

# HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



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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 Class**

Feb. 2 - 9:15 a.m. chapel downstairs.

Feb. 9 - 9:15 a.m. chapel downstairs. After church: pizza lunch  
Class resumes at Ephrata Cloisters around 1:40 p.m.

Feb. 23 - 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Class is from 11:30 a.m. to  
12:30 p.m. - bring sack lunch. Meet at Ludwick Funeral  
Home at 1:00 p.m. Leave around 3:00 p.m.

## **Souper Bowl of Caring**

The first Sunday of February (February 2) is the day for our Souper Bowl of Caring offering, which will go to support the four agencies who feed the hungry in our area (Pennsburg Open Link, Boyertown Multi Service, Friend, Inc. and the Allentown Rescue Mission). We will accept monetary donations, cans of soup and/or boxes of crackers.

## **Ephrata Cloisters Trip**

You are invited to visit Ephrata Cloisters with the Confirmation class on Sunday, February 9. We invite those who sign up on the church bulletin board to share a pizza lunch with us (you may bring food items to share); beverages will be provided. After lunch, we'll drive to Ephrata and meet at Ephrata Cloisters (about 1 1/4 hours drive - 632 West Main St., Ephrata). We will watch a video about this historic site and learn about the people who lived there, then have a guided tour. Remember to dress warmly since buildings on our tour will not be heated. Cost of admission to the cloisters is \$9.00 for adults and non-member children. Confirmands have their way paid; other church children and youth pay \$2.00. If you'd like to meet us there but not share lunch, please speak with Pastor Kropa. In the event of bad weather, trip is cancelled. Watch for make-up information.

## **Offering Envelopes for 2020**

The offering envelopes for 2020 are now in the church office. If you have not picked yours up, please call to have the envelopes ready for you to pick up on the Sunday you'll be at worship, or pick them up in the office (610-845-2626). In an effort to be good stewards of the church's resources, we have not been mailing boxes of church envelopes. We can mail you a few envelopes upon request, or you can use a Welcome envelope from the pew rack. We credit to your giving statement any offering mailed to the church office.

## **Veterans Counseling**

Congregations in the Upper Perk area are asked to share this information: On the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, Alan Schweizer of the VA's Vet Center is at The Open Link in Pennsburg for individual confidential counseling sessions. Alan is an ex-Marine and has his masters degree in counseling and specializes in issues around trauma. A Support is soon forming. More information through the Norristown Vet Center (Pennsburg location) 215-823-5245.

## Acolyte and Crucifer Schedule

2/2/2020	Kara Benfield, Jace Benfield, Maisy Funk Bowie Richetti and Elijah Richetti
2/9/2020	Avery Dixon, Malachi Estrella and Tucker Ruch
2/16/2020	Chase Longacre, Madelynn Miller and Wyatt Miller
2/23/2020	Avery Dixon, Alex Hersh and Logan Watkins

## Lenten Schedule

In 2020 Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. We hold a joint worship service at 7:00 p.m. with our partner congregation, St. Peter's Union, at St. Peter's Union Church. The full Lenten schedule will appear in the March newsletter.

## Lenten Meals - We Need Help

If you can prepare a Lenten meal for up to 50 people in the chapel basement, please contact Tess Woloszanski. We will pay for ingredients you use for the meal and beverages.

Dates are: March 4, 18 and April 1, 2020. Meals are served buffet style at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel basement. Costs for the meal are covered by a free-will donation.

## Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, February 18 at noon at PC's Pub in Pennsburg. We pay our own way and have a great time of Christian community.

## Special Offering for February

The special offering for the month of February is the **ELCA Hunger Offering**. This offering helps people throughout the world have the basics of life. It provides not only food assistance, but water, education and other community development aid.

Offering envelopes are in the pew racks and literature racks of the church, or simply use a blank envelope, mark it Lutheran Hunger Fund, and either place filled envelope in the offering plate or mail it to Huff's Church. Include your name if you wish to be credited for this gift on your giving statement.

## **2020 Union Council Members with Telephone Contact Information:**

President: Martin Kriebel, 610-845-2960

Vice President: Theresa Woloszanski, 610-682-2652

Secretary: Rachel Welch, 484-226-0333 (also UCC pres.)

Treasurer: Michele Boyer, 610-621-4574

Jane Arndt, 610-462-8164 (also ELCA pres.)

Elaine Crump, 610-966-9552

Michael Diehl, 610-737-0661

Gary Fogel, 610-845-2509

Conner Isamoyer, 610-750-4008

Lisa Kauffman, 610-367-5363

Jim Meitzler, Sr., 610-845-2581

Tom Mitchell, 610-845-2978

Ian Richetti, 502-396-1535

Rochelle Schantz, 610-823-3680

Bill Stoudt, 610-682-6761

Elaine Witman, 215-679-8915

Youth voices (through May 2020) Madelynn Miller and Logan Scott

## **Lay Your Burdens Down Sunday**

On Sunday, February 16, at 8 and 10:30 worship services, we will have a chance to focus on God's healing presence in our lives, and Jesus' invitation to lay our burdens down. We will be using rocks as symbols of the burdens we are giving up. Manna Contemporary Worship will meet at 9 a.m.

## **Violence in the Bible/Evening Bible Study**

Anyone is welcome to watch a video talking about Violence in the Bible and discussing this theme on Monday, February 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel. This will be a two-part wrap up session for our evening Bible study theme from last year: Violence in the Old Testament. This video brings in the New Testament and Jesus' teachings on violence.

## **Ladies Aid News**

The next meeting of the Ladies Aid Society will be on Wednesday, February 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. All ladies are invited to attend.

The Ladies Aid will no longer be making chow chow and red beets. See Joyce Kemp if you would like to learn about organizing this project. Should no one be interested, we will not need any more canning jars. If this project folds, we will need to make up the Ladies Aid donations to church. In the past few years, Ladies Aid has given up to \$11,000.00 to the Church General Fund.

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.

## **Food Pantry Donation**

The day after New Year's, Food Pantry volunteers, consisting of Elvin Keiser and Sue and Bob Stockdale, boxed the congregation's generous bounty of boxed and canned goods for delivery to Open Link in Pennsburg. We were met by Brooke, an enthusiastic, very efficient employee of the non-profit. She quickly helped us unload our 317 pounds of food as it was a busy morning of dispersal for them.

Brooke later told me they had served 220 households in December. Food comes from personal donations, churches and other philanthropic groups as well as through Philabundance, a corporation that connects grocery stores with non-profits. Two participating stores in our area are Walmart in East Greenville and Redners in Red Hill.

Fresh summer produce also comes from a community garden in Kistler Biting YMCA Park in East Greenville.

Brooke wanted us to pass on her gratefulness for our generosity.

## **Valentine's Challenge**

In honor of the Christian love we share, we send out the challenge to receive 14 gift cards that will be passed along to Boyertown Multi Service in honor of Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14. Please turn in your gift cards (please indicate the amount) in the offering plate. It is a wonderful thing to share Christ's love with others.

## **Pastor's Article**

Dear Christian Friends,

New endings and new beginnings are often challenging. We wonder what the future will bring. We tend to compare it with the past, and sometimes either romanticize or demonize the past. It's hard to keep perspective, yet change is always with us.

The big change for me is moving into retirement. I will be joining another UCC congregation after I leave Huff's, and hope to do some pulpit supply when pastors are on vacation or in case of illness. I might do some volunteer work, as my schedule with my husband and the grandchildren permits. There is a lot to reflect upon, to remember with love, and also to release.

No pastoral relationship is ever perfect. I'm sure I've disappointed everyone at least once, not returning a phone call as soon as you wished, not said quite the right thing when you hoped I'd be more supportive, I know there are myriad ways pastors can let parishioners down. I ask your forgiveness for not being super-human, for not being a stand in for God (who always does hear and understand), for being merely human with all my faults and quirks. I rejoice that you accepted my leadership, and made me feel welcome here. I thank you for being there for my family. I thank you for all the times you said you were praying for me; I'm sure many times it was your prayers that brought me through difficult times.

I wish you well as we finish out our time together. I hope you'll feel free to drop in, to chat, before I leave. My final day will be March 1. The times I've scheduled to be available are Monday, February 3, from 9:00-noon and Tuesday, February 4, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Kelsey Doney, our Ministry Assistant, has moved to Pittsburgh, and is trying to help with the transition time through working on communications off-site. Please continue to communicate with her, especially updating background checks (it seems lots of us are due at the beginning of 2020 to update our clearances) using her e-mail at [ministry@huffschurch.com](mailto:ministry@huffschurch.com). You may also call the office and we will forward your questions to her and she will call you with her answers.

I am sure that, with God's blessing, we can enjoy our remaining time together while looking to the future God plans for us.

Pastor Jane Kropa

**Pennsylvania Southeast Conference**  
**“That They May All Be One”**

“That they may all be one.” It’s not just a motto it’s a mission. Bringing God’s people together. That is what we UCCer’s do. The United Church of Christ is committed to an intentional and radical hospitality that welcomes a beautiful rainbow of people to The Table. But everyone is capable of falling short, of failing to pay attention and missing the mark of the ideals and values to which they aspire. We pay particular attention to those “missed marks” in Lent—the one’s that keep others from the Table and those that keep us from fully opening ourselves to God.

Lent is a time of repentance “to move beyond the mind you have” or “to think differently afterward.” Both understandings say more than just “sinner change your cheating ways.” To think differently afterwards suggests an awakening to the notion that our past thinking has been wrong. And so, consequently, was our past acting.

Some of Jesus’ first Gospel words are, “Repent and believe the Kingdom of God is near.” Think differently afterwards and know that the kingdom of God is here. That is where the good stuff of life begins. In order to discover and live into the kingdom, we stop waiting for Jesus to come and do our work for us. We step from terrified spaces of rightness, look at the vastness and complexity and mystery of the universe and say, “Wow, I don’t know. Maybe I’m wrong. Maybe we can work together. Maybe all can be one.” And in that space, we’ll hear our still speaking God say to us collectively, “around the Table, in My presence, you already are.”

- Rev. William P. Worley, Conference Minister  
(from February 2019 *Communitas*)

**Lenten Coin Folder**

We will have Lenten coin folders available in church at the end of February. This year Lent begins on February 26.

**Dena Lebo-Funk and Maisy Funk - Volunteering at St. Vincent's Mission**

In early March, church member Dena Lebo-Funk and Maisy Funk will be spending two weeks volunteering at St Vincent's Mission in David, KY. This mission in the Appalachian mountains of eastern Kentucky is located in one of the poorest counties in the country. They support the local community in a variety of ways including operation of a food bank, a used clothing and household items bank, children's programs and teach faith in combination with cooking, gardening and finance classes. They also work with volunteers to repair homes. St Vincent's is currently in need of the following new items: teen back packs, school folders, notebook paper, notebooks, scissors, glue sticks, pencils. They are also in need of the following used items: men's jeans, men's boots, pots and pans and small appliances (not TVs). Drop off items by February 23rd in the labeled donation boxes in the narthex and coat rack. Dena and Maisy will transport the donations on behalf of the church.

**Thank You Notes Received:**

**From: Phoebe Ministries - Phoebe Allentown**

**To: Huff's Union Church Congregation**

Thank you for your congregation's gift of \$10 to Phoebe-Allentown.

Sincerely,

Stacey L. Prohaska  
Executive Director of Philanthropy

**From: Phoebe Ministries - Phoebe Berks Village**

**To: Huff's Union Church Congregation**

Thank you for your congregation's gift of \$1,600 to Phoebe-Berks Village.

Sincerely,

Stacey L. Prohaska  
Executive Director of Philanthropy



## **Dear Members of Huff's Union Church,**

As some of you may already know, my husband's job has required him to move with our family to Pittsburgh for 18 months. Because I really enjoy working at Huff's, I proposed that I try working from home, via computer and telephone, with occasional days in the office as I am in town. Many of my duties can be completed this way, and my job description will be changed to reflect this. Union Council has details.

For me to effectively work with all of you, I'd like to share my phone number 484-221-1374 (I do text) as well as remind you of my e-mail: [ministry@huffschurch.com](mailto:ministry@huffschurch.com). I will do my best to be available to you. Many of you are receiving reminders to update your background clearances. Please be in touch with me if you need additional instructions. I can walk you through the procedure over the phone, or send you paper copies for you to fill out and send. Remember that volunteers do not have to pay for PA state police background checks or PA child abuse clearances.

I look forward to continuing to serve as your Ministry Assistant.

Kelsey Doney

## **February Small Group**

The small group will meet on Saturday, February 1, at 10:00 a.m. Come with your Bible. If you'd like to stay for lunch, please feel free to bring something to share and eat with us from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

## **Trip to Ludwick Funeral Home in Kutztown**

The Confirmation Class will meet at 1:00 p.m. to tour the Ludwick Funeral Home in Kutztown and talk with the staff about what happens when a person dies. If you have ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at a funeral home, you are welcome to join us, no matter what your age. We usually finish around 3 p.m.

## **March 1st Celebration**

To help celebrate Pastor Kropa's retirement on March 1st, there will be a covered dish meal in the chapel following the 10:30 service. Please bring something to share. If you have any questions, call Shirley Fluck at 610-367-5058. Everyone is welcome!

## **Congregational Spring Meeting**

We will hold our annual congregational spring meeting on Sunday, March 8 (bad weather date March 15). 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 will be available at the entrance to the Sanctuary. This report details the ways Huff's Church has done ministry and mission in 2019. If you see an area of church life in which you would like to participate, please talk with a committee member or the committee chairperson.

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

## **Church Family**

### **Memorials:**

**To the General Fund in memory of Mary Kerchner**

Minerva & Carl Arner

Ruth Reinhard

### **Funerals:**

Please pray for the family and friends of Mary Kerchner who passed away on December 12, 2019.

Please pray for the family and friends of Jonathan L. Miller who passed away on January 5, 2020.

### **New Members:**

Welcome to Mike and Kate Moyer who joined Huff's Union Church on December 22, 2019.

### **College Graduation:**

Congratulations to Noah Gambler, son of Karl & Jennifer Gambler and grandson of Albert & Donna Muth, who graduated from Penn State with a degree in Accounting on December 20, 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.

### **BIRTHDAYS**

2/7 - Lorraine Moll	2/12 - Nancy Yeakel
2/13 - Rosealie Arndt	2/16 - Elvin Keiser
2/27 - Franklin Adam	2/20 - LeRoy Leibensperger
2/21 - Arlene Hill	2/21 - Charles Landis, Jr.
2/22 - Ernest Haas	2/24 - Mae Hoffman
2/26 - Joyce Schantz	2/27 - Willard Strunk

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

2/20 - LeRoy & Ruth Leibensperger

### **Mitten Tree**

How beautiful was our Mitten Tree decorated with an assortment of caps, gloves, scarfs and two beautiful dolls. I had two church elves, Jace and Max Benfield, help to remove all items on a Sunday after church and separate them. This was the total:

Caps	52
Gloves	98
Scarfs	12
Combination	10
Dolls	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>

The above items were delivered to our local UPS on Monday for shipment to St. Vincent Mission in David, KY. For all the years that you have contributed to this Mission Project of our church - this years donations surpassed all the past years. Again many thanks for your generosity for this mission. I'll share with you the gracious Thank You that I'll receive.

Sincerely  
Carl Arner

# December 2019 Treasury Report

	December	Full Year Actual	Annual Budget
Monthly Income	\$44,583.14	\$387,713.27	\$319,352.00
Monthly Expense	\$39,348.36	\$422,091.66	\$318,885.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$5,234.78</b>	<b>-\$34,378.39</b>	<b>\$467.00</b>

40101 - Pass thru Income Account  
 60100 · Pass thru Expense Account

Account Balances	December 31
Designated Fund	\$53,529.58
General Fund	-\$6,049.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,479.79</b>