

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburtis, 18011
Church office: 610-845-2626 Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jennifer Bannerman
Pastor Home Office: 570-778-7524
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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.

CHURCH GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2021

The 2021 Church Giving Envelopes are available in the church office. Please call the office at 610-845-2626 to make arrangements for pick-up. Due to the cost of postage, we do not send the full box of envelopes. If you would like to have only a few envelopes sent to you, please contact the church office.

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 2021.

DECEMBER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The December 13, 2020, Congregational meeting was postponed until December 20th due to the lack of a quorum. At the December 20th meeting, the following items of business were conducted:

The Lutheran Council members were presented and approved. They are Jane Arndt, Ann Taylor, Thomas Mitchell and Lisa Kauffman. Also, the Lutheran 2021 Budget was approved as presented in your December newsletter.

The UCC Council members were presented and approved. They are Rachel Welch, Michelle Reed, James Meitzler, Sr. and Gary Moll. Also, the UCC 2021 Budget was approved as presented in your December newsletter.

The Union Church Operating and Capital Budgets for 2021 were approved as presented in your December newsletter.

The Nominating Committee thanked Jane Arndt, Gary Fogel, Rochelle Schantz and Elaine Crump for their time on Council which ends on December 31, 2020. They next presented the committee recommendations for those people joining the Union Council for 2021. They are Lori Lanahan who will serve a one-year term replacing Elaine Crump who resigned. Dale Heffner, Thomas Johnson and Matthew Schantz will come on for a three-year term and Lisa Kauffman, Jim Meitzler, Sr. and William Stoudt will stay on to begin their second three-year term. There being no nominations from the floor, everyone recommended was approved.

BLOOD ASSURANCE ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER

Thank you to everyone who has donated blood to Miller-Keystone during the past years. The past two drives have seen an increase in the number of people interested in donating blood. This is great, and we hope we can continue to increase our giving in the future. Our goal is fifteen units per drive.

Hopefully in the coming year we can give even more as there is a very high demand for whole blood in our area. There will be a drive at Huff's Church on Monday, January 18, 2021, from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the church parking lot. Please consider donating to this great and necessary cause. You can sign up on-line (at GIVEaPINT.org) or by phone at 1-800-B-A-DONOR) or just show up - walk-ins are always welcome.

Thank you all again!

Gary Moll

2020 ANNUAL REPORTS

Because we want to have a complete picture of what is happening at Huff's Church each year, we ask that each Committee Chair or Team/Group Leader submit a report of what they have done in the previous year. The 2020 reports are due in the church office or Edwina Fox's mailbox by January 23, 2021. Each Treasurer's report is due February 8, 2021.

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 our office administrator, Edwina Fox (610-845-2626) or our Caring and Sharing Committee Chairperson, Sue Stockdale by e-mail (szq1944@gmail.com) and you will receive a copy.

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED

If you are hospitalized, please call the church office (610-845-2626) 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 at 610-845-2626.

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Please remember to fill out a communion card for 2021 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.

UNDECORATING THE CHURCH

We will be putting our beautiful church decorations away on Saturday, January 9, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m. A big thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas Season.

WINTER WEATHER

In case of bad weather, we will publicize worship cancellations on our website and on Channel 69. You may also call Martin Kriebel at 610-845-2960 for information about cancellations.

HELP NEEDED FOR SNOW REMOVAL

We are in need of people who can help shovel the walkways around the church. We can use help on Sunday mornings, but also on Saturday and weekdays as well. If you can help during the week, or on weekends, please contact Jimmy Meitzler, Sr. to volunteer. His phone numbers are: home phone: 610-845-2581; cell phone: 610-504-1089.

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 Leeson either by e-mail (birdmanjhl@aol.com) or telephone 610-966-2775. Please notify John when names may be removed from the list.

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 Leeson know (see contact information above) and your name will be added to those who receive names for whom to pray.

We thank John for his faithful service on the prayer chain.

LUTHERAN HOMECARE AND HOSPICE

Hello Friends! Would you help a neighbor in need? Consider volunteering for Spirit Trust Lutheran Home Care and Hospice.

Make friendly visits or supportive phone calls to our hospice clients. Still serving our clients for over 20 years in Berks, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill Counties. For more information please call Cathy Sweeney, Volunteer Coordinator at 570-599-5390.

CHURCH FAMILY

MEMORIALS:

In memory of Lloyd Weller, Sr. to the General Fund
Carl & Minerva Arner
Pat Crossley
Sara & Todd McNulty

FUNERALS:

In Memory of Lloyd Weller, Sr., who passed away on November 10, 2020.

In memory of James Garber, who passed away on December 15, 2020.

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 & Teresa Derr	- 1/7
Ernest & Dolores Haas	- 1/7
Robert & Pauline Reinhard	- 1/22
Dennis & Bea Miller	- 1/26

PASTOR BANNERMAN'S ARTICLE

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
Isaiah 43:18-19

It is the beginning of another new year; time for resolutions and resolve; time to finally lose that weight and get in shape; time to finally get organized. This year will be different. This year I will succeed!

I like the New Year. It is a time for second, third, fourth, fiftieth, eightieth, even hundredth chances. It is a time that we can say, ok, last year was a bust, but this year – this year will be different.

The Children of Israel had screwed up big time. They had turned away from *YHWH* and forgotten their covenant promises. Their need to be in control and do things their way had weakened Israel and made it easy pickings for the Persian invaders. Many Israelites had been sent into exile, some had remained in Israel, but all were devastated. What they had had with God, with *YHWH* was no more.

These verses in Isaiah are God's words of hope to a defeated people. God was calling them back, not only to Israel, but back to being the Chosen People. God was starting anew and giving their relationship another chance. God was re-covenanting with them to once again be a people with a purpose: to be God's living presence to all nations.

God works with us in the same way. God is continuously re-covenanting with us. When we screw up, when we mess things up almost beyond redemption, God is there saying: forget what has happened in the past. I am here to give you another chance. That is Good News indeed for us, especially this year! We all want to close the door on 2020.

Before we finally shut the door, though, let us take a look at what we learned this past year. Did we take time to cherish our relationships more? Did we focus on our own health and taking care of others? Did we discover how interconnected we all are on this planet? With God, it is all about relationship. What did we learn this past year that will help strengthen our relationship with God, with each other and with all of creation?

(continued on page 9)

PASTOR BANNERMAN'S ARTICLE (continued from page 8)

The Good News for us is that we don't have to wait for the New Year to re-start our relationship with God and the world around us. The promise of our baptism is that every day we are born anew, every day we begin again. We may have failed miserably yesterday, but **today** we can start again and strive to be the person, the people, that God would have us be.

As you make your resolutions for 2021, let one of them be to join with God to create a new thing each and every day this year. As a community of faith, let us re-commit, re-covenant to doing and being something wonderful together. Let us work together to be God's loving presence and witness of hope to all people and all nations. Let us resolve to be open to God's Spirit and God's leading, so that we can **be** and **become** God's people in the world.

May 2021 be a year filled with healing and hope for us all!

Pastor Jennifer

November 2020 Financial Report

	Nov 2020 Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	2020 Annual Budget
Income	13,423	186,223	244,974	(58,751)	267,244
Expenses	19,127	215,888	300,278	(84,390)	327,576
Operating loss	(5,704)	(29,666)	(55,304)	25,639	(60,332)
Transfers from Investments	5,250	70,927	57,750	13,177	63,000
Net income (loss)	(454)	41,261	2,446	38,815	2,668

	11/30/20	10/31/20	12/31/19
Balance Sheet			
Petty cash	242	242	242
Designated Funds	46,254	53,719	52,916
General Funds	68,424	61,898	20,205
Sunday School CDs	4,373	4,372	4,339
Total assets (a)	119,293	120,231	77,702

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs