

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



NOVEMBER 2024

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburtis, PA 18011
Church office: 610-845-2626, Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541
Bridge Pastor: Rev. Angelee Benner-Smith (215) 771-9414
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.

ALL SAINTS' REMEMBRANCE

On Sunday, November 3, 2024, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service, we will remember those members and friends of our congregation who have died since our last All Saints' Day Service. Each person who has died will have a candle lit for them during the worship service as their name is read. Families will be invited to take home the candle after the worship service. Refreshments will be provided following the worship service in the downstairs of the church. This will be organized and provided by the current Confirmation Class. Please let them know if you are interested in bringing a snack item that day (contact Tess Woloszanski or Jon Benfield).

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

Begin the week of Thanksgiving with a time of praise and gratitude for God's blessings at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, November 24. Due to low attendance, Council has decided to discontinue co-hosting a Thanksgiving Eve Service with St. Peter's Union Church at this time. St. Peters may continue to have a Thanksgiving Eve Service, and Huff's Church members are always welcome to attend.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

It's Christmas! will be presented on Sunday, December 15, (inclement weather date is December 22) during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. All children age 3 and older are welcome to participate. The program is simple with three songs and motions, and we can email the music to listen to and learn at home, so children can join in as available. We practice during Sunday School time at each worship service. No rehearsals during the week. If interested or any questions, contact Kara Benfield.

LOOKING AHEAD

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with Communion:

December 24 - 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

January 12, 2025 - Langschwammer Nei Yaahrs Wunsch will be held during the 10:30 a.m. service.

FOOD TRUCK AT HUFF'S

Friend, Inc. will bring a truck on Thursday, November 7, 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.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for articles to be included in the December Newsletter is Tuesday, November 12, by 8:00 a.m.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study Group will meet on Saturday, November 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, call Lea Kline.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet in the lower level of the church on Monday, November 11, 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, November 18, 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.



LUNCH BUNCH

Members and friends of Huff's Church are welcome to join us for lunch on Thursday, November 21, at 12:00 noon at the New Pennsburg Diner, 321 Pottstown Ave., in Pennsburg, PA. This is across the street from the strip mall that includes Weis Markets.

We choose and purchase our own lunches from the regular menu. We need a headcount so the New Pennsburg Diner can comfortably host us. If you would like to come to Lunch Bunch on November 21, please call or text Tom Mitchell by Sunday, November 17. See you at the New Pennsburg Diner to share a lot of good fellowship and laughter!

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER

The special offering opportunity for November is the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund. This fund enables the ELCA to respond to any national or international disaster and to remain involved with people in that area after the tragedy.

CONGREGATION MEETING

On December 1, 2024, there will be a Congregation meeting within the 10:30 a.m. worship service with a second date of December 8, 2024.

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, December 8, 2024, within the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Those Active Members who attend the meeting on December 8 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 December 1, then the December 8 meeting will not be held.

Any Huff's Union Church Active Member may vote, including our confirmed teenagers. Although in person attendance is encouraged, contact the Church office by Noon on Tuesday, November 26, for Zoom link information if needed. Bylaws do not allow for absentee or proxy voting.

The agenda for the meeting will be the following items:

*To vote on the approval of the 2025 Union Corporation Budget. Majority approval by those who vote is required. By November 17, the 2025 proposed Budget will be available on the Huff's Church website www.huffschurch.com or Eblast. Paper copies will be available at worship services or call the office 610-845-2626 to arrange a time to pick up a copy.

*Nominations and election of members to Council.

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

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Please come out to help decorate the church for Christmas on **Saturday, November 30th**, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

FOOD PANTRY

Approximately 190 items in the church food pantry were added to other congregation donations which were then taken down south to families hard hit by Hurricane Helene. Thank you to all for your generosity.

In our own area, 53 cars passed through the Friend, Inc. food truck line to gratefully accept food for their family and pets. Bea Miller's great-granddaughter delighted the clients with a choice of candy in celebration of her birthday that day.

Just a reminder note that farmers donating their eggs to Friend, Inc. have mentioned a need for empty egg cartons. These can be left in our church pantry cabinet or placed on top of the cabinet.

Respectfully submitted by volunteers: Elvin Keiser, Sue and Bob Stockdale

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.

MITTEN TREE

While the church was being decorated on November 30, the Mitten Tree was set up for attaching caps, scarfs, and gloves. Please limit your donations to these items only, **NO TOYS OR STUFFED ANIMALS**. The tree will remain standing through January 5, 2025. Items will then be given to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky. Many thanks for your generosity.

RED POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Red Poinsettias will adorn the Sanctuary of the Church for the Christmas Season. Order forms are due by **Sunday, December 8, 2024**. Use the order form included in this newsletter or forms can be found upstairs in the church (do **NOT** use any other order form). Price is \$10.00. Make checks payable to Huff's Union 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.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lucille Grampp	11/9
Faye Stauffer	11/21
Shirley Fluck	11/28
Sue Stockdale	11/28

NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

John & Kathy Moll	11/1
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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.

Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Giving for operating expenses	118,144	129,299	(11,155)
All other income	35,529	33,216	2,312
Total income	153,672	162,515	(8,843)
Expenses	225,780	249,176	(23,396)
Operating deficit	(72,108)	(86,660)	14,552
Estate gift	30,000	-	30,000
Giving for capital improvements	5,261	3,750	1,511
Capital expenditures	(92,500)	(180,000)	87,500
Transfers from Investments	112,500	262,910	(150,410)
Net income (loss)	(16,846)	-	(16,846)

Balance Sheet	9/30/24	8/31/24	12/31/23
Designated funds	55,714	91,470	118,828
General funds	14,140	3,648	7,405
Sunday School CDs	4,607	4,607	4,478
Total assets (a)	74,461	99,725	130,711

(a) excludes investments managed by Tiller

In consultation with Penn Southeast Conference, Huff's Union Church is following the guidelines for a congregation ministering with and to a pastor during a time of disability. For the period approved under the short term disability insurance contract, Pastor John receives the disability payment from the insurance company. Huff's Church continues to provide the medical, disability, life insurance, and pension benefits for Pastor John. As our bridge pastor at 20-25 hours per week, Pastor Angelee is compensated at 50% of compensation guidelines plus pension benefit. Although Huff's Church is not paying for medical and other benefits for the bridge pastor, the salary is designed so Pastor Angelee can cover the cost of those benefits. The bridge pastor is contracted through the end of 2024 assuming Pastor John does not return before then.



2024 Poinsettia Order Form

	YOUR NAME	IN MEMORY OF	IN HONOR OF
Plant #1			
Plant #2			
Plant #3			
Plant #4			

Red Poinsettias will adorn the Sanctuary of the Church for the Christmas Season. If you would like to order a plant(s), please complete the order form and, along with payment, give or mail to Robin Diehl at 50 Eric Ln., Alburdis, PA 18011, or put it in an envelope marked POINSETTIAS and place it in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to HUFF'S UNION CHURCH. Order deadline is December 8, 2024. Cost is \$10.00 per plant.