

# HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



**April 2019**

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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.**

## **Confirmation**

April 7 9:15 a.m. With mentor. Hospitality.

April 14 9:15 a.m. How to Read the Bible.

April 21 and 28 Happy Easter season; no class.

Memory work: Books of the Old Testament and either the ELCA or UCC version of the 10 commandments.

Participation credits: You should have 3-4 credits by this time of your Confirmation program. Helping with oyster pies will earn you 1 credit for 2 hours of work.

## **April Easter Worship**

Easter Sunday, April 21: worship with pew communion at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Continental breakfast (donation) Chapel basement at 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:15 a.m. in classroom on street level of church.

## **Summer Camps**

Hartman Center, located in Milroy, PA, is a UCC camp (Penn Central conference) who welcomes campers from Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. Information may be found at [www.hartmancenter.com](http://www.hartmancenter.com). Information for Bear Creek camp, an ELCA camp in the Poconos is found at [bearcreekcamp.org](http://bearcreekcamp.org). Also check out the day camps and teen overnight camps at New Goshoppen UCC at [newgoshucc.org](http://newgoshucc.org).

Remember that Huff's pays part of the registration fee for Huff's children who attend a UCC or ELCA summer camp.

## **Easter Story Egg Hunt**

April 13 at 1:00 p.m. Come to church to hear the story, then hunt eggs.

## **Filling Eggs for Egg Hunt**

If you would be willing to fill plastic eggs with candy, please pick them up and return them by April 7. Instructions with the bags of plastic eggs.

## **Children's Choir**

Mrs. Gloria Adams works with the children's choir, who learn not only songs to sing at church, but information about the church year, the Lord's prayer, and how music is written. If your child is singing around the house, perhaps she/he would enjoy being part of our children's choir. Children's choir meets from 6:30-7:30 p.m. (see calendar). Please talk with Mrs. Adams if you are interested in this church program (no cost to attend) Children in the choir do not need to be church members, so friends who are not from Huff's Church whose parents approve of their participation, may be part of the children's choir.

## **Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who has helped make our Lenten/Easter season special with your gifts of music or worship leadership.

### **Lent & Holy Week Schedule**

April 3. Huff's. 6:00 p.m. meal; 7:00 p.m. worship (chapel)

April 10. St. Peter's. 6:00 p.m. meal; 7:00 p.m. worship

April 18 Maundy Thursday. 7:00 p.m. Dramatized Lord's Supper at Huff's including Holy Communion

April 19. Good Friday. Noon. Stations of the Cross. St. Peter's. 7:00 p.m. Huff's Service of Shadows

April 21. Easter Sunday. 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. worship Huff's. 9:15 continental breakfast (donation) in Chapel; Adult Sunday School, street level church

### **Acolyte and Crucifer Schedule**

4//7/19	Logan Watkins, Chase Longacre & Alex Hersh
4/14/19	Alayna Watkins, Avery Dixon & Maisy Funk
4/19/19 G. Friday 7 p.m.	Gavin Hess, Brooke Boyer & volunteer
4/21/19 8 a.m.	Logan Scott, Alex Hersh & volunteer
4/21/19 10:30 am	Madelynn & Wyatt Miller, Elijah & Bowie Richetti, Tucker Ruch
4/28/19	Alayna Watkins, Avery Dixon & volunteer

### **Automatic Giving Offered at Huff's Church**

Did you ever think of having your offering automatically sent monthly from your checking account to Huff's? You may have this done, without charge to you, through the Simply Giving program. This avoids the need for weekly envelopes (though you may want to make a special gift using a "Welcome" envelope at any time). In bad weather, you won't have to worry that your offering reaches Huff's Church. This is also a way to spread your giving out through the year, and helps us with cash flow in the summer months, when many people go on vacation and may forget to send in their offering. Please see Elaine Crump to have the program explained, or call her at 610-966-9552 or [e-mail: elainecrump@ptd.net](mailto:elainecrump@ptd.net).

## **Using Welcome Envelopes**

If you are a member using a "welcome" envelope, please write the word (member) after your name. This will make it easier for our counters and financial recorder to be sure to record your contribution for membership purposes.

## **Coin Folders** (you may give a check or cash)

Please bring your filled coin folders to church anytime by April 28. Thank you to those who chose this as your Lenten practice (giving alms). Money will be put into our general fund for use in our own congregation's mission and ministry. Did you notice that there is a tear-off book mark on this year's coin folders? If you would like to receive credit on your giving statement, please be sure your name is on the coin folder. If you used coins, please put the filled folder into a plastic bread or newspaper bag, and twist tie it shut--this helps with coins falling out--taping coins makes it too hard for our money counters.

## **Contact Information**

We are trying to keep our church records as current as possible. To be sure we have the correct phone number, we might be calling you sometime in the next few months.

Please notify Huff's when you change addresses. Whenever a piece of mail is returned to us, we are charged for each returned item. Although this might not sound like much, when we are seeking to be good stewards with our funds, this takes money from mission and ministry.

We are also hoping to update our address lists, especially for young adults who are no longer living at home, and who might want to receive newsletters or other mailings from us. Of course, if they would rather check for information on the web site or through facebook, they do not have to have a paper newsletter, but it would be helpful for us to have an address on record for them for any other mailings. A current phone number would also help us to keep in contact with all our members.

## **Small Group**

Small group meets on April 6 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Church. Please bring your Bible. You may bring food to share and stay for lunch from 11:30-12:30.

## **Remaining a Member in Good Standing**

According to Huff's By-laws, the church must have a record that you either communed or contributed within a two year period for you to remain an active member of the congregation. Please fill out a communion card at least once a year, and at least once a year, when you donate, please use either a pew envelope (marked "welcome") and include your name, or use an envelope from your box of envelopes. To follow our by laws, we must send out a reminder letter after year one, if a person is not on record as having contributed or communed. After two years of inactivity, we must send a two year letter, explaining that a person will be moved to the inactive list unless that person contacts us, or communes or contributes (on record). If a person is moved to the inactive list, there will be an increased fee for certain benefits of membership, such as purchase of a cemetery plot, etc. and the person cannot vote in any congregational meeting.

Of course, there might be a mistake in our records, which is another reason why letters are so important. This gives the person a chance to make corrections. If there are special circumstances that make it impossible for you to either commune (remember the pastor can bring communion to you if you are homebound) or contribute, but you wish to remain active, please talk with our council president, Tess Woloszanski (call the office for her contact information.)

## **Valentine Challenge**

We received 14 gift cards for our Valentine's Day challenge of gift cards to give to OpenLink who serves northern Montgomery County. The gift cards given added up to \$260. Thank you for your generosity.

## **Prayer Partners**

We will be putting prayer partner sign up sheets in the bulletins on March 31 and April 7. Please fill out and place in offering plate. Prayer partners pray for one another throughout the year. John Leeser will match people and have the list ready for Palm Sunday, April 14. You may also contact John directly at [birdmanjhl@aol.com](mailto:birdmanjhl@aol.com) or call 610-966-2775.

## *Pastor's Article*

Dear Christian Friends,

Why do we in the church choose to engage in Lenten activities? Lent is the church season that leads us to Easter. Some people find it a depressing time—both outside, since it is often still wintry and dark, and inside the church, because the church dares to talk about difficult but inevitable things, like death, suffering, and denying oneself. I remember years ago a confirmand asked me, “Why-ever would I want to deny myself anything” Lenten values such as humility, accepting difficulties, perseverance and patience are not those practiced by many secular people.

Christians believe that all of life has value and meaning, which means that even when I am sad, mourning, poor, or lonely, I can find strength in my faith to keep on going. In fact, it is in these darker times that I find my strongest spiritual growth takes place. As I face down adversity, I am reminded that Jesus walks with me even in those difficult times. I find it is easier to keep on going when I remember that God has been faithful in the past, and promises to continue being faithful forever. As I decide what I will not do during Lent, I take control over my impulses, and remind myself I can master my cravings. Lent is a reminder that I could be kinder, gentler, and more patient with those around me. Lent is also a reminder that, since God is so gentle with me, I can dare to be less demanding of myself and of others. I can take some moments to tell God my troubles, and be sure God not only hears, but is sending the Holy Spirit to give me strength (just as the angel came to give Jesus strength in the Garden of Gethsemane—Luke 22).

Of course it is easier to deny pain, loneliness, anger, greed, impatience, laziness, and the needs of others than to face them honestly, and try to do something about these things. Lent reminds us that Jesus calls us, not to ride to salvation on his coat-tails (or the fringes of his garment) but to take up our own cross to follow him. That implies that we, too, will experience some of what Jesus did: abandonment, mocking, betrayal, and misunderstanding. Yet, we have Jesus promise, “Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20) Jesus invites us to be strong in faith, devoted to a life of love, dedicated to peace, and open to following where he leads, through the good and the difficult parts of our lives.

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

This Lent, I invite you to dare to deal with the less savory areas of life, in order to become stronger in faith. Then, when the day of resurrection dawns, we can rejoice and be glad, for Christ has triumphed and we, who have made the Lenten journey with him, are now welcomed to celebrate the Easter feast with him.

With You on the Christian Journey,  
Pastor Jane Kropa

## **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**

4/8 - Dolores Schmoyer

4/29 - Jane Geisinger

4/29 - Jerome Barnes

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

4/6 - Eugene & Sherry Bardo

4/22 - Raymond & Linda Lorish

### **Allentown Rescue Mission**

The next Allentown Rescue Mission meal is scheduled for Sunday, April 7. Check the Bulletin Board for donations of food needed. Questions? Call Carl Arner at 610-841-0639.

### **Manna Service**

No Manna worship in April. In May this Manna Contemporary Worship service will be held on the third Sunday, May 19, at 9 a.m. All welcome.

### **The God Story: Worship Series Continues at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.**

April 7: Soundtrack

April 14: Waiting for Resolution

April 21: Twist Ending

Come see how God's Story intersects with your story. Devotionals that accompany the series are available for a \$5 donation.

## **Help With Buildings and Groups and Repairs**

We do not have a chairperson of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, which means sometimes it is hard to know whom to call when there is a problem with a repair issue. If you are willing to consider chairing this committee, which means receiving phone calls and arranging for repairs to be made, please speak with Council President Tess Woloszanski (610-682-2652) or Pastor Kropa.

If you can help do small repairs or maintenance, please speak to either of these church leaders. We will keep your name on file, and call you if we need help.

## **Hoe Down**

We held a hoe down on February 23 and had 103 persons in attendance. Thank you to all who helped to make this evening a success. Our next hoe down will be part of the Corn Fest, and will be held on August 17, as a replacement for the August picnic. We will still need lots of help. Please contact council president Tess Woloszanski (610-682-2652) or Joanne Benfield (610-845-2978) to volunteer.

## **Lenten Prayers for the April Newsletter by the Confirmands and Pastor Kropa**

As part of our class on prayer, our confirmands wrote prayers following this format: Address God, Ask God for something. Thank God for something. Tell God about something you are sorry is happening in our world, Praise God for something, Conclude your prayer.

Dear Jesus, I pray for the needy that what they need is what they get. I thank you for having my life the way that it is. I am sorry that there are people that are in need. I praise you for helping those that are in need and giving them help through me. Amen.

Dear God, Who Loves Us So Much, I pray for all who have not yet come to know your love, or who reject it, that they may someday open their hearts and their lives to you. I thank you for your patience with all people, that you keep on loving us, even when we are not acting in loveable ways. I am sorry that life is so complicated that sometimes, even when we don't want to, we hurt other people by our lavish lifestyle, by using more of the world's resources than is our fair share. I praise you for the beauty of cre-

ation, this season of Lent which helps me to focus more intently on you, for sending me a faith community that encourages me to keep learning more and more about you, and inspires me to trust you, more and more. I pray in the name of Jesus, your son, our savior. Amen.

Father God, I thank you that I am able to have a family. I am also praying for them to have fun and for you to keep them safe. I am sorry that people have to die but am glad they get to live with you. I praise and honor Father and Mother God. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Dear God, I pray for the people in the world that go without food or shelter for days. Thank you for bringing us Jesus and for forgiving us for our sins. I am sorry that there are people that have less privileges and aren't as fortunate as most people in the U.S. I praise you for being forgiving. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father, I pray for my family and friends. Thank you for giving me food to eat. I am sorry for people that have died in the World Wars. I praise you for always being with us. Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father, I pray for all the people who are suffering with food supply, fresh air, and clean water during the Venezuela crisis. I thank you for my family; they are always there for me through the rough days, and encourage me to keep going every day. I am sorry that there are people who are hungry, cold, weak and lonely. I praise you for giving me a good and healthy life and for giving my family the world that they deserve. Amen.

Dear God, I pray for those in need of food and shelter. Thank you for the food I can eat and the shelter I have. I am sorry for the people who don't have the ability to fend for themselves. I praise you for always being loving. Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father, I pray for all who are struggling through every day to stay alive and for all who reject or who have not realized your love for them. I thank you for creating this world for me to live in. I thank you for showing your love to me. I am sorry that there are people in this world who would not stop to help the under privileged. I hope one day they will realize that the

homeless are poor and need their help. I praise you for creating this beautiful world and letting me into your home and family. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Dear Jesus, I pray for the people in the world that have not realized that you are the One, True, Holy God. I hope that someday these people come to see that you are their savior. I thank you for being there for people who need you most, not the rich and wealthy, but the poor, homeless, lost people in our world who don't have a family to love or a place to call home. I'm sorry that there are specific persons who reject your unconditional love, and that they now don't know where their place is, in your father's house. Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father,

I pray for wisdom and understanding of your word. I thank you for watching over me and my family in this last year. I appreciate the way you comforted all of us when my Grandma passed away. Thank you for watching over us. I'm sorry I do not attend church as much as I should. I hope to get better at that. I praise you for your goodness, your faithfulness, and your love. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Dear God,

I pray for those who have Parkinson's, and Dementia. I thank you for keeping the men and women safe that work in the armed services. I am sorry that people use bullying to make them feel better about themselves. I praise you for the sunshine to make the flowers grow, the rain to moisten the ground to make the crops grow for families to have food, and for making us have perfect weather for families to have vacation and spend time together. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

### **Reading Planetarium Trip**

All ages welcome for the "Astronaut" program at the Reading Planetarium. Sign up on bulletin board or e-mail ministry@huffschurch.com. By April 10. Prices TBA when you e-mail or on sign up sheet.

## **Oyster Pie Making Dates, Friday and Saturday, April 5th and 6th**

We can always use some help for making oyster pies. Come cut potatoes on Friday at 9:00 a.m. (This is a sit down job). Come help preparing crusts for the dough on Friday 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.

Price for the Oyster Pies are \$6.00. Pies can be picked up on Saturday, April 6th between 9:00 and 12:00.

## **Blankets of Hope**

Each year we have invited the congregation to honor important women in your life (Sunday School teacher, mother, grandmother, scout leader, etc.) or giving in memory of these women, with a \$10 donation for each name to purchase a Blanket of Hope through Church World Service. These blankets may be used for emergencies in the US, or throughout the world. There is a form included with this newsletter, or pick one up on the bulletin table outside the sanctuary (forms available April 7). Filled out forms and donations must be received by May 5 to be listed in May 12 bulletin. Place your donation and the filled out form in an envelope marked "Blankets of Hope" and place it in the offering plate or in the office manager's (Edwina Fox) mailbox, or mail it to the church.

## **Paper Newsletters**

If you no longer wish to receive a paper copy of your newsletter, please let the office know, (e-mail: [office@huffschurch.com](mailto:office@huffschurch.com) or call 610-845-2626) We use up to 13 reams of paper to create our monthly newsletter, and if you do not care to read it, we will be glad to save paper and toner, as well as being better stewards of our planet by not creating waste. You may always read the newsletter on our website: [www.huffschurch.com](http://www.huffschurch.com). You may also check events by using the church calendar on the website or subscribe to our weekly E-Blast—e-mail [Ministry@huffschurch.com](mailto:Ministry@huffschurch.com) to subscribe, attn: Kelsey.

## **IHartHarvest Project**

Several years ago, Walt Zawaski, of IHartHarvest, watched a TV show about a farming couple in Denver who had an overabundance of crops and had invited the public to come harvest this surplus. Walt was inspired to start his own potato crop for the hungry which has grown over a ten year period into the IHartHarvest The Potato Project. Please join other volunteers on April 27th and 28th from 1pm to 4pm to begin this year's season by cutting seed potatoes. All it requires is you, your knife and cutting board. Becker's St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 265 Maidencreek Rd. , Fleetwood (Molltown) PA 19522.

## **Thank You Notes Received**

### **From: United Church of Christ**

To: Friends in Christ

Thank you for your gift of \$193 received in support of the United Church of Christ's UEK Forum from the German Language Service held at Huff's Church in December.

We are deeply grateful for your donation. Thank you for being inspired by God's grace, for partnering with us in loving our neighbors and uniting with us to build a just world to all.

Thank You  
Rev. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister and President

### **From: Bethany Children's Home**

To: Friends

Thank you for your gift of \$95 to Our Wider Church Mission through the PA Southeast Conference. Through your special gifts, we can provide each youth an opportunity to receive education support/enrichment, music therapy, arts and recreation, therapeutic services and a caring, structured environment to live within. Thank you helping our youth heal from the past, live in the present and dream for the future!

Thank You  
Carolyn Shultz Spano  
Director of Development

## **Ladies Aid Society**

The next meeting of the Ladies Aid Society will be on Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30 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.

## **Lunch Bunch**

All are welcome to the Lunch Bunch Gathering. Enjoy Spring Lunch, Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at noon, at the Bower's Hotel in Bowers, PA. Choose and pay for your own meal.

## **St. Peter's Church Offers a Community Supper**

St. Peter's offers a Community Supper on the first Friday of each month 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 free will offering can be made to help offset costs. Typically, around 100 people enjoy this supper each month. The next Community Supper is **Friday April 5, 2019**. Please come out to support our sister church and enjoy good food and fellowship.

## **To Our Inactive Members**

With this newsletter, we invite you into full Participation in Huff's Union Church. To be an active voting member, you need to commune at least once every two years on record (use a communion card), and to contribute at least once every two years on record (listing your name on a pew envelope) While inactive members are still members, we hope you would consider becoming more active within our congregation.



If you have moved out of our area and do not plan to return, or have joined another worshiping community, or have no interest in remaining connected to Huff's Church, please let us know, so we may remove your name from our contact list. We wish you God's richest blessing. Wherever you are on your life's journey, remember you are welcome here.

# Updated January 2019 Treasury Report

	January	Full Year Actual	Annual Budget
Monthly Income	\$27,026.62	\$27,026.62	\$319,352.00
Monthly Expense	\$32,546.62	\$32,546.62	\$318,885.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>-\$5,520.00</b>	<b>-\$5,520.00</b>	<b>\$467.00</b>

40101 - Pass thru Income Account  
 60100 · Pass thru Expense Account

\$9,646.36  
 \$9,839.36

## Account Balances

**January 31**

Designated Fund  
 General Fund  
 Sunday School Fund (Checking Account)  
 Youth Group Fund (Checking Account)

\$63,586.65  
 \$7,492.24  
 \$9,017.58  
 \$20,180.19

**Total**  
**\$100,276.66**

## February 2019 Treasury Report

	February	Full Year Actual	Annual Budget
Monthly Income	\$20,482.20	\$47,508.82	\$319,352.00
Monthly Expense	\$25,042.06	\$57,588.68	\$318,885.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>-\$4,559.86</b>	<b>-\$10,079.86</b>	<b>\$467.00</b>
40101 - Pass thru Income Account	\$0.00		
60100 - Pass thru Expense Account	\$4,472.49		
<b>Account Balances</b>	<b>February 28</b>		
Designated Fund	\$73,167.28		
General Fund	-\$8,377.51		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$64,789.77</b>		
ELCA World Hunger Special Offering	\$125.00		

**Blankets of Hope  
Mother's Day - May 12, 2019  
\$10.00 each**

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Examples: In Memory of Our Mother, Betty Smith by Sally, Joey and Bobby Smith.  
In Honor of Barbara Smith by children Kelly, Mark and Johnny Smith.**

**Deadline: In order to appear in the bulletin for Mother's Day your request must be received by April 29th, 2019.**

**Please make your checks payable to Huff's Union Church  
Your kind donation will be sent to the Church World Service.**

**Thank You!**