

Shiloh United Church of Christ

2251 Willow Road, York, Pennsylvania 17408

717-764-3569

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 9:15 AM

Our Mission Statement

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

MEDITATION

"Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not." - C.S. Lewis

THE PRELUDE TO CHRISTIAN WORSHIP. "As We Gather At Your Table". Lau

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Lord, open our hearts this morning to hear your words of compassion.

All: Lord, help us to truly listen to you.

One: Lord, open our spirits this morning to strengthen our faith.

All: Lord, help us to work for you.

One: Lord, make us ready to serve.

All: Lord, make us ready to witness to your healing love. Let us worship God!

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy One, we call upon your name, for we know that your name and favor are more precious than human riches. You hate wickedness and abhor the neglect of your people. You call us to righteousness, to reach out to others with justice and mercy. You teach us right from wrong, that we may truly live in your grace. In the shadow of that grace, we offer compassion and mercy to others. Abide with us this day, that we may serve you forevermore. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN. "Rejoice, You Pure in Heart". #55

Rejoice you, pure in heart, Lift praises to the sky your festal banner wave with joy the cross of Christ raise high Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!	Bright youth and seasoned age, Strong souls and spirits meek Raise high your free exulting song God's wonderous praises speak. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!	With voice as full and strong As oceans surging praise Send forth the hymns the saints have loved The songs of ancient days. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
	Yes, on through life's long path, Still chanting as you go From youth to age by night and day In gladness and in woe. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!	Praise God who rules all worlds The Risen Christ adore. Praise God the spirit, holy fire, One God forevermore! Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we come before you today knowing that we often fall short of your call to love one another well. We allow ourselves to be blinded by wealth and power. We ignore those around us who suffer injustice, poverty, and rejection. We tune out the cries of the poor and those on the edges of our communities. Help us to see your great generosity, hear your word of mercy, and feel your great love for all who need your redemptive grace. Strengthen us to reach out in service to those who are in need. Make us aware of those outside our own communities, that we may see them as your precious children and serve them in humility and joy. May we continue to grow in grace as we learn how to serve you in the name of the great Servant, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (1 Corinthians 2:12)

We have received, not the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit of God.
May we understand the grace and forgiveness
bestowed upon us by God,
that others may find the Kingdom
within us and among us.

EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF CHRIST-John 14:3, 21, 27 (Please wave to one another)

One: Knowing that God has prepared a place for us; knowing that Christ has come to bring us peace, let us greet one another now in the power of God and the glory of Christ's peace.
The peace of God be with you.
All: And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC.....*"The Wedding Banquet"*.....

WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

Psalm 146; Philippians 4:1-9; Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-4

SERMON.....*"The Wedding Banquet"*..... Sally Jane Johnson

SPECIAL MUSIC.....*"Joy is Like the Rain"*.....

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS BEFORE GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

"Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor." Let us celebrate our blessings with generosity as we collect the offering for the benefit of our neighbors in Christ.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** "Doxology"..... # 780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous God, you have made rich and poor, powerful and vulnerable alike in your image. Bless the gifts we have gathered today that we may use them to protect the afflicted and bring greater justice to your world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**.....*"Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing"*..... # 303

<p>1 Rejoice, give thanks and sing Your sovereign God adore. For Christ has robbed death's sting and triumphs evermore. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice Rejoice again, I say rejoice.</p>	<p>2 Our savior Jesus reigns, The God of truth and love. The lamb who purged our stains in crowned with Power above. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice Rejoice again, I say rejoice.</p>
<p>3 Christ Jesus cannot fail To rule both earth and Heaven. The keys of death and hell are to the savior given. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice Rejoice again, I say rejoice.</p>	<p>4 Rejoice in glorious hope For Christ the judge shall come. And take the faithful up to their eternal home We shall soon hear a heavenly voice. Above the trumpets sound. "Rejoice!"</p>

BENEDICTION

May you care for those who are left out, may you comfort those who are lonely, and may you never be left out or lonely yourself. And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now, be in your homes and in your families and with all those whom you love and for whom you pray, now and always. Amen.

POSTLUDE.....“He’s Got The Whole World In His Hands”..... Livingston

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU JOINED US FOR WORSHIP TODAY!

- **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of Rovena Robertson for her birthday on September 2nd by the family.
- **THE BULLETINS** are dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of Robert S. Limbert and Robert E. Crone.
- **LITURGIST:** Natalie Fuhrman
- **USHERS:** Rosemary Bentzel & Jackie Taft
- **GREETERS:** Gladys & Joe Seigman
- **NURSERY DUTY:** Tim & Katie Bentzel
- **VIDEO TEAM:** Reen Bentzel, Dani Bentzel, Lew Wallace, Matt Hildebrecht, Sallie Hagerman, Jaron Flickinger

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

Morning Prayer (*Psalms 119: 105-112*)

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws. I have suffered much; preserve my life, LORD, according to your word. Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws. Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law. The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts. Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end. Amen.

Evening Prayer (*Psalms 121*)

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Amen.



PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Chuck and Sandy Baboian, Julene Bechtel, Jim Sr. and Rosemary Bentzel, Rosabel Bentzel, Oscar Bupp, Bev Kirk, Donna Krone, Dottie Limbert, Catherine Lochman, Marguerite Lochman, Arlene Myers, Joanne Overmiller, Randy Reisinger, Mary Rodgers, Vanessa Seifarth, Stewart and Marie Wagner, Elva Winter.

THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES

The Hamme Family, The Limbert/Crone Family, The Behler Family, The Elicker Family., The Burg/Missinger Family.

From Our Missionaries



Our missionary **Sally Jane Johnson** will be visiting Shiloh until **September 13th**. If you would like Sally to join any of your group meetings or invite her for dinner, please contact the church office to get on her calendar. It has been several years since she has been here and she is excited to come and reconnect with old and new friends.



As a reminder, the office will be **closed on Monday, September 6** in observance of **Labor Day**. The office will also be closed on **Tuesday, September 7**.



Beginning **September 12**, there will be an adult discussion class meeting in Room 100 during the Sunday School hour from 9:45-10:45 AM, led by Jen Miller. We will be using **The Wired Word** which relates current events to Scripture passages and encourages class dialogue on how to apply God's word to everyday life. We will go immediately into our discussion without any opening program. Anyone, regardless of age, is invited to join us for this study. The class will join the Visioning Committee's discussion group, **Share our Story**, which will begin on September 26, also in Room 100. When the Visioning Committee discussions end, we will once again go back to **The Wired Word** for the remainder of the year. Please consider joining us as we explore our faith through these discussions.



Engaging Women will be meeting again starting **Tuesday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. We will be doing a book study called "The Power of a Woman's Words," by Sharon Jaynes. Sally Curren will be ordering books for anyone who is interested in joining us.

Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday Sept 26th from 9:45 to 10:45. Youth will meet in Room 117. Be on the lookout for more classes and small group sessions as the year progresses.



Starting on **Sunday, September 26**, between the two church services the **Visioning Committee** will host a discussion group called **SOS which stands for "share our story"**. This group will meet in **room 100** and will be discussing many topics including the history of Shiloh UCC, the culture of our church, and what our future Sunday School classes should look like and be called, as well as many other topics that arise. At no time are we trying to rewrite Shiloh UCC's story, or change anything that already is working well, but rather begin writing the next chapter. **This needs the participation of the congregation, so please plan on participating in all or some of these group discussions.**



This years **Stewardship Challenge** is to raise enough money to "buy a farm" through Heifer International. We would like to buy chicks, ducks, honeybees, one sheep, one pig, one goat, one water buffalo, and one heifer. The total cost for those animals is \$1180. Of course we would be happy to buy more animals for our farm if we raise more money then that. Many times the Heifer Project received funds from our Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School. Of course with the Covid Pandemic that was not happening. Also, during Covid our own country suffered, but the third world countries even more so. Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's challenge and put your donation in your regular offering envelope or any envelope and mark it Stewardship Challenge. The challenge will end on October 10th before our many other holiday outreach projects begin.

CORRECTION: The bible study meeting location was listed incorrectly in the Communique calendar. Meetings will continue to be held in room 202. We apologize for the error!

Please contact the office if you're interested in **sponsoring bulletins**. The cost is \$20 and regular offering envelope. Please call the church office **2 weeks prior** your desired date to wording placed in the bulletin. The following dates are still available:



may be placed in your have your "Special"

- SEPTEMBER:** 12, 19 & 26
- OCTOBER:** 3, 10 & 31
- NOVEMBER:** 14, 21 & 28
- DECEMBER:** 5



GROCERY GIFT CARDS = CONTRIBUTION TO CHURCH. Weis and Giant grocery gift cards are available for purchase in the gallery. For every dollar of gift cards purchased, \$.05 is donated to the church by the grocery store. This contribution is used to support our Missionaries, Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson in Costa Rica.

OFFERING is continually being collected for our missionaries, **Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson**.



*“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here at Shiloh UCC, where God is still speaking”*

THIS WEEK

SUN	9:15	Worship/ Guest Preacher, Sally Jane Johnson
MON		Labor Day – Office Closed
TUES		Office Closed
		ELC Classes begin
	6:00	ELC Board Meeting (100)
WED	9:30	Bible Study (202)
	5:30	TOPS (100)
THUR	12-5	Paint Party Fundraiser (202)
	6:30	NA Group (100)
	7:00	Choirs
SAT	2-5	Paint Party Fundraiser (100)
SUN	8:30 & 11	Worship



ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 83

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor..... Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.
pastormelinda@shilohucc.com
 717-764-3609

Pastor Melinda’s office hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Director of Music.....Stephanie Limbert
 Organist Sandra Bamberger
 Missionaries in Costa RicaSally Jane and Crosby Johnson
 Early Learning Center DirectorAllison Hartnett
 Administrative Assistant.....Maira Rivera

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 Facebook Page:..... <http://www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa>

