

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER

SEPTEMBER, 2021



Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburton, 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.
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.

CHURCH PROFILE

The first step in looking for a new pastor has been completed and is available for you to look at. There are a few copies laying on the table as you exit the sanctuary. Please return the profile to the table when you are finished reviewing it. The Profile is also on our church website www.huffschurch.com. A link is available in our weekly e-blast. Please submit any questions or comments on the Profile to the Church Office 610-845-2626 or office@huffschurch.com. A member of the Profile Committee will respond to your inquiries. The Profile Committee will consider all feedback and present a final version of the profile for approval at next Council meeting, September 13. The profile will then be submitted to the Penn Southeast UCC Conference and Penn Northeast ELCA Synod to begin the formal pastoral search process. The Search Committee will then review all profiles submitted by pastoral candidates. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will find the best candidate to help lead us into the future.

HUFF'S CHURCH AUXILIARY

The next meeting of the Huff's Church Auxiliary will be held on Monday, August 23 at 6:30 p.m. Previously known as Ladies Aid, this group has changed the name to be more inclusive to both men and women. Everyone is welcome to be part of this ministry of Huff's Church!

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

Friend, Inc. will bring 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 organization will have their second distribution on **Thursday, September 2**, from **3:30 to 5:00 p.m.** Berks County residents in need should contact Friend, Inc. 610-683-7790 for more information. If any parishioners know of needy families, please direct them to contact Friend, Inc. Volunteers are welcome.

PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER

Huffs Union Church is having a fundraiser in the park **on Saturday, September 11, 2021, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** We will be offering meals that include a pulled pork sandwich, ear of corn, coleslaw, and a drink. The meals can be enjoyed in our park or can be taken out. The cost of each meal is only \$8! Desserts will also be available for sale.

Tickets for the meal can be purchased ahead of time. See Tess Woloszanski, Kay Kriebel, or Lisa Kauffman, or call the church office at 610-845-2626 to arrange a purchase. Meals can be bought on the day of the event as well, on a first-come, first-served basis.

In honor of this special day in the history of our country, we plan to donate 10% of our proceeds to the Seisholtzville Fire Company! And we'll also play patriotic music in the park.

If you would like to help with preparing food on September 10th or September 11th, please contact Tess at tess314@dejazzd.com, or call 610-682-2652.

OYSTER PIE SALE

Our next Oyster Pie Sale is Saturday, October 30, 2021, with pick-up between 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon. Cost is \$7.50. Orders are due by Sunday, October 17. The order form will be on the downstairs bulletin board.

Oyster Pie making dates are Friday, October 29 and Saturday, October 30. We can always use help for making oyster pies. Come out to cut potatoes on Friday at 9:00 a.m. (this is a sit down job). Come and help with making crusts on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. Help assemble pies, bag them, etc. on Saturday, beginning at 7:00 a.m. Come for all the time or part of the time. Confirmation credit given (1 credit for 2 hours work). If you like, bring a snack to share. If you are new to Huff's, or want to bring a friend, this is a great way to get to know our folks while they work on one of our big fund-raising projects.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

Sacraments Part 2

Last year I talked about our Sacraments of Baptism and Communion and the ways we were needing to adapt them for Covid. First, let's look at Communion. We are slowly returning to familiar ways, with the ushers bringing communion to the pews. They are wearing masks and gloves, but still, some of you may be hesitant to take bread or a cup from a common plate. Because this meal is meant to be accessible for all, we will continue to modify our techniques of celebrating Communion.

We will continue to have ushers wear masks and gloves. Pastor also will mask and glove to preside over Communion. We will use wafers instead of bread and the usher will hand the elements to each person, thus limiting the number of hands that touch the elements. You may also bring your own elements and hold them as Pastor says the words celebrating the gift that Christ gave us. For now, we will also continue to receive communion in the pews, to reduce traffic flow. You may also continue to celebrate communion at home as you watch our online service.

We hope that this will ease any fears or concerns and open communion more fully for all to participate.

For any of you parents who have been waiting to baptize your child this past year and a half, we can perform the baptism at one of our outdoor services. These will continue on the 2nd and 4th Sundays through September. Other accommodations can also be made, just contact Pastor.

If nothing else, Covid has become the great teacher for all of us to learn to adapt in our lives. If it helps you as you struggle with all these limitations in worship, remember that God cares less about the forms we use or the hymns we sing (or not), than about what is in our hearts. If we hold the love of God within us, then all we do is worship.

Blessings,
Pastor Jennifer

GIVING IN THE CHURCH

Huff's Union Church offers many ways to conveniently give toward the mission of our church. Of course, there is the standard weekly-giving envelope for use with cash or checks, dropped into the offering plate during the service. This method is the one we are most familiar with because we've been using it for years.

With the increased use of on-line worship, we have increased our use of more modern methods of giving. The church website has multiple links to automatic giving. There is a "Give Now" button which anyone can use to donate. The donation can be a one-time donation, or it can be set up for multiple gifts over a period of time. It is a simple and convenient way to remember Huff's Church with your benevolence.

There is also a program run by Amazon.com. It is called AmazonSmile. Under this program, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your shopping dollars to Huff's. All you must do is set up a profile with Amazon. Our website has a link to the program which you can use to get started. After that, you do your normal shopping with Amazon and 0.5% of you shopping dollars will be donated to Huff's by the company.

And finally, there is our Simply Giving Program. With this program, your offering will automatically be sent to Huff's directly out of your checking account at no cost to you. This avoids the church having to purchase weekly envelopes, and in bad weather or when you are on vacation, you won't have to worry that your offering reaches the church. This is also a way to spread your giving throughout the year. This helps you with home budgeting and it helps us with cash flow in the summer months when members might forget to send in their offering. Application forms may be picked up in the church or by calling the church office at 610-845-2626.

Special Offering Opportunity for September

Our new offering opportunity for September is the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund. This offering is the ELCA equivalent of the UCC Christmas Fund offering, and supplements the income of those retired pastors, rostered ministers, lay employees and surviving spouses living on a low income. This offering also helps with health contributions for recipients who have ELCA health benefits.

Please mark your church envelope “ELCA Special Needs” or mark a “Welcome” envelope (available next to the offering basket).

CHURCH FAMILY

FUNERALS

Please pray for the family and friends of Frieda Merkel who passed away on July 18, 2021.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Frieda Merkel to the General Fund
Virginia Flamish Craig & Kathleen Hallowell

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

9/4 - Christine Henson	9/6 - Carl Drasher
9/8 - William Moser	9/10 - Ethel Funk
9/23 - Mary Szilli	9/27 - Nancy Hoffman



Wedding Anniversary

9/15 - Jerome & Judith Barnes

Financial Report

	Jul 2021 Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	Annual Budget
Giving	10,478	73,888	103,647	(29,759)	180,845
All other income	226	31,634	33,514	(1,880)	47,595
Total income	10,704	105,522	137,161	(31,639)	228,440
Expenses	23,269	143,016	168,553	(25,537)	291,369
Operating income (loss)	(12,565)	(37,494)	(31,392)	(6,102)	(62,929)
Transfers from Investments	-	36,750	36,750	-	63,000
Net income (loss)	(12,565)	(744)	5,358	(6,102)	71

	7/31/21	6/30/21	12/31/20
Balance Sheet			
Designated funds	117,520	117,489	107,283
General funds	4,975	16,292	14,896
Sunday School CDs	4,378	4,378	4,373
Total assets (a)	126,873	138,159	126,552

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs