

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER

May, 2023



Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburdis, 18011

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

Pastor: Rev. John Steitz

Pastor Home Office: 215-820-1650

Office email: office@huffschurch.com

Website: www.huffschurch.com

Facebook Page: Huff's Union Church, Inc.

Facebook Group: Huff's Union Church

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.

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

On May 28th, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, the Topton American Legion honor guard will come to Huff's Church to help in honoring our veterans. Please join us for this special remembrance.

CEMETERY FLOWER CLARIFICATION

According to Cemetery Guidelines:

Floral arrangements, anchors, etc. used as WINTER/CHRISTMAS decorations must be removed by March 1 of each year. Potted plants, natural and artificial arrangements and national flags are permitted for each holiday, anniversary, etc. The mowing contractor has the right to remove deteriorated (spoiled) floral decorations, flowers, plants, and arrangements.

HELP WANTED - UNION COUNCIL IS LOOKING FOR:

1. Individuals to prepare and set up the communion elements on Communion Sundays.
2. Individuals to clean up and put away the communion elements after the service.
3. Someone to take the lead in putting together a new Church Directory. This is **NOT a pictorial directory**. Computer and data entry skills are necessary. Additional information will be provided to individuals expressing an interest. Contact the Church Office to begin the process.

HUFFS CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING

The next meeting of the Huff's Church Auxiliary is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs of the Chapel. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings to help plan ways to support our church.

UPPER PERKIOMEN HIGH SCHOOL A-CHOIR

The Upper Perkiomen High School A-Choir, directed by Mark Thomas, will sing during the 10:30 am worship service on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Come and hear the music of this select choir of students from our area.

MOTHER'S DAY

This year for Mother's Day, we invite you to honor your mother or remember her by making a donation to one of the local food banks. With so many families in need of food right now, you will help to lessen the food worries of mothers in our area. If you like, you can let the church know which food bank you supported or just let Mom know.

SPECIAL OFFERING OPPORTUNITY

The special offering for May will benefit the Lighthouse and Rescue Missions of Reading, which supports homeless men, women and children in our area. This offering is in conjunction with the May Clothing Drive.

FINAL NOTICE FOR CHURCH GIVING ENVELOPES

Church Giving Envelopes were removed from the church after Easter Sunday. If you want envelopes, please call the office to make arrangements for pick-up. Due to the cost of postage, we do not send the full box of envelopes. If you would like to have only a few envelopes sent to you, contact the church office. **Please consider completing an Electronic Giving form for an easy and convenient way to set up automatic transfer from your bank account, which also saves time and money for Huff's instead of offering envelopes.** Return completed forms to the church office or call with questions. **Blank offering envelopes are available to use at the worship service and can be found in the pews and near the offering plates at the rear of the sanctuary.**

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Bible Study Group will meet on Saturday, May 6th, at 10:30 a.m. in the lower level of the church. 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. All are welcome.

FRIEND INC. FOOD TRUCK

Friend Inc. food truck distribution will be in Huff's Church parking lot on Thursday, May 4th, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. If you can volunteer (age 12 and older) any month to carry items from the Food Truck to vehicles, contact Tom Mitchell.

CONFIRMATION IS APPROACHING!

For two years, catechetical students have been learning about the Christian religion in preparation for their confirmation. It has been a challenging journey, since the class began its instruction in the fall of 2021, when masks were still required and Covid was still affecting how worship services were delivered.

The leader during their first year was our interim, Rev. Jennifer Bannerman, and along with Conner Isamoyer's help, she was able to give students a good religious foundation. Those materials focused primarily on the Old Testament stories and personalities of the Bible.

In the fall of 2022, the second-year students experienced a change in curriculum materials with our new Pastor, Rev. John Steitz, at the helm. The instruction became centered on the New Testament, particularly the gospel of Luke. It was primarily delivered via mentors working through the lessons of "Making Disciples" with the confirmands. With Pastor John's recent health difficulties, it has been an especially challenging time as of late. However, the class is closing in on its final weeks of religious instruction and is looking forward to participating in its confirmation ceremony on **June 4th, 2023**, during the worship service.

Confirmands are: Jace Benfield, Maisy Funk, Nick Hunsberger, Gabby Moyer, Elijah Richetti, and Tucker Ruch. Mentors are: Jon Benfield, Lisa Kauffman, Lea Kline, Tom Mitchell, Meghan Richetti, and Tess Woloszanski. A big "Thank You" needs to be extended to these mentors for their incredible help this year!

Following the June 4th 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! 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!

Financial Report

| | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | Variance |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| Giving | 44,607 | 40,135 | 4,472 |
| All other income | 11,066 | 8,488 | 2,578 |
| Total income | 55,673 | 48,623 | 7,050 |
| Expenses | 87,411 | 96,125 | (8,714) |
| Operating income (loss) | (31,738) | (47,503) | 15,764 |
| Capital expenditures | - | (20,000) | 20,000 |
| Transfers from Investments | 37,500 | 57,736 | (20,236) |
| Net income (loss) | 5,762 | (9,767) | 15,528 |

| | 3/31/23 | 2/28/23 | 12/31/22 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| Balance Sheet | | | |
| Designated funds | 78,309 | 68,998 | 73,887 |
| General funds | 9,856 | 12,119 | 5,011 |
| Sunday School CDs | 4,385 | 4,385 | 4,385 |
| Total assets (a) | 92,549 | 85,502 | 83,283 |

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs

RED GERANIUMS

Red Geraniums will adorn the nave of the church for the Pentecost/Memorial Day service on May 28th and Confirmation Sunday on June 4th. Following the June 4th service, you may take your geranium(s) along home. If you would like to place an order, please complete the order form below and submit it, along with your payment, to Robin Diehl, 50 Eric Lane, Alburdis, PA (610) 845-7092) or place it in the offering plate. Orders are due by Sunday May 14, 2023. The cost will be \$4.50 per plant.

GERANIUMS ORDER FORM

of Geranium Plants _____ @ \$4.50 per plant \$ _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

PRESENTED BY: _____

CHURCH FAMILY

FUNERALS

Please pray for the family and friends of Mae Hoffman, who passed away on March 31, 2023.

MEMORIALS:

In Memory of Dennis Miller to the General Fund

Berry Crum

In Memory of Melvin Greiss to the General Fund

Berry Crum

In Memory of Gail Rothermel to the CIF Fund

Berry Crum

In Memory of Beverly Hilbert to the General Fund

Berry Crum

In Memory of Carl Arner to the Carl Arner Scholarship

Berry Crum

In Memory of Katie Danner

Anna Murphy

Ruth Acker

Bob & Diane McHugh

Rodney & Sheila Dreibelbis

In Memory of Michael Acker to the General Fund

Ruth Acker

In Memory of David Arner to the Carl Arner Scholarship

Maryanne Cronk

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

5/7 - Earl Greiss

5/11 - Albert Muth

5/14 - Eugene Bardo

5/15 - Ann Taylor

5/21 - Linda Lorish

5/23 - Alfred Henson

5/26 - Sherry Bardo

5/28 - Lorraine Greiss

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

5/17 - Paul & Jean Adam

5/27 - Terry & Darlene Shaner

GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST & CONFIRMATION

Red Geraniums will adorn the nave of the church for the Pentecost/Memorial Day Service on May 28th and Confirmation Sunday, June 4th. Following the June 4th service you may take your Geraniums home with you. If you would like to place an order, please fill out a form from the May newsletter or available on the Bulletin table in the back of the sanctuary. Include it and your payment in an envelope and mark it "Geraniums for Pentecost". You may either drop off your order at the office or place in the offering plate or mail to Robin Diehl. Orders are due by Sunday, May 14th.

CLOTHING DRIVE DURING MAY

A clothing drive is being held for the men, women and children of the Lighthouse and Rescue Missions of Reading. They need new underwear and sweatpants, along with lightly used pants, shirts, dresses, shoes, belts, hats, scarves, purses, sheets, blankets, and coats of all sizes and seasons. A box will be placed on the lower level of the church, by the coat rack, near the entrance to the elevator, during the month of May to receive your donations. Cash donations are also welcome, and we have designated the special offering for the month of May to this effort.

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

We will again offer Worship in the Park during June, July, and August. As before, the first and third Sunday worship will be held in the sanctuary and the second, fourth and fifth Sundays will be held in the park. Our first outdoor worship service will be held on June 11, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

Prayer Partners

We will be putting prayer partner sign up sheets in the bulletins on May 7 through May 28. Please fill out and place in the offering plate. Prayer partners pray for one another throughout the year. John Leaser will match people and have the list ready for Sunday, June 11. You may also contact John directly at birdmanjhl@aol.com.

Name: _____