

Joy

HE CAME DOWN
THAT WE
MAY HAVE
JOY.

WELCOME TO SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WORSHIP SERVICE
DECEMBER 12, 2021
8:30AM AND 11:00AM

MEDITATION

Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.

~ Mother Teresa

THE PRELUDE TO CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

8:30AM.....“Rejoice and Be Merry”..... Broughton
11:00AM.....“Away in a Manger”..... Arr. Margaret Goldston

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Please stand as you are able and join in the call to worship.)*

One: In times of darkness and fear, God is ever near to love and guide us.
All: Come, Loving God, fill our hearts with joy!

One: In times of happiness and dancing, God is ever near in celebration.
All: Come, Loving God, fill our hearts with joy!

One: At all times and in all places, God is always with us, sustaining, healing, and loving.
All: Come, Loving God, fill our hearts with Joy! Hallelujah! Amen.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your holy presence can bring. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

***HYMN**.....“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”..... #8 (Special Hymnal)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep. The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. In Jesus' Name, we pray. **AMEN.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The messenger has been sent to you, proclaiming that there is One who is Coming who will heal and lead you. Know that this is a great gift from God, who has always and will always love you. Amen.

EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF CHRIST *(Please wave to one another)*

Let us greet each other in Christian Friendship.
The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE THE PROMISE OF JOY

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.
Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In the darkness, we long to see the light.
Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In the silence, we long for a comforting word.
Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In hardship, we long for an act of love.
Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In Christ, we celebrate and rejoice in the promise of joy.
Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Candle Lighting

This morning we light **three candles**. The **first candle** radiates the hope given through Jesus Christ. The **second candle** calls us to embrace and extend Christ's peace to an unsettled world. The **third candle** extends the promise of joy to restless souls. Though darkness is present and earthly trials weigh heavy, the promise of Advent offers true joy that sustains a weary people.

*HYMN. "Of the Parent's Heart Begotten".(Verse 3). #118

CLOSING PRAYER

Gracious Lord, our joy is found in you, for not only did you enter into this world, but you became the hope of the world. From the cradle to the cross, you invite us to share in your victory. This is the fountain from which our joy flows. In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

*HYMN. "Jesus, Name Above All Names" Insert

WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

Isaiah 12:2-6
Luke 3:7-18

SPECIAL MUSIC

HANDBELL CHOIR
8:30AM & 11:00AM. "Christmas Bell Rejoicing". Arr. Ryan

Zephaniah 3:14-20

SERMON "God's Song"

*HYMN. "In the Bleak Midwinter".(Verses 1 & 4). #128

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 OFFERINGS BEFORE GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The scriptures tell us that God will turn things around; there will be new life in the dry places; there will be a strengthening in those of us with fearful hearts. There will be joy. We have the opportunity to participate with God in turning things around in this world. The effort to do so requires a sharing of the gifts God has placed in our hands. Consider now, what part you wish to play in the work of creation.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** "Doxology" (by Roger Lynn)

**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**

Giver of Joy, Everlasting God, we present to you our humble gifts. May they be used to make a difference in the lives of many people. May our sacrifice bring hope and peace and be a sacred reminder of your love in the world. Bless and multiply our gifts by your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN. . . . "Good Christian Men, Rejoice"#2 (Special Hymnal)**

BENEDICTION

One: God has made us Glad; for God will send us a Savior who will teach us how to live peacefully, hopefully, and joyfully. Rejoice people of God, for such is God's great love for us.

All: Hallelujah! Amen!

POSTLUDE

8:30AM. "Advent Noel"Chauvet

11:00AM. "Go, Tell It on the Mountain". Arr. Margaret Goldston

**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 Curvin and Pauline Kindig by Cheryl and Jeff Hershey.
- **THE BULLETINS** are dedicated to the glory of God and in honor of Russ and Vivian Brennehan by Jeff & Cheryl Hershey.
- **CANDLE LIGHTERS: 8:30AM** Ken & Patti Goodyear
11:00 AM Linda Little
- **LITURGISTS: 8:30AM:** Charlie Hull, **11:00AM:** Natalie Fuhrman
- **USHERS: 8:30AM:** Sara Jacoby, **11:00AM:** Helen & Dick Hodgson
- **GREETERS: 8:30AM:** Carolyn Poff, **11:00AM:** Tammy Hildebrecht
- **NURSERY DUTY: 8:30AM:** Nathan Limbert, **11:00AM** Volunteer
- **MUSIC: 8:30AM:** Sandy Bamberger & Handbell Choir, **11:00AM:** Joan Hamme & Handbell Choir

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS AND
MUSICIANS FOR PROVIDING THE WORSHIP MUSIC!**

Celebrate Christmas Eve Services with us on Friday December 24 at 3:00PM and 7:00PM. We look forward to seeing you there!

Pastor Melinda is seeking Christmas Eve readers to assist during both services. Please contact the office if you are interested.



“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”

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

Morning Prayer (By Debbie McDaniel)

Dear God, Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives. Thank you for your goodness and for your blessings. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your sacrifice in Jesus Christ, so that we might have inner freedom and everlasting life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, and for all that you've given us. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Evening Prayer (By Tim Keller)

As I lay down in sleep to safely wake again only by Your grace, keep me in a joyful, lively remembrance that whatever happens, I will someday know my final rising — the resurrection — because Jesus Christ lay down in death for me and rose for my justification. In His name I pray. 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, Stewart and Marie Wagner, Elva Winter, Sue Trimble, Beverly Hoak.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE:

From the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak, Shiloh UCC has relied on Community Transmission rates (i.e. low, moderate, substantial, high) to guide our recommended precautionary measures. Our benchmark for social distancing and masking requirements go into effect when transmission rates in York County reach substantial (50-100 cases/100,000 and percentage of positive cases >5%). As of December 9, the Community Transmission rate for York County is **HIGH** (540/100,000 and positivity rate is 22.86.%).

THIS WEEK

SUN	8:30 & 11	Third Sunday in Advent/Blanket Sunday/Tree of Warmth
	9:45	Sunday School
MON	7:00	Consistory (100)
TUES	6:30	Cub Scouts (100)
	6:30	Cemetery Assoc. (202)
	6:30	Engaging Women (Sanct.)
	8:00	Men’s Chorus Rehearsals
WED	7:30	Soup Prep
	9:30	Bible Study (202)
	10:15 & 1:15	ELC X-mas Programs (100)
	5:30	TOPS (100)
THUR	10:15 & 1:15	ELC X-mas Programs (100)
	6:30	NA Group (100)
	6:30-7:30	Choirs
FRI	10:15 & 1:30	ELC X-mas Programs (100)
SUN	8:30 & 11	Fourth Sunday in Advent/Musical Program



ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 120 (CONCERT – 52)

THE CHURCH STAFF

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

Pastor Melinda office hours: Please call for an appointment
Wednesdays 9AM-2PM & 5-8PM
Thursdays 9:00-11:30AM & 6-8:30PM
Fridays 9AM-2PM

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



www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa



Beginning **November 28**, 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 12**. We will fill small gift bags with the candy and distribute them at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen in December. Thank you!

Consistory has started a **special fund** for making renovations and improvements to the church's kitchen and social hall (Room 100). This year's special **Christmas Offering** will be used to help build this



The **Sunday School** will again collect items for the **Tree of Warmth**. We will start collecting gloves, hats, scarves and other warm items from **November 7th through December 12th**. All youth items will be given to the Dover Clothes Closet. Adult items will be given to York Giving Helping Hands to hand out to those in need. Thank you for your support!!



The **Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.** is conducting a cookie collection and distribution event. Individuals from local churches and other groups prepare homemade cookies and place 6-8 cookies in decorated bags along with a note, tract or Bible verse. These bags are dropped off at the trailer and then distributed to the local truck stops, trucking depots, restaurants, motels, and businesses to be handed out to drivers, employees and motel guests. The purpose is to let our truckers and travelers know that we are thinking of them and to provide a taste of home while they are on the road. **This year at Shiloh there will be a table placed in the gallery near the parlor on Sunday November 28 to collect cookies until December 12**. On the twelfth the cookies will be collected and taken to the Carlisle Trucker's Ministry. Please contact Brian Curren with any questions.



Annual Reports for all organizations and committees of the church and Sunday School are due in the church office by **December 31, 2021**. If you are unable to meet this deadline due to financial reports, etc., please notify the church office.



2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be available on a **table on the 2nd floor of the welcome center**. Please pick up your envelopes and any family members' envelopes.

THE 2022 TEAM LISTS FOR GREETERS, USHERS, NURSERY AND OFFERING DUTY are available in the gallery.



Engaging Women will be meeting on **Tuesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. They will continue with the book called “The Power of a Woman’s Words,” by Sharon Jaynes.



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



GROCERY GIFT CARDS = CONTRIBUTION TO THE 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.