

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



OCTOBER 2018

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburty, 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

Class will meet on October 7 & 14 in the chapel basement at 9:15 a.m. On October 28 bring a lunch and eat downstairs in the chapel, then go upstairs in the chapel at 12:15 p.m. for QPR: Suicide Prevention.

Fall Fun Fest

On Sunday, October 14 we'll be celebrating the fall season by setting up some fun (and free!) children's activities in our park! Feel free to drop in with the kids anytime between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. to participate. If it should be rainy or wet, the activities will be moved into the chapel. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Please nothing gory!

Activities will include things like hayrides, bible stories in action, face painting, pumpkin decorating, fall-themed games, photo booth, and snack making. There will be small prizes for some things, and every kid will receive a bag of goodies to take home. We hope to see lots of kids that day - please spread the word among family and friends!

Pre-Communion Instruction

Congratulations to our young people who received pre-communion instruction and will now commune with our congregations: Lexi Arndt, Max Benfield Clara Detwiler, Jackson Hunsberger, Ely Longacre, and Levi Scott. One more class is planned this fall.

Youth Road Clean Up

Mark your calendars for Conrad Road Clean Up on November 4. Pick up a snack from our refreshments honoring All Saints Sunday, then have a pizza lunch. Have old clothes and shoes to change into, and bring work gloves if you have them.

Blanket Tying

Please mark your calendar for another blanket tying event to aid the Allentown Rescue Mission on November 11 after the 10:30 a.m. worship service, which includes a simple lunch. Sign up and we will provide the material, but do bring a pair of sharp scissors, if you can. This event is sponsored by the Youth Group.

QPR Suicide Prevention

One hour training session in the upstairs of the chapel on Sunday, October 28 at 12:15 p.m. You are welcome to bring a lunch and eat it in the chapel basement, then go upstairs for the presentation. Teenagers to adults welcome.

Acolyte Schedule

- 10/7/18 Madelynn Miller, Wyatt Miller and Logan Scott
- 10/14//18 Logan Watkins, Alex Hersh and Chase Longacre
- 10/21/18 Avery Dixon, Brooke Boyer and Kara Benfield
- 10/28/18 Maisy Funk, Alayna Watkins and Reilly Rollman

Welcome to Kelsey Doney, our New Ministry Assistant

Kelsey began her duties at Huff's on September 4, 2018. Here is Kelsey's introduction of herself so you can begin to get to know her.

I was born, raised, and still reside in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. I graduated from Emmaus High School in 2005. After finishing my Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreation and Leisure Services Management from East Stroudsburg University, I met my husband Richard. We have two children, Tucker (2 years old) and Haley (9 months old). We also have two dogs, Finnegan (8 years old) and Dozie (7 years old). In my spare time, I enjoy spending time hiking and camping with my family.

Holly Pilgert's Telephone Number

Holly Pilgert's telephone number is again 484-764-5188.

Trip To Seminary Ridge Museum, Gettysburg

On Saturday, November 3 at 9:50 a.m., the Confirmation class invites you to join them to visit the museum (scavenger hunt provided for youth) and participate in the "Be a Soldier" special program. Cost is \$9 for those age 18 and above or for non-church teens which includes the program and museum visit. You must have signed up on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board and paid any money due by October 14. We cannot offer refunds if you are unable to make the trip. You are responsible for transportation to and from the museum. For information on the museum, go to www.seminaryridgemuseum.org. Under the heading "Education" is a description of the "Be a Soldier" program.

October's Special Offering

The special offering for the month of October is the UCC Neighbors in Need offering, which supports a variety of projects throughout the United States including the Council for American Indian Ministry. You may give through your marked pew envelope, or use a special envelope found in the pew racks. (The envelope is marked: Imagining a new world is possible).

Worship Service Focusing on Comfort and Joy

On October 21 our worship services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. will focus on hymns, special music, scripture and other readings that express the deep human longing for comfort in times of distress, and joy in knowing God's deep and abiding

Oyster Pie Sale

Our next Oyster Pie Sale is Saturday, October 20, with pick-up between 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon. Cost is \$6.00. Orders are due by Sunday, October 14. The order form will be on the downstairs bulletin board.

Oyster Pie making dates are Friday, October 19 and Saturday, October 20. 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 7:00 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.

We **will not** be selling **Wixon Shoo-Fly Pies** at this time.

Thank You to Our Garden Angels

We have had people in the past who have volunteered to weed Huff's chapel, church, and office areas. They have always done the work, without fanfare, to make our grounds look inviting. Thank you to these special people, and to the new group that stepped forward this year. We greatly appreciate your service!

Apple Dumpling Fundraiser

Our next Apple Dumpling Sale, proceeds go to the Youth Fund, is Saturday, October 27. Cost is \$3.50 per dumpling and orders are due by Sunday, October 21. Order forms will be on the downstairs bulletin board where you can sign up or call Deb Bortz at (215) 679-4383. Pick up is on October 27 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 the church. Spare an hour or more. No experience necessary. Will train. Help is needed Friday evening and Saturday morning.

Picnic Profits

Thank you to everyone who supported our picnics in any way. The profits were: June Park Board Picnic, \$3,442.05, July Ladies Aid Picnic, \$4,364.80, and the August Community Picnic \$2,184.34. which was affected by a rainstorm.

Ladies Aid Society

The next meeting of the Ladies Aid will be on Wednesday, October 3 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.

October Small Group

We will meet on Saturday, October 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to share our stories, do some Bible study (bring a Bible). We will share things we bring for lunch from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Come for all or part of the group time. Bring a friend; newcomers are welcome.

Allentown Rescue Mission

A meal is scheduled at the mission for Sunday, November 18. Check the bulletin board for food needed and volunteering.

Food Preparation is at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Leave church at 2:00 p.m.

Serving the meals at 4:00-4:30 p.m. Contact Carl Arner at 610-861-0639.

Pennsylvania Southeast Conferences News

Interested in a Mission Trip to Help Rebuild Puerto Rico?

A group of members of Pennsylvania Southeast Conference and Penn Northeast Conference met on August 6 to discuss the possibility of the two conferences sponsoring a rebuild mission trip to Puerto Rico in 2019. The dates that we have requested are April 28 to May 4, 2019. PNEC Associate Conference Minister Gilberto Garcia-Rodriquez will be the group leader. Costs will be made available in a few months as we learn more about airfare and other related costs.

If you would like to be on the list of potential participants and receive the trip information directly, please send an email to Gilberto at gilbertor@pniec.org and copy Karl Jones at kjones275@comcast.net.

A Word from PSEC Disaster Ministries Coordinator

With all the flooding, it's a good time to review your home emergency plan. Below are some suggestions:

The first thing to consider in an emergency plan is how you will receive emergency alerts and warnings. Montgomery County offers ReadyMontco, a reliable and free emergency alerting system you can sign up for online: www.montcopa.org/readymontco.

The next step is to discuss with your family what you will need to shelter and be self-sufficient for at least three days. You should have at least a three-day supply of non-perishable foods and water (one gallon, per person, per day). You will need to consider what you will need to have ready if you have to evacuate on short notice, including important documents and items specific to each family member's needs, and how you will maintain communications with your family if you are separated. A detailed guide for making an emergency plan for your family can be found on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's web site: <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>.

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 your name.

BIRTHDAYS:

Marian Weller - 10/4

Katie Danner - 10/12

ANNIVERSARIES:

10/7 - Carl & Carolyn Drasher

10/24 - Carl & Minerva Arner

10/28 - Neil & Diane Gery

Church Family

Memorials

To the General Fund in memory of Eileen Lasher

Marvin & Audrey Diehl

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Lalli

Bob & Dorrie White

Jack & Carol Lasher

Rob Mason

Funerals

Please pray for the family and friends of Doris Peterson who passed away on July 17.

Please pray for the family and friends of Eileen Lasher who passed away on August 26.

Weddings

Richard Carwell and Theresa (Hess) Carwell were united in marriage on Saturday, September 1.

Justin Thomas and Kalin (Heydt) Thomas were united in marriage on Saturday, September 8.

Baptism

God's blessing on Isabella Grace Diehl, daughter of Drew Diehl and Andrea Colon who was baptized on September 23.

New Member

Welcome to Kathy Geist who joined Huff's Church on September 30.

Pastor's Article

Dear Christian Friends,

We do not live life to its fullest when we get caught up in worries, yet how easy it is to do so. We worry about what others think of us, we worry about money, we worry about our families, we can worry about just about anything and everything.

In the book My Year With Eleanor by Noelle Hancock, Hancock talks about her year trying to do daring things, rather than becoming paralyzed by worry. She takes as her model Eleanor Roosevelt. In between the descriptions of the activities she tries (flying a plane, swinging on a trapeze, etc.) she gives information about worrying—why humans do this, what it seems to accomplish, etc. It makes one stop and think—what am I doing to myself when I get so caught up in worry? What might I be missing out on by worrying?

Jesus talks about worry in the Sermon on the Mount. (Matthew 6) *‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink,* or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?’* ²⁶*Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?’* ²⁷*And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?** ²⁸*And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,* ²⁹*yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.* ³⁰*But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?’* ³¹*Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?”* ³²*For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.* ³³*But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* ³⁴*‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.*

Pastor's Article (continued)

We Christians have an antidote to worry—prayer. Max Lucado says, “*No one can pray and worry at the same time.*” Again and again, we find promises in the Bible that God will take care of us. My father used to tell me the story of Elijah and the ravens (I Kings 17: 1-6) whenever I’d tell him I was worried, and say that when the birds build barns, then he’d begin to worry.

May you feel God’s eternal love and care, even as you are tempted to stress over things that happen, or might happen, in your life. May you trust that when you bring your burdens to God, you can drop them there, and walk away. May you recall that nothing whatsoever can separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus, our Savior. (Romans 8: 38-39) and may this knowledge bring you peace.

Here is an excerpt from a prayer by Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626) *O God, we beseech thee...pardon what is past; rectify what is present; order what is to come; and all for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who alone can make us perfect even as he is perfect. Amen.*

In Christian Faith,

Pastor Jane Kropa

St. Peters Church Community Supper

Community Supper on Friday, October 5 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The meal is served in St. Peter’s Place, next door to St. Peter’s Church. All are welcome. There is no charge for this meal. A freewill 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. Please come out to support our sister church and enjoy good food and fellowship.

Pastor's Sabbatical Report 2018:

Reflections on my Third Installment

After every seven years of pastoral service, Huff's Union Church offers a three-month Sabbatical for the pastor's spiritual renewal and stress reduction. After discussion with the Pastor Parish Team, I agreed to spread the Sabbatical time away (12 weeks) into four years of three weeks each.

Why Sabbatical? When a pastor moves from emergency to emergency, there is no time to consolidate what one has learned, deal with complex emotions of walking with families through deep grief, or to catch up on culture to stay relevant in sermons and teaching. In long term pastorates (anything over 7 years is considered long-term) a pastor has the tendency to pick up additional duties, without necessarily dropping things that the pastor had originally been called to do. This means the pastor does more and more, and the church just assumes that tasks will be done, without thinking about how best to utilize pastoral time. Add to this the fact that most pastors are sensitive to others' emotions, and want to feel helpful, so constant service, with no time for reflection and readjustment of duties, results in a congregation becoming unintentionally over-dependent on just one person to be the living memory and overseer/matriarch of the family.

One question I have is what has the congregation learned from pastoral time away? I'd be interested in your answers on this topic.

I learned that it is very difficult to be away during unexpected deaths (there were three), yet that I could offer my presence to the families once I returned, and I believe I was able to be more attentive to them than I would have been without the time away. I felt less rushed when we met, and could listen better. The congregation knows that we have had some very difficult losses during the past year, and it helped me to have the quiet time away to grieve those losses for myself, and to slow down.

What I've learned from this Sabbatical time is that traveling, even for a good cause (to visit a friend with cancer and catch up with colleagues who have recently retired) made the Sabbatical feel less stress-free than if I'd stayed home. I learned I thrive with the calming rhythm of waking up before my family, and absorbing the silence, meditating on God's gifts, blessings, will, and

Pastor's Sabbatical Report 2018 (continued)

challenges, reading scripture and doing other reading and reflection. I am trying to keep walking each morning for at least 20 minutes to enjoy the beauty of nature and to reflect on God's message to me for that day—something I have learned from my Sabbatical time. I know I need to work more on healthy living patterns, and want to continue what I did during Sabbatical, now that I'm back in the midst of the stresses of pastoral ministry. I can see that I need to explain more of what I do, so that the congregation's leaders can come to an understanding of what happens behind the scenes, and what tasks might have to be re-negotiated for optimum accomplishment of the tasks of ministry. Ministry is a partnership between the congregation and pastor, and, as in a good marriage, both must give over 50% to make it work at its best.

Thank you for understanding the important nature of time away for anyone privileged to be the pastor of Huff's Church. I hope you will encourage me to continue slowing down to really be present with you, in order that we live our lives in ministry together to the fullest. I also want things to be calm enough for me to really organize my office; it's Ok to ask me how I'm doing with this—that will hold me accountable not to over-function by trying to be everything to everyone, and neglecting quiet time to think through priorities and projects.

Topton Lutheran Home Peaches & Ice Cream

On Friday, August 24, we again were invited and served 150 guests during our annual trip to the Topton Home.

Many thanks to our church crew who helped to peel the peaches and serve to our guests at the Topton Home: Minerva Arner, Brooke Boyer, Michele Boyer, Maisy Funk, Haley Gambler, Penny Greiss, Lisa Kauffman, Elvin Keiser, Albert Muth, Joyce Reinert, Barbara Rupp and Mary Szilli.

As always the folks appreciate our presence and we are already scheduled for the year 2019.

You put many smiles on their faces - so thank you again.

Carl Arner

Union Council Highlights

We received a check for \$190 from a person who is not a member, but who has felt God's place in his heart the desire to help congregations with a portion of his tithe (10% of income). He researches congregations, and decided to give his tithe to Huff's. What a reminder that God provides, often in unexpected ways!

We need to investigate more options before a decision can be made regarding a portable media system for use in worship. Do we want to show text (like scripture) or only photos and announcements? How large should the monitor be? Where could it be placed? How portable is it? What seats, if any, in the congregation might not be able to view the monitor?

Kelsey Doney has began her job as ministry assistant. She will work on our files, background checks, and will publicize events as well as develop an office procedures manual.

Aurel Arndt made a presentation on areas that we might wish to focus our attention—short term, medium term, and long term projects. Council is to prioritize the list.

We are working on getting a permit for the ramp to be built to aid a family whose member has mobility problems.

The chairperson of our Worship and Music Committee, Kay Kriebel would like your feedback on having just one worship service from Father's Day until Labor Day weekend. What time would be best if we went to just one service? Watch for more information. We will have a congregation vote before this idea would be put into practice.

Our boiler has been inspected and has passed.

We are considering what sort of community event to hold in August of 2019. Do we want to move the hoe down to August and have a simpler menu (little to no advance preparation) which would replace the August picnic? Please let council members know your thoughts.

Dream box ideas: Anything submitted to the Dream Box that deals with the 275th anniversary will be referred to Carl Arner. Please separate cans and bottles from paper recycling and place in the red recycling containers. We will try our best to begin ice cream sales at 4 p.m. at picnics.

Union Council Highlights (continued)

Hoe Down had about 75 persons in attendance; lots of new faces from community; we covered our expenses.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, October 16th at noon at the Bowers Hotel, Bowers, PA. Come and join us for fun and fellowship. There will be a “U” shaped table setting for our use. The Bowers Hotel offers a full menu, in addition to daily specials. You may select and pay for your own meal. An option after the lunch is to walk in the nearby Bowers Park.

Local Needy Fund

Our Local Needy fund is just about depleted and we have more months in 2018 when we may be asked for help. We are taking up a Special Offering at both Worship Services on October 7.

If you would like your gift to be credited to your financial statement, please use a pew envelope and write “Local Needy” on it, or write “Local Needy” and the amount on the blank line on your offering envelope. Thank you for caring for those in need in our own area.

Thank you for the Toothpaste

We collected 66 boxes of toothpaste to be given to the victims of the Schuylkill County Flooding.

IHartHarvest Potato Project

Six members of Huff’s Union Church participated in harvesting potatoes for IHartHarvest Potato project with the

UCC Covenant Association to benefit the Berks County Food Bank on September 15, 2018. 95,000 pounds of potatoes were picked by approximately 50 volunteers, all from local churches. They were treated to fresh delicious french fries and hot dogs

after their work. Special thanks to Michele and Brooke Boyer, Danielle Bortz, Bea Miller and Bob and Sue Stockdale who

Thank You Notes Received

Thank You Note is to the Endowment Committee for their contribution of \$750 to Camp Noah.

To the dear people of Huff's Lutheran,

Aug '18

THANK YOU

for a camp

Leonardo and the other nearly 40 campers/families were deeply touched by your generosity in sharing God's love! Your \$750 donation went a long way allowing us to offer the camp completely free-of-charge to campers and the week-long volunteers. In 20 years of Camp Noah... this is the 1st non-English version which our campers & volunteers used to host this 1st bilingual week full of inspirational stories of hope through the adversities that storms can bring.

Thank you!
Love,

LEONARDO

and Pastor Rebecca Knox
Camp Noah - Reading 2018

Thank You Notes Received (continued)

From: Bethany Children's Home

Dear Huff's Church Members

Thank you for your gift of \$95 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.

Thank you for helping our youth heal from the past, live in the present, and dream for the future!.

Thank you,
Meggan Kerber
Director of Development

From: The United Church of Christ,
Schuylkill Association Disaster Fund

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation to the Schuylkill Association Disaster Fund. The Western area of Schuylkill County was hit by heavy rains and flooding several times in July and August. Many basements flooded as well as some homes on their first floor.

Sincerely Yours in Christ
Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy

From: An anonymous recipient of help from the Local Needy Fund.

Thank you to the Congregation of Huffs Church

Being only on disability income, Financial hardship has brought me to a time of asking for help. Fortunately; I am so blessed to have Huffs Church Family/Congregation in my life. I am humbled for everyone's generosity which I pray comes back to everyone of you. Thank you is not enough said to show my appreciation for the help given with my utility/electric bill, to stop shut off. No judgment at all was given and I was spoken to from the warmest of hearts. I am beyond blessed, thankful and appreciative to all.

August 2018 Treasury Report

	August	YTD Actual	Annual Budget
Monthly Income	\$18,076.18	\$187,821.34	\$308,189.00
Monthly Expense	\$20,461.06	\$219,337.81	\$307,843.00
Balance	-\$2,384.88	-\$31,516.47	\$346.00
Expenses from Capital Improvement Fund		\$18,218.46	
40101 - Pass thru Income Account	\$351.62		
60100 - Pass thru Expense Account	\$191.22		
Transfers from Young's Investments	\$14,750.00		
Account Balances	August 31		
Designated Fund	\$50,399.26		
General Fund	-\$2,577.23		
VBS Mission - Malawi	\$356.62		
August Picnic			
Income:	\$4,032.76		
Expenses:	\$1,956.20		
Remaining Food and Drink to Cornfest & Topton Home	\$107.78		
Profit:	\$2,184.34		