

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



NOVEMBER 2018

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.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Huff's Church

We will worship on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m. with our Christian brothers and sisters from St. Peter's Church. Please contact Shirley Fluck if you'd like to volunteer to help with refreshments. (610-367-5058)

Confirmation Information

Class on November 4 and November 11 at 9:15 a.m. in the chapel. Please work on learning the books of the Old Testament. First sermon report is due anytime; second one by end of November. If you assist in worship on Youth Sunday, November 25, you receive 1/2 participation credit. Gary Moll is looking for volunteers and will be at class on Nov. 4 to discuss this.

November 3 meet at 9:50 a.m. at Gettysburg Seminary Ridge Museum.

No long class in November. Happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

We need 3 persons to be crucifer and acolytes for November 21 (Thanksgiving Eve) worship service at 7:00 p.m., for the German language service (December 2 at 7:00 p.m.) and for Christmas Eve (5 persons at each service: 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.) Please check with your parents and sign up in the Sacristy - this is our master list.

Confirmation Statement

Why I Want to Live Out My Baptismal Vows at Huff's Church by Paige Geist

I wasn't baptized at Huff's church but my dad felt a strong connection to Huff's since he as a kid, so we decided to attend church here. My family did influence me to come to confirmation. Both my parents were confirmed, so was my older brother. I felt at home at Huff's and decided this was the church I wanted to attend and get confirmed in. I also grew up regularly attending Sunday School here at Huff's. A Bible quote that I feel influences me is Jeremiah: 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". I like this quote because it reminds me that no matter what God does for you even if it seems like it is not going to help; he isn't trying to hurt you, but to make you better. After I get confirmed, I will try to help the church in all ways I can and also attend church as frequently as possible.

Christmas Musical

If any child age 4 thru 12 would like to take part in our Christmas Musical, which will be presented as the Christmas message on December 9 in the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, please bring them to Children's Choir practice on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. beginning November 7.

Acolyte Schedule

11/4/18 **8:00 a.m.**

Logan Scott & Easton Albert

10:30 a.m.

Austin Hall, Alex Hersh, Brooke Boyer,

Kara Benfield and Gavin Hess

11/11/18 Alayna Watkins, Logan Watkins, Avery Dixon

11/18/18 Riley Miller, Wyatt Miller, Madelynn Miller

11/25/18 Kane Weller

All Saints' Worship

On Sunday, November 4, we will remember those members and friends of our congregation who have died since our last All Saints' Day Service. Each person who has died will have a candle lit for them during the worship service and their name will be read (both at 8 and at 10:30). Families will be invited to take home the candle after either worship service. After the 10:30 a.m. worship service there will be refreshments served on the street level of church and a time for fellowship. Please see Shirley Fluck (610-367-5058) if you are willing to help serve refreshments or to bring finger foods to share.

Conrad Road Clean Up

Youth Group project: November 4 at 11:30 a.m. If you have signed up, you will have a free pizza lunch, then clean up Conrad Road. Contact Kerry Meitzler (kerrymeitzler@ptd.net) (610-750-3464) or Jimmy Meitzler (215-679-2504) if you have questions. Bring old clothes and old shoes to wear for this. Gloves and reflective vests provided.

Pastor-Led Bible Study on a Sunday

To honor a request for a pastor-led Bible study, we are trying to find a date and time for those who requested a weekend study. If 5 persons are available for November 18 (bring a lunch and meet in the chapel) at 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m., we will hold our study then. Please let Pastor Kropa know via e-mail (pastor@huffschurch.com), phone call or with a note in her church mailbox .

Blanket Tying for Allentown Rescue Mission

Huff's Youth Group is sponsoring a Blanket Tying Event on Sunday, November 11 at 11:45 a.m. for anyone of any age who is interested. Sign up by November 4 if you'd like lunch (homemade food) then bring sharp scissors (if you have a pair) and learn how to cut and tie blankets, which will be given to the men at the Allentown Rescue Mission. If you wish to bring a snack or dessert you may, but this is not necessary. Material for 20 blankets will be provided for you to tie. Please sign up on the church bulletin board, or e-mail Kelsey Doney at ministry@huffschurch.com. Friends (of any age) welcome. Under age 18 welcome with parent, or if an underage youth has a permission slip on file, Huff's will supervise.

Decorating Church

Church will be decorated for the Advent/Christmas season on Saturday, December 1, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Kerry and Lucy Meitzler are chairpersons (if you have any questions please call 610-899-0290). Decorating takes less than 2 hours if we have a large group. Older children and teens are very welcome; confirmation credit given.

Congregational Meeting

On December 2, (bad weather date December 9) following the 10:30 a.m. church service, we will have a congregational meeting to elect union council members, ELCA and UCC officers, and approve the 2019 budget. Please join us for this important meeting. All active members are voting delegates.

German Language Advent Candlelight Service

Our annual German language service will be held on Sunday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m. If you can help with greeting, ushering, reading in German, or lighting candles, please let Pastor Kropa know. If you can help with refreshments, please contact Shirley Fluck (610-367-5058) The service is in high German, but bulletins have the English translation on pages facing the German words which are spoken. Please invite your German classes to come.

After-Dark Labyrinth

We invite anyone who is interested to come to our annual after-dark labyrinth walk on Monday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m. Bring a flashlight and wear appropriate clothing. Why after dark? There is something so silent and beautiful about the beginning of darkness. We hear and see things we otherwise miss. We walk together and recall the ancient children of Israel, walking with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. We talk, walk in silence, talk and pray, then walk again in silence. The event lasts about a half hour.

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

11/15 - Roy Bitting

11/18 - Jean Norris

11/29 - Joyce Diehl

ANNIVERSARIES

11/26 - Ernest & Joyce Kemp

Special Offering for November

The special offering opportunity for November is the ELCA Disaster Relief offering. This fund enables the ELCA to respond to any national or international disaster, and to remain involved with people in that area after the tragedy.

Manna Contemporary Worship

Manna Worship in the upstairs of the chapel at 9:00 a.m. on November 18.

Small Group for November

The small group will meet on Saturday, November 3 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. You are welcome to bring a lunch item to share, and to eat with us from 11:30-12:30. You may come to one or both parts of the morning. Please bring a Bible with you.

Greeters

If you have been a greeter, we thank you sincerely. It feels good to be welcomed to church.

If you have never been a greeter, we hope you will consider signing up to be a greeter at church. You need to arrive at least 15 minutes before the service starts. If you are a downstairs greeter, we prefer that you stand outdoors and open the door for people as they arrive (appropriate weather gear is important). If you are an upstairs greeter, you will hand out bulletins and, in the summer, open the doors into the sanctuary as people arrive (to keep the air in the sanctuary pleasant; the stair areas are not air-conditioned nor heated)

Food Pantry News

The end of September, Elvin Keiser, Bob and Sue Stockdale emptied the food pantry chest and prepared 141 items to be delivered to Friend, Inc. There were an additional 150 plus small personal care items donated by a thoughtful traveler. All the donations benefited either our congregation or Friend, Inc.

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.

Ladies Aid Society

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

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday is November 25 at the 10:30 AM service. Anyone who is interested in being a part of this wonderful service should contact Gary Moll at 610-845-8811 or email him at glmoll@cedarcrest.edu. **You should also plan to attend a short planning meeting on November 4 at 9:15 a.m. in the chapel basement.** Thank you and we hope to hear from you as soon as possible.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you have a Thrivent policy that allows you to designate money for a charitable cause, please consider designating Huff's Lutheran Church as the recipient of your Thrivent Choice Dollars (Although we are listed this way on the Thrivent site, our union congregation reaps the benefits of your choice dollars). Thank you to everyone who has done this in the past. Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available, have until March 31, 2019 to direct any remaining Choice Dollars. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more, or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Thrivent Action Teams

Thrivent encourages policy holders to do good in their communities by providing \$250 action team grants. Below are the requirements:

Think about an unmet need in your community and how you could help. Apply to lead your volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Once your project is approved, you'll receive a Thrivent Action Kit, including:

Promotional banner.

Invitations and thank-you cards.

Thrivent Action Team T-shirts.

A \$250 Community Impact Card you can use as seed money to get your project off the ground and make a bigger impact.

You may apply on-line or talk to your Thrivent representative about this.

All Welcome Lunch

Please join us for the All Welcome Lunch to be held on Thursday, November 20, 2018 at noon at PC's Pub in Pennsburg, PA.

Members and non-members are welcome to this "pay for your own" lunch. Come and share in fellowship and Christian caring. We hope to see you there!

Pastor's Article

Dear Friends,

I have recently been reading two books by Caitlin Doughty which deal with death. Doughty suggests that, since we all know death is an important transition and will come to each of us, we stop denying it will happen. Doughty suggests we plan the transition ceremony for our death (funeral) just as we would plan for any other event.

I think of the resources the church offers to help us think about our mortality. Christians are not afraid of the afterlife, since we have Jesus' promises that nothing can separate us from him (Romans 8: 38-39) Those who have been united with him in a death like his, will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his (Romans 6:5) It's not morbid to remember such biblical promises, and to take comfort in them. Then next step would be to help others remember this, at our funeral.

Do you have a favorite passage of scripture that you'd like to be sure is read at your funeral? Do you have stories that you'd like to have shared, after you're no longer on earth to tell them? Would you like certain hymns of comfort sung at your funeral? It's OK to leave a list of your desires for your funeral at church. This information is in a file, which remains with the church, accessible to anyone who will officiate at your funeral.

Sometimes people are so involved in celebrating the life of the deceased, they almost want to deny that a death has taken place. Both the celebration, and the time to mourn, are important to those who have lost loved ones. Mourning at a funeral is not only appropriate, it's a very safe place to shed tears because those who are at the funeral, will understand and support the one who grieves.

How long should grief take? The more we spend time grieving the loss, and getting used to the transition, the better grief goes. The more we try to go on as if nothing significant happened, we will find grief appearing when we are not prepared for it. There is no time line nor time limit to grief.

Our grief and tears can surprise us, even years later. I think of buying roses to put on my mother's grave, and the cashier commenting on their color. I found myself shedding tears as I explained it was my mother's favorite color and I was taking these to her grave. If we were still living in a time of wearing a black arm band when someone lost a loved one, would we be more attune to the fact that people are grieving, even as they go about everyday chores?

Pastor's Article (continued)

I wonder why we human beings feel ashamed of our tears? People sometimes tell me they are concerned about coming to church, because they might cry. Why not cry at church, the place where so many of our significant life changes are acknowledged? Here should be the safest place to shed tears, whether for a recent death, or for a death that happened long ago, but whose poignancy sometimes strongly affects us in the middle of a prayer or a hymn.

This month we again put candles on our shelf on All Saints Sunday (November 4) to acknowledge the deaths of people who have been connected to our congregation in the past year. It's Ok to cry, even if your loved one's candle was on the shelf over 10 years ago. It's a time to acknowledge our loss, and to recall that those who have died in Christ are never gone, just waiting for our reunion when our turn comes to enter the kingdom where Christ rules for all eternity.

In Christian hope, Pastor Jane Kropa

Union Council Highlights

We have revised our social media guidelines, which will be posted on our two facebook sites. We use facebook primarily as an information tool about worship and other events Huff's Church sponsors.

We will be developing a facilities assessment and maintenance update plan for our buildings. We will also be planning a congregational meeting to consider suggestions for use of some of the money bequeathed to us (date to be determined)

We have tabled the discussion of media in the sanctuary for the present time.

Robert Arner's job description as Media Specialist will have his duties with microphones and podcasting added to it.

The construction of a ramp for a person in our area has been put on hold. Local Needy money will be used for other Local Needy requests.

We have voted to allow a Health Care Flexible Spending Account to be set up for the pastor.

We have voted to accept the donation of two trees and a piano microphone (to amplify the piano for the choir)

We need one person to volunteer to accept a two year term on Union Council caused by a vacancy.

Church Family

Memorials:

To the General Fund in memory of Eileen Lasher
Marion Tokay

To the General Fund in memory of Harry Crossley
Rev. Ted & Kathy Nace

Thank You Notes Received:

From: Lutheran Congregational Services

Dear Huff's Church Members,

Thank you for your gift of \$142. Your gift helps strengthen relationships and build capacity to serve the most vulnerable in our midst. Together we build the resiliency of the Gospel so that our congregations proclaim clearly that God is always bringing forth renewal and hope.

Thank you,

Julia Menzo
Director of Community Outreach

From: United Church of Christ - Schuylkill Association
Flooding Relief Gift

To: Huff's Union Church Members

On behalf of Schuylkill county's VISION, I would like to extend my deep appreciation for your gift of \$750. This generous donation will be used to further the work of VISION in our county. The funds will be used for long term flood recovery efforts under the direction of Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

Thank you,

Jeanne Elberfeld
Executive Director

Armchair Traveler

How would you like the chance to visit the Netherlands, Australia, or Eastern Europe, all while staying in good old Pennsylvania? Well why don't you come to **Armchair Traveler** on Saturday, **November 17**? You can enjoy each of those places, all while eating snacks and relaxing in the upstairs of the chapel! Elaine and Skeeter Crump will share their photos and memories of their recent trip to the Netherlands. Lisa and Scott Kauffman will show us scenery from "down under", and Pastor Kropa and her husband Kerry will share experiences from their Eastern European trip earlier this year. We'll start at **7:00 p.m.** allowing about half an hour for each presentation. We hope to see you there! Please spread the word in the community, and bring some friends along!

If you would like to present your trip in the future, please contact Tess Woloszanski at [610-682-2652](tel:610-682-2652), or email her at tess314@windststream.net.

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

We will once again offer Poinsettias for Christmas Eve. Cost is \$10.00 per plant and there is an order form in the newsletter for you to give in honor or in memory of a Loved One. Orders are due by December 10.

Christmas Sharing - Topton Home

There is a list of suggested gifts posted on the bulletin board on the street level of church. All gifts must be marked "Christmas Sharing". Please include your name and address. Tissue paper, sticky gift labels and gift bags are very much in demand. Please do not wrap gifts. Residents pick two gifts; one for themselves and one to give away. There will be a box near the church elevator to collect gifts. Please have them in the box by Sunday, December 2. New items only.

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference News

Joint Conference Vision and Development Team Update

As the Joint Conference Vision and Development Team was tasked to do at the Spring Annual Meetings of the PNE and PSE Conferences in 2017, we've created a draft new conference structure, a draft staff model for the new conference and the draft Vision, Mission, Purpose and Values statements for a new conference. These drafts came into reality following more than a year of intensive prayer, study of our conferences, listening to our pastors and lay people and visioning together the future God is calling us to live into. Thank you to everyone who kept us in their prayers and participated in the conversations.

Both the PNEC Board of Directors and the PSEC Consistory discussed these drafts at their August 23 meeting and their September 15 meeting respectively. They voted to move forward with the process to create a new conference. These drafts will be discussed and voted on at the PNEC Fall Meeting on November 3, 2018 and the PSEC Fall Meeting on November 10, 2018.

The drafts along with a Case Statement for the new conference and Frequently Asked Questions page are available on the PSEC website's Joint Conference Vision and Development Team page. (psec.org—click on the “Event & News” tab, scroll down to “News”, a 2nd dropdown will appear, click on “Conference Merger”) Opportunities to discuss these drafts are listed below.

Please pray that we will see God's vision for us moving forward and we can live into it together.

Pre-Fall Meeting Discussions

The Joint Conference Vision and Development Team and Conference Minister, Rev. William Worley, want to offer you the opportunity to discuss items that will be appearing on the upcoming Fall Meeting agenda.

Those items include: 2019 Budget, The Pension Board Campaign Proposal, the new Manual on Ministry and the merger with the PNE Conference.

Pre-Fall Meeting Discussions have been set at the following times and locations: Oct. 16 - Zion Blue Mountain UCC @ 6:30 pm at 6573 Old Rt. 22, Bernville

Oct. 23 - Reformed Church of the Ascension @ 6:30 pm at 1700 Main St. , Jeffersonville.

PSEC News *(continued)*

Nov.6 - a Zoom meeting. To access the zoom link, go to psec.org, click on “Events & News”, click on “Calendar”, go to Nov. 6 and click on the Pre Fall Meeting box. The zoom link will be listed.

Registration for these pre-meetings is NOT necessary. Simply attend the meeting that fits your schedule and plan to be part of the discussion.

Allentown Rescue Mission

A meal is scheduled at the Mission for Sunday, November 18. Check the bulletin board for food needed and volunteering. We also need monetary donations for purchasing the ice cream.

Food preparation is at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel. We leave the church at 2:00 p.m. Serving the meals is between 4:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Contact Carl Arner at 610-841-0639.

Community Supper: St. Peters Union Church: Friday, November 2, 2018 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. St. Peters does this on the first Friday of every month. There is no charge for this supper, but free will offerings are accepted. All are welcome. Men of Huff’s Church: You are welcome to help prepare and serve the Community Suppers. Men can contact Tom Mitchell, (610) 845-2978, for volunteering information.

Help Us Grow

Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow.

Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis. If you wish to change the amount that is given, you may easily do that by checking the box on the form in the pew, or by contacting me (see below)

To get started, pick up an authorization form in the church office, in the pew rack, or contact me, Elaine Crump (email: elainecrump@ptd.net or phone: 610 966-9552). I'd be glad to answer any questions or provide you with an authorization form. Thank you for your consideration.



POINSETTIAS will again adorn the Nave of the Church for our Christmas Worship Services. If you would like to order a plant(s), please fill in the order below and hand it to Ruth or Leroy Leibensperger 610-682-7436 or Robin Diehl, 610-845-7092, along with a check for the proper amount. Orders must be placed no later than December 10th. The orders can be mailed to RUTH LEIBENSPERGER, 214 GREISS RD., ALBURTIS, PA 18011 OR ROBIN DIEHL, 50 ERIC LANE, ALBURTIS, PA 18011. Please make all checks payable to HUFF'S UNION CHURCH. Plants should be ordered from the Altar Guild only.

NAME _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS _____

COST PER PLANT IS \$10.00

September 2018 Treasury Report

	September	YTD Actual	Annual Budget
Monthly Income	\$58,851.20 *	\$246,672.54	\$308,189.00
Monthly Expense	\$33,455.74	\$252,793.55	\$307,843.00
Balance	\$25,395.46	-\$6,121.01	\$346.00
40101 - Pass thru Income Account	\$59.00		
60100 - Pass thru Expense Account	\$653.87		
Account Balances	September 30		
Designated Fund	\$50,406.32		
General Fund	\$23,207.31 *		
* Includes special gift of \$25,000 to be allocated to a designated fund			