

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



FEBRUARY, 2022

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburdis, 18011
Church office: 610-845-2626 Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jennifer Bannerman
Pastor Home Office: 570-778-7524
Office email: office@huffschurch.com
Website: www.huffschurch.com
Facebook Page: Huff's Union Church, Inc.
Facebook Group: Huff's Union Church

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.

Making Disciples: Inside and Out. UCC slogan: God is still speaking. ELCA slogan: God's work, our hands.

PA DUTCH NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

Langschwammer Nei Yaahrs Wunsch has been rescheduled for the 10:30 a.m. worship service here at Huffs on Sunday, January 30, 2022. This PA Dutch New Year's Blessing in the Dialect and lively music will be presented by Mike and Linda Hertzog. NO 8:00 a.m. Service on January 30th. Pre-recorded New Years Wish and Service will be online.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

At the January 10, 2022, Union Council meeting, a motion was approved to hold only a 10:30 a.m. worship service on the fifth Sunday of a month and on any Sunday when a congregational meeting is scheduled. **NO** 8:00 a.m. service will be held on these Sundays. Fifth Sundays for 2022 are January 30, May 29, July 31, and October 30. Something special will be scheduled during those worship services. January 30, 2022 will see Mike and Linda Hertzog performing the traditional New Year's Wish during the 10:30 a.m. service. There will be **NO** 8:00 a.m. worship service that day.



Do you like being greeted when you come to church? Would you like to be the one who greets others? If so, please sign up to be a greeter for either service. We could use your help! You can wear your mask and socially distance to stay safe during Covid spikes. If you need to sit, we can provide you with a chair. You can start with one time and see how it goes. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the downstairs vestibule of the church, or you can call the church office to be added to the list. Thanks!

CHURCH GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2022

The 2022 Church Giving Envelopes are available in the church. Please call the office to make arrangements for pick-up other than Sunday morning. Due to the cost of postage, we do not send the full box of envelopes. If you would like to have only a few envelopes sent to you, please contact the church office.

VALENTINE CHALLENGE

In honor of the Christian love we share, we are sending out this challenge with a goal of receiving 14 gift cards which will be passed along to those in need in honor of Valentine's Day. Please turn in your gift cards (indicating the amount) in the offering plate or to the church office by Sunday, February 27th. It is a wonderful thing to share Christ's love with others!

HUFFS CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING

The next meeting of the Huff's Church Auxiliary is scheduled for Monday, February 21, 2022, 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.

OYSTER PIE SALE

Save the date for our next Oyster Pie Sale fundraiser. It is scheduled for Saturday April 30, 2022.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study Group will meet on Saturday, February 13, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Come with your Bible. If you'd like to stay for lunch, please feel free to bring something to share and eat with us from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

MITTEN TREE

Thanking each and everyone who helped to decorate our Church's Mitten Tree. These are the donations that Minerva and I sorted and packaged:

Scarfs	4	Caps	21
Socks	2	Cap & Glove Set	4
Gloves	29	Teddy Bears	7
Headbands	3		
Total Items	70		

Everything was sorted, counted and shipped on January 3rd in two extra-large boxes to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky.

SEED TREE

Our Annual Seed Tree will be placed in the upper Narthex from March 6 to March 27, 2022. Collected seeds will be sent to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky.

Their planting season begins earlier than ours, and most of the families have gardens to help supply their need for fresh vegetables.

Thank you for your support and donations.
Sincerely, Carl Arner

PASTOR BANNERMAN'S ARTICLE VALENTINE'S DAY

The rose is red, the violet's blue,
The honey's sweet, and so are you.
Thou art my love and I am thine;
I drew thee to my Valentine:
The lot was cast and then I drew,
And Fortune said it should be you.

This is the original version of the “roses are red” poem that we all know. I made the mistake of looking up the origins of Valentine’s Day on the internet and found an abundance of information. It could have started with the feast of Saint Valentine, established by Pope Gelasius back in 496 on February 14th. Saint Valentine was reputed to perform marriages for those who couldn’t legally get married back in the day. Or maybe it was a different Saint Valentine from different era – there were several of them.

It could be an adaptation of an earlier Roman celebration. It could have come from the 14th and 15th century notions of courtly love. In any case, it eventually evolved into a time when couples expressed their love for each other by giving flowers, confectionary treats, and other tokens of their love in the 18th century of England.

It eventually grew into what it is today: a day long awaited by romantics and dreaded by single people. Like so many other days we celebrate, it has been taken over by commercialism to generate the huge sale of cards, flowers, candy, and other tasty treats.

The Catholic church has let go of it as a Saints Day celebration and given it over entirely to the secular world. I began my search to find out more about this celebration of love and have come to wonder, have we also given up on celebrating love in the church and turned it over to the secular world?

There is a place for romantic love in our lives. Flowers and treats are always nice to give and receive from a loved one. Although, the pressure to measure up can be overwhelming. Maybe, we should also give Valentine’s Day over to the commercial interests of the day, and then claim the other 364 days of the year to express the love of God to each other.

PASTOR BANNERMAN'S ARTICLE VALENTINE'S DAY

This love is a love that goes far deeper than any bouquet or box of goodies ever could. This is a love that can defy worldly powers and marry those who cannot legally be married. It can feed and shelter those whom the powers that be would rather ignore. It can welcome the stranger and care for the outcast. It can build community that crosses lines of color, heritage, income and differing political views. It can transform the world.

So, let's celebrate the fun of Valentine's Day and then get busy and do the energizing and healing work of love for the rest of the year.

Let us love as we have been loved by God.

Pastor Jennifer

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY

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

Offering envelopes are in the pew racks and literature racks of the church, or simply use a blank envelope, mark it Lutheran Hunger Fund, and either place filled envelope 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.

FRIEND, INC. - FOOD TRUCK FOR THE NEEDY

Friend, Inc. will bring a mobile food truck to Huff's Union Church parking lot on the **first Thursday** of each month to distribute food on a regular monthly basis. Next distribution will be this **Thursday, February 3rd** from **4:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

MARCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A special simultaneous meeting of Huff's Union, Huff's Evangelical Lutheran, and Huff's United Church of Christ corporations will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2022, within the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with second date of March 13, 2022. No 8:00 a.m. Worship Service on those dates.

The required quorum to hold the meeting is 70 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, March 13, 2022, within the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Those Active Members who attend the meeting on March 13, 2022, shall constitute a quorum and are authorized to act on all items on the agenda even if less than 70 are in attendance. If the voting is done on March 6, then the March 13 meeting will not be held.

In order to provide opportunity for all members to participate in one discussion and vote on these important matters, there will be no 8 a.m. Service on either March 6 or March 13.

Anyone who is an Active Member at Huff's may vote (which includes our teenagers who have been confirmed). Zoom links will be provided in the eblast and bulletins closer to the date to remotely connect by computer or phone, or you may contact the Church office for the information. Bylaws **do not** allow for absentee or proxy voting.

The agenda for the meeting will be the following items:

-To vote on acceptance of the 2021 Annual Report that details the ways Huff's Union Church has done ministry and mission in 2021. Majority approval by those who vote is required.

-To vote on approving the proposed new Constitution and By-laws of Huff's Union Church, Inc. to be effective as of the opening of the Union Council meeting on May 9, 2022. Two thirds approval by those who vote is required.

Since October 2021 a complete draft has been available for review by congregation members and Penn Southeast UCC Conference and Penn Northeast ELCA Synod. Input received was considered by Council and with slight revisions, Huff's Union Council recommends the final proposed version dated January 10, 2022, for congregation approval. This is the first step to legally merge Huff's ELCA and Huff's UCC corporations into one remaining Huff's Union Church Corporation.

-To nominate and elect 12 Union Council members who will begin terms and operate under the new Constitution and Bylaws as of the opening of the Union Council meeting on Monday, May 9, 2022. Candidates are elected by majority approval of those who vote. Anyone interested in serving on Council, contact Nominating Committee members: Michael Diehl, Jane Leeser or Tess Woloszanski.

*Copies of the proposed new Constitution and Bylaws available by February 6, 2022

*Copies of the 2021 Annual Report available by February 20, 2022

For those with internet access, see both of these documents on Huff's Church website www.huffschurch.com. Paper copies of both documents will be available at Church or call the church office to arrange a time to pick up copies. (one copy per household please)

Questions about the meetings, proposal, details of slight revisions to proposed Bylaws from previous draft or the vote, contact Joanne Benfield at jobenfield1213@gmail.com or call 610-845-2978 and please leave a message.

CHURCH FAMILY

MEMORIALS:

To the General Fund in memory of James Garber:
James and Chris Garber

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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.



BIRTHDAYS

2/16 - Ernest Bennicoff	2/16 - Elvin Keiser
2/20 - LeRoy Leibensperger	2/21 - Arlene Hill
2/21 - Charles Landis, Jr.	2/22 - Ernest Haas
2/26 - Joyce Schantz	2/27 - Willard Strunk
2/29 - Mae Hoffman	2/29 - Barbara Kreiser



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

2/20 - LeRoy & Ruth Leibensperger

2022 UNION COUNCIL MEMBERS WITH TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION:

President: Tom Mitchell, 610-845-2978

Vice-President: Martin Kriebel, 610-845-2960

Secretary: Rachel Welch, 484-226-0333

Treasurer: Jon Benfield 484-226-7981

Michael Diehl, 610-737-0661

Conner Isamoyer, 610-750-4008

Thomas Johnson, 610-751-3211

Lisa Kauffman, 610-413-9283

Lori Lanahan, 610-367-6525

Matthew Schantz, 610-462-7233

Bill Stoudt, 610-682-6761

Elaine Witman, 267-733-3145

Carol Leh, 610-845-7005

Robert Ruch, 610-845-1412

James Meitzler, Sr., 610-504-1089

Kerry Meitzler, 610-750-3464

ELCA OFFICERS

President: Jane Arndt, 610-462-8154

Vice-President: Ann Taylor, 484-300-3994

Secretary: Lisa Kauffman, 610-413-9283

Treasurer: Tom Mitchell, 610-845-2978

UCC OFFICERS

President: Rachel Welch, 484-226-0333

Vice-President: Julie Brought, 610-568-5990

Secretary: James Meitzler, Sr., 610-504-1089

Treasurer: Gary Moll, 610-845-8811

Financial Report

	Dec 2021	YTD		YTD		YTD
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance
Giving	64,329	191,609	180,845	10,764		
All other income	3,505	61,564	47,595	13,969		
Total income	67,834	253,173	228,440	24,733		
Expenses	26,398	257,996	291,369	(33,373)		
Operating income (loss)	41,436	(4,823)	(62,929)	58,106		
Capital expenditures	-	(14,710)	-	(14,710)		
Transfers from Investments	5,250	68,250	63,000	5,250		
Net income (loss)	46,686	48,717	71	48,646		

	12/31/21	11/30/21	12/31/20
Balance Sheet			
Designated funds	116,006	109,435	107,283
General funds	23,251	14,320	14,896
Sunday School CDs	4,379	4,378	4,373
Total assets (a)	143,635	128,133	126,552

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs