 2/3/19 Austin Hall, Bowie Richetti, Tucker Ruch,
Elijah Richettii and Brooke Boyer
- 2/10/19 Maisy Funk, Austin Hall and Alex Hersh
- 2/17/19 Kara Benfield, Gavin Hess and Chase Longacre
- 2/24/19 Madelynn Miller, Wyatt Miller and Logan Scott

Lenten Schedule

In 2019 Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6. We hold a worship service at 7:00 p.m. at Huff's Union Church, with our partner congregation, St. Peter's Union. Our full Lenten schedule will appear in the March newsletter.

Lenten Coin Folder

We will have Lenten coin folders available in church at the end of February. This year Lent begins on March 6, 2019.

Lenten Meal Preparation

Huff's provides two Lenten meals in 2019, on Wednesday, March 20 and Wednesday, April 3. If you can help with meal preparation and clean up, please contact Kathy Cornely at 267-424-1871.

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, February 19 at noon at the PC's Pub in Pennsburg, We pay our own way and have a great time of Christian community.

Special Offering for February

The special offering for the month of February is the **ELCA Hunger Offering**. This offering helps people throughout the world have the basics of life. It provides not only food assistance, but water, education and other community development aid.

Offering envelopes are in the pew racks and literature racks of the church, or simply use a blank envelope, mark it Lutheran Hunger Fund, and either place filled envelope in the offering plate or mail it to Huff's Church. Include your name if you wish to be credited for this gift on your giving statement.

Profile Team

The Profile Team has been gathering information to answer some questions about our church, to help us to discern where we believe God is working right now, and what might God be inviting us to do in the future. We have received twenty-four answers. Below are listed some of the answers we have received to the question “What might happen in our congregation’s future?”

- * Most people coming to the church will have no “church” background so they don’t know the Bible stories and more teaching will have to be done during the worship service.
- * More technology will be used in worship services and music and to communicate to members and the community.
- * New families are moving into the area with children and praying they will join Huff’s and keep the church moving forward in worship and the needs of the members and community.
- * As long as we can pray and worship, it will be fine.
- * We need to adapt to changing ways if we want to continue and having a thriving church community, “God is still speaking.”
- * Understand that we will not all want the same things, but we need to listen, respect and discuss what projects and goals are best for Huff’s. This will require fulfilling the needs of all age groups.

Lay Your Burdens Down Sunday

On Sunday, February 10, at both worship services, we will have a chance to focus on God’s healing presence in our lives, and Jesus’ invitation to lay our burdens down. We will be using rocks as symbols of the burdens we are giving up.

Valentine’s Challenge

In honor of the Christian love we share, we send out the challenge to receive 14 gift cards that might be passed along to Open Link in honor of Valentine’s Day, February 14. Please turn in your gift cards (please indicate the amount) to Pastor Kropa’s mailbox at church. It is a wonderful thing to share Christ’s love with others.

February Sunday Bible Study

Bring a sack lunch, beverage and Bible on February 3 at 11:45 a.m.; meet in chapel basement.

Ladies Aid Society

The next meeting of the Ladies Aid Society will be on Wednesday, February 7 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.

If you have any mason jars, please bring them to the Chapel. We will need them for late Summer early Fall when we begin making Chow Chow.

Food Pantry Donation

As I say every three months, a big heartfelt thank you to all those who help fill our food pantry. If anyone in the congregation would enjoy participating in this mission, please let one of us know. We simply box the items and deliver them to one of four agencies we support: Friend, Inc., Allentown Rescue Mission, Open Link, and Boyertown Multi-Services.

In early January, we packed 226 items into boxes and delivered it to Open Link recently. While waiting for the back door attendant to come down, we watched two foxes walk in front of our car and settle on the lawn beside Open Link. After about 5 minutes, they moved on. Thank you, Bob & Sue Stockdale.

Church Family

MEMORIALS:

To General Fund in memory of Arlene Heffner
Carl & Minerva Arner

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 anyone.

BIRTHDAYS

2/7 - Lorraine Moll	2/12 - Nancy Yeakel
2/13 - Rosealie Arndt	2/27 - Franklin Adam
2/20 - LeRoy Leibensperger	2/21 - Arlene Hill
2/22 - Ernest Haas	2/26 - Joyce Schantz
2/29 - Mae Hoffman	

ANNIVERSARIES

2/20 - LeRoy & Ruth Leibensperger

Pastor's Article

Dear Christian Friends,

Although poet T. S. Eliot said “April is the cruellest month,” many folks disagree and suggest that it should be February. If you surf the web, you can find a number of articles on how awful February is. Here’s one description, found in Wilma (Wilmington’s Successful Women) by Dylan Patterson, “February’s like the end of a relationship with a guy you should’ve dumped long ago. You’re sick of the jerk and just want him gone. Enough already.”

Are you experiencing the February blues? Although you may want to just cocoon, it can be helpful to get out among people and distract yourself from your dark thoughts. Consider coming to Huff’s Hoe Down, Lunch Bunch, evening Bible Study Group or Small Group. You are welcome at any of these gatherings. There is adult Sunday School every Sunday at 9:15 a.m., Manna worship the third Sunday of the month (check the bulletin or website for time and details) and, of course, Sunday morning worship. We will begin a sermon series on Christian basics—those foundational parts of the Christian faith that help us understand who Jesus is and why Jesus matters to us and to our world. On February 10, we will have our annual “Lay Your Burdens Down” Sunday, where you will have a chance to pray about what is bothering you, take a rock to represent it, then come forward and lay it before the altar to represent giving it over to Jesus.

Another way to get through February is to think about doing something to brighten someone else’s day. Why not make a visit to someone who can’t get out and about very well? Why not send a few cards or make a few telephone calls to cheer someone up? Huff’s is offering the Valentine’s challenge, 14 gift cards (in honor of February 14, which is Valentine’s Day) that will be given to Pennsburg OpenLink, so that organization may give them to needy people in our area. There is always a need for drivers for Meals for Wheels, or other volunteer opportunities, which can give you the good feeling of doing something for others.

Some good news is that February is not forever. After February comes March, then slowly more daylight, warmer weather, and finally springtime.

May you find some good cheer and uplifting company this February.

In Christian good cheer, Pastor Jane Kropa

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference

The Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnership, under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has released “The Opioid Epidemic Practical Toolkit: Helping Faith-based and Community Leaders Bring Hope and Healing to Our Communities.” This document provides a simple, but proven, list of actions that churches can take to make a difference in their communities’ fight to end drug addiction.

This resource is available on-line at <https://psec.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/HHS-Opioid-Practical-Toolkit.pdf> or go to the psec.org website, click on the tab “Resources,” on the drop down menu, go to “Church Resources” and you will find the Opioid Epidemic Practical Toolkit description which provides a link to this 16 page resource which contains youth and family websites with video articles, games, blog posts and more.

2019 Union Council Members with Phone Contact Information

President: Theresa Woloszanski, 610-682-2652

Vice President: Emily Ziegenfuss, 484-571-2332

Corresponding Secretary: Michele Boyer, 610-621-4574

Treasurer: Elaine Crump, 610-966-9552

Jane Arndt, 610-462-8164

Duane Bortz and Danielle Bortz (youth), 215-679-4383

Michael Diehl, 610-737-0661

Gary Fogel, 610-845-2509

Conner Isamoyer, 610-750-4008

LeRoy Leibensperger, 610-682-7346

Kay Kriebel, 610-845-2960

Raymond Lorish, 610-845-2164

Jimmy Meitzler, Sr., 610-845-2581

Ian Richetti, 502-396-1535

Rochelle Schantz, 610-823-3680

Bill Stoudt, 610-682-6761

Thank You Notes Received:

From: Phoebe Ministries

Dear Huff's Church Members,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,600. Because of your generosity, Phoebe is able to meet the needs of older adults through diverse residential options, comprehensive care and exceptional educational programs. From independent living to affordable housing to skilled nursing, charitable contributions truly make a difference in the daily lives of our seniors.

Thank you,
Stacey L. Prohaska
Executive Director
Office of Philanthropy

From: Lancaster Theological Seminary

To: Friends of Huff's Union Church

Thank you for your gift of \$1,600 in support of the ministry of theological education at Lancaster Seminary.

The support you provide with your prayers and your gifts opens the door for our students' education, opens their minds to learning and opens their hearts to serving.

Thank you,
Rev. Dr.Carolyn Call
Executive Director of Development & Communication

From: Brandywine Heights Community Task Force

To: Friends of Huff's Union Church

Thank you for your gift of \$500 in support of strengthening our community in the Topton area.

From: Bethany Children's Home

To: Friends of Huff's Union Church

Thank you for your gift of \$1,600 to Our Wider Church Mission through the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. Through your special gifts, we can provide each youth an opportunity to receive educational support/enrichment, music therapy, arts and recreation, therapeutic services and a caring, structured environment to live within.

Thank You,
Carolyn Shultz Spano
Director of Development

Huff's Church Library

The Library now has movies! Now that the cold weather is here, it's a perfect time to snuggle up with a DVD. Huff's Church Library has many good movies with Christian themes. Here are some that we added to the collection in the past few years:

1. All Saints
2. The Sultan and the Saint
3. Same Kind of Different as Me
4. Soul Surfer
5. Priceless (featuring contemporary Christian group for King and Country)
6. God's Not Dead (featuring contemporary Christian group Newsboys)
7. God's Not Dead2 (featuring contemporary Christian group Newsboys)
8. I Can Only Image (featuring contemporary Christian group MercyMe)

Please note that while all these movies have Christian themes, not all of them are suitable for young children to view. Check the rating symbol on the DVD.

The library is open whenever the church is open and is operated on a serve-yourself, honor-system basis. It is located on the first floor of the church, in the hall near the nursery and choir rooms. Library items are on display on the table as well as on the shelves (the children's section is in the Sunday School Room next door). Items may be borrowed for two weeks. There is a card attached to the item or in a paper pocket. Just sign your name to the card and write the date you are borrowing the item, then put the card in the wooden box on the library table. When you return items, please place them in the red return box on the table.

More items are listed in the card catalog near the shelves, or the office has an Excel file of the library's listings. Stop by and see what the library has to offer!

Congregational Spring Meeting

We will hold our annual congregational spring meeting on Sunday, March 3 (bad weather date March 10). All who are members in good standing (have communed or contributed at least once in the past two years) are eligible to vote on anything brought up at congregational meetings.

Copies of the annual report will be available at the entrance to the Sanctuary. This report details the ways Huff's Church has done ministry and mission in 2018. If you see an area of church life in which you would like to participate, please talk with a committee member, the committee chairperson, or Pastor Kropa.

Thank you for living out your baptismal vows and for being a disciple of Jesus Christ here at Huff's Church.

Promenade Your Partner!!

Dust off those dancing shoes, because once again **Huff's** is holding a **square dance!** This one is on **Saturday, February 23rd** (*bad weather date is March 2nd) from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Rohrbach chapel. Our caller, Paul Adam, will lead the way, while the band, "Days of Old" plays the tunes. There's no charge to attend, and we offer free snacks and drinks. How can you go wrong?

If you've never tried square dancing before or haven't done it in a while, don't worry because other people are always willing to help guide you! It's all about moving and having fun together. And if you don't have a partner, don't let that stop you from coming - there are often other singles looking for someone to partner with to fill a square.

Why not invite someone else to come along with you!? We always welcome new people from the community, or love to see members who may not have been recently active. We're looking forward to another fun crowd!

*In the event of bad weather, please check the Huffs Union Church Facebook page for updates.

Mitten Tree

Thanking each and everyone that decorated our beautiful Mitten Tree. This year there were many more items than in the past years.

These are the donations that Minerva sorted and packaged:

Caps	24	Head Bands	1
Gloves	19	Toys	13
Scarfs	70	Socks	5
Cap & Gloves	5	Christmas Items	13

The three boxes were sent to St. Vincent's Mission, David, KY by UPS on January 9th.

Serving Christ
Carl Arner

Invitation to Discuss and Review the Huff's Union Church Strategic Financial Plan

Ever wonder what the future will hold?

Of course no one knows what will happen, when, where or how. But everyone has the ability to affect some aspects of the future by developing a plan and then pursuing that plan. So what, you may ask, does this have to do with Huffs Church.

Last year Council and the Investment Committee set out to develop a plan, called the Strategic Financial Plan, to manage and guide the use of the generous bequest that Huffs received in 2016 and the income that has been and will be earned in the future. After many meetings and thoughtful discussions, Council adopted an initial Plan to accomplish that as time passes. The Plan can and will be changed as time passes to address new needs and opportunities that arise, but in the meantime we will work on the priorities set in the initial Plan.

If you are curious or want to learn more about this effort and its outcome please attend a special one hour congregational meeting on Sunday, February 17, 2019 at 9:15 in the Chapel auditorium (upstairs). Bad weather date will be February 24 at 9:15. In summary, we will briefly review the process that we followed, the results of the effort and take questions and comments. There might even be some coffee, juice and who knows what else.

We hope you will be able to join us. It's all about our future as a congregation.

December 2018 Treasury Report

	December	Full Year Actual	Annual Budget
Monthly Income	\$39,654.99	\$338,265.51	\$293,514.00
Monthly Expense	\$28,887.14	\$340,139.59	\$292,595.00
Balance	\$10,767.85	-\$1,874.08	\$919.00
40101 - Pass thru Income Account	\$578.00		
60100 - Pass thru Expense Account	\$2,528.85		
Account Balances	December 31		
Designated Fund	\$74,402.22		
General Fund	\$2,500.75		
Sunday School Fund (Checking Account)	\$8,815.68		
Youth Group Fund (Checking Account)	\$20,180.19		
Total	\$105,898.84		
UEK UCC Forum - German Service	\$193.00		
UCC Christmas Fund	\$221.00		