

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



April, 2022

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburdis, 18011
Church office: 610-845-2626 Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jennifer Bannerman
Pastor Home Office: 570-778-7524
Office email: office@huffschurch.com
Website: www.huffschurch.com
Facebook Page: Huff's Union Church, Inc.

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.

GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SERVICES

Friday, April 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

This year we will be reading the Passion of Christ according to the Gospel of John. We begin with the Last Supper of Maundy Thursday and journey to the tomb on Good Friday.

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Come join us to celebrate Christ's Resurrection with Holy Communion being offered.

MARCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUMMARY

The congregational meeting was opened on March 6 and due to lack of quorum was continued to March 13. The following agenda was completed with unanimous approval of each item:

*2021 Annual Report accepted

*New Constitution and Bylaws of Huff's Union Church Inc approved

*Elected 12 Union Council members who will begin terms and operate under the new Constitution and Bylaws at the opening of Union Council meeting on May 9, 2022. The new Union Council consists of: Michael Diehl, Conner Isamoyer, Lisa Kauffman, Tom Johnson, Martin Kriebel, Lori Lanahan, Carl Leh, Jim Meitzler, Sr., Tom Mitchell, Matthew Schantz, Elaine Witman and Rachel Welch.

Thank-you for the service of following current Council members who will end their term as of May 9, 2022: Bill Stoudt, Bob Ruch, and Kerry Meitzler.

EASTER STORY EGG HUNT AT HUFF'S CHURCH SATURDAY, APRIL 9, AT 11:00 AM - RAIN OR SHINE

Families with children of all ages are welcome to the Easter Story Egg Hunt. We'll gather in the Huff's Church Park and hear the story of Jesus' week before Easter, and all children receive a special gift bag. Then hunt eggs! To allow for social distancing, we plan to hold everything in the Park, so dress for the weather, including cool temperatures or light rain. But if it's too stormy, everything will be moved into the Church.

This year we will not collect candy donations, but your cash donation towards costs of the egg hunt may be dropped in the special Bunny Container at Church or mailed to the Church Office. If you can help with preparation or at the event, please call/text Tess Woloszanski at 610-618-6399 or email tess314@windstream.net.

FRIEND, INC. FOOD FOR NEEDY TRUCK AT HUFF'S

Friend, Inc. brings a mobile food truck to Huff's Union Church parking lot on the **first Thursday** of each month to distribute food on a regular monthly basis. The next distribution will be on **Thursday, April 7, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

OYSTER PIE SALE

An oyster pie sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2022, with pick-up between 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon in the lower level of the chapel. Cost is \$7.50. Orders are due by April 17th.

Order forms are on the downstairs bulletin board, or you may call the church office at (610-845-2626.)

Help is needed for making the pies. Please let Kay Kriebel (610-845-2960) know if you can help.

- **Thursday, April 28, at 6:00 p.m.** - Make pie crust crumbs. (This is an easy job of mixing Crisco into flour.)
- **Friday, April 29, at 9:00 a.m.** - Peel and dice potatoes (This is a sit-down job.)
- **Friday, April 29, at 6:00 p.m.** - Make pie crusts and place the bottom crust in the pie tins
- **Saturday, April 30, at 7:00 a.m.** - Assemble the pies and bag them (This can be a sit-down job.)

No experience is needed for any of these jobs. Confirmation credit is given (1 credit for 2 hours work).

FOOD FOR THE POOR PRESENTATION

On Sunday, April 24, at the 10:30 a.m. service, we will welcome Pastor Bruce Potteiger to share the good news about *Food for the Poor*. Pastor Bruce has served our Lord in 40 years of parish ministry in the ELCA. His ministry was spent in Northeast Pennsylvania Synod in New Tripoli, Dryville, and a Shared UCC/Lutheran ministry in Leesport, Pa. He has been on over 30 mission trips with his parish churches, rebuilding homes throughout the United States, and has most recently visited Haiti and Nicaragua with *Food for the Poor*.

Over the past 40 years *Food for the Poor*, a Christian-based nonprofit organization, has worked in 17 countries in the Caribbean Islands and Latin America, working with local pastors to serve the poor and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Over 94% of all gifts including donated goods, go directly to help the poor, providing not only food but also emergency relief, clean water, medicines, educational material, building homes, micro-enterprise projects, prison ministry, support of orphans and the aged. We welcome Pastor Bruce and encourage your support in the ministry of *Food for the Poor*.

FUNERALS

Please pray for the family and friends of John Geist, who passed away on February 19, 2022.

Please pray for the family and friends of David Miller, who passed away on February 27, 2022.

BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING 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

- 4/2 - Barbara Kline 4/19 - Pauline Strunk
- 4/29 - Jerome Barnes 4/29 - Jane Geisinger

Anniversaries

- 4/6 - Eugene & Sherry Bardo
- 4/22 - Raymond & Linda Lorish

PART-TIME MOWING POSITION

Part time mowing (includes trimming) positions available for church and cemetery grounds. If interested please contact church office @ 610-845-2626 or Eric Diehl @ 610-248-0364.

CEMETERY FLOWER REMOVAL

Please have ALL flower arrangements and other items removed from gravesites by Monday, April 1, 2022. Remaining flowers and items will be removed and discarded on April 3rd.

JEAN REINERT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Jean Reinert Memorial Scholarship application is available by calling the church office or Michele Boyer Reed at 610-790-3289. Any high school senior who will pursue additional education (vocational training or college) and has remained an active member of Huff’s Union Church since confirmation, is welcome to apply. Deadline is June 30, for this \$1,000 scholarship.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR MARCH, 2022

- April 3, 2022 Tucker Ruch
- Palm Sunday. April 10, 2022 Elijah Richetti
- Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022 Elizabeth Proctor
- April 24, 2022 Elizabeth Proctor

PASTOR BANNERMAN'S ARTICLE

Our Lenten Journey

We looked at what Egypt was for us and began to see that which was killing us as a people of faith. We made our journey through the Wilderness, where we explored all the ways that God is trying to transform us to be the people that God wants us to be. We stand now on the edge of the Promised Land. The reports have come in from the spies we sent ahead. There is great joy and hope and possibility for us to move into as a congregation. We have the promise of the resurrection to give us new life. But, in order to get there, we must pass through the betrayal and crucifixion of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and the pain that comes with it. Part of the pain is in letting go of the comfortable and the familiar, even if it is no longer life-giving.

When faced with a similar choice to either trust God to guide them into the land of milk and honey or turn back in fear of obstacles that were too great, the Children of Israel first chose fear. It took them 40 years of wandering in the Wilderness until they could learn to trust in God enough to move forward into God's promise for them.

As we move out of uncertain times of the pandemic and war and economic changes, with a view of more uncertainty ahead, what will our next step be as a congregation? Will we turn back to the old familiar ways of our Egypt? Will we trust in God to guide us forward into a new and promised future? Will the obstacles be too big? Will the death to the old be too painful? Is the promise of the resurrection enough for us to take a chance and risk a new way of doing and being church in our community?

The journey of transformation in the Wilderness is an ongoing journey with brief respites in oases along the way. God is beginning to nudge us to move out of our current oasis and start the next leg of our journey. Where will God lead us? And will we follow? So many possibilities. So many fears to confront. I invite you to continue to pray and reflect and explore what new things await. Let hope and anticipation be your guides as you take the next step of faith...and the next...and the next.

May the hope and promise of the resurrection be yours,
Pastor Jennifer

ST. VINCENT'S TRIP TO VOLUNTEER

BY DENA LEBO-FUNK

In early March, Carol Petroske, Dena Lebo and Maisy Funk traveled 572 miles to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky, in an SUV tightly packed with no room to spare! The donations from Huff's, Friends, Inc. in Kutztown, and Maisy's school included 500 seed packets, dental items (160 tooth brushes, 40 toothpastes, 10 flosses), shaving items (5 creams, 14 razors), paper items (2 tissue boxes, 4 towel rolls, 23 toilet, 50 feminine hygiene boxes, 5 diaper packs, gloves, face masks), cleaners (6 detergents, 8 sponges, 6 wipes), various first aid items, soaps (39 shampoos/conditioners, 57 bars, 5 hand, 10 dish), 11 deodorants, 32 other items (trash bags, Q-tips, etc.) and a bag of almost new clothing items. We also gave \$127 donated by Huff's members and Maisy's school to the Mission's crisis relief fund currently being used to assist an elderly client on a fixed income who needs to drink Ensure shakes not covered by her medical insurance. On our first morning, we placed most of the above items onto an almost empty shelf unit in the Food Pantry while a few things like 75 of the 160 toothbrushes and the winter clothing were saved for later distribution. The next day, 30 families visited the Food Pantry. Each family is limited to just a few items from that Hygiene shelving unit, so many of your donated items were selected by families that day. Also on that first day, while Carol and I sorted the 500 donated seed packets and bundled them up by 5 packets for distribution that very night to families who signed up for the 2022 Garden Program, Maisy rode with a mission member to fill the van at stores donating food and produce for distribution from the Food Bank. It was raining very heavily when we all helped unload the van and we all got wet! On the afternoon of the first day, Carol and I worked in the small warehouse folding 17 storage containers of donated clothing. On the morning of our second day, we re-organized 27 storage containers of clothing while Maisy, in the mission's used store, re-packaged new socks, worked the checkout and did a ride-along to deliver used furniture that a local family purchased at the used store. On our third day, Maisy tagged 3 storage containers of spring clothing for the used store and worked the checkout while Carol and I purged old crafts and supplies and re-organized the arts and craft building. These items are used when the Mission hosts summer camps, bible

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ST. VINCENT'S TRIP TO VOLUNTEER (continued from page 6)

school and holiday events for local families. We ended the day by taking a trip to town for cell service (the only cell service at the Mission is through Appalachian Wireless!) and to purchase dog and cat food that we delivered to the local animal shelter. On our last day, we organized the games, toys, prizes, and sports section of the storage building, most of which are used during summer camps and bible schools hosted by the Mission. We also sorted and organized 10 storage totes of tangled clothes hangers which helped the staff, who were hanging spring clothing inside the used store, work more efficiently. It was a warm, sunny day, and we ended it by joining Sister Kathleen in town where she treated us to a fabulous dinner and some very interesting story-telling. The fast approaching late winter snowstorm across KY, WV and MD cut our trip a day short but it was necessary to ensure safe travel.

We are immensely grateful to all of you who donated money and items, gas money, wished us well and welcomed us back. This was the third trip for Maisy and me. It reminded us that God is at work there which can be easy to forget in the bustle of our day-to-day lives. For Carol, this was her first visit. Stepping outside of our own lives showed all of us the spiritual and physical needs of a culture different than our own. Serving alongside the staff, interns and volunteers allowed them to share their perspectives and wisdom and this definitely helped us see aspects of our own lives more clearly.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES AS OF 3/14/2022

You may choose to wear a mask, but masks are no longer required. Hand sanitizers and masks will continue to be available as you enter the church. Please do not attend church services or church activities if you are not feeling well, even if you think it's just a cold. Consult with your physician for your own safety, masking, and guidance. Keep up with CDC guidelines as they are subject to change.

Financial Report

	YTD		YTD Budget	Variance	Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget			
Giving	20,049	29,040	(8,991)		175,740
All other income	15,982	16,424	(442)		58,991
Total income	36,031	45,464	(9,433)		234,731
Expenses	45,285	50,017	(4,731)		336,095
Operating income (loss)	(9,254)	(4,553)	(4,701)		(101,364)
Transfers from Investments	10,500	16,900	(6,400)		101,400
Net income (loss)	1,246	12,347	(11,101)		36

	2/28/22	1/31/22	12/31/21
Balance Sheet			
Designated funds	126,103	126,057	116,006
General funds	14,325	14,622	23,251
Sunday School CDs	4,379	4,379	4,379
Total assets (a)	<u>144,806</u>	<u>145,057</u>	<u>143,635</u>

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs



Ukraine Emergency Appeal

In response to appeals by both the Lutheran Disaster Response and the United Church of Christ Ukraine Emergency Appeal, Huff's Union Council and our Mission Endowment Fund each allocated \$1,000 to aid the crisis in Ukraine.

A soup kettle has been placed at the back of the sanctuary to receive additional donations from the congregation. The appeal will run through Easter, after which time all funds collected will be equally divided and sent to the Lutheran and UCC appeal agencies.