

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



JANUARY 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.

LANGSCHWAMMER NEI YAAHRS WINSCH

We will celebrate the **Langschwammer Nei Yaahrs Wunsch**, presented by Mike & Linda Hertzog, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 12, 2025. This is a PA Dutch New Year's Blessing given in the Dialect.

CLOSING THE CHURCH BOOKS FOR 2024

Any donations to be credited to 2024 Giving Statements must be received in the church office by December 31, 2024.

FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S

Friend, Inc. will bring a truck on Thursday, January 2, 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, January 13, at 7:00 p.m. Contact the Council President or Ministry Assistant for Zoom link.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study Group will meet on Saturday, January 4, 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.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for articles to be included in the February Newsletter is Thursday, January 16, by 8:00 a.m.

2025 CHURCH ENVELOPES

Church envelopes are available in the church and need to be picked up. They will be in the church until Sunday, January 26th. We have decreased the number of envelopes ordered to reduce waste. As a result, if you want an envelope pack for someone who was not assigned an envelope number, please contact the church office and a pack will be issued.

SPECIAL OFFERING OPPORTUNITY FOR JANUARY

There is no special denominational offering for the month of January. We would appreciate your continued support of Huff's Union Church's mission and ministry in 2025.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Because we want to have a complete picture of what is happening at Huff's Union Church each year, we ask every committee, team, or group to submit a report in Word Format (if possible) of what they have done in the previous year. 2024 reports are due in the church secretary's mailbox by January 23, 2025. Treasurer's reports are an exception; they will be due in the office by early February 2025.

REMOVING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The Christmas tree and decorations will be removed from the church on Saturday, January 11, 2025, beginning at 9 a.m. This includes the caps, scarfs and gloves that were donated and going to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky. Many Thanks for your generosity.

LUNCH BUNCH

Members and friends of Huff's Church are welcome to join us for lunch on Thursday, January 16, at 12:00 noon at Main Street Pub, 505 Main St., Bally, PA. We choose and purchase our own lunches from the regular menu. We need a headcount so that Main Street Pub can comfortably host us. If you would like to come to Lunch Bunch on January 16, please call or text Tom Mitchell by Sunday, January 12. See you at Main Street Pub to share a lot of good fellowship and laughter!

HEATING THE CHURCH

Because of the enormous cost of heating oil, Church Council has once again decided that the church will be heated to a lower temperature this winter season. Therefore, when attending a church service or other activity in the building, please come prepared with warmer clothing.

CHURCH FAMILY

FUNERALS

Please pray for the Family and Friends of Sandra E. Miller, who passed away on November 18, 2024.

Please pray for the Family and Friends of Fern Hoffman, who passed away on December 5, 2024.

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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Audrey Diehl	-	January 4
Janice Rauch	-	January 4
Berry Crum	-	January 6
Marianna Strunk	-	January 12
Charles Smith	-	January 14
Minerva Arner	-	January 17
Milton Kerchner	-	January 23

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.

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.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship Services are broadcast live on Huff's Union Church YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@huffschurch> under the LIVE tab. The edited recording of the Service is usually available for replay by 5:00 p.m. at the same link under the *VIDEO* tab. The recorded Service is usually posted by Sunday evening on Huffs Union Church Facebook pages.

SENIOR CHOIR AND HANDBELLS

Both Senior Choir and Handbell Choir will not meet until February 4, 2025.

GREETERS

Thank you to everyone who served as a greeter in 2024. Your welcoming smiles and warm greetings blessed everyone entering our church. If anyone is interested in being a greeter in 2025, please write your name on the sign-up sheet on the downstairs bulletin board, call the church office (610-845-2626) or see Jane Leaser.

Thank you. Jane Leaser

DECEMBER CONGREGATION MEETING

The Congregation Meeting was held on December 1, 2024, during the 10:30 worship service, at which time the 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets were adopted by the Congregation. At the same time, the following individuals were elected to Council for 3 year terms starting in January 2025: Dan Albert, Mabel Bittenbender, Lori Lanahan, and Matt Schantz. Thank-you to Carol Leh and Elaine Witman who are ending their terms of service on Council. Minutes of the Meeting will be posted on Church bulletin board and in the eBlast.

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

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

PROPELLED!

M. Scott Peck, 20th century

"The truth is that our finest moments are most likely to occur when we are feeling deeply uncomfortable, unhappy, or unfulfilled. For it is only in such moments, propelled by our discomfort, that we are likely to step out of our ruts and start searching for different ways or truer answers.

A new year and a wonderful time to feel uncomfortable... Doesn't that sound marvelous?

I often think I have spent half of my life, maybe three quarters really, feeling out of sink and preoccupied, not settled down, so when I finally calm down, feel older, consider cleaning my house really well, and begin to enjoy living in my skin and in my life which seems to be ordinary and usual, I am called to be "propelled" according to the famous author of **The Road Less Traveled**, Mr. Peck.

I guess it is the old sayings: No rest for the weary, No time like the present, Don't let any grass grow under your feet, If I sit I rust, Life is really an adventure and a journey or it is nothing at all.

There does not seem to be a blueprint for our next step or a usual way to progress, but everybody seems to be on the journey, unless they have stopped growing. And what would that be like really? To just sit and watch the days go by, and have no sparkle or snap in our step?

This New Year offers a fresh look at the ordinary and old, the uncomfortable and unhappy, the places of unfulfillment, and ask the question of our God, "Where am I being led? Where is my church being called"?

"Where are you calling me to become even more than I can imagine? Where am I stuck when I don't need to be?" And God, "Can you walk with me on this tightrope, and hold my hand so I won't fall as I take the first steps and help me to not look down but look up"?

As Dr. Seuss has said...

"You're off to Great Places!

Today is your day!

Your mountain is waiting,

So... get on your way!”

— Dr. Seuss, **Oh, The Places You'll Go**

I am praying for your great places and new adventures in this new year, prayers of healing to be set free, new opportunities to shine your life in the community, more chances to be surprised by that new baby called Jesus, and all that while being propelled, and having the Joy of each other to share together on the journey.

In the hope of a bright and searching New Year.

Pastor Angelee

Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Giving for operating expenses	144,714	157,400	(12,685)
All other income	40,169	37,582	2,587
Total income	184,883	194,982	(10,099)
Expenses	266,350	302,122	(35,773)
Operating deficit	(81,467)	(107,141)	25,674
Giving for capital improvements	5,289	4,583	706
Estate gift	30,000	-	30,000
Capital expenditures	(92,500)	(220,000)	127,500
Transfers from Investments	137,500	322,557	(185,057)
Net income (loss)	(1,177)	-	(1,177)

Balance Sheet	11/31/24	10/31/24	12/31/23
Designated funds	80,807	75,712	118,828
General funds	4,715	3,751	7,405
Sunday School CDs	4,607	4,607	4,478
Total assets (a)	90,130	84,070	130,711

(a) excludes investments managed by Tiller