

# HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER

## summer NEWSLETTER

**June 2023**

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Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburttis, 18011

Church office: 610-845-2626 Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541

Pastor: Rev. John Steitz

Pastor's Home Office: 215-820-1650

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.**

### **THOSE WHO ARE GRADUATING**

We would like to honor our members who are graduating from high school, college, or any special programs. Please get the information to the church office or place it in Edwina's mailbox at the church. We are proud of **ALL** our graduates!



## **JUNE PICNIC - BUT DIFFERENT**

Join us on Sunday, June 25, 2023, for food and fellowship in the park. Following the outdoor worship service, we will be selling picnic food, like hotdogs and hamburgers, and some different options, like pasta salad. We'll also be selling soups – by the cup, pint, or quart. So if you missed out on having an opportunity to buy soup during our sandwich and soup sale, here's your chance! Also, bring a can or box of food to donate to our food bank and get a free cookie!

Remember, picnics at Huffs are not exclusively for our church members – they are community events because everyone is welcome! Spread the word! Invite your friends and neighbors! Plan to spend a fun afternoon with us in our beautiful church park. Besides eating, we are offering a few fun activities:

- Are you good at the game of Cornhole? Get a partner and sign up for our Cornhole Tournament! There will be a small entry fee, but also a monetary prize for the winners!
- The Gaga Pit will be set up for youth, as well as the volleyball net. How about Ladder Ball or Spike Ball? Are those games that you like to play? Look for some activities like that to be around the park.
- There will also be kiddie activities available, like bubbles, sidewalk chalk, and bean bag games.
- Do you know an amateur performer who might like an opportunity to do some entertaining that day? Do you know someone who likes to sing, play guitar or another instrument? How about a standup comic? Or maybe someone who wants to try their hand as a DJ? This could give them a chance to get some experience and exposure in front of a crowd. Let us know if you have any leads!

If you have questions or suggestions, call Tess or Lisa. If you'd like to help by donating cupcakes, brownies, or cookies, that would be appreciated by those with a sweet tooth!

## **FOOD PANTRY UPDATE**

Two hundred fifteen pounds of food and personal care items were packed up and delivered to Boyertown Multi-Service at the end of March. They were very grateful for the donations.

Talking with Kathy from Friend, Inc., we learned one of their greatest needs is dog and cat food. If anyone wants to donate for the animals, just mark it for Friend, Inc. and we will be sure to get it to them on their next Food Truck distribution day. The pets will appreciate it!

Thank you to all who share their gifts with others.

Submitted by volunteers: Elvin Keiser, Sue and Bob Stockdale.

## **HUFFS CHURCH AUXILIARY**

The next meeting of the Huffs Church Auxiliary will be held on Monday, June 5th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Everyone is invited to attend. Please continue to save your Redner's & Radcliffe's receipts. There is a basket for these in the church next to the elevator.

## **BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

There will be no Bible Study Group meetings this summer. They will resume in September of 2023.

## **PLANNING FOR JULY 22ND CHURCH PICNIC**

Saturday, July 22, 2023, will be our only church picnic in the park this summer with music by The Majestics. Please mark your calendars and keep this date in mind when you are making summer vacation plans. In order to make this a successful picnic, we need your help!

Lots of volunteers will be needed on:

Thursday, July 20, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. for food preparation

Friday, July 21, 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for food preparation and baking

Saturday, July 22, 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for food preparation and park clean-up

Picnic shifts: 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

## CONFIRMATION CLASS 2023

Please join us in celebrating the graduating confirmation class of 2023. The ceremony will be held on Sunday, June 4, 2023, in the sanctuary. Confirmands are: Jace Benfield, Maisy Funk, Nicholas Hunsberger, Gabriella Moyer, Elijah Richetti, and Tucker Ruch.

Following the June 4<sup>th</sup> worship service/confirmation ceremony, a **covered dish for the entire congregation** has been scheduled in the Chapel, along with a cake to celebrate this special occasion. Please bring a covered dish and/or a dessert to share. This will be a nice fellowship opportunity - a time for other church members to get to know the newest members of Huffs Church a little more personally, and vice versa. It's been a while since we've held a covered dish due to Covid, and we're hoping for a nice turnout. Please plan on joining us that day!



## **FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S**

Thursday, June 1, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Friend, Inc. will bring the food truck to Huffs Church parking lot for food distribution.

About 6 volunteers (age 12 and older) are needed during June, July, and August to assist Friend, Inc, staff to carry items from the food truck to vehicles since most Kutztown University student volunteers will not be available during summer months. If you can help, contact Tom Mitchell at 610-906-2821 and leave your name, phone number and which month(s) you can help. Tom will confirm back to you.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Mark your calendar for July 31 through August 4, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Note date change from any previous announcement due to a scheduling conflict). We invite you to join us for a week of fun and play as Huff's Church will host Hero Hotline, which is based on Romans 14:19, "So let's strive together for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up." Our Huff's Church Hero Hotline Headquarters will be centered over in the park. Superheroes ages 3-11 will join the Professor and our hero, Super Meer the Meerkat, and explore the ultimate hero handbook – the Bible. Kids will learn through Bible stories, music, science, crafts and games.

Planned program activities will end at 8:00 p.m. so families with younger children may leave. From 8:00-8:30 p.m. there will be a time for snacks and monitored free play in the park.

Our 2023 VBS is coordinated by Melissa Benfield along with a great supporting group of staff and helpers. If you have any questions, you can contact Melissa by email [mbenfield429@gmail.com](mailto:mbenfield429@gmail.com). We are in need of volunteers! Please let Melissa know if you can help us this year. Please include your contact information along with the VBS Registration Form.

## **JUNE SPECIAL OFFERING**

In June we support the ELCA organization that arranges for grief counseling sessions, lay visitor training, and other programs that enhance our Christian witness. Use a pew envelope or mail a contribution marked "ELCA Making Christ Known."

## MEMBERSHIP ROLL REVIEW

Chapter 8 of the new Constitution and Bylaws approved by this Congregation in 2022 requires the Membership Rolls be reviewed annually. Following is a brief description of the Membership categories of Huff's Union Church:

- **Active (Voting) Membership** includes Confirmed members who have either Communion or a contribution on record with Huff's Union Church during the previous 24 months. (Communion or contributions at other churches are not recorded by Huff's Church.) Only Active members have both voice and vote at Congregation Meetings and other benefits as determined by Church Council.
- **Associate (Non-Voting) Membership** includes Confirmed members who do not have either Communion or a contribution on record with Huff's Church during the previous 24 months (or a member whose contact information or whereabouts is unknown for the previous 12 months) may be moved with Church Council approval to the Associate Membership Roll. Associate members have no vote at Congregation meetings, do not regularly receive printed newsletters, and have increased donations/costs for use of facilities, cemetery lots, and services such as weddings and funerals, etc. as determined by Church Council. Associate members desiring to request reinstatement to Active Membership shall consult with the Pastor.
- **Friend of this Congregation** is an individual who has been on the Associate Membership roll with no Communion or contribution on record with Huff's Church for at least 36 months or if contact information is unknown for 24 months may be removed with Church Council approval from the Membership Roll of this Congregation and documented as a Friend of this Congregation. Requests to become an active member are made to the Pastor.

Church Council may authorize exceptions to a change in membership status due to an individual's extenuating circumstances.

## CHURCH NEWS

### FUNERALS

Please pray for the family and friends of Arlene Hill, who passed away on April 20, 2023.

### MEMORIALS

To the General Fund in memory of Mae Hoffman:  
Marion & Sandra Miller  
Robert & Sue Stockdale  
Bea Miller  
Jerry & Debra Wetzel

### 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 - Eleanor Gigler	6/1 - Ruth Leibensperger
6/4 - Wayne Fogel	6/5 - Joyce Grim
6/23 - Marion Miller	6/24 - Dolores Haas
6/27 - Bea Miller	6/30 - Carolyn Bauer
6/30 - Betty Kline	

#### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

6/6 - Bill & Sharon Stoudt  
6/10 - Albert & Donna Muth  
6/20 - Bruce & Shirley Cressman  
6/24 - Charles & Nancy Hoffman  
6/29 - Marvin & Audrey Diehl

# Financial Report

	YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Giving	65,988	54,913	11,075
All other income	12,340	8,817	3,523
Total income	78,328	63,730	14,598
Expenses	116,387	126,426	(10,039)
Operating income (loss)	(38,059)	(62,696)	24,637
Capital expenditures	-	(26,667)	26,667
Transfers from Investments	50,000	76,981	(26,981)
Net income (loss)	11,941	(12,382)	24,323

	4/30/23	3/31/23	12/31/22
<b>Balance Sheet</b>			
Designated funds	68,184	78,309	73,887
General funds	12,381	9,856	5,011
Sunday School CDs	4,389	4,385	4,385
Total assets (a)	84,954	92,549	83,283

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs