

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



FEBRUARY 2024

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

PRAYER STONES - LAY YOUR BURDENS DOWN

During the Sunday, February 11, 10:30 a.m. worship service, we will focus on God's healing presence in our lives, and Jesus' invitation to lay our burdens down. We will use rocks as symbols of the burdens we are giving up.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 11, 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.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE: LENTEN STUDY

February and March - Six sessions. Wednesdays at 12 noon. Dates below. Please sign up. I'm looking at a minimum of five participants. Please let Pastor John know so we can order a book for you. Please bring a Bible. We will be using the book, *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News* by Amy-Jill Levine. This book will walk us through Mark's Gospel.

February 21: The Good News Begins (Mark 1-4);

February 28: Restoring Purity and Wholeness (Mark 5-7);

March 6: Sacrifice, Ransom, Prophet, Messiah (Mark 8-10);

March 13: Fig Trees and Tenants (Mark 11 – 12);

March 20: The Little Apocalypse (Mark 13);

March 27: Judas Iscariot and the Naked Young Man (Mark 14-15).

In event of snow we will postpone to the following week and finish the series in April.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE - February 14, 2024,
at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

On Sunday, January 28, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service, when the children go downstairs for Sunday School, parents, grandparents, and caregivers are invited to also gather downstairs at the same time to learn and share information about growing the Christian faith in the family. Topic of first session is "Getting to Know Yourself and Your Child with God." Contact Stephanie at stephaniekdiehl@gmail.com for more information and scheduling of future sessions.

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.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet in the lower level of the church on Monday, February 12, at 7:00 p.m. Contact the Council President or Ministry Assistant for Zoom link.

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2024

At the January 8th Church Council Meeting, the following officers were elected:

President - Tess Woloszanski

Vice President - Martin Kriebel

Secretary - Michael Diehl

Treasurer - Jonathan Benfield

TWO COUNCIL MEMBER POSITIONS ARE OPEN FOR 3 YEAR TERMS

Anyone who is interested in serving on Council, contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Jim Meitzler Sr, Scott Swackhamer, Lori Lanahan, or contact the Office. Council members shall be an Active member of this Congregation for a minimum of 2 years and at least 18 years of age.

THANK YOU FROM DAVID & KATHY WELCH

Thank you Huffs Union Church Family for your prayers, kind words of caring, and generous support after the fire in our home. David and I offer our heartfelt gratitude to you for your love which we have felt and has sustained us through this difficult time. We are blessed to call you family. Our Great God and you are getting us through. Kathy and David Welch.

OYSTER PIE SALE DATE

Save the date of April 13th for the Oyster Pie Sale. Information to follow in Church Bulletins, eBlast, and March 2024 Newsletter.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation class began on January 21, 2024, with Confirmation planned in Spring 2025. The Class usually meets the first and third Sunday of each month after the Worship Service. Class time will include study and discussion about what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Activities will also include opportunities of service in the church and the community and times of fellowship and fun.

FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S

Friend, Inc. will bring a truck on Thursday, February 1, 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.

HANDBELL CHOIR

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

SENIOR CHOIR

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

HUFFS CHURCH AUXILIARY MEETING

The next meeting of the Huff's Church Auxiliary is scheduled for Monday, February 19, at 6:00 p.m. in the downstairs of the Chapel. The snow date is Monday, February 26. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings to help plan ways to support our church.

REMOVING FLOWERS FROM THE CEMETERY

Huffs Union Cemetery Committee is requesting all winter and Christmas Floral arrangements be removed from the cemeteries by March 21, 2024.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP STARTING UP AGAIN

The Bible Study Small Group will meet on Saturday, March 2, 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, contact Lea Kline.

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, join in our online worship at www.huffschurch.com.

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.

LUNCH BUNCH

All are welcome to Lunch Bunch on Thursday, February 15, at 12:00 noon at the **New Pennsburg Diner, 321 Pottstown Ave., Pennsburg, PA. This is across the street from the strip mall that includes Weis Market.** 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. We need a Lunch Bunch head count so the **New Pennsburg Diner** can comfortably host us. If you would like to join us, contact Roberta Windish by Sunday, February 11.

EASTER TULIPS

TULIPS will be offered this year for Easter Sunday. Order forms are in this newsletter or on bulletin table in the back of sanctuary. Due to limited floral supplies **PLEASE ORDER EARLY!** Orders are due by March 3rd. Cost is \$8.50 per plant.

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	Willard Strunk	2/27
Barbara Kreiser	2/29		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Leroy & Ruth Leibensperger 2/20

DEATHS:

We pray for family and friends of:

William Hilbert, who passed away on December 28, 2023.

Elaine Benfield Young, who passed away on December 31, 2023.

Marion Miller, who passed away on January 12, 2024.

MEMORIALS:

In Memory of Jane Arndt:

Scott & Emelie Swackhamer	Lehigh County Authority
Peitr Bohem	Richard Sibley
The Stauffer/Flexer Families	The Traylor Family
Martin & Kay Kriebel	Bea Miller
George Bayer	Richard & Lois Bohner
W. James & Sharon Ludlow	Tom Antler
Pat Crossley	Bonnie & Robert Krause
Bob & Sue Stockdale	Joe & Connie Szilli
Joel & Barbara Magee	Outlaws Softball Team

In Memory of William Hilbert:

Anne Dean	Bruce & Dorothy Gressley
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EASTER TULIPS AVAILABLE

Easter Tulips will adorn the Nave of the church for our Easter Worship Service, March 31, 2024. Please complete the form below and submit with your payment to the church office, or place in the offering plate. Please order early due to limited supplies. Orders and payment are due by Sunday, March 3rd. The cost is \$8.50. Make checks payable to Huff's Union Church.

EASTER TULIP ORDER FORM

of 6 Bloom Tulip Pots @ \$8.50 per Pot \$ _____

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

PRESENTED BY:

Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Giving	192,204	166,590	25,614
All other income	52,093	38,950	3,143
Total income	244,298	205,540	38,758
Expenses	333,635	356,484	(22,849)
Operating loss	(89,338)	(150,944)	1,606
Capital expenditures	15,650)	80,000)	64,350
Transfers from Investments	150,000	230,944	(80,944)
Net income (loss)	45,012	0	45,012

Balance Sheet	12/31/23	11/30/23	12/31/22
Designated funds	118,828	106,057	73,887
General funds	7,405	4,208	5,011
Sunday School CDs	4,478	4,389	4,385
Total assets (a)	130,711	114,654	83,283

(a) excludes investments managed by Tiller Wealth (formerly Youngs)

FOOD PANTRY

The car was filled with boxes of canned goods and personal items through the generosity of Huff's Union Church Congregation. About 350 items were packaged and recently delivered to Open Link in Pennsburg. The organization expressed their appreciation as we in turn thanked them for the work they do.

Submitted by: Elvin Keiser and Sue and Bob Stockdale