

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



March 2021

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.

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.

Jean Reinert Memorial Scholarship

The Jean Reinert Memorial Scholarship information and application is available from the Church office by calling 610-845-2626 or by contacting 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. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2021 for this \$1,000 scholarship.

TO MEMBERS OF HUFF'S UNION CHURCH AND FRIENDS

The special Covid-19 Committee met on February 4th and reviewed their recommendation concerning worship services in the church building. While the infection rates have fallen in both our local area and in the zip codes where most of our members live, they are still in the Critically High range. As a result, **the Covid-19 Committee made the difficult but prudent recommendation to continue withholding services in the church building through March 7, 2021.** This recommendation was presented to and approved by council during their February 8th meeting.

Huff's Sunday worship services will continue to be available online, as well as broadcast into the church parking lot on Sunday mornings at 10:30 on 99.3 FM. This will include communion in the parking lot on March 7th.

The special Covid-19 Committee will meet again and provide council with a new recommendation at their March 8, 2021 meeting. Updates to the Huff's Church community will be made following that meeting. We appreciate everyone's understanding, thoughts and prayers during these unprecedented times.

Congregational Spring Meeting

We will hold our annual Congregational Spring Meeting on Sunday, March 14 (bad weather or lack of a quorum date is March 21). All who are members in good standing at Huff's (have communed or contributed at least once during the past two years) are eligible to vote on anything that is brought up at the congregational meeting.

Copies of the Annual Report will be available at the beginning of the worship service. This report details the ways Huff's Union Church has done ministry and mission in 2020. If you see an area of church life in which you would like to participate, please talk with a committee member or the committee chairperson.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

In March we will receive the United Church of Christ One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering provides developmental and emergency relief to people throughout the world. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks, or simply use a blank envelope, mark it UCC One Great Hour of Sharing, and place filled envelope in the offering plate or mail it to Huff's Church. Include your name if you wish to be credited for this gift on your giving statement.

CHURCH FAMILY

FUNERALS

Please pray for the family and friends of Jean Crossley Hunter who passed away on January 9, 2021.

Please pray for the family and friends of Lorraine Moll who passed away on January 24, 2021.

Please pray for the family and friends of Harold Kemp who passed away on February 8, 2021.

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

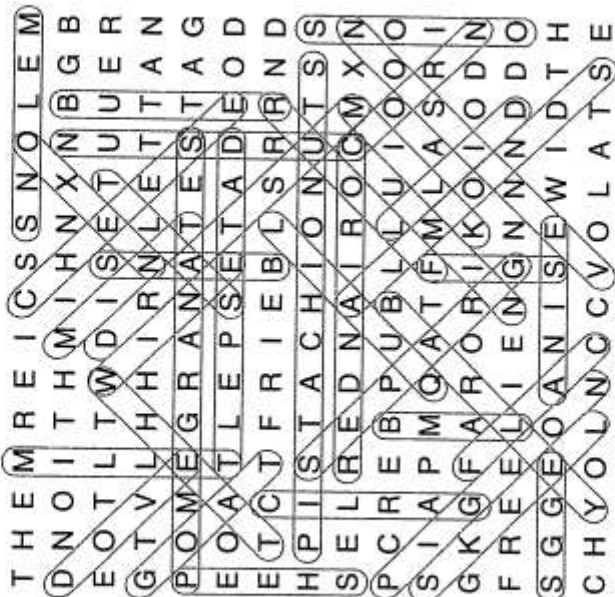
- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 3/5 - Annabelle Stegman | 3/7 - Robert Reinhard |
| 3/16 - Pearl Hoffman | 3/17 - Evelyn Hladchuk |
| 3/19 - Neil Gery | 3/26 - Raymond Lorish |
| 3/31 - Lorraine Hunter | |

Anniversaries

- 3/1 - Leonard & Jane Rozanski
- 3/9 - Robert & Nancy Schleicher
- 3/17 - Donald & Elizabeth Heimbach

Leftover letters spell: "There is nothing better than a good friend, except a good friend with chocolate."

Bonus answer: Lamb



PASTOR'S ARTICLE

We are already in the midst of Lent. I hope that some of you were able to take advantage of some of the suggestions I made in last month's newsletter to observe Lent on your own. If not, the good news is that you can start anytime. Lent is a season that helps us focus, but anytime can be a good time to take on a new spiritual discipline or practice.

Last month I mentioned the discipline of Mindfulness. Quick review: It is basically a practice of paying attention to what you are doing. If you are eating, you focus on the food you are eating. If you are in a discussion with someone, you focus on what they are saying. If you are exercising, you focus on your body and how it is moving. You get the idea.

Mindfulness has become a movement simply because so many of us have gotten so used to multi-tasking that that we barely pay attention to what we are doing or who we are with. Sometimes, even our prayers are so filled with words and concerns and what we need from God, that we don't allow ourselves time to just be still and listen. This month I want to share with you a possible way of using Mindfulness in your prayer life. I've included some basic steps to help you get in the practice of taking quiet time to be with God. You can do it on your own or with a friend or family member. What would it look like for your family to do this together even for 5 minutes a day? The main goal is to make mindful prayer time a regular part of your life in whatever way works best for you.

Here are some guidelines to help you.

1. Turn off the TV, computer, radio and phone and anything else that is a distraction.
2. Find a place in your home away from noise, where you can sit comfortably (without falling asleep) for a while. You can have a cup of coffee, tea, or water with you. Look out a window, light a candle and watch the flame, keep your eyes closed or just let your eyes wander. When the weather gets nice, you can find a spot to sit outside, to take in all that nature offers. Experiment and find what works for you.
3. The goal is to sit quietly for a half hour. If that is too long for you, start with 5 minutes and build up from there. Once you've reached a half hour, build up to an hour. Set a timer for yourself so you won't be distracted by wondering how long it's been.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE (continued)

4. Start with a brief prayer asking God to open your awareness to listening and/or seeing the things you need to be aware of.
5. If a person or a concern comes to mind, offer up a prayer, and then let them go. It is ok for your mind to wander. You can keep a pad of paper beside you so that if your head gets filled with mental to-do lists you can write them down and let them go.
6. If it is hard to sit still, try walking around your house or going for a walk outside.
7. If you need encouragement, find someone who will help hold you accountable to do this every day.
8. The purpose is not to empty your head of all thoughts, but to let go of the clutter of thoughts so that we can become more aware of God in the world around us.

Have you found your spot? Are you all ready to begin? Good. Now, take a deep breath, and as you breathe out, let go of any anxiety you might have about trying this. Begin by just focusing on your breathing. Slowly breathing in, then slowly exhaling. Breathe in and exhale... what? A half hour has passed already?

This can be a wonderful way to start our day more awake and aware. It can help us during the day to be more creative and in touch with the world around us. It can be a great way to end our day and let go of all the things that are weighing us down. It can also help us when we wake up in the middle of the night filled with worry.

Remember, there is no right or wrong way to do this. Just set your intention to be aware and breathe.

Let me know how this works for you. I look forward to your stories.

Peace,

Pastor Jennifer

Web Page Update

The Huff's Union Church web page Give Now button has been updated to include the ability to use credit and bank cards along with direct withdrawals from your checking account. It is a safe way to contribute to the ministry and mission of our church.

EASTER DINNER

Every word listed is contained within the group of letters on the next page. Words can be found in a straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. They may be read either forward or backward. Leftover letters spell a quote from Linda Grayson.

Bonus: What food on the list is a traditional food for Easter dinner?

ALMONDS (Numbers 17:8)

ANISE (Matthew 23:23)

BARLEY (Deuteronomy 8:8)

BEANS (2 Samuel 17:28)

BUTTER (Proverbs 30:33)

CALF (Proverbs 15:17; Luke 15:23)

CHEESE (2 Samuel 17:29; Job 10:10)

CORIANDER (Exodus 16:31)

CORN (Matthew 12:1)

CUMIN (Isaiah 28:25)

CURDS (Isaiah 7:15)

DATES (1 Chronicles 16:3)

DILL (Matthew 23:23)

DOVE (Leviticus 12:8)

EGGS (Job 6:6; Luke 11:12)

FIGS (Jeremiah 24:1-3)

FLOUR (1 Kings 17:12)

GARLIC (Numbers 11:5)

GOAT (Genesis 27:9)

GRAPES (Leviticus 19:10)

LAMB (2 Samuel 12:4)

LEEK (Numbers 11:5)

MELONS (Isaiah 1:8)

MILK (Exodus 33:3; Judges 5:25)

MILLET (Ezekiel 4:9)

MINT (Luke 11:42)

MUSTARD (Matthew 13:31)

NUTS (Song of Solomon 6:11)

ONIONS: (Numbers 11:5)

OXEN (1 Kings 19:21)

PIGEON (Genesis 15:9)

PISTACHIO NUTS (Genesis 43:11)

POMEGRANATES (Numbers 20:5)

QUAIL (Psalm 105:40)

SALT (Ezra 6:9, Job 6:6)

SHEEP (Deuteronomy 14:4)

SPELT (Ezekiel 4:9)

VENISON (Genesis 27:7)

WHEAT (Deuteronomy 8:8)

WINE (Ezra 6:9, John 2:1-10)

EASTER DINNER WORD SEARCH

T H E M R E I C S S N O L E M
D N O I T H M I H N X N B G B
E O T L T W D I S E T U U E R
G T V L H H I R N L E T T A N
P O M E G R A N A T E S T A G
E O A T L E P S E T A D E O D
E T C T F R I E B L S R R N D
H P I S T A C H I O N U T S S
S E L R E D N A I R O C M X N
P C R E B P U B L L U I O O O
S I A P M Q A T F M L A S R I
G K G F A R O R I K O I O D N
F R E E L I E N G N N N D D O
S G G E O A N I S E W I D T H
C H Y O L N C C V O L A T S E

Hidden quote: _____

Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	Annual Budget
Income	10,759	15,676	(4,916)	228,440
Expenses	22,794	26,443	(3,649)	291,369
Operating loss	(12,035)	(10,768)	(1,267)	(62,929)
Transfers from Investments	5,250	5,250	-	63,000
Net income (loss)	(6,785)	(5,518)	(1,267)	71

	1/31/21	12/31/20
Balance Sheet		
Designated Funds	107,294	107,283
General Funds	7,657	14,896
Sunday School CDs	4,373	4,373
Total assets (a)	119,324	126,552

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs