

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



APRIL 2025

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

Church office: 610-845-2626

Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541

Bridge Pastor: Pastor Mike Todd

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.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

Palm Sunday, April 13, at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's

Good Friday, April 18, at 12:00 Noon at Huff's

Easter Sunday, April 20, at 10:30 a.m. Come join us as we celebrate Christ's Resurrection with Holy Communion.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BRIDGE PASTOR

Pastor Mike Todd (MDiv) is a graduate of the United Lutheran Seminary-Philadelphia Campus and is finishing up his requirements for ordination in the United Church of Christ. Mike and his wife, Tiffani, have been married for 25 years and have three children, Lochlainn (21), Liam (18), and Eleri (16) who prefers to go by the name, Noya. For the last two-and-a-half years, he has served as Bridge Pastor and then Assistant Minister at Wentz's United Church of Christ, where he has been a lifelong member. He has also provided supply pastorship at more than half a dozen congregations in Montgomery and Berks counties. Mike and his family are very excited that God, and Huff's Union Church, have called him to serve and grow along with Huffs and all of God's people in the surrounding community. Let's give Mike a nice, warm Huff's Church welcome! Pastor Mike is available through voice or text by cell phone at 484-965-0300 or email at miketodd1968@gmail.com. Please always leave a message when calling. Unless it is a pastoral emergency, Sabbath time and self-care are priorities for a healthy pastor, so Mike will generally not reply on Tuesday or Saturday.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study Group will meet on Saturday, April 12, at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Call Lea Kline with questions.

FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S

Friend, Inc. will bring a truck on Thursday, April 3, 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 COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet in the lower level of the church on Monday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m. Contact the Council President or Ministry Assistant for Zoom link.

HUFFS CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING

The Huff's Church Auxiliary will meet on Wednesday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs of the Chapel.

UPPER PERKIOMEN HIGH SCHOOL A CHOIR

On Sunday, May 18, Upper Perkiomen High School A Choir, directed by Mark Thomas, will sing during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Come and hear the music of this select choir of students from our area.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for articles to be included in the May Newsletter is Thursday, April 17, by 8:00 a.m.

SENIOR AND HANDBELL CHOIRS

Senior Choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

Handbell Choir rehearses also on Tuesday evenings. Set up begins at 7:15 p.m., and playing starts at 7:30 p.m.

LUNCH BUNCH

Members and friends of Huff's Church are welcome to join us for lunch on Thursday, April 17, at 12 noon at Liberty at Dryville (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 from the regular menu. We need a headcount so Liberty can comfortably host us. If you would like to come to Lunch Bunch, call or text Tom Mitchell by Sunday, April 13.

REMOVING FLOWERS FROM THE CEMETERY

Huffs Union Cemetery Committee is requesting all winter and Christmas Floral arrangements be removed from the cemeteries by April 1, 2025.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR APRIL

We invite you to contribute to Huff's Mission and Ministry through our General Fund in the month of April. We appreciate all the support you give to our congregation.

MOWERS

We are looking for people, male or female over 18, to help mow grass and trim. Please contact the office if interested.

PLANNING FOR EASTER EGG STORY AND HUNT

Our Easter Story Egg Hunt at Huff's Church will be held on Saturday, April 12 at 11:00 a.m. - Rain or Shine.

Families with children of all ages are welcome to the Easter Story Egg Hunt. We'll gather in Huff's Church Park to hear about the story of Jesus' week before Easter, and children make a craft to take along home. Then hunt eggs! If too wet or stormy for the park, everything is moved into the church.

Monetary donations towards costs of Egg Hunt may be dropped in special Bunny Container at Church or mailed to Church Office.

Help needed for Egg Hunt: 4 set-up crew & greeters (10:15 to 11:00), 5-6 egg hidiers (10:00-11:20, window of time depends on temperature), 2 craft station attendants (cannot double as egg hidiers), 1 prize table attendant, 5 clean-up crew (11:45- done).

Contact Tess to sign up. (She is still looking for a Co-Chair for this event. Please consider helping in that way!)

TRIP TO ST. VINCENT'S MISSION IN DAVID, KY

During the month of May, Berry Crum and Maisy and I will be delivering the packets of seeds, hats, scarves and mittens that you donated to St. Vincent's Mission, located in the mountains of eastern Kentucky. This will be the only trip being made to the mission in 2025. We hope to also be loaded with animal food donations from Friend Inc. for the county animal shelter there. To ensure we are making efficient use of our vehicle's available space, donations of **ONLY** peanut butter and laundry detergent pods are being requested. These are two very popular items in the mission's pantry.

Your prayers for the mission and the Floyd County community it serves are needed. Last month they suffered severe local flooding, this while they are still working to help families repair homes that flooded in the summer of 2023. God made their mountains and hollows so beautiful, but ever so prone to severe flooding!

Thank you to everyone who donated seeds and items at Christmas. We look forward to your peanut butter and laundry pod donations and appreciate your prayers for the mission and our safe travel.

Submitted by Dena Lebo-Funk

DISASTER KITS ASSEMBLED!

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who contributed supplies for the Church World Services kits last month. The catechetical class was able to put the kits together during class time on Feb. 16th. Our goal of 3 Clean up Buckets and 10 Hygiene Kits was easily attained, and anonymous donors contributed two more filled buckets. Tess applied for and received a \$250 grant from PSEC to purchase more supplies. On March 2nd, the cat class worked to assemble the additional kits. Our final numbers were 8 Clean up Buckets and 24 Hygiene Kits! This was a very nice contribution for the CWS program, and well exceeded our original goals.

Congratulations to the confirmation class for spearheading this service project. They should be proud that their efforts will help people anywhere a disaster may strike!

CLOTHING DRIVE

Huffs Church is collecting clothing in March and April to donate to Hope Rescue Mission. They will accept clothing for all seasons, any gender, any age, every size. If you are cleaning out your closet, please bag those un-needed clothes and bring them to church. Place your donations under the coat rack in the downstairs of the church.

PASTOR MIKE'S ARTICLE

In the original Greek of the New Testament, anytime one of the writers refers to a church (...to the church in Rome, Galatia, Corinth, etc.), they use the word *ekklesia* which literally means "a gathering of citizens or a congregation." So "the church" always refers to the people, not a specific location or order of worship. With that in mind, I would like to start meeting in small groups to talk about what is important to the people of Huff's Church. Which worship elements do you love; could you do without; or would like to see added? Look for sign-up sheets with specific days and times over the next couple of months. Blessings! Pastor Mike

SOUP & SANDWICH SALE

On Wednesday, May 7, we will have a Soup & Sandwich Sale as a fundraiser. Look for order forms for both soups and R & K sandwiches the middle of April.

OYSTER PIE SALE

The Oyster Pie Sale Fundraiser is Saturday, April 5, 2025, with pick-up between 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon in the lower level of the chapel. Cost is \$9.00.

Oyster Pie making dates are: Thursday: April 3, Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5. We can always use help making oyster pies:

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 fundraising projects. No experience is needed.

***Hairnets (provided) or Caps will be required.**

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.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Kline - 4/2

Pauline Strunk - 4/17

Jerome Barnes 4/29

Jane Geisinger - 4/29

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

4/6 – Eugene & Sherry Bardo

4/22 – Raymond & Linda Lorish

DEATHS:

Please pray for family and friends of Dennis N. Thomas, who passed away on March 2, 2025.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONGREGATION MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Huff's Union Church Inc. will be held on Sunday, April 6, 2025, within the 10:30 a.m. worship service with a second date of April 13, 2025.

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, April 13, 2025, within the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Those Active Members who attend the meeting on April 13 shall constitute a quorum and are authorized to act on these matters even if less than 50 are in attendance. If the voting is done on April 6, then the April 13 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 by noon on Tuesday, April 1, for Zoom link information, if needed. Bylaws do not allow for absentee or proxy voting.

The agenda for the meeting will be the following:

*To vote on acceptance of the 2024 Annual Report that details the ways Huff's Union Church has done ministry and mission in 2024. Majority approval by those who vote is required. By March 23, the 2024 Annual Report will be available on our website www.huffschurch.com or in the eBlast. Paper copies will be available at church or call the office to arrange a time to pick up a copy (one per household, please).

Any item may be presented from the floor at the Annual Meeting; however, only proposed resolutions included in the Notice of Meeting may be voted on.

Questions about the meeting or the vote, contact Tess Woloszanski.

Active (voting) Membership is maintained by having either communion or a contribution on record with this Congregation during the past 24 months. Complete a communion card **only once a year** (call the office if you commune with the online Huff's Church Service) and/or contribute in an envelope marked with your name and address or contact the office to set up electronic giving. Communion cards are completed for those receiving home communion. Other special needs or concerns, contact the office.

Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Giving for operating expenses	25,408	27,738	(2,329)
All other income	6,693	6,283	410
Total income	32,102	34,021	(1,919)
Expenses	43,636	52,146	(8,510)
Operating deficit	(11,534)	(18,125)	6,591
Giving for capital improvements	28	500	(472)
Estate gift	14,250	13,500	750
Capital expenditures	-	(16,667)	16,667
Transfers from Investments	25,000	20,792	4,208
Net change in cash	27,744	-	27,744

Balance Sheet	2/31/25	1/31/25	12/31/24
Designated funds	91,425	95,945	93,454
General funds	11,000	3,308	1,478
Total assets (a)	102,426	99,253	94,931

(a) excludes investments managed by Tiller

PRAYER PARTNERS

We will be putting prayer partner sign-up sheets in the bulletins on April 8 through May 28. Please fill out and place in the offering plate. Prayer partners pray for one another throughout the year. John Leeser will match people and have the list ready for Sunday, June 11. You may also contact John directly.

Name: _____