

# HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



**June 2019**

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Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburdis, 18011  
Church office: 610-845-2626 Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541  
Pastor Home Office: 610-944-5923  
Office email: [office@huffschurch.com](mailto:office@huffschurch.com)  
Website: [www.huffschurch.com](http://www.huffschurch.com)  
Facebook Page: Huff's Union Church, Inc.  
Facebook Group: Huff's Union Church

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

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

## **Confirmation News**

**June 2** (*note date change*) **9:15 a.m.** chapel. Pantomimes. **5:45 p.m.** (*plan to eat at 6:00 p.m.*) Covered dish in chapel with confirmation families, confirmands and mentors and families. We will have a competition to review first year learnings - mentors vs. confirmands vs. confirmation parents and siblings.

**Acts Worksheet.** The completed worksheet will be due at first class on September 8, 2019.

**Worship attendance.** Please continue signing in when you attend worship, and please help with being acolyte and crucifer. Classes resume Sept. 8. at 9:15 a.m. Parents invited (to schedule).

## **Eagle Scout**

Congratulations to Seth Meitzler upon completion of the requirements to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Kerry and Lucy Meitzler cordially extend an invitation to the congregation to attend the ceremony to formally bestow the rank of Eagle Scout upon their son, Seth, on June 2nd at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

## **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School is quickly approaching. Our theme this year is To Mars and Beyond. Our VBS will be held on July 8-12, 2019 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. for children ages 3 to 12; younger children welcome if with parent. Throughout the week the children will be participating in storytelling, music, science, crafts and games. Each evening the children will receive a light snack before going home. Questions? Please get in contact with Rachel Welch at 484-226-0333. You may find the registration form on the website ([www.huffschurch.com](http://www.huffschurch.com)) or pick one up on the bulletin table at church. Mail in completed forms, scan and e-mail form, or put in Rachel's mailbox at church (in the annex room).

## **VBS Help Requested**

VBS is in need of help for the following areas:

Preschool: One person to help our youngest group. We have had a large turnout the past 2 years and need some extra help in this area.

Crafts: One person to lead crafts and a few extra hands to help the children to create their crafts.

We also need a few people to help children with bathroom breaks throughout the night. If you are interested in any of these areas, please contact Rachel Welch at 484-226-0333.

## ***Wacky Wednesday: June 26 from 6:30-9 p.m.***

First of three free kid-friendly events (June 26, July 23 and August 8) featuring ice breaker games, activities, crafts, a special program, snacks and devotions for ages 3 to 12.

Wacky Wednesday's special program features Mrs. U Zoo (Pam Ulicny) presents a reptile show based on her work with "Forgotten Friend," a reptile sanctuary. Pam has been a high school biology teacher for over 25 years and has done many presentations all over Schuylkill County to hundreds of elementary aged students. Pam knows what both the animals and children can tolerate, and respects the individual's preference to get closer or to hang back. No pre-registration necessary.

## **Acolyte Schedule**

- 6/2/19 Bowie Richetti, Elijah Richetti, Tucker Ruch,  
Austin Hall, Alex Hersh
- 6/9/19 Chase Longacre, Madelynn Miller & Wyatt Miller
- 6/16/19 Brooke Boyer, Avery Dixon & Gavin Hess
- 6/23/19 Kara Benfield, Chase Longacre & Alex Hersh
- 6/30/19 Alayna Watkins & Logan Watkins and volunteer

## **VILLAGE VOLLEYBALL RETURNS IN 2019**

Summer will be here before you know it, and on Wednesday evenings between June 19<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup>, Huff's will once again be inviting its members and the community to play recreational volleyball in the park from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Last year the rain interfered with many of our chances to play but hopefully this year will be different! We'll have the net up by the first church picnic on June 15<sup>th</sup> already, so anyone can get a jump start then! Any age or ability is welcomed, so please come out to join the fun!!

We are now looking for volunteers to be greeters for this. You will be asked to open the bathrooms, get out the ball and set up a water cooler, and then, of course, welcome players! The net will already be set up. Please sign up on the list hanging on the bulletin board if you can help. Or contact Tess Woloszanski at [tess314@windstream.net](mailto:tess314@windstream.net). You need to have your background checks on file in the office (or get them done and turned in to us) in order to be a greeter.

Please contact Tess if you have any questions about helping. Use her email or call 610-618-6399.

May God bless our efforts to gather some folks in some wholesome family fun!

## **Father's Day Simple Breakfast**

On June 16 we invite people attending either worship service to stay late or come early to a simple breakfast from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. on the street level of church. We look forward to having a time of Christian community and refreshment and hope you'll be there.

## **Lunch Bunch**

Meets Tuesday, June 18, 2019, at noon, at Bower's Hotel in Bowers, for our Rejoice, it's Lunch Bunch.

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

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

## **Small Group**

Small Group meets on June 1 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Please bring your Bible. You may bring food to share and stay for lunch from 11:30-12:30.

## **Return of Meditation and Prayer Times at Huff's Church**

Beginning June 5, the church will be open for personal meditation, reflection and prayer every Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. In our busy and sometimes chaotic lives, we need a quiet place in which to find serenity.

We will need to have two persons at the church whenever we have the church open. Please contact Jane Arndt at 610-462-8164 if you have a few hours to dedicate to being a welcoming presence.

## 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

6/1 - Ruth Leibensperger

6/1 - Barbara Rupp

6/5 - Joyce Grim

6/23 - Marion Miller

6/24 - Dolores Haas

6/29 - Harold Kemp

6/30 - Betty Kline

### ANNIVERSARIES

6/20 - Bruce & Shirley Cressman

6/24 - Charles & Nancy Hoffman

6/25 - Richard & Patricia Fenstermacher

6/26 - Milton & Mary Kerchner

6/29 - Marvin & Audrey Diehl

### Those Who Are Graduating

We would love to congratulate our members who are graduating from high school, college, or any special programs. Please get the information to our office ([office@huffschurch.com](mailto:office@huffschurch.com), call 610-845-2626 or place information in Edwina's mailbox at church) and we will add our words of congratulations to your announcements in subsequent newsletters. We are proud of **ALL** our graduates!

### Congratulations

Congratulation to Ryan Rauenzahn, who graduades on May 11 from Kutztown University with a B.S. in Physics and Mathematics. Ryan will be attending Renssalaer Polytechnic Institute and studying for a PhD in Physics.

### 7th Annual Make Music Upper Perk

On Friday, June 21, the 7th Annual MAKE MUSIC UPPER PERK - All free! All day! All over! Come to one of 20 venues to enjoy music in 5 areas. There will be musical fun for all ages from 8:30 a.m. till 10:00 p.m. Over 300 musicians. All events are open to the public. For a full schedule and venues go to [ValleyArtScene.wordpress.com](http://ValleyArtScene.wordpress.com). You can also “Like” and follow MMUP on Facebook for up-to-date information, and hit “Going” on the event page.

## **June Church Picnic**

*Every summer Huff's Church hosts three important summer events: June picnic funds park repair and upkeep, July picnic supports Ladies Aid, and August Corn Fest supports our general fund.*

**First picnic—Saturday June 15, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Music is by the Midnight Special 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**\*Free Children's games and activities 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at each event** Contact Tess Woloszanski 610-682-2652 or email [tess314@windstream.net](mailto:tess314@windstream.net) if you have current background checks on file with the Church office and would like to help with children's games. Volleyball net will be up for the season. GAGA ball pit will be set up at picnics.

**\*Help is Needed is needed in many places and times** - Sign-up sheet at Church, or contact Joanne Benfield at 610-845-2978 or email: [jobenfield1213@gmail.com](mailto:jobenfield1213@gmail.com)

**\*Picnic Food Preparation and Baking in Chapel lower level**  
Thursday June 13 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Friday June 14 from 7:00 a.m. to about noon

Saturday June 15 from 7:00 a.m. to about noon - Both food prep and Park set up.

*There are many projects throughout each time and a lot of help needed, so even if you can't come right at the beginning, please come as soon as you can and give about 1 to 4 hours of your time.*

**\*Serve and prep food in Refreshment Stand and other tasks during the picnic.**

Generally 2 shifts for servers and food prep during the picnic of 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. including cleanup but various areas have different shifts so check sign-up schedule.

**\*Baked Goods for Sale & Cake Walk** – Sheet cake, layer cake, nut bread, brownies (about 20 in pack), cookies (about 20 in pack), cupcakes or muffins (about a dozen in pack). Made from scratch or box mix. Put on disposable tray or plate with a note listing flavor. Bring to Chapel on Friday by 11 a.m., or Saturday to Park until 1:00 p.m. or after 3:00 p.m.

**At all Huff's Church picnics, for the enjoyment and safety of all, please leave animals at home other than Service Animals.**

## **Tools of Hope for Father's Day**

If you would like to honor an important man in your life, or give something in his memory, we are sponsors of the Tools of Hope offering through Church World Service. Cost is \$10.00 for each person honored. Please use the form available on the bulletin table in the upper Narthex (after Mother's Day) or the one included with the June newsletter. Place money or check and filled-out form in an envelope and put in the offering plate or office manager Edwina Fox's mailbox downstairs (in the back room between the stair towers) by June 10. We will have the names of those honored in the bulletin on Father's Day, June 16.

## **Labyrinth Walk**

Have you ever walked our labyrinth? It is located at the far end of the parking area next to the Chapel. We are hosting a Labyrinth Walk on Monday, June 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Rain date is Tuesday, June 25 at 7:00 p.m. Come and join us in a spiritual journey.

## **Jean Reinert Memorial Scholarship**

Congratulations to Danielle Bortz, this year's recipient of the Jean Reinert Memorial Scholarship which is given to a graduating senior who has continued active membership and service in Huff's Union Church beyond confirmation. Danielle received \$1000. Danielle has volunteered in a variety of ways, most recently as our council's youth voice.

## **June Special Offering**

June's offering will be for Lutheran Congregational Services, who provide lay Eucharistic visitor training grief groups, and many other services without our communities. They also sponsor Camp Noah, a week of daily summer camp for children who live in areas where tragedies or disasters have occurred .

## **Manna Contemporary Worship Service Second Sunday**

Our contemporary worship service will be held in the upstairs of the chapel on Sunday, **June 9** at 9:00 a.m. to free the 9:00 a.m. hour for the Father's Day simple breakfast on June 16.

## **Pennsylvania Southeast Conference article: All of Our Churches Are in Transition!**

Exodus 15: 22-25

*<sup>22</sup>Then Moses ordered Israel to set out from the Red Sea,[a] and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. <sup>23</sup>When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter. That is why it was called Marah <sup>24</sup>And the people complained against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” <sup>25</sup>He cried out to the Lord; and the Lord showed him a piece of wood he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.*

I think about Moses and the people of Israel a lot lately. I think about these people who left slavery and followed Moses into the unknown. They didn't know where they were going, they just left everything and followed Moses! The scripture above though shows that it didn't take them long to start grumbling. Three days without water and they started grumbling. Instead of trusting God who had made it possible for them to be freed from captivity, they grumbled! Later in their journey they even wanted to go back to the way it was—slavery!! Thank God for Moses, Moses cries out to God and God provides cool, fresh drinking water.

All of our churches are in transition! We are like the people of Israel wondering in the wilderness. We know what being church used to look like, but now things are changing and we don't really know what the church of the future will be nor do we know how to get there. With all my heart, soul, and mind, I trust that God will provide. I don't know what tomorrow holds for the Church, but I know that God holds the Church's tomorrow.

As your church wonders in the desert, I would like to suggest that you take a look at the 2017 Local Church Profile. Now, don't jump to conclusions; this doesn't mean that your pastor is leaving.

In 2017 the UCC created the new Local Church Profile for two reasons. The first reason is that this new profile can be done any time in the life of a congregation to assess who you are, who is your neighbor—meaning the people who live around your church building—and who is God calling you to become.

The second reason is that the Search & Call Process is taking too long in the UCC. Therefore, once this profile is completed, when your pastor resigns or retires, after some initial work, the church will be able to interview candidates.



## **PA Southeast Conference** (continued)

This will cut the Search & Call Process in half.

The new Local Church Profile will take your congregation on a spiritual journey. Unlike the old document, this will require everyone to be involved! This will enable all voices to be heard. There will be a 3-6 week discernment period where the entire congregation will be asked to be in prayer about the future of their congregation and then everyone will come together and share what they heard in response to their prayers.

If your church would be interested in doing this new thing, please let me know at [morris@psec.org](mailto:morris@psec.org) or 484-949-8774 ext. 302. I would love to hear from you and share with you this exciting possibility.

- Rev. Sharon Morris, Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call

## **Pastor's Article**

Dear Friends in Christ,

In this June newsletter you will see an article written by Rev. Sharon Morris, the Association Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the UCC, which encourages congregations to think of themselves as always in transition. Pastor Morris reminds us not to fall into panic at this title, but to take seriously the fact that God promises to do new things, and these new things should involve each and every gathering of God's people.

A key question in the journey is to ask, "Who is my neighbor?" Pastor Morris recommends congregations work with the 2017 Local Church Profile to think about this question, and to pray about it. It just so happens that our profile team has been working on a part of this profile since fall of 2018. We have publicized some of the answers the group has received newsletters in 2019. We are not nearly done meditating upon and considering what God is calling Huff's Union Church to do, but now seems a good time to focus on the call to pray about this for a six week period when the congregation gathers for worship. We will begin to do this from June through July of 2019.

Does this mean there will be changes ahead? Right now I foresee no big changes, but I do hope we will continue to pray about growing and changing to better meet the needs of those who are not coming to worship. What is replacing worship in the lives of community residents? If worship is meaningful to us,

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

why is it not being perceived as meaningful to others? How can we better share our faith stories to help someone see what a difference faith has meant in our own lives.

I have been considering what difference being a church-going Christian has made in my life, and here's my short answer: I think of myself, and my tendency to anger and frustration. I realize that being a Christian means I need to work on hope, and on letting go of past hurts, in order to live the full life Jesus promised to me as one of his disciples. I realize that even the Lord's prayer reminds me I need to forgive, as I pray "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." I am not patient, yet the Bible reminds me that God's time is not my time, and God may be working on something even when I can not perceive any progress. Again and again I marvel at what being shaped by years of church-going has done for me, and I wish others could also experience the mellowing that may happen when one seriously considers who Jesus asks us Christians to be. Paul the apostle says that it is not Paul alone who lives, but Christ who lives in Paul. This is what happens when one accepts God's gift of the Holy Spirit, and tries to be governed, not by whatever is in fashion, or by one's own feelings, but by the presence of Christ. I know I've still got much to learn and improve, but I can also see what my life might have been like without the church. I am glad I stayed connected to a church; it has made a difference for me.

In Christian faith, Pastor Jane Kropa

## **Hearing Assist Devices**

Hearing assist devices are available on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. You may use these to hear the worship service anywhere in the building. If you feel you need to sit downstairs because you are coughing, these enable you to hear the service. We are having the broken devices repaired. If you find a device that isn't working, please let someone know so we may have it fixed. Sometimes it just means the batteries need to be replaced.

## **Church Opens Day-Long Mission Trip Up to Others**

St. Peter's UCC in Pine Grove is traveling to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg on July 27. Mission Central is a mission of the Susquehanna Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. They are a fantastic resource for disaster ministries and much more, who are continuing to assist in the flood recovery efforts in eastern PA. The purpose of the trip is to do some work around their warehouse. The group from St. Peter's will be leaving their church at 7:45 a.m. and working in Mechanicsburg from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. To get more information or register please contact Pastor Jason Stump at 757-630-6577 or [pastorstump@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstump@gmail.com).

## **Allentown Rescue Mission**

Our first meal for this year was prepared and served to 49 men at the Mission on Sunday, April 7, 2019.

Many thanks to Minerva Arner, Robert Arner and Val Arner for preparing everything on Sunday morning. Also to the following members who later transported the food and then served the meal at 4:00 p.m.: Val Arner, Brooke Boyer, Shelly Boyer, Dave Funk, Gary Moll, Joyce Reinert and William Reinert.

Without your support, this meal would not be possible. The men at the Mission always appreciate us coming and our next meal will be in the Fall of 2019, possibly October.

Serving Christ, Carl Arner

## **Ladies Aid**

There will be no Ladies Aid Meeting in June due to a scheduling conflict with the Choir Picnic on Wednesday, June 6th. It will be held on **Wednesday, May 29th at 7:00 p.m.**

### **The Ladies Aid Officers for 2019-2020 are:**

President - Joyce Kemp

Vice President - Mary Szilli

Recording Secretary - Brittney Haines

Financial Secretary - Marie Bower

Treasurer - Kay Kriebel

## **Thank You Notes Received From Boyertown Area Multi-Service**

Dear Friends at Huffs Union Church,

On behalf of Boyertown Area Multi-Service, I would like to thank you for your generous sponsorship of the 2018 Festival of Trees event. If you did not have a chance to share in the festivities first hand, you would be happy to know that the community support was astounding!

Thanks to you, over \$27,000 was raised to help thousands of people in need in our local community!

Lydia Messinger  
Executive Director

## **From Phoebe Ministries**

Dear Congregation Members at Huffs Union Church

Thank you for your gift of \$10 to Phoebe Berks Village. Because of your generosity, Phoebe is able to meet the needs of older adults, through diverse residential options, comprehensive care and and exceptional educational programs. Thank you again for your support.

Stacey L. Prohaska  
Executive Director  
Office of Philanthropy

## **QPR Suicide Prevention**

Huff's layperson training on June 18 at 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel and October 7 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

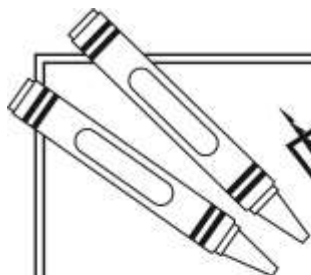
Huff's welcomes you to a QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention training session on June 18 (or Oct. 7) from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Rohrbach Chapel across Conrad Road from the church (540 Conrad Road, Alburtis) This program for teenager to adults was developed by Dr. Paul Quinnett, in order to make talking about suicide something one may honestly discuss in order to help people find help and hope. The program features a powerpoint presentation and includes a handout with emergency information and phone numbers of suicide prevention hotlines and programs. Rev. Jane Kropa, a certified QPR instructor, leads this program.

## **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.

### **Raegan Pilert**

I became connected to Huff's Church when I was baptized in 2004. My entire family are members of Huff's as well. I wanted to be confirmed since my cousins were. They enjoyed it and felt more connected to the church. I really feel that Huffs is the church I want to belong to. All the members of this church family are so friendly and helpful. I enjoy helping at events, as it allowed me to know the other members better. In my future here at Huffs, I plan to help with anything I am needed for because I have enjoyed everything I have done so far. I chose John 3:16, for God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. I chose this because I feel so much more connected to God, and my beliefs. I feel this is because of my connection to Huffs and my church family, that we all believe, all together, have eternal life.



# PUZZLE

## GOD'S amazzzzing BEES

God created bees to pollinate flowers and make honey. Psalm 119:103 says God gives us something that's even sweeter than honey.

*Directions: Find the word that fits each clue. Then write the answers in the correct numbered honeycomb shape to complete Psalm 119:103, NIV.*

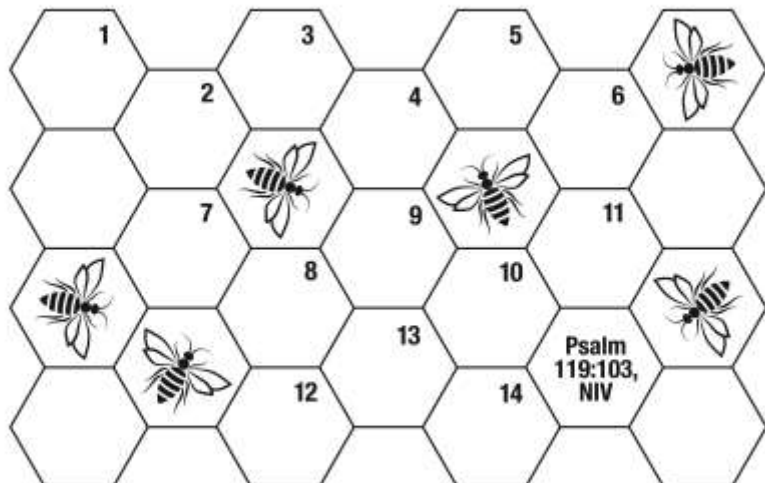
### CLUES

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. rhymes with cow       | 8. the tongue's job       |
| 2. opposite of sour      | 9. more sweet             |
| 3. pronounced "R"        | 10. rhymes with pan       |
| 4. rhymes with four      | 11. golden liquid         |
| 5. Letters create _____. | 12. Pleased ___ meet you. |
| 6. not too or two        | 13. rhymes with fly       |
| 7. rhymes with by        | 14. body part             |



### WORD BANK

than your to are  
sweet sweeter How  
my honey mouth  
words to taste, my



Answer: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103, NIV

## April 2019 Treasury Report

	April	Full Year Actual	Annual Budget
Monthly Income	\$38,768.37	\$105,243.71	\$319,352.00
Monthly Expense	\$26,840.49	\$112,758.51	\$318,885.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$11,927.88</b>	<b>-\$7,514.80</b>	<b>\$467.00</b>
40101 - Pass thru Income Account	\$150.00		
60100 - Pass thru Expense Account	\$1,734.02		
<b>Account Balances</b>	<b>April 30</b>		
Designated Fund	\$66,205.82		
General Fund	\$689.09		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$66,894.91</b>		
Oyster Pie Fundraiser Profit	\$2,638.54	(835 Pies Sold)	

**TOOLS OF HOPE FOR FATHER'S DAY - JUNE 16, 2019**  
**\$10.00 EACH**  
**Deadline is June 10, 2019**

**Examples:**

In Memory of:  
In Honor of

Our Father, Jim Smith by Karen, Steve & Annie Smith  
Pete Walters by Sue, Bobby & John

In Memory of:

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By:

In Honor of:

By:

Please make checks payable to Huff's Union Church.  
Note: Tools of Hope deposits can be put in the Office Manager's Mailbox.  
Your kind donation will be sent to the Church World Service.