

COMMUNIQUE



2023

SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2251 Willow Road
York, PA 17408
Telephone 717-764-3569
Email: office@shilohucc.com

A GROWING CHURCH
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- April 2** *Palm Sunday*
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 21:1-11
“A City in Turmoil”
- April 6** *Maundy Thursday*
Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
“A New Love Commandment”
- April 7** *Good Friday*
Psalm 22
Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24
Hebrews 10
“The Triumph Over Tragedy”
- April 9** *Easter Sunday/Communion*
Jeremiah 31:1-6
Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10
“A Matter of Curiosity”
- April 16** *Second Sunday of Easter
Butterfly Sunday*
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31
“Bring Your Doubt to Church this Sunday”
- April 23** *Third Sunday of Easter/ELC Sunday*
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35
“Recognizing Jesus”
- April 30** *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10
“Smart Sheep”

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!” Matthew 21:9*

Dear Friends of Shiloh UCC,

April brings spring. April brings flowers. April brings new life and hope. April also brings many great opportunities to get together and worship God at Shiloh UCC. Please, don't miss out on the celebration because your family is visiting you this year. Make it a family tradition. Bring them to church with you. Everyone's welcome to worship and celebrate at Shiloh UCC!

Certainly, Easter Sunday will be the highest point of our celebration, and the end of the Lenten Season. However, the excitement starts one week before Easter. Holy Week begins on April 2nd, Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We invite you to bring your family with you to one of the worship services (either at 8:30AM or at 11AM). We hope you can join us for the bountiful brunch held between the two services, starting at 9:45AM. Later that day, still on Palm Sunday, there will be an egg hunt for kids at 2PM.

Together we will praise God, and invite Christ into our lives with these words:

*“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”*

If you haven't been to church for a while, Palm Sunday may be the perfect time to visit us again. If you have been coming to church faithfully, your presence with us is appreciated and you are also invited to jump start Holy Week by rejoicing in God's presence. Everyone's welcome to receive spiritual renewal and hope from the triumphant King.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (7PM), Good Friday (12 Noon), and Easter Sunday (Communion!) are only a few opportunities to grow spiritually and be transformed in God's presence. Every Sunday at 8:30AM and 11AM we gather together to discern God's will for us personally and communally.

I know the warm bed can be tempting Sunday morning. Going out for breakfast or checking out your Facebook page can be tempting. However, deep down you know what is good for your soul. Giving God your uninterrupted attention once (or more times) a week can really fill your life with meaning, joy, and hope for the future.

We all need God's presence. We all need community. We all need Shiloh UCC, our spiritual home! So dare to sacrifice a short period of time every Sunday morning, to focus on what's really important. Taking care of your spiritual health and well-being changes not only your life, but also the lives of those who live around you. So, come (back!) and worship God at Shiloh UCC, not only on Palm Sunday and Easter, but every Sunday of the year.

*“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”*

*Rejoicing in Christ,
Pastor Melinda*



MARCH CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report-

Worship

Special Services:

- February 22nd – Ash Wednesday service
- February 26th – First Sunday in Lent
- March 11th – Memorial Service for Stephanie Berkheimer
- March 12th -- Installation of new Consistory Member (Pat Myers)
- March 12th – New Member join the congregation (Steph Waldron)
- March 12th – York County Junior Honors Choir concert + refreshments

Administration

- February 15th – Staff Meeting
- February 15th – Outreach meeting
- February 28th -- Visioning Meeting
- March 7th – Worship and Music

Pastoral Care

- Home, Hospital and nursing home visits (2)
- Office/lunch meeting (5)
- Phone calls/Facebook private messages (13+); many text messages to our members

Christian Education

- Grief Group meets once a month (last meeting: February 17th).
- Bible Study meets weekly on Wednesdays in room 202. Thank you, Ray, for leading this group!
- Sunday School adult programs are held in room 100 and Room 202. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers!
- Men's Breakfast meets once a month. Thank you, Brad, for leading this group!
- Lenten study started on March 1st /Soup and Study group. We have about 12 people. We study Handel's Messiah. Everyone's welcome to join in.

Contact with the larger UCC + local community

March 8th – York Association Luncheon and gathering in Red Lion

Consistory President's Report –

- Pat Myers was installed as a Deacon on 3-12-23
- Room Requests: There was one room request approved by myself.
 - Christel Reiber - Eagle Scout Ceremony on 4-08-23

New business-

A. Lay Leader Convocation

- a. This will be held Saturday, April 15 from 8:30am to 3:00pm
- b. Cost is \$40/person
- c. Nathan Limbert and Jeff Hershey are planning to attend

MARCH CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Unfinished Business-

- a. This year's Love offering will go towards the ELC scholarship fund to be collected from March 19 through April 30
- b. WMTFD Association of York County Annual Convention, August 12, 2023 (100 yr.–Shiloh, 75 yr.–Lincolnway) - \$100/name on Facebook, \$250/name on digital marquees for two weeks, \$500/name on banner at Fairgrounds day of event. We are considering the \$250 donation
 - c. The Consistory picture will be taken on Easter Sunday, April 9, between services in the front of the sanctuary.

Worship and Music-

- Palm Sunday 4/2 - brunch to be held between services in room 100
- Maundy Thursday service 4/6 at 7pm will be streamed- no communion/ hand washing ceremony
- Good Friday - noon service, not streamed but will have PowerPoint
- Easter communion - pew service (disposable cups)
- April 23 - ELC Sunday–10am service followed by reception in room 100
- May 7 Music Sunday-luncheon after 11 service for music/technology program volunteers
- June 25 - picnic - Sunset Lane Park - chicken with potluck sides
- Next meeting April 19 at 7:00 in room 202

Church and Ministry-

- The Church and Ministry Committee and Nominating Committee met on February 28, 2023 and recommended that the ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP 4. Remain the same with no changes, and should be followed as stated in efforts to get the Shiloh UCC Membership rosters updated accurately.
- Consistory decided to keep the By-laws the same with no changes. Reen Bentzel will meet with Maira Rivera, church secretary, to start the process of listing and contacting non-active members.
- Interview Process for Family and Children Ministry Coordinator Position - Resume Review, Initial Contact, Interview in person or by Zoom, Reference and Background Checks, Meet with Candidate, Contract
 - Caroline Tucker (applicant) is no longer interested in an interview with us at this time.
- Job Description for Family and Children Ministry Coordinator Position–still in process
- Job Description for Church Custodian was approved

Church Life –

- Matt noted that it was nice to see the amount of people in the church this past weekend with the various events that were held.

MARCH CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Youth Ministry –

- Had meetings on February 26th and March 12th with other churches to organize an event for our youth groups to participate in on April 29th
 - Nixon Park Arbor Day tree planting
 - Would like to participate in this
- Easter egg hunt is April 2 from 2-3pm—we need volunteers

Outreach/Evangelism -

- Ordered direct mail postcards (700 direct mail, 300 for local distribution) Cost \$673.25
- Blood drive - March 23, 1:00 - 6:00
- Next meeting - March 28 room 202 7:00
- Visioning - Provided a list of expectations for the Family/Youth Coordinator job description written by Church and Ministry
- Visioning - Discussed focus for Shiloh to help create a mission statement for the church
- Next meeting - April 26 at 7:00 room 202
- Church Chums - April 1 - Parents Night Out from 5-8pm, we need volunteers
- June 3 - Yard Sale
- Would like to present a video on change some Sunday

Missions Committee-

- Reminder: Easter envelope will go to Bell Family Shelter
- Next meeting April 18, 2023

Property Committee-

- Security update (keyless entry, video intercom, rekeying)
- This was installed last week
- Next, the outside doors will be rekeyed
- Keys and temporary passcode will work for outside doors until April 14—contact Maira to set up PINs before this date
- March 15 we are meeting with the Township police concerning security of the church
- The bill of \$6800 has been paid

ELC –

- Cake Pop Fundraiser orders are due by March 17 with delivery on March 30 and 31
- ELC Sunday is April 23, 10am, followed by a reception in room 100
- Texas Roadhouse Free Meal Application for each Preschool Student is in Process
- Next Meeting is March 30 at 5 pm

*Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Limbert, Consistory President*

MISSIONARY NEWS

Jeremiah 29:11

” For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”



This scripture came to mind as we prepared and handed out back to school supply bags and celebrated the graduates from 2022. The need for assistance is so great as families here face record increases in tax and inflation. We were able to distribute 170 back to school bags and assist several others with specific supply requests and fees.

We also celebrated the graduation of two adult members of the church that are parents. Both returned to school because they saw the value of completing their high school education. Elina is the mother of 2 youth that are currently in high school and a child in kindergarten. Christian is the father of 2 primary students and has another little girl at home. Both are showing their children that they want them to have a good future by completing their education. They are **breaking the chains** of illiteracy that had previously been generational. Both are currently working and moving forward with plans that will prosper their families.

The love you share through the support of our work in this community is a shining light of **HOPE** and an example of God’s Love. We have received so many messages of thanks and appreciation for the sacrifices you make in supporting our mission.

Right now, our biggest challenge is our van is in need of a new engine. We have already spent thousands of dollars in repairs over the past several years and are prayerfully asking for God’s direction in securing reliable transportation. It has been difficult and very costly for us to meet the needs of the mission and ministry without a vehicle.

We ask that you continue to hold us in your prayers, as we pray you may continue to receive God’s Blessings in your life.

*Your Faithful Servants in missions,
Crosby and Sally Johnson*



On **April 2** you are invited to a **brunch at 9:45 AM** in room 100. A variety of casseroles and pastries will be served along with beverages. We hope you will plan to attend this occasion to start Holy Week. A **sign-up sheet can be found in the Gallery.**

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



March was a true example of both lion and lamb days. We had bright sunny days where everyone in the school was outside at some point. Then we had darker, colder and very windy days where only the bravest of us ventured onto the playground. It allowed for some interesting discussions on the unpredictable weather of March. In addition to weather, we celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss by having many themed days as well as an exciting performance of Green Eggs and Ham starring myself and fellow teacher Karen Lingenfelter. Finally, our threes, fours, and Pre-K students had parent/teacher conferences.

Many of our teachers took advantage of a worthwhile educational opportunity this month. We were invited to Weiglestown Elementary School to attend a workshop with the reading specialists from Dover. Many teachers are also partnering with Connections Early Intervention and Supports and Elizabethtown College to study challenging behaviors in an early childhood setting. We are so grateful for these opportunities to learn and grow as educators.

April is shaping up to be just as exciting and busy for the children. We will explore units on rain, clouds, farms, spring, worms, Earth Day and finally Easter. The York County Solid Waste Authority will visit our school and teach our four-year old students about worms, and how to make paper. Our students love these valuable lessons. Our Bible theme for April is the story of Jesus's death and resurrection. In addition to the reading from the Bible, the lesson will be presented in many creative ways including songs, resurrection eggs and crafts.

The Shiloh UCC Church Chums have once again invited our families to a parent's night out on April 1st. In addition, on April 2nd our families have also been invited to an Easter Egg Hunt at Shiloh. Finally, April 23rd is ELC Sunday. On this special day, all our 4 and 5-year-old students will be asked to sing during a special service at 10 am. The ELC students' families will be invited to attend the service and fellowship afterwards in room 100. We are all looking forward to these amazing events sponsored by the members of Shiloh UCC.

Our registration for the 2023-2024 school year is going very well and many of our classes are filled. We currently have limited openings in all age groups. Please spread the word about the Early Learning Center.

Thank you for all your support and guidance. May you have a blessed Easter.

Allison Hartnett

The **Youth Fellowship Group** will host an **Easter Egg Hunt** for all children up to age 10 on **April 2 from 2:00 to 3:00 PM**. We have enough plastic eggs but need the congregation's help with providing the candy or small snack size items to fill the eggs with. A bin will be placed in the gallery to collect the candy. You may also make a monetary donation using the LOVE offering envelopes designating Easter Egg Hunt on them. Thank you for your help with this fun filled yearly event!



The **Women's Guild** will be meeting **April 3, at 1:00 pm in room 202**. The program will be from our new study book **Encouraging One Another. Chapter Two: The Word Encourages**. Charlotte Mickley will be leading this chapter. Special offering for this month will be for missionary Sally Jane Johnson. *We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.*

Mark your calendar for the next Shiloh UCC Men's Breakfast on **Tuesday, April 11, at 8:30 am at Dover Valley Restaurant** located at **3720 Carlisle Rd, Dover, PA**. Contact Brad Jacobs at 717-764-2773 or bcj402@verizon.net for additional information.



Engaging Women will be meeting on **Tuesday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor**. Contact Sally Curren at dgft25@hotmail.com for additional information.



The church is collecting donations for the **ELC's Scholarship Fund**. This Scholarship Fund benefits students and families that attend the ELC that may be having trouble making their monthly payments towards tuition. The ELC offers this scholarship to ensure that their students can continue to attend the preschool without families having to worry about how they will make their next payment. If you are interested in donating, please use the **Love Offering envelopes found in your pews**. We will be collecting donations **through the end of April**.



The Women's Social and Support Group will meet for lunch at **Cheddar's Restaurant on April 21st at 12:00pm.** Please contact Judy Feeser at 717-764-9935 by April 17th if you plan to attend.

The Visioning Committee has been meeting for over two years now and after many discussions regarding our concern for the future of Shiloh UCC, we feel God's calling us to focus on one issue at a time and to always keep in the forefront that we are to be leading people to Jesus Christ. The one issue we want to focus on at this time, is how to bring more families and youth to participate in our church. We are asking each member of the congregation to consider this mission and suggest any ways to carry it out. You may speak to any committee member-our names are listed in the annual report-with any ideas. We would like all of our church committees to focus on this goal. Imagine the possibilities if all of us are working together to bring this to fruition. Remember Romans 8:31, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" We would like to also welcome everyone to join our committee. **We will be meeting again on April 26, at 7pm, in room 202.**



The **Women's Guild** will be collecting items for **Wellspan Mother/Child Clinic in April and May.** The following items are needed: newborn diapers, unscented wipes, formula (powder), heavy menstrual pads, breast pads, breast cream, baby clothes (newborn to 3 months), blankets (fleece or lighter ones for summer). All items should be new except clothes and blankets in good shape. Place them in tubs marked Women's Guild. Items will be displayed on **Mother's Day, May 14.**

THANK YOU NOTES



On behalf of our family. We would like to thank each and every one of you for the food, prayers, cards, gifts, visits and beautiful service to celebrate the life of Stephanie Berkheimer. We are truly blessed to have such a great church family to support us through this time. Special thanks to the Handbell choir for the beautiful piece of music that was played at her service. We will leave you with her favorite bible verse.

Be Still and Know I am God. Psalm 46:10

The Berkheimer/Bechtel Family ♡

THANK YOU NOTES (Cont'd)

Dear Shiloh UCC,

Thank you for your support of Friends and Neighbors. The needs of the unsheltered community are great and 100% of your donation will be used for supplies.

Friends and Neighbors Board

Dear Pastor and Members of Shiloh UCC,

On behalf of everyone at Hoffman Homes for Youth, thank you for your recent gift of \$375 through the Penn Central Conference. New paths are discovered, leading to brighter futures. Thank you again for believing in and supporting our efforts!

*With deep appreciation,
Susan Cann, Director of Development*

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for gracing us with your generous support! You have helped Habitat for Humanity construct nearly 150 safe and affordable homes for families right here in York County. Thanks to you, we dedicated two new homes last year!

*With Gratitude,
Patrick Ball, Interim Executive Director*



OUR SYMPATHY to the family and friends of **Stephanie Berkheimer** who passed away on February 26. A memorial service was held on March 11, 2023.

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Stephanie Berkheimer** from Rev. Thomas & Janet Shelley, Diane Jacobs, Sara Jacoby, James & Rosemary Bentzel, Robert & Deb Myers, Don & Jeanie Bentzel, Joan Hamme, Mary Hoffman, Gloria Melhorn, Ray & Sandy Fox, Judy Feeser, Dave & Deb Althoff, Ginny Heath, John & Janice Herrold, Carol Harrold, Brian & Sally Curren, Natalie Fuhrman, Nelson & Pat Roth, Bart & Gerry Funkhouser, Brad & Sue Jacobs, Thomas Bentz, Norene Edgar, Stavros & Electra Skouras, Beverly Gerberick, John Cori & Jean Treber, Zoe Bordes, William & Shirley Lohmann, Dale & Judith Bentz, Michael & Sallie Hagerman, Ross & Jan Hopple.



SECURITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The following is a summary of security enhancements ongoing at the church as presented at the March 5 2023 services:

1. Representatives from Staff, ELC and volunteers from our congregation, who comprise the Security Committee, completed a best practice assessment in July of 2022. We identified:
 - the need to update crisis guidelines and training
 - the need to control church access via unlocked doors
 - the need to address unaccounted for hard keys that have not been returned
2. The Security Committee agreed and consistory approved the following improvements to insure exterior doors will remain locked at all times:
 - a video intercom was installed for church office to screen and facilitate visitor entry
 - keyless entry hardware, similar to a garage door opener, was installed to replace the use of hard keys for the front door and rear kitchen doors
 - pin codes will be issued to staff and congregants.
3. A meeting is scheduled with West Manchester Township Police to communicate and review our security initiatives.
4. The Security Committee will continue to meet to work on update policies and procedures.

Note:

- Please provide Maira with your preferred 4-digit pin code by March 30. You can use the temporary pin code in the meantime.
- Doors will be rekeyed by April 15. Access thereafter will only be via keyless entry.
- Hard keys will still be necessary to open interior doors.

COMING UP IN MAY

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 7 | Communion
Spring Music Sunday |
| May 14 | Anniversary/Member Recognition Sunday
Mother's Day |
| May 18 | Ascension Day |
| May 19 | ELC Fun Day |
| May 22 | ELC Camp |
| May 28 | Pentecost
Strengthen the Church Offering |
| May 29 | Memorial Day (Office Closed) |



APRIL BIRTHDAY'S

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 1 | Marguerite Lochman
Matthew Schmidt |
| April 2 | Cindy Dunn
Doris Robertson |
| April 3 | Mark Bentzel
Wanda Bentzel |
| April 6 | Randy Seifarth |
| April 10 | Leon Leber |
| April 11 | Howard Cramer |
| April 13 | Kaitlyn Kruza |
| April 15 | Sandra Fox
Kaitlin Rentzel |
| April 16 | Aidan Jacobs
Sue Trimble |
| April 17 | Marsha Reiber |
| April 18 | Rosemary Bentzel
Richard Gruver Jr. |
| April 19 | Joanne Overmiller |
| April 20 | Ken Goodyear |
| April 24 | Milton Hoak
Donna Robertson
Stephen Sechriest |
| April 26 | Amanda Bentzel
Jay Mummert |
| April 30 | Hunter Betz |



“Shiloh United Church of Christ is called to show Christ’s love for all through witness, word, and worship.”


MAILING PAGE

CONSISTORY

Elders	Deacons
Nathan Limbert, President	Dani Bentzel
Norina Bentzel, V. Pres.	Judy Clark
Sallie Hagerman	Pat Myers
Jane Harrison	Carolyn Poff
Jeff Hershey	
Matt Hildebrecht	

Natalie Fuhrman – Treasurer
Sallie Hagerman – Financial Secretary
Jeanie Bentzel – Church School Superintendent

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D. pastormelinda@shilohucc.com
Pastor Melinda office hours:	Wednesday 9 AM-2 PM & 5-8 PM Thursday 5-8 PM Friday 9AM-2 PM
Director of Music	Stephanie Limbert
Organist	Sandy Bamberger
Missionaries in Costa Rica	Crosby and Sally Jane Johnson
Administrative Assistant	Maira Rivera
Early Learning Center	Allison Hartnett
Church Office Phone Number	717-764-3569
Church Email Address	office@shilohucc.com
Website	www.shilohuccyorkpa.org
 Find us on Facebook	www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa