

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



October 2025

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.

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION

On Sunday, October 5, at our 10:30 worship service, World Wide Communion will be celebrated. For the first time since Covid, we will offer continuous communion rather than pew communion.

HUFF'S CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE

Services in the Sanctuary are broadcast live on Huff's Union Church YouTube under the **LIVE** tab. The video recording of the Service is usually available for replay by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday under the **VIDEO** tab.

300th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

A special service on October 12 at 3:00 p.m. at Falkner Swamp UCC in Gilbertsville remembers and celebrates the first congregation of German Reformed immigrants in America gathering on October 15, 1725, for Communion at Falkner Swamp. Guest preacher is UCC General Minister and President, The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson. Registration is required by Thursday, October 9, to attend in person or online. Contact the ministry assistant at ministry@huffschurch.com if interested in attending.

PSEC COVENANT ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING

As a member church of the PSEC Covenant Association, all Huff's members are invited to a time of worship, learning, and collaboration with the 45 other UCC-affiliated churches in the Reading and Eastern Berks area on Sunday, October 26, at 3:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd UCC, 170 Tuckerton Rd., Reading. Worship will include a combined choir of singers from all churches. Huff's Church Council may appoint 2 voting delegates. If you would like to attend in person as a voting delegate, a visitor, and/or a participant in the choir, please contact ministry@huffschurch.com by Friday, October 17th. Copies of the full invitation are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S

Friend, Inc. will bring a truck on Thursday, October 2, 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) to carry items to vehicles, contact Tom Mitchell.

CHURCH CALENDAR LINK

To stay up to date on Huff's Church events, check out the following link for the Church Calendar on our website.
www.huffschurch.com/calendar

HEY KIDS! COME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING THE 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

After the Children's Message, children 6th grade and younger gather with their teachers and helpers to go downstairs for a time of activities and learning until the end of the Worship Service. The first Sunday of each month and some special Services, children stay in the Sanctuary with their families for Worship and Communion. The Sunday School lesson is often based on one of the Scripture readings so parents and children can share what they learned about the same Bible Story. No signup – children just join in after the Children's Message.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The next Bible Study Group meeting will be held on Saturday, October 4, at 10:30 a.m. in the chapel. Call Lea Kline with questions.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet in the lower level of the church on Monday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m. Contact the Council President or Ministry Assistant for Zoom link.

HUFFS CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING

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

LUNCH BUNCH

Members and friends of Huff's are welcome to join us for lunch on Thursday, October 16, at 12:00 Noon, at Chino's Place, 7567 Chestnut St., Zionsville, PA, in the Zionsville Antique Mall, on Routes 100 and 29, between Hereford and Zionsville.

We choose and purchase our own lunches. If you would like to come to Lunch Bunch, call or text Tom Mitchell by Sunday, October 12.

OYSTER PIE SALE - OCTOBER 25

The Oyster Pie Sale Fundraiser is Saturday, October 25, with pick-up between 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon. Cost is \$9.00. Orders are due by Sunday, October 12. The order form will be on the bulletin board downstairs or on the table outside the sanctuary in the church or you can call the church office.

Oyster Pie making dates are: Thursday: October 23, Friday, October 24, and Saturday, October 25. Contact Tess Woloszanski at 610-618-6399 or Lisa Kauffman at 610-413-9283.

Thursday, 6:00 p.m. - Make pie crust crumbs.

Friday, 9:00 a.m. - Peel and cut potatoes (sit down job).

Friday, 6:00 p.m. - Make pie crusts and put into pans.

Saturday, 7:00 a.m. - Assemble pies and bag.

Come for all or part of the time. If you like, bring a snack to share. If you are new to Huff's, or want to bring a friend, this is a great way to get to know our folks while they work on one of our big fund-raising projects. No experience is needed. We can always use help making oyster pies!

OCTOBER SPECIAL OFFERING

Special offering for October is the UCC Neighbors in Need Fund which supports a variety of projects throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministry. Please either mark your envelope "UCC Neighbors in Need" or mark a "Welcome" envelope (found in pew racks) with this title to donate to this special need.

HONORING VETERANS AT A COVERED DISH LUNCH

Are you someone who has served in the military? We would like to honor you on Sunday, November 9th. We are planning a special covered dish that day for everyone following the worship service, and would like to recognize veterans and their service at that time. We don't have all the details for the luncheon in place as of yet, but please plan on joining us that day. Veterans, we are asking you to contact the church office at 610-845-2626, to tell us your name, what branch of the military you served in, and your years of service. If anyone would like to help in the kitchen during the luncheon or have ideas of ways to honor our vets, please let Tess know at email theresawoloszanski@gmail.com or 610-618-6399.

SENIOR CHOIR / BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

If you enjoy music, consider being part of Huff's Church music ministry on the Senior Choir and/or Handbell Choir. Senior Choir rehearsals are held Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsals are held on Tuesdays with set-up at 7:15 p.m., ready to play at 7:30.

Our music director, Kathy Anthony, is available after Sunday Worship Services to talk with anyone interested in joining either choir or both.

PASTOR MIKE'S ARTICLE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

One of the major themes in our September Sermon Series was to guard against taking for granted the words we use during worship. We were encouraged to pay attention to the meaning behind those words so that they would remain impactful and purposeful and not become white noise through repetition or familiarity. It is vitally important that we apply that same lesson to our relationships with each other. What would it look like if "How are you doing?" actually encouraged an open and honest response instead of a quick "I'm fine. How are you?" It is regularly quipped that, in spite of being a city of 9 million people, New York City is the loneliest place on Earth. That is because the people there look past each other without actually *seeing* each other. Over the coming months, pay attention to the people around you. Seek out someone you may see every week, but whom you don't really know. Ask them how they're doing and mean it. Do not let the busy-ness of life allow us to take each other for granted.

Hebrews 10:24-25 ²⁴ *And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,* ²⁵ *not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

TREE CARE DONATION

We thank Betterscapes, LLC for donating treatments to protect three of our mature ash trees from the emerald ash borer.

Submitted by Emelie Swackhamer

CHURCH FAMILY

DEATHS:

Please pray for the family and friends of Earl Greiss, who passed away on August 28, 2025.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Jean Britton to the General Fund:
Dr. Michael Murray

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

We are honoring our members who will 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.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Marian Weller	10/4
Richard Fenstermacher	10/8
Jeanette Hill	10/9
Carolyn Drasher	10/17
Jean Adam	10/23
Gloria Erb	10/23
Paul Meitzler	10/26

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Kathy Shoemaker	10/4
Carl & Carolyn Drasher	10/7
Christopher & Lisa Allen	10/16
Franklin & Barbara Weller	10/18
Neil & Diane Gery	10/28

CATECHETICAL CLASS TABLED UNTIL NEXT YEAR

We have decided to wait until next year to start a new catechetical class. Two main factors entered into this decision. First is the fact that we do not yet have a settled pastor in place to oversee the program. Mentors have led the past two rounds of confirmation, and they are hoping for more program guidance from a full-time minister. Secondly, several more potential participants will be eligible or prefer to join a class in 2026. If you have someone who will be eligible to start confirmation next fall, please be sure to let the office know, and watch for information next summer.

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 will never contact you directly with an emergency request for cash or gift cards or send a vague email or text with no info except 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & HELPERS ARE NEEDED

The curriculum is easy to use online and designed for a multi-age group including suggestions for telling the Bible Story, crafts, games, etc. Join a team of teachers who sign up to teach one, two, or three months spread out through the year as works best for your schedule. Helpers are also needed to ensure we have 2 adults with PA Child Protection Clearances every Sunday. Contact the ministry assistant at ministry@huffschurch.com for more information.

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

In anticipation of Thanksgiving, and being thankful for what we have been given, a Joyful Noise offering will be accepted on Sunday, November 9th, to support Friend, Inc. Bring your loose coins to deposit into pails which will be distributed during the church service. This is one time during church that we'd love to hear a lot of noise! Paper money will not be turned away!

The following week, November 16, we will still have a pail in the back of the sanctuary, in case you forgot to bring your change on November 9.

Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Giving for operating expenses	112,218	110,630	1,588
All other income	26,420	24,908	1,512
Total income	138,638	135,538	3,100
Expenses	161,682	210,121	(48,438)
Operating deficit	(23,045)	(74,583)	51,538
Giving for capital improvements	185	2,000	(1,815)
Estate gift	14,250	13,500	750
Capital expenditures	(2,770)	(66,667)	63,897
Transfers from Investments	50,000	125,750	(75,750)
Net change in cash	38,620	-	38,620

Balance Sheet	8/31/25	7/31/25	12/31/24
Designated funds	108,904	107,025	93,454
General funds	4,398	5,460	1,478
Total assets (a)	113,302	112,485	94,931

(a) excludes investments managed by Tiller