

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



2019

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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 Begins Sept. 8

Confirmands will meet at 9:15 a.m. in the chapel basement. Confirmands should bring the completed copy of the Acts worksheet, your Bibles and notebooks. Please ask a parent to be present since we are looking for a date for the class trip to Ephrata Cloisters (probably a Sunday afternoon). If you have to make up work from year 1, please come on one of these Sundays to a **make-up session** with Pastor Kropa: August 4, 11, 25 or September 1 at 9:15 a.m. in the Nursery.

10 Commandments Sermon Series

During the summer months we have been focusing on the Ten Commandments. Did you know that the ELCA and the UCC number the commandments differently? Have you even thought about what the world would no longer need if everyone automatically obeyed the commandments? Join us as we consider these things.

Thrilling Thursday

Come join us for an ice breaker, craft, game, snack, devotions and an Arts in the Park program featuring Aerial Dance by Elaine Crump on August 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All ages welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. The program is geared to ages 4-12, but all are welcome.

Village Volleyball

Thank you to those who have volunteered to set up and take down supplies for Village Volleyball. Our August sessions will be held on August 7, 14, and 21. If you have background clearances and would like to volunteer, sign up on the sign up sheet at church, or call the office to volunteer. It is great to be a community fun spot.

Corn Fest & Hoe Down Needs Your Help

Just a reminder to sign up to help with the August 17 Cornfest and Hoe Down. We will need some help with set up, cooking and serving food, and clean up. If you cannot sign up on Sunday mornings, call the office to volunteer your time. Confirmands will receive 1 participation credit for each 2 hours of work.

Joyful Noise (Coin) Offering

On the first Sunday of August, we will have our pails out for a Joyful Noise offering to be given to Holy Joe's Café, a program begun by a UCC congregation in Connecticut. Here is a summary of their program which they have posted on their web page: www.holyjoes.com. "Since 2006, Holy Joe's Café has been sending free coffee to U.S. military bases around the world. Our mission is simple: serving a little bit of home to those who serve our country. From our humble beginning collecting cans of coffee in a church in Wallingford, Connecticut, we've grown to serve billions of cups of coffee and helped open over 300 coffee houses throughout the world, mainly in the Middle East but also in places like Africa, Europe, and even on board Navy ships and in NATO military hospitals. Where the troops go, we go."

Acolyte and Crucifer Schedule

8/4/19	Wyatt Miller, Madelyn Miller, Bowie Richetti, Elijah Richetti and Logan Watkins
8/11/19	Outdoor Service
8/18/19	Madelynn Miller, Wyatt Miller and Avery Dixon
8/25/19	Kara Benfield, Jace Longacre and Alayna Watkins

Procedure if Quorum is not met at July 21 Special Congregation Meeting on Heating System

The required quorum to hold a Congregation Meeting is 70 Active Members. There is no provision in Huff's Union Constitution and Bylaws for voting by absentee or proxy ballot.

Because of the urgency to replace the church's boiler before the upcoming heating season, if quorum is not met on July 21, a meeting will be scheduled for Sunday August 11 within the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services. Those Active Members who attend the meeting on August 11 shall constitute a quorum and are authorized to act on this matter even if less than 70 are in attendance. This procedure is in compliance with Pennsylvania Non-profit Corporation statute.

Since the proposal includes adding a water treatment system, 2/3 of votes cast must approve the proposal.

If the vote is done on July 21, then the August 11 meeting will not be held.

Questions about the meeting or vote, contact Tess Woloszanski at tess314@windstream.net. Questions about the project, contact Bill Stoudt or a Council member.

Ladies Aid Society

The next meeting of the Ladies Aid Society will be on Wednesday, August 7 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 mason jars, please bring them to the Chapel. We will need them for late Summer early Fall when we begin making Chow Chow.

Pastor's Article:

Dear Christian Friends,

I recently enjoyed time walking the labyrinth in a group of eleven people who gathered to spend time in this form of prayer. We all talked about feeling more at peace, at noticing things like the sounds of the birds, which we so often take for granted.

Christians know the value of taking time for God. Through the centuries, people have gone on pilgrimages, not just to get somewhere to see something particular, but because the journey itself changes them. When we leave our comfortable lives, and dare to travel into something new, we open ourselves up to what we've been burying by our busyness.

We may have been keeping busy because we don't want to deal with particular thoughts or feelings. Grief is difficult, so some people use their jobs as a good excuse to focus on work, and so not deal with the sense of loss and pain. Others get so busy with doing good deeds they don't take time with God, in prayer or in reading the scriptures and thinking about them. Soon their lives look frantic, rather than Christ-inspired. They are doing the right things, but they've lost the connection to Jesus, who calls his followers, not just to do good, but to follow him, experience his love, and to stay connected to him so that each day his followers become more Christ-like.

What can you do to signal to your body that now is the time to focus on God? How can you invite your painful feelings into the presence of God, so that God may heal you?

Some people go to a quiet spot, outdoors or within their homes. Some light a candle as a signal to themselves, that this is their time with God. Fidgety people often feel confined by sitting silently, so walking or rocking in a rocking chair might help (this is part of the soothing a labyrinth walk does) Some say a silent activity such as fishing releases their tension and opens them to God's presence in nature.

You might have to try a variety of things to see what feels comfortable for you. The only thing not to do, is to do nothing to keep your relationship with God. Some days you may feel nothing happens, some days you may feel so close to God you feel euphoric. Both are common experiences. Even in "dry" periods of prayer, do not abandon your closeness to God. God remains, whether we sense him every time we pray or not.

Praying that you will have a deep and fulfilled prayer life,
Pastor Jane Kropa

Pastor's Sabbatical

After seven years, an ordained pastor serving Huff's Union Church receives a 12-week Sabbatical--a time to rest, renew, and come closer to God. Pastor Kropa has agreed to take 3 weeks of Sabbatical time per year, for four years, to make it easier for Huff's to keep moving forward with our new outreach projects. This year is her fourth year of Sabbatical time. She returns to her pastoral duties on Saturday, August 3.

Why do mainline denominations, like the ELCA and UCC, recommend Sabbatical time for pastors? In order to keep pastors from burning out from the amount things they do during their ministry, especially the tragedies they encounter as they walk with people through their lives, pastors are encouraged to take time away, to rest, pray and reflect on God's goodness and love. Some pastors travel, others spend time with family members or find other ways to clear their brains of pastoral burdens. Pastors return to duty refreshed and renewed, so they may again be effective in proclaiming the promises of God and walking with people who are in distress. If the congregational leader fees lost, it can negatively effect the entire congregation. Sabbatical work as preventative measures for congregational health.

How can the congregation grow spiritually during a pastor's time away? The Congregation often realizes how competent they are, what they can accomplish because they have experienced good leadership and have themselves grown in faith and abilities to handle a variety of issues. They are eager and ready to move forward when their called pastor returns.

Any requests for emergency pastoral care should be directed to the office during office hours, and to Pastor Kozlowski, from Calvary UCC in Barto, after hours (484-529-2241) Pastor Gade may be called from July 22-August 2.

Huff's sets aside \$500 yearly so that there will be money in the budget to cover pastoral supply during these weeks. Sabbatical supply pastors are paid an hourly wage plus mileage. Sunday morning supply pastors are paid according to NEPA Synod ELCA guidelines. We thank Kim Adamson for being our Sabbatical supply worship leader on July 21 and 28.

Pastor Kropa's Sabbatical report will be in an upcoming newsletter.

CHURCH FAMILY

MEMORIALS:

In memory of Erma Sheetz
Marie Bower

FUNERALS:

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

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

8/8 - Paul & Nancy Meitzler
8/15 - Charles & Carol Zwoyer
8/19 - Alfred & Christine Henson
8/20 - Charles & Connie Wayes
8/23 - Barry & Julia Sheetz
8/25 - Melvin & Norma Greiss
8/27 - John & Bonita Geist

BIRTHDAYS

8/2 - James Garber
8/4 - Patricia Zetner
8/10 - Jean Britton
8/10 - Gloria Romig
8/12 - Marvin Diehl
8/17 - Ruth Acker
8/22 - Fern Hoffman
8/29 - Joyce Kemp

Local Needy Meals

Times of hardship can hit at any time and we may find ourselves in temporary need for food on the table. We have started a program where Huffs Church members, many of whom are great cooks, can donate a few meals for the needy. When that time comes, we will have the meals readily available. We are supplying the containers and labels. Please take a pack home with you. When you have an extra serving, pop it in your freezer and then transfer to the kitchenette freezer. Clearly label and date the container. We thank you for helping the local needy by putting a hearty, healthy and yummy meal on their table. The nutrition we supply for their tummy, fortifies their heart as well.

August Picnic = Cornfest Hoedown

The August 17th picnic will have a whole new format this year! There will still be food available from 4:00 to 8:00 p. m. as before. But the menu will be more simplified – hamburgers and hotdogs, corn on the cob, chips, watermelon, ice cream, and cookies, along with drinks. Are you interested in taking home a cake? We'll still have cake walks - try your luck at one of those – still only a quarter a shot!

Then get ready for the entertainment - **Keith Brintzenhoff and The Toad Creek Ramblers** will be playing music from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. so we can enjoy a hoedown under the band pavilion! Between sets we're also planning to do some country line dancing to popular country-western songs. [Some benches will be available around the perimeter of dance area, but feel free to bring your own lawn chairs.](#)

What about kids? There will be some activities available, like cornhole, target games, volleyball, and Gaga ball. We're even planning an old-fashioned fish pond!

Remember, this will be a **rain or shine community event!** If weather conditions require, we will move event indoors. Please spread the word to friends and neighbors. We hope to see you there!

Special Offering for August

The special offering for August is our own congregation's mission and ministry. Please pray for our outreach into our community, and our ability to help people connect to God's loving presence through the Holy Spirit. Please continue to support us as we try to live out Christ's call to love God with our heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Lunch Bunch - August 20 at PC's Pub in Pennsburg at Noon.

Small Group

First Saturday of the month, August 3, 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.

Manna Contemporary Worship

Manna Service is on Sunday, August 18 at 9:00 a.m. Manna is our contemporary worship experience held in the upstairs of the chapel building. We will meet on the third Sunday of September.

PSEC News

General Synod, the national gathering of the United Church of Christ, took place in June of 2019. Here is a report from this assembly.

The United Church of Christ reelected its General Minister and President and elected a new Associate General Minister on Monday, June 24, at its General Synod in Milwaukee. The nomination of the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson to be Associate General Minister of Global Engagement received overwhelming support from the delegates, going forward without discussion. She will serve in that position for a four-year term, which begins August 1.

The Rev. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President, received significant support. He also faced statements in opposition to his election. The lengthy debate centered on the issue of returning a white cisgender male to leadership of the denomination. “Three women have spoken powerfully from that pulpit,” said Andrew Reuther of the South Central Conference. “An ally to women would step aside so that they may lead,” said Sophia Heilman of the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference. “An ally to people of color would step aside so that they may lead.”

Chris Watson of the New York Conference disagreed. While she believed that it was time for a woman, or a person of color, or an LGBTQ person to lead, she felt other guidance as well. “John Dorhauer has the Holy Spirit,” she declared.

Nearly all of those who spoke in opposition simultaneously declared their own affection for Rev. Dorhauer and his leadership, yet believed it vitally important to put their concerns on the record. Most also said they believed he would be elected, as he was with a thirty-vote margin.

The vote itself, which required a 60% majority, was carefully reviewed by the recorders and general counsel at the request of the Synod moderator because of concerns over the performance of the wireless electronic voting devices. Delegates reported that they were not receiving the expected feedback indicating their votes had been counted, and indeed the total vote count did not equal the number of devices issued. Moderator Norman Williams reported, however, that even if all the “missing” votes had been opposed, the 60% threshold would still have been reached. “I am grateful for the opportunity to serve another four years and to lead this denomination,” said Dorhauer in a brief interview following the vote. “I am fully committed to the mission and will seek to do

PSEC News (continued)

all I can to inspire and empower the members of this denomination in partnership with the Holy Spirit to fulfill that mission. “I deeply appreciate the voices that shared their concerns about my leadership and the extension of the term to another white cisgender male.” National Officers Elected at General Synod.

The Rev. Eric S. Anderson, Pastor of Church of the Holy Cross UCC in Hilo, Hawaii.



***We all have a story.
We are all a part of God’s story.
What’s your story?***

3 Great Loves was originally introduced at General Synod 31 in 2017 and was reaffirmed at General Synod 32 as our denomination-wide story telling initiative.

In the coming years, the United Church of Christ will collect and lift up the stories of our local churches and affiliates. Stories about how we are living out God’s love and expressing love of neighbor, children and creation, our 3 Great Loves. From knitting clubs making hats for newborns; collecting food for food pantries; standing together against a social injustice; no story is too insignificant to share.

The hope of this initiative is to tell, and share the story, of how individuals, churches and organizations of the UCC are impacting and transforming the world as covenantal partners united in our common purpose, vision and mission. Work that lives out the love of God and leads to creating a just world for all.

There are 3 ways to share your story:

- Tell Us Your Story by using this link: <https://www.ucc.org/3greatloves> and clicking the “Tell Us Your Story” tab
- • Share your story on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter using #3greatloves in your posts
- • Send your story to us: 3 Great Loves, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115

Food Pantry

Bob Stockdale and Elvin Keiser, volunteered and packaged 181 food items which were gratefully received by The Allentown Rescue Mission. Thank you to all those who faithfully contribute to this mission.

Topton Home - "Peaches & Ice Cream"

It's once again summertime, therefore, late in August, we have been serving the guests at the Topton Home "Peaches & Ice Cream" for over 60 years.

This years date is Friday, August 23, 2019. I'll need volunteers to peel and slice peaches in the Chapel starting at 12:00 p.m. I will also need five or six volunteers to serve at 2:30 p.m. The serving volunteers need to be at the Topton Home by 2:00 p.m. Last year we served over 150 guests.

If you'd be interested in the preparation or serving, see me during Sunday School hour or Church Service or call me at (610) 841-0639.

Thank you for helping to continue with the mission at our church.

Serving Christ, Carl Arner

PUZZLE

Bible Scramble: Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage.

NDA EH OOLKED PU, NDA WSA EHT RIHC NME
TSNIGCA TRIHE TSIGF TONI EHT YUTSRREA. NDA
EH WSA SOLA A TRNIECA RPOO WWOID TSNIGCA
NI TTRIHHE WTO TSMIE. NDA EH SIDA, FO A UTTRH
I YSA UTON YUO, TTHA TSIH RPOO WWOID THHA
TSCA NI ROME TNHA YTHE LLA: ROF LLA TSHEE
VHEA FO TRIHE UNNEDCBAA TSCA NI UTON EHT
SRONIGFFE FO OGD: UTB EHS FO RHE YURPNE
THHA TSCA NI LLA EHT VNLIIG TTHA EHS HDA.

**Thank You Notes Received:
“Meditation Time”**

I just wanted to send a "THANK-YOU" to Rachel and Rhoda who are parishioners at your Church. On Wednesday June 12, 2019, I was returning from a day trip and drove past your Church. I parked my car and as I approached the entry there were two woman standing there and they invited me in to meditate and to have refreshments.

I explained that I have been doing geneology research and my cousin had mentioned she had made a visit to your Church. I told them my maiden name was (Arner) and both ladies responded that Carl Arner had been the Church Historian for may years. I checked with my cousin and she knows Carl and Minerva. Small world!

Rhonda stayed to greet others who may wish to come into meditate this day and Rachel graciously gave me a tour of your beautiful house of worship.

I appreciate the kindness of these two woman and you are blessed indeed to have such a well-maintained house of worship. The blended colors you have on your ceiling and walls gave me an ethereal feeling of comfort. My meditation was realized during the tour of your Church with Rachel.

May your congregation continue to thrive as you have surely done for 275 years. Congratulations!

Sincerely,
Denise (Arner) Moyer

Hospitality Committee - Needs Volunteers

After years of faithful service as Hospitality Committee Chairperson, Shirley Fluck is leaving the committee effective July 15, 2019 as are Pearl Hoffman and Mary Szilli. Our thanks to these women for their faithful service.

We need new Hospitality Committee Volunteers and a new Chairperson. Please talk with Theresa Woloszanski or Pastor Kropa to volunteer.

Our next Hospitality event is the first Sunday of November with refreshments after the 10:30 a.m. worship.

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 morning 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).

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 (see above) know if you can help.

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

And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.

Solution to Bible Scramble: