

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



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
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.

Huff's slogan: Making Disciples: Inside and Out. UCC slogan: God is still speaking. ELCA slogan: God's work, our hands.

All Saints' Worship

On Sunday, November 3, 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 8:00 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m.). Families will be invited to take home the candle after either worship service.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship at St Peter's Church

We will worship on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00 p.m. with our Christian brothers and sisters at St. Peter's Church.

Confirmation Information

Class on November 3 at 9:15 a.m. in the chapel. November 10th class is at 9:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please work on learning the books of the New Testament. 8 sermon reports are due for this year. If you assist in worship on Youth Sunday, November 24, you receive 1/2 participation credit. Gary Moll is looking for volunteers.

No long class in November. Happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

We need 3 persons to be crucifer and acolytes for the German language service (December 1 at 7:00 p.m.) and for Christmas Eve (3 persons at 4:00 p.m. and 4 more persons at 8:00 p.m.) Please check with your parents and sign up in the Sacristy - this is

Christmas Musical

If any child would like to take part in our Christmas Musical, which will be presented on December 8 at 6:30 p.m., please bring them to Children's Choir practice on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If any teenager would like to volunteer musical talent for the Christmas Musical, please talk with Mrs. Gloria Adams at (610) 914-8116.

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday is on November 24 at the 10:30 a.m. 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. Gary hope to hear from you as soon as possible. Thank you.

Acolyte and Crucifer Schedule

11/3/19 8:00	Logan Scott, Alex Hersh and Maisy Funk
11/03/19 10:30 5 needed	Malachi Estrella, Avery Dixon, Bowie Richetti, Elijah Richetti and Gavin Hess
11/10/19	Tucker Ruch, Alex Hersh and Logan Watkins
11/17/19	Kara Benfield, Jace Benfield and Brooke Boyer
11/24/19 Youth Sunday	Wyatt Miller, Madelynn Miller and Logan Scott

Armchair Traveler

How would you like the chance to visit some exotic places, all while staying in good old Pennsylvania? Well, why don't you come to **Armchair Traveler** on Saturday, **November 9 at 6:30 p.m.**? You can enjoy each of those places, all while eating snacks and relaxing in the upstairs of the chapel. We'll start at **6:30 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.

Apple Dumplings

Don't forget to order your **Apple Dumplings!** Pick up is on Saturday, November 2, between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Cost is \$3.50. Final orders are due on Sunday, October 27. There are order forms on the downstairs bulletin board or call the church office at 610-845-2626 to order.

Apple dumpling preparation and baking dates are Friday: November 1, at 4:30 p.m. when we make the pie dough, peel and core apples and also make the syrup and prep for the next day, and Saturday morning, November 2, when we gather around 7:00 a.m. to roll the dough, wrap the apples, and bake them in the brand new ovens.

Confirmation credit given (1 credit for 2 hours work). We always have goodies to munch on and some hot food for lunch on Saturday.

Special Offering for November

The special offering opportunity for November is the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund. 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.

Zion Choral

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

Decorating Church

Church will be decorated for the Advent/Christmas season on Saturday, November 30, 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 1 (bad weather date is December 8) 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 2020 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 1, at 7:00 p.m. If you can help with greeting, ushering, reading in German, or lighting candles, please let Pastor Kropa know. The service is in high German, but bulletins have the English translation on pages facing the German words which are spoken. This would be a great service for anyone learning German.

Lehigh Conference of Churches

Minerva and I delivered on Sunday, September 15, all the items collected in the large red box to the above center in Allentown. It contained diapers, shampoo, formula, bags of baby and toddler clothing, shoes and four beautiful quilts. We had a full load in our car. The agency was elated with your generous donations. - Carl Arner

After-Dark Labyrinth

We invite anyone who is interested to come to our annual after-dark labyrinth walk on Wednesday, November 6, at 7:30 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
11/23 - Melvin Greiss	11/16 - Virginia Christ
11/28 - Shirley Fluck	11/29 - Don Heimbach
11/29 - Joyce Diehl	

ANNIVERSARIES

11/1 - John & Kathy Moll	11/26 - Ernest & Joyce Kemp
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Manna Contemporary Worship

Manna Worship in the upstairs of the chapel at 9:00 a.m. on November 17.

Conrad Road Clean Up

Youth Group project: November 3 at 11:30 a.m. If you have signed up, you will have a free pizza lunch, then clean up Conrad Road. We will need some parental help also. Contact Kerry Meitzler (kerrymeitzler@ptd.net) (610-750-3464) if you have any questions. Bring old clothes and old shoes to wear for this. Gloves and reflective vests provided. Confirmants will receive 1/4 credit for volunteering with the Conrad Road Clean-up.

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 30 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 - Friends, Inc.

I recently learned that one in five children in Berks County faces food insecurity. The elderly, persons with disabilities, the working poor and students are most at risk. Pay the rent or eat? ... purchase medicine or eat? ... buy college texts or eat? These are unfortunate situations faced by many in our area.

Friend, Inc. Community Services, a small, not-for-profit agency located in Kutztown, is committed to addressing those needs for residents of Northeastern Berks County.

Although *Friend, Inc.*'s number one goal is that no one goes hungry in their service area, it also offers budget counseling, financial crisis intervention and information and referrals to address various individuals' needs.

I am aware of *Friends, Inc.* because our food pantry has contributed many pounds of food to them over the years. The end of September we packaged 379 items from our pantry, including a recent sizable food contribution from a Huff's member. Along with their 2,400 clients, the non-profit also operates a Pet Food Pantry, and as of 2016, opened a satellite pantry for Kutztown University students at The Lutheran Center. That college pantry has grown to serve more than 1000 students in just a couple of years.

Friend, Inc. Community Services counts on our support and We are grateful that Huff's Union Church steps up. Thank you to the thoughtful people who fill our pantry shelves.

Volunteers: Elvin Keiser, Sue and Bob Stockdale

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, 2020 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.

Lunch Bunch

Please join us for the All Welcome Lunch to be held on Tuesday, November 19, at noon at PC's Pub in Pennsburg. 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!

Ladies Aid Society

The next meeting of the Ladies Aid Society will be on Wednesday, November 6, 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.

Pastor's Article

Dear Friends,

November is the month of giving thanks, but to be truly thankful, we need to think about what blessings we have received. Sometimes we have a hard time feeling gratitude because we live in a world that always seems to be warning us about something to fear. The news we watch doesn't have much good news in it. Instead we hear of all sorts of horrible things happening in our world, with the clear message we need to be fearful, rather than grateful, or we need to purchase something to add to our security, rather than the reassurance that we have so much already we can live generously and help others.

The Bible is a document written in hard times, There is slavery, defeat in battle, forced migration, terrorism and horrible reprisals for terrorism carried out by a foreign occupation force, poverty, misery, premature death, and rampant disease. Many people had no idea where their next meal would come from, or whether they would be able to survive into old age. Into all this human misery comes the assurance of God's love. Yes, God was always present, coaxing people to hang on, to trust God, and to share what little they had. When the Israelites were in the desert, God fed them using quail and a strange substance called manna. When Elijah was hiding from a queen determined to have him killed, God sent ravens who brought him food. Again and again, God provided. God reminded everyone to be sure to share with those who still had need, especially women without male protectors and children who were orphaned. Even the foreigner who lived in a Hebrew town was to be treated with respect. What an incredible way to aspire to live!

Of course, not everyone always did as God wanted. God sent prophets to remind them, but sometimes the prophets didn't get much of an audience, and actually suffered for speaking unpopular truths. Yet always a remnant faithful to God remained. These faithful people kept our Bible alive and passed it along to subsequent generations. This is the basis for our faith.

The church today might learn a lesson from those who remained faithful. Many are nameless ancestors in faith, yet without them, we would not have the Christian heritage we celebrate after 275 years at Huff's Union Church. What do they have to tell us? Their message has always been one of praise to God, and a counting and recounting of blessings. They struggled to pass along their faith because it was so important to them, and they knew their descendants could not live well without it.

Pastor's Article (continued)

Perhaps we might argue, well, they didn't know any better. They weren't constantly bombarded with visions of luxury goods, they weren't tempted, as we are, to always believe the worst because our news focuses on evil deeds rather than kindness. They might argue back to us, we don't have to struggle, as they did, with the wilderness and disease. All generations have struggles and all generations have blessings. We might envy their faith, and they might shake their heads in despair at our worries even when we have so much.

This month of November, I invite you to take a moment to reflect on those people who sang so bravely "Now Thank We All Our God" even as that remnant recovered from the devastation of plague. Remember the Pilgrims, grateful to have a harvest to share with others, even as they mourned those who had not survived the harsh conditions of the voyage, or the first year in the New World. Let's count our blessings, and rejoice that we have a God who loves us and calls us to become less fearful and more generous with all these "gifts from God's own hand." Happy Thanksgiving! Let's teach our descendants gratitude, and that "*perfect love casts out fear.*" (I John 4: 18)

In Christian gratitude, Pastor Jane Kroppa

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, Michele Boyer, email: boyer1107@gmail.com or telephone (610) 790-3289. I'd be glad to answer any questions or provide you with an authorization form. Thank you for your consideration.

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 1**. New items only.

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

We will once again offer Poinsettias for Christmas Eve. Cost is \$10.00 per plant. 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.

Small Group for November (Change in location)

Small Group will meet on Saturday, November 2, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the church. 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.

Community Supper:

St. Peters Union Church: Friday, November 1, from 5:00 to 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.

Church Family

Funerals:

Please pray for the family and friends of Kenneth C. Hilbert who passed away on September 14, 2019.

News From the ELCA National Body

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have so much to celebrate as we complete *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, the first comprehensive campaign for this church denomination.

Through the generosity of members and congregations across this church, ELCA ministries received \$250 million— \$195 million in cash and multiyear commitments, as well as \$55 million in planned gifts—to continue, strengthen and expand their work here at home and with our global companions around the world.

Thank you.

Thank you to Huff's Church members who gave over the past 5 year period, through one special offering per year, to support the Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA.

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference News From the Conference Minister:

How do you use your resources?

19*“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table...”* Luke 16:19-31

I am not one for quoting movies in sermons (or reflections). But the words of Scottish commoner William Wallace from *Braveheart* came to mind pondering this week’s lectionary gospel text. Speaking to wealthy nobles he says, *“There’s a difference between us. You think the people of this country exist to provide you with position. I think your position exists to provide those people with freedom. And I go to make sure that they have it.”*

Were the rich man in Jesus’ story to have used his position to provide the poor man freedom from want and/or fear he would not have ended up in Hades calling out for mercy. Which begs the question in this stewardship season of harvest and plenty -- how do we use what we have as a leverage for the good of God’s people? How do we leverage what we in church have for those suffering from opium addiction laying at our gates? How do we leverage what we have in the care of the earth, the sustainer of all life, that is as disregard by some as the poor man by his rich neighbor? How do we use our position, and where we have it, our privilege for the freedom of all?

I have asked a similar question preaching at church anniversaries this fall. How do you, church, leverage the resources accumulated over the years (often hundreds of years) in a faith that reaches back to Abraham to affect your local and global community? How do we in the present turn the dreams and hopes from the past into a long faithful, future witness? Freedom from the fear of scarcity and decline lies in taking the long view not only of a past in which God is so clearly evident but in a future where God is already active. Our position in the church exists to provide people with freedom from all that would stand between them and God’s beloved community. We go to make sure they have it.

Prayers for you as you go, Bill

Rev. William Worley, Conference Minister

Thank You Notes Received:

From: CWS Tools

To: Huff's Union Church Friends

With your donation to CWS Tools, families are empowered and communities are strengthened. Your support helps to equip people with not only solutions, but resilience.

On behalf of all the people who feel more hopeful and less alone because of your generosity, we thank you. Please accept this CWS Tools certificate honoring your vital partnership with CWS in building a world where there is enough for all.

Sincerely,

Rev. John L. McCullough, President & CEO
Church World Service

From: CWS Blankets

To: Huff's Union Church Friends

Your generous donation to the Church World Service Blankets program tells people in crisis, "You're not alone. Someone cares."

On behalf of all the people who feel more hopeful and less alone because of your generosity, we thank you. Please accept this Blankets certificate honoring your vital partnership with CWS in building a world where there is enough for all.

Sincerely,

Rev. John L. McCullough, President & CEO
Church World Service

From: Bethany Children's Home

To: Congregation Members

Thank you for your gift of \$95 to Our Wider Church Mission through the Pennsylvania Conference. Through your special gifts, we can provide each youth an opportunity to receive educational support and enrichment.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Shultz Spano, Director of Development

Thank You Notes Received:

From: Lancaster Theological Seminary

To: Friends

Thank you for your gift of \$95 in support of the ministry of theological education at Lancaster Seminary. The support you provide with your prayers and your gifts opens the doors for our students' education, opens their minds to learning, and opens their hearts to serving.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bennett

Vice President of Operations and Finance

From: Family Promise of Berks County

To: Friends of Family Promise

We would like to give thanks for the support Huff's Union Church has given to Family Promise of Berks County. Thanks for your donation of \$250 which enabled us to provide care and services to hardworking families who have fallen on difficult times.

Sincerely,

Elise Chesson, Executive Director

Family Promise of Berks

From: Lutheran Congregation Services

To: Friends

Thank you for your gift of \$123.50. 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.

Gratefully Yours,

Julia Menzo

Director of Community Outreach

September 2019 Treasury Report

	September	Full Year Actual	Annual Budget
Monthly Income	\$27,212.33	\$226,858.94	\$319,352.00
Monthly Expense	\$31,706.49	\$253,488.27	\$318,885.00
Balance	-\$4,494.16	-\$26,629.33	\$467.00

40101 - Pass thru Income Account \$0.00
 60100 · Pass thru Expense Account \$984.78

Account Balances	September 30
Designated Fund	\$62,170.91
General Fund	-\$11,744.09
Total	\$50,426.82

POINSETTIA ORDERS



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 610-682-7346 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