

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



MAY, 2021

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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.

WORSHIP SERVICES

During the April 12, 2021, Union Council meeting, it was decided that we can safely begin to expand our worship service schedule. We will restart both the 8:00 a.m. worship service and the 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School on May 2nd. The Adult Sunday School will meet in the upper level of the Chapel. Children's Sunday School will begin on May 9th, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. As we become more comfortable, the singing of a hymn by the congregation will be added to the worship service.

The church guidelines will be updated to reflect these changes, but masks and social distance protocols will remain in place.

EGG-CELLENT EASTER EVENT THANK YOU

We thank everyone who helped with the Egg-cellent Easter Event on Saturday, March 27, 2021, including the generous donations and the folks who provided the candy and filled about 400 eggs, packed the gift bags, and assisted in the Park Drop-in and Drive-through in the parking lot ...and of course the Easter Bunny for helping out!

48 sealed gift bags were given out, including Bible story books about the real reason we celebrate Easter. 26 children enjoyed the Drop-In and 22 children at the Drive-Thru.

SEED TREE

A sincere thank you to everyone who donated various seeds to our Annual Project. After tabulating the total number of 437 packets and the purchasing price, it resulted in the amount of \$680.37. The seeds were packaged and sent via UPS to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky. Again, thank you.

Many families now have seeds to plant in their gardens to supplement their food needs.

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".)

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2021 offering envelopes are available for your pickup in the lower level Sunday School area. Forms are also there to authorize electronic giving – an easy and convenient way to set up automatic transfer from your bank account. Return completed forms to the Church Office or contact the Office with any questions or to pick up your envelopes.

MOTHER'S DAY

This year for Mother's Day, we invite you to celebrate your mother, or remember her, by making a donation to one of the local food banks. With so many families hurting for 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 hear 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.

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, May 30th, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, the Topton American Legion honor guard will join us in honoring our veterans. Please join us for this special remembrance.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

“When we return, we will all be newcomers.”

I came across this quote in an article about what it will be like as we all move back more fully into our buildings for worship and church activities. If you think about it, it makes sense, doesn't it? Even for those of us who have kept in touch via the phone and social media, there is so much of our lives that haven't been shared with others this past year. In many ways, we will have to get reacquainted and caught up on each other's lives. And that can be a good thing.

What would it look like if we treated everyone as a newcomer? What would it be like if we let go of everything we knew, or thought we knew about someone else and took the time to get to know them as if it were for the first time? What would we discover that we never knew? What new compassion and understanding could we gain?

There is something about Spring and Easter and New Beginnings, isn't there? Each Spring is the same and yet different and unique. Jesus, resurrected, is the same and yet different. All of us, slowly emerging from a year of quarantine, are the same and yet different. What have we learned about ourselves this past year? How have we changed? Or been changed?

As we slowly move back into doing more and more activities at church, what will be the same and yet different? Sadly, Covid will be with us for some time to come and will continue to shape the way we do things.

On the bright side, it gives us an opportunity to really look at what we do and why. We cannot have those wonderful congregational dinners with everyone packed into the dining hall like we used to, at least not yet. But what was it about those dinners that we loved so much? Was it the food? The people crammed together? The fellowship? The bickering over the correct way to prepare the food? When we can get to the core of what made our activities so memorable, we can bring those qualities forward and make them the centerpiece of whatever new activities we do.

As we continue to work on putting our Church Profile together, we will soon be coming to all of you to get your input. How have we changed? How has our community changed? What new ways is God calling us to be in our community? What new opportunities for ministry is God calling us to explore?

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

As much as we may want to go back to the way things were, we cannot. We are the same and yet different people. The world is the same and yet vastly different from 16 months ago. Our call to ministry is the same and yet needs to be done differently to reach the ever-changing world.

Will we have the ears to hear the Spirit calling us to new opportunities for congregational life and ministry? Can we blindly step out in faith and follow where the Spirit leads? If that sounds overwhelming or terrifying, remember, we are **all** newcomers, trying to figure it out together.

We follow the resurrected Christ. May we find the faith and courage to be transformed in his image and be his body – his presence – in the world.

Peace,
Pastor Jennifer

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

MEMORIALS:

In memory of James Garber:
Wayne & Bea Fogel

In memory of Harold Kemp:
Andrew & Susan Kent
Richard & Grace Haas

In memory of Robert Reinhard:
Eric & Robin Diehl
Carl & Minerva Arner
Scott & Emelie Swackhammer
Pearl Hoffman
James & Sandra Engelman

In memory of Patricia Fenstermacher:
Marie Bower

RELIGION

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.

BASILICA	EASTER	NUNCIO
BIBLE	FUNDAMENTALIST	NUN
BISHOP	GOLDEN CALF	PADRE
CALVINIST	HEBREWS	PARABLE
CANON	HYMNS	PATERNOSTER
CHOIR	ISRAELITE	POPE
CHRISTIAN	LENT	PRAYER
CHURCH	LIMBO	PRIEST
CLERIC	MANNY	SEDER
CREATOR	MONK	SERMON
CROSS	PMORMON	TEMPLE
DEACON	MOSES	

RELIGION

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

Financial Report

	Mar 2021	YTD		YTD		Annual Budget
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Variance	
Giving	13,226	26,933	44,189	(17,256)		180,845
All other income	516	4,943	8,899	(3,956)		47,595
Total income	13,742	31,876	53,088	(21,212)		228,440
Expenses	16,723	57,646	71,105	(13,459)		291,369
Operating income (loss)	(2,982)	(25,770)	(18,018)	(7,753)		(62,929)
Transfers from Investments	5,250	15,750	15,750	-		63,000
Net income (loss)	2,268	(10,020)	(2,268)	(7,753)		71

	3/31/21	2/28/21	12/31/20
Balance Sheet			
Designated funds	106,970	106,959	95,315
General funds	8,998	3,537	14,896
Sunday School CDs	4,373	4,373	4,373
Total assets (a)	120,340	114,868	114,584

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs