

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



FEBRUARY, 2023

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburty, 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

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.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 12, 2023, is the day for our Souper Bowl of Caring offering, which will go to support the three agencies who feed the hungry in our area (Pennsburg Open Link, Boyertown Multi Service, and Friend, Inc). We will accept monetary donations, cans of soup and/or boxes of crackers.

VALENTINE'S DAY CHALLENGE

In honor of the Christian love we share, we send out the challenge to receive gift cards that will be passed along to Boyertown Multi Service in honor of Valentine's Day, Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Please place your gift cards (indicate the amount on the gift card) in the offering plate or at the office. It is a wonderful thing to share Christ's love with others.

LAY YOUR BURDENS DOWN SUNDAY

Sunday, February 19, 2023, during our 10:30 worship service, we will have a chance to focus on God's healing presence in our lives, and Jesus' invitation to lay our burdens down. We will be using rocks as symbols of the burdens we are giving up.

2023 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES & ELECTRONIC GIVING FORMS

Church Envelopes are available for your pickup in 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. Due to cost of postage, we do not mail a full box of envelopes. If you would like to have only a few envelopes sent to you, please contact the office.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study Group will meet on Saturday, February 4, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. in the Church, lower level. Come with your Bible. If you'd like to stay for lunch, please feel free to bring something to share and eat with us from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

HUFFS CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING

The next meeting of the Huff's Church Auxiliary is scheduled for Monday, February 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs of the Chapel. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings to help plan ways to support our church.

OYSTER PIE SALE

Save the date for our next Oyster Pie Sale fundraiser. It is scheduled for Saturday March 25, 2023.

MITTEN TREE

A big thank you to everyone who helped to decorate our Church's Mitten Tree with 56 items.

Dena and Maisy Funk will deliver these items when they go to St. Vincent's Mission in March.

SEED TREE

Our Annual Seed Tree will be placed in the upper Narthex from **February 5 to February 26, 2023**. Collected seeds will be taken to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky.

Their planting season begins earlier than ours, and most of the families have gardens to help supply their need for fresh vegetables.

Thank you for your support and donations.

PASTOR STEITZ'S ARTICLE

Thank you for all of your prayers during my illness!

The side effects from my first immunotherapy treatment in early December really did a number on me. I am happy to report that it also did a number on the cancer.

My oncologist was thrilled with my latest scans. These scans show reduction in almost all of the tumors. Clearly the immunotherapy treatment woke my immune system up. I was only able to tolerate one full injection treatment, yet the scans show that my immune system is now doing its job. They show clear evidence that the tumors are getting smaller. This is very positive news.

The next step will be to start an oral immunotherapy treatment that my oncologist says is very effective. I expect to begin this treatment in a week or two, once it gets shipped to me. This too comes with potential side effects, but according to my oncologist most of his patients tolerate it quite well, and some have been using it successfully for years.

Again, from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank everyone for your prayers, support, and patience.

Blessings, Pastor John Steitz

DONATIONS FOR ST. VINCENT'S MISSION

This year St. David's Mission is celebrating 55 continuous years of service to the people of Appalachia. Maisy and I are excited to be traveling to the Mission in David, Kentucky for the fifth time in early March. We've already packed your generous donations from the hat and mitten Christmas tree and will be delivering those 56 items. The new items from the tree will be part of their 2023 Christmas Program where families who have completed the Mission's requisite faith-based programs in 2023 are able to select new donated items to help their family celebrate Christmas. The used items from the tree will be donated to families in need or be offered for sale in the Mission's on site retail store. This store is one of the places where Maisy and I typically work when we are at the Mission. We also work in the food bank, with homebound deliveries, in the spring garden, in the warehouse and in home repair service. We stay in the Mission's volunteer house.

For this trip we are seeking donations of seed packets (Seeds from 2022 are ok), new personal care items (soap, hair care, skin care, teeth care, ear care, feminine products), house cleaning products, new bath towels, new sheets of any size, new backpacks and any type of school supplies. We know these easily-packed items will fit into our vehicle, and our vehicle is always full! And we also know that these specific items are much needed for their Garden Program, their food/personal care pantry and their 2023 Christmas Program. There will be boxes for your donations on the 2nd floor narthex where the hat and mitten tree was located. We thank you in advance for your generosity in donating. **The last date for item donations will be Sunday, February 26.** Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we travel in early March.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY

The special offering for the month of February is the **ELCA Hunger Offering**. This offering helps people throughout the world have the basics of life. It provides not only food assistance, but water, education and other community development aid.

Offering envelopes are in the pew racks and literature racks of the church, or simply use a blank envelope, mark it Lutheran Hunger Fund, and either place filled envelope in the offering plate or mail it to Huff's Church. Include your name if you wish to be credited for this gift on your giving statement.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS

Huffs Union Church and Friend Inc Food Truck

Friend Inc. of Kutztown has been sending their food truck to the Huffs Church parking lot since August, 2021. The food truck is set up from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. each first Thursday of the month with food, household, and personal items that Friend, Inc. has gathered. Local needy know about these food truck visits, and our volunteers place these donated items into their vehicles as they drive through.

Huff's team of volunteers in 2022 included: Ann Taylor, Ernest Geist, Martin & Kay Kriebel, Pat Crossley, Dena & Maisy Funk, John & Jane Leeser, Joy Benfield, Julie Brought and friend Aubrey, Jace Benfield and Tom Mitchell. We average about 6 volunteers per month.

We are so thankful for our volunteers and for the services of Friend, Inc.

Friend, Inc. has sent us their survey results for people served at Huffs in 2022. Here is a summary:

Average number of households served per month: 36

Average number of new households served per month: 6

Average number of children served per month: 19

Average number of adults served per month: 50

Average number of seniors served per month: 27

Average number, total, of all people served per month: 95

We welcome this opportunity to help with these food truck distributions. The next food truck visit is Thursday, February 2, 2023. If you would like to help, please call Tom Mitchell, (610) 845-2978.

CHURCH FAMILY

MEMORIALS:

In Memory of Dennis Miller to the General Fund

Roberta Windish Aurel & Jane Arndt

In Memory of Melvin Greiss to the General Fund

Aurel & Jane Arndt

In Memory of Carl Arner to the General Fund

Aurel & Jane Arndt

In Memory of Gail Rothermel to the CIF Fund

William Gilbert Rosie & Charles Leibensperger

Eric & Robin Diehl Raymond & Linda Lorish

Lucille Grampp Tracey Underwood

Dennis & Barbara Krumanocker

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

2/16 - Ernest Bennicoff 2/16 - Elvin Keiser

2/20 - LeRoy Leibensperger 2/21 - Arlene Hill

2/27 - Willard Strunk 2/29 - Mae Hoffman

2/29 - Barbara Kreiser

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

2/20 - LeRoy & Ruth Leibensperger

PRAYER CHAIN

Huff's Church has a prayer chain to pray for special needs during the year. If you have a name for the prayer chain, please contact John Leeser either by e-mail (birdmanjhl@aol.com) or telephone 610-966-2775. Please notify him when names may be removed from the list. We thank John for his faithful service.

Would you like to be a part of the prayer chain to receive a monthly printed list of people for whom to pray, and/or periodic e-mailed notifications of those for whom to pray? Please let John Leeser know (see contact information above) and your name will be added to those who receive names for whom to pray.

PRAYER LIST

Prayer is a sacred and intimate act. God knows our hearts, our needs and who we are praying for, even before their name is uttered. To honor the sacredness of prayer, we always want to ask permission before we put a person's name on the public prayer list. To ensure that we can offer prayers for all who ask and honor their wishes, we are adopting the following policy:

Anyone may call the church office to place a family member's or their own name on the prayer list. It will be confirmed that you have the person's permission to place their name on the list and ask if they want just their first name or full name to be spoken. Those names will be read in Sunday worship. Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. If you want it on longer, contact the office again after the two week period. Names can be added Sunday morning, but only a person's first name will be spoken until the office has been contacted. There is a time during prayers where anyone's name may be spoken aloud or in the quiet of our hearts.

HUFF'S UNION CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Martin Kriebel, 610-845-2960

Vice-President: Tess Woloszanski, 610-618-6399

Secretary: Rachel Welch, 484-226-03333

Treasurer: Jon Benfield, 484-226-7981

Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Giving	163,824	175,740	(11,916)
All other income	81,329	58,991	22,338
Total income	245,154	234,731	10,423
Expenses	313,537	336,095	(22,558)
Operating income (loss)	(68,383)	(101,364)	32,981
Capital expenditures	-	(129,500)	129,500
Transfers from Investments	70,000	230,864	(160,864)
Net income (loss)	1,617	(0)	1,617

Balance Sheet	12/31/22	11/30/22	12/31/21
Designated funds	73,887	62,687	116,006
General funds	5,011	8,754	23,251
Sunday School CDs	4,385	4,384	4,379
Total assets (a)	83,283	75,825	143,635

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs