

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



MARCH 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:

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 7 p.m. Service at St. Peters

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

Good Friday, April 18, 2025, at 12:00 Noon

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. Come join us to celebrate Christ's Resurrection with Holy Communion.

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Since our new bridge pastor has just come on board mid-February and is only contracted half-time, we will not ask him to do all the extra services leading up to Easter. Instead, Huff's Church has received an open invitation from Rev. Sorcek at St. Peter's to attend their services. This includes Ash Wednesday on March 5; Lenten Bible Study (Book of James) on Wednesdays from March 12 through April 9; and Maundy Thursday on April 17. All of these services will be at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Mike will, however, lead a Good Friday worship service at Huffs at noon on April 18, as well as regular Sunday services through March and April, including Palm Sunday and Easter. We thank St. Peter's for their willingness to help us out as Pastor Mike gets acquainted with Huff's Union Church and its members.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BRIDGE PASTOR, MIKE TODD!

Pastor Mike (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 have been married for 25 years and have three children. 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, March 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.

FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S

Friend, Inc. will bring a truck on Thursday, March 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, March 10, 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, March 17, 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.

UPPER PERKIOMEN HIGH SCHOOL A CHOIR

On Sunday, March 23, 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 April Newsletter is Thursday, March 13, 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.

If you are interested in joining, please speak to Kathy Anthony.

LUNCH BUNCH

Members and friends of Huff's Church are welcome to join us for lunch on Thursday, March 20, at 12:00 noon at Janelle's Diner, 360 Fleetwood Rd., Mertztown, PA. We choose and purchase our own lunches from the regular menu. We need a headcount so the Janelle's Diner can comfortably host us. If you would like to come to Lunch Bunch on March 20, please call or text Tom Mitchell by Sunday, March 16. Come out to Janelle's Diner to share a lot of good fellowship and laughter!

REMOVING FLOWERS FROM THE CEMETERY

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

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MARCH

The special offering for the month of March is the United Church of Christ One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. This offering supports a variety of ministries that give aid to those in need throughout the world. Use the special envelopes in the pew racks or mail your donation, marked "One Great Hour of Sharing".

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 use your Rewards Card 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**).

SEED TREE

Our Annual Seed Tree will be placed in the upper Narthex from March 3 through March 24. Collected seeds will be donated 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.

PLANNING FOR EASTER EGG STORY AND HUNT

Planning has begun for our Easter Egg Hunt, which will be on April 12. Unfortunately, I will not be available on the actual date of the event, so I need someone who is willing to be in charge. Have no fear - I will help you with the planning phase. I do have notes from previous egg hunts that I can share. And you will have the best partner on the day of the event in the form of Meghan Richetti, who has worked closely with me in the past!

Members of the confirmation class have already been scheduled to help with preparations the week prior and have been asked to help during the hunt. This is being considered part of a class service project.

Please let me know if you are considering taking on this task. It's not as difficult as you might be imagining, especially because I will be helping to guide the planning. Contact me, Tess Woloszanski, or speak with me at church one Sunday.

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. Orders are due by Sunday, March 23. The order form will be on the downstairs bulletin board or on the table outside the Sanctuary or you can call the church office.

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.

CLOTHING DRIVE

Huffs Church will be collecting clothing in March and April to donate to the Hope Rescue Mission. They will accept clothing for all seasons, for any gender, for any age, and in every size. If you're cleaning out your closet in the next few months, please consider bagging up those un-needed clothes and bringing them along to church. Place your donations under the coat rack in the downstairs of the church.

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.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Pearl Hoffman - 3/16	Evelyn Hladchuck - 3/17
Neil Gery - 3/19	Raymond Lorish - 3/26

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

3/1 - Leonard & Jane Rozanski
3/9 - Robert & Nancy Schleicher

FUNERALS:

Please pray for family and friends of Ruth M. Leibensperger, who passed away on January 22, 2025.

MEMORIALS:

In Memory of Ruth Leibensperger:

Eric & Robin Diehl	Raymond & Linda Lorish
Minerva Arner	Greg & Rose Szilli
Bea Miller	John & Jane Leeser
Lucille Grampp	Sue Stockdale
Santina Leibensperger	Scott & Emelie Swackhamer
Pat Crossley	Pearl Hoffman
Mary Szilli	Joe & Connie Szilli
Tess Woloszanski	Martin & Kay Kriebel
Wayne & Katie Kemp & Family	

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	15,563	13,986	1,577
All other income	6,152	6,142	10
Total income	21,716	20,128	1,588
Expenses	23,908	28,329	(4,421)
Operating deficit	(2,193)	(8,201)	6,008
Giving for capital improvements	14	250	(236)
Estate gift	-	-	-
Capital expenditures	-	(8,333)	8,333
Transfers from Investments	12,500	16,284	(3,784)
Net change in cash	10,321	-	10,321

Balance Sheet

	1/31/25	12/31/24
Designated funds	95,945	93,454
General funds	3,308	1,478
Total assets (a)	99,253	94,931

(a) excludes investments managed by Tiller

EASTER TULIPS AVAILABLE

Easter Tulips will adorn the Nave of the church for our Easter Worship Service, April 20, 2025. Please complete the form below and submit with your payment to: Robin Diehl, 50 Eric Lane, Alburtis, PA, the church office, or place in the offering plate. Orders and payment are due by Sunday, March 30. The cost is \$9.00. Make checks payable to Huff's Union Church.

EASTER TULIP ORDER FORM

of 6" Tulips @ \$9.00 per Pot \$ _____

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Presented by:
