

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



March 2019

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 in March

March 3 - 9:15 a.m. chapel upstairs with Mentors. Pick a Lenten practice; watch powerpoint on Lent.

March 10 - 9:15 a.m. chapel upstairs. Practicing justice including video clip on homelessness.

March 31 - 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. church street level, then chapel upstairs. Powerpoint: Palm Sunday, the Triduum, Easter, etc.

Acolyte Schedule

3/3/19 Tucker Ruch, Elijah Richetti, Bowie Richetti,
Austin Hall, Alex Hersh

Ash Wednesday

3/6/19 Gavin Hess and Volunteers

7:00 p.m.

3/10/19 Gavin Hess, Chase Longacre, Kane Weller

3/17/19 Logan Watkins, Kara Benfield, Alayna Watkins

3/24/19 Brooke Boyer, Madelynn Miller, Wyatt Miller

3/31/19 Maisy Funk, Logan Scott, Avery Dixon

Christian Summer Camp Information

Children and youth have three ELCA or UCC related camps to choose from for a Christian camping experience. New Goshenhoppen UCC has a day camp for children and overnight camping opportunities for teenagers (ages 13-17.) Hartman Center (Milroy, PA) is our closest UCC camp; Bear Creek Camp, in the Poconos, is the ELCA camp. Huff's Union Church helps with expenses for our member children or teens to attend a UCC or ELCA church camp. Check the Sunday School bulletin board, or go on-line to www.bearcreekcamp.org, www.hartmancenter.com, or newgoshucc.org. Check with Pastor Kropa to request financial assistance to attend an ELCA or UCC camp.

Special Offering for the Month of March

In March we will receive the United Church of Christ One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering provides developmental and emergency relief to people throughout the world. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks, or simply use a blank envelope, mark it UCC One Great Hour of Sharing, and 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.

Jean Reinert Memorial Scholarship

The Jean Reinert Memorial Scholarship information and applications are posted on the Sunday School bulletin board. Any high school senior who will pursue additional education (vocational training or college) and has remained an active member of Huff's since confirmation, is welcome to apply. Deadline to apply is March 31, 2019. Completed applications may be placed in Michele Boyer's mailbox.

Lenten Schedule With St. Peter's Union

Ash Wednesday: March 6 at Huff's Church, 7:00 p.m.

Lenten evening worship: meal at 6:00 p.m.; worship at 7:00 p.m. Theme is Lenten Ascents. March 13 and March 27 at St. Peter's (meal in St. Peter's Place, service in church) March 20 at Huff's (meal in chapel basement; service upstairs in chapel)

All ages are welcome. We have a donation basket on each table for the meal; any offering that is not in a church envelope is used by the host church for mission and ministry. Offerings given in envelopes are given to the church listed on the envelope.

Lenten Coin Folders

Please return your filled coin folders to church by April 28. If you have filled the folder with coins, please put the filled folder into a plastic bag (a bread bag works well) and rubber band the bag around the coin folder. This way, if the coins fall out, they are in the bag. Please do not tape coins; it makes it very hard for the people who count the offering. If you use a check, just tuck it into the final slot. If you have put your name and address on the outside of the coin folder, it will count as an offering. All coin folder offering goes to support the general fund.

We collect filled folders in a basket in the Upper Narthex, right before you enter the Sanctuary for worship. Thank you for supporting Huff's Church as one of your Lenten practices.

Congregational Spring Meeting

We will hold our Annual Congregational Spring meeting on Sunday, March 3 (bad weather date March 10). 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. Copies of the annual report are available at the entrance to the Sanctuary. 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 at Huff's Church.

The God Story: Worship Series for Lenten Sundays

How does your story (and mine) interact with the Bible's story of faith? We begin a 7 week worship series, ending on Easter Sunday, looking at the basic story of the Christian faith as a story, with which our own personal stories interact.

Jacob Anderson's titles and scriptures make a jumping off point for each Sunday's scripture, music and pastor's sermon. This is a great review of our Christian faith, and a great time to invite someone to church who would like to know what it is that Christians believe.

Week one: March 10. Introduction (creation)

Week two: March 17. Suspension of Disbelief (Sara and Abraham)

Week three: March 24. Rising Action (wandering in the wilderness)

Week four: March 31. The Inciting Incident (King David)

The God Story Devotional

Accompanying our sermon series is a daily readings booklet called "The God Story." We have 20 of these, which we are making available to you for a \$5 donation each. Booklets available on the table at the back of the Sanctuary with envelopes for payment.

Calling All To Come Together on March 23

Jesus called disciples, and the church calls its members, to a time away. On Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. we offer a retreat which will include worship, scripture, a powerpoint presentation which explains the ELCA and the UCC denominations, lunch (we provide for all who sign up) and a time of brainstorming some things Huff's wants to do to reach out into the community and also to build up our own Christian community. Anyone who would like to talk about our congregation and its future is welcome to attend. Bring your bright ideas, hopes and dreams.

Please sign up on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the downstairs Narthex by March 17.

Apple Dumpling Sale

There were 638 apple dumplings sold. Our profit from the sale is \$1,647.64 which will be donated to the Huff's Union Church General Fund. Thank you to everyone who volunteers

Blood Bank

Thank you to those who donated blood on January 21. Five units of blood were donated; we assume reduced turnout due to extremely cold weather. Together we make a difference in the blood supply in our community.

Seed Tree

Our Annual Seed Tree will be placed in the upper Narthex from March 3 to March 31. Collected seeds will be sent to St. Vincent's Mission in David, KY.

Their planting season begins earlier than ours and most of the families have gardens to help supply their need for fresh vegetables. Thank you for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

Carl Arner

Pastor's Article

Dear Christian Friends,

I find myself thinking a lot about the story in the Gospels about the friends carrying their paralyzed friend to Jesus. (Mark 2: 1-12, Matthew 9: 1-8, Luke 5: 17-26) I sense that when people ask their pastor to pray for them, they are hoping that the pastor can bring them into the healing presence of Jesus. It is an awesome responsibility, yet it comforts me to remember that it wasn't religious leaders who brought the man who needed healing to Jesus, but his friends, so determined that they pulled apart the roof to lower him right in front of Jesus. Pastors are our brothers or sisters in Christ, and we (I include myself here, since I, too, need pastors) turn to them because we want someone to walk with us into Christ's presence, to lead us into a closer relationship with Jesus. We know we can go alone, but how comforting it is to go there with someone else, someone we trust has been there before. There is comfort in hearing someone else bring our issues before God in prayer. We have been bringing these issues to God, but now someone is coming with us, to help us articulate what we sometimes have trouble saying—we are in trouble; we need help. Indeed, it is a joy-filled and awe-some responsibility to be that person, and I find comfort in knowing that other pastors fulfill this sacred duty for me.

Sometimes I hear people wondering what conference or synod do for our congregation. We know there are there in emergencies, but what about those in between times? Christian leaders pray for our congregations and for our pastors. They walk with us in times of joy (both the conference minister and bishop will celebrate Huff's 275th anniversary of the founding of the UCC congregation scheduled for September 22, 2019). They walk with us when we don't know the answers and need some advice. They are there when there is tragedy, transition, or trouble, but, we have to admit, we hope we will not need to consult them for this sort of help. They inspire us to think greater thoughts than we might do if we were left to our own devices. They, too, walk with us, and bring us to Jesus. Because synod and conference staff have walked this path so many times with congregations and pastors, we firmly believe they know how to get us to where we must go. That is why individual congregations belong to denominations—they are our mentors and our spiritual and practical guides. They support us, and we support them with our prayers and monetary gifts.

Pastor's Article (continued)

As a Christian, you may be asked to walk someone into Jesus' presence. What would help you feel comfortable doing this? If worship and Bible study equip the Christian for everyday life, how can our church help you to deepen your faith, so that you can comfortably pray with someone? Please share your thoughts with me. During Lent, my prayer is that you will find yourself recognizing that you are walking with Jesus in this glorious and hair-raising experience we call life.

In Christian faith,
Pastor Jane Kropa

Church Family

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3/5 - Annabelle Stegman | 3/6 - Meredith Jones |
| 3/7 - Robert Reinhard | 3/7 - Lloyd Weller, Sr. |
| 3/16 - Pearl Hoffman | 3/17 - Evelyn Hladchuk |
| 3/31 - Lorraine Hunter | |

Anniversaries

- 3/6 - David & Mabel Bittenbender
- 3/9 - Robert & Nancy Schleicher
- 3/17 - Donald & Elizabeth Heimbach

Funerals

Please pray for the family and friends of Myrl Heffner who passed away on January 16, 2019.

Please pray for the family and friends of Calvin Mengel who passed away on January 18, 2019.

Profile Team

The Profile Team has been gathering information to answer some questions about our church, to help us to discern where we believe God is working right now, and what might God be inviting us to do in the future. We have received twenty-four answers. Below are listed some of the answers we have received to the question “What do you value about living in our area?”

Surrounded by the beauty of nature

This is an area where you know your neighbors, but you are not invasive of each other’s privacy

Beauty of nature, dependable neighbors and a wonderful church community

The rich heritage and history of the area, its relative seclusion and the work ethic that has built what we have and can experience.

I like that I’m not crowded in, like in town, but still close enough to know everyone and lend a hand when someone needs help.

Small Group

First Saturday of the month, March 2, in the chapel basement from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Bring your Bible for conversation (we keep what is discussed confidential) and study. From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. bring something to share for lunch.

Ladies Aid Society

Due to Lent, the next meeting of the Ladies Aid will be on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 6:30 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 on the street level of the church.

Also, please remember, if you have any mason jars, to contact Joyce Kemp at 610-702-2571 or Edwina Fox in the church office at 610-845-2626 to schedule a time to drop them off.

Prayer Partners

If you would like to pray for 1-2 congregation members during the year, please fill out the prayer request in the March bulletin and place it in the offering plate, or e-mail John Leaser at birdmanjhl@aol.com. John will provide a new partner list around Palm Sunday.

Oyster Pie Order Deadline

Oyster Pie Order Deadline is Sunday, March 31, 2019.

Making the Oyster Pie dates are Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6. Pick-up date is Saturday, April 6 between 9:00 a.m. and Noon.

We can always use some help for making oyster pies. Come cut potatoes on Friday at 9:00 a.m. (This is a sit down job). Come help preparing the dough on Friday at 12:00 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.

Manna Contemporary Worship

On March 17, we will meet in the chapel upstairs for Manna Contemporary Worship at 11:45 a.m. Please bring a beverage and sack lunch. Theme: The God Story: Suspension of Disbelief, the Abraham and Sarah Story.

Allentown Rescue Mission

The next Allentown Rescue Mission meal is scheduled for Sunday, April 7. Check the Bulletin Board for donations of food needed. Call Carl Arner at 610-841-0639.

Thrivent Financial Members

Thank you to our Thrivent members who have chosen Huff's Church for their Choice Dollars. February's check was \$819.00.

42nd Year of Dramatized Lord's Supper

On Maundy Thursday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m. the Dramatized Lord's Supper performance will take place at Huff's Union Church within the worship service for that evening. Holy Communion will be offered.

On Palm Sunday, the Dramatized Lord's Supper will be performed at Cornerstone Living (Werley's Corners) at 2:00 p.m. and at Ebenezer UCC in New Tripoli at 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend any performance.



Thank You Notes Received

From: Diakon

To: Huff's Church Members

Thank you for your gift of \$400 to Diakon Volunteer Serving Seniors. Huffs Union Church's gift helps us support our core of volunteers who are a lifeline of hope and companionship. Each year, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries services thousands of children, families, youths and older adults with many hands, one heart.

Thank You,
MaryEllen Dickey, CFRE
Senior Vice President of Advancement

From: PSEC

To: UCC Congregation of Huff's Union Church

Thank you for your gift of \$500 to the "Generations of Service: Faith and Finance in Action Campaign for the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCMBA)" UCBMA has provided financial assistance to clergy and lay church workers in 2017 alone, more than \$60,000 in Ministerial Assistance Grants went to retired pastors in our PSEC to assist with a range of needs from food to medical support. Your contribution to support the work of your pastor(s) and the Conference and the work that God is AND will do in our United church of Christ.

Thank You
Rev. William P. Worley
Conference Minister

Thank You Notes Received (continued)

From: Boyertowan Area Multi-Service

To: Huff's Church Members

Thank you for your gift of \$50 for our Festival of Trees 2018. We cannot say thank you enough for your support in 2018! You are the reason thousands of individuals, families and older adults in our community are able to come to Multi-Service for programs and support.

Thank You,
Lydia Messinger
Director of Development

From: Tipton Lutheran Home

To: Friends

The residents of the Lutheran Home at Tipton enjoyed participating in our Christmas Sharing event this Holiday Season. To the many that assisted with setting up the "store", donated such a wonderful selection of gifts, transported and supported residents as they shopped, wrapped and organized gifts, we thank you!

Thank You
Karen Sinkovits
Activity Director

From: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

To: Huff's Lutheran Church

Thank you for your gift of \$193.83 to Lutheran Disaster Response. With your Spirit-filled generosity, you bring help and hope to families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response make possible short- and long-term recovery and rebuilding of lives and livelihoods.

Thanks You
The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference: How Does Your Church Impact its Community

At the beginning of each year, the UCC asks churches to complete “Year-end Reporting.” Churches give stats of their membership, attendance, and finances – numbers that are later used for research, programming, and lots of other things. Last year 87% of our churches reported, and I’m so grateful for that! But one number – my favorite question – is often skipped: the Community Engagement total.

Community Engagement counts people who were served or impacted by your congregation in the last year. Some of our bigger churches have Community Engagement numbers over 10,000. Some of our smallest churches can easily have over 1,000. Those counted for Community Engagement may never attend a worship service at your church. They may never even step foot in your church or know where the building is located. But these people are influenced because of your church’s unique and special ministries.

Totaling a Community Engagement number is hard, because it’s not something we necessarily pay attention to. And even though it’s probably not your responsibility to calculate this number for me, I’d like you to take a few minutes this week and think about the hundreds or thousands of people that your church influences each year.

Let me get you started: Are there any Scout packs, AA or NA groups, social clubs, civic clubs, or preschools that regularly meet in your space? Is your church a polling station for elections or an evacuation point for a local school? Were there any non-member weddings or funerals held at the church this year? What about dinners, craft fairs, concerts, car washes, hoagie sales, golf tournaments...? Does your church make prayer shawls, scarves, hats, or quilts to sell or give away? Do you donate to a food pantry or collect gifts for under-privileged kids at Christmas? Do community members come for your Easter egg hunt or VBS?

All of those people are important to the life of your church. I love working with pastors and secretaries to figure out their Community Engagement numbers. In a time where churches are often reporting decline in membership, Christian education, average weekly attendance, and offerings, it’s important that we take time to remember all of the people that we impact each year.

PSEC (continued)

Churches in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference are doing some amazing work and I pray that our members are taking time to rejoice in those successes.

Brea Rarick PSE Conference Registrar

Confirmation Statement

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

Reilly Rollman

I came connected with Huff's Church through my baptism and through my family members who are members of the Church. My family all went through confirmation and I was expected to do the same. But, for me, Huff's grew to be a loving and comfortable place, which is why I have decided it is the right place for me.

Through confirmation class, I have learned a lot about my religion as well as about my Faith. I feel as I belong somewhere special. Helping out at the church events has taught me worth, responsibility and to become better acquainted with my church family.

I picked the following quote from PSALM, Chapter 91, Verse 4: "He will cover you with his feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart." This perfectly represents how far I have come in my Faith by being a part of Huff's Church and allowing myself to follow God's path and guidance.

After being confirmed, I will continue to be involved. I have learned so much and have grown to find my place in the Lutheran and United Church of Christ community.

Armchair Historian

In March we will have a new, exciting event called the Armchair Historian! Have you ever wondered what was happening in the village of Huff's in the late 1800's, when our church building was brand new? Who built it? Where did they get the money and materials? What other businesses were in the area? Scott Swackhamer and Carl Arner, our church historians, will fill us in on these kinds of details.

We will also have a panel of people who lived in the village and attended Huff's in the 30's and 40's, including Bobby Reinhard and Bob Seip, who will tell us stories about what it was like living here during that time period. What was it like as a kid to attend the one-room school, the church, or to visit the local store? Maybe you have questions about what it was like here in the village during the Great Depression - well this is your chance to ask and find out!

Here are the particulars: on **Sunday, March 10th** (bad weather date is Sunday, March 24) following the 10:30 worship service, we will have an old fashioned covered dish in the Chapel. Scott and Carl will have some historical items on display upstairs. As people finish lunch, they can look at those items until the **speakers begin at 1:00 pm**. Please join us for this fun, interesting afternoon! And spread the word to anyone in the community that you think might be interested in learning more about the history of Huff's Church and the surrounding areas!

275th Anniversary of the UCC Congregation Committee

Carl Arner heads this committee which is hoping for some additional members and input from our congregation on this anniversary year. Please join the group on the fourth Sunday of the month at 9:15 in the chapel. Things under consideration: a teal blue anniversary T shirt, a glow in the dark wrist band to give out at community events, a covered dish on Sept. 22 (meat provided) followed by the Red Hill Band in Concert (at 1 p.m.), a commemorative booklet to make this special year.

If you have a memory of the congregation, please write it down and leave it in Carl Arner's mailbox at church, so we may begin to work on the commemorative booklet.

January 2019 Treasury Report

| | January | Full Year Actual | Annual Budget |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Monthly Income | \$27,026.62 | \$27,026.62 | \$319,352.00 |
| Monthly Expense | \$32,546.62 | \$32,546.62 | \$318,885.00 |
| Balance | -\$5,520.00 | -\$5,520.00 | \$467.00 |
| 40101 - Pass thru Income Account | \$9,646.36 | | |
| 60100 - Pass thru Expense Account | \$9,839.36 | | |
| Account Balances | January 31 | | |
| Designated Fund | \$63,586.65 | | |
| General Fund | \$7,492.24 | | |
| Sunday School Fund (Checking Account) | \$20,180.19 | | |
| Youth Group Fund (Checking Account) | \$9,017.58 | | |
| Total | \$100,276.66 | | |

EASTER LILIES & PINK TULIPS AVAILABLE

Easter Lilies and/or Pink Tulips will adorn the Nave of the church for our Easter Worship Services. If you'd like to order one, please complete the form below and submit it with your payment to LeRoy & Ruth Leibensperger, 214 Greiss St., Alburdis, PA 18011, (610-682-7346) or Robin Diehl, 50 Eric Lane, Alburdis, PA, (610-845-7092). Orders are due by Monday, April 8, 2019. The cost is \$10.00 for Lilies and \$7.50 for Pink Tulips. Please make checks payable to **HUFF'S UNION CHURCH**.



EASTER LILY & PINK TULIP ORDER FORM

of Lily Plants _____ @ \$10.00 per plant \$ _____
of Pink Tulip Plants _____ @ \$7.50 per plant \$ _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

PRESENTED BY: _____
