

# HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



**FEBRUARY 2018**

---

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

Website: www.huffschurch.com

Facebook Page: Huff's Union Church, Inc.

Facebook Group: Huff's Union Church

---

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**We, the members of Huff's Union Church, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become evermore the Body of Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a ministry which includes increasingly meaningful worship, creative Christian Education, intentional witnessing, dedicated service, and responsible support.**

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

## ***Confirmation Class***

Classes will be held on February 4 and February 11 at 9:15 in the basement of the chapel. On February 25 we will meet on the street level of church at 11:30 a.m., review Books of the New Testament and Apostles Creed memory work, go over the class materials on death and dying, then drive to the Ludwick Funeral Home in Kutztown for a question and answer session and a tour. Anyone who would like to hear the funeral home presentation is welcome to join the class at the funeral home around 1 p.m.

### ***February Valentine Challenge for a Local Agency***

We offer Huff's members and friends a challenge-purchase a gift card (in any amount) at a quick mart or grocery store in our area and give it to church by February 18th. We are hoping to receive 14 cards, since Valentine's Day is February 14th. We will donate the cards to Friend, Inc. this year (which covers the Brandywine School District)

### ***Special Offering for February***

The special offering for the month of February is the ELCA Hunger Offering. This offering helps people throughout the world have the basics of life. It provides not only food assistance, but water, education and other community development aid. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks and literature racks of the church, or simply use a blank envelope, mark it Lutheran Hunger Fund, and either place filled envelope in the offering plate or mail it to Huff's Church. Include your name if you wish to be credited for this gift on your giving statement.

### ***February Small Group***

The small group will meet on Saturday, February 3, at 10 a.m. Come with your Bible. If you'd like to stay for lunch, please feel free to bring something to share and eat with us from 11:30-12:30.

### ***Souper Bowl of Caring***

As in previous years, on the first Sunday of February, after both our worship services, our youth will assist us in receiving a monetary offering, a can of soup, and/or a box of crackers as an offering for our four agencies which deal with feeding the hungry in our area: Pennsburg Open Link, Boyertown Multi Service, Friend, Inc. (Brandywine School District area) and the Allentown Rescue Mission.

### ***Game Night***

Bring a card game, board game or dominos, and a snack to share, and meet in the chapel from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Beverages will be provided by the Youth Group. All ages welcome—children to senior adults.

### ***Acolyte Schedule***

- 2/4/18 Reilly Rollman, Kara Benfield, Logan Scott,  
Maisy Funk and Kane Weller
- 2/11/18 Danielle Bortz, Raegan Pilgert, and Chase Longacre
- 2/18/18 Bill Geist, Paige Geist and Luke Geist
- 2/25/18 Madelynn Miller, Riley Miller and a Volunteer

### ***Lenten Coin Folder***

We will again offer coin folders as a way of fulfilling the Lenten spiritual practice of generosity (giving alms). Please pick up a folder from the table in the Narthex (we'll put them out in February) just outside our Sanctuary so you may begin to fill them on Ash Wednesday, which is February 14 this year. Please bring filled folders to church by April 8th. You may also write a check, if you do not care to save quarters to fill the folder. It works best if you place coin-filled folders in a plastic bag, rubber banding it around the folder, so if any coins fall out, they will be in the bag. Your giving statement will reflect the coin folder if you have your name written on the folder. Lenten coin folders support the mission and ministry our congregation does through the general fund.

### ***Welcome to Robert Arner***

Bob Arner will be working as our part-time media specialist as we begin to prepare materials for projection. He will be training people in our operating system, so media may be projected smoothly during worship. If you have not yet volunteered to learn how to be a projection volunteer, please speak with Bob or Pastor Kropa. Since we have not yet finalized plans for installation of LED monitors in the sanctuary, we are not yet ready to train, but we are in the process of compiling a list of potential volunteers. We are hoping to be able to do some projection at the 8 a.m. worship service as well as at 10:30 worship, so please consider volunteering for this time slot. We plan to begin slowly, and pray for your understanding, as we learn how to convey the good news of Jesus in a new way.

### ***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 Sue Stockdale (610-845-3374) If the person agrees to be added to our Homebound list, they will receive visits from Pastor Kropa and our lay visitors.

### ***Homebound List***

The list below is our homebound, hospitalized or nursing home members. To help them feel a part of our church family, we ask you to remember them with a card, note or visit throughout the year.

If you would like additional information on our homebound members, please contact the office.

### ***If You Are Hospitalized***

Please remember that most hospitals usually do not notify congregations if their members are in the hospital. Even though the hospital might ask you if you have a home congregation, this information goes into the hospital computer, and is available only if the pastor stops by the hospital to check the computer. If you would like a visit and prayer, please call the church office with this information or call the pastor's home phone (610-944-5923).

### ***What Is the Blank Line on my Church Offering Envelope?***

The blank line is on your offering envelope so you may make special gifts to church-related agencies. You may give to any of the special denominational offerings mentioned throughout the year, using this line, or using the special envelope provided in the pew. You may also give to the following denominationally related agencies: Bethany Children's Home (troubled youth), Topton Lutheran Home (elder care), Bear Creek Lutheran Camp (Christian camping program), Phoebe Home (elder care), Lancaster Theological Seminary (pastoral training), The Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia (pastoral training). You may also give for special disaster relief efforts, as mentioned in church.

### ***Congregational Spring Meeting***

We will hold our annual congregational spring meeting on Sunday, March 4 (bad weather date March 11. All who are members in good standing (have communed or contributed at least once in the past two years) are eligible to vote on anything brought up at congregational meetings. We will have the vote to approve the appointment of Jane Arndt, Jimmy Meitzler, Sr., Sheri Shaner and Bill Stoudt to Union Council. (When people are not able to be voted upon in the December election, council may appoint them to serve until the congregation votes approval in the spring meeting.)

Copies of the annual report are available at the entrance to the Sanctuary. This report details the ways Huff's Church has done ministry and mission in 2017. If you see an area of church life in which you would like to participate, please talk with a committee member, the committee chairperson, or Pastor Kropa.

Thank you for living out your baptismal vows and for being a disciple of Jesus Christ here at Huff's Church.

### ***Lay Your Burdens Down Sunday***

On Sunday, February 11, at both worship services, we will have a chance to focus on God's healing presence in our lives, and Jesus' invitation to lay our burdens down. We will be using rocks as symbols of the burdens we are giving up.

## *Pastor's article*

Dear Christian Friends,

Soon we will be bombarded by commercial messages reminding us to send Valentine cards, candy, flowers, and other gifts to our significant other. It can feel a lonely time of the year for many who cannot claim a significant other. As a single woman, I so hated this day, that a good friend began to send me a friendship Valentine, with the reminder that there were people who cared.

In the early days of Christianity, Christians often gave up family and friends in order to become members of the Christian community. For them, it was very important that they had a new family, new sisters and brothers, who would support them, eat with them. We believe the first communion meals actually were covered dish meals, held daily after work in people's homes, and concluding their evening of fellowship and worship with the Lord's Supper. Christianity began as a community, not isolated individuals believing a special set of doctrines, but people joining together to live like Jesus wanted. The community was the centerpiece, the non-negotiable part of what it meant to be a Christian. Non-Christians would watch this behavior and comment, "See how they love one another." I imagine, in a world where life was held by many in little regard, such caring for each other, and for those not part of the Christian family (the ill, those in prison, abandoned babies and children, the poor) was nothing short of amazing. Those Christians, how they can love!

This February, I challenge all of us to push back at the commercial message of only one particular love, and to love the whole world, that God sent Jesus to save. The UCC reminds us that because God so loved the world, we have three loves to show the world that we take this command seriously: love of creation, love of neighbor, love of children. One ELCA slogan has been: Lutheran love life, live love.

How can we show this love to the world? Make it a point to send a card or visit someone who cannot get out much because of the cold weather. If you have a talent to share, why not ask a local nursing home activities department if you can come in to share it with the residents? So many people visit during Christmas, but often a visit or program is much more necessary in

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

February, when many feel lonely. Do something for the earth—shower one minute less, waste less food, use less throw away goods, hang some of your wet clothes inside to give humidity to your house rather than drying everything in the clothes dryer. You might have your own ideas. What about children and youth? I'd love to have anyone with a special talent who would like to teach it to our youth or children, volunteer to do so. Talk with me, let me know what supplies you'll need, and we can work on making this happen. Huff's Church will again be collecting gift cards (grocery stores, gas stations) to give to a local agency (this year Friend, Inc.) with the hope of being able to give 14 (since Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day)—place them in Pastor Kropa's mailbox at church, or drop them off at the office.

Whatever you choose to do, may God bless you for your loving behavior. Remember God's promise, "I have redeemed you; you are mine."

In Christian love,  
Pastor Jane Kropa

### ***Lenten Schedule***

Ash Wednesday: February 14, 7 p.m.

Lenten evening worship with St. Peter's: February 21, March 7 and March 21 at Huff's; February 28 and March 14 at St. Peter's Union.

Maundy Thursday, March 29: to be announced

Good Friday: March 30, worship at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday: April 1 at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Continental breakfast (donation) at 9:15 a.m.

### ***Lenten Meal Preparation***

This year Huff's hosts thee meals on Wednesday evenings (February 21, March 7 and 21) at 6 p.m. in the Rohrbach Chapel. Please see or call Kathy Cornely (610-702-2226) to volunteer to help with meals (set up, clean up, cooking, providing ingredients) You are welcome to bring a dessert, fruit, or snack item to share. There is a freewill offering at each meal. On alternate Wednesdays, St. Peter's Union church hosts us for a meal at 6 p.m., and worship at 7 p.m.

## ***FUNERALS***

Please pray for the family and friends of Vivian Boyer who died on December 6.

Please pray for the family and friends of Margaret Mall who died on January 1.

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

## **Church Family**

### **MEMORIALS:**

To General Fund in memory of Harry Crossley  
Eric & Robin Diehl The Greger Family  
Ernest & Joyce Kemp

To General Fund in memory of David Shaner  
Mae Hoffman

### **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**

2/7 - Lorraine Moll	2/12 - Nancy Yeakel
2/27 - Franklin Adam	2/17 - Robert Taylor
2/20 - LeRoy Leibensperger	2/21 - Arlene Hill
2/22 - Earnest Haas	2/26 - Joyce Schantz
2/29 - Ethel Boyer	2/29 - Mae Hoffman

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

2/20 - LeRoy & Ruth Leibensperger

### ***Prayerful Presence Group***

There are many beautiful and uplifting things in life, but there is also loss. Losing a loved one can trigger intense feelings of grief which is a normal reaction. However, prolonged feelings of sadness and hopelessness can mean you are experiencing depression, grief or both. Grieving brings on symptoms that may fluctuate and comes in waves of short term emotions. Many people feel depressed almost all the time. How the time is spent through

### ***Prayerful Presence Group*** (continued)

your period of grieving is essential to your well being. It is very important that you take care of yourself, which is not a selfish act when experiencing grief. Consider a support system for yourself. Your family or friends are a great place to start. Talk with trusted family members or friends to help them understand how you are feeling. You may find that support helpful when meeting with other people willing to share experiences, feelings, information and coping with grief. Some ways are exercising regularly, getting enough hours of sleep nightly, exploring new skills such as enrolling in a cooking class or joining a book or sewing club. Volunteering or getting back into the workforce may prove to be a benefit.

Here at Huff's Church we have the Prayerful Presence Group. This group is not a psychotherapy group, but some may find the added prayer support helpful.

Believe that your faith in God, he welcomes you into his loving arms during times of distress and grief. Let the light of God shine your way through the darkness of your broken heart, giving you strength and hopefulness that your life one day shines again and heals your heart, so that you will one day think of your loved one with fond memories and have peace.

Remember you are not alone! This article is dedicated to all who have experienced the loss of a loved one. It is the Prayerful Presence Groups prayer that you find comfort in God's presence and love.

### ***Courageous Conversations Project***

On February 8, at the Upper Perk Senior Center, 517 Jefferson St., East Greenville, from 8-10 a.m., a second session of Courageous Conversations will be held.

The first session of this group was held in late October, which brainstormed ways to encourage honest and respectful engagement in dialogue with people who may have differing perspectives on certain issues within our local and wider communities, but who share a common desire to strengthen our community.

In order that we can plan for a successful event, please RSVP by e-mail ([centermanager@theopenlink.org](mailto:centermanager@theopenlink.org)) or phone (215-679-4112) to the Open Link.

## ***Council highlights for February 2018***

Union Council met on January 15.

Manna will continue meeting in the chapel at 9:15 on the third Wednesday of the month. A brainstorming meeting about what we might do to increase the impact of a contemporary worship service will be held on Sunday, February 18, after 10:30 worship in the chapel. A light lunch will be served. If you are interested in this topic, please join us. A steering group will be formed to oversee the Manna service and implement any changes.

Christmas Eve worship will remain at 4 and 8 p.m. More candle cups will be ordered.

CSI will be contacted to check the sound system thoroughly to try to reduce the amount of problems in clear audio quality.

New choir robes will be purchased as a gift to our congregation. The Worship and Music Committee will oversee selection and ordering of the robes.

Please submit your ideas about what would be a meaningful way for you to celebrate Maundy Thursday in our Dream Box (near the water fountain on the street level of church). The Passover Seder, which we celebrated in the years when we do not have the dramatized Lord's Supper, is declining in attendance. Would offering communion and an individual prayer in the format of dropping in, like an open house, be a more personal way to connect with Jesus this special meal? If we have a worship service, what should it be like?

The United Church of Christ congregation of Huff's Union Church will celebrate its 275th anniversary in 2019. We are looking for ideas of how to engage our community in celebrating with us. Your ideas are welcome in our Dream Box.

New council officers were elected—please see the list of council members in this newsletter.

## ***Beat the Blah's Luncheon***

Tuesday, February 20 at noon at the Alburdis Tavern. Sign up sheet hanging on the downstairs Narthex bulletin board at church. We pay our own way and have a great time of Christian community.

**Spirit on Tap**  
**Meets at Doubletree Hotel by Hilton**  
**701 Penn St., Reading, PA**  
**At 7 p.m. on the evenings listed below.**  
***You may order food or beverages.***

**February 20, 2018** - "Faithful Presence: How People of Faith Can Make a Difference in Today's World" - Dale Davis

**March 13, 2018** - Healing Touch - Janice Stewart

**April 24, 2018** - Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. on the 50th Anniversary of His Death - Shayna Watson

**May 29, 2018** - Protecting Our Children - Melissa Haydt

For more information contact:

Dr. Harry L. Serio - [HLSerio@aol.com](mailto:HLSerio@aol.com) - 610-944-7032

Dr. Robert A. Stewart - [rastheo1951@msn.com](mailto:rastheo1951@msn.com) - 610-775-2836

Dr. Stephen Ohnsman - [ohnsman@comcast.net](mailto:ohnsman@comcast.net)

***Spirit on Tap is sponsored in part by the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton and by individual contributions.***

***Mitten Tree***

Many thanks to everyone that helped to decorate our Christmas Mitten Tree. Below is the compiled list of items that were sent by UPS to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky:

Caps	39
Scarfs	6
Gloves	27
Socks	12
Sweaters	3
Beany Babies	<u>18</u>
Total	105.

Our next Mission Project for St. Vincent's Mission in Appalachia will be the "Seed Tree" starting in March.

Serving Christ, Carl Arner

**Thank You Notes Received  
From the Liberty Ministries**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$184.25 towards the 2017 annual Christmas Stocking Project for which no goods or services were received.

Deborah M. Gehret  
Administrative Assistant

**From Bethany Children's Home**

Dear Pastor & Congregation Members,

Thank you for your gift of \$800.00 to Our Wider Church Mission through the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. Through your special gifts, we can provide each youth an opportunity to receive educational support/enrichment, music therapy, arts and recreation, therapeutic services and a caring, structured environment to live within. In addition, you will provide many first memorable moments including birthday parties, visits to the local ice cream shop, shopping for new shoes or clothes and going to an amusement park. These experiences help our youth to begin setting a new course for their life.

Kevin Snyder  
Chief Executive Officer

**From Phoebe Ministries**

Dear Pastor Jane & Congregation

Thank you for your congregation's gift of \$800.00 to Phoebe Ministries. With your support, Phoebe is able to provide the highest level of care to our residents.

Adam Marles  
Senior Vice President  
Advancement & Strategic Initiatives

## ***2018 Union Council Members with Phone Contact Information***

President: Martin Kriebel, 610-845-2960

Vice President: Theresa Woloszanski, 610-682-2652

Secretary: Michele Boyer, 610-621-4574

Treasurer: Elaine Crump, 610-966-9552

Jane Arndt, 610-462-8164

Duane and Danielle Bortz (youth), 215-679-4383

Conner Isamoyer, 610-750-4008

Barbara Kreiser, 610-987-3331

LeRoy Leibensperger, 610-682-7346

Jimmy Meitzler, Sr., 610-845-2581

John Moll, 610-216-1148

Ian Richetti, 502-396-1535

Rochelle Schantz, 610-823-3680

Sheri Shaner, 610-816-3843

Bill Stoudt, 610-682-6761

Emily Ziegenfuse, 484-571-2332

## ***Armchair Traveler***

Are you interested in seeing sights from far off places, but not necessarily willing or able to travel there yourself? Come hear an informative description of exciting places and see photos, with breaks for snacks and to ask questions of our presenters. We begin with a Canadian rail journey, then move through some of the Western United States and end with Scotland. Bring a friend or neighbor and come to the chapel on Saturday, February 10, from 7-8:30 p.m.

If you have taken a memorable trip and would like to show digital photos and speak about your trip (20 minutes maximum) please speak with Tess Woloszanski or Pastor Kropa for our next Armchair Traveler event. People who are not congregation members who have made memorable trips, are also welcome to present.

## ***Pennsylvania Southeast Conference: Good news that we don't want***

*“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” – Luke 2*

By most (if not all) accounts, this was not the Messiah that the Hebrews expected or wanted. Jerusalem not “city of David”; Warrior not “child”; Armor not “bands of cloth”; palace not “manger”. God, however, delivered what the world needed if not what people wanted. It took a long time for the world to adjust its Messiah expectations. We’re still working at it. Still, God has done this with enough regularity that by now I should be looking for it – for the new life that brings me closer to God *because of* my dashed desires.

This was the theme of a conversation I had this week with a colleague around congregational vitality and pastoral excellence. Thanks to our friends at the UCC Center for Analytics, Research and Data, we know that the four (4) Marks of Faithful and Effective ministry *that correlate significantly with congregational vitality* (1. the ability to mutually equip and motivate a community of faith; 2. the ability to lead and encourage ministries of evangelism, service, stewardship, and social transformation; 3. the ability to read the context of a community’s ministry and creatively lead that community through change or conflict; 4. the ability to frame and test a vision in community) *are also the four marks that are lowest-rated by congregants*. In other words, the church pastors/leaders we need are not the church pastors/leaders we want. Makes it hard to be a transformative pastor/leader. Makes it hard to be a vital church.

There is good news. There are clergy and congregations working together toward amazing vitality. “Fear Not” is ringing in the ears of bold lay leaders. Pastors are taking the risks that lead people where they need (but do not want) to go. God still delivers what the world needs if not what most people want. It’s one of the surest signs that God is alive and well and active in the world and in the church. Thanks be to God.

Bill

Rev. William P. Worley, Conference Minister

## **PROJECT BACKPACK**

During the months of January and February 2018 donations will be accepted for the Brandywine Heights Area School District Project Backpack. This program provides identified children with food items for the weekend to ensure that they have food they need. The children's backpacks are filled on Friday with healthy snacks that the children can eat during the weekend when they do not receive school lunches.

A basket will be placed outside the doors to the sanctuary for collection of the snacks. Sticky notes will be placed on poster board at the basket noting what food items are being collected. Please take one or more sticky notes and place the item(s) in the basket. The donated items then will be delivered to the elementary school for filling the backpacks.

Thank you for helping to meet this local community need and demonstrating Christian love in action.

## ***CLAMBAKE 2018***

Huff's has had a yearly clambake for the last 9 years. It was not a high profit event (usually \$1,000 profit) but was enjoyed by lots of people. If someone is interested in taking over this position of organizing and running the clambake please let me or Pastor Kroppa know. I will no longer be doing it.

It involves about 4 days of ordering, pickups and labor. I have all the records on the amounts used in the past and would be glad to sit down with someone and go over all the details and give you the past information.

Or maybe it is time to bring the clambakes to a close and have some other fund raiser project. Thank you for your past support. Thank you from Pat Crossley.

# December 2017 Treasury Report

	December	YTD Actual	Annual Budget
Monthly Income	\$33,223.13	\$302,858.05	\$293,514.00
Monthly Expense	\$45,246.39	\$311,664.49	\$292,595.00
Balance	-\$12,023.26	-\$8,806.44	\$919.00
40101 - Pass thru Income Account	\$988.14		
60100 · Pass thru Expense Account	\$4,395.29		
Account Balances	December 31		
Designated Fund	\$76,436.42		
General Fund	\$4,667.32 *		
Sunday School Fund (Checking Account)	\$9,611.95		
Youth Group Fund (Checking Account)	\$18,542.01		
Total	\$109,257.70		
UEK UCC Forum - German Service	\$223.00		
UCC Christmas Fund	\$180.00		
Holy Joe Café - Coin Offerings	\$205.45		

\* Note: Lutheran 2017 Congregational Support of \$8,000 to be deposited in General Fund in January 2018 for total of \$12,667.32.