

# HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



**2019**

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Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburdis, 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.**

## **Permission Slips for Children & Youth**

Huff's Church has a one-year permission slip which covers all programs that we sponsor during the year for children and youth under age 18. Each year we must update permission slips to be sure they have the most current information. Please fill out new slips for 2019-2020, and mark these years on the form. New forms are hanging on the Sunday School bulletin board. Please turn in to Pastor Kropa.

## **Confirmation Classes Begin Sept. 8**

Confirmands will meet at 9:15 a.m. in the chapel basement on September 8. Confirmands should bring the completed copy of the Acts worksheet, your Bibles and a 3-ring notebook. Please have a parent with you to update permission forms for 2019-2020 and pick a date for the class trip to the Ephrata Cloisters.

## **Protecting Our Children**

Huff's Union Church has adopted a child protection policy, which we share with our congregation yearly. As part of the Commonwealth of PA regulations, we are required to ask that all adults who are working with children and youth have a PA Criminal Background Check, a PA Child Abuse Clearance, sign an affidavit stating the person has not been convicted of a list of crimes, and Huff's asks that all sign a sexual abuse and harassment prevention policy. If you are with our children and youth on a regular basis, please be sure we have your recent (less than 5 years old) clearances on file in the church office.

## **Sunday School News**

We will have Sunday School after the Children's Moment of the 10:30 worship service on all Sundays except the first Sunday of the month, when children aged 5 or younger are welcome to go to the nursery. Please **update your child's information** when you pick up you child after Sunday School in September.

We could always use some new teachers or helpers to work with our children. If you are interested, please contact Rachel Welch at 484-226-0333 or [rahelwelch@yahoo.com](mailto:rahelwelch@yahoo.com) to advise her of your intentions, and to get your background clearances.

## **Village Volleyball Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who set up for Village Volleyball. Our third year was a success due to you!

## **Bobfest 2019**

Battle of the Bands, an event developed by the Brandywine Heights Community Task Force, will be held on September 14, 2019 beginning at 2 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Brandywine Heights High School. Huff's Church will be there to hand out our 275th anniversary bracelets and provide information on our church and its programs. If you would like to help with Huff's Church's group, please talk with Julie Brought. Free admission and free family entertainment plus a Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show.

## **Acolyte and Crucifer Schedule**

9/1/19	Brooke Boyer, Gavin Hess, Bowie Richetti, Elijah Richetti and Chase Longacre
9/8/19	Tucker Ruch, Logan Scott and Logan Watkins
9/15/19	Gavin Hess and Alex Hersh
9/22/19	<b>Outdoor Service</b>
9/29/19	Kara Benfield, Jace Benfield and Brooke Boyer

### **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**

9/6 - Carl Drasher	9/10 - Ethel Funk
9/18 - Patricia Fenstermacher	9/19 - Frieda Merkel
9/23 - Mary Szilli	9/27 - Nancy Hoffman
9/29 - Ernest Kemp	9/29 - Mildred Miller

#### **Anniversaries**

9/15 - Jerome & Judith Barnes

### **Special Offering Opportunity for September**

The ELCA Campaign “Making All Things New” ended on June 30, 2019 as a resounding success. (See [elca.org/campaign](http://elca.org/campaign) for additional information)

Our new offering opportunity for September for the ELCA is for the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund. This offering is the ELCA equivalent of the UCC Christmas Fund offering, and supplements the income of those retired pastors, rostered ministers, lay employees and surviving spouses living on a low income. This offering also helps with health contributions for recipients who have ELCA health benefits.

Please either mark your envelope “ELCA Special Needs” or mark a “Welcome” envelope (found in pew racks) with this title to give to this special need.

## **Choir Schedule**

Senior Choir began on August 29th at 7:00 p.m.

Children's Choir begins September 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Bell Choir begins October 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Day Bells have not yet been scheduled.

## **Allentown Rescue Mission**

The next Allentown Rescue Mission meal is scheduled for Sunday, October 20. Check the Bulletin Board for donations of food needed. Call Carl Arner at 610-841-0639.

## **Pastor Led Sunday Bible Study**

On Sunday, September 15, at 11:35 a.m. Bring a sack lunch, beverage and your Bible and join us for a small study group. We will be talking about Acts 27:1-28:10.

## **Quorum at the Special Congregation Meeting on July 21**

Gratefully we did have a quorum at the special congregational meeting on Sunday, July 21st. The motion to amend the budget up to \$50,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund in order to replace the boiler and install a water treatment system was approved with an 88 to 1 vote. This is good news because it means work can begin and hopefully we will have heat by winter time.

Thank you to Bill Stoudt for using his experience and expertise to help keep our heating and cooling systems functioning!

## **Preparing A Meal for Someone Who Was Hospitalized**

If you would like to volunteer to prepare a meal for someone who has been hospitalized (non maternity, at this time) please contact Gary Fogel at 610-845-2509 to have your name added to the list of those who are willing to do this good deed. Pastor Kropa will suggest names, so please notify the office of members who might appreciate such a meal.

We now have frozen meals if no one is available to make something.

## **275th Anniversary Article**

Many years ago in 1744, we were recognized as a Reformed congregation. We've grown from 2 schoolhouses, the 1812 Building, and the 1881 Building as a Union Church which we presently have.

On Sunday, September 22, 2019, we are celebrating the above milestone. Our committee, consisting of Aurel Arndt, Carl Arner, Duane Bortz, Jake Longacre, Scott Swackhamer and Rachel Woodhead, along with Rev. Kropa's guidance, have met on a monthly basis and made plans for a memorable Day of Celebration.

Our plans for Sunday, September 22nd are scheduled for the park, weather permitting, with only one worship service at 10:30 a.m. Immediately after the worship service, there will be a covered dish with ham and chicken provided. The Red Hill Band will present a concert from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Letters of invitation to all former pastors have been mailed, and many will be in attendance. We distributed Anniversary bracelets and sold many tee shirts and have compiled a book of memories. Every attending family will receive one, they will not be mailed out.

Please plan on attending this very special event and sharing your memories with others. Please wear your tee shirt as we look forward in the ministry at this church. "We are rooted in the past - growing for the future."

Thanks,  
Carl Arner

## **Picnic Profits**

Thank you to everyone who supported and volunteered at our June and July 2019 picnics. The profits were: June Park Board Picnic, \$2,703.45 and the July Ladies Aid Picnic, \$4,282.40.

## **Harvest Home**

September 15 is Harvest Home Sunday. Please bring something that might be given to the Allentown Rescue Mission - fresh produce welcome as well as canned or boxed goods.

## **Small Group**

Small group will meet in the chapel on Saturday, September 7, at 10:00 a.m. for Bible study and conversation. You are welcome to bring a food item to share and have lunch together from 11:30-12:30.

## **Ladies Aid Meeting**

The next meeting of the Ladies Aid Society will be on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. All ladies are invited to attend.

Please continue to save your Redner's & Radcliffe's receipts. There is a basket for these on the Food Bank cabinet near the men's room.

If you have any quart mason jars, please bring them to the chapel. We need them for Chow Chow making.

## **Lunch Bunch**

Will meet on Tuesday, September 17, at noon at the Alburdis Tavern in Alburdis. All are welcome.

## **QPR: Suicide Prevention Training: Save the Date (Oct. 16)**

Our fall Suicide Prevention Training Workshop will take place on Wednesday, October 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs of the chapel. Question, Persuade, Refer is a method developed by Dr. Paul Quinett, to offer hope to people who are thinking about ending their life. Participants will learn how to bring up the subject, how to encourage people to get help, and receive a list of places which offer hotlines or other help.

## **Updating Our List of Homebound Members**

If you know of a church member who is no longer able to get to church, and who would appreciate a home visit, please call the office to have that person added to our Homebound list. They will receive visits from our lay visitors and/or Pastor Kropa.

We no longer publicize the contact information for our homebound members due to privacy concerns. Please call the office if you would like contact information for homebound members.

## **Class for Lay Persons**

On September 21, “The Orderly Account: St Luke’s Gospel.” Pastor David Strobel will lead the class in a brief study of the Third Gospel to discover Luke’s distinctive purpose, message and portrait of Jesus. Class meets at the Lutheran Center, 2345 Grove Road, Allentown from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Any member or friend of a NEPS congregation is welcome to attend. Cost is \$10 and can be paid the morning of the event, but you must register by Monday, September 16 by contacting Deacon Marlane Druckenmiller ([marlane@nepsynod.org](mailto:marlane@nepsynod.org)).

## **Mark your calendar for future classes:**

**November 16**, “Don’t Be Scared of the Apocalypse: Reading Revelations with the Churches.” Leader: Pastor Mark Rigg.

**March 21, 2020**, “Entrust Your Prayer to Chants.” Leader: Pastor Tom Lichner.

**May 16, 2020**, Topic to be determined. Leader: Pastor Laura Csellak.

## **Volunteer Reading Tutors needed for Ready.Set.READ! Program**

Help make a difference in a child’s life! Volunteers are needed to tutor students at the District-Topton Elementary School on Wednesdays from 3:30 – 4:20 PM during the 2019-2020 school year. No previous teaching experience is required. This opportunity is for anyone interested in volunteering 1 hour each week from October through May. Current background clearances are required prior to assignment. Please contact Darby Wiekrykas at United Way 610-685-4574 or [darbyw@uwberks.org](mailto:darbyw@uwberks.org).

## Pastor's Sabbatical - Sabbatical Learnings

This year, I'm trying to take seriously the concept of Sabbath during Sabbatical—resting for renewal and reconnection to God. I am trying not to over-think and over-plan my time, yet I'd also like to share some of my learnings with Huff's Church congregation, since the reason I have a Sabbatical is that I have been your pastor for 18 years. Huff's offers a twelve-week Sabbatical after every seven years of full time pastoral ministry.

I'm reading a book during this Sabbatical by Richard Rohr, well known writer of spiritual books and retreat leader. The book is called Just This. Rohr suggests his readers do a simple exercise in letting go. Imagine a stream of flowing water. Now imagine your thoughts floating downriver in the stream, out of sight. Imagine not just what you want to get rid of, but anything that comes into your mind. Rohr admits that this seems like a rather odd spiritual exercise, but I was surprised to discover how relaxing it is. Who am I when I am not my worries and concerns, my relationships or my talents? Who am I when I am not striving to do something helpful, but just allow myself to be, failings and all?

I have been told I take things much too seriously, and there is an up-side to this—rather than brushing off something, I ponder it, and try to discern if it is something I should act upon. The downside is that I can paralyze myself by over-thinking and over-worrying about just about anything. I found this quote in a poem, “Now is the Time to Know,” by the Sufi poet, Hafiz, that speaks to me. Hafiz talks about a relationship with God, and how “grace” (God's undeserved love) is the absolute. *“Why do you still throw sticks at your heart and God? What is it in that sweet voice inside that incites you to fear?”* Why is falling into fear so seductive for so many of us? Why do we beat ourselves up about not being good enough, when the Bible assures us that God loves us, even while sending us the Holy Spirit to strengthen us to become more like Jesus.

I've spent time reading and pondering the book of Habakkuk. I have to admit, I don't remember spending much time with this short book in the past, but it is a great reminder that, no matter how dire our world conditions might be, God is still present. After reading about conditions in Europe under Nazi domination, I find this book speaks to how faithful people can behave during a time when evil seems to be triumphing. I imagine that reading this

## **Pastor's Sabbatical - Sabbatical Learnings** (continued)

book aloud in church at this time would have sounded a strong call to remaining faithful, no matter what. Perhaps it does not speak as strongly to those who are not living under persecution, but to those who struggle against evil in the world, it is powerful.

I'm also reading the book Vintage Saints and Sinners by Karen Wright Marsh. I'm a sucker for stories of faith, and actually like to read through the list of "Lesser Festivals and Commemorations" in the front of the Lutheran Book of Worship, to see whom the church is commemorating on a particular day. Marsh takes 25 Christians, and tells their stories, but this is not just a book about heroes that seem almost other-worldly; it is a book about the human side as well as characteristics which we can emulate. I've found these stories creeping into my preaching, because these people are so very real. Brother Lawrence was one of those men my father would have called a "sad sack," who just cannot seem to do anything right, but he changes his attitude to one of serving God in any humble thing he does (washing a lot of pots and pans for the monastery kitchen) and somehow this man's story had come down through the centuries to us, as a model of faithful living. Imagine! She also talks about Aiden Tozer, a preacher and writer her grandmother admired greatly, but ponders the great toll this took on his family, since he neglected them in order to do what he thought God wanted of him. Is our religiosity negating the command to love our neighbor—something to ponder. Why it is that the more holy we try to live, the greater the temptation to neglect others, or God—sometimes one, sometimes the other? How hard it is to hold in tension both the love of God and the love of neighbor! How many times we read about this in the Bible—the Pharisee who thanks God he is better than others; Martha who is so intent on serving Jesus, she neglects to actually bask in his presence and listen.

Perhaps this Sabbatical is my attempt to find the time to actually ponder, as Jesus' mother, Mary, in Luke's gospel, pondered things in her heart that happened to her. Perhaps I need to sit at the feet of Jesus, as did Mary of Bethany, and ponder. I often think of myself as more inclined to think than to do, but so much of my ministry has been doing—visiting, preaching, listening, studying, writing, attending, recording, teaching. Sabbatical time as sacred time to reflect really is causing me to think deeper thoughts, and ponder anew the divine mysteries—God coming to

## **Pastor's Sabbatical - Sabbatical Learnings** (continued)

earth as Jesus, Jesus willingly giving up his life to show that love really does overcome evil, the Holy Spirit coming to all who will receive.

Now that the Sabbatical time is over, I hope I can continue to keep a healthy perspective. As one leadership training school tells us, "Go to the balcony," which means to step back enough to see the full picture, and not get pulled into becoming so enmeshed with the problem, one cannot be objective. I hope the time away will give me the energy to continue serving Huff's Church with competence as well as with compassion.

Your Sister in Christ, Pastor Jane Kropa

## **Oyster Pie Sale - Save the Date**

Our next Oyster Pie Sale is Saturday, October 19, with pick-up between 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon. Cost has not been determined yet and will be decided by the October Newsletter. Watch for news in the Sunday Bulletins. Orders are due by Sunday, October 13. The order forms will be on the downstairs bulletin board for Oyster Pies.

Oyster Pie making dates are Friday October 18 & Saturday, October 19. We can always use help for making oyster pies. Come out to cut potatoes on Friday at 9:00 a.m. (this is a sit down job). Come and help with making crusts on Friday evening at 6:00 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.

## **Apple Dumpling Fundraiser (proceeds go to the General Fund)**

Our next Apple Dumpling Sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 2. Cost is \$3.50 per dumpling and orders are due by Sunday, October 27. Order forms will be on the downstairs bulletin board where you can sign up or call Howard Crump at 610-965-9552. Pick up is on November 2 in the chapel between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in helping to make dumplings, look for sign-up sheets in church. Spare an hour or more. No experience necessary. Will train. Help is needed Friday evening and Saturday morning.

**Pennsylvania Southeast Conference**  
**From the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Minister:**  
**"Jesus said 'Follow Me'"**

The gospel lectionary texts this month are filled with questions asked by, and of, Jesus — “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Lord, do you not care...?” “Is there anyone among you... who would give a snake instead of a fish?” “And the things you have acquired, whose will they be?” All of them seem to be related to one question — what does it mean to be a child of God and a disciple of Christ?

This question was the focus of a General Synod Resolution JESUS SAID, “FOLLOW ME” A Resolution of Witness submitted by the Northern California Nevada Conference. Among other things, it *“calls upon congregations to engage in reflection and conversation on what it means to follow Jesus in the diversity of our practices, with the intent of learning from one another and encouraging one another in faithful witness and extravagant welcome. It also, “calls upon congregations to have these conversations within, between, and among Local Churches, focusing on the significance of Jesus’ call, “Follow me” in this era, and the ways in which each congregation responds to that call.”*

On the one hand, the simplicity of this call is so apparent for a group calling itself “Christian” that it might be overlooked for its obviousness. On the other hand, the church is always in a state of needing to be called back to the source of itself and the deepest values that spring from that source — especially when so many voices from every corner of the earth seek followership.

You can see all the resolutions that came to the floor of Synod by going to <http://ucceverywhere.org/synod/> with the action of Synod recorded. In consultation with our Conference Synod delegates and Conference Consistory members, I will be commenting in the next several eblasts on those resolutions that they, and I, have discerned are particularly important ‘for such a time as this.’ I can’t imagine a better place to start than with a call to follow Jesus.

Your brother in Christ,  
Bill (Rev. William Worley, Conference Minister)

## CHURCH FAMILY

### MEMORIALS

In Memory of Meredith A. (Mickey) Jones to the General Fund

Carl & Minerva Arner

Lillian Claxton

Marie Bower

Huff's Church Ladies Aid

Dennis & Bea Miller

Walt & Ann Schmidt

Scott & Emelie Swackhamer

In Memory of Ruth Crossley to the CIF Fund

Attorney's & Staff Members of Scherline & Associates

Heather Beyer

Carl & Minerva Arner

Debbie Asquino

Patricia Crossley

Todd Crossley

Mae Hoffman

John & Jane Leeser

Sarah Updegrave

Scott & Emelie Swackhamer

Sheila & Phillip Minnich

Beth & Brad Dempsey

Shirley Moyer

Lyneer Staffing Solutions

Joe & Connie Szilli

Bob & Sue Stockdale

Foley Family - Rita, Jim & Ellen, Bill & Lori,

Maura & George

### FUNERALS

Please pray for the family and friends of Meredith A. (Mickey) Jones who passed away on June 21, 2019.

Please pray for the family and friends of Kristen Jo Oswald who passed away on July 28, 2019.

Please pray for the family and friends of Ruth E. Crossley who passed away on July 29, 2019.

Please pray for the family and friends of Wanda V. Moll who passed away on August 5, 2019.

### BAPTISMS

God's blessing on Lina Raegen Brensinger, daughter of Lauren Ruth Brensinger and Danielle Marie Wert who was baptized on August 18, 2019.

## **Committee Chairpersons and Budget Committee**

You should have received your budget request forms, which need to be returned to Emily Ziegerfuse's mailbox (Union Council Vice President) by September 8th. Please contact Emily if you have not received your updated budget form. We use a three-year budgeting process, so if you foresee an expense that will come up within the next three years, do put it in so we may try to prepare for it.

The Budget Committee (an ad hoc team composed of the treasurer, council and congregational officers) will meet in September. Please pray for the team as they draft the budget for 2020. We want to be faithful stewards of what God is giving to us, as well as a creative team that imagines new ways God wants us to be relevant in today's society.

## **275th Anniversary Volunteers Needed**

We need 4 (four) volunteers to set up the buffet line of covered dishes, utensils, plates, etc. for the Anniversary luncheon on Sunday September 22, 2019, before and after the 10:30 church service and to clean up after the lunch. Please see or call Rachel Woodhead to volunteer at (610) 702-3207, call or email Aurel Arndt to sign up (610-972-0469 or [aurel.arndt@gmail.com](mailto:aurel.arndt@gmail.com)).

Also on Saturday September 21, 2019, starting at 10:00 a.m., we need volunteers to set up chairs, tables, seating and parking for the luncheon and the Red Hill Band concert. Please let Aurel Arndt (see above) know if you can help.

Thanks in advance to those who are willing to give some time for this wonderful celebration.

## **Transportation**

We had a suggestion in the Dream Box to see if members would be willing to volunteer to drive other members to things such as doctor's appointments, the hairdresser, for groceries, etc. Gary Moll (610) 845-8811 has volunteered to be the Transportation Coordinator, who would keep the list of volunteer drivers, then share that with anyone who calls asking about a ride. That way the person who needs the ride can make his/her own arrangements with the volunteer driver.

If you would like to be a volunteer driver, please write down your name, phone number, and days you might be available and put this in pastor's mailbox at church.



# PUZZLE

## Harvest hunt

*Directions: After unscrambling each leaf's word, follow the vine to complete the Bible verse.*

caepe

reway

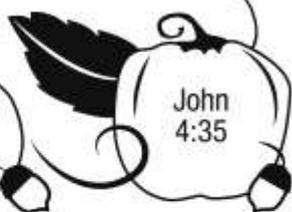
delfis



Galatians  
6:9



James 3:18



John  
4:35

Peacemakers who sow in \_\_\_\_\_ reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18, NIV

Let us not become \_\_\_\_\_ in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9, NIV

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the \_\_\_\_\_!  
They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35, NIV

Answer: peace, weary, fields

## June 2019 Treasury Report

	June	Full Year Actual	Annual Budget
Monthly Income	\$28,706.70	\$149,758.52	\$319,352.00
Monthly Expense	\$28,063.78	\$168,595.64	\$318,885.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$642.92</b>	<b>-\$18,837.12</b>	<b>\$467.00</b>
40101 - Pass thru Income Account	\$319.00		
60100 - Pass thru Expense Account	\$2,107.12		
<b>Account Balances</b>	<b>June 30</b>		
Designated Fund	\$66,017.29		
General Fund	-\$9,023.08		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,994.21</b>		
Blankets of Hope	\$180.00		
Tools of Hope	\$280.00		
Lutheran Congregational Services	\$122.50		

## July 2019 Treasury Report

	July	Full Year Actual	Annual Budget
Monthly Income	\$26,876.75	\$176,683.27	\$319,352.00
Monthly Expense	\$27,364.09	\$196,007.73	\$318,885.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>-\$487.34</b>	<b>-\$19,324.46</b>	<b>\$467.00</b>
40101 - Pass thru Income Account	\$150.00		
60100 - Pass thru Expense Account	\$7,391.00		
<b>Account Balances</b>	<b>July 31</b>		
Designated Fund	\$64,399.23		
General Fund	-\$7,237.41		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$57,161.82</b>		
VBS Mission Outreach - Disaster Relief	\$150.00		