

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



July 2021

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburdis, 18011

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jennifer Bannerman's

Pastor Bannerman's Home Office: 570-778-7524

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.

UPDATED COVID 19 GUIDELINES

As a result of Governor Wolf lifting Covid restrictions in Pennsylvania the end of June, Church Council has updated restrictions that had been in place during the pandemic.

In all buildings on campus, face masks will be optional for everyone who is fully vaccinated but will still be required for everyone else. Any activities taking place outdoors will not require masks.

Beginning with the July 4th church services, communion will be offered in the pews, with ushers who are masked distributing the elements.

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

As each of us moves through the many decisions that Covid 19 has forced upon us, Huff's continues to offer a variety of ways to participate in worship and fellowship.

1st and 3rd Sundays - Both services in church building

July 4, July 18, August 1st, August 15

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays - 8:00 In church building/10:30 In Park

July 11, July 25, August 8, 22, 29

Inclement weather- park service moves to church building.

In the park, you may use bandshell benches or bring your own lawn chairs to set up under the bandshell or on the lawn. You may also listen to the service on your car radio in the park.

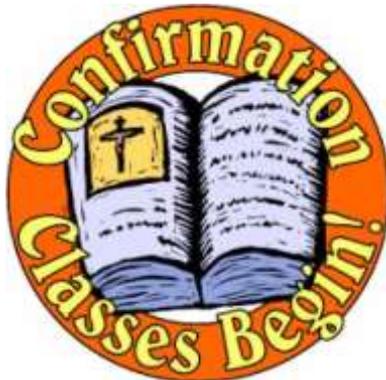
ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

Online services will continue at www.huffschurch.com and on Facebook: Huff's Union Church.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

We are looking to start confirmation classes this Fall. Please contact the office if you have a child who is ready to begin confirmation class. General age is 7th grade or higher.

For the youth joining the confirmation class, you will need to volunteer at various church events throughout your time in confirmation class. You can start accumulating your volunteer points by helping at the church picnic on Saturday, August 14th. Work shifts available are 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. or 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Please email Lisa Kauffman at kauffmanschildcare@msn.com to sign up.



It's Picnic Time Once Again!

Huffs Church is planning a **picnic on August 14, 2021, 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 prep beforehand and serving food & drink during the event. There is a helper sign-up sheet in church, or contact: Lisa Kauffman at 610-413-9283 or kauffmanschild-care@msn.com.

The amount of help we get will determine how many different foods can be offered and how successful the picnic will be. Baked goods are also requested and can be brought to the chapel or park on the morning of the 14th, or even at the beginning of the picnic.

Prep work will begin in the Chapel on:

Thursday August 12th - 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday August 13th & 14th 7:00 a.m. to Noon

We will need lots of volunteers to serve and fry foods during the picnic as well. Two shifts: 3:30-6:00 and 6:00-8:30 p. m.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you are available to help so we know what foods we need to order! Thank you for your time.

WORSHIP SERVICE LEADER SCHEDULE

If you are interested in occasionally assisting as a worship leader and acolyte at either the 8:00 or 10:30 Worship Service or both, please contact Edwina Fox at 610-845-2626 or email office@huffschurch.com by July 15th. Those who have been on the lay reader schedule over the past year will be included again unless you tell us differently. We welcome new volunteers. By the end of July, we would like to prepare a Worship Service Leader schedule for both services for the rest of 2021. Worship Service Leaders get the finalized bulletin during the week to prepare for the Sunday Service. For the online pre-recorded service, we have an adequate core of online readers who are comfortable with using that technology, so online readers will continue to be scheduled separately for now.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE MOVING FORWARD

Things are slowly returning to a sense of normalcy. Are you getting excited? We are gradually opening up more and more in worship, beginning Sunday School again, and taking our time to get it right. We'll have our August picnic (but the selection of food will be determined by how many volunteers we get, so if you're comfortable, sign-up to help). We will also have VBS in August (we need more volunteers here as well). So, gradually, bit by bit, we are bringing things back.

If all we want to do is bring back the old and familiar and try to do them in the same old way though, we will miss an opportunity to shape a new future for Huff's Union Church. So many church renewal leaders suggest that churches take a Sabbath year, to give all their volunteers a break and to take the time to discern what is working for them, what is not, what to let go of and what new things to try. Most churches resist taking that year off. Covid has given all of us that Sabbath gift.

While we didn't meet in discernment, since most of our energy was consumed elsewhere, we still have that time to discern. What did you learn this past year? How are you shifting things in your own life? What did you find you missed from church activities? What did you find that you **didn't** miss? If you had to boil it down to a sentence or two, what are the most meaningful things about Huff's for you? In what ways do you want to express your faith? What new things would you like to try?

I invite you to continue to discern these things for yourself over the months ahead. Try new things. Do the old things in new ways. Spend less time looking back to the "good old days" (were their no graves in Egypt...?) and spend more time envisioning a future where God is forever creating new things and new ways to be God's Children.

Above all, continue to focus on loving God by loving others. Every way that we can do this, small or large, we will help God to create a future filled with grace and hope for us all.

Peace,

Pastor Jennifer

SUMMER TRAVEL TIME IS HERE

As many of you travel or have lots of summer plans that may take you away from Huff's Church, we hope you will remember that the church continues in its work to make a difference in our world and in our community. Please consider sending in your weekly offering when you are away. You may also want to sign up for the Simply Giving program, which allows you to send your offering from your bank account to the church electronically. See article (Help Us Grow) which explains more about Simply Giving.

HELP US GROW

Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow. Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis.

To get started, pick up an authorization form in the church office or contact Jon Benfield (email: jbenfield429@gmail.com) or leave a phone message at 484-226-7981. He would be glad to answer any questions or provide you with an authorization form. Thank you for your consideration.

SPECIAL OFFERING OPPORTUNITY FOR JULY

During the year, we offer eight special denominationally related offering opportunities--four through ELCA related agencies, and four to support UCC national programs. In July we ask you to consider making your extra gift to our own congregation to enable us to continue to do God's work in our community.

JULY SMALL BIBLE GROUP

The Small Bible Study Group will meet on Saturday, July 10th, at 10:30 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.

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

| | | | |
|--------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Paul Adam | - 7/4 | Earl Derr | - 7/6 |
| Gloria Adams | - 7/6 | Rita Gracely | - 7/6 |
| Carl Arner | - 7/9 | Shirley Miller | - 7/22 |
| Marie Bower | - 7/29 | Shirley Mengel | - 7/31 |

The Cemetery Board

The Cemetery Board has an opening for a part-time mower. Please contact Eric Diehl at 610-845-7092. Must be willing to operate a Zero Turn Mower and a String Trimmer. Pay rate is \$12.00 per hour.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Did you feel a bit cheated this past Christmas? Maybe you didn't get your full Christmas "fix" from worship? Are you one of those people who enjoys listening to the Christmas music all year long? Are you one of those folks who dreads Christmas because of all the external stresses that come with it? If any of the above apply to you, then you are in luck. We will be celebrating Christmas in July this year on Sunday, July 25th. It will be a celebration without all the family stresses or pressure to buy the perfect gift. It will be a chance to just celebrate the wonderful story of Jesus' birth and sing a few well-loved Carols. So mark your calendars, invite your friends, and join us as we take time to celebrate with Jesus.

GRADUATIONS

Haydn Hallman, daughter of Gary & Monica Hallman and granddaughter of Lucille Grampp, graduated from Vassar College and will be attending Geisinger Medical School.

Lucas Wittman, MD MPH, son of Wendy Wittman and the late Chris Wittman, graduated from Harvard Medical School. He will be doing his residency at Brigham And Women's Hospital in Boston, MA.

Lydia Seip graduated from Lebanon Valley College.



VILLAGE VOLLEYBALL

On Wednesday, June 16th, we started having Village Volleyball again. Come out for fun games of volleyball on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome – this means all ages and abilities! Sign-up sheets for volunteers to be greeters for this will be on the lower Narthex bulletin board or call Tess at 610-618-6399. Please contact Edwina Fox at 610-845-2626 to get the keys for the bathrooms and Boy Scout Shed. As a greeter, you will be asked to open the bathrooms, get out the ball and set up a water cooler. And then, of course, welcome players!

Financial Report

| | May 2021 | YTD | | YTD | | Annual Budget |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| | Actual | Actual | Budget | Variance | Variance | |
| Giving | 12,429 | 49,955 | 75,168 | (25,213) | | 180,845 |
| All other income | 12,271 | 31,402 | 32,581 | (1,179) | | 47,595 |
| Total income | 24,700 | 81,357 | 107,749 | (26,392) | | 228,440 |
| Expenses | 17,662 | 103,147 | 122,441 | (19,294) | | 291,369 |
| Operating income (loss) | 7,037 | (21,790) | (14,692) | (7,098) | | (62,929) |
| Transfers from Investments | 5,250 | 26,250 | 26,250 | - | | 63,000 |
| Net income (loss) | 12,287 | 4,460 | 11,558 | (7,098) | | 71 |

| | 5/31/21 | 4/30/21 | 12/31/20 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| Balance Sheet | | | |
| Designated funds | 117,453 | 106,942 | 107,283 |
| General funds | 9,754 | 13,134 | 14,896 |
| Sunday School CDs | 4,377 | 4,377 | 4,373 |
| Total assets (a) | 131,584 | 124,454 | 126,552 |

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs