

COMMUNIQUE



APRIL 2022

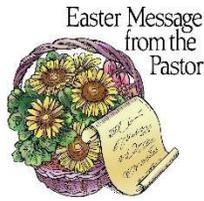
SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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A GROWING CHURCH
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- April 3 *Fifth Sunday in Lent*
Psalm 126
John 12:1-8
Isaiah 43:16-21
"Forget the Past"
- April 10 *Palm Sunday*
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 19:28-40
"Noisy Stones"
- April 14 *Maundy Thursday*
Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
"Remember Jesus"
- April 15 *Good Friday*
- April 17 *Easter Sunday/Communion*
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18
"Risen"
- April 24 *Second Sunday of Easter*
Butterfly-ELC Sunday
Psalm 150
Acts 5:27-32
John 20:19-31
"Doubt and Faith"





PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

This time of the year always gives us hope. God brings new life, and at the same time God regenerates the weak. With God, there is always hope. If we are open spiritually, the celebration of Easter can restore our souls.

The Good News of our Christian faith is this: we have hope in the face of hopelessness and death. We have hope, in the face of pandemics and wars. This earthly life is but one chapter in a grand novel written by God. In Jesus Christ, we have received a glimpse into a greater level of existence. In Him, we have been freed from the anxiety and pain of this temporal realm. In Him, we find everlasting life.

So, with the apostle Paul we can rejoice and say:

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

...thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

(1 Corinthians 15:55&57 NRSV)

*Rejoicing in Christ,
Rev. Melinda*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Easter brings new life. With the blossoming of spring, new life surrounds us. I have to share a little secret. Spring is my favorite time of the year. How can we be anything but grateful, when we see new life surrounding us in the flowers, leaves, grass, and especially in all of God's creatures, playing happily in the sunshine? Over the years, we see spring repeat this dance, almost as if she also held a sacred secret. And she does...Over and over again, God winks at us, wondering when we will understand.

Easter brings hope not only for this life, but for life everlasting. *Christ's resurrection reminds us that God's love enfolds us and carries us, not only through the ups and downs of this existence, but even beyond the grave.* Easter brings new life, eternally.

Having a baby changed my life. After experiencing new life spring forth from my body four years ago, I am looking at the celebration of Easter from a whole new perspective. God's love and grace have created a new heart in me. It isn't a theory anymore. The new life of spring doesn't just mean baby sheep, baby bunnies, chicks and buzzing bees. Now I witness the miracle of new life every day. Sophia, my daughter, enriches my soul with miraculous lessons. Every moment is precious. I am a student of life, once again. I am continually trying to learn from her. I want to look at every single thing with "new eyes," with a sense of childlike wonder.

Life is meaningful; even with its ups and downs. *The mountaintop defines the valley; and the struggle in between has no meaning without both of them.* In the middle of our journey, sometimes this meaning is not clear to us. But even if we are struggling, faith gets us through. Our faith reminds us that eventually the stone will be rolled away. Our faith reminds us that in the end, Jesus Christ is Lord, and "every knee shall bow before him." (Philippians 2:10) Our faith reminds us that God is in control. It teaches us that God's grace creates, sustains, and maintains us, not only at Easter, not only at springtime, but for eternity.



MARCH CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report

Worship

- Special worship services
 - February 22nd Marie Wagner funeral
 - March 2nd Ash Wednesday
 - March 6th Communion Sunday

Administration

- I attended the scheduled meetings, when possible.
- I took two days off for vacation last month (I was sick that week)
- February 23rd Visioning Meeting
- February 24th Outreach Meeting
- March 3rd ELC Board Meeting
- March 9th Worship and Music Committee meeting
- (Upcoming Meeting: Pastor Parish Relations Committee will meet on March 16th at 6:30PM.)
- (Upcoming vacation: March 21st to March 24th I will use two days of my vacation.

MARCH CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Pastoral Care

- Home, Hospital and nursing home visits (2)
- Office/lunch meeting (1)
- Phone calls/Facebook private messages (10+) to our members

Christian Education

- The Official start for the Grief Group is Friday, March 18th
- We have started another Sunday School Class. Marsha Reiber is leading it on the Book of Psalms.
- The Men's Group will meet later this month. Brad Jacobs is leading it.
- Confirmation class meets twice monthly. Next meeting is March 27th.

New Business-

- A. The following vacation dates for Maira have been approved by Marsha: May 6, 9 & 10 (she will try to find someone to cover in the office 9am-12pm).
- B. Margaret E. Moul (non-profit agency) emailed Maira looking for a space to have a meeting on April 23 from 8am-4pm. Maira sent them the request form but haven't received it yet. Thoughts on waiving fee and just charge them the refundable \$25 key deposit?
 - a. It was agreed to allow Margaret E. Moul space and waive the fee
 - b. It was questioned where they might meet since Jane Harrison will be in the sanctuary that morning setting up for butterfly Sunday.

Unfinished Business-

- A. Personnel committee—it was decided that this is part of Church and Ministry
- B. Pastor/Parish relations committee
 - a. This committee will also be under Church and Ministry
 - b. This committee includes: Brad and Sue Jacobs, Jane Harrison, Tim and Katie Bentzel, Marsha Reiber and it was decided that Reen Bentzel or Janene Beck should also attend meetings since this committee falls under Church and Ministry
 - c. The first meeting will be March 16, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Church and ministry -

- ELC Staff and Director Job Descriptions were reviewed by committee members; Next step is to use the information on them to create Teacher and Director Evaluation Documents.
- Janene is gathering information from other local churches on what they charge for weddings and funerals as a church—and compile the information and present a document at the next Consistory meeting.

Worship and Music-

- Sun. Apr. 10 – Palm Sunday Brunch (Buffet)- 9:45 - 10:45 in room 100 (No Sunday School)
- Daffodil Day is March 27
- Lily and Tulip Sale is currently underway \$7.00 each

MARCH CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

- April 10 - dedicate new candlesticks, vases, bible stand
- April 14 - Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 PM - communion
 - Dani Bentzel agreed to stream the service
- April 15 - Good Friday service at 12pm - Zion UCC has been invited to join us. (Susan Emmons is currently their interim pastor)
 - The service was requested to be streamed
- April 17 - Easter - communion
- April 24 - Butterfly Sunday, ELC Sunday, new members will join
- May 1 - Music Sunday - contribution to Friends of Limon instead of individual awards due to nature of participation during the pandemic - considering a luncheon for participants in music programs following the 11:00 service
- May 22 Picnic at Sunset Lane Park - 10:00 church service. 11:30 - lunch / pot luck for sides and desserts - hotdogs and burgers - individuals provide own place settings and beverage
- Looking to get a sign made - "Shiloh UCC" - to put up at the picnic and other church activities
- Still working on getting vases to fit what we have, what was purchased does not work
- Next meeting is Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00 PM in room 202

Outreach/Evangelism -

- Plan to send postcards for Easter Service to encourage attendance (focus on members who have not yet returned to worship) -to be mailed April 4
- Proposed increase in online presence through Facebook - looking for volunteer to help post events/news
- Working with Pastor Melinda to orient/welcome new members
- Next meeting is Thurs. March 24 at 10:00 PM in room 202
- Family and Children Ministry Coordinator
 - This is an idea from the Visioning committee based on a suggestion during Pastor Danneberger's time at Shiloh UCC
 - This may be passed on to Church and Ministry to expand the job description, etc. and eventually combine with Youth Ministry
- Next Visioning committee meeting is March 30, 2022

Church Life -

- Coffee connection has started in the Parlor and is slowly growing

Youth Fellowship -

- Easter Egg hunt for ELC & church member on April 10th from 2:00-3:00pm
- Collections for Eggs and candy are being accepted, trying to get 600 eggs to use
- The ELC teachers will help fill the eggs

MARCH CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Christian Ed. –

- Marsha Reiber is leading the curriculum, Journey Through the Psalms, and it is going over very well

ELC -

- Advisory Board Meeting February 3.
- Registration continues to be going well.
- Hero Baskets loved by hospital staffs. One hero basket was sent back for the ELC students to have; Wonderful examples of “Passing it On”
- ELC Sunday is April 24th along with Butterfly Sunday.
- Fun Day is May 17th 9:30 - 11:30 am - Would we want to have a Lollipop stand with prizes and inside the prize bag perhaps could be an invitation to come to Shiloh UCC? Plan would include prizes to be given to all attending children, about 250. Cost of plan would be approximately \$500
- One staff member leaving after this year.
- Allison has a vision to secure another room to set up a “Sensory Area” that does not need to be taken down each day. Is there a room available to do this? (Kitchen manipulative area, Interactive play area)
- On May 16 at 9 am all of the ELC teachers (total of 15) have a staff meeting. Would we provide a light breakfast for them as appreciation?
- Consistory agreed that this was doable—maybe a continental breakfast with juice
- Next Meeting is April 7 at 5 pm in Room 100

Communication and Technology –

- Media quotes came in around \$28,562.70
 - This was brought to the congregation for consideration and the overwhelming majority of the feedback was to move forward with upgrading both audio and video
 - Following a Sallie Hagerman/Jane Harrison motion, the Consistory voted to move forward with the upgrade of both audio and video pending a new quote for our needs
 - The money will come from the \$33,034.76 (as a beneficiary of the Mary Emma Elicker estate), if any other contributions are received for the media upgrade, the money will be returned to this fund.
 - Dani Bentzel will contact Lew Wallace to move forward with the upgrade, minus the rear t.v. option, and pending a new quote reflecting this change
- Recording Children’s sermons/Sunday School
- Talked to Jaron about posts on Facebook;
 - Can post things from the UCC, Association, etc.
 - Hopefully going to start posting about events such as choirs, men’s breakfast, committee meetings, etc.

MARCH CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Stewardship-

- The Committee will next meet on Tuesday, April 19th @ 6 PM.
- With the name change of this committee from Stewardship to Missions, it was agreed to move this committee, as a bullet point, under the Worship and Ministry Group

Property Committee-

- Governor has authorized state police to conduct security assessments for places of worship at no charge. Working on confirming visit. Will work on securing a grant, if available, after assessment is completed.
- Discussions ongoing with neighboring businesses using our parking lot during the week.
- Property Committee met on 3/7. Projects for immediate attention include cleaning sanctuary windows, replacing front porch carpeting, sanctuary lighting upgrade and the possible removal of the oak tree in front of church.
 - Looking for volunteers to help with cleaning the windows
 - Considering replacing windows—getting estimates for the worst windows, hoping they would come under \$100 and possibly get families to sponsor windows
 - Boy Scouts have offered to help with church projects
 - Upcoming—possibly replace single/double wooden doors to the Meditation Garden, roof repair, asphalt parking lot
- Kitchen upgrade planned for end of ELC school year.
 - Remove the griddle and install a 3-bay sink to come in to compliance
 - Remove top cabinets
- Remove wooden countertop and have stainless steel rolling carts

*Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Reiber, Consistory President*

CORRECTION

The Brass Altar Vases/Liners- that were purchased last month cost \$149.99, not \$1491.99. We apologize for the error.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



The Early Learning Center was blessed by a beautiful yet very busy month of March. The weather seemed to settle a bit and we are hoping that the snow is completely behind us!!

March was filled with many wonderful themes and special days. We began the month celebrating Dr. Seuss with a “theme” for each day of the week. A Tai Kwon Do demonstration from Master Bob and a worm lesson from York County Solid Waste Authority were both enjoyable and informational. Finally, kites, weather, rainbow and St. Patrick’s Day fun rounded out this wonderful month.

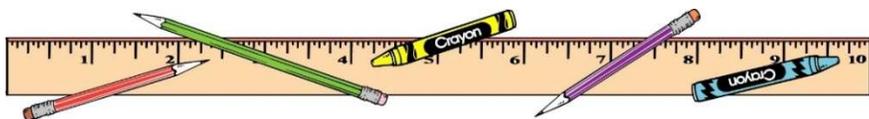
March was also the start of our parent teacher conferences. The teachers of our four-year-old classes met with each parent to share about their child’s growth since the fall. These conferences will continue next month with our two and three-year-old students.

April is shaping up to be just as exciting and busy for the children. We will explore units on rain, clouds, farms, spring, and Earth Day. Our students will enjoy Easter Egg Hunts both in their classrooms and on Sunday, April 10th hosted by the Shiloh UCC Youth Fellowship. The Pre-K students will be gearing up for ELC Sunday on April 24th by practicing their many Bible songs. Finally, each class will experience through Bible lessons, songs, and crafts the amazing story of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Our registration for the 2022-2023 school year is going very well and many of our classes are filled. Please continue to spread the word about the Early Learning Center.

Thank you for all your support and guidance.

Allison Hartnett, Director



Easter lilies and tulips will brighten our worship on Easter Sunday (April 17). The cost is **\$7.00** and orders are due **by April 3**. Envelopes are available in the narthex and church office. You can turn them in at the office or put in the offering plate. Please consider helping to make the church a lovely place for Easter morning!

The **Women’s Guild** will be meeting **April 4** at 1:00 pm in room 202. The program will be from our study book **Leading a Life of Balance, Chapter Three: Balancing Schedules and Interruptions**. Susan Reidy will be leading this chapter. *We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.*



EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH!



On **Palm Sunday, April 10**, there will be a brunch buffet during the Sunday School hour - **9:45 to 10:45 in room 100**. We will not have Sunday School on this day. We hope to see you all there!

Food will be provided by Consistory committees. There will a sign-up sheet in the Gallery.

We are hosting an **Easter Egg Hunt** for the **ELC on Sunday, April 10 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.** We are in need of plastic eggs and candy to fill them. There will be a basket in the gallery for the collection. Please drop off any donations by April 4. We are hoping to fill about 600 eggs!



Engaging Women will be meeting on Tuesday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. They will continue with the book called “The Power of a Woman’s Words,” by Sharon Jaynes.



We are asking you to save this date. **Sunday, May 22!** We will be holding the annual church picnic in a pavilion at Sunset Lane Park. A worship service will begin at **10:00 AM, followed by lunch.** Look for additional details in the May Communique and upcoming bulletins. We are hoping many of you will plan to attend.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family and friends of **Dennis Heath** who passed away on February 20. A memorial service is scheduled for April 9, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at Leber's Funeral Home. Visitation will be held prior from 1:00-2:00 p.m.



Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Dennis Heath** from Beverly Gerberick.& Joan Hamme.

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Mary Rodgers** from G.L & J. L. Knott.

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Marie Wagner** from Jay and Joyce Mummert.

Dear Shiloh UCC Members and Friends,



Thank you for all the cards, thoughts, prayers, stories and words of encouragement we received in memory of Dennis Heath. They are important in the healing process and mean so much. We have learned how many people Dennis touched over his 60 years.

The Heath family

APRIL BIRTHDAY'S

April 1 Marguerite Lochman
Matthew Schmidt

April 2 Cindy Dunn
Stephen Lighty Jr.
Doris Robertson

April 3 Mark Bentzel
Wanda Bentzel
Nolan Hull

April 5 Deborah Werner
Steven Wilt

April 6 Cole Davis
Pamela Hamme
Randy Seifarth

April 10 Leon Leber

April 11 Howard Cramer
Allison Edgar
Inisity Jones

April 13 Kaitlyn Kruza

April 15 Dennis Ball
Sandra Fox
Kaitlin Rentzel

April 16 Aidan Jacobs
Sue Trimble



APRIL BIRTHDAY'S (Cont'd)

- April 17 Marsha Reiber
- April 18 Rosemary Bentzel
Troy Bowers
Richard Gruver Jr.
Raymond Sechrist
- April 19 Lori Behler
Joanne Overmiller
- April 20 Ken Goodyear
- April 22 Andrew Gaetjen
- April 24 Milton Hoak
Donna Robertson
Stephen Sechrist
- April 25 Kendall Garbacik
- April 26 Amanda Bentzel
Jay Mummert
- April 28 Uble Frost
Marc Glatfelter
- April 30 Hunter Betz



- May 1 Spring Music Sunday
- May 8 Mother's Day
- May 16 Anniversary Sunday/Member Recognition
- May 22 Church Picnic
- May 26 Ascension Day
- May 30 Memorial Day (Office Closed)



NEWS of the 26 Churches
of the York Association

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YA Email: YAPCCUCC@aol.com
*Partners in Blessing – Cooperative Mission,
Cooperative Ministry*

Walk With Us

On Saturday mornings in April from 8-10am, you are invited to walk with and appreciate together the beauty of God's creation in our county parks. If it is raining on a Saturday morning, the rain date will be the following Sunday afternoon, except Easter, from 3-5:00 pm. Questions? Contact Dave Martin at davidkmartin6@gmail.com or 716-946-7349.

April 2	<i>"For the beauty of the earth"</i> (soil and land): Heritage Rail Trail, Brillhart Station
April 9	<i>"For the glory of the skies"</i> (skies and air): Rocky Ridge, second (eastern) parking lot
April 16	<i>"For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies"</i> (water, streams, rivers, oceans): Gifford Pinchot dam (Rosstown Rd.)
April 23	<i>"Friends on earth and friends above"</i> (animals and birds): Nixon Park (off of Valley Rd., no dogs)
April 30	<i>"Hill and vale and tree and flower"</i> (trees & plants): John Rudy Park, trees, & gardens (south parking off of Mundis Race Rd.)

Saturday, April 30th, 8am – noon

Celebrate Arbor Day and Nature recreation in our local county park.
York Association Community Outreach fellowship event Eastern Hemlock Pavilion @John Rudy County Park - www.youtube.com/watch?v=rc3hc7K0dNE
Schedule:

- 8am - 10am** Walk With Us – Join Rev, David Martin in the last of 5 April nature walks – “to appreciate together the beauty of God’s creation in our county parks”.
- 8am- 11am** Breakfast snacks/beverages Hot & Cold Coffee or Tea, Yogurt, Oatmeal Bars, Fruit
- 9am – Noon** York County Beekeepers Assoc – Display/demo
- 9am – Noon** Tree Movie (10 minutes) - Nixon Park Tree Tenders - Dr Seuss “Lorax” Movie- Who will save the trees?
- 9 am- Noon** Photo Scavenger Hunt – venture around the park to capture Nature in her glory. Gift for participation.
- 11am-11:30** 2 NEW “Historic” tree plantings. PA Master Gardener – Dean Emig @Historic Tree Arboretum Bartlett Tree Experts -100 tree giveaway - tips in planting

St. Paul's UCC Stoverstown, 2173 Stoverstown Road, Spring Grove
Soup Sale, April 2, 2022: Ham & bean, chicken corn, & gluten free chicken corn soup available. Pre orders only. Call 717-225-4497 to order by 3/26.

CONSISTORY

Elders

Marsha Reiber, President
Norina Bentzel, V. Pres.
Sallie Hagerman, Secretary
Jane Harrison
Jeff Hershey
Matt Hildebrecht
Nathan Limbert

Deacons

Janene Beck
Dani Bentzel
Carolyn Poff
Stephen Sechriest

Natalie Fuhrman – Treasurer
Stephanie Berkheimer – 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**
Please call for an **Thursday 9 AM-11:30AM & 6-8:30 PM**
appointment **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
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