

# Peace

HE CAME DOWN  
THAT WE  
MAY HAVE  
PEACE.

Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ  
*Second Sunday of Advent*  
December 10, 2023  
8:30AM and 11:00AM

## MEDITATION

*Each day holds a surprise. But only if we expect it can we see, hear, or feel it when it comes to us. Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy. It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity.*

- Henri Nouwen

PRELUDE                    "*Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*"                    Smith

## WELCOME AND CONCERNS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: A voice cries out:

**All: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

One: Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

**All: and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."**

One: Speak to us Lord. As you promised through your prophets Isaiah and John the Baptist, come to us now.

**All: May all the barriers be removed so that we can receive your Word and worship You! Let us worship our Almighty God!**

### \*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Let us pray!

**All: God of winter and starlight, you have promised us your presence: to live among us, to right all wrongs, to bring good things to all who wait for You. In these dark days, we look for signs of your coming: the sounds of children at play, the music that fills our hearts with anticipation, the company of all who serve the last and the least. Make us at home with righteousness, that we may be ready to walk in your holy ways. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN                    "*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*"                    (Vs. 1, 2, 4, 7) #116

*Candle Lighting*

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Isaiah 40, Psalm 85*)

One: God of love and kindness,  
you have promised to renew our lives,  
to be with us in a new heaven and new earth—  
a realm where steadfast love and faithfulness  
embrace forever.

**All: We are afraid of your promised coming.  
We cling to rules we understand:  
the rules of privilege and power.**

One: We are afraid of a world of true justice and peace,  
afraid that you will change the way  
things have always been.

**All: As we wait for you to live among us,  
we confess our unwillingness to see  
that you have always been here.  
Please, forgive our spiritual blindness, loving God.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (*Isaiah 40, Psalm 85*)

One: In God's love and mercy,  
we are given each new day  
for the healing of the world.  
In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

**All: Amen.**

**LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE THE PROMISE OF PEACE**

**CHOIR**

*"Light of Light"*

Advent is a time to turn away from meaningless distractions.

**Prince of Peace, clear our minds and calm our hearts.**

Advent is a time to notice and count our many blessings.

**Prince of Peace, help us recognize all that is good in our lives.**

Advent is a time to let go of bitterness and resentment.

**Prince of Peace, make us slow to anger and quick to forgive.**

Advent is a time to spread peace to the world around us.

**Prince of Peace, open our eyes to the needs of others.**

Today we light two candles – the candle of hope and the candle of peace.  
This second candle reminds us that in sending Christ, God sent us peace  
that passes all understanding. Peace of heart and mind, because through  
God's grace, we were given a Savior. Because of Christ we can live our  
lives with a sense of calm assurance, and we can be instruments that spread  
that peace out into the world.

**\*HYMN**

*"Light of Light"*

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**CLOSING PRAYER**

God of Light, we thank you for the sacrifice you made in sending your  
Son, and we pray today that you will fill us with a deep sense of peace.  
Lighten our anxious moments. Help us keep our minds focused on your  
love and take away our feelings of hopelessness and despair. May we  
remember that we are your instruments of peace and help us to spread that  
peace to the world around us. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

*(All children of God who desire to come forward for the Children's  
Sermon are welcomed. Parent's/caregivers are encouraged to accompany  
their young child(ren) during the message.)*

**\*HYMN**

*"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"*

Insert

**WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY**

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Second Reading: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

**HANDBELL CHOIR**

*"Fantasy on Low, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

*Arr. Tiedman*

Third Reading: Mark 1:1-8

**SERMON**

*"Prepare the Way"*

**\*HYMN**

*"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"*

#117

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT 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 OFFERING BEFORE GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

No matter what we are carrying this morning, or what we face, we are not alone. God is with us. At this moment in our worship, we’re invited to share what we have, so that others may find the same joy and peace that we have known. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Doxology”

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace  
Praise God for gifts of joy and love  
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell  
On earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Let us pray!

**O God, Creator of all that we have and all that we are, no one can utter all your mighty deeds or declare all your praise. Yet accept these gifts, we pray, both as tools of the work of the Gospel and as signs of our pledge to be coworkers in Christ's name. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

#126

BENEDICTION

One: Be people of peace. Let peace live in your heart, and share the peace of Christ with all you meet. Share peace by acting out of compassion and not fear. Share peace by listening to all sides of the story. Share peace by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share peace. As you go out into the wonder of God’s creations, share peace and hope with those you meet.

**All: Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Paxton

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU JOINED US FOR WORSHIP TODAY!

- **VIDEO TEAM:** Lew Wallace, Sallie Hagerman, Dani Bentzel, Reen Bentzel, Matt Hildebrecht, George & Jaron Flickinger & Nathan Limbert.
- **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the glory of God; in honor of Vivian Brenneman and in loving memory of Russell Brenneman and Curvin and Pauline Kindig by Cheryl and Jeff Hershey.
- **THE BULLETINS** are dedicated to the glory of God and special thanks to the Consistory, Pastor Melinda, Choirs, Maira, Video Team and many other volunteers who keep Shiloh UCC worship functioning so smoothly. God Bless You. Joyce and Jay Mummert.
- **LITURGIST: 8:30AM:** Reen Bentzel, **11:00AM:** Joyce Mummert
- **GREETERS: 8:30AM:** Carolyn Poff & Jeanie Bentzel **11:00AM:** Richard & Helen Hodgson.
- **NURSERY DUTY: 8:30AM:** Tim & Katie Bentzel **11:00AM** Jessie Sechriest
- **MUSIC:** Handbell Choir, Sandy Bamberger

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS AND MUSICIANS!



This **Christmas**, we warmly invite you and your family to join us as we celebrate with *JOY* the birth of our Savior and comforter, Jesus Christ.

**Sunday, December 24**

Morning Service at **10:00AM**

Candlelight Services at **3:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

This year’s special **Christmas Offering** will be designated to the ELC Bibles (first \$600) and the balance will go toward the kitchen fund.





## PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

### Morning Prayer *(Christianity.com)*

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of a new day. I offer this day to you. May everything I do today be done with love and for your glory. Guide my thoughts, words, and actions, and help me to be a source of kindness and encouragement to others. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

### Evening Prayer *(Biblestudytools.com)*

Gracious and loving Lord, I thank you for another day of life and breath. Truly, each day is a gift from You. In some ways, this day was as I had planned and expected. I am relieved by those routine moments and ways that I was able to accomplish what I set out to do, even if the steps were small. But in other ways, the day caught me off guard and I found myself feeling helpless, overwhelmed, and tired. I was reminded of my need for You in those moments.

You see everything that is coming and are never caught off guard. I can put my trust and hope in You. I am grateful that You were by my side every step of the day. Thank you for blessing me with your unconditional love. Thank you for blessing me with good and sweet memories. Thank you for the challenges I encountered because I know You will be my ever present help in these times. Thank you, Lord, for this day. I pray all this in Jesus' most holy name. Amen.

## PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Sandy Baboian, Julene Bechtel, Jim Sr. and Rosemary Bentzel, Rosabel Bentzel, Marvel Burg, Helen Byers, Gerry Funkhouser, Joe Jordan, Bev Kirk, Donna Krone, Elaine Krout, Dottie Limbert, Catherine Lochman, Arlene Myers, Joanne Overmiller, Randy Reisinger, Donna Robertson, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Cedric Simpson, Stewart Wagner, Romaine Walton, Elva Winter

## THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES

The Bechtel Family; The Geesey Family; The Shaffer Family



The **2024 Offering Envelopes** are on a table in the gallery and available to pick-up on **Sunday, December 10.**

The next **Shiloh UCC Men's Breakfast** will be held on **Tuesday, December 12 at 8:30 am** at Dover Valley Restaurant. Contact Brad Jacobs for more information.



**Engaging Women will be meeting on Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor** For additional information, contact Sally Curren at dgft25@hotmail.com.

**The Woman's Social & Support Group** will meet for lunch at **Red Lobster** on East Market St. on **Friday, December 15 at 12:00 pm.** Please call Joyce Bowers at 717-767-8966 by December 11 if you plan to attend.



The **2024 Team Lists** for greeters, and nursery duty will be available on Sunday, **December 17** on a table in the gallery. **Please contact the office if you have a change that needs to be made prior to December 17.** The lists will be emailed if you have an email address on file.

It's that time of year to warm up with a nice cup of **coffee** from **Costa Rica!** A new shipment has come in and it includes decaffeinated coffee as well as whole coffee beans for a fresh grind! Please contact Linda Little if interested at 717-309-4523



On **Sunday, December 17**, you are invited to attend a potluck luncheon following the **musical program held at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary.** The luncheon will begin at **11:30 AM in room 100.** Place settings and beverages will be provided. Please plan to join us for good food and fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be in the gallery beginning **Sunday November 26th.** Please indicate how many are attending and the dish you will be bringing to the luncheon. We hope to see you there!

**Annual Reports** for all organizations and committees of the church and Sunday School are due in the church office by **Sunday, December 31 2023.**





The Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc. is conducting a cookie collection and distribution event to provide a little home away from home for truck drivers during the holiday season. Individuals from local churches and other groups prepare cookies and place 6-8 cookies in decorated bags along with a note, tract or Bible verse (Homemade cookies are preferred but we understand if they aren't). Try to package your individual bags in something to preserve their freshness, if possible. There will be a **table placed in the gallery until December 10.** Thank you for caring! Please contact Brian Curren at [bcurren@hotmail.com](mailto:bcurren@hotmail.com) with any questions.

**\*\*Please Note\*\*** Due to ongoing Covid concerns, we are asking you to wear masks and gloves while preparing and packaging cookies and that you seal the bags with staples, bows, etc.

The Soup Kitchen crew is asking for donations of wrapped candy; i.e., any snack-sized wrapped candy or mini candy canes). Please put candy donations in the boxes labeled “**Soup Kitchen**” in the church gallery or kitchen. The deadline for donations is **Sunday, December 17.** We will fill gift bags with the candy and distribute them at Our Daily Bread in December.



Dear Friends,

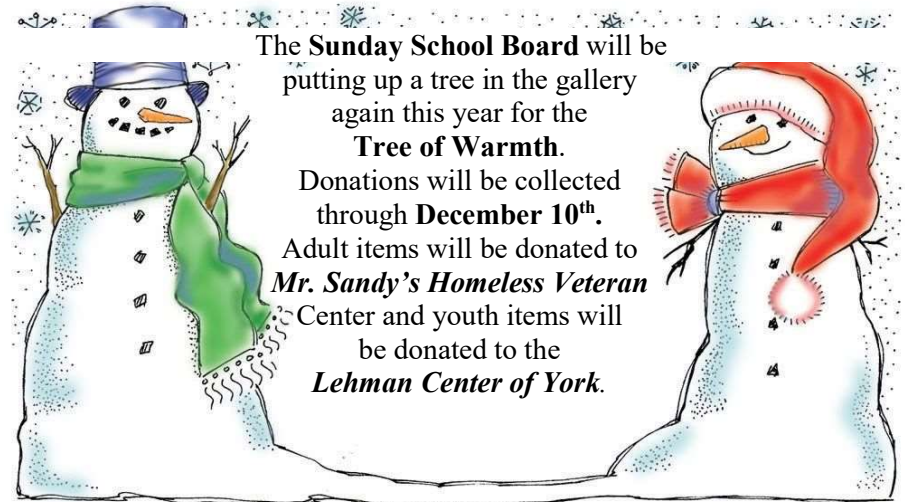
I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful cards and ongoing prayers. God Bless all of you.

*Marvel Burg*

**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.**



The **Sunday School Board** will be putting up a tree in the gallery again this year for the **Tree of Warmth.** Donations will be collected through **December 10<sup>th</sup>.** Adult items will be donated to **Mr. Sandy's Homeless Veteran Center** and youth items will be donated to the **Lehman Center of York.**

*Veteran's Helping Hand* was created by Sandy Walker, a Vietnam Veteran who did not want any of his fellow Veterans to feel isolated or unwelcomed after coming home from war. The mission of *Veteran's Helping Hand* is to provide immediate aid to homeless Veterans and any Veteran that needs assistance. *Veteran's Helping Hand* offers a variety of services including: emergency shelter, mental health counseling referrals, emergency food baskets, clothing, hot meals on weekends and many more!

The *Lehman Center* was started in 1913, by a group of compassionate and dedicated individuals who made a contentious decision to do something to help orphaned, neglected, and indigent children to change their life situation. Today, their team of compassionate and dedicated professionals, volunteers, churches, businesses and community organizations collaborate to create the Children's aid Society. Their vision, is that all children are safe and feel loved by helping them and their families build stronger healthier lives through their compassionate and professional services of; children centered creative art & play therapy, crisis nursery respite care, family advocacy, *Incredible Years* Parent Support & Education groups, children's clothing bank, and their 24-hour Parenting Hotline and York Cares Coffee Spot. The Children's Aid Society is unique in our commitment to help all children and their families regardless of their economic or social circumstances.

The Sunday School Board thanks you for your consideration in donating to these two organizations!

*“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	8:30 & 11	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent/Congregational meeting to adopt 2024 budget/Election of Consistory/Blanket Sunday/Tree of Warmth
	9:45	Sunday School (100) & Wired Word (202)
MON	7:00	Consistory meeting (202)
TUES	8:30	Men’s Breakfast (Dover Valley Rest.)
	6:30	Engaging Women (Parlor)
	6:30	Cub Scouts
	8:00	Men’s Chorus
WED	9:30	Bible Study
	5:00	TOPS (100)
	5:30	Private Event (100)
	6:00	Advent Study (202)
THUR	6:30	NA Group
	6:30	Choirs
FRI	10:00	Grief Group (202)
SAT	12:00	Women’s Social Group lunch (Red Lobster)
SUN	10:00	Worship & Advent Musical
	11:30	Potluck (100)



**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 112**

**THE CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.  
pastormelinda@shilohucc.com  
717-764-3569

**Pastor Melinda office hours: Wednesdays 9AM-12PM & 5-8PM  
Thursdays & Fridays 9AM-12PM**

Director of Music Stephanie Limbert  
Organist Sandra Bamberger  
Missionaries in Costa Rica Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson  
Early Learning Center Director Allison Hartnett  
Administrative Assistant Maira Rivera  
office@shilohucc.com

Website: [www.shilohuccyorkpa.org](http://www.shilohuccyorkpa.org)

Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa](http://www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa)

