

HUFF'S UNION CHURCH ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2024



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.

Huff's Union Church, Inc.

Rev. John Steitz, Pastor

January 1, 2024 until December 31, 2024

540 Conrad Rd.

Alburtis, PA 18011

Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith, Bridge Pastor

October 6, 2024 through December 31, 2024

Office 610-845-2626 Fax 610-845-8507

Email: office@huffschurch.com

Website: www.huffschurch.com

Facebook: Huff's Union Church

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2024 UNION COUNCIL

Members

Theresa Woloszanski
Martin Kriebel
Michael Diehl
Jon Benfield
Lori Lanahan
Carol Leh
Jim Meitzler, Jr.
Matthew Schantz
William Stoudt
Elaine Witman
Lisa Mohammedein
Carol Petroske
Aurel Arndt
Rev. John Steitz
Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith
Gabriella Moyer, Youth Representative

Officers

Theresa Woloszanski - President
Martin Kriebel - Vice President
Michael Diehl - Secretary
Jon Benfield - Treasurer

Huff's Church Staff

Office Manager - Edwina Fox

Our Office Manager is often the first person many people meet as they look for information on our congregation or historical information. Some of the tasks Edwina does include management of office files and mail, maintaining congregation membership and financial records, arranging for access to facilities for maintenance and events, advertising events, preparation and printing of newsletters and other documents, and maintenance of ministry supplies and office equipment. Contact Edwina at: office@huffschurch.com or 610-845-2626.

Ministry Assistant - Angela Hish

The Ministry Assistant supports the Congregation volunteers, Pastor, and Office Manager by providing effective and consistent communication, organization, procedures, and recordkeeping. Angela's work includes preparing worship service bulletin, designing Facebook posts, maintaining online church calendar and office procedures manual, developing the weekly E-Blast, preparing online worship service bulletin with hymn words, researching music copyright licensing permission, preparing for Council meetings and recording minutes. Contact Angela at: ministry@huffschurch.com or 610-845-2626.

Music Director - Kathy Anthony

The Music Director plays the piano and organ for Worship Services and directs the Senior and Bell choirs. In addition to selecting music for the Services in and recruiting members for the choirs, the Music Director arranges for special music presentations by vocalists and instrumentalists. When available, the Music Director coordinates and plays for weddings and funerals. The Music Director monitors the condition the Church's organ, pianos, handbells, and other musical instruments. Contact Kathy by leaving a message with the Ministry Assistant.

Media & Technical Specialist - Robert Arner

The Media and Technical Specialist's work is mostly in the background and includes setting up and closing the facilities for ministry events, controls sound and lighting, and manages the technology to provide online worship. In addition to these general tasks, Robert does weekly water testing, broadcasts the worship service live online, and edits the video recording of worship service to upload to YouTube. Contact Robert by leaving a message with Ministry Assistant.

Groundskeeping - Ernest Geist & Kyle Arner

The groundskeepers handle the big job of mowing, trimming, and leaf cleanup around the Church, the Cemeteries, and Park. Contact Edwina Fox by leaving a message with the Office Manager.

BAPTISMS

<u>Name of Child/Parents</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Baptized</u>
Brayden C. Boyer ...Sonya Boyer & Daniel Geisinger	9/28/2012	1/14/2024
Mabel L. Michlovsky ...Samuel & Candace Michlovsky	9/11/2023	1/14/2024
Emersyn J. Lunney ...Patrick & Lauren Lunney	8/30/2023	1/14/2024
Emersyn E. Isamoyer ...Conner Isamoyer & & Allesandra Mejia	9/28/2023	8/4/2024
Ellianna L. Smith ...Zachary & Samantha Smith	4/29/2021	12/15/2024
Travis J. Mininger, Sr. ...David & Carol Mininger	12/1/1982	12/22/2024

MARRIAGES

<u>Names of Groom & Bride</u>	<u>Date of Marriage</u>
Paul Giangiacomo & Breanna Watkins	8/3/2024

DEATHS

<u>Names of Deceased</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Date of Service</u>
Marion V. Miller	1/13/2024	1/20/2024
Stephen E. Kalis	1/30/2024	2/1/2024
Richard F. Brensinger	5/19/2024	6/4/2024
Patricia E. Zentner	5/27/2024	6/4/2024
Betty M. Kline	5/28/2024	6/3/2024
Donald A. Buss	6/8/2024	6/13/2024
Roy F. Bitting	7/12/2024	7/20/2024
Jean D. Norris	8/15/2024	8/23/2024
John R. Gouldner	10/20/2024	10/25/2024
Anna R. Moyer	10/21/2024	10/25/2024
Ethel J. Funk	11/2/2024	11/7/2024
Sandra E. Miller	11/18/2024	11/22/2024
Fern B. Hoffman	12/5/2024	12/14/2024
Lorraine B. Hunter	12/28/2024	1/6/2025

NEW MEMBERS**Names of Member****Date Transferred****TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER CONGREGATION****Names of Member****Date Transferred****CONFIRMATION****Names of Confirmand****Date Confirmed****MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

Total confirmed membership as of 12/31/2023:	553
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Additions to membership:	0
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Deletions from Membership - Transfers:	0
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Deletions from Membership - Deaths:	14
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Moved to inactive status:	124
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Total confirmed membership as of 12/31/2024:	415
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Average Sunday Worship Attendance:	
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Online Worship Service	49
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Sunday by Sunday Average Worship Attendance:	73
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Huffs Union Church
Statement of Income and Expenses

	Audited		Audited	
	2023	2024	2024	2025
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Giving for operating expenses	193,907	174,150	173,763	168,575
Funds from Church groups	18,012	21,000	21,000	21,000
Fundraising profit	16,007	13,910	16,031	14,000
Facility rentals	120	200	940	450
Interest income	811	2,715	2,580	1,250
Total income	228,857	211,975	214,314	205,275
Christian education	2,201	3,050	3,290	3,625
Evangelism	-	3,500	132	200
Insurance	17,920	19,728	19,213	21,353
Benevolence	40,881	23,420	24,503	21,800
Ministry expenses	12,317	10,125	11,388	11,830
Payroll	159,814	185,990	155,671	186,283
Pastoral expenses	26,304	28,842	35,176	30,624
Professional fees	5,868	1,200	962	1,100
Repairs and maintenance	27,044	26,852	27,049	32,775
Utilities	27,986	22,050	20,087	23,150
Bank charges	522	550	608	650
Total expenses	320,856	325,307	298,080	333,390
Operating deficit	(91,999)	(113,332)	(83,766)	(128,115)
Transfers from investments	137,011	113,332	92,083	128,115
Net change in cash	45,012	-	8,317	-

Audit completed by Jane Leeser, Jim Meitzler, Sr., and Aurel Arndt, Mar 2025
Submitted by: Jon Benfield

Huffs Union Church
Balance Sheet

	Audited 12/31/24	Audited 12/31/23	Change	
Designated Funds				
Electronic Organ Fund	1,170	1,170	-	
Capital Improvements Fund	-	-	-	(a)
Local Needy Fund	-	1,330	(1,330)	(b)
Sabbatical Fund	2,255	2,255	-	
Continuing Education Fund	-	985	(985)	(b)
Missions Outreach	10,621	10,621	-	
Jane Kulkua Scholarship Fund	2,230	2,230	-	
Special Music	16,315	17,355	(1,040)	(c)
Sunday School Account	3,278	6,715	(3,437)	(d)
Youth Group Account	8,982	12,429	(3,447)	(d)
Operations Fund	48,604	63,739	(15,135)	(e)
Total Designated Funds	93,454	118,828	(25,374)	
General Funds				
Petty cash	269	239	29	
Current Fund	1,209	7,166	(5,957)	
Total General Funds	1,478	7,405	(5,928)	
Investments				
Sunday School CD - Truist	-	1,529	(1,529)	(f)
Sunday School CD - Truist	-	1,500	(1,500)	(f)
Sunday School CD - Truist	-	1,448	(1,448)	(f)
Long-term Fund	3,791,836	3,538,519	253,317	(f)
Total Investments	3,791,836	3,542,997	248,839	
Total Assets	3,886,767	3,669,230	217,537	

Investment Balance Roll-forward	2024	2023	
Beginning balance	3,538,519	2,856,419	
Transfers from UCC Investments	-	225	(g)
Transfers from ELCA Investments	-	390,461	(g)
Transfers from Sunday School CDs	4,693	-	(f)
Contributions - estate gift	30,000	-	
Interest & dividends	125,666	104,131	
Realized & unrlzd gains/(losses)	261,389	353,515	
Fees	(18,431)	(16,232)	
Withdrawals (transfers to checking)	(150,000)	(150,000)	
Ending balance	3,791,836	3,538,519	

- (a) all donations received designated for capital improvements were spent within the year
(b) funds fully expended during 2024
(c) funds used for special music performances throughout 2024
(d) Sunday School and Youth Group funds were contributed to the Union Church to support general operating expenses and Christian Ed and confirmation events
(e) Operations Fund is to support general operating and capital expenses and for liquidity
(f) Sunday School CDs were redeemed and contributed to the long-term investment fund
(g) 2023 transfers related to merger of UCC and ELCA entities into Union Church

**Huffs Union Church
Capital Expenditures**

	Audited 2023 Actual	2024 Budget	Audited 2024 Actual	2025 Budget	Notes
Paint & caulk buildings	-	25,000	-	25,000	caulk & paint all three buildings
Chlorination system for church	15,650	-	-	-	
Support of Park Board capital expenditures	-	10,000	2,000	15,000	2024 spend was to reinforce bandshell posts; 2025 budget includes \$10k for well pit improvements and \$5k in support of repairing, prepping, and painting bandshell support columns & painting of benches
Church roof major maintenance	-	150,000	48,341	-	2024 spend was for major repairs vs. replacement; 2025 operating budget includes \$2k of roof maintenance
Chapel major maintenance	-	40,000	18,229	40,000	2024 spend was on bathroom ceilings / roof
Replacement fund Heating/air conditioning system in church		15,000	22,801	20,000	unexpected / non-designated costs major repairs to boiler piping/ valves; replace compressor for 1st floor
Church well pump replacement			1,949		
Total capital expenditures	15,650	240,000	93,320	100,000	
Funding of capital expenditures					
Giving - capital improvements	2,661	5,000	5,403	3,000	
Estate gifts	-	-	30,000	13,500	
Transfers from investments	12,989	235,000	57,917	83,500	
Total funding	15,650	240,000	93,320	100,000	

Contributions for 2024 by Category

Dollar Amount Given	Giving per Unit
Zero	95
.01 – 5.00	3
5.01 – 10.00	7
10.01 – 25.00	32
25.01 – 50.00	30
50.01 – 75.00	16
75.01 – 100.00	20
100.01 – 150.00	17
150.01 – 200.00	36
200.01 – 250.00	10
250.01 – 300.00	10
300.01 – 350.00	0
350.01 – 400.00	3
400.01 – 450.00	4
450.01 – 500.00	2
500.01 – 750.00	16
750.01 – 1000.00	6
1000.01 – 1500.00	17
1500.01 – 2000.00	8
2000.01 – 2500.00	5
2500.01 – 3000.00	1
3000.01 – 3500.00	0
3500.01 – 4000.00	2
4000.01 – 4500.00	1
4500.01 – 5000.00	1
5000.01 – 6000.00	2
6000.01 – plus	5
Total Giving Units	349

Pastor Steitz's Report

No report given.

Pastor Rev. Angelee C. Benner-Smith, Report 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Huff's as your Bridge Pastor during the time of Pastor John's illness and the church's discernment of next steps in ministry. From October 2024 until the end of January 2025, I have served the congregation in part-time ministry. There have been funerals, baptisms, new members received, Sunday worship services, council and church meetings, telephone and in-person talks and visits. I have been able to have lunch with the monthly lunch bunch, help with the food truck distribution and share communion with those attending and those not able to be in the church building. I have written monthly reports, newsletter articles and have added some insight into your wonderful Confirmation group. I have heard first-hand your unique organ, admired the care in decorating the beautiful sanctuary, listened to the adult choir, youth music, and varied instrumentalists led by Kathy, an amazing, faithful musician. You are blessed with many gifted lay readers guiding the service and willing leaders in council/committees, throughout the church. You are not lacking in resources physical, spiritual, supportively emotional, and prayerful. Huff's is blessed!

As I am preparing for my last official sermon as your bridge Pastor, I was amazed that the scripture for this Sunday is from 1 Corinthians, about our identity as Christ's body, interconnected and proud of our individual uniqueness and talents. Although separate and varied, we are interdependent with each other to make the one Body of Christ shine brightly. It is one of my favorite passages from Paul, telling the story of how a congregation is to function and grow as one body.

Huff's must imagine and embrace a new designated pastor and allow their leadership to pull from all of you your best body of Christ in this community. If you can be open and excited about the witness possibilities, and as all the member's find their part in the church body, I know the blessings will abound, and God will smile with hope brightly within you.

Be the light you pray to see in the world!

With my thanks for your care and acceptance of my ministry among you,

Submitted by: Reverend Angelee Benner-Smith, Pastor

2024 Union Council Highlights

NIV Bible Verse: Acts 14:23 - Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Accomplishments during the past year:

January 8

- Election of Church Officers are as follows: Theresa Woloszanski, President; Martin Kriebel, Vice President; Jon Benfield, Treasurer and Michael Diehl, Secretary.
- A renewed effort to find a Music Director was emphasized.
- The list of Two Year (Inactive) letter recipients was approved.
- Two more council members are needed to serve for 2024.
- Mission Endowment distributions were approved.

February 5

- A Music Committee restructured the Music Director position into four parts in an effort to find possible candidates.
- Boiler repairs were made and reported upon.
- Angela Hish reported on the need to update the directory.
- Caring and Sharing Committee may be restructured. Lisa Kauffman will send cards.
- Pastor John made recommendations for events and music to be planned for the park.

March 11

- Updates to the Church Website were made and reported upon.
- Summer events planned – two free Ice Cream Socials in July and August.
- We approved a Friend, Inc. presentation during the worship service.
- Summer special music was planned during three outdoor worship services, with Scott Marshall, Hannah Violet, and Mike Hertzog.
- The 2023 Annual Report was approved for presentation to the congregation.
- Youth Protection Policy needs to be updated. Aurel Arndt and Jimmy Meitzler will begin work on this.

April 8

- Two new council members were approved – Lisa Mohammedein and Carol Petroske.
- The need for Chapel bathroom remodeling was discussed.
- Kathy Anthony was approved as the new Music Director.
- Keith Brintzenhoff was approved to do a folk music presentation.
- The Annual Spring Congregational Meeting was held on April 21.

May 13

- We held a Hope Rescue Mission Clothing Drive in May.
- The decision about Chapel cleaning was put into the Auxiliary Committee hands.
- A Pastor Parish Committee needs to be re-formed.

2024 Union Council Highlights (continued)

June 10

- Chapel cleaning will be done by the company that cleans the church (Tiffany's), but just once a month.
- We received a bequest from Bonnie Solt. Money will be received annually from her estate.
- We're looking for painters to paint the park benches and bandshell posts.
- Newly elected council members were installed on June 16th.

July, 2024

- No council meeting was planned for July.

August 12

- Pastor John announced the need for a medical leave and went on STD as of Aug. 11. He provided us with a disability plan to help with our planning while he was gone.
- Bridge pastor candidates were interviewed.
- The Chapel Rental Policy was reviewed and updated.
- Chapel repairs were begun by Terry Ziegenfuss.
- We received a bequest of \$30,000 from Richard Brensinger, which was given to the Finance and Investment Committee to invest.

September 9

- We hired Pastor Angelee Benner-Smith to serve as a bridge pastor during Pastor John's Short-Term Disability.
- We discussed the draft of the Youth Protection Policy.
- Aurel worked on getting an estimate for park bench and post painting, as did Tess.
- Budget forms were made available, and work began on the 2025 budget.
- A Chapel Improvements Committee was formed, with Jimmy Meitzler Jr. and Matt Schantz as the first two members.

October 14

- We had two estimates for park bench painting. One bandshell post needs to be repaired or replaced prior to painting.
- A new Nominating Committee was formed, including Lisa Mohammedin and Elaine Witman.
- An ELCA Survey was completed by over a dozen church members, which should entitle our church to a \$250 Amazon gift card.
- The 2025 proposed budget was presented and reviewed.
- Wedding and Funeral Fees and Honorariums were discussed and will be updated.
- The council decided to discontinue Thanksgiving Eve Services, based on poor attendance in the last several years.
- A Pastor Parish Committee needs to be re-formed.

2024 Union Council Highlights (continued)

November 11

- The 2025 budget was approved by council, to be presented to the congregation in December.
- Wedding Fees and Guidelines and Funeral Fees and Guidelines were updated and approved.
- The list of members being moved to Associate status was approved.
- The rotted park post was replaced by a new one. Cost was covered by the Park Board.
- We approved dates for Pastor Angelee to do two baptisms in December – one child, and one adult.
- We approved a December 15th date for the children's Christmas Program.

December 9

- The contractor that was hired to paint the park benches and bandshell posts died suddenly, so we need to seek new estimates again.
- The Caring & Sharing Committee needs an overhaul, and someone to provide leadership. This was discussed.
- Joanne suggested an inclement weather plan announcement be added to the website, so Jen Weaver does not need to be involved in posting something if we are closed on a Sunday.
- A committee is forming to update the Church Profile that was done 2 ½ years ago, in preparation for the search for a settled pastor.
- Aurel Arndt and the Park Board are gathering quotes for rehab of the Park well.

Respectfully Submitted by: Tess Woloszanski, Council President

2024 Committees and Chair Persons

Committee Name	Committee Chair Person	Chairperson Email Address
Audio Visual	Joanne Benfield	jobenfield1213@gmail.com
Audit	Jane Leeser	jmltiki@aol.com
Auxiliary	Lisa Kauffman	kauffmanschildcare@msn.com
Budget	Jon Benfield	jbenfield429@gmail.com
Building & Grounds	William Stoudt	wpslstoudt@gmail.com
Caring & Sharing	Pat Crossley	p.crossley@comcast.net
Cemetery	Steven Lorish	lorishmoyer@windstream.net
Children, Youth & Faith	Joanne Benfield	jobenfield1213@gmail.com
Dramatized Lord's Supper	Gary Moll & Frank Meitzler	glmoll@cedarcrest.edu
Equipment Oversight	Bill Stoudt	wpslstoudt@gmail.com
Finance & Investment	Justin Miller	jmiller0107@gmail.com
Gift	Rachel Welch	rahelwelch@yahoo.com
Greeters	Jane Leeser	jmltiki.aol.com
Historian	Scott Swackhamer	swackhamer101@gmail.com
Hospitality	Tess Woloszanski	theresawoloszanski@gmail.com
Library	Carol Leh	lehcarol4@gmail.com
Memorial Park	LeRoy Leibensperger & Joanne Benfield	jobenfield1213@gmail.com
Memorial Park Finance	John Leeser	birdmanjhl@aol.com
Mission Endowment	Ernest Geist	epgeist@gmail.com
Mission Outreach	Tom Mitchell	dilligas1213@gmail.com
Pastor Parish	Michael Diehl	michaelediehl@gmail.com
Personnel	Jimmy Meitzler Sr.	pamij6@gmail.com
Prayer Chain	John Leeser	birdmanjhl@aol.com
Prayer Partners	John Leeser	birdmanjhl@aol.com
Sunday School	Rachel Welch	rahelwelch@yahoo.com
Vacation Bible School	Melissa Benfield	mbenfield429@gmail.com
Worship & Music	Kay Kriebel	kaykriebel@gmail.com

Submitted by: Tess Woloszanski

Audio-Visual and Online Outreach

Bible Verse: Mark 16:15 Jesus said, “Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News”

Purpose: To extend the reach of Huff’s Church ministry through audio visual support and online outreach, and provide information about upcoming events to both members and community.

Staff and volunteer support: Thank-you to all the team who do the “behind the scenes” work! Robert Arner, Media and Technical Specialist, handles audio, broadcasting, recording and up-loading, of worship services.

Angela Hish, Ministry Assistant, designs and composes Facebook posts, designs online title page and bulletins, researches copyright licensing permissions for online music, maintains online calendar, composes eBlasts, assists as administrator on Facebook.

Volunteers: Ron Leshner, video camera recording of Services; Jennifer Weaver, designs and maintains website, Facebook administrator, and posts services weekly on Facebook; Joanne Benfield assists with coordination and communication; Pam Moll assists as administrator on Facebook.

To extend the reach of Huff’s Church ministry through audio visual support and online outreach, and provide information about upcoming events to both members and community.

Accomplishments during past year: Huff’s Church extended outreach in these various ways:

Website: www.huffschurch.com 3656 views in 2024 \$5200 received through website in 2024 The website provides an introduction to Huff’s Church where folks can see photos of our campus, find information about worship times, videos of our worship services, find summaries of our various ministries, and learn about our Pastor and staff. Background is provided about the UCC and ELCA denominations, Huffs Church history, and links to cemetery listings for family research. *Calendar* link provides dates and times of events. *Donate* tab enables convenient online giving.

Live Broadcast and Recorded Worship Services: www.youtube.com/@huffschurch

Total views in 2024 – 2537; Subscribers-58

Worship Services are broadcast live on Huff’s Union Church YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@huffschurch> under the LIVE tab. The edited recording of the Service is usually available for replay by 5:00 p.m. at the same link under the VIDEO tab. The recorded Service is usually posted by Sunday evening on Huffs Union Church Facebook pages.

Weekly eBlast Email: Total Subscribers in 2024 - 81

The eBlast can be delivered to your inbox every Thursday. In it you will find a quick reference of the important events going on here at Huff’s Church. If you’d like to be added to our weekly eBlast list, please email the Ministry Assistant at ministry@huffschurch.com and ask to be added to the list.

Audio-Visual and Online Outreach (continued)

Facebook: Huff's Church maintains a Public Page and a Member Group Page

Public Page *Huff's Union Church Inc.* - 301 Followers

Group Page: *Huff's Union Church Member Group* – 353 Members, 23 new members added in 2024

We post upcoming events and announcements on these pages several times per week. You can 'share' posts on our public page. Facebook rules do not allow sharing from the private member page. 'Like' our public page or request to 'join' the Member Group page.

Park Worship Services AV Set-up, Music Amplification and Broadcast to Car Radio

For the usual 8 summer Services, set-up video and amplification for microphones and keyboard. Several folks with difficulty walking or other reasons enjoy sitting in their car near the Bandshell where they can see both the Service and tune in on their car radio to clearly hear the Service.

Future Projects:

Possibly add some use of video screen during some worship services in the Sanctuary

Replace/add speakers for Park Worship Services sound system and keyboard

Update website

Submitted by: Joanne Benfield

Audit Committee

Bible Verse: **Leviticus 19:36** You shall have honest balances and honest weights.

Proverbs 11:1 A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but an accurate weight is his delight.

Purpose: Purpose: The Lord wants us to be accurate and honest in our business and our accounting. To be fiscally responsible we audit all financial records annually.

Chairperson: Jane Leaser

Accomplishments during th past year:

Audits were completed on the treasurers' books for the year ending December 31, 2024, for Huff's Union Cemetery, Ladies Aid, Park Board, The Endowment Fund, and Huff's Union Church.

All records were found to be in order and correct.

Thank you to all of the treasurers for their valuable time and excellent work throughout the year. Thank you also to Deb Romig, Sue Stockdale, Aurel Arndt, and Jim Meitzler, Sr. for their help in completing the audits.

Submitted by: Jane Leaser

Building and Grounds/Equipment Committee

Bible Verse: Ezekiel 44: 14 - Yet I will appoint them to keep charge of the temple, to do all its chores, all that is to be done in it.

Purpose: The Building and Grounds/Equipment Committee is responsible for maintaining the church campus in appearance and working order.

Chairperson: William Stoudt

Tasks for 2024:

1. Review Agreements of Approved Service Contractors
2. Review Work Orders and Invoices
3. Fire Extinguisher and Alarm Test Completed
4. Review Chemical Analysis Treatment
5. HVAC inspections & Repairs.

Accomplishments for 2024:

Chapel:

- Took measures to keep interior dry
- Renovated bathroom ceiling and painted
- Removed the bats living in the attic and sealed the entrances

Church:

- We replaced the church well pump after it had been struck by lightning
- Replaced leaking door closures
- Snow removal

Thanks to Martin Kriebel and Jimmy Meitzler, Sr. for their support for many of these tasks would not meet fruition.

Submitted by: William Stoudt

Caring & Sharing Committee

Bible Verse: Matthew 25: 10 - And the King will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Purpose: The Caring and Sharing Committee supervises the Lay Visitors program, whose members visit our congregation's homebound members and those who are temporarily homebound with some volunteers qualified to offer Holy Communion. They also send birthday cards to those members age 80 and above and anniversary cards to those members married 50 years or more.

We are hoping to meet with the new bridge pastor to see if we can get a better program for this committee and maybe find out what other churches are doing in this situation.

Members: Pat Crossley, Norma Greiss, Lisa Kauffman, Jane Leeser and Rhoda Shaner.

Submitted by: Pat Crossley

Cemetery Board

Huff's Union Church Cemetery Calendar Year 2024

Bible Verse: Genesis 23: 6 - Bury your dead in the choicest of our burial places; none of us will withhold from you any burial ground for burying your dead.

Purpose: To maintain the Huff's Union Church burial grounds and grave markers.

Officers: Steve Lorish, President, Eric Diehl, Vice President; Kerry Meitzler, Secretary; and Martin Kriebel, Treasurer

Members: Robert Ruch, Matthew Schantz, Ernest Geist, William Stoudt, and Terry Ziegenfuse.

Accomplishments for the year:

The year 2024 has seen 13 full burials and 7 cremation burials. In addition to burials, new grave footers and markers are being set, and the weekly mowing is being performed. This year we also installed a new fence along the Church Yard Cemetery embankment, replacing the split rail fence which was badly deteriorated.

We continue to investigate methods to best repair the broken markers which are yet to be repaired in the Church Yard Cemetery.

Submitted by: Martin L. Kriebel, Treasurer

Huff's Union Church Cemetery Investment Activities for 2024

	Hertzog Fund	Permanent Fund	General Fund
January 1, 2024 Beginning Market Value	\$456,073.70	\$267,643.38	\$133,576.62
Income	\$10,870.08	\$6,594.67	\$3,453.83
Disbursements	-\$6,000.00	-\$3,600.00	-\$22,400.00
Account Fees	-\$3,035.05	-\$1,809.35	-\$859.53
Change in Market Value	<u>\$45,101.73</u>	<u>\$38,409.45</u>	<u>\$13,188.75</u>
Ending Market Value December 31, 2024	\$503,010.46	\$307,238.15	\$127,359.67

2024 Cemetery Board Budget

Huff's Union Church Cemetery Budget				
	Audited 12/31/2022	Audited 12/31/2023	Audited 12/31/2024	2025 Budget
Check Book Balance Jan. 1	\$12,155.09	\$20,375.04	\$10,201.42	\$15,692.98
Income:				
Investor's Trust - Hertzog Fund	\$9,000.00	9,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Investor's Trust - Permanent Fund	\$3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Investor's Trust - General Fund	\$2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
Sale of Lots	\$2,700.00	6,600.00	8,400.00	6,000.00
Sale of Vaults	\$2,075.00	0.00	325.00	325.00
Grave Opening Fees - Full Burial	\$1,800.00	3,900.00	4,550.00	4,000.00
Grave Opening Fees - Cremation	\$5,750.00	1,800.00	2,450.00	2,000.00
Saturday Burial Surcharge	\$675.00	750.00	675.00	700.00
Sallie Bechtel Fund Income	\$1,159.02	\$0.00	1,886.84	1,200.00
Mae Krause Fund Interest - Odd Years Only	\$0.00	1,100.00	0.00	60.00
General Fund Transfer for Stone Repair	\$0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00
Total Funds Available	\$41,314.11	\$49,525.04	\$60,488.26	\$41,977.98
Expenses:				
Mowing and Trimming	\$12,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Gas and Oil	\$2,056.79	1,526.43	1,466.19	1,500.00
Equipment Maintenance & Repair	\$1,367.10	1,369.87	848.34	1,500.00
Perm Fund - 80% of prior year Lot Sales	\$0.00	7,741.00	6,720.00	3,840.00
Snow Removal	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Esterly Vault Company	\$1,625.00	0.00	250.00	500.00
Parking Lot Line Maintenance & Repair	\$830.00	600.00	0.00	0.00
Topsoil, Fertilizer & Lime - Even Years	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Holding for Wall Replacement/Repair	\$0.00	11,885.00	1,885.00	0.00
Tombstone Repairs/Replacements	\$2,800.00	0.00	18,625.75	5,000.00
Establish Mae Krause CD	\$0.00	1,100.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$260.18	101.32	0.00	250.00
Total Expenses	\$20,939.07	\$39,323.62	\$44,795.28	\$29,090.00
Check Book Ending Dec. 31	\$20,375.04	\$10,201.42	\$15,692.98	

60.00 Transferred from UCC

0.00 \$5,000 Balance

Children, Youth, and Faith Formation Ministry

Acts 8:30-31 *Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. The man replied, "How can I unless someone teaches me?"*

Purpose: Provide variety of faith formation opportunities to children, teens, families, and adults in Church and Community by enabling teachers/leaders and inviting, connecting, teaching, and supporting each individual wherever they are in their own faith journey.

Facilitators: Rachel Welch and Joanne Benfield. Thankful for all who serve in the many ways below.

ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPANTS IN 2024 GENERALLY INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

A-CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Proverbs 22: 6 *Train children on the right way and they will not stray.*

***Sunday School:** During the 10:30 Worship Service, children come to the front pew for a message. On the first Sunday of each month, children return to sit with their family. Other weeks children preschool through 6th grade gather with teachers for Sunday School using multi-age curriculum. Teachers volunteer to teach for different months. About 4-7 children attend.

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers: Among the teachers and helpers who share in this ministry: Rachel Welch, Lea Kline, Kara Benfield, Stephanie Diehl, Rochelle Schantz, Jon Benfield, Tess Woloszanski, Melissa Benfield

***Children's Message during Worship- Volunteers provide weekly message:** Stephanie Diehl, Tess Woloszanski, Kara Benfield, Breanna Watkins, Bowie Richetti, Bea Fogel, Jon Benfield, Gary Moll, Melissa Benfield, Gabriella Moyer, Julie Brought, Joanne Benfield, Meghan Richetti

***Easter Story Egg Hunt** – Despite rain, Egg Hunt held in the Sanctuary on Saturday before Palm Sunday. About 50 people including 20 children attended. Kids received activity booklets and crayons. With generous donations, about 600 eggs prepared.

Egg Hunt help: Tess Woloszanski, Bea Fogel, Emily Hunsberger, Dena Lebo-Funk, Ely Longacre, Scott Swackhamer, Lisa Mohammedin, Gabriella Moyer, Jack Hunsberger, Kara Benfield

***Vacation Bible School** – 5 days in Park, Bible story, craft, science activities. See separate report.

***Children's Activities at Picnic** - Self-directed games and activities set up Beth Ciccarone at July picnic.

***Children's Christmas Musical Program "It's Christmas"**- 7 children rehearsed during Sunday School for this lively music program celebrating the birth of Jesus directed by Kara Benfield.

B-YOUTH/TEEN: Timothy 4: 12 *Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.*

***Confirmation class**-Generally designed for grades 6-9, seven students began Confirmation instruction January 2024 to be confirmed in May 2025. Mentors and families provide support. Confirmation students led a worship service and Advent reading, assisted as acolytes and at church events. Coordinators - Tess Woloszanski and Jon Benfield

Children, Youth, and Faith Formation Ministry (continued)

C-ADULT/ALL AGES Acts 5:42 *And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.*

***Adult Sunday School** – about 5-8 adults gather every Sunday at 9:15. Facilitators include Mabel Bittenbender, Elvin Keiser, Gary Moll

***Lay Bible Study**-5-10 adults gather once/month on Saturday for Bible Study and lunch. Facilitators include Lea Kline and others.

***Family Support Group**-Several sessions offered to talk about and learn strategies for growing the Christian Faith in the family led by Stephanie Diehl. About 5 adults attended.

***Weekly Village Volleyball and Gagaball** June-August and at July picnic

D-ADMINISTRATION: I Corinthians 14:40 *All things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.*

***Child Protection** - Update PA required Child Protection Clearances as need and comply with 2 Adult Rule

DURING 2025 CONTINUE ABOVE ACTIVITIES AND POSSIBLY ADD OTHERS:

-Confirmation ceremony in May 2025. Review new Youth Protection Policy

-Family Fun events in Park. Invite more children to Sunday School and add more teachers

Submitted by: Joanne Benfield

Constitution and Bylaws and Merger Update

Bible Verse: Ephesians 4:16: - Under Christ's control all the different parts of the body fit together, and the whole body is held together by every joint with which it is provided. So when each separate part works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up through love.

Purpose: To finalize documentation of Huff's Union Church Inc as remaining corporation of merger of Huff's UCC and Huff's ELCA and to assist with understanding and compliance of Constitution and Bylaws.

Background: The new Constitution and Bylaws of Huff's Union Church was approved on 3/13/2022. On 9/25/2022 Huff's Union Inc, Huff's UCC Inc, and Huff's ELCA Inc approved the Plan of Merger to merge into one remaining corporation Huff's Union Church Inc. All documentation was properly signed and sealed by the officers of each corporation. Attorney Keith Strohl prepared the documents required to submit the merger to the PA Dept of State for approval with 12/31/22 as the effective date of merger.

In 2024 following done:

-With confirmation from the Pennsylvania Department of State that the merger of Huff's UCC and Huff's ELCA into Huff's Union Church Inc was approved in 2023 and the transfer of checking and investment funds from Huff's UCC & ELCA to Huff's Union Church Inc completed during 2023, in 2024 Huff's confirmed that the PA Department of State and UCC and ELCA national records correctly documented the name as Huff's Union Church Inc.

-The Congregation and Council of Huff's Union Church Inc continued to "live into" and function under the new Constitution and Bylaws.

Plans for 2025:

-Obtain PA Sales Tax Exemption Certificate for Huff's Union Church Inc and cancellation of the sales tax exemption certificates on record for Huff's UCC Inc and Huff's ELCA Inc.

Submitted by: Joanne Benfield

Dramatized Lord's Supper

Bible Verse: Matthew 28:19 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

⁴

Accomplishments during the past year:

The Passion Play was not presented in 2024.

Financial & Investment Committee Report

Bible Verse: Proverbs 21: 5 - The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Purpose: The Committee's responsibility is to oversee the management and investment of the Long Term and Capital Improvement Funds. These funds were created to hold unrestricted monies other than the Mission Endowment Funds donated to the Church for investment and ultimate use to fund Church programs, projects and other needs.

Chairperson: Justin Miller

Members: The committee will consist of 5 active voting members appointed by council and include non-voting members represented by the Council President, Treasurer, and Pastor. 2022 members of the committee included Chair Justin Miller, Vice Chair - Aurel Arndt, Robin Diehl, Scott Swackhamer, and Robert Ruch as voting members and Council President Theresa Woloszanski and Church Treasurer Jon Benfield as ex-officio, non-voting members. The position of committee secretary remains vacant.

Market Review

2024 was another strong year for stock investors as the S&P 500 increased by 25.02%. The US economy has continued to grow even after most economists predicted a recession from the strong increase in interest rates beginning in 2022. In 2024, the Fed began to lower interest rates as increases in inflation slowed and got back to more normal levels. Following the election in November, long-term interest rates ticked back up on fears that tariffs and deportations would be inflationary for the economy. Obviously, it is too early to tell whether that will be true, but the rise in interest rates towards the end of the year hurt the bond market and it finished the year up only 2.04%.

2024 in Review

Our committee met throughout the year to review the investments and the needs of the church. Tiller Private Wealth serves as the investment advisor. The church relies on monthly distributions from the portfolio for ordinary expenses and for long-term capital projects.

The Huffs Church investment account ended the year up 11.38%. The investments underperformed the benchmark by 1.77%. Rebalancing adjustments were made throughout the year to maintain a risk level consistent with the church's goal of income with moderate growth. A reflection of account activity can be found in the Huffs Union Church Annual Report.

We welcome comments and questions on this report and appreciate all feedback. We look forward to reporting results of our continuing investment activity during 2025 and beyond.

Submitted by: Justin Miller

Gift Committee Report

Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 16: 17 - All shall give as they are able, according to the Blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you.

Purpose: The Gift Committee gathers suggestions for needed or desired items for Huff's Church, evaluates these suggestions, passes them to Union Council for approval, then provides a brochure listing these items and their prices to those who wish to donate a specific item to the church.

Chairperson: Rachel Welch

Accomplishments during the past year:

During the past year, there were no donations made to the church. There were no additions to the Gift brochure.

Members: N/A

Submitted by: Rachel Welch

Greeter Report

Bible Verse: Hebrews 13:1-2 - Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Purpose: The Greeter Committee helps promote hospitality in our church. To accomplish this mission, we encourage members of our congregation to be greeters, providing them with information on welcoming both newcomers and regular attendees.

Chairperson: Jane Leaser

Greeters: Last year's greeters were: Aurel Arndt, Jackson Hunsberger, Wayne & Leonora Kline, Dena Funk, Pat Crossley, Lucy Grampp, Norma Greiss, Jim and Pam Meitzler, Jim & Laura Meitzler, Lisa Kauffman, Eric & Robin Diehl, Martin & Kay Kriebel, Tome Mitchell, Paul & Breanna Giangiacomo, Wayne & Bea Fogel, Ann Taylor, Tess Woloszanski, Deborah Rogers, Elaine Witman, Charles & Carol Zwoyer, Sue Stockdale, Mary Szilli, Pauline Reinhard and John & Jane Leaser.

Accomplishments during the past year:

Greeters welcomed people to the church services throughout the year and will continue to do so. Thank you to all the people who volunteered to be greeters.

Submitted by: Jane Leaser

Historian

Bible Verse: *Psalms 71: 18* - So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come.

Purpose: Our congregation's history needs to be preserved and historical records maintained so we may know our past and see how it might impact our present and future.

Chairperson: Scott Swackhamer

Accomplishments: Nothing special was done in 2024.

Submitted by: Scott Swackhamer

Hospitality

Bible Verse: *Luke 10: 38* - Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.

Purpose: The Hospitality Committee seeks to make members and guests feel welcome at Huff's Church special worship services by serving them refreshments. Members of this committee supervise and set up for covered dish dinners, as well as for special programs.

Chairperson: Tess Woloszanski

Events during the past year:

- January 14 - New Year's Wish Service: refreshments following the service
- June 23 - Worship in Park with Special Music: refreshments afterwards in park
- July 10 - Ice Cream Social in Park: Free Ice Cream served
- August 14 - Ice Cream Social in Park: Free Ice Cream served
- October 13 - Covered Dish in Chapel
- November 3 - All Saints Day Service: Refreshments following the service
- December 15 - Children's Christmas Program: Refreshments served afterwards

Submitted by: Tess Woloszanski

Huff's Church Auxiliary

Bible verse: Hebrews 13:16 - Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Purpose: The purpose of the Huff's Church Auxiliary is to work for the betterment of the Christian Church, to provide Christian services and monies to Huff's Union Church and its members.

Chairperson: Lisa Kauffman

Accomplishments during the past year:

- The Auxiliary held numerous fundraising events this year. 1 soup sale, 2 oyster pie sales, red beet sales, 2 soup and sandwich sales, 1 church picnic and 1 pig roast.
- A soup sale was held on Jan. 14th for a profit of \$530.00.
- Oyster pie sales April 13th and October 19th were successful. Profit from the April sale of \$2,899.35 and the profit from the October sale \$3,319.65 for a total of \$6,219.00.
- Outdoor service lunch on 6/23rd made a profit of \$144.
- July 27th picnic- Our efforts for this fundraiser were met with a profit of \$5,225.31.
- Pig Roast Aug. 17th- We were able to raise \$1690.47.
- A Soup and sandwich sale was held twice in 2024 for a total profit of \$1,461.
- On May 2nd 98 subs and 55 pretzel sandwiches along with 42 quarts of soup and 17 pints of soup. Total profit was \$710 for 25 hours worked.
- On Oct. 3rd 118 subs and 50 pretzel sandwiches with 23 quarts of soup and 32 pints were sold. Total profit for this fundraiser was \$751.
- Red beets were made on May 20th and 21st. This was a year-long fundraiser with sales throughout the year. Profit was \$957.
- The Auxiliary was able to raise funds, with multiple fundraisers, with the help of our long-time members, new members and the youth of our congregation.

Submitted by: Deb Romig, Secretary

Huff's Union Church Auxiliary 2024 Financial Report

	Audited 2023	Audited 2024
Check Book Balance January 1	\$7,904.21	\$6,982.53
Income:		
Reimbursement for picnics, ice cream socials	\$325.00	\$2,495.12
Reimbursement for oyster pies	\$7,080.52	\$7,147.57
Donations for serving catered meals	\$135.00	\$125.00
Total Income	<u>\$7,540.52</u>	<u>\$9,767.69</u>
Total Funds Available	\$15,444.73	\$16,750.22
Expenses:		
Trash collection	\$482.00	\$173.70
Propane gas for chapel	\$0.00	\$140.42
Supplies - picnics, ice cream socials	\$0.00	\$2,442.00
Supplies - Oyster Pie Sales	\$7,020.71	\$7,147.57
Change for July Church Picnic	\$325.00	\$0.00
Chapel Floor cleaning and polishing	\$634.49	\$0.00
Chapel Kitchen Floor Mats	\$0.00	\$195.04
Gifts for Shut-ins	\$0.00	\$24.75
Total Expenses	<u>\$8,462.20</u>	<u>\$10,123.48</u>
Check Book Ending December 31	\$6,982.53	\$6,626.74
Church Donation through Radcliffe and Redner's Save-a-Tape Program	\$634.05	\$393.10

Respectfully submitted: Kay M. Kriebel, Treasurer

Library Report

Bible Verse: Proverbs 23: 12 - Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.

Purpose: The Church Library's mission is to provide literature and information that will encourage, teach, or strengthen the Christian faith while remaining true to the beliefs of Huff's Church.

Chairperson: Carol Leh

Members: Carol Leh, Elvin Keiser, Sharon Muntz and Mary Szilli

Accomplishments during the past year:

The library invites you to browse and borrow items. We have books, audio books, Contemporary Christian music, some popular Christian movies, and also a children's collection housed in the next door Sunday School room.

Anyone who is a member of the congregation can borrow items from the library. Please sign your name to the card (in books it will be on the back page unless otherwise indicated, on other items it will be in the pocket on the cover or stuck in the case), print the date you borrowed the item, and leave the card in the wooden file box on the library table. Please return the item as soon as you are done with it so others may enjoy it.

Thank you for your support of the library.

Submitted by: Carol Leh

Memorial Park Report

Bible Verse: Isaiah 4:6 - It will serve as a pavilion, a shade by day from the heat, and a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

Purpose: The Park Board oversees opening and closing of the park property, including preparing for both summer and winter use, and cleans and repairs equipment, buildings, and furnishings as need.

Members: Joanne Benfield (Secretary), John Leeser (Treasurer), LeRoy Leibensperger, (Chairperson), Keith Rauenzahn, and Matthew Schantz.

LeRoy Leibensperger has served about 50 years on the Park Board and decided he will not continue. We are thankful for the faithful service and support LeRoy has given to the Park.

In addition to Park Board members, the following are just some of the folks who extended extra efforts to help with water treatment, park set-up and maintenance in 2024: Aurel Arndt, Scott & Lisa Kauffman, Jim Meitzler Jr., Kay & Marty Kriebel, Jim & Pam Meitzler, Tess Woloszanski, Emily Ziegenfuse. Apologies to those missed being named but all efforts are appreciated!

Accomplishments during the past year:

Following events were scheduled in the Park in 2024:

Family Easter Egg Hunt	Vacation Bible School	2 Light lunch/refreshments after Worship
7 Outdoor Worship Services	Church & Community Picnic	August Pig Roast
2 Ice Cream Truck Socials	Wedding reception gathering	Weekly Village Volleyball and Gagaball

Activities of the Park Board with the help of many volunteers include:

Coordinate major cleaning of all buildings in Spring, clear leaves & branches, cleaning buildings & bathrooms through the summer, purchase paper supplies and propane gas, maintain and repair buildings and equipment, set up & storage of tables & benches, check park before and after each event, preparation for winter.

Funds for repairs in 2024 received through donations and support from Union Church.

Projects completed or worked on during 2024 in addition to smaller maintenance and repairs:

- Determined improvements are needed to well pit so it can be more stable/secure and control surface water entering the pit and contaminating the system plus other safety concerns.
- A plan was developed to install metal roof with hatch, replace the top two block courses, sump pump, watertight electrical boxes and connections and water seepage prevention on the pit walls.
- Martin's Exterior Shoemakersville installed two white powder coated 3/16" angle iron 30" long on all the bandshell posts and fastened with carriage bolts.
- Monthly water testing done of Park well. During summer months, water is tested from Park refreshment stand. After Park water system is drained, then monthly testing is done in Schoolhouse Office. Shock treatment was done to Park well when turned on before first Park event and other treatment as needed.
- Replaced a deteriorated pole support on bandshell and all post bottoms wrapped with metal shields to prevent moisture intrusion and deterioration.
- New swing seats installed in Park thanks to the help of Steve & Megan Cunningham plus their substantial donation towards the cost. Connections replaced with theft resistant shackles. 1 set of chains replaced. Old swings were 30 years old.

Memorial Park Report (continued)

Great Appreciation and Thanks to all who helped with caring for the Park including:

- All volunteers including “behind the scenes” folks who pick up sticks throughout the summer, make repairs, cleaning fryers, and turn on and shut down water system and appliances for season
- The project coordination, and financial assistance from Council, Property Comm, and Cemetery Board.
- Mowers taking care of lawn spring cleanup, mowing, trimming, filling in, fall leaf cleanup.
- Emelie Swackhamer covers cost to preserve a healthy Ash Tree in the Park from Ash bore devastation

Anyone is welcome to join in when work dates are announced.

Park Future Projects:

- At end of 2025 the remaining Park assets will be turned over to Huff’s Union Church so the Park would no longer need to have a separate treasurer, and the 2026 Union budget will include all expenses for the Park. Under regulations of charitable giving, since the funds were received with the understanding they would be used for the Park, the money in the Park accounts can only be used for the Park.
- Park well pit improvements estimates, final plan and improvements done
- Park bench repair and paint
- Paint bandshell posts
- Replace speaker for bandshell
- Bandshell mesh repair
- Electric upgrades in refreshment stand and restrooms

The Park is available for use by any individual church member who is at least 18 years old to host a private invitation event such as family reunion, birthday party, anniversary parties, showers, graduation/award parties. No smoking or alcohol. Park is available for private events from May 1 through first weekend in October and scheduled around Church activities. Representative(s) of Church may be on the property during the event and it is expected that the User and all guests will comply with the representatives’ requests and directions regarding use of facilities.

Requested Use Donation: \$60 for use up to 7:30PM, after 7:30PM-\$80. Events shall end at least by 9PM. Use Donation and Rules may be revised depending on the specific nature of an event. Contact Church Office to schedule an event.

Submitted by: Joanne Benfield

HUFF'S CHURCH MEMORIAL PARK BOARD FINANCE REPORT

Checking Account Balance - 1/1/2024	\$4,711.10
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Expenses:

Met-Ed	669.71
Swings	474.40
Round Up for Park	22.28
Martin Exterior Park Posts	2,000.00
Braces for Post	100.00

TOTAL EXPENSES:	3,266.39
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INCOME:

Reimbursement for Park Posts from Union Council	2,000.00
Suburban Water Overpayment	84.69

TOTAL INCOME	2,084.69
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Checking Account Balance - 12/31/2024	\$3,529.40
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Savings Accounts Balance - 1/1/2024	\$9,597.56
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Interest from CD's	1,607.70
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Savings Account Balance - 12/31/2024	\$11,205.26
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CD'S - 1/1/2024	\$33,482.05
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TOTAL CD'S - 12/31/2024	\$33,482.05
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Submitted by: John Leeser, Treasurer

Mission Endowment Committee

Bible Verse: Colossians 3: 23-24 - Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ.

OVERVIEW: The Endowment Committee manages the assets of the Endowment Fund and oversees the contributions of funds available for various outreach programs in our community. When the funds accumulated over \$50,000, each year 4% of the fair market value of the investment will be pulled from the fund and distributed. Any earnings of the fund, in excess of the 4% distributed, are held in the fund for future years.

Distributions shall be in the various categories of mission and ministry in which the congregation is engaged that is not underwritten by annual giving and will serve as a means of extending and enhancing the church's program beyond the regular budget. Categories include:

1. Christian Education
2. Community Service & Outreach
3. Wider Missions of the UCC & ELCA
4. Capital Improvements
5. Annual operating expenses (Limited portion during temporary or difficult circumstances)

Committee Members: Ernest Geist, Jane Leeser, Carol Leh, Kerry Meitzler, Jim Meitzler, Jr and Emelie Swackhamer.

Items the Endowment Committee completed in 2024:

- Audit Committee reviewed the 2023 Endowment Records.
- The committee has distributed a total of \$4830 across 8 organizations:
United Church of Christ & Lutheran Disaster Response for hurricane recovery efforts, Boyertown Area Multi-Service, The Open Link Multi-Service, Friends, Inc., Grace Lutheran Church Food Cupboard, Helping Harvest Food Bank & Mande's Lunchbox.

Financials:

Vanguard Account:	\$127,657.35 Fund value at the end of 2023
	\$134,720.38 Fund value at the end of 1Q2024
	\$138,218.81 Fund value at the end of 2Q2024
	\$145,387.56 Fund value at the end of 3Q2024
	\$141,803.12 Fund value at the end of 2024

The Committee has committed to disburse \$5815.50 in 2025. This value reflects 4% of the fund value at on September 30, 2024.

In 2024, Endowment committee plans include the following:

- Monitor the investment portfolio and remove funds for distribution when needed.
- Distribute \$5815.50 to suitable organizations based on 4% of the fund value on September 30, 2024
- Audit Endowment records for 2024.

Submitted by: Kerry Meitzler, Treasurer

Mission Outreach and Special Projects Summary

Bible Verse: *Galations 6: 9 – And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

Purpose: Offer opportunities to reach out to those in need in surrounding communities and beyond.

Huff's Church Food Pantry Deliveries:

Spring 2024: 215 pounds of food delivered to Boyertown Multi-Service serves 60-70 families per week

June 2024: 123 food, cleaning, and personal care items to Allentown Men's Rescue Mission

November 2024: 190 items from food pantry with additional congregation donations taken to families hard hit by Hurricane Helene.

Submitted by: Elvin Keiser, Bob & Sue Stockdale continue this mission started years ago by Carl Arner.

St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky

In Fall 2024, Dena Lebo-Funk and Berry Crum delivered donations to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky from Huff's Church members and Friend Inc in Kutztown including: 24 hats, 21 pairs of socks/gloves, 27 scarves, and 23 new household items (sheets, bath towels, flatware, bath rugs, shower curtains, wallets, cologne, car care items) to help about 200 families; 127 seed packets helping over 50 local families with gardens;

215 lbs dog food, 60 lbs of cat litter and cat beds to an animal shelter in the area.

A special thanks to Wayne and Bea Fogel and Joe and Connie Szilli for their thoughtful and generous donations toward the cost of gas.

Mitten Tree was available through the 2024 holiday season to attach caps, scarves, hats, and gloves.

Submitted by: Dena Lebo-Funk

Friend Inc Food Truck distribution in Huffs Church Parking Lot on First Thursday of each month

From 3:30 to 4:30 PM each first Thursday, the Friend Inc food truck is set up on our parking lot loaded with whatever food, household and personal items that Friend, Inc. receives from Helping Harvest to help those dealing with food insecurity. Pet food is also available. Volunteers from our Church fill vehicles with food and related goodies. We average about 8 volunteers per month.

Huff's team of volunteers in 2024 included: Ann Taylor, Ernest Geist, Martin & Kay Kriebel, Pat Crossley, Dena Lebo-Funk, Dan Albert, Karlene Brintzenhoff, Pastor Angelee, John & Jane Leaser, Brooke Ruch, Joy Benfield, Tom Mitchell, Emily Ziegenfuse, Bea Miller plus other helpers who drop in they are available. If you can volunteer (age 12 and older) any month to carry items from the Food Truck to vehicles, contact Tom Mitchell

Friend, Inc. has sent us their survey results for people served at Huffs in 2024. Here is a summary:

Average number of households served per month: 50 – Increase from 36 in 2023

Average number, total, of all people served per month: 110 – increase from 95 in 2023

About 21 children and 38 Seniors are included in those served each month

Submitted by: Tom Mitchell

Pastor Parish Team

Bible Verse: *Romans 14: 19* - Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up building.

Purpose: The Pastor Parish team addresses concerns of the pastor, fosters a mutual caring and harmonious relationship between the congregation and the pastor, and evaluates various ministries of the church for effectiveness and continuing relevance

Chairperson: Michael Diehl

Accomplishments during the past year:

The Pastor Parish Team did not meet in 2024.

Personnel Committee

Bible Verse: *2 Chronicles 34: 12-23* - The people did the work faithfully. Over them were appointed the Levites... to have oversight. Other Levites, all skillful with instruments of music, were over the burden bearers and directed all who did work in every kind of service and some of the Levites were scribes, and officials, and gatekeepers.

Purpose: Develop and recommend personnel policies to the Council. Recommend for budgeting the compensation and benefits for the Pastor within the guidelines of the denomination in which the Pastor holds ministerial standing. Prepare new employment documents, develop performance feedback procedures and forms, receive reports of potential employment policy violations. At the request of Executive Committee, Pastor, or Council-assigned staff supervisor, the Personnel Committee may assist in other matters including but not limited to compose and clarify job descriptions, gather salary information from outside organizations, assist with advertising of positions, advise on difficult personnel matters, and sit in on disciplinary conversations with employees.

Chairperson: Jim Meitzler, Sr.

Members: Julie Brought, Kathy Welch, Tom Mitchell, Bob Ruch and Jim Meitzler, Sr.

Accomplishments for the past year:

We received evaluations for Huff's Administrative Assistant, Edwina H. Fox, Huff's Church Ministry Assistance, Angela Hish and Media Specialist, Robert Arner.

We welcomed our new Music Director, Kathy Anthony

We appreciate all that our support staff does to make the behind-the-scenes work for our congregation run smoothly.

Submitted by: Jim Meitzler, Sr.

Prayer Chain

Bible Verse: *James 5: 13-14* - Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

Purpose: The Prayer Chain members receive prayer and praise requests from church members and friends and offer these to God in prayer. Each month a Prayer Letter is sent to all of the members listing those people in need of prayer. Weekly updates, as needed, are also provided, and emergency requests are sent out immediately. The Prayer Chain always welcomes new members.

Chairperson: John Leaser

Accomplishments during the past year:

The Prayer Chain continues to be a vital part of the Huff's Church prayer ministry. If you have a relative, friend, neighbor, or colleague who needs prayer, please contact John Leaser, other members of the Prayer Chain, or call the church office.

Thank you to all the Prayer Chain members who faithfully served in 2024:

Minerva Arner	Elvin Keiser	Carol Petroske
Julie Brought	Lisa Kauffman	Bob & Brooke Ruch
Pat Crossley	John & Jane Leaser	Rhoda Shaner
Joan Gouldner	Tom Mitchell	Sue Stockdale
Lucille Grampp	Lisa Mohammedein	Bill Stoudt
Monica Hallman	Gary Moll	Rachel Woodhead
Elizabeth Haines	John & Kathy Moll	

Submitted by: John Leaser

Prayer Partner Committee

Bible Verse: *James 5: 6* - Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

Purpose: The Prayer Partners are church members who volunteer to pray each day for one year for one to three other participating church members or families. Signups are usually in the spring of each year.

Submitted by: John Leaser

Vacation Bible School

Bible Verse: Proverbs 22: 6 Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.

Purpose: To provide an engaging, interactive experience for our children to learn ways they can put their trust in God when they are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work and share the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ.

Coordinator: Melissa Benfield

Members: Rev. John Steitz, Alayna Watkins, Stephanie Diehl, Chase Longacre, Ian Richetti, Joanne Benfield, Kara Benfield, Andrew Stern, Jon Benfield and Melissa Benfield; the youth assisting this year were Bowie Richetti, Elijah Richetti, Ely Longacre, Max Benfield, and Jace Benfield.

Accomplishments during the Past year:

This year the VBC theme was Camp Firelight – A Summer Camp Adventure with God. Our program was based on the bible verse, "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you" (Psalm 56: 3). This year's program was attended by 15 children and youth. It was held outside in the park from July 15 through July 19, and the young campers and camp counsellors had an awesome time!

Daily activities included storytelling, music, arts and crafts, science, and games.

Our mission project this year was to collect money for Camp Compass, an organization that assists inner city youth with academic support and social growth while experiencing outdoor adventures. We collected \$250.00.

Submitted by: Melissa Benfield

Worship and Music Committee

Bible Verse: Psalm 33: 2-3 - Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

Psalm 96: 9a - Worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Purpose: The Worship and Music Committee assists the pastor and the music director with the preparation of worship services, with special focus on appropriate music. The committee helps plan special worship services throughout the year and arranges for guest musical groups.

Chairperson: Kay Kriebel

Members: Pastor John Steitz, Gloria Adams, Kathy Anthony, Julie Brought, Kay Kriebel, Carol Leh, Ann Taylor, and Rachel Woodhead.

Special Events during the past year:

The Longswamp New Year's Wish in the PA Dutch dialect was presented by Mike and Linda Hertzog during the 10:30 worship service on January 14, 2024.

Ash Wednesday service with administering of ashes was held on February 14, at 7:00 PM. No Lenten services were scheduled. A Good Friday service was held at 12 noon on March 29.

The American Legion Honor Guard from Topton came on Memorial Sunday, May 26, and did a ceremony at the cemetery to honor those who served in our armed forces.

Outdoor worship services during June, July, and August were held in the Park on the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays. On three of those Sundays, we had special music provided by Scott Marshall in June, Hannah Violet in July, and Mike and Linda Hertzog in August.

In August, we welcomed Kathy Anthony as our new music director. Along with playing for all church services, Kathy leads the Senior Choir and the Handbell Choir.

Huff's did not have a Thanksgiving Eve service this year.

The children presented a Christmas program during the 10:30 worship service on December 15.

On Christmas Eve, the children sang at the 4:00 service, while the Bell and Senior Choirs participated in the 8:00 PM service. There were also several congregation members who individually provided special music during both Christmas Eve services.

We want to thank all the volunteers who helped in so many ways throughout the year to make our worship services special with their talents and work.

Submitted by: Kay Kriebel