

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



JANUARY 2024

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburtis, 18011

Church office: 610-845-2626 Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541

Pastor: Rev. John 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

To reach out to the world around us and share the everlasting love of Jesus Christ!

Making Disciples: Inside and Out.

UCC slogan: God is still speaking.

ELCA slogan: God's work, our hands.

UNDECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Please come out to help undecorate the church on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

MITTEN TREE

The Mitten Tree has been set up for attaching caps, scarfs, gloves, etc. until January 14, 2024. Items will go to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky. Many thanks for your generosity.

SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER

On Sunday, December 24, we will have our regularly-scheduled 10:30 a.m. worship service. Our Christmas Eve candlelight and communion services will be held at both 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. We will also have our online service.

Christmas Carol Hymn Sing will be held on December 31 at the 10:30 a.m. service.

LANGSCHWAMMER NEI YAAHRS WINSCH

We will celebrate the **Langschwammer Nei Yaahrs Wunsch**, presented by Mike & Linda Hertzog, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 14, 2024. This is a PA Dutch New Year's Blessing given in the Dialect.

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. 2023 reports are due in the church secretary's mailbox by January 23, 2024. Treasurer's reports are an exception; they will be due in the office by early February.

SPECIAL JANUARY OFFERING

There is no special denominational offering for the month of January. We would appreciate your continued support of Huff's Union Church's mission and ministry in 2024.

2024 CHURCH ENVELOPES

Church Envelopes are 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 2023

Any donations to be credited to 2023 Giving Statements must be received in the church office by December 31, 2023.

HANDBELL CHOIR

The Huff's Church Handbell Choir rehearses every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Contact Roberta Windish at 267-733-5283 if interested in joining.

SENIOR CHOIR

Huff's Church Senior Choir rehearsals are held every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Gloria Adams.

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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If weather conditions are unsafe, we will cancel church and post the notice on WFMZ TV Channel 69. You can also go to our Facebook page or website, www.huffschurch.com, or you may call a council member. We will make our decision by 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. If there are more than two inches of snow Saturday night or Sunday morning, Adult Sunday School Class is cancelled. If unsure of conditions, please put your safety first and join in our online worship at www.huffschurch.com.

SPONSORING BULLETINS OR FLOWERS IN 2024

Sign-up sheets for sponsoring flowers or bulletins in 2024 are posted in the Upper Narthex. 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.

HUFFS CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING

There will be no Auxiliary Meetings during the winter months.

FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S

Friend, Inc. will bring a truck on Thursday, January 4, from 3:30

to 4:30 p.m. to Huff's Church parking lot for food distribution to those in need. If you can volunteer (age 12 and older) to carry items from the Food Truck to vehicles, contact Tom Mitchell at 610-906-2823.

HEATING THE CHURCH

Because of the enormous increase in heating oil costs, Church Council has once again 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 with warmer clothing.

LUNCH BUNCH

All are welcome to Lunch Bunch on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 12:00 noon at the Alburdis Tavern in Alburdis, PA. Members and friends of Huff's Church are welcome to join us for a monthly lunch (we choose and purchase our own lunches from the regular menu) and a lot of good fellowship and laughter. Because of restaurant staff shortages, we want to provide a Lunch Bunch head count so that the Alburdis Tavern can comfortably host us. If you would like to come to Lunch Bunch, call or text Tom Mitchell by Sunday, January 14, at email dilligas1213@gmail.com. See you at the Alburdis Tavern!

GREETERS

Thank you to everyone who served as a greeter in 2023. Your welcoming smiles and warm greetings blessed everyone entering our church. If anyone is interested in being a greeter in 2024, please write your name on the sign-up sheet on the downstairs bulletin board, call the church office (610-845-2626) or see Jane Leeser.

Thank you. Jane Leeser

PASTOR'S ARTICLE LENTEN STUDY

This year Ash Wednesday is on February 14, 2024. During Lent I will be leading a **Lenten Study on Living Compassion: Loving Like Jesus**, a book by Andrew Dreitcer. There will be five sessions on Wednesdays at 12 noon: **February 21, February 28, March 6, March 13, and March 20**. More information to follow in Sunday bulletins in January.

WINTER LUNCH/SOUP SALE

We're trying to warm things up in the cold month of January with some soup! On **January 14**, Huffs will be selling containers of homemade broccoli cheddar, red clam chowder, and baked potato soup. Pints will cost \$5 and quarts \$9. Orders will be taken ahead of time. Look for the order sheet in the upper narthex of the church, call the office at 610-845-2626, or call Tess Woloszanski. Payment can be made upon ordering or upon pickup.

Following the New Year's Wish worship service on January 14 (about 11:30 a.m.), come over to the Chapel to pick up your soup and **stay for lunch!** We will be selling cups of hot soup for \$3.00 and hot dogs for \$2.00. Enjoy drinks and desserts on us!

In the event of bad weather that day, the soup will be refrigerated until Tuesday, January 16, and can be picked up between 5:30 and 6:30 pm in the Chapel.

CHURCH FAMILY

DEATHS

We pray for family and friends of:

David Leibensperger, who passed away on November 24, 2023.

Jane Arndt, who passed away on December 8, 2023.

Lorraine Greiss, who passed away on December 8, 2023.

Gwen Albert, who passed away on December 9, 2023.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

We are honoring our members who will 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

Audrey Diehl	-	January 1
Janice Rauch	-	January 4
Berry Crum	-	January 6
Marianna Strunk	-	January 12
Minerva Arner	-	January 17
Milton Kerchner	-	January 23

NEW MINISTRY ASSISTANT - ANGELA HISH

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. I'm Angela Hish and I am the new Ministry Assistant here at Huff's Church. Prior to accepting this position, I enjoyed a fifteen year career in the veterinary field. My husband and I are lifelong residents of the area and raised our children here as well. I look forward to working with all of you and want to thank everyone I've met thus far for making me feel welcome.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The December congregational meeting was held on December 3, 2023, during the 10:30 worship service, at which time the 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets were adopted by the Congregation. At the same time, the following individuals were elected to Union Council for the year 2024: Aurel Arndt and Jim Meitzler, Jr. There are two council positions to be filled. If you would like to serve on Union Council, please contact Jim Meitzler, Sr. or the church office.

2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS & STAFF

Michael Diehl michaeldiehl@gmail.com	William Stoudt wpslstoudt@gmail.com
Martin Kriebel martin.kriebel.315@gmail.com	Elaine Witman eaw12049@comcast.net
Lori Lanahan framelori@lori.com	Theresa Woloszanski tess314@windstream.net
Carol Leh lehcs@dejazzd.com	Aurel Arndt aurel.arndt@gmail.com
Matthew Schantz countryboypuller@gmail.com	Jimmy Meitzler, Jr. Jim.Meitzler@kcba-architects.com
Rev. John Steitz nonviolent1998@gmail.com	Jon Benfield jbenfield429@gmail.com
Edwina Fox office@huffschurch.com	Angela Hish ministry@huffschurch.com
Robert Arner robertarner@ptd.net	

Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Giving	166,014	147,162	18,853
All other income	50,543	38,621	11,922
Total income	216,558	185,783	30,775
Expenses	308,948	332,212	(23,264)
Operating loss	(92,390)	(146,430)	54,039
Capital expenditures	(15,650)	(73,333)	57,683
Transfers from Investments	137,500	211,699	(74,199)
Net income (loss)	29,460	(8,064)	37,524

Balance Sheet	11/30/23	10/31/23	12/31/22
Designated funds	106,057	100,811	73,887
General funds	4,208	6,913	5,011
Sunday School CDs	4,389	4,389	4,385
Total assets (a)	114,654	112,113	83,283

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs