

# HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



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**July 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](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.**

## **Village Volleyball**

Wednesdays in July (except July 4) from 6:30-8 p.m. We need 2-3 volunteers each evening with completed background checks to act as hosts—open up bathrooms, welcome players, set up water station, then clean up afterwards. If you can help, please sign up on the bulletin board at church or contact Tess Woloszanski at 610-682-2652. This is a great way to get to know folks in our community.

## **Rolling River Rampage Vacation Bible School**

This year VBS will be held July 9-13, 2018 from 6pm to 8:30pm. Our theme this year is Rolling River Rampage. The children will be rotating through the following stations: Storytelling, Science, Music, Crafts, and Games. At the end of each night the children will enjoy snacks in the Chapel. On Friday evening, we will be holding our annual Carnival. Our carnival will have fun games and tasty treats. On July 15th, we will be holding our closing program during the 10:30am service in the park. We will follow the service with a covered dish in the park. Come and join us for a week of fun!! If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Welch at 484-226-0333.

## **Miller Keystone Blood Drive**

The Miller-Keystone Blood Mobile will be in our parking lot on July 16, 2018 from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Please consider donating to this worthwhile and very necessary cause. Donating is quite simple and usually only takes about thirty minutes. You will need to stop using anything with aspirin 48 hours before you donate and will be asked to remain for about fifteen minutes after your donation is completed to be sure that everything is fine (a snack is provided!!). While walk-ins are always welcome, you may sign up for a certain time on the "Drive Schedule" form in the upper narthex or on-line at the Miller-Keystone website. Thank you in advance for being part of this life-saving process.

## **Healing Service in Worship July 8**

On July 8 we will include a time for anointing and prayers as part of our three worship services. You may ask for prayer for yourself, a friend or family members, or for our world.

## **Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for one person to take the lead for our Pre-school classroom and one for our Crafts. We already have the materials for each of the areas. We also could use extra set of hands for our Preschool classroom. If you are interested, please contact Rachel Welch at 484-226-0333.

## **Acolyte Schedule**

7/1/18	Brooke Boyer, Kara Benfield and a volunteer
7/8/18	Chase Longacre, Maisy Funk and a volunteer
7/15/18	No Acolytes - outdoor worship
7/22/18	Kane Weller, Raegan Pilgert and Spencer Hess
7/29/18	Luke Geist, Paige Geist and Kane Weller

## **Acolyte News**

You should have received an acolyte/crucifer schedule for the months of June through September of 2018. If you did not receive a schedule, please contact the office and one will be mailed to you. Remember if you cannot be at worship for your assigned date, swap with another person, and let the acolyte supervisor of the month know this. July's supervisor is Michele Boyer (610-621-4574)

Thank you to our three acolyte supervisors: Dena Lebo-Funk, Debbie Bortz and Shelly Boyer, and to each person who has helped by carrying torches, lighting candles, or carrying the cross.

## **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.

To get started, pick up an authorization form in the church office or contact me, Elaine Crump (email: [elainecrump@ptd.net](mailto: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.

## **Volunteers Needed**

We have been asked to construct a handicapped ramp for a church family. If you are willing to help with this project, please speak with Jimmy Meitzler, Sr. at (610) 845-2581.

## **Special Offering Opportunity for July**

During the year, we offer eight special denominationally related offering opportunities--four through ELCA related agencies, and four to support UCC national programs. In July we ask you to consider making your extra gift to our own congregation, to enable us to continue to do God's work in our community.

If you are interested in an outreach offering, the Vacation Bible School offering received each evening from VBS attendees, will be given this year to help with an ELCA program in Malawi (watch for more information). You may mark your giving envelope: VBS Mission Offering and give using an envelope on the bulletin table in the church, create your own envelope with this heading, or mark this on the blank line on your offering envelopes.

### **2018 Vacation Bible School Offering**

submitted by Kathy Welch, Mission Outreach Committee

This year the offering received during Vacation Bible School will go to support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) work in Malawi.

Malawi faces some of the highest rates of HIV, malaria and other preventable diseases. Rural families and children under the age of 5 are especially vulnerable. The health care needs of children and families in one of the world's least-developed countries are great.

- Malaria is one of the leading causes of illness and death in Malawi, with more than 4 million cases reported in 2015.
- HIV and AIDS affects 9.2 percent of those ages 15-49.
- The maternal mortality rate in Malawi is 675 per 100,000 live births, nearly three times the worldwide average.
- The World Food Programme estimates that between 2008 and 2012 malnutrition accounted for 23 percent of all child deaths.

Complicating the health issues is the distance to adequate health care facilities. Some rural communities are hours or days away, often with a bicycle ambulance as the only transportation available.

## **2018 Vacation Bible School Offering** (continued)

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM), with support from ELCA World Hunger, is working to treat and prevent the spread of disease in the Chidyamanga village and the Chikwawa, Dedza and Mangochi districts of Malawi.

Through its network of health care providers and programs, the church in Malawi is bringing care to those who need it the most and equipping people with knowledge to stop the spread of preventable diseases.

The VBS gift will give rural neighbors improved access to health care through the ELCM's mobile clinic, which sends four-wheel-drive vehicles stocked with test kits, supplies and medicines to rural areas throughout the country. Special programs focus on improving access to health services for vulnerable populations while equipping people with health education and income generating projects to cover the costs of health care and other basic needs.

The VBS gift will also help train local health care professionals and provide much-needed medical supplies to ensure that these programs continue to save lives.

You may also support this important ELCA program by placing your donation in an envelope marked "VBS Mission Offering," or writing this phrase on the blank line of your numbered offering envelope. Contributions will be received through July 31.

Thank you.

## **Adult Learning and Fellowship Opportunity**

Small Group meets on a regularly scheduled time, the first Saturday of the month, in the downstairs of the chapel to do a Bible study. There is a time of sharing (ice-breaker) followed by the theme of the day. Small group meets from 10-11:30 for study/discussion time, and from 11:30-12:30 to share a meal (bring something to share with the group) If you would like more information, please contact Jane Arndt (610-462-8164) or Lea Kline (610-845-8431). July's meeting will be held on Saturday, July 6.

## Pastor's Article

Dear Christian Friends,

It seems that things happen in cycles, and the desire to come together vs. break apart seems to also come and go. At the end of the 1800's there was an optimistic mood about cooperation and sharing in scientific matters, with a desire to create a language that all might use—Esperanto. This optimistic mood ended with World War I, when suddenly countries that had hoped to cooperate, now found themselves on opposite sides in the war. Woodrow Wilson called for a League of Nations to bring people together, but again the world went to war, then moved into a Cold War which lasted for decades.

We have gone through similar movements within the church. In the 1950's, the United Church of Christ used as its slogan, "That they may all be one," when it brought together the Congregational Christian Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church bodies. In 1988 three bodies of Lutherans (The American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America, and the American Evangelical Lutheran Church) came together to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In 1997 four church bodies, The ELCA, the UCC, the Reformed Church in America and the Presbyterian Church USA, came together in the Formula of Agreement to recognize the validity of each other's ministries and to understand differences as complimentary, not contradictory.

Today we are again experiencing a time of division, rather than unity. The optimism of uniting as one human family seems to be waning, as countries talk of fostering their own interests, and Christians remain divided over a variety of issues. What would Jesus say?

In John's Gospel, Jesus prayed for his followers to be one, as he and the Father were one, (John 17:21) so that the world might believe that God had sent Jesus. In the church we unite, not because we all agree on everything, but for a greater purpose—to testify to Jesus Christ as God's son. Jesus said in John's Gospel (John 13:35) "*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*" For Christians, unity can-

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

not be something we pick up and put down, but something we strive for, just as we work to treat one another with respect and love.

Please join me this month in praying for Christian unity and respect for all persons that will promote global cooperation, not competition. Pray that we Christians can be willing to work together and so be a model for the world. Let it be said of us, "See how they love one another."

In Christian Unity,  
Pastor Jane Kropa

## **Pastor's Sabbatical**

Instead of taking twelve consecutive weeks of Sabbatical time at once, which is the typical Sabbatical granted to pastors of Huff's Church, after seven years of pastoral service, I am going to take three weeks a year for four years. In 2018 my Sabbatical will begin on Saturday, July 14 and go through Friday, August 3. Pastor Jerel Gade (610-428-6300) will cover for any pastoral concerns. For Reading/Pottstown area emergencies, Pastor Linda Kozlowski (484-529-2241) will be on call for pastoral emergencies. Sundays will be covered by a VBS Sunday at 10:30 and a volunteer at 8 a.m. on July 15, and by a UCC Member in Discernment (student pastor) Kim Adamson (who supplied for me two years ago) on each of the next two Sundays. I think you'll be delighted.

What is a Sabbatical? It is not a vacation, but a time for a pastor to spend some time de-compressing and intentionally taking time to connect with God. I plan to take some time to de-stress, to reconnect with God, and to do a daily walk or yoga session. I will report about my 2018 Sabbatical in the September newsletter.

## **Lunch Bunch**

Meets Tuesday, July 17, 2018, at noon, at the Alburdis Tavern in Alburdis.

## **Summer Travel Time Is Here**

As many of you travel or have lots of summer plans that may take you away from Huff's Church, we hope you will remember that the church continues in its work to make a difference in our world and in our community. Please consider sending in your weekly offering when you are away. You may also want to sign up for the Simply Giving program, which allows you to send your offering from your bank account to the church electronically. See article (Help Us Grow) which explains more about Simply Giving.

## **Picnic Help Needed Before and On July 28**

We can use help from anyone wishing to serve food, or prepare it before-hand. July's picnic will be on July 28 with The Majestics providing the music. We also need help with cakes for the cake walk, ticket takers for this walk (a good place for our confirmands to help), food prep, set-up and clean-up tasks. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in church.

## **Manna Contemporary Worship**

Manna Service is on Sunday, July 8 (change of date to accommodate VBS).

Remember Manna is on the second Sunday of July, so that the VBS attendees can practice for leading worship at 10:30 on July 16. Manna is our contemporary worship experience held in the upstairs of the chapel building. We will meet on the second Sunday of August as well.

## **Special Music for Summer Months**

While the senior, children's and bell choirs are on vacation for the summer, we invite you to volunteer your musical talent to sing or play an instrument in our worship services. Please contact Mrs. Gloria Adams to volunteer and set up a practice time with her. (610-914-8116).

## **Ladies Aid Meeting Date Change**

The Ladies Aid Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 27, at 7:00 due to July 4th being a holiday.

## **Confirmation Statement**

We are proud of the seven new members who joined Huff's Union Church through Confirmation on May 20, 2018. They have each written a statement explaining why they wish to be congregational members. We will be printing their statements in the next several newsletters.

### **Luke Geist**

I wish to live out my baptismal vows at Huff's Union Church because I want to stay strong to my Christian belief. I was the only one out of my siblings that was baptized at Huff's Union Church. I feel like I am at home here and as if I belong here since it is the only church I have known. I plan on attending worship after my confirmation and helping with church picnics and road clean up as I enjoyed participating in those events during confirmation class. John 15: 16-17. A quote I will remember is, *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."*<sup>17</sup> *This is my command: Love each other.*

## **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, July 6**. Please come out to support our sister church and enjoy good food and fellowship.

## **New Lay Eucharistic Visitors**

Sue Kayhart and Elvin Keiser have been trained as new lay eucharistic visitors for Huff's Union Church. As always, if you know of anyone who would enjoy a home visit, or who is hospitalized, please contact the church office, and we will arrange for that person to receive a visit. Please let us know of any members who have become homebound, so we may add them to our homebound list for regular visits.

## **Union Council Highlights**

There are three potential candidates for the Ministry Assistant position. These candidates will be interviewed and the remaining applicants will be sent letters thanking them for their interest and wishing them well.

The podcasting of the Pastor's sermons has been successful. We will be looking for an individual to act as a backup for Conner Isamoyer to record the sermons. If you are interested, please contact Conner Isamoyer or Martin Kriebel.

Jim Meitzler, Sr. is the project leader to build a ramp for the local needy. The plans have been drafted. If you would like to volunteer to help build the ramp, please contact Jim Meitzler, Sr. or Martin Kriebel. Both men and women are welcome.

The window in the belfry of the church needs to be removed in order for the new air conditioning unit to be installed. Please contact Martin Kriebel if you are able to help.

The Wi-Fi is ready to be installed in the church, chapel, and school house. We will need to rent a high lift and help to install the wiring. If you are able to help, please contact Martin Kriebel.

## **Facility Usage of the Chapel or Park**

We have made the chapel and park available to our members for their special family events. You must check availability of our facilities with the office, and reserve the facility you desire during office hours. There is a charge to use our facilities, and paperwork required.

If you have something planned outdoors, and are concerned about having the chapel as a back up in case of bad weather, you must pay the non-refundable fee to reserve the chapel, whether you use both facilities, or only one.

You must arrange for opening and locking of the facility during regularly scheduled office hours. If there is any problem on the day of your event, please call the phone number listed on the usage rules you received when you arranged for using the facilities.

Please remember only service animals are to be on Huff's property, with the exception of the pet blessing service.

## **Wishing Pastor Haines a Fond God-speed**

Pastor Elizabeth Haines, who has done visitation for Huff's through the past few years, has asked that we no longer depend on her for this task. Pastor Haines has resigned her position as Pastor of Hope ELCA, Bowers, in order to devote her time to study at Kutztown University, where she is pursuing a degree in counseling. We bid pastor Haines a very fond God-speed as she moves into this new area of her life.

## **Pennsylvania Southeast Conference: Ventures Adult Retreat, September 25-27, 2018**

Ventures, in its 43rd year, is a retreat for all ages. It is a time of faith, Bible study, worship, fellowship and fun! Come and experience a beautifully relaxed and peaceful setting at Mariawald Renewal Center. This year's theme "Listening to Your Life" will provide participants with an opportunity to reflect on their life and faith journey thus far, focusing on learnings and memories at the various stages of their lives from childhood to seasoned maturity.

Date: September 25-27, 2018, beginning at 11 a.m. Tuesday and ending after lunch on Thursday. Held at Mariawald Renewal Center, 1094 Welsh Road, Reading.

Full time: \$160 per person - (program, 2 overnights w/ double occupancy, 7 meals)

Full time Commuter: \$100 per person—(program & 5 meals)

Wednesday only: \$65 per person—(program, lunch & dinner)

Scholarship funds: Contact Rev. Worley @ PSEC, 484-949-8774 x 308 or [Worley@psec.org](mailto:Worley@psec.org)

## **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**

7/1 - Mary Kerchner

7/3 - Harold Krause

7/9 - Carl Arner

7/14 - Paul Adam

7/22 - Shirley Miller

7/31 - Shirley Mengel

## CHURCH FAMILY

### ***MEMORIALS***

In memory of Paul Ritter

Charles & Carol Zwoyer

In memory of Ray Funk

Charles & Carol Zwoyer

In memory of Fern Seidt

Carl & Minerva Arner

John & Jane Leeser

Marvin & Audrey Diehl

Dennis & Bea Miller

In memory of Betty Gouldner

Wayne Gouldner

Randy Moll

John R. Moll

Carl & Minerva Arner

In memory of Robert Taylor

Marvin & Audrey Diehl

John & Jane Leeser

Ms. Ruth Fetterman

Joseph & Connie Szilli

Dennis & Bea Miller

Leon & Barbara Houpp

In memory of Olivia Schoenly

Sandra Shane & Family

### **FUNERALS**

Please pray for the family and friends of Margaret Moll who died on January 1, 2018.

Please pray for the family and friends of Paul Ritter who died on January 1, 2018.

Please pray for the family and friends of Grace Hertzog who died on January 17, 2018.

Please pray for the family and friends of Ray Funk who died on February 2, 2018.

Please pray for the family and friends of Leah Greger who died on February 18, 2018.

Please pray for the family and friends of Michael Bollinger who died on February 18, 2018.

Please pray for the family and friends of Michelle Moll who died on February 23, 2018.

Please pray for the family and friends of Joan Lantzy who died on March 9, 2018

Please pray for the family and friends of Robert Taylor who died on April 30, 2018.

## **CHURCH FAMILY** (continued)

Please pray for the family and friends of Betty Gouldner who died on May 7, 2018.

Please pray for the family and friends of Fern Seidt who died on May 15, 2018.

Please pray for the family and friends of Phyllis Moyer who died on May 17, 2018.

### **BAPTISMS**

God's blessing on Avery Scott Gery, son of Daniel & Krista Gery who was baptized on April 8.

God's blessing on Ryleigh Jade Lopez, daughter of Jasper Keller & Jasmin Lopez who was baptized on April 22.

God's blessing on Elsie Mae Johnson, daughter of Thomas & Sophie Johnson who was baptized on April 29.

God's blessing on Carly Marie Haines, daughter of Matthew & Brittany Haines who was baptized on May 13.

God's blessing on Rafe Willian Lightcap who was baptized on May 27.

God's blessing on Esme Lunda Lightcap, daughter of Rafe & Danielle Lightcap who was baptized on May 27.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to Rafe William Lightcap who joined Huff's on Sunday, May 27. He is the husband of Danielle and has one child, Esme.

Welcome to Danielle Rene Lightcap who joined Huff's on Sunday, May 27. She is the wife of Rafe and has one child, Esme.

Welcome to Susan Cecila Clemons who joined Huff's on Sunday, May 27. She is the wife of Tom Clemons.

**Thank You Notes Received**

**From Liberty Ministries**

Dear Friends at Huffs Union Church,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$100 towards the Summer Camp for Kids Program.

Baron S. King, NCC, LPC

Executive Director

**From Boyertown Area Multi-Services**

Dear Endowment Committee Members

Thank you for your contribution to Boyertown Area Multi-Service. We are grateful for your unrestricted support of our efforts to provide services and valuable resources to meet human and community needs in Southeastern Berks and Northern Montgomery Counties.

Your gift will make a difference by helping to fund the many programs and services that ensure better lives for all those who live in our community.

Steven McEwan

Executive Director