

# HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



## NOVEMBER 2023

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Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburdis, 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](mailto:office@huffschurch.com)  
Website: [www.huffschurch.com](http://www.huffschurch.com)  
Facebook Page: Huff's Union Church, Inc.  
Facebook Group: Huff's Union Church

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### **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.**

### **ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE**

On Sunday, November 5, 2023, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service, we will remember those members of our congregation who have died since our last All Saints' Day Service. Each person who has died will have a candle lit for them during the worship service as their name is read. Families will be invited to take home the candle after the worship service.

### **COMBINED THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE**

On Wednesday, November 22, 2023, we will have a combined Thanksgiving Eve Service with St. Peter's at Huff's Union Church at 7:00 p.m.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONGREGATION MEETING**

**On Sunday, December 3, 2023, there will be a Congregation meeting within the 10:30 a.m. worship service with a second date of December 10, 2023.**

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 10, 2023, within the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Those Active Members who attend the meeting on December 10 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 3, then the December 10 meeting will not be held.

Any Huff's Church Active Member may vote, including our confirmed teenagers. Although in-person attendance is encouraged, contact the Church office for Zoom link information. By-laws do not allow for absentee or proxy voting.

The agenda for the meeting will be the following items:

1) To vote on the approval of the 2024 Union Corporation Budget. Majority approval by those who vote is required. By November 19, the 2024 proposed Budget will be available on the Huff's Church website [www.huffschurch.com](http://www.huffschurch.com) and in our Eblast. Paper copies will be available at Worship Services, or call the office 610-845-2626 to arrange a time to pick up a copy.

2) Nominations and election of members to Council.

Questions about the meeting or the vote, contact Martin Kriebel at [martin.kriebel.315@gmail.com](mailto:martin.kriebel.315@gmail.com).

## **JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING**

A Joyful Noise Offering will be taken on Sundays, November 5 and November 12, 2023 to support the Holy Joe Café, a charity providing free coffee to chaplains supporting our service men and women around the world. Save your coins to drop in the kettle and make some noise.

## **UPCOMING ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTERS**

Please contact the church office and tell Edwina about any articles/subjects that you would like to see in the coming month's newsletter. This will allow those in charge of preparing the newsletter the opportunity to expand its content and better inform the congregation about upcoming happenings and events.

## **HUFFS CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING**

The next meeting of the Huff's Church Auxiliary is scheduled for Monday, November 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the downstairs of the Chapel. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings to help plan ways to support our church.

## **FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S**

Friend, Inc. will bring a truck on Thursday, November 2, 2023, 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) any month to carry items from the Food Truck to vehicles, contact Tom Mitchell .

## **SENIOR CHOIR**

Huff's Church Senior Choir rehearsals are held every Thursday beginning at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in singing with our choir, please contact Gloria Adams at or just come to a rehearsal.

## **BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

Bible Study will meet on Saturday, November 11, at 10:30 a.m. in the downstairs of the Church. 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.

## **HANDBELL CHOIR**

The Huff's Church Handbell Choir rehearses every Tuesday beginning at 7:30 p.m. We are always looking for new ringers to join our choir. If you have never rung bells before, we will gladly teach you! Please contact Roberta Windish if interested in joining.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

On Sunday, December 24, 2023, we will have our normal 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.

January 14, 2024, Langschwammer Nei Yaahrs Wunsch will be held during the 10:30 a.m. service.

# CHURCH FAMILY

## FUNERALS

Please pray for the family and friends of Valerie Ford, daughter of Richard and Jeanette Benfield Schmoyer, who passed away on September 21, 2023.



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.

### November Birthdays

11/9 - Lucille Grampp      11/15 - Roy Bitting  
11/18 - Jean Norris      11/28 - Shirley Fluck  
11/29 - Judith Barnes

### Wedding Anniversary

11/1 - John & Kathy Moll

## **PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONFIRMATION**

We are now preparing for the next Confirmation class which will begin in January 2024 and go through May 2025. Confirmands learn the basics of the Christian faith, engage in faithful service, and grow as Jesus' disciples.

Most confirmands will be in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade when they begin, but others are welcome. When I was confirmed, at age ten in an Episcopal Church, there were adults in the class. (As a teenager, and now, I think ten was too young.)

Confirmation will have two core components: Making Disciples and Christian Service. Making Disciples is a thirteen session, mentor-based confirmation curriculum and process. Each session of Making Disciples covers a core aspect of the Christian faith such as God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, Baptism, Death and Resurrection, Spiritual Life and Worship.

At several congregations we used Making Disciples and this has always gone well. Additional reasons this mentor-based curriculum is helpful: confirmands build a strong foundation in our faith, the process encourages strong connections between the confirmands and adult mentors, the mentors report growing in their faith as they move through the program, and finally, this gives us resiliency in case my health prevents my participation.

Christian Service, the second component of Confirmation is geared toward helping youth engage in acts of service and compassion. The hope is that this engagement will help youth become lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ.

Details: Start in January 2024, no class Summer 2024, Confirmation service in June 2025. We will meet twice a month, after worship on Sundays. First Sundays – Making Disciples. Third Sundays – Christian Service. (Exact times negotiated once the class is in place.) There will be an optional summer program. Contact Pastor John for more details, to register as a Confirmand or volunteer as a potential Mentor. My email is nonviolent1998@gmail.com and my cell is 215-820-1650.

Pastor John

## **SPECIAL OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER**

The special offering opportunity for November is the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund. This fund enables the ELCA to respond to any national or international disaster and to remain involved with people in that area after the tragedy.

## **DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS**

Please come out to help decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 25, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

## **LUNCH BUNCH**

All are welcome to Lunch Bunch on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 12 noon at the Alburdis Tavern, 106 S. Main Street, Alburdis, PA. Members and friends of Huff's Church are welcome to join us for a monthly luncheon (we choose and purchase our own lunches from the regular menu) and a lot of good fellowship and laughter. With restaurant staff shortages, we want to provide a Lunch Bunch head count so that the Alburdis Tavern can host us. If you would like to come to Lunch Bunch on 11/16, please call or text Tom Mitchell by Sunday, 11/12/23 or email [diligas1213@gmail.com](mailto:diligas1213@gmail.com). See you at the Alburdis Tavern!

## **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.

# Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Giving	137,848	120,805	17,043
All other income	40,244	31,463	8,781
Total income	178,092	152,268	25,824
Expenses	256,261	271,256	(14,995)
Operating income (loss)	(78,169)	(118,988)	40,819
Capital expenditures	(15,650)	(60,000)	44,350
Transfers from Investments	112,500	173,208	(60,708)
Net income (loss)	18,681	(5,780)	24,461

	9/30/23	8/31/23	12/31/22
Balance Sheet			
Designated funds	88,102	90,360	73,887
General funds	12,460	8,203	5,011
Sunday School CDs	4,389	4,389	4,385
Total assets (a)	104,951	102,952	83,283

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs

## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Red Poinsettias will again adorn the Sanctuary of the Church for the Christmas Season. Order forms are due by Sunday, December 3, 2023. Use the order form included in this newsletter to order. Price is \$10.00.



Red Poinsettias will again adorn the Sanctuary of the Church for the Christmas Season. 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, Alburdis, 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 3, 2023. Cost is \$10.00 per plant.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PLANTS: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_