

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



DECEMBER 2023

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburtis, 18011
Church office: 610-845-2626 Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541
Pastor: Rev. John Steitz
Pastor Home Office: 215-820-1650
Office email: office@huffschurch.com
Website: www.huffschurch.com
Facebook Page: Huff's Union Church, Inc.
Facebook Group: Huff's Union Church

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Please come out to help decorate the church for Christmas on **Saturday, December 2, 2023** beginning at 9:00 a.m. Undecorating will take place on **Saturday, January 20, 2024** at 9:00 a.m.

MITTEN TREE

While the church is being decorated on December 2, the Mitten Tree will be set-up for attaching caps, scarfs, gloves, etc. until January 14, 2024. Items will be delivered in early March to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky, by Dena and Maisy Funk. Many thanks for your generosity.

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 and in our Eblast. Paper copies will be available at worship services, or call the church office at 610-845-2626 to arrange a time to pick up a copy.
- 2) *Nomination and election of 4 Council members for 3-year terms. Anyone interested in serving on Council, contact Nominating Committee: Jim Meitzler Sr, Scott Swackhamer, and Lori Lanahan.

Questions about the meeting or the vote, contact Martin Kriebel at 610-845-2960 or martin.kriebel.315@gmail.com.

HANDBELL CHOIR

The Huff's Church Handbell Choir rehearses every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Contact Roberta Windish at 267-733-5283 if interested in joining.

SENIOR CHOIR

Huff's Church Senior Choir rehearsals are held every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Gloria Adams at 610-914-8166 if interested in singing with us.

SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICES IN DECEMBER

On Sunday, December 24, 2023, we will have our regularly-scheduled 10:30 a.m. worship service. Our Christmas Eve candle-light 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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Christ the King of Christmas will be presented on Sunday, December 10 (snow date December 17) during the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. All Children 3-12 years old are welcome to participate. We practice during Sunday School time each Sunday except the first Sunday of the month.

Additional practices are 6-7p.m. on:

Monday, November 20 and Wednesday, November 29

Monday, December 4 and Wednesday, December 6

Future practices to be announced. If interested, contact Kara Benfield as soon as possible so parts can be planned at 610-751-8202 or kbenfield429@gmail.com.

2024 CHURCH ENVELOPES

Beginning Sunday, December 17, the 2024 church envelopes will be available for pick-up on the lower level of the church.

We have decreased the number of envelopes ordered to reduce waste. As a result, if you want an envelope pack for someone who was not assigned an envelope number, please contact the church office and a pack will be issued.

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. 2023 reports are due in the church secretary's mailbox by January 23, 2024. Treasurer's reports are an exception; they will be due in the office by early February 2024.

CHURCH FAMILY

FUNERALS

Family and friends of Stanley Geisinger, who passed away on October 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.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/4 - Charles Hoffman 12/20 - Pauline Reinhard
12/24 - Jean Kline

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:

12/28 - John & Jane Leeser

CLOSING THE CHURCH BOOKS FOR 2023

Any donations to be credited to 2023 Giving Statements must be received in the church office by December 31, 2023.

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. His phone numbers are: Home 610-845-2581 or Cell 610-504-1089.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If weather conditions are unsafe, we will cancel church and post the notice on the 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.

SPONSORING BULLETINS OR FLOWERS IN 2024

New sign-up sheets for sponsoring flowers or bulletins in 2024 will be posted in the Upper Narthex on December 12. The cost for sponsoring Bulletins is \$17 and the cost for Flowers is \$31. More than one bouquet can be ordered for a particular Sunday, but if no order is placed for a Sunday, we will not have flowers in the Church. Please sign up with your name and whether this is in memory of or in honor of someone. Payment may be sent to the office or use a pew envelope and mark it bulletin or flower sponsorship. If you would like to sponsor flowers or bulletins for December 2023, please call the office.

SPECIAL OFFERING OPPORTUNITY FOR DECEMBER

The special offering opportunity for December is the UCC Christmas Fund. This offering supplements pensions and health care costs for those retired pastors and leaders of UCC congregations who fall into very low income brackets, or provides emergency assistance for pastors and families in financial need. Please use the envelopes in the pew racks or literature racks and place filled envelopes in the offering plate, or mail in your contributions, clearly marked "Christmas Fund". Thank you for helping those retired servants of God in their time of need.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Red Poinsettias will again adorn the Sanctuary of the Church for the Christmas Season. Price is \$10. Order forms and payment are due by Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023. Use the order form in the November newsletter or on the table outside the sanctuary.

FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S

Friend, Inc. will bring a truck on Thursday, December 7, 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 at 610-906-2823.

FOOD PANTRY

We recently packed and delivered 197 food and personal items to Friend, Inc. that were donated by members of Huff's Church for those in need. God's blessings to all those who share each month. Volunteers: Sue and Bob Stockdale and Elvin Keiser.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

ADVENT QUERIES

Advent is a time of waiting. Waiting for hope. Waiting for peace. Waiting for joy. Waiting for love. As we light the special candles during Advent, each week we lift up a theme. Then on Christmas Eve, as we celebrate the coming of Christ as a child, we light all four. For through the coming of the babe Jesus, then hope, peace, joy, and love are realized.

The Religious Society of Friends have a book they call *Faith and Practice* that has a section to deepen discipleship that Quakers call "Queries," an old fashioned way of saying "questions." Here are some Advent Queries;

HOPE:

What gives you hope? How does this hope empower you?
What might be one way that you can bring hope to another?

PEACE:

What brings peace to your soul? How does this peace encourage you?

What might be one way you can bring peace to others?

JOY:

What brings joy to your heart? How does this joy enliven you?
What might be one way you can bring joy to another?

LOVE:

What fills your being with love? How does this love embrace you?

What might be one way you can share love with others?

Blessings, Pastor John

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.

THANK YOU FROM LISA CLEMMER-MOHAMMEDEIN

To the Congregation:

On November 9th at 3:00 a.m., my daughter Stephanie, my dog JoJo, and I experienced our house burning and the sheer terror involved with that. I cried when the fire chief asked if he could call my family because, since my parents died, we have no one close.

However, this fire has taught me I do have family. All of you at Huff's. I am so grateful for the calls, offers of help, everything, and there's no way to put into words what it means to me. I appreciate everything. Thank you so much. You are such a wonderful, kind, special group of people. I feel honored to be a part of the congregation.

With my sincere thanks,
Lisa Clemmer-Mohammedein

LUNCH BUNCH

All are welcome to Lunch Bunch on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 12:00 noon at the Main Street Pub in Bally, PA. Members and friends of Huff's Church are welcome to join us for a monthly lunch (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 Main Street Pub can host us. If you would like to come to Lunch Bunch on 12/21, please call or text Tom Mitchell by Sunday, December 17 at (610) 906-2823 or email dilligas1213@gmail.com. See you at the Main Street Pub.

HUFFS CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING

There will be no Auxiliary Meetings during the winter months.

Financial Report

	YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Giving	153,234	133,983	19,251
All other income	50,140	38,292	11,849
Total income	203,374	172,275	31,099
Expenses	286,553	307,825	(21,272)
Operating loss	(83,179)	(135,550)	52,371
Capital expenditures	(15,650)	(66,667)	51,017
Transfers from Investments	125,000	192,453	(67,453)
Net income (loss)	26,171	(9,763)	35,935

	10/31/23	9/30/23	12/31/22
Balance Sheet			
Designated funds	100,811	88,102	73,887
General funds	6,913	12,460	5,011
Sunday School CDs	4,389	4,389	4,385
Total assets (a)	112,113	104,951	83,283

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs