

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



AUGUST 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.

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES



The first, third and fifth Sunday worship services (August 2, August 16, and August 30) will be held **in the sanctuary**. **The second and fourth Sunday worship services** (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 service in the Park on August 9 to hear Expressions Sax Quartet, our last Outdoor Special Music Service.

The "Expressions Sax Quartet" plays traditional, country, bluegrass and southern gospel music, and will perform during the 10:30 a.m. worship service, followed by light refreshments in the park.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Philippians 2 ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

I recently read a book that moved me, excited me, touched me, and made me think “Yes! That is what the small, community church can do better than anyone else.” It was written by Winn Collier and the book was “Love Big, Be Well: Letters to a Small-Town Church.” The publisher’s synopsis describes it this way:

Jonas McAnn is a weary pastor without a congregation...Granby Presbyterian is a weary congregation without a pastor...When Granby's pastoral search committee and Jonas connect through handwritten letters passed back and forth, something sparks between them—something so real and refreshing that even after Jonas and his family move to Granby, he continues the regular practice of writing letters to his congregation.

Jonas's letters ruminate on everything from fly-fishing to the Nicene Creed. They reveal the earthy spirituality woven into the joys and sorrows of the people of Granby, the community of the church, and Jonas's own unfolding story. Readers will discover what it means for a pastor and a church to do the slow work of ministry in community—anchored by a common place and buoyed by a life of faith that is meaningful, rooted, and true.

We at Huff’s do many things well including collecting and distributing food to local food banks and the wider community; cooking, baking, and serving meals to each other and to picnic attendees; hosting VBS, Parents’ Night Out events, and musical performances; financially supporting the ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and the UCC (United Church of Christ); maintaining historic buildings, cemeteries, and a beautiful park; and much more. We do all of those things well, but they can be done pretty much anywhere.

When the blind man, Bartimaeus, asked Jesus to show him mercy (Mark 10:46-52), Jesus asked “What do you want me to do for you?” Bartimaeus asked to gain his sight, as one might assume, but Jesus didn’t make assumptions. He let Bartimaeus tell his own story, which is a gift in itself. What Huff’s has that is lacking in

many other congregations is the potential to love and connect on a personal, intimate level, and not just with each other but also with everyone else we encounter in our lives. It starts by asking how someone is doing and really wanting to know the answer, but it continues with honestly sharing your own fears and concerns. It's easy to pretend that everything is just fine, but it's a powerful act of love to trust someone with our own insecurities. That is one radical way in which we can value others above ourselves. Peace and blessings, brothers and sisters!

FRIEND, INC. FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S

Friend, Inc. will bring a truck to the Huff's Church parking lot on Thursday, August 6, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for food distribution to those in need. If you can volunteer to carry items to vehicles, contact Tom Mitchell.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Bible Study will meet on Saturday, August 8, 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

Council will meet in the lower level of the church on Monday, August 10, at 7:00 p.m. Contact the Council President or Ministry Assistant for Zoom link.

LUNCH BUNCH

Members and friends of Huff's Church are welcome for a time of fun and fellowship for lunch on Thursday, August 20, at 11:45 a.m. at Chino's Restaurant, 7567 Chestnut Street (Route 100/29), Zionsville. We choose and purchase our own lunches. If you would like to come to Lunch Bunch, text or call Tom Mitchell by Sunday, August 16.

HUFF'S CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING

The next meeting of the Huff's Church Auxiliary will be held on Monday, August 31, at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

JEAN REINERT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The 2026 Winner of the Jean Reinert \$1000 Scholarship was Tucker Ruch. He will begin his college education at Lebanon Valley College with a focus in Business & Environmental Studies.

AUGUST SPECIAL OFFERING

In August 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.

VILLAGE VOLLEYBALL 2026

Village Volleyball and GaGa Ball are coming to the end of the Summer. On Wednesday evenings, August 5, August 12, August 19 and August 26, 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! The GaGa ball pit will also be set up. The volleyball will be in a bucket at the net and bottled water behind the office for players' use. The net and Gaga pit will remain set up for use and will be available following outdoor worship services.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friends to our final Outdoor Worship Service of 2026 on Sunday, August 23rd, at 10:30 a.m. Appropriately leashed/contained pets and livestock are welcome to attend and receive a blessing from Pastor Mike. If you are concerned about your own pet's socialization, feel free to bring a photo. Share this invitation with your friends and neighbors.

CHOIR REHEARSALS



If you enjoy music, consider joining the Huff's Church Senior Choir and/or Handbell Choir.

Senior Choir rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, September 8, at 6:00 p.m. and Handbell Choir begins on the same day with set-up at 7:15 p.m. and ready to play at 7:30 p.m.

Our music director, Kathy Anthony, is usually available after Sunday Worship Services to talk with anyone interested in joining the choirs.

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.

SERMON SEEDS

What will bless you? How can we bless others? Please place suggestions for sermons or activities in the drop box in the church downstairs hallway on the wall across from the Food Pantry.

CLOTHING DRIVES

We will continue to support the Hope Rescue Mission through donations of clothing. The council has decided to schedule these with more regularity to make it easier for everyone to prepare for them. The plan is to have a clothing drive each fall and each spring. So the next one will be this coming fall - probably in September/October. Watch the September newsletter for more specifics.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER BREAK

During 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.

THANK YOU NOTE FROM EDWINA FOX

TO: Huff's Union Church Congregation Members

I would like to take a moment to thank all the Congregation Members who sent me cards and called me, following the passing of my husband, Barry on May 6th.

I would also like to thank the people who donated money to me. I have needed a computer for about two years and will use the money you have so kindly given me to buy a new one.

CHURCH FAMILY

Sage Hazel Michlovsky, daughter of Samuel and Candace Michlovsky was baptized on Sunday, July 5, 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.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Marvin Diehl	8/12	Ruth Acker	8/17
Phillip Leaser	8/19	Gloria Erb	8/23
Joyce Kemp	8/29	Kay Kriebel	8/29

AUGUST WEDDINGS

Danny & Lynne Beitler	8/9	Charles & Carol Zwoyer	8/15
Robert & Sue Stockdale	8/21	Joseph & Connie Szilli	8/29

RALLY DAY/BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Join us for our worship service on Sunday, September 13th, for Rally Day as many families return from summer vacations and fall into more regular routines with work, school, and daycare. We will hear about all of the many ways people can get involved in Huff's Church activities throughout the year as well as offering a special blessing for safety, productivity, and joy for children, parents, and educators alike as the new school year begins.

HARVEST HOME

September 20 will be our annual Harvest Home Sunday where we can celebrate our blessings in the form of food, especially bountiful produce provided by local gardens. This is a nice local outreach for our congregation as it shares its many blessings with those in need. James Reece, Director of Friend, Inc., will be our guest speaker.

Please bring something that day that can be given to the **Food Pantry**. If you have an abundance of home-grown food, like fresh vegetables or fruits that you would be willing to share, that would be wonderful. We will also accept canned or boxed goods if you are able to provide those instead.

Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Giving for operating expenses	79,406	84,633	(5,226)
All other income	17,339	17,958	(618)
Total income	96,745	102,590	(5,845)
Expenses	157,824	169,544	(11,720)
Operating deficit	(61,078)	(66,954)	5,875
Giving for capital improvements	133	750	(617)
Estate gift	14,678	14,250	428
Capital expenditures	(21,500)	(69,000)	47,500
Transfers from Investments	75,000	120,954	(45,954)
Net change in cash	7,232	-	7,232

Balance Sheet	6/30/26	5/31/26	12/31/25
Designated funds	72,937	73,143	78,665
General funds	1,373	1,796	5,198
Total assets (a)	74,310	74,939	83,863

(a) excludes investments managed by Tiller