

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER

Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year

January 2026

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburtis, PA 18011

Church office: 610-845-2626

Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541

Bridge Pastor: Pastor Mike Todd, 484-965-0300

Office email: office@huffschurch.com

Website: www.huffschurch.com

Facebook Public Page: Huff's Union Church, Inc.

Facebook Group Page: Huff's Union Church Member Group

(Request to join and we will add you to this group.)

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.

LANGSCHWAMMER NEI YAAHRS WINSCH

NEW YEAR'S BLESSING ON JANUARY 11

During the 10:30 Worship Service, enjoy the Langschwammer Nei Yaahrs Wunsch (PA Dutch New Year's Blessing in the dialect) and other lively music presented by Mike & Linda Hertzog. After the service, the Auxiliary Committee will be providing a light lunch of a cup of homemade soup, hot dog, dessert and drink for donation. Plan on coming over to the Chapel to eat and enjoy fellowship. So we can have an idea of how many to prepare lunch for that day, please add your name to the lunch sign-up sheet at Church. **You can order quarts or pints of soup ahead of time to take home with you.** There will be 3 kinds: seafood chowder, cheesy broccoli & ham, and sausage soup. Quarts cost \$10 and pints \$6. There is a soup order sheet in the church or call the office.

CLOSING THE CHURCH BOOKS FOR 2025

Any donations to be credited to the 2025 Giving Statements must be received in the church office by December 31, 2025. **No exceptions.**

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Because we want to have a complete picture of what is happening at Huff's Union Church each year, we ask every committee, team, or group to submit a report in Word Format (if possible) of what they have done in the previous year. 2025 reports are due in the church secretary's mailbox by January 23, 2026. Treasurer's reports are an exception; they will be due in the office by early February 2026.

REMOVING DECORATIONS

Please come out to help take the Christmas tree and decorations down from the church on Saturday, January 10, beginning at 9:00 a.m. This includes the caps, scarfs and gloves that were donated and going to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky. Many thanks for your generosity!

2026 CHURCH ENVELOPES

Church envelopes will remain in the church until February 1. If you want an envelope pack for someone who was not assigned one, contact the church office.

Please consider completing an Electronic Giving Form, which is less costly for the Church and is a convenient way to set up automatic transfer from your bank account. Forms are available in the pews, on lower level of Church, or contact the Office. Online donations can also be given through the website www.huffschurch.com under the Donate tab and click on "Give now."

FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S

Friend, Inc. will bring a truck on Thursday, January 8, 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 to carry items to vehicles, contact Tom Mitchell.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

There is no Bible Study Group meeting this month. Look in the weekly eBlast or Sunday Bulletins for the next date.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet in the lower level of the church on Monday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. Contact the Council President or Ministry Assistant for Zoom link.

HUFFS CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING

There will be **no** Huff's Church Auxiliary Meetings in the winter months. See February Bulletins and eBlast for the date of the next meeting.

SENIOR CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

Senior Choir and Bell Choir will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, February 3, after a January break.

LUNCH BUNCH

Members and friends of Huff's are welcome to join us for lunch on Thursday, January 15, at 12:00 Noon, at Liberty at Dryville formerly Dryville Hotel (in the semi-private side room) at 110 Lyons Road, Mertztown PA. Please park behind the building. Parking in the lot across the street requires crossing Fredericksville Rd. and that is hazardous. We choose and purchase our own lunches. If you would like to come to Lunch Bunch, call or text Tom Mitchell by Sunday, January 11.

GREETERS

Thank you to everyone who served as a greeter in 2025. Your welcoming smiles and warm greetings blessed everyone entering our church. If anyone is interested in being a greeter in 2026, please write your name on the sign-up sheet on the downstairs bulletin board, call the church office (610-845-2626) or see Jane Leaser.

WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Many volunteers are needed to support the worship services every Sunday, including greeters, worship assistants (lay readers), acolytes, operating the camera to record services, ushers to serve

communion, communion preparation and cleanup. If you could occasionally assist in any of these ways, email ministry@huffschurch.com or call the office 610-845-2626. Those who assisted in the past will be contacted again to schedule. New volunteers are always welcome!

CLOTHING DRIVE

Huffs Church will be collecting clothing in January to donate to the Hope Rescue Mission. They will accept clothing for all seasons, for any gender, for any age, and in every size. If you're cleaning out your closet in the new year, please consider bagging up those un-needed clothes and bringing them along to church. Place your donations under the coat rack in the downstairs of the church. People in need will appreciate it!

PASTOR'S ARTICLE –

John 1:14 *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

In January we move from welcoming the new church year to welcoming the new calendar year. We move from the anxious anticipation of Advent and the joyous incarnation of Christmas to the revelation and knowledge of Jesus as God during the Epiphany. Beginning with the visit from the Magi and continuing through Jesus' baptism, teaching, and healing, Jesus manifests his purpose on earth. By following his journey in the scriptures, we learn how to manifest our own purpose as followers of Christ. May the spirit of God work within each one of us that we may reveal the love and glory of Christ to all whom we encounter.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

We on the Search Committee understand how anxious the congregation is to hear that a full-time pastor has been secured for Huffs Church. We have been working steadily to try to complete this mission by the end of the year. All we can say at this point is that we are very, very close to reaching that goal.

Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter we will have a better announcement to make, and this article will be old news. In the meantime, please continue to hang in there!

INCLEMENT WEATHER

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

HELP NEEDED FOR SNOW REMOVAL

We are in need of people who can help shovel the walkways around the church property on Sunday mornings, as well as on Saturdays and weekdays. If you can help, please contact Jim Meitzler, Sr.

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please remember that it is helpful for us to have your correct contact information. If you have changed your phone number, mailing address, or e-mail address, please let us know by contacting the church office.

UPDATING OUR LIST OF HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

If you know of a church member who is no longer able to get to church, please call the office to have that person added to our Homebound List. For the sake of confidentiality, we no longer publicize our homebound list in the newsletter. However, if you'd like to have a copy, please contact the church office.

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED

If you are hospitalized, please call the church office or ask someone to call for you (hospital chaplains are willing to do this). Please let us know if we have permission to put your name on our prayer list for prayers in worship and from the people who have signed up to pray for our congregation at home. Please let us know when you are discharged.

HUFF'S CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE

Worship Services in the Sanctuary are broadcast live on Huff's Union Church YouTube under the *LIVE* tab. Recording of the Service is usually available for replay by 5:00 p.m. under *VIDEO* tab on Huff's Union Church YouTube channel and Facebook pages.

SCAMMERS ARE TARGETING CHURCHES

If you receive a text message, email, or Facebook message from someone claiming to be your pastor asking you to reply about something urgent or to purchase gifts cards... don't fall for it. It's not your pastor. It's a scam! Churches all around the country have become targets for scammers to trick members into parting with their cash. Scammers may direct folks to purchase gift cards and then provide the scammer with the gift card numbers so the scammer has immediate access to the money. Or if you reply to an "urgent" vague text or email, you could be linking directly to a scammer. Your pastor or other church leader will never contact you directly with an emergency request for cash or gift cards or send a vague email or text with no info demanding an urgent reply. If you receive a text or email that seems suspicious, don't reply. Contact the pastor, church office, or a church leader directly to verify the message.

DECEMBER CONGREGATION MEETING

The Congregation Meeting was held on December 7, 2025, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service, at which time the 2026 Operating, Capital, and Cemetery Budgets were adopted by the Congregation. At the same time, the following individuals were elected to Council for 3 year terms starting in January 2026: Deb Romig, William Stoudt, Kane Weller, and Theresa Woloszanski. Nancy Peters was elected to complete the remaining 2 years of an open term due to resignation. Thank-you to Dan Albert, Michael Diehl, and Martin Kriebel who are ending their time of service on Council. Minutes of the Meeting will be posted on the Church bulletin board and in the eBlast.

2026 COUNCIL MEMBERS & STAFF

Aurel Arndt	Jon Benfield
Mabel Bittenbender	Lori Lanahan
James Meitzler, Jr.	Lisa Mohammedien
Nancy Peters	Carol Petroske
Deb Romig	Matthew Schantz
William Stoudt	Theresa Woloszanski
Kane Weller	Jace Benfield Youth Representative
Pastor Mike Todd Interim Pastor	Robert Arner Media & Tech Specialist
Kara Benfield 610-845-2626 ministry@huffschurch.com Ministry Assistant	Edwina Fox 610-845-2626 office@huffschurch.com Office Manager

CHURCH FAMILY

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Audrey Diehl	1/4
Berry Crum	1/6
Terry Bauer	1/7
Marianna Strunk	1/12
Charles Smith	1/14
Minerva Arner	1/17
Beryl Scholl	1/21
Milton Kerchner	1/23

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

NONE

Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Giving for operating expenses	147,034	151,141	(4,107)
All other income	38,763	36,558	2,205
Total income	185,798	187,700	(1,902)
Expenses	229,971	302,125	(72,154)
Operating deficit	(44,173)	(114,425)	70,252
Giving for capital improvements	1,431	2,750	(1,319)
Estate gift	14,250	13,500	750
Capital expenditures	(20,971)	(91,667)	70,696
Transfers from Investments	50,000	189,842	(139,842)
Net change in cash	537	-	537

Balance Sheet	11/30/25	10/31/25	12/31/24
Designated funds	71,081	73,493	93,454
General funds	4,137	1,585	1,478
Total assets (a)	75,219	75,079	94,931

(a) excludes investments managed by Tiller

	537	-	537
proof	0	-	0
	75,219	75,079	94,931
proof	-	-	-