

# HUFF'S UNION CHURCH ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2022



## MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of Huff's Union Church, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become evermore the Body of Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a ministry which includes increasingly meaningful worship, creative Christian Education, intentional witnessing, dedicated service, and responsible support.

Huff's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Huff's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Bannerman, Interim Pastor, January-June 2022

Rev. John Steitz, Pastor as of July 2022

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## **2022 UNION COUNCIL**

### **Members**

Michael Diehl  
 Conner Isamoyer  
 Thomas Johnson  
 Lisa Kauffman  
 Martin Kriebel  
 Lori Lanahan  
 Carol Leh  
 Jim Meitzler, Sr.  
 Kerry Meitzler January-April 2022  
 Thomas Mitchell  
 Robert Ruch January-April 2022  
 Matthew Schantz  
 Rachel Welch  
 Elaine Witman

### **Officers**

Thomas Mitchell - President January-April 2022  
 Martin Kriebel - President May-December 2022  
 Martin Kriebel - Vice President January-April 2022  
 Matthew Schantz - Vice President May-December 2022  
 Rachel Welch - Secretary  
 Jon Benfield - Treasurer

## **2022 LUTHERAN OFFICERS**

Lisa Kauffman - President  
 Ann Taylor - Vice President  
 Jane Arndt - Secretary  
 Tom Mitchell - Treasurer

## **2022 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OFFICERS**

Rachel Welch - President  
 Julie Brought - Vice President  
 Jimmy Meitzler, Sr. - Secretary  
 Gary Moll - Treasurer

**BAPTISMS**

<b><u>Name of Child/Parents</u></b>	<b><u>Born</u></b>	<b><u>Baptized</u></b>
<b>Elsie Adelaide Solt</b> ...Nathan & Alexandra Solt	<b>8/16/2021</b>	<b>3/27/2022</b>
<b>Evelyn Rochelle Schantz</b> ...Matthew & Rochelle Schantz	<b>8/10/2020</b>	<b>6/13/2022</b>
<b>Robert John Diehl</b> ...Michael & Stephanie Diehl	<b>2/7/2022</b>	<b>10/19/2022</b>
<b>Karsyn Elaine Keller</b> ...Jasper & Jasmine Keller	<b>1/24/2020</b>	<b>10/16/2022</b>
<b>Bryson Kade Keller</b> ...Jasper & Jasmine Keller	<b>10/27/2021</b>	<b>10/16/2022</b>
<b>Rodney Steward Reed, Jr.</b> ...Rodney & Michele Reed	<b>7/30/2022</b>	<b>11/20/2022</b>

**MARRIAGES**

<b><u>Names of Groom &amp; Bride</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Marriage</u></b>
Eric Matthew Becker & Marissa Joelle Meitzler	4/9/2022
Cole Taylor Swackhammer & Haydn Paige Hallman	6/18/2022
Nathan Schantz & Danielle Conrad	10/8/2022

**FUNERALS**

<b><u>Names of Deceased</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Death</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Service</u></b>
Gloria F. Romig	1/1/2022	1/6/2022
Teresa A. Derr	1/16/2022	1/26/2022
Joyce A. Schantz	1/29/2022	2/3/2022
Michael J. Acker	2/1/2022	2/8/2022
Sheila K. Minnich	2/1/2022	3/26/2022
Ernest G. Haas	2/12/2022	2/19/2022
John A. Geist	2/19/2022	2/26/2022
David E. Miller	2/27/2022	3/4/2022
Beverly A. Hilbert	4/15/2022	4/22/2022

**FUNERALS (continued)**

<b><u>Names of Deceased</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Death</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Service</u></b>
James D. Isett	4/30/2022	N/A
Joan R. Heffner	5/8/2022	5/17/2022
Charles M. Landis	5/29/2022	N/A
Carl J. Arner	6/11/2022	6/18/2022
Claire M. Sheetz	07/27/2022	8/3/2022
George G. Kibblehouse	9/3/2022	9/9/2022
Dennis L. Miller	10/1/2022	10/8/2022
Dolores J. Schmoyer	10/27/2022	10/31/2022
Jeffrey A. Boyer	11/13/2022	11/19/2022
Gail A. Rothermel	12/7/2022	12/14/2022

**NEW MEMBER RECEIVED**

<b><u>Names of Member</u></b>	<b><u>Date Joined</u></b>
Richard Brensinger	3/25/2022

**TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER CONGREGATION**

<b><u>Names of Member</u></b>	<b><u>Date Transferred</u></b>
Sandra Meldrum	9/15/2022
Donald Heimbach	11/16/2022
Elizabeth Heimbach	11/16/2022

**MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

Total confirmed membership 2021:	579	
Additions to membership:	1	
Deletions from Membership - Transfers:	3	
Deletions from Membership - Deaths:	19	
Moved to inactive status:	0	
Total confirmed membership as of 12/31/2022:	558	
Average Sunday Worship Attendance:		
8:00 a.m. Services	18	
10:30 a.m. Services	57	
Sunday by Sunday Average Worship Attendance:		75
Average Weekly Online Worship Views		20

Huff's Union Church Insurance Provider: United Church of Christ Insurance Board (UCCIB)

## Huffs Union Church Profit & Loss

	Audited 2021	Budget 2022	Audited 2022	Budget 2023
<b>Income</b>				
Loose Plate Offering	2,055	3,000	5,669	4,500
Sunday School Income	369	-	383	500
Weekly Offering Envelope	173,578	150,000	131,888	145,000
Memorials/In-Honor of Giving	1,450	1,600	5,390	2,000
Huff's Union Support	33,000	34,785	32,000	3,000 (a)
Thrivent Insurance Donations	1,274	1,350	1,721	1,500
Designated Offerings	15,607	22,740	25,884	16,590
Cemetery Board Mowers Reimburs	12,001	12,000	12,005	15,000
Facility Rentals	180	240	700	400
Fundraising & Sales	13,544	9,000	19,696	17,000
Interest & Dividends Income	116	16	16	50
Other Miscellaneous Income	-	-	9,801	- (b)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>253,173</b>	<b>234,731</b>	<b>245,154</b>	<b>205,540</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Sunday School Expense	638	3,100	978	1,950
Bank Service Charges	407	425	459	475
Cleaning Supplies	120	300	66	-
Evangelism and Special Events	159	6,100	177	6,450
Library	-	50	-	-
Insurance Expense	14,282	14,950	16,427	18,050
Local Needy	80	1,500	250	1,500
Benevolence	21,185	21,190	24,332	32,115
Ministry Expenses	4,559	8,335	3,927	6,310
Office Supplies	5,468	5,310	9,822	5,000
Outside Services	6,780	6,740	3,926	7,500
Search and Call Expenses	-	25,000	720	-
Pastoral Expenses	24,716	37,585	25,179	36,742
Payroll Expenses	136,156	155,160	138,326	179,441
Professional Fees	10,080	12,200	10,740	11,777
Repairs and Maintenance	14,806	18,250	47,614	16,599 (c)
Utilities	13,295	15,400	21,208	25,435
Fundraising Expense	5,265	4,500	9,386	7,140
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>257,996</b>	<b>336,095</b>	<b>313,537</b>	<b>356,484</b>
<b>Operating Loss</b>	<b>(4,823)</b>	<b>(101,364)</b>	<b>(68,383)</b>	<b>(150,944)</b>
Capital expenditures	(14,710)	(129,500)	-	(80,000)
Transfers from Investments	68,250	230,864	70,000	230,944
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>48,717</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>1,617</b>	<b>-</b>

- (a) Due to the merger of the UCC and ELCA corporations into the Union corporation, the only Union Support that is budgeted for 2023 is from the Youth Group
- (b) Miscellaneous income in 2022 relates to the insurance proceeds received in connection with the copper thefts
- (c) Repairs and maintenance in 2022 included \$22,802 of costs directly or indirectly related to the copper thefts

Audit Completed by Jane Leeser Date 3/11/2023

Submitted by: Jon Benfield

## Huffs Union Church

### Balance Sheet

	Audited 12/31/22	Audited 12/31/21	Change
<b>Designated Funds</b>			
Electronic Organ Fund	1,170	1,170	-
Capital Improvements Fund	11,310	40	11,270
Local Needy Fund	4,260	4,415	(155)
Sabbatical Fund	2,255	2,255	-
Continuing Education Fund	985	1,319	(334)
Missions Outreach	10,621	10,621	-
Jane Kulkua Scholarship Fund	2,230	2,045	185
Special Music	18,000	18,000	-
Sunday School Account	7,107	7,701	(595)
Youth Group Account	15,429	18,429	(3,000)
Operations Fund	522	50,012	(49,490) (a)
<b>Total Desig Funds - Truist Money Market</b>	<b>73,887</b>	<b>116,006</b>	<b>(42,118)</b>
<b>General Funds</b>			
Petty cash	251	263	(12)
Current Fund - Truist Checking	4,760	22,987	(18,227)
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>5,011</b>	<b>23,251</b>	<b>(18,239)</b>
<b>Investments</b>			
Sunday School CD# 5219 - Truist	1,522	1,517	5
Sunday School CD# 9176 - Truist	1,457	1,456	1
Sunday School CD# 3177 - Truist	1,406	1,405	1
Long-term Fund - Youngs	2,856,419	2,899,238	(42,818)
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>2,860,804</b>	<b>2,903,616</b>	<b>(42,812)</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,939,702</b>	<b>3,042,873</b>	<b>(103,170)</b>

### Long-Term Fund Investment Balance Rollforward

	2022	2021	
Beginning balance	2,899,238	2,670,400	
Transfers from UCC Investments	409,472	-	(b)
Transfers from checking	-	28,317	
Interest & dividends	80,742	105,938	
Realized & unrlzd gains/(losses)	(509,252)	176,428	
Fees	(13,281)	(13,595)	
Withdrawals (transfers to checking)	(10,500)	(68,250)	
<b>Ending balance</b>	<b>2,856,419</b>	<b>2,899,238</b>	

(a) The Operations Fund was established to provide liquidity for operating expenses to avoid having to sell investments at a time when they were undervalued (i.e., in a down market). We intend to build the Operations Fund back up during 2023 by withdrawing funds from the Long-term Fund.

(b) In connection with the merger of the UCC and ELCA corporations into the Union corporation, we transferred the investments owned by the UCC and ELCA corporations into the Union corporation. The UCC investments transferred in Dec-22 and the ELCA investments transferred in Q1 2023. Assets transferred from the ELCA in 2023 not included in the statements above totaled \$391,000.

Audit Completed by Jane Leeser Date 3/11/2023

**Submitted by:** Jon Benfield



## 2022 HUFF'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

	Actual 2021 Audited	Budget 2022	Actual 2022 Audited
Checkbook Balance Jan. 1	\$323.99	\$250.00	\$256.39
<b>Income:</b>			
Transfer from Investments		\$15,125.00	
Truist Investment Portfolio			\$15,500.00
Natixis Funds	\$12,500.00		
Amazon Smile	\$32.40		\$96.51
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$12,856.39</b>	<b>\$15,375.00</b>	<b>\$15,852.90</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Huff's Union Support	\$12,500 <sup>1</sup>	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00
East Berks Mission District	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
Lutheran Synod Benevolence	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Synod Assembly	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$0.00
Kutztown Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Huff's Union for Amazon Smile for 2021 through Oct 2022	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$97.66
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,600.00</b>	<b>\$15,125.00</b>	<b>\$14,572.66</b>
Checkbook Balance Dec. 31	\$256.39	\$250.00	\$1,280.24
	Audited	Budget	Audited
	12/31/2021	2022	12/31/2022

HUFFS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH BALANCE SHEET 2022					
	Truist Checking	Truist Investment	Natixis Mut Fund	Capital Mut Fund	TOTAL 2022
Balance 1/1/22	256.39	231,739.09	214,435.55	39,847.68	486,278.71
Income	96.51				96.51
Transfers	15,500.00 From Truist	(15,500.00) To Truist Ckg			0.00
Expenses	(14,572.66)				(14,572.66)
Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dividends	0.00	9,447.58	40.21	719.81	10,207.60
Realized and Unrealized Capital Gains/Loss		(48,371.24)	(60,779.85)	(7,613.18)	(116,764.27)
Fees	0.00	(1,972.61)	0.00	0.00	(1,972.61)
<b>Balance 12/31/22</b>	<b>1280.24 (a)</b>	<b>175,342.82(b)</b>	<b>153,695.91(c)</b>	<b>32,954.31(d)</b>	<b>363,273.28</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>1,023.85</b>	<b>(56,396.27)</b>	<b>(60,739.64)</b>	<b>(6,893.37)</b>	<b>(123,005.28)</b>

1. \$500 overpayment from 2020 applied to 2021 Huffs Union Support

(a) Truist Checking Acct will be closed after final Amazon Smile deposit and transferred to Huff's Union in 2023

(b) Truist Investments value \$189,114.96 transferred to Huff's Union Church Investment Fund in Jan 2023

(c) Natixis Investments value \$175,652.47 transferred to Huff's Union Church Investment Fund in Feb 2023

(d) Capital Investments value \$ 35,247.95 transferred to Huff's Union Church Investment Fund in Feb 2023

Audit Completed by *James Meitzler Sr* Date 3/1/2023

**Submitted by: Tom Mitchell**

## UCC Financial Report

Balance Sheet		Audited 12/31/22	Audited 12/31/21	Increase (Decrease)
Checking	Truist	-	14,954	(14,954) (a)
Investments	Schwab/Youngs	77	476,189	(476,112) (b)
Mae Krause principal	Ambler Bank	1,100	1,100	- (c)
Mae Krause interest	Ambler Bank	462	459	3 (d)
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>1,639</b>	<b>492,702</b>	<b>(491,063)</b>
Income Statement		Audited 2021	Budget 2022	Audited 2022
<u>Income</u>				
Interest and dividends from investmts		16,935	5,000	12,858
Realized/unrlzd gain (loss) on investmts		31,879	25,000	(77,296)
<b>Total income</b>		<b>48,814</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>(64,437)</b>
<u>Expenses</u>				
Union Support		14,000	15,000	15,000
PSEC - OCWM			5,300	(e)
Bethany Children's Home			1,600	
Phoebe Home			1,600	
Lancaster Seminary			1,600	
PSEC meeting fees			570	
Covenant Association dues		275	275	(f)
Pension Board Generations of Service		200	100	
Bank and investment fees		2,379	2,100	2,153
Miscellaneous expenses			200	
Transfer to Huffs Union Investments				409,472
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>16,854</b>	<b>28,345</b>	<b>426,625</b>
<b>Net income</b>		<b>31,960</b>	<b>1,655</b>	<b>(491,063)</b>

All accounts have been closed in connection with the merger of Huffs UCC into Huffs Union Church.

- (a) checking account closed April 2022
- (b) 12/31/22 balance of \$77 was transferred to Huffs Union Church investment fund in Jan-23
- (c) 12/31/22 balance of \$1,100 was transferred to Huffs Church Cemetery in Feb-23
- (d) 12/31/22 balance of \$462 was transferred to Huffs Union Church in Feb-23
- (e) PSEC = Penn Southeast Conference; OCWM = Our Church's Wider Mission
- (f) Covenant Association dues for 2022 were paid by Huffs Union Church

Audit Completed by Sue Stockdale Date 3/11/2023

Submitted by: Jon Benfield

## Contributions for 2022 by Category

**Dollar Amount Given**

**Giving per Unit**

Zero	218
.01 – 5.00	6
5.01 – 10.00	9
10.01 – 25.00	19
25.01 – 50.00	34
50.01 – 75.00	15
75.01 – 100.00	19
100.01 – 150.00	17
150.01 – 200.00	14
200.01 – 250.00	13
250.01 – 300.00	4
300.01 – 350.00	2
350.01 – 400.00	4
400.01 – 450.00	6
450.01 – 500.00	8
500.01 – 750.00	11
750.01 – 1000.00	8
1000.01 – 1500.00	18
1500.01 – 2000.00	3
2000.01 – 2500.00	7
2500.01 – 3000.00	1
3000.01 – 3500.00	1
3500.01 – 4000.00	2
4000.01 – 4500.00	0
4500.01 – 5000.00	2
5000.01 – 6000.00	1
6000.01 – plus	4

**Total Giving Units**

**446**

## **Pastor's Report**

**Bible Verse:** *Psalm 127: 1-2 - Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.*

### **Accomplishments over the past year:**

The year 2022 was a year of transition here at Huff's Union Church. Pastor Jennifer Bannerman continued to advise and guide the Search Committee as they worked to find a new Pastor. Prospective candidates were interviewed during April, May, and June, as Pastor Bannerman prepared to leave us on June 12, 2022.

During the March 2022 Congregational Meeting, held to accept the 2021 Annual Report, the new Constitution and By-Laws were also adopted by the congregation. A new 12 member Union Council was elected. The effective date for the new Constitution and new Council was May 9, 2022.

In May, we learned that the procedures to merge the Huff's United Church of Christ and the Huff's Evangelical Lutheran Church of America congregations into the Huff's Union Church had advanced. A Congregational Meeting was scheduled for June 19 to approve the Plan of Merger.

As Pastor Bannerman prepared to leave Huff's, the Search Committee put forth a candidate to become the new Lead Pastor, causing the June 19 Congregational Meeting to be postponed until September 25.

A Meet and Greet was set up for June 25<sup>th</sup> so the congregation could have the opportunity to meet the pastoral candidate. His trial sermon was given on June 26, with a Special Congregational Meeting following the service. Pastor John Steitz was elected the new Lead Pastor of Huff's Union Church.

As Pastor Steitz settled into his new position, the Union Council continued reorganizing under the new Constitution. New committee chairpersons were named, committee members were approved, a few committees were combined, and some were eliminated.

During the September 25, 2022, Special Congregational Meeting, the Plan of Merger was approved. The Plan was forwarded to our attorney for presentation to the Pennsylvania Department of State. As of January 1, 2023, Huff's Union Church was the one remaining corporation after the merger was completed.

**Respectfully submitted:** Martin Kriebel, President, Union Church Council

## Union Council Highlights

**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 10

- The election of Union Council Officers is as follows: Thomas Mitchell, President; Martin Kriebel, Vice President; Jonathan Benfield, Treasurer; Rachel Welch, Secretary
- Lutheran Officers: Jane Arndt, President; Ann Taylor, Vice President; Lisa Kauffman, Secretary; Thomas Mitchell, Treasurer
- UCC Officers: Rachel Welch, President; Julie Brought, Vice President; James Meitzler, Sr. Secretary; Gary Moll, Treasurer
- Approval of the new Union Church Constitution and By-Laws was received from Penn Northeast Synod of the ELCA Church and from the Penn Southeast Conference of the UCC Church.
- Council notified of the theft of the air conditioning copper.

#### February 7

- An estimate was received to install hand railings in the altar area as a safety measure. Council approved the Annual Report and recommended it to the congregation for approval at the March Congregational Meeting.
- Received Nominating Committee Report for Council members to begin serving May 9 under the new constitution.

#### March 7

- Insurance claim for the copper theft was settled. \$6,300 received from insurance company.
- The April Easter egg hunt was approved with the park clean-up being scheduled for the week before April 9, 2022.
- The March Congregational Meeting was held. The 2021 Annual Report was approved as was the New Constitution and By-Laws. The new constitution will become effective on May 9, 2022.
- The Council members, whose terms begin on May 9 under the new Constitution and By-Laws, were also elected by the Congregation.
- Two Eagle Scout projects were approved.
- The Sunday School and the Christian Education Board were dissolved, and the Children and Youth Ministry Group was formed to replace the two groups.

#### April 11

- The air conditioning copper tubing was stolen again. Fencing and cameras considered to protect Air Conditioning piping.
- Reviewed and accepted Covid-19 Committee recommendations on unrestricted use of the balcony, bathrooms and elevator. Ushers will continue to wear masks and gloves to serve communion.

## **Union Council Highlights (continued)**

### **May 9**

- Election of Union Council Officers are as follows: Martin Kriebel, President; Matthew Schantz, Vice President; Jonathan Benfield, Treasurer; Rachel Welch, Secretary
- Security cameras were installed to protect the air conditioning copper tubing.
- The altar handrails were approved, and fabrication has begun.
- Dept of Environment Protection inspected wells. Notified that the park well is condemned.
- Kelsey Doney resigned on May 8, 2022. Pastor Jennifer reports her last Sunday will be June 12, 2022.
- The Plan of Merger of the Huff's Lutheran Corporation, Huff's UCC Corporation and Huff's Union Church Corporation was approved by Council.

### **June 13**

- Established summer worship services hour. Odd Sundays in Church, Even Sundays in the Park.
- Plan of Merger approved during June 19 Congregational Meeting.
- The cameras were removed because they did not meet our requirements. Fencing was installed.
- The Caleb Moyer and Kane Weller Eagle Scout Projects were completed. Kane placed a Veterans Memorial Stone at the base of our flagpole, and Caleb set replacement grave markers in the Church Yard (Old) Cemetery.
- Fund raising events were discussed. Church Picnic is scheduled for July. A Pig Roast will be held in August and Oyster Pie Sale in October.
- June 26 Congregational Meeting to hear Pastor John Steitz present his trial sermon. He was elected as our Settled Pastor.

### **July 11**

- The air conditioner tubing has been replaced.
- Heard a report from DEP about the park water and some recommendations from Suburban Water Technologies on possible solutions.
- Heard about equipment needs and possible cost of getting our worship services recorded and on-line.
- The Church Financial Management Plan was presented for consideration and approval by Council.

### **August 9**

- Equipment needed for offering on-line services was reviewed and monies approved.
- Proposal for handling the Water in the Park situation was discussed and estimates were received and reviewed. Additional study is deemed necessary.
- Committees were renamed, merged and discontinued then the Committee Chairs, the Financial Management and the Counting Teams were approved by council.
- September 25 was selected for a Congregational Meeting to approve the Plan of Merger.
- A/C and heat pump units are aging. Need to set up account to accumulate funds to replace them. This was referred to the Financial Management Team for implementation.
- Oyster Pie date set for October 22, 2022.

## **Union Council Highlights (continued)**

### **September 12**

- Pastor Steitz performed two baptisms and a wedding this month.
- Altar hand railing is completed. Installation is scheduled for later this month.
- Water treatment systems were approved for in the church and chapel buildings.
- Concerns about the cost of heating oil were expressed. It was agreed to heat the church to a lower temperature.
- During the September 25, Congregational Meeting the Plan of Merger was approved by the Congregation.

### **October**

- No Union Council meeting was held in October.

### **November 14**

- The 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets were discussed and approved for presentation to the Congregation.
- The Worship and Music Committee made a recommendation to hire a second music professional to help our music director, Gloria Adams. The recommendation was approved and forwarded to the Personnel Committee for action.
- Suburban Water Technologies was named our contact person with the DEP.

### **December 12**

- At the December 11, 2022, Congregational meeting, the 2023 Operating and Capital Budgets were approved.
- In light of Pastor's health and the poor attendance, it was decided to discontinue the 8:30 worship service.
- The following members were elected for 2023 Union Council:
  - 1 Year Term
    - Tom Mitchell
    - Rachel Welch
    - Jim Meitzler Sr.
    - Lisa Kauffman
  - 2 Year Term
    - Matt Schantz
    - Elaine Witman
    - Carol Leh
    - Lori Lanahan
  - 3 Year Term
    - Martin Kriebel
    - Michael Diehl
    - Tess Woloszanski
    - Bill Stoudt

Submitted by: Martin Kriebel, President, Union Church Council

## 2022 Committees & Board Chairpersons

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Audit	Jane Leeser	610-966-2775
Blood	Gary Moll	610-845-8811
Budget	Jon Benfield	484-226-7981
Caring & Sharing	Jane Arndt	610-972-0469
Cemetery	Eric Diehl	610-845-7092
Children & Youth	Joanne Benfield	610-845-2978
Community Outreach	Tess Woloszanski	610-618-6399
Constitution & By-Laws	Joanne Benfield	670-845-2978
Dramatized Lord's Supper	Gary Moll	610-845-8811
	Frank Meitzler	717-381-9000
Equipment & Building Oversight	Bill Stoudt	610-682-6761
Gift	Rachel Welch	484-226-0333
Greeters	Jane Leeser	610-966-2775
Historian	Scott Swackhamer	610-845-2670
Hospitality	Tess Woloszanski	610-618-6399
Huff's Church Auxiliary	Lisa Kauffman	610-413-9283
Finance/Investments	Justin Miller	610-845-2880
Library	Carol Leh	610-845-7005
Memorial Park	LeRoy Leibensperger	610-682-7346
	Joanne Benfield	610-845-2978
Mission Endowment Fund	Linda Lorish	610-845-2164
Mission Outreach & Special Projects	Roberta Windish	267-733-5283
Pastor Parish	Michael Diehl	610-737-0661
Personnel	Jimmy Meitzler, Sr.	610-845-2581
Prayer Chain	John Leeser	610-966-2775
Prayer Partners	John Leeser	610-966-2775
Vacation Bible School	Julie Brought	610-568-5990
Worship & Music	Kay Kriebel	610-845-2960



## Audit

**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:** 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 Leeser

### Accomplishments during the past year:

Audits were completed on the treasurers' books for the year ending December 31, 2021, for Huff's Union Cemetery, Huff's Church Auxilliary, Park Board, The Endowment Fund, Huff's ELCA, Huff's UCC, 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 Pearl Hoffman, Sue Stockdale and Jim Meitzler, Sr. for their help in completing the audits.

**Submitted by:** Jane Leeser

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## Blood Assurance

**Bible Verse:** *Luke 10: 33* - a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw [the man who had been beaten], he was moved with pity.

**Purpose:** The blood assurance committee works with Miller-Keystone Blood Bank to provide opportunities for people to donate blood so it will be available for those who need it.

**Chairperson:** Gary Moll

### Accomplishments during the past year:

There was no blood assurance activity during the past year.

**Submitted by:** Gary Moll

## **Caring and Sharing**

**Bible Verse:** *1Timothy 6:18-19* - *Command them to do good, to do rich good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

**Purpose:** The Caring and Sharing Committee reaches out to the shut-ins of Huffs Church by offering visitations, sometimes with Holy Communion or a caring phone call when visitations cannot be arranged. The Committee also sends Get Well cards to people whose names are placed on the Prayer List, Sympathy cards to the families who have lost a loved one and cards to remind people they are missed but still in our thoughts and prayers.

**Chairperson:** Jane Arndt

**Committee members are:** Jane Arndt, Mabel Bittenbender, Pat Crossley, Norma Greiss, Elvin Keiser, Jane Leeser, Sue Stockdale, Connie Szilli and Rachel Woodhead.

If anyone is interested in joining the Caring and Sharing Committee, please reach out to a member and watch for news of upcoming meetings.

**Accomplishments during the past year:**

In 2022, all time and costs have been donated by its members.

**Submitted by:** Jane Arndt

## Cemetery Board

**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 markers.

**Officers:** Vacant, President; Eric Diehl, Vice President; Kerry Meitzler, Secretary; Martin Kriebel, Treasurer

**Members:** Ernest Geist, Raymond Lorish, Stephen Lorish, Robert Ruch, William Stoudt and Terry Ziegenfuse

**Accomplishments:** The year 2022 has seen an unusually high number of burials. Nine were full burials and 22 were cremation burials. In addition to burials, new grave markers being set, and the weekly mowing performed, we continue to identify grave markers that need to be cleaned, reset, and replaced. The final replacement markers were set in place during this summer. This was accomplished by Caleb Moyer's Eagle Scout Project. Blue Mountain Memorial and Cemetery Services repaired and reset several grave markers on the Church Yard (Old) Cemetery. We continue to investigate methods to best repair the broken markers. A cleaning solution was applied to all markers in the Benfield Cemetery, which will remove the mold, moss, and lichen which accumulated on them.

**Submitted by:** Martin Kriebel

### Huff's Union Church Cemetery Investment Activities 2022

	Hertzog Fund	Permanent Fund	General Fund
January 1, 2022 Beginning Market Value	\$506,574.29	\$289,046.21	\$137,480.83
Income	\$11,008.15	\$6,341.91	\$3,368.17
Disbursements	-\$9,000.00	-\$3,600.00	-\$2,400.00
Account Fees	-\$4,398.05	-\$2,531.32	-\$1,253.96
Change in Market Value	<u>-\$95,311.15</u>	<u>-\$52,872.90</u>	<u>-\$19,956.35</u>
Ending Market Value December 31, 2022	\$408,873.24	\$236,383.90	\$117,238.69

## 2022 Cemetery Board Budget

### Huff's Union Church Cemetery Finances

	Audited 12/31/2021	Audited 12/31/2022	2023 Budget	
<b>Check Book Balance Jan. 1</b>	\$18,031.65	12,155.09	20,375.04	
<b>Income:</b>				
Investor's Trust - Hertzog Fund	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	9,000.00	
Investor's Trust - Permanent Fund	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	3,600.00	
Investor's Trust - General Fund	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	2,400.00	
Sale of Lots	\$2,000.00	\$2,700.00	2,500.00	
Sale of Vaults	\$75.00	\$2,075.00	2,500.00	
Grave Opening Fees - Full Burial	\$3,425.00	\$1,800.00	2,000.00	
Grave Opening Fees - Cremation		\$5,750.00	6,000.00	
Saturday Burial Surcharge	\$300.00	\$675.00	800.00	
Sallie Bechtel Fund	\$839.14	\$1,159.02	900.00	
Miscellaneous	\$35.00	\$0.00	35.00	
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<u>\$39,705.79</u>	<u>\$41,314.11</u>	<u>\$50,110.04</u>	
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Mowing and Trimming	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	15,000.00	
Gas and Oil	\$1,407.77	\$2,056.79	3,000.00	
Equipment Maintenance/Repair	\$404.11	\$1,367.10	1,500.00	
Perm Fund - 80% of Lot Sales	\$1,600.00	\$0.00 1)	2,000.00	1) \$2,161 to be Transferred to Permanent Fund.
Snow Removal	\$0.00	\$0.00	300.00	
Esterly Vault Company	\$0.00	\$1,625.00	1,750.00	
Rain Gutter Repairs	\$2,965.00	\$0.00	0.00	
Parking Lot Line Painting		\$830.00	0.00	
Topsoil (Fertilizer&Lime- even years)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	
Holding for Wall Replacement	\$5,000.00	\$0.00 2)	5,000.00	\$5,000 to be Transferred for repair of cemetery wall.
Tombstone Repairs/Replacements	\$3,900.00	\$2,800.00	5,000.00	
Mulch - Odd Years	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	
Miscellaneous including Cnty Dues	\$273.82	\$260.18	250.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$27,550.70</u>	<u>\$20,939.07</u>	<u>\$33,800.00</u>	
<b>Check Book Ending Dec. 31</b>	\$12,155.09	\$20,375.04		

Audited by Jane Leeser

Submitted by: Martin Kriebel

## Children, Youth, and Faith Formation Ministry

**Bible Verse:** *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.

**Members:** Christian Ed Board, Sunday School & all faith formation ministries merged into one with Rachel Welch and Joanne Benfield as facilitators. Thankful to all who serve. This report only attempts to name some who enable and support this ministry. We regret any who may be not named.

### **ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPANTS IN 2022 GENERALLY INCLUDE 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade gather with teachers for Sunday School using multi-age curriculum. Teachers volunteer to teach for different months. About 5-12 children attend.

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

**\*"Egg Cellent" Easter Story Egg Hunt** – Despite rain, Egg Hunt was held in the Church. Kids colored a spinner wheel craft of the true Easter Story followed by a skit "Friday Was Sad, But Sunday Was Glad." With generous donations, over 600 eggs provided for 20 kids & gathered 2<sup>nd</sup> bag for a friend.

**Egg Hunt help:** Meghan Richetti, Tess Woloszanski, Dena Funk, Julie Brought, Confirm-ands Nicholas Hunsberger, Maisy Funk, Elijah Richetti, Katie, Elizabeth, and Kevin Proctor, and the Easter Bunny (Tucker Ruch).

**\*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 were set up at July picnic

**\*Children's Christmas Musical Program "The First Christmas"** - A Combined effort of Children's Choir & Sunday School, 12 children presented Nativity story including live nativity during the 10:30 Worship Service. Among helpers include Gloria Adams, Kara Benfield, Julie Brought, James Meitzler Jr.

**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 7-9 continued to be offered in person and by Zoom. This class of about 6-9 students with mentors transitioned through the second year of confirmation between Pastor Jennifer to Pastor John. Core helpers included Conner Isamoyer, Tess Woloszanski and Lisa Kauffman.

### **Children, Youth, and Faith Formation Ministry** (continued)

**C-ADULT: 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 Jane Arndt, Lea Kline and others.

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

**\*Zoom meetings** to enable more participation in planning

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

#### **DURING 2023 EXPAND ACTIVITIES INCLUDING POSSIBLY THE FOLLOWING:**

-Kid and family-themed community events in Park and support to Family Ministry

-More leaders, facilitators, teachers, and helpers

**Submitted by:** Joanne Benfield

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### **Community Outreach (formerly Renaissance Committee)**

**Bible Verse: Isaiah 43: 18b** - *I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth. Do you perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

**Chairperson:** Tess Woloszanski

**Members:** Joanne Benfield, Tom Mitchell, Tess Woloszanski

**Purpose:** We recognize that our church needs to change with the times in order to stay relevant, and so we are charged with determining how best to accomplish this goal while continuing to honor important Huff's Church traditions.

#### **Accomplishments during the past year:**

Due to the Covid-19 virus and its variants, our committee did not meet or set up any events this year again. We want to refine our goals in the future to make sure we are focusing our attention on ways to serve within our congregation, to provide outreach to our surrounding community, and also to find more ways to further support wider outreach groups.

**Submitted by:** Tess Woloszanski

## Constitution and By-Laws

**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:** Review Constitutions of Huff's Union, UCC, and ELCA Corporations to consider changes in organization, structure, format, wording that provides a framework for all members and organizations to work together in love and peace for Christ's purpose and grow in strong faith and unity into the future.

**Members:** Many members gave input to develop important governance document, but following have given substantial time and effort: Martin Kriebel, Aurel Arndt, Kathy Welch, Rev. Bannerman, Dave Funk, Rev. Kropa, Dennis Thomas, Paul Ritter, Emelie Swackhamer, Joanne Benfield

**Additional input provided by:** Associate of the Bishop of Penn NE ELCA Synod, Rev. Mike Bennethum; Associate Conference Minister Penn Southeast UCC Conference, Rev. Sharon Morris (retired); Rev Carl Shankweiler, Attorney Keith Strohl, and Pastor Gade (retired)-St Peters.

**Background:** Since January 1, 2011, Huff's UCC and ELCA were in shared ministry with dual membership but had 3 separate corporations. In October 2012 Union Council directed Bylaws Committee to prepare a new Huff's Union Church Inc Constitution and Bylaws as the first step to then guide the legal merger of Huff's ELCA and UCC corporations into one Huffs Union Church Corporation.

### In 2022 following done:

**Early January 2022** – Penn Southeast UCC Conference and Penn Northeast ELCA Synod completed review of proposed new Huff's Union Constitution and Bylaws. With no suggested revisions, the Conference and Synod recommended it be presented to the Congregation for approval.

**3/13/2022** – Congregation approved new Consitution and Bylaws of Huff's Union Church and elected 12 Union Council members to begin operating under the new Consitution and Bylaws at the opening of the Union Council meeting on May 9, 2022.

**9/25/2022** – Three Special Meetings of Huff's Union, Huff's UCC, and Huff's ELCA were held to vote on the Plan of Merger prepared by Attorney Keith Strohl for Huff's UCC Inc and Huff's Lutheran Inc to merge into one remaining Huff's Union Church Inc. The President and Secretary of each corporation were authorized to sign the Plan of Merger. Attorney Strohl prepared the documents required to submit the merger to the PA Dept of State for approval.

**11/10/2022** – Attorney Strohl informed us that the Statement of Merger would be approved by the PA Department of State to be effective December 31, 2022. Attorney Strohl advised to begin the process of transferring checking and investment funds from Huff's UCC and Huff's ELCA to Huff's Union. The current UCC and ELCA officers will hold their positions into 2023 in case there is anything that may come up for signing after December 31 2022. UCC Conference and ELCA Synod advised of approval of merger. Congregation approved the 2023 Union Budget reflecting anticipated adjustments of income and expenses as a result of merger.

**12/31/2022** – Effective date of Merger of Huff's UCC and Huffs ELCA into Huff's Union Church Inc.

## **Constitution and By-Laws (continued)**

### **Plans for 2023**

- Complete transfer of checking and investment funds from Huff's UCC & ELCA to Huff's Union
- Assure documentation of Huff's Union Church Inc (instead of Huffs UCC or Huffs ELCA) on all records of denomination national offices, Conference and Synod with Huff's Union Church having full affiliation with both UCC and ELCA. Each member has dual membership with both UCC and ELCA.
- Obtain IRS tax exemption status for Huff's Union Church Inc under the UCC/ELCA group exemption.
- Obtain PA State Sales Tax Exemption Certificate for Huff's Union Church Inc.

**Submitted by:** Joanne Benfield

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### **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.*

### **Accomplishments during the past year:**

The Passion Play was not presented in 2022.



## Endowment Fund

**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.*

**Chairperson:** Linda Lorish

**Members:** Julie Brought (Acting Secretary), Pearl Hoffman, Linda Lorish (Chair), Jim Meitzler, Jr., and Kerry Meitzler (Treasurer).

**Purpose:** 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. Wider Missions of the UCC & ELCA
3. Community Service and Outreach
4. Capital Improvements
5. Annual operating expenses (Limited portion during temporary or difficult circumstances)

### Items the Endowment Committee completed in 2021:

- *Audit Committee reviewed the 2021 Endowment Records*

### Distributed a total of \$5,250 across 6 local organizations:

- *United Church of Christ - Ukraine Relief Fund*
- *Lutheran Disaster Response - Eastern Europe Crisis Response*
- *Northern Berks Food Pantry - Food Bank in Hamburg*
- *Brandywine Heights Education Foundation – Community Challenges with Opioid Addiction.*
- *Helping Harvest – Food Bank in Berks/Schuylkill Counties*
- *Jarett Yoder Foundations – Providing support for Homeless Vets and First Responders*

### Financials:

Vanguard Account:      \$140,618.75 Fund value at the end of 2021  
                                   \$131,661.50 Fund value at the end of 1Q2022  
                                   \$113,243.20 Fund value at the end of 2Q2022  
                                   \$107,735.22 Fund value at the end of 3Q2022  
                                   \$115,715.74 Fund value at the end of 2022.

The Committee has committed to disburse \$4309.41 in 2023. This value reflects 4% of the fund value at on September 30, 2022.

### In 2023, Endowment Committee plans include the following:

- Monitor the investment portfolio and remove 2023 funds for distribution when needed.
- Distribute \$4309.41 to suitable organizations based on 4% of the fund value on 30-Sep-2022.
- Committee role transfer to new officers
- Audit Endowment records for 2022.

**Submitted by:** Kerry Meitzler

## Equipment & Building Oversight

**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 Equipment/Facility Oversight Committee is responsible for maintaining the church properties so they are attractive in appearance and are kept in good working order.

**Chairperson:** William Stoudt

### Accomplishments during the past year:

This committee was vacant for the year 2022.

### CHURCH:

1. Review agreements with contractors servicing equipment and systems.
2. Review work orders by HVAC contractors on repairs.
3. Review chemical analysis reports to the heating boiler.
4. Met with Dept. of L&I inspector certifying boiler installation.
5. Met with Dept of L&I inspector certifying elevator safety and functionality.
6. Pipe sets to A/C equipment were stolen twice by thieves which had to be replaced. These thefts prompted action to design, manufacture and install fencing to deter further thefts. Additionally, extra lighting was added to make thefts less tempting.
7. Blue light to the water potable system was replaced. Water system is tested monthly>
8. Handrails installed to enable those who require its usage to the pulpit.
9. Baseboard heating installed in kitchenette and bathrooms due to lower temperatures during unoccupied times to prevent pipes from freezing.

### Chapel:

1. Mold discovered and promptly removed. Affected areas sealed with a sealant to minimize reoccurring.
2. Hand rails to stoop refitted to prevent loosening.

**Submitted by:** William Stoudt

## Finance and Investment

**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.

**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 David Funk as voting members and Council President Martin Kriebel and Church Treasurer Jon Benfield as non-voting members. The position of committee secretary remains vacant.

For many investors, 2022 felt like getting a root canal from a blacksmith. Both bond and stock markets struggled mightily as the Federal Reserve bank raised interest rates to combat high inflation. The Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index posted its largest decline in the history of the index (-13%). Stocks also struggled, with many household names down over 40% (i.e., Amazon, Tesla, and Intel to name a few). The S&P 500 was down -19% and the NASDAQ was down -32%. For the year, the Huffs Church investment portfolio was down -15.26%. However, since inception, the investments are outperforming the benchmark by +0.42%.

Our committee met four times throughout the year to monitor investments and make changes with guidance from our investment advisor, Youngs Advisory Group. Thanks to sound planning to end the 2021 year, the Church only needed to distribute \$10,500 out of the portfolio to allow the investments more time to recover. Funds needed by the Church were provided by the money market investments which did not fluctuate.

The committee also worked to help produce the Church's new Financial Management Policy (FMP) which was adopted by Council on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Going forward, the committee is now known as the, "Finance and Investment Committee".

In addition to new policies and procedures outlined in the FMP, as a result of the merger, funds from the UCC and ELCA congregations are being combined into one fund to provide more efficient management of the investments. The work to consolidate the Church's investments is still ongoing but we hope to have it completed in early 2023. The day-to-day management of the Funds is handled by Youngs Advisory Group and Charles Schwab acts as the Fund custodian.

## Finance and Investment (continued)

### 2022 in Review:

The committee voted to turn off distributions during 2022 to avoid selling investments while their values were depressed. Instead, funding for the Church's operating and capital expenses came from money market investments that were set aside in 2021. In total, only \$10,500 was distributed out of the investment account as compared to \$96,567 the year prior. Looking ahead to 2023, we expect that distributions will need to begin again from the portfolio. The good news is that we expect income from the investments to increase as interest rates are now much higher than they have been over the last 15 years.

### Numbers in Review:

Beginning Value	\$2,899,158
Contributions	\$0
Withdrawals	(\$10,500)
Management Fees	(\$13,281)
Dividend Income	\$59,775
Interest Income	\$42
Investment Gain	(\$439,709)
Ending Value	\$2,856,419
Account Return (Net TWR)	(15.26%)
Allocation Weighted Benchmark	(14.20%)

We welcome comments and questions on this report and appreciate all feedback. We look forward to reporting results of our continuing investment activity during 2023 and beyond.

**Respectfully submitted:** Justin Miller, Chairperson

## Gift

**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:**

There were no gifts donated during the past year.

**Submitted by:** Rachel Welch

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## Greeter

**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 is to help 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 Leeser

**Accomplishments during the past year:**

This committee was vacant for the year 2022.

## Historian Report

**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 during the past year:

This year it came to our attention that the large Bible in our Rohrbach family collection had belonged to George Ludwig Breinig, who was born Jan 31, 1733. He was a German immigrant pioneer and patriot who fought in both the French/ Indian war and the Revolution. Breinigsville was named in his honor. Our own Gloria Adams is one of his many descendants. Kurtis Rohrbach provided the translation of the inscription in the Bible. Kurtis is on a quest to find the family Bible of his ancestor Hans Jurg Rohrbach who was a member here. That Bible is said to exist but now rests in an unknown location. If anyone has information please see me for Kurtis Rohrbachs contact number.

No other historic donations were received this year.

**Submitted by:** Scott Swackhamer

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## 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

### Accomplishments during the past year:

This committee was vacant for the year 2022.

## **Huff's Church Auxiliary**

**Bible Verse:** *2 Thessalonians 3: 13 - Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.*

*Titus 3: 14 - And let people learn to devote themselves to good works in order to meet urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive.*

**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:**

Huff's Church Auxiliary had four successful fund raisers this past year. We had two oyster pie sales with the first one held on April 30, 2022. We had a profit of \$2,420.11 and sold 600 pies. The other oyster pie sale was on the October 22 with a profit of \$2,532.78 and sold 625 pies.

We had two summer fundraiser events. On July 23rd we had our picnic in the park. It was a great success with a profit of \$4,009.65. On August 20th we had a pig roast with a profit of \$1,618.12 and sold about 250 meals.

We could use more help with all our fundraisers and always welcome new volunteers. Please keep a look out for all future fundraising events in the newsletters, the eblast and bulletins.

**Submitted by:** Lisa Kauffman, Chairperson

**Huff's Church Auxiliary Financial Report**

	<b>Audited 2021</b>	<b>Audited 2022</b>
<b>Check Book Balance January 1</b>	\$8,665.88	\$8,328.68
<b>Income:</b>		
Reimbursement for church picnic	\$2,187.01	\$1,539.35
Reimbursement for pig roast	\$530.29	\$952.33
Reimbursement for oyster pies	\$2,547.97	\$5,911.19
Meals for outside groups	\$0.00	\$86.00
Miscellaneous income	\$0.00	\$150.00
Sales of canning jars	\$0.00	\$115.00
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	\$13,931.15	\$17,082.55
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Trash collection	\$337.20	\$208.02
Propane gas for chapel	\$0.00	\$92.45
Supplies - Church Picnic	\$2,187.01	\$1,539.35
Supplies - Pig Roast	\$530.29	\$952.33
Supplies - Oyster Pies Sale	\$2,547.97	\$5,911.19
Change for July Picnic	\$0.00	\$325.00
Contributions to Huffs Union General Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$150.00
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$5,602.47	\$9,178.34
<b>Check Book Ending December 31</b>	\$8,328.68	\$7,904.21
<b>Church Donation through Radcliffe and Redner's Save-a-Tape Program</b>	\$360.81	\$385.21

Audited by Pearl Hoffman.

**Submitted by:** Kay M. Kriebel, Treasurer



## **Library**

**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 Board

**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), and Keith Rauenzahn

### Accomplishments during the past year:

#### Following events were scheduled in the Park in 2022:

Family Easter Egg Hunt	Vacation Bible School	Pig Roast
5 Outdoor Worship Services	Church & Community Picnic	2 Private Events

#### 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.

#### Projects completed or worked on during 2022 in addition to smaller maintenance and repairs:

- Ice cream freezer repair and exhaust fan repair in refreshment stand roof peak
- Although the Park water tested the same as it has for years, due to new regulations and the age of the Park well, the PA Department of Environmental Protection inspection in April 2022 listed major upgrade requirements including potentially a new well and installation of a water treatment system. This resulted in many hours of consulting with well drillers, water treatment companies, Penn State Extension Water Sources Dept, and others familiar with Non-Community Water Systems to clarify the details of the regulations with DEP since costs approached at least \$60,000 to bring the Park into compliance. DEP agreed to allow use of the water for summer events with restrictions while under consideration. Aurel Arndt contacted water system regulators and professionals familiar with DEP regulations and we appreciate Aurel's efforts as a favorable and much less costly agreement with DEP for the Park may be developed in 2023.

#### 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.**

## **Memorial Park Board (continued)**

### **Future Projects:**

- Agreement with PA DEP on Park well including preparing and arranging for regular water testing, and extend well casing above slab
- Repair or replacement of supporting bandshell posts
- Electric and plumbing upgrades in refreshment stand and restrooms
- Ongoing tree trimming & removal, repair and replacement of property and equipment.
- Continue to encourage people to bring own lawn chairs to move away from park benches

**Funds for repairs and improvements in 2022** received through donation and support from Union Church. **Park Board will be considering fund raising activities in 2023.**

**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 Report, 2022**

Checking account balance - 1/1/2022	\$ 7,234.40
Expenses:	
Met Ed	839.00
Suburban Water Tech	150.00
Longacre's Capacitor	411.75
Tapler and Sons - ice Cream Freezer	201.86
Total Expenses	1,601.81
Revenue	
Rental	60.00
Total Revenue	60.00
Checking Account Balance - 12/31/2022	\$ 5,691.79
Savings Account Balance - 1/1/2022	\$ 8,151.93
Interest	405.16
Savings Account Balance - 12/31/2022	\$ 8,557.09
CD's - 1/1/2022	\$33,482.05
Total CD's	\$33,482.05

Audited by Pearl Hoffman  
**Submitted by:** John Leeser, Treasurer

## Mission Outreach and Special Projects

**Bible Verse:** *Galatians 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.

**Chairperson:** Vacant

### Food Pantry

March 2022: 180 food and personal care items to Friend, Inc.

July 2022: 177 food and personal care items to the Rescue Mission in Allentown

**Members:** Elvin Keiser and Bob & Sue Stockdale continue this mission started years ago by Carl Arner.

### St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky

In early March 2022, Dena Lebo, Maisy Funk, and Carol Petroske delivered donations to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky from Huff's Church members and Friend Inc in Kutztown and Maisy's school including: 500 seed packets, dental items (160 tooth brushes, 40 toothpastes, 10 flosses), shaving items (5 creams, 14 razors), paper items (2 tissue boxes, 4 towel rolls, 23 toilet, 50 feminine hygiene boxes, 5 diaper packs, gloves, face masks), cleaners (6 detergents, 8 sponges, 6 wipes), various first aid items, soaps (39 shampoos/conditioners, 57 bars, 5 hand, 10 dish), 11 deodorants, 32 other items (trash bags, Q-tips, etc.) and a bag of almost new clothing items. Also \$127 donated by Huff's members and Maisy's school to the Mission's crisis relief fund.

While at the Mission, they placed items in the Food Pantry, sorted donations, collected store donations of food and produce, folded, organized, sized, repackaged donated clothing, delivered used furniture.

The Mitten Tree was available through the 2022 holiday season to attach caps, scarves, hats, and gloves. A total of 56 items will go to St. Vincent's Mission.

**Submitted by:** Dena Lebo

### 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. has gathered. Folks in our area know about these food truck visits and are welcome to stop by. Volunteers from our Church fill vehicles with food and related goodies. We average about 6 volunteers per month.

Huff's team of volunteers in 2022 included: Ann Taylor, Sue Stockdale, 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. 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 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

**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:**

This committee was vacant for the majority of 2022 as we were still searching for a pastoral candidate. Following the hiring of Rev. John Steitz the search committee transitioned from the search committee to the Pastor Parish team. Initially when discussing the arrival of Pastor John, we had started to put together names and groups of small groups who would meet with Pastor as our first step in getting to know him. Unfortunately, with Pastor John's diagnosis those meetings were put on hold late in 2022.

As we transition into 2023 we will be looking for new members of the Pastor Parish committee to join and hopefully allowing us to continue to support Pastor John as he serves Huffs Union Church.

**Submitted by:** Michael Diehl

## Personnel

**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:** Jimmy Meitzler, Sr.

**Members:** Julie Brought, Kathy Welch, Tom Mitchell, Bob Ruch and Jim Meitzler Sr.,  
We want to thank John Robinson who stepped down after several years of helpful, faithful service with the Personnel Committee.

### **Accomplishments during the past year:**

We received performance evaluations of Huff's Administration Assistant, Edwina Fox; Music Director, Gloria Adams; and Media Specialist, Robert Arner.

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

**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. 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 Leeser, chairperson, other members of the Prayer Chain, or call the church office.

**Chairperson:** John Leeser

**Members:** Thank you to all of the Prayer Chain members who faithfully served in 2022.

Minerva Arner	Jane Arndt	Julie Brought
Pat Crossley	Shirley Fluck	Joan Gouldner
Lucille Grampp	Elizabeth Haines	Monica Hallman
Lisa Kauffman	Elvin Keiser	John and Jane Leeser
Marion Miller	Tom Mitchell	Lisa Mohammedin
Gary Moll	John and Kathy Moll	Beth Ann Oberly
Carol Petroske	Bob and Brooke Ruch	Rhoda Shaner
Bill Stoudt	Rachel Woodhead	

**Submitted by:** John Leeser

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## Prayer Partners

**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.

**Chairperson:** John Leeser

### 2022 PRAYER PARTNERS

Pearl Hoffmn - Marie Bower	Gary Moll - Audrey Diehl
Lucy Grampp - Gloria Adams	Monical Hallman - Lori Lanahan
Jane Leeser - Carol Leh	Elvin Keiser - John Leeser - Rachel Woodhead
Marvin Diehl - Pat Crossley	Julie Brought - Elizabeth Adams-Buffenmeyer

**Submitted by:** John Leeser



## **Profile Team**

**Bible Verse:** *Jeremiah 29: 11* - *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

**Purpose:** The Church Profile Committee was formed to gather information to answer questions about our church, in order to help us discern where we believe God is working now and what God might be inviting us to do in the future.

**Members:** Julie Brought, Lisa Kauffman, Martin Kriebel, Breanna Watkins, and Rachel Welch

**Accomplishments:** Calendar year 2022 found the Church Profile approved by the congregation, the UCC Conference, and the ELCA Synod. The profile was published, and applicants for Pastor were interviewed by the Search Committee. With the publication of the Profile, the work of the Profile Committee was completed, and the committee was retired.

**Submitted By:** Martin Kriebel

## **Vacation Bible School**

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

**Purpose:** To provide a fun experience to learn how we can depend on God to take care of us.

**Co-Directors:** Julie Brought and Kara Benfield

**Volunteers:** Rev. John Steitz, Catherine Horn, Melissa Benfield, Jon Benfield, Julie Brought, Jamie Duncan, Lori Lanahan, Lea Kline, Breanna Watkins and Tess Woloszanski; the youth assisting this year were Kara Benfield, Max Benfield, Elijah Richetti, Bowie Richetti, and Aubrey Clayton.

### **Accomplishments during the past year:**

This year the VBS theme was Food Truck Party / On a Roll With God -Our program was based on Bible Verse, Matthew 6:11... GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD. This year's program was attended by 29 children and youth. It was held outside in the park, and the young chefs and the staff members enjoyed their time.

Daily activities included storytelling, music, arts and crafts, science, and games. Special events included a visit from an ice cream truck in the beginning of the week. We also spent time with folks from Friend, Inc, a multi-service 501K program. Friend, Inc, not only operates a large local food pantry, they bring their own food truck to Huffs Church parking lot to distribute items to local needy once a month.

Our mission project this year help to fund Friend, Inc. During VBS week, we collected over \$342 in cash and over 200 items for local families. The children were encouraged to learn that every \$5 that they collected during the week could purchase a grocery cart full of items for families in need. So there were 68+ shopping carts full of groceries donated to local families during the week because of their efforts.

**Submitted by:** Julie Brought

## **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. The committee also provides for the needs of the choirs and sees that the musical instruments are maintained.

**Chairperson:** Kay Kriebel

**Members:** Pastor John Steitz, Gloria Adams, Jane Arndt, Julie Brought, Kay Kriebel, Carol Leh, Ann Taylor, Rachel Woodhead.

### **Accomplishments during the past year:**

The Longswamp New Year's Wish, scheduled for January 9, 2022, was cancelled due to icy roads.

Ash Wednesday service with administering of ashes was held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pastor Bannerman. No Lenten services were scheduled. A Good Friday service was held on April 15th.

The American Legion Honor Guard from Topton came on Memorial Sunday, May 29, and did a ceremony at the cemetery to honor all those who served in our armed forces.

Outdoor worship services in the Park were held during July and August with no 8:00 AM services.

Rev. John Steitz became our settled pastor on July 24, 2022.

St. Peter's Church hosted a combined Thanksgiving Eve service with Huff's.

The Children's, Bell, and Senior Choirs, which had all been on hiatus because of COVID concerns, resumed practicing in November.

The children presented a Christmas program during the 10:30 worship service on Sunday December 11.

On Christmas Eve, the Children's Choir sang at both the 4:00 and 8:00 services, while the Bell and Senior Choirs participated in the 8:00 PM service.

**Submitted by:** Kay Kriebel