



**Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ
Third Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022
8:30AM and 11:00AM**

MEDITATION

"Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace, be born again into our world. Wherever there is war in this world, wherever there is pain, wherever there is loneliness, wherever there is no hope, come, thou long-expected one, with healing in thy wings."
- Frederick Buechner (From The Hungering Dark)

PRELUDE: 8:30 & 11:00 AM "Angels We Have Heard on High" Birchwood

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are always looking for evidence that God is with us.

All: That sign is in the One to come- the One that God is sending.

One: We want to know for sure that everything is in God's care.

All: And so we cry to the heavens in our distress. Our cries are heard! God is responding in love.

One: Let us come before God with expectant hearts and spirits!

All: Let us be ready to receive the blessed gift of the Savior. Let us worship Emmanuel, God-with-us!

***HYMN** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Vs. 1, 3, 5-7) #116

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Let us pray!

Lord of all life, help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us this morning. Like Joseph, may we trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace. Restore in us a childlike wonder, and a belief that dreams really do come true. We call on your name. Be with us and in us, Emmanuel. Amen.

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE THE PROMISE OF LOVE

CHOIR

"Hope Is a Star"

In this season of Advent, we remember that Christ's coming: will bring us love.

For those who are forsaken and alone: **Christ will bring us love.**

For those who are angry and hostile: **Christ will bring us love.**

For those who have turned away from personal interaction: **Christ will bring us love.**

For those who are pariahs, touched by scandal: **Christ will bring us love.**

Candle Lighting

Today, we light **four candles**. The first candle lights the way to hope. The second is for a world at peace. The third is for the joy of anticipation as we wait for the Christ child to be born. Finally, the fourth candle warms our hearts with the love Christ will bring us.

***HYMN** "Hope Is a Star" Insert

CLOSING PRAYER

O Lord God, there is nothing greater than the love you showed us when you have your only Son to a world in dire need of his ministry. Help us to accept this love freely into our hearts so we can become more faithful vessels of your glory. We pray this in your name, O God. Amen.

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 and in celebration of Dick Hodgson's 89th birthday by his wife Helen.
- **THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration of my 95th birthday on December 21st by Chris Hoover.
- **THE BULLETINS** are dedicated to the glory of God and in honor of Russ and Vivian Brenneman.
- **ACOLYTE: 8:30AM:** Carol Burn **11:00AM:** Keith Krout
- **LITURGIST: 8:30AM:** Patti Goodyear, **11:00AM:** Kendra Tredway
- **USHERS: 8:30AM:** Wilbert & Charlotte Mickley **11:00AM:** Bryan & Laura Metzger
- **GREETERS: 8:30AM:** Jeanie Bentzel **11:00AM:** Steve & Sue Besecker
- **NURSERY DUTY: 8:30AM:** John Reiber **11:00AM:** Marsha Reiber
- **MUSIC:** Men's Choir, Sandy Bamberger

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

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

Morning Prayer *A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson*

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Evening Prayer *For Sweet Sleep by Lysa TerKeurst*

Heavenly Father, who gives rest to His children – will You wash over me a peace that passes all understanding as I lay down to sleep tonight? I ask that You would ease the load of the burdens I am carrying. My desire is to be an effective mother (father), wife (husband), and friend and I know my attitude, energy level, and spiritual life will not be sufficient to do this if I don't have the deep spiritual rest You long to give me. Be merciful, O Lord, and give sweet sleep to Your child. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Chuck and Sandy Baboian, Julene Bechtel, Julie Beall, Jim Sr. and Rosemary Bentzel, Rosabel Bentzel, Helen Byers, Ross Hopple, Bev Kirk, Donna Krone, Dottie Limbert, Catherine Lochman, Marguerite Lochman, Jay Mummert, Arlene Myers, Joanne Overmiller, Randy Reisinger, Donna Robertson, David Roe, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Cedric Simpson, Sue Trimble, Stewart Wagner, Elva Winter

THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES

The Snyder Family, The Glass/Myers Family, The Anthony/Bentzel Family, The Waddell/Bentzel Family, The Waldron/Myers Family, The Repman Family, The O'Donnell Family





Thanks goes to everyone who purchased poinsettias. They make the sanctuary especially beautiful! Poinsettias can be claimed **after the 7:00 service on Christmas Eve.**



The **Outreach Committee** has initiated a direct mailing project. Postcards will be sent to 1000 families in a 3-mile radius from the church. If you receive a card in the mail, the committee is asking you to **pass it forward.** This means to give it to a friend or family member inviting them to join us for one of the Advent events. We appreciate your help in ‘reaching out’ to the community!

The **Women’s Guild** will be meeting **January 2, at 1:00 pm in room 202.** The program will be from our study book **Leading a Life of Balance. Chapter Eleven: Balancing Our Wishes and God’s Will.** Shirley Lohmann will be leading this chapter. *We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.*



This year’s special **Christmas Offering** will be donated to the UCC Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund which is used to provide assistance to clergy and lay employees who, after years of service to others, now find themselves facing unexpected needs.

Annual Reports for all organizations and committees of the church and Sunday School are due in the church office by **December 31, 2022.** If you are unable to meet this deadline due to financial reports, etc., please notify the church office.



The **2023 Offering Envelopes** are available to be picked up on a table in the welcome center on or before **December 18.**

“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	Fourth Sunday in Advent/Sacrament of Baptisms/Christmas Fund Offering
	9:45	Sunday School (100) & Wired Word (202)
	9:45	Advent Study (Sanctuary)
MON	9:00	ELC Staff/Brunch (100)
TUES	6:30	Cub Scouts (100)
	7:00	Quilt Club (202)
WED	9:30	Bible Study
	5:00	TOPS (100)
THUR	6:30	NA Group
	6:30	Choirs
FRI		Office Closed
SAT	3:00 & 7:00	Christmas Eve Services
SUN	10:00	Informal service with Snacks/Beverages



Happy New Year! **On January 1, 2023** the worship service will be held at **10:00 AM in the sanctuary.** Following the worship service, you’re invited to join friends and family for a fabulous **pork and sauerkraut dinner in room 100.** The congregation is asked to contribute desserts to the dinner. A sign-up sheet is available in the gallery. We hope you are able to join us as we start our year together with worship and fellowship!

The **2023 Team Lists** for greeters, ushers, nursery and offering duty will be available on Sunday, **December 18** before and after worship in the gallery. **Please contact the office if you have a change that needs to be made prior to December 18.** The lists will be emailed if you have an email address on file.



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

Please contact the office if you're interested in **sponsoring bulletins.** The cost is \$20 and may be placed in your regular offering envelope. Please call the church office **2 weeks' prior** your desired date to have your "Special" wording placed in the bulletin.



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.

Attendance last week: 109

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.
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717-764-3569

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