

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER

May, 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
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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 MEMBER INFORMATION

Please update your membership information (i.e. email, address, phone no. and a photo) by editing the Update Member Contact List found in the back of the church or by emailing Kelsey Doney at ministry@huffschurch.com. Contact her also if you would like to receive our weekly eBlast.

EGG-CELLENT EASTER EVENT THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 9, 2022, including the monetary donations folks made towards the candy, eggs, and prizes. About 600 eggs were filled. Unfortunately, we only had about 20 participants this year, probably due to all the rain which also forced us inside.

Many people helped prepare for and monitor the activities, including Meghan Richetti, Tess Woloszanski, Joanne Benfield, Dena Funk, and Julie Brought. Many confirmands were instrumental in their help of setting up, filling bags, hiding eggs, monitoring coloring tables, and cleaning up. They included Nicholas Hunsberger, Maisy Funk, Elijah Richetti, Tucker Ruch, and Katie, Elizabeth and Kevin Proctor.

The Easter Bunny (thank you Tucker Ruch!) welcomed kids as they arrived. Kids then colored a spinner wheel, which illustrated the true Easter story. Next, Meghan and Tess's skit, "Friday Was Sad, But Sunday Was Glad," helped kids to better understand what the story was about. Egg hunting then commenced! Since attendance was low, kids were given a second bag and were asked to collect 10 eggs to give a friend. So hopefully we reached about 40 people with our event!

SEED TREE

We are thankful to our congregation for the contribution of 600 seed packets. They were delivered to the Mission in David, Kentucky, on a recent visit to St. Vincent's Mission.

These seeds were distributed to various families. Many have gardens to raise vegetables which supplement their food needs.

God Bless, Carl Arner

Special Offering Opportunity

The special offering for May is the UCC Strengthen the Church offering. This offering pays to help train lay and ordained church leaders: 25% remains in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference and 75% is forwarded to the denominational headquarters for national church use. Special offering envelopes are available in the pews, or mark your envelope "Strengthen the Church" and it will go to support this project. (The envelopes are marked "Invest in the Vision".)

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.

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES

Hearing assist devices are available on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. You may use these to listen to the worship service anywhere in the building. If you feel you need to sit downstairs, for example because you are coughing, these enable you to hear the service. Please let someone know if you find one that isn't working so we may have it repaired.

LOCAL NEEDY FUND

If anyone is in financial need, that person should talk with Pastor Bannerman. Requests are kept confidential. The officers of Union Council and presidents of the ELCA council and UCC consistory decide how to handle any request (knowing only the circumstances, not the name of the person who requests help). We pay a bill, or part of a bill directly, and do not pay on credit card debt. Our policy is to not help the same families more than once a year. We do recommend that families who seem to be in repeated difficulties seek financial counseling at the agency that serves their geographical area: Friend, Inc., Boyertown Area Multi Service, or Pennsburg Open Link, all agencies which we support.

FIFTH SUNDAY - MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

At the January 10, 2022, Union Council meeting, a motion was approved to hold only a 10:30 a.m. worship service on the fifth Sunday when there are five Sundays in the month. At these services, we will explore different ideas for worship. There will be **NO** 8:00 a.m. service on Sunday, May 29th.

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.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE ON BEING SPIES

In our Lenten Series, Out of Egypt, I talked about what it means to be a spy, when it comes to discerning possibilities for ministry and mission that we can do with our community. Remember that spies:

- Listen and learn about the community.
- Become part of the community so that they can blend in.
- Get to know the community better than the community knows itself.
- Use all that information to achieve their objectives.

What would it look like for us to do that here in the community around our church? Do we really know who is hurting and why? Do we know what people are longing for, aching for, hoping for?

Instead of trying different programs or offering ministries that **we think** people need, what if we really discovered what people needed and wanted. Are we willing to put our all into ministry that will touch people's lives and show them God's love --- even if none of them come and join our church? What is our reason for doing ministry? Is our focus of ministry to bring people to us here at Huff's, **or** to bring God to them?

I want you to listen, really listen, for the clues that will tell you what people are looking for in their lives. What are their concerns, what's weighing them down? What are they talking about and obsessing about in their lives? Try and understand how that concern is affecting their lives.

Think about how we here at Huff's could use that information to shape our ministry. Pray about it. What can we do to bring God's grace and blessing to those in our community? What can we do to make a difference? How can we use our skills, gifts and talents in service to our community?

Being good spies will help us as we move forward as a congregation. Remember, we don't have to do it all, **but** we should be doing at least one thing that we are good at.

God has led us this far. Are we ready for the next step? I invite you to be in prayer about it and listen, so that we will know what work we can do in service to God and our community.

Blessings,
Pastor Jennifer

ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

My time with you is quickly coming to an end. I will be with you through Sunday, June 12th. We've had an adventure these past two years, as we figured out how to continue the life of the church through covid, put together our church profile, and get ready for a new pastor. We all had to adapt to doing worship in new ways and learn to use technology to help us do the business part of church. Perhaps the biggest thing we all learned is that we **can** adapt (even if we grumble and complain all the way). I encourage you to continue to actively prepare for your next pastor, whenever their arrival might come. Be open for new possibilities and new adventures.

My new beginnings will be out in the Seattle area. I will be moving back the end of June and staying with a friend until my housing is available. I will continue to do ministry, as I gradually move into retirement.

I have enjoyed my time with you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Interim Pastor.

Blessings,
Pastor Jennifer

FINAL NOTICE FOR CHURCH GIVING ENVELOPES

Church Giving Envelopes are available in the church. Please call the office to make arrangements for pick-up other than Sunday morning. 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.**

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR MAY, 2022

May 1, 2022	Kevin Proctor
May 8, 2022	Katie Proctor
May 15, 2022	Elijah Richetti
May 22, 2022	Kevin Proctor
May 29, 2022	Katie Proctor

CHURCH FAMILY

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

5/11 - Albert Muth	5/15 - Ann Taylor
5/23 - Alfred Henson	5/28 - Lorraine Greiss

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

5/17 - Paul & Jean Adam	5/27 - Terry & Darlene Shaner
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FOOD PANTRY

180 donations of food and personal care items were boxed up and delivered to Friend, Inc. at the end of March. Friend, Inc. sponsors the Food Truck that dispenses food the first Thursday of the month to anyone in need in Berks County. On April 7, 2022, 38 parties were served despite the drenching downpour. Many thanks to the congregation members who support this food pantry.

For those interested in further supporting Friend, Inc., their 32nd Annual Benefit Auction will be held on Saturday April 30th. at Belzner Hall at the Kutztown Fairgrounds. Beginning at 5:00 p.m, you can bid on art, jewelry, household furniture, gift certificates to local businesses and restaurants, event tickets, plus many more interesting items.

For further information, check out Friend's Facebook site.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Bible Study Group will meet on Saturday, May 7, 2022, 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.



Financial Report

	YTD		Variance	Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget		
Giving	28,945	43,210	(14,265)	175,740
All other income	23,560	19,593	3,967	58,991
Total income	52,505	62,803	(10,298)	234,731
Expenses	65,814	73,562	(7,747)	336,095
Operating income (loss)	(13,309)	(10,759)	(2,551)	(101,364)
Transfers from Investments	15,750	25,350	(9,600)	101,400
Net income (loss)	2,441	14,591	(12,151)	36

	3/31/22	2/28/22	12/31/21
Balance Sheet			
Designated funds	120,277	126,103	116,006
General funds	12,559	14,325	23,251
Sunday School CDs	4,379	4,379	4,379
Total assets (a)	137,214	144,806	143,635

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs