

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



Home for the Holidays

December 2022

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburtis, 18011
Church office: 610-845-2626 Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541
Rev. Rev. John S. Steitz
Pastor Home Office: 215-820-1650
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.

Huff's slogan: Making Disciples: Inside and Out. UCC slogan: God is still speaking. ELCA slogan: God's work, our hands.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

On Christmas Eve, December 24, 2022, we will have a candlelight and communion service at both 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. We will also have our Christmas Eve online service available.

POINSETTIAS IN CHURCH



Red Poinsettias will again adorn the Sanctuary for our Christmas Season. Order form was in the November Newsletter or on the table next to the Sunday Bulletin. If you would like to order a plant(s), please complete the order form and along with payment, give or mail to Robin Diehl at 50 Eric Lane, Alburtis, PA 18011, OR put it in an envelope marked POINSETTIAS and place in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to HUFF'S UNION CHURCH. Orders must be received by December 4, 2022. Cost is \$10.00 per plant.

MITTEN TREE

With the Christmas Season at our doorstep, the church will again be beautifully decorated on November 26, 2022.

The Mitten Tree will be erected upstairs for attaching caps, scarfs, hats, gloves, etc. until January 8, 2023. Items will then be delivered in early March to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky, by Dena and Maisy Funk. Many thanks for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Because Christmas falls on a Sunday, we will have only a 10:30 a.m. service that day. **NO 8:30 Service.**

LOOKING AHEAD

There will be **NO 8:30 services on the following Sundays:**

January 1, 2023 Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. only.

Christmas Carol Hymn Sing - **NO Communion in January.**

January 8, 2023 Langschwammer Nei Yaahrs Wunsch will be held at 10:30 a.m. only.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION

On Sunday, December 11th (snow date is December 18th) during our 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, the Children's Program will be held. Children will practice for the program during the Sunday School time each Sunday as well as at Children's Choir practice. Questions contact Joanne Benfield (jobenfield1213@gmail.com.)

2023 CHURCH ENVELOPES

Beginning Sunday, December 11, the 2023 church envelopes will be available for pick-up on the lower level of the church.

We have decreased the number of envelopes ordered to reduce waste. As a result, if you want an envelope pack for someone who was not assigned an envelope number, please contact the church office and a pack will be issued.

CLOSING THE CHURCH BOOKS FOR 2022

Any donations to be credited to 2022 giving statements must be received in the church office by December 31, 2022.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Because we want to have a complete picture of what is happening at Huff's Union Church each year, we ask every committee, team, or group to submit a report in Word Format (if possible) of what they have done in the previous year. 2022 reports are due in the church secretary's mailbox by January 23, 2023. Treasurer's reports are an exception; they will be due in the office by early February 2023.

SPONSORING BULLETINS OR FLOWERS IN 2023

New sign-up sheets for sponsoring flowers or bulletins in 2023 will be posted in the Upper Narthex on December 11. The cost for sponsoring Bulletins is \$17 and the cost for Flowers is \$31. More than one bouquet can be ordered for a particular Sunday, but if no order is placed for a Sunday, we will not have flowers in the Church. Please sign up with your name and whether this is in memory of or in honor of someone. Payment may be sent to the office or use a pew envelope and mark it bulletin or flower sponsorship. If you would like to sponsor flowers or bulletins for December 2022, please call the office.

HEATING THE CHURCH

Because of the enormous increase in heating oil costs, Church Council has decided that the church will be heated to a lower temperature this winter season. Therefore, when attending a church service or other activity in the building, please come prepared to wear warmer clothing.

SPECIAL OFFERING OPPORTUNITY FOR DECEMBER

The special offering opportunity for December is the UCC Christmas Fund. This offering supplements pensions and health care costs for those retired pastors and leaders of UCC congregations who fall into very low income brackets, or provides emergency assistance for pastors and families in financial need. Please use the envelopes in the pew racks or literature racks and place filled envelopes in the offering plate, or mail in your contributions, clearly marked "Christmas Fund". Thank you for helping those retired servants of God in their time of need.

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

Friend, Inc. will bring their mobile food truck to Huff's Union Church parking lot to distribute food on Thursday, December 1 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

HELP NEEDED FOR SNOW REMOVAL

We are in need of people who can help shovel the walkways around the church property on Sunday mornings, as well as on Saturdays and weekdays. If you can help, please contact Jim Meitzler, Sr. His phone numbers are: Home 610-845-2581 or Cell 610-504-1089.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

As always, if the weather conditions are unsafe, we will cancel church and post the cancellation notice on the WFMZ (Channel 69) television station. You can also go to our Facebook page or website, www.huffschurch.com to check for cancellation notices. You may also call a council member. We will make our decision by 7:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. If there are **more than two inches of snow** Saturday night or Sunday morning, the 8:30 a.m. service is automatically cancelled. If 8:30 a.m. church service is cancelled, adult Sunday School class is also cancelled.

If you are not sure of conditions, please put your safety first and join us in our online worship.

CHOIR PRACTICES AT HUFF'S

Bell Choir meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Children's Choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:15. All children are welcome!

Senior Choir meets on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:30. Everyone is welcome!

CHURCH FAMILY

FUNERALS

Please pray for the family and friends of Dolores J. Schmoyer who passed away on October 27, 2022.

Memorial Donations for Carl Arner

George Baver

Memorial Donation for Claire Sheetz

Mary Weller & Family

Memorial Donations for Dennis Miller

Diane Styer & Richard Pazel

Sam & Rosa Styer

Scott & Emelie Swackhamer

Charles & Carol Zwoyer

Gayle Dimmick

Timken Company

Ashley Frady & Tim Shinall (Grandchildren)

Patricia Crossley

Katherine Moore

Marie Bower

Ann Taylor

Marion Miller

Sue Shinall

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:

Birthday missed in November

Lucille Grampp - 11/9

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/4 - Charles Hoffman

12/24 - Jean Kline

12/20 - Pauline Reinhard

12/25 - Stanley Geisinger

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:

12/28 - John & Jane Leeser

HUFF'S CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING

The next Huff's Church Auxiliary meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONGREGATION MEETING

On December 11, 2022, there will be a Union Corporation meeting within the 10:30AM worship service. **NO** 8:30 a.m. service that day. Anyone who is an Active Member at Huff's may vote (which includes our teenagers who have been confirmed). Zoom links will be provided to remotely connect by computer or phone in the eblast and upcoming bulletins, or you may contact the Church office for the information.

The required quorum to hold the meeting is 50 Active Members.

In the event that the business of the meeting cannot be completed for any reason including but not limited to inclement weather, provision of additional information, or lack of quorum, the meeting will be continued to Sunday, December 18, 2022, within the 10:30AM Worship Service. **No** 8:30 a.m. service if the meeting is continued to that Sunday. Those Active Members who attend the meeting on December 18, shall constitute a quorum and are authorized to act on this matter even if less than 50 are in attendance.

If the voting is done on December 11, then the December 18 meeting will not be held.

The agenda for the meeting will be the following items:

-2023 Union Budget

-Nominations and election of members to Union Council.

Questions about the meeting or the vote, contact Martin Kriebel at 610-845-2960 or martin.kriebel.315@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study Group will be celebrating Christmas at Prospect Hill Farm, 298 Conrad Rd., Alburdis, PA on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 10:30. Please confirm to Edwina at the church office if you are planning to attend.

BRINGING BACK THE CIF

As the result of the increasing costs of maintenance on our campus, we are bringing back the Capital Improvements Fund in 2023.

Huff's is facing major expenses in the coming years. The church roof is in poor condition and will need to be replaced soon. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is forcing Huff's to install water treatment systems in the church, the chapel, and the park. The wood on the buildings needs to be painted and, in some places, replaced. Without additional donations, these expenses will have to be taken out of our investments.

Union Council hopes that by bringing these upcoming expenses to your attention, we can reduce the need to withdraw invested money, the income from which is being used to supplement the operating expenses of the church.

PASTOR JOHN STEITZ'S ARTICLE

THE JESUS CREED

Hear O Israel:

The Lord our God, the Lord is One.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,

With all your soul,

With all your mind,

And with all your strength.

The second is this:

Love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

(From Mark 12:29-31)

Financial Report

	YTD		Variance	Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget		
Giving	122,325	142,650	(20,325)	175,740
All other income	79,652	58,682	20,971	58,991
Total income	201,977	201,332	646	234,731
Expenses	264,684	284,581	(19,897)	336,095
Operating income (loss)	(62,707)	(83,249)	20,543	(101,364)
Transfers from Investments	60,000	84,500	(24,500)	101,400
Net income (loss)	(2,707)	1,251	(3,957)	36

	10/31/22	9/30/22	12/31/21
Balance Sheet			
Designated funds	62,661	83,116	116,006
General funds	21,631	9,771	23,251
Sunday School CDs	4,384	4,384	4,379
Total assets (a)	88,676	97,270	143,635

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs