

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



FEBRUARY 2025

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

Church office: 610-845-2626, Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541

Pastor: Rev. John Steitz

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.

TIME TO BID FAREWELL TO PASTOR JOHN

Following the February 9th worship service, there will be a time of refreshments and fellowship when everyone can greet Pastor John and wish him well in his retirement from full-time ministry. His last day as our settled pastor will be February 11th. Everyone at Huff's hopes that Pastor John will enjoy a long and healthy retirement!

DISASTER RELIEF

Church World Service (CWS) creates opportunities for congregations to provide supply kits that help people in areas ravaged by disasters, like Hurricane Helene and, hopefully, to the California Wildfire areas. There are various kits that they put together, but they say the biggest need right now is Hygiene Kits and Cleaning Buckets.

Our confirmation class is going to spearhead this service project with the support of the council. From now until February 16, they will be collecting items for the needed kits. Look for a bulletin board in the upper narthex that will have cards indicating various items that are needed for the kits. We are hoping that congregation members will take the cards with them on a Sunday and then bring back those items back the following Sunday. On February 16th, the confirmation class will assemble the kits, based on the specific directions that are provided by CWS. Huffs will then make sure the kits are delivered to the proper place.

Thank you in advance for your help with this important outreach!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 9, is the day for our Souper Bowl of Caring offering, which will go to support our three agencies who feed the hungry in our area: Pennsburg Open Link, Boyertown Multi Service, and Friend, Inc. We accept monetary donations, cans of soup and/or boxes of crackers.

VALENTINE'S DAY CHALLENGE

To celebrate Valentine's Day, we will collect gift cards to be shared with those in need. Please place your gift cards (indicate the amount on the gift card) in the offering plate or at the office. It is a wonderful thing to share Christ's love with others.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study Group will meet on Saturday, February 1, at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel. We will stay to have lunch together from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring something to share and join us. If you have any questions, call Lea Kline.

LABYRINTH WALK

Does everyone remember that we have a nice Labyrinth on our church property? If you're new to our church, you might not have even realized that it's there. It's on the opposite side of the Chapel from the large parking lot. Labyrinths can be used for spiritual meditation and prayer.

I'm wondering if there is anyone reading this that did Labyrinth walks with Pastor Kropa when she was here. Would any of you remember how she did them? Could any of you show other members how to do these, or at least share the information if you can't physically do them? Maybe you have continued the practice that she started here, or maybe you've done Labyrinth walks elsewhere and could share with others.

Please contact Tess, or call the church office, if you are willing to provide information or help with this. I think it would be nice if that wonderful part of our church property was utilized a little more!

FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S

Friend, Inc. will bring a truck on Thursday, February 6, 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 from the Food Truck to vehicles, contact Tom Mitchell.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet in the lower level of the church on Monday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m. Contact the Council President or Ministry Assistant for Zoom link.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for articles to be included in the March Newsletter is Thursday, February 13, by 8:00 a.m.

SENIOR AND HANDBELL CHOIRS

Senior Choir rehearsal begins on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Handbell Choir rehearsal begins on Tuesday, February 4, 2025. Please begin setting up at 7:15 p.m. and be ready to play at 7:30 p.m.

This is a great time to start with either or both choirs! If you are interested in joining, please speak to Kathy Anthony.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY

The special offering for February is the **ELCA Hunger Offering**. This helps people throughout the world have the basics of life. It provides not only food assistance, but water, education, and other community development aid.

Envelopes are in the pew racks of the church, or use a blank envelope, mark it Lutheran Hunger Fund, and either place it in the offering plate or mail it to Huff's Church. Include your name if you wish to be credited for this gift on your giving statement.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

All 2024 Committee & Treasurer's Reports are due by February 4, 2025.

LUNCH BUNCH

Members and friends of Huff's Church are welcome to join us for lunch on Thursday, February 20, at 12:00 noon at Alburts Tavern, 106 South Main St., Alburts, PA. We choose and purchase our own lunches from the regular menu. We need a headcount so the Alburts Tavern can comfortably host us. If you would like to come to Lunch Bunch on February 20, please call or text Tom Mitchell by Sunday, February 16. Come out to the Alburts Tavern to share a lot of good fellowship and laughter!

REDNERS SAVE-A-TAPE INSTRUCTIONS

Through the years, Huff's Church has received thousands of dollars from Redner's Markets Save-A-Tape program which donates 1% of qualified receipts. You must get a Save-A-Tape Card at Redner's Customer Service and use it each time you check out. Your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape customer. **Please turn in the whole Redner's receipt in the designated basket in the lower level of the Church - do not cut off the bottom which says SAVE-A-TAPE.** You are cutting the Save A Tape amount off and these are no longer good to use if this is not on the receipt you hand in.

OYSTER PIE SALE DATE

Save the date, April 5, 2025, for our next Oyster Pie Sale.

FOOD PANTRY

Recently, 218 articles of food and personal care items were packed into boxes for distribution to Open Link in Pennsburg. The food pantry donations were loaded into the car by Elvin Keiser and his son Jim, who volunteered to help that day. We noted one thoughtful donation of a new cake pan filled with a cake mix, icing and bottle of soda. Printed recipe directions allowed the client to bake a cake. The fellow helping us unload the donations at Open Link said these are very popular.

Cathy Dill, our liaison with Friend, Inc., said 38 households were served at the last parking lot food distribution. One of the clients brought several hat and scarf sets knitted by her mother to be given out to anyone in need. An unexpected blessing.

Thank you to those who share what they have and to those who volunteer their time to help make things a little better for others.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Stockdale, Elvin Keiser, Jim Keiser

CHILDREN COMING TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hey Kids! Come to Sunday School during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday 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.

WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Many volunteers are needed to support the worship services every Sunday, including greeters, worship assistants (lay readers), acolytes, ushers to serve communion, and communion preparation and cleanup. If you could occasionally assist in any of these ways, please email ministry@huffschurch.com or call the office. Those who have assisted in the past will be contacted again to schedule unless you tell us differently. New volunteers are always welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & HELPERS 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. We have 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 assure we have 2 adults every Sunday. Contact Joanne Benfield for more information.

HELP NEEDED FOR SNOW REMOVAL

We need people to 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 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.

CHURCH FAMILY

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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ernest Bennicoff	2/16	Elvin Keiser	2/16
Leroy Leibensperger	2/20	Bruce Cressman	2/23
Willard Strunk	2/27	Barbara Kreiser	2/29

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Leroy & Ruth Leibensperger 2/20

NEW MEMBERS:

On Sunday, January 5, 2025, we had six new people join Huff's Union Church:

Travis Mininger	Robin Meitzler
Debbie Rogers	Linda Younes
Michael Hoffman	Suzanne Hoffman

BAPTISMS:

Ellianna Lynn Smith, daughter of Zachary & Samantha Smith was baptized on December 15, 2024.

Travis James Mininger, Sr. was baptized on Sunday, December 22, 2024.

FUNERALS:

Please pray for family and friends of Lorraine B. Hunter, who passed away on December 28, 2024.

MEMORIALS:

In Memory of Sandy Miller:

Bea Miller	Pat Crossley
Al & Carole Felintin	Marian Derr

In Memory of Fern Hoffman:

Michael Hoffman Shirley Fluck

In Memory of Anna Moyer:

Faye Stauffer

In Memory of Lorraine Hunter:

Sue Stockdale



Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Giving for operating expenses	173,763	174,150	(387)
All other income	40,551	37,825	2,726
Total income	214,314	211,975	2,339
Expenses	298,080	325,307	(27,226)
Operating deficit	(83,766)	(113,332)	29,565
Giving for capital improvements	5,403	5,000	403
Estate gift	30,000	-	30,000
Capital expenditures	(93,320)	(240,000)	146,680
Transfers from Investments	150,000	348,332	(198,332)
Net income (loss)	8,317	-	8,317

Balance Sheet

	12/31/24	11/31/24	12/31/23
Designated funds	93,454	80,807	118,828
General funds	1,478	4,715	7,405
Sunday School CDs	-	4,607	4,478
Total assets (a)	94,931	90,130	130,711

(a) excludes investments managed by Tiller



2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS & STAFF

Michael Diehl	William Stoudt
Martin Kriebel	Mabel Bittenbender
Lori Lanahan	Theresa Woloszanski
Dan Albert	Aurel Arndt
Matthew Schantz	Jimmy Meitzler, Jr.
Jon Benfield	Edwina Fox
Angela Hish	Robert Arner