

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER July 2026

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburtis, PA 18011

Church office: 610-845-2626

Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541

Pastor: Mike Todd, 484-965-0300, miketodd1968@gmail.com

Office email: office@huffschurch.com

Website: www.huffschurch.com

Facebook Public Page: Huff's Union Church, Inc.

Facebook Group Page: Huff's Union Church Member Group (Request to join and we will add you to this group.)

MISSION STATEMENT

To reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ!

Making Disciples: Inside and Out.

UCC slogan: God is still speaking.

ELCA slogan: God's work, our hands.

WORSHIP IN THE PARK WITH SPECIAL MUSIC

We will again offer Worship in the Park during July and August. **The first, third and fifth Sunday worship services** (July 5, July 19, August 2, August 16, and August 30) will be held **in the sanctuary**. **The second and fourth Sunday worship services** (July 12, July 26, August 9, and August 23) will be held **in the park** at 10:30 a.m. If inclement weather, worship services will be moved into the sanctuary.

Invite friends and neighbors to enjoy live music at the 10:30 worship services in the Park on July 12, and August 9.

July 12 **Wyomissing Band**
August 9 **Expressions Sax Quartet**



CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH AT HUFFS!

July 12th will be an exciting day at Huffs Church! We were lucky enough to secure the wonderful **Wyomissing Band** for our special music outdoor worship service! This community band was formed in 1923 and plays a variety of music as it holds concerts all around Berks County.

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country, the Wyomissing Band will also play patriotic music for an additional 30 minutes after the service. Besides the concert, there will be food available for donation in the form of hot dogs with various fixings, chips, and drinks. An ice cream truck will also be on site to sell all kinds of goodies, including soft serve ice cream, sno-cones, popcorn and cotton candy. This is a nice way to kick off the VBS week, which begins on Monday, July 13th.

Lawn games will be set up that reflect ones that would have been played back in the early days when our country was being formed. These may include bowls (bocce), hopscotch, jacks, quoits, and bean bags. Kids will also be invited to make a “buzz saw” toy that day, like colonial kids might have played with.

If you have any photographs from the bicentennial, please bring them along to share! Label them well. We would like to set up a table where everyone can see them. If you don't have photos but have other information to share that relates to our country's bicentennial or semiquincentennial, please let Tess know so we can include it.

Lets make July 12th a day to remember at Huffs! Plan on coming for the worship service at 10:30 and then stay for the food, fun and fellowship!

FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S

Friend, Inc. will bring a truck on Thursday, July 2, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Huff's Church parking lot for food distribution to those in need. If you can volunteer to carry items to vehicles, contact Tom Mitchell.

HUFF'S CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING

The next meeting of the Huff's Church Auxiliary will be held on Monday, July 6, at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Bible Study will meet on Saturday, July 11, in the Chapel beginning at 10:30 a.m. Bring your Bible and a bagged lunch. If you have any questions, call Lea Kline.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

There will be **NO** Council Meeting in July, unless a situation arises that needs to be taken care of.

PICKLED RED BEETS

Pickled Beets can be bought after church services or during summer events, like picnics. Quarts cost \$9 and pints cost \$5. We only make these once each year, so get them while they last! (Please write out checks to Huffs Union Church.)

LUNCH BUNCH

Members and friends of Huff's Church are welcome for a time of fun and fellowship for lunch on Thursday, July 16, at 11:45 a.m. at Main Street Pub in Bally, PA We choose and purchase our own lunches. If you would like to come to Lunch Bunch, text or call Tom Mitchell by Sunday, July 12.

PRAYER PARTNERS SHEET

If you signed up for Prayer Partners, check the sheet on the bulletin board in the lower level of the Church to find your prayer partner to pray for throughout the year or check with John Leeser.

JULY SPECIAL OFFERING

In July we support the Huffs Church Mission and Ministry. Use a pew envelope or mail a contribution marked Huffs Church Mission and Ministry. On the envelope include your name and address with your donation.

A NEW SIGN IN OUR FUTURE?

An idea has been suggested to update our Church campus sign (next to the schoolhouse) from the manually changed letter board to an internally lit EMC. EMC stands for Electronic Message Center, and you may have seen the new signs at Palm Schwenkfelder Church and New Goshenhoppen Church in the Upper Perk Valley that are of this variety. Reed Sign from Red Hill has provided us information on these signs and they've installed several custom sized EMCs over recent years at churches, schools, businesses and other public venues. Here's what we know about EMCs: The Electronic Message Center is a dual-sided internally lit energy efficient LED sign that can be edited from a laptop/computer to present updated church information at a moment's notice. The messages presented can be still or animated and will scroll through several messages for the church such as service times, picnic dates, milestone anniversaries, and scheduled musicians or guest speakers. These signs are custom sized to fit within existing sign structures such as our brick structure in front of the schoolhouse. The manufacturer is WatchFire which is American owned and they've been in business for over 75 years. According to Reed Sign, WatchFire EMCs come with a 5 year parts warranty and a 10 year service warranty. So, now what do you think? Would a new electronic sign in front of the schoolhouse meet the ministry and marketing of our church? Put some thought into it and let Jim Meitzler Jr. or Tess or any other council member know your thoughts on the matter. THANKS!... We are looking for feedback.

VILLAGE VOLLEYBALL 2026

On Wednesday evenings, July 1, July 8, July 15, July 22 and July 29, Huff's invites its members and the community to come to the church park to play recreational volleyball from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Any age or ability is welcomed. This is a nice time to meet with others and actively have fun! Ask your friends to join you so we can get some games going! The GaGa ball pit will also be set up, which is a popular activity for kids and teens. Tess will put the volleyball in a bucket at the net and leave bottled water behind the office for players' use. The net and Gaga pit will be set up the entire summer, so these activities will also be available at the summer picnics and following outdoor worship services.

HUFFS CHURCH AND HEREFORD TOWNSHIP THROWS

We have two throws that we are going to raffle off this summer - a Huffs Union Church one, and a Hereford Township one. The Huffs Church one includes a picture of the church, Rohrbach Chapel, our School House, our Park, and even the lovely old maple tree which once stood next to the church! The Hereford Township throw also includes a picture of Huffs Union Church, Mensch Mill, Huffs General Store, and other local structures.

If you are interested in owning one of these vintage textiles, watch for them to be raffled off at the summer community picnics at Huffs Church, and on July 12th during our America 250 celebration.

Chances to win will cost \$1.00 a piece, or 5 chances for \$3.00. Look for the tables where these will be displayed during our summer events. The drawing will be done near the end of the July 25th picnic. (You do not need to be present to win.) Two numbers will be drawn - the first one drawn gets to choose which throw they want; the second number drawn will get the other throw. Proceeds from the sale will be used to help defray the costs of our summer events.

PASTOR'S REPORT

As Americans, this July is special as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of declaring independence from England and the oppressive rule of King George. Our Declaration of Independence in 1776 continued a long tradition of people seeking freedom to live their lives without government restriction that continues to this day. From the pilgrims in the early 1600s fleeing from persecution by Queen Mary to our forefathers breaking ties with the English monarchy to enslaved Africans fighting as Union soldiers to earn their freedom to the Civil Rights era of the 1950s and 60s and up to today as men and women of numerous marginalized groups continue to advocate for their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

As Christians, this July is just one more month to be grateful for almost 2000 years of freedom in Christ our Lord. The personal freedoms that we experience here in the United States must be constantly guarded and maintained as men of power seek to bypass constitutional norms and take control away from the people. But the freedoms we experience as beloved children of God, forgiven of our iniquities, and promised eternal joy in heaven are given by the grace of God. No one can take them away from us. We don't have to fight anyone to keep our salvation. The empty tomb was God's ultimate declaration of independence for all of us, but the revolution that provided that independence was fought by only one man, Jesus Christ. So enjoy your semiquincentennial celebrations this month, but always remember our true Savior, who is Jesus Christ our Lord.



FOOD PANTRY

Food and personal goods totaling 229 pounds were delivered to Boyertown Multi-Services recently. Thank you to all who donated the wonderful variety of goods. Also thank you to Elvin Keiser and son James for helping load

the items for delivery. The egg cartons continue to be donated which makes the donating egg farmers happy. It is a blessing to help others through this mission.

Submitted by Sue Stockdale

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS AVAILABLE AT HUFF'S CHURCH

Discover the joy of making music! Our Music Director Kathy Anthony is offering private piano lessons and private voice lessons to the community for ages 8 through adult at the Church. Mrs. Anthony holds a B.A. in music performance in voice/piano from Moravian University with additional studies from Berklee College of Music and with faculty members from the Curtis Institute of Music. She has a love for all genres of music: pop, classical, jazz, R&B, etc.

Whether you are a beginner or aiming to refine your skills, these personalized sessions are tailored to help you reach your musical goals. Lesson times of 30 minutes to an hour are based on student's age and are available on Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the possibility of offering another day/evening based on the response. A parent or guardian must remain at the church for any students under the age of 18.

Initially, as we adjust to the response for lessons at Huff's, this July is designated for interview lessons with Kathy to see if lessons are right for you. If so, then to make a commitment to a semester's worth of lessons starting in August. Cost is \$50 for 30 minutes or \$100 for an hour, with the length determined by the student's age.

This time around the first semester begins in August 2026 through December 2026. The second semester begins in February 2027 through May 2027. Payment is made at the first scheduled lesson of each month. Lesson books will be selected for the student's level to purchase.

If interested or for more information on piano and voice lessons at Huff's Union Church, see Kathy after Sunday services or call the Church Office at 610-845-2626 and leave your name and phone number and best times for Kathy to contact you.

JULY 25 CHURCH PICNIC

Huffs Union Church is having a **picnic on Saturday, July 25, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The Majestics will provide the entertainment from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We are looking for many volunteers to assist with food preparation and to serve food & drink during the event. Two shifts: 3:30-6:00 p.m. and 6:00-8:30 p.m. Helper sign-up sheets are in the church or contact: Tess Woloszanski or Lisa Kauffman.

Prep work will begin in the Chapel on:

Wednesday, July 22 - 6:00 p.m. - Make Pie Crumbs

Thursday, July 23 - 6:00 p.m. - Make Pie Shells

Friday, July 24 - 7:00 a.m. - Bake Pies and Prepare Food

6:00 p.m. - Bag Pies & Wash Dishes

Saturday, July 25 - 7:00 a.m. to Noon

Prepare Food and ready the Park

Baked goods for the cake walk and bake sale are needed and can be brought to the chapel or park on the morning of July 25 or at the beginning of the picnic.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you are available to help. Thank you for volunteering your time!



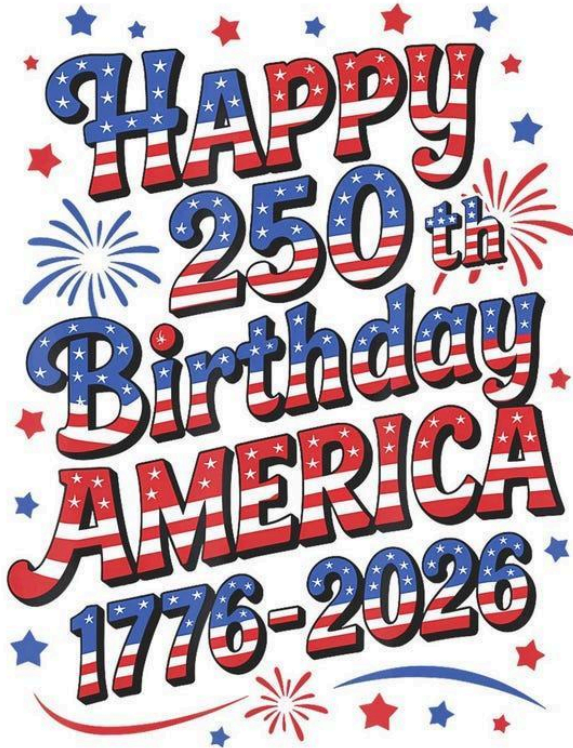
FUTURE CLOTHING DRIVES

Our church has donated clothing to the Hope Rescue Mission of Reading over the past few years. We will continue to support their organization in this way.

Council has decided to have more regular clothing drives so that people can better predict when these might occur. The plan is to have a fall (September/October) and a spring (April/May) collection each year. So, if you are cleaning out your closets and were wondering about what to do with the clothes, our next drive will be this fall. Watch for an article in the newsletter at that time that gives more specific information and dates.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER BREAK

During July and August, Children's Sunday School will take a break and resume in September. Coloring and puzzle pages will be available. In the Church both the Narthex (entrance hall outside the Sanctuary) and Nursery on the lower level are available for parents to use as they like and can still hear the worship service. ***Sunday School teachers and helpers are needed.*** The curriculum is easy to use online and designed for a multi- age group including suggestions for telling the Bible Story, crafts, games, etc. Join a team of teachers who sign up to teach one, two, or three months spread out through the year as works best for your schedule. Helpers are also needed to ensure we have 2 adults with PA Child Protection Clearances every Sunday. Contact Kara Benfield, ministry assistant at ministry@huffschurch.com for more information.



CHURCH FAMILY



Dennis Marsh, son of Stephen and Lisa Marsh was baptized on Sunday, May 24, 2026.

Melody Keller, daughter of Jasper and Jasmin Keller was baptized on Sunday, June 7, 2026.

Wyatt Keller, son of Jasper and Jasmin Keller was baptized on Sunday, June 7, 2026.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:



We are honoring our members who will 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.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Mabel Bittenbender	7/1	Patricia Crossley	7/5
Earl Derr	7/6	Gloria Adam	7/6
Rita Gracely	7/6	William Stoudt	7/9
Paul Adam	7/14	Charles Zwoyer	7/14
Carol Zwoyer	7/17	Marie Bower	7/29

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

NO WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES IN JULY



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendar for July 13 through July 17, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m! All children in the community ages 3-11 are invited to join us for a week of fun and

play as Huff's Church hosts **Snowball Mountain Challenge**, which is based on Philippians 4:13 NRSV, **"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."** **Snowball Mountain Challenge** is an exciting winter sports event where kids become challengers, gearing up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about faith and resilience. Every day includes storytelling, music, science, games, and a snack.

Playtime and learning about the Bible help children grow. They are an important way for children to interact and use their creativity.

Our 2026 VBS is coordinated by Melissa Benfield along with a great supporting group of staff and helpers. To register or to find out more call/text Melissa Benfield.

Come to the park on July 12th to pre-register! We will have an ice cream truck on the premises that will have all kinds of goodies for purchase, like soft-serve ice cream, cotton candy, sno-cones, and popcorn. This is a good time to sign up your children and have them meet the VBS teachers. There will also be an America 250 celebration there that day following the 10:30 am outdoor worship service. See the newsletter article for more information.

Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Giving for operating expenses	67,712	71,023	(3,311)
All other income	16,229	15,485	744
Total income	83,941	86,508	(2,567)
Expenses	132,053	142,182	(10,128)
Operating deficit	(48,112)	(55,673)	7,561
Giving for capital improvements	108	625	(517)
Estate gift	14,678	14,250	428
Capital expenditures	(21,500)	(57,500)	36,000
Transfers from Investments	62,500	98,298	(35,798)
Net change in cash	7,674	-	7,674

Balance Sheet	5/31/26	4/30/26	12/31/25
Designated funds	73,143	75,733	78,665
General funds	1,796	3,040	5,198
Total assets (a)	74,939	78,773	83,863

(a) excludes investments managed by Tiller