

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



January, 2022

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburton, 18011
Church office: 610-845-2626 Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jennifer Bannerman
Pastor Home Office: 570-778-7524
Office email: office@huffschurch.com
Website: www.huffschurch.com
Facebook Page: Huff's Union Church, Inc.
Facebook Group: Huff's Union Church

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of Huff's Union Church, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become evermore the Body of Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a ministry which includes increasingly meaningful worship, creative Christian Education, intentional witnessing, dedicated service, and responsible support.

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** at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 9, 2022. This is a PA Dutch New Year's Blessing given in the Dialect.

DECEMBER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The December 12, 2021, Congregational meeting was postponed until December 19th due to the lack of a quorum. At the December 19th meeting, the following items of business were conducted:

Martin Kriebel, President of Union Council, thanked Theresa Woloszanski, Ian Richetti and Michele Reed for their time on Council which ended on December 31, 2021. The Nominating Committee next presented the committee recommendations for those people joining the Union Council for 2022. They are: Kerry Meitzler, who will serve a one-year term replacing Ian Richetti who resigned; Robert Ruch and Carol Leh, who will both come on for a three-year term; Lori Lanahan and Martin Kriebel, who completed partial terms and will begin a three-year term. Elaine Witman and Michael Diehl will stay on to begin their second three-year term. There being no nominations from the floor, everyone that the committee had recommended was approved.

The Union Church Operating and Capital Budgets for 2022 were approved as presented in your December newsletter.

The Mission Endowment Fund Policy, as presented in the December newsletter, was approved, as was the Union Church Constitution and By-laws removing the Endowment Fund Article XV from the Constitution and placing it under the control of the new Mission Endowment Fund Policy.

The Lutheran Council members were presented and approved. They are Jane Arndt, Ann Taylor, Thomas Mitchell, and Lisa Kauffman. Also, the Lutheran 2022 Budget was approved as presented in your December newsletter.

The UCC Council members were presented and approved. They are Rachel Welch, Julie Brought, James Meitzler, Sr. and Gary Moll. Also, the UCC 2022 Budget was approved as presented in your December newsletter.

2022 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES & ELECTRONIC GIVING FORMS:

Church Envelopes are available for your pickup in the lower level of the church. 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. Due to cost of postage, we do not mail a full box of envelopes. If you would like to have only a few envelopes sent to you, please contact the office.

Please consider completing an Electronic Giving form for an easy and convenient way to set up automatic transfer from your bank account, and it is less costly for the church. Return completed forms to the church office or call with questions.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Please remember to fill out a communion card for 2022 and place it in the offering plate, or use your Church Giving envelope or a Welcome envelope indicating your name. To be an active member of Huff's Church, our constitutions require you to contribute or commune at least once every two years.

Please contact Pastor Bannerman if you wish to remain a member but have a special circumstance which prevents you from contributing or communing during the year.

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED

If you are hospitalized, please call the church office or ask someone to call for you (hospital chaplains are willing to do this.) Please let us know if we have permission to put your name on our prayer list for prayers in worship and from the people who have signed up to pray for our congregation at home. Please let us know when you are discharged.

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please remember that it is helpful for us to have your correct contact information. If you have changed your phone number, mailing address, or e-mail address, please let us know by contacting the church office.

PRAYER CHAIN

Huff's Church has a prayer chain to pray for special needs during the year. If you have a name for the prayer chain, please contact John Leeser either by e-mail (birdmanjhl@aol.com) or telephone 610-966-2775. Please notify him when names may be removed from the list. We thank John for his faithful service.

Would you like to be a part of the prayer chain to receive a monthly printed list of people for whom to pray, and/or periodic e-mailed notifications of those for whom to pray? Please let John Leeser know (see contact information above) and your name will be added to those who receive names for whom to pray.

PRAYER LIST

Prayer is a sacred and intimate act. God knows our hearts, our needs and who we are praying for, even before their name is uttered. To honor the sacredness of prayer, we always want to ask permission before we put a person's name on the public prayer list. To ensure that we can offer prayers for all who ask and honor their wishes, we are adopting the following policy:

Anyone may call the church office to place a family member's or their own name on the prayer list. It will be confirmed that you have the person's permission to place their name on the list and ask if they want just their first name or full name to be spoken. Those names will be read in Sunday worship. Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. If you want it on longer, contact the office again after the two week period. Names can be added Sunday morning, but only a person's first name will be spoken until the office has been contacted. There is a time during prayers where anyone's name may be spoken aloud or in the quiet of our hearts.

UNDECORATING THE CHURCH

We will be putting our church decorations away on Saturday, January 8, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m. A big thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas Season.

THE MITTEN TREE

The Mitten Tree has been adorned with many hats, gloves, scarfs, mittens, etc. On January 8th, the items will be removed and sent to St. Vincent's Mission in David, Kentucky, to be distributed to the needy. Many thanks to everyone who contributed items for the tree!

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.

BIRTHDAYS

Audrey Diehl - 1/4
Janice Rauch - 1/4
Elizabeth Heimbach - 1/5
Berry Crum - 1/6
Minerva Arner - 1/17
Milton Kerchner - 1/23

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Earl & Theresa Derr - 1/7
Ernest & Dolores Haas - 1/7
Dennis & Bea Miller - 1/26

UPDATING OUR LIST OF HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

If you know of a church member who is no longer able to get to church, please call the office to have that person added to our Homebound List. For the sake of confidentiality, we no longer publicize our homebound list in the newsletter. However, if you'd like to have a copy, please contact the church office.

CARING AND SHARING

We are in need of a chairperson to lead the Caring and Sharing Committee. If you'd like more information about what this entails, please contact the Church office. After many years of serving as chair, Sue Stockdale has decided to retire. Thank you, Sue, for all the work you have done for this worthwhile committee.

SPECIAL JANUARY OFFERING

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 2022.

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study Group will meet on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. in the chapel. Come with your Bible. If you'd like to stay for lunch, please feel free to bring something to share and eat with us from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

PASTOR BANNERMAN'S ARTICLE RESOLUTIONS

It's that time of year again, you know, where we make all our resolutions with the best of all intentions. This year will be the year where we change our diet, lose those 10 or 20 pounds, get into a good exercise regime. This will be the year where we finally finish that project (that's been sitting on the dining room table or taking up space in the spare bedroom or basement for years now). This year we will finally get it done!

There is something about the beginning of the year that feels like a get out of jail free card and that allows us to begin fresh. Remember last year? Just reaching January 1st seemed to put an end to the ordeal of Covid. A brighter year was ahead. Life would return to normal. (Well, almost.)

In a way, starting a new year is like feeling forgiveness. All the failures and setbacks from last year are behind us and we can begin anew.

So, as we wipe the slate clear and begin a new year, what will your resolutions be? If you aren't the resolution type, what intentions do you want to set for the new year? How will you make this new year better? Healthier? More prosperous? More filled with friendship and love?

Or will you just say "Bah, humbug," and continue life as usual?

This year, in addition to any personal resolutions you might set, I invite you to set intentions and resolve to be more patient, loving and kind. Find ways each day to share the love of God with someone. Make their day brighter for your presence in it.

Just like with your personal resolutions, if you find yourself lagging and failing to do these things come the middle of January, all you have to do is take a breath and start again. Each day we can start anew. Each day we can start with a clean slate from God and resolve this day to be the person God would have us be.

If you need help with this, find a friend or family member who will partner with you. Hold each other accountable for the resolutions you have made. Encourage one another in faith and fortitude to be and become the person you want to be, remembering that we are all reflections of the image of God.

PASTOR BANNERMAN'S ARTICLE (continued) RESOLUTIONS

Let grace abound, and with it love. Let this year be the year that begins a new era of God's Shalom made manifest in the world.

May the Peace of God be with you all!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Jennifer

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 of what they have done in the previous year. 2021 reports are due in the church secretary's mailbox by January 23, 2022. Treasurer's reports are an exception; they will be due in the office by early February, 2022.

CONTACT PERSON NEEDED

We are looking for a contact person to receive notifications about mission events with local agencies. If you would be interested in helping us with this outreach program, please contact the Church office (610-845-2626) or Martin Kriebel (610-845-2960).

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. His phone numbers are: Home 610-845-2581 or Cell 610-504-1089.

WINTER WEATHER

We will publicize worship cancellations on Channel 69 and our website, if our reporter has communications. Or you may also call Martin Kriebel at 610-845-2960. If there are **more than two inches of snow** Saturday night or Sunday morning, the 8:00 a.m. service is automatically cancelled. If 8:00 a.m. church service is cancelled, adult Sunday School class is also cancelled.

Financial Report

	Nov 2021	YTD		YTD	Annual
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Variance	Budget
Giving	14,537	127,280	160,605	(33,326)	180,845
All other income	5,178	58,060	44,129	13,931	47,595
Total income	19,715	185,340	204,734	(19,395)	228,440
Expenses	20,945	231,599	265,609	(34,010)	291,369
Operating income (loss)	(1,229)	(46,259)	(60,875)	14,616	(62,929)
Capital expenditures	(14,710)	(14,710)	-	(14,710)	-
Transfers from Investments	10,500	63,000	57,750	5,250	63,000
Net income (loss)	(5,439)	2,031	(3,125)	5,156	71

	11/30/21	10/31/21	12/31/20
Balance Sheet			
Designated funds	109,435	109,293	107,283
General funds	14,320	6,324	14,896
Sunday School CDs	4,378	4,378	4,373
Total assets (a)	128,133	119,995	126,552

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs