

COMMUNIQUE



December

2021

SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2251 Willow Road

York, PA 17408

Telephone 717-764-3569

Email: office@shilohucc.com

A GROWING CHURCH
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

**“The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
On them light has shined.”
Isaiah 9:2**

December 5 ***Second Sunday of Advent/Christmas Concert***

Malachi 3:1-4
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

“Prepare the Way of the Lord!”

December 12 ***Third Sunday of Advent***

Isaiah 12:2-6
Luke 3:7-18
Zephaniah 3:14-20

“God’s Song”

December 19 ***Fourth Sunday of Advent***

Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm 80:1-7
Luke 1:39-56

“Mary’s Song”

December 24 ***Christmas Eve***

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Luke 2:1-20

“Don’t Be Afraid”

December 26 ***First Sunday after Christmas***

Psalm 98
John 1:1-14
Isaiah 7:10-16

“God Is With Us”

Dear Members and Friends of Shiloh UCC,

A mixture of darkness and light, short days and even longer lines in shopping malls indicate that Christmas is coming. And while we struggle in the dark, the sun is secretly getting ready to return to shine on us again. But before anything new can happen, the darkness must go.

Darkness... Let go of the darkness of the past, and find spiritual freedom in Jesus Christ. Let there be light! Let God’s light shine in your life this Christmas. Let the sweet stories of shepherds, angels, and young, inexperienced parents refresh your soul. Let the healing power of forgiveness purify your heart, so that you can be holy, Christmas lights, shining in a land of deep darkness.

The Christ Child is ready to be born. Jesus Christ is coming to light up the world with hope. Come prepare room for him, by spending time with God and your friends at Shiloh UCC. *Come to church this Christmas.*

Light... Come into the light, and listen to the angels sing... listen to our choirs and bell choir make beautiful music to praise the newborn King. Come and listen to the old-old stories and beautiful carols at our Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 5th at 6PM and to our Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 3PM and 7PM. *Come to church this Christmas and bring your family with you.*

In this busy time of the year, calm your soul and sing “Silent Night” with your family and friends at Shiloh UCC. In the middle of a dark world, let’s rejoice together in the warmth of Christ’s light. Let’s shine together, and be the light of the world for others; let’s join in worship and community, so that we can be empowered by the Spirit to become Christ’s hands and feet in the world.

Have a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas this year!

Pastor Melinda



NOVEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's report -

Worship

- Trunk or Treat advertisement
- October 20th – Chapel time held in sanctuary
- Special worship services were held on
 - October 17th Nora Faust was preaching;
 - October 31st – Memorial Sunday Celebration (Nov. 1st)
 - November 7th – Veteran's Day celebration (Nov 11th)
- Stephanie and I have been working together to schedule music/choirs/musicians/special music and the Christmas Concert

Administration

- I attended all the scheduled meetings, when possible.
- Jaron (and Natalie) thank you for making it possible for people to “donate online” on our website!
- October 19th Jane and I met to pick out special bulletins until Ash Wednesday (which have arrived since then)
- Outreach Team met on October 19th and on October 21st we filled cups for Trunk or Treat advertisement.
- Chapel time held in our Sanctuary for the 4-year-old ELC students (we sang songs, I played the piano and Tank played the guitar for them. It was a lot of fun!)
- October 26th Staff Meeting – Allison was not able to attend
- October 27th – Visioning Team meeting
- November 2nd – Worship and Music Committee meeting
- November 4th ELC Board Meeting
- November 14th – Handbell choir will be playing at both services (and Tank will be preaching)

Pastoral Care

- October 14th – I met with the visitation team
- October 22nd – I visited Hoffman Homes with Carolyn Poff
- Hospital and nursing home visits (2 visit), office/lunch meeting (3 personal meetings)
- Phone calls/Facebook private messages (30+) to our members

Christian Education

- October 24th – Trunk or Treat went very well.
- Confirmation class met twice since our last Consistory meeting

Contact with the larger UCC + local community

- October 17th Nora Foust preached at Shiloh UCC. She is the Associate Conference Minister for Ministerial and Congregational excellence.
- York Association Annual Meeting at Shiloh UCC on November 14th starting at 1:30 PM

NOVEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

New business- Allison Hartnett, director of the ELC gave a brief update regarding the preschool.

- Trunk or Treat was well attended and the attendees really enjoyed it.
- Social distancing was discussed for their upcoming Christmas programs.
- The threes program, which will be held in the Sanctuary, will be limited to 65 people.
- The twos program, which will be held in their classroom, will be limited to one guest each
- The fours program will be held in Room 100 and that room limit is 50 people.
- Bibles have been ordered for the threes.
- Registration has started
- Open House will be held Friday, November 12.
- The year has been going well. None of the preschool children have contracted Covid.
- She also noted the parents are looking forward to Parents Night Out on December 4. Volunteers are needed from the congregation to help with this event.

Unfinished Business-

- A. Sunday, November 14 at 1:30 p.m. is the York Association Annual meeting, which will be held in our Sanctuary. Tables will need to be set up – two tables in the welcome center for registration and one in the front of the sanctuary.
- B. A survey has been created highlighting the immediate need for ushers, greeters, nursery attendants, technology and acolytes for both services, & soup kitchen helpers. As previously noted, Maira is able to expedite the process for getting clearances for nursery duty. The survey will be distributed and also included in the Communique and the website. A reminder was given for responders to include their names.
- C. STSG will be putting finishing touches on the digital sign.
- D. Reduced restrictions – will remain the same for the foreseeable future, with social distancing

Church and Ministry-

- A staff review document is being created for the position of Director of ELC. An ELC teacher review document for staff evaluations for the next review cycle in 2022 is also being created.
- Staff meeting was held October 26, at which time the church calendar was reviewed through the end of December, including special events.
- Maira requested that any bulletin information for November 28 and December 26 be given to her the prior week due to her days off.
- Consistory okayed the use of brass instruments for the Advent season. The Committee is checking on masks for the instruments.

NOVEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

- Reminder that 2021 Annual Reports from all committees are due to Maira by the end of December.
- The slate of vacant Consistory positions for 2022 – 2024 has been secured and awaits congregational approval. Candidates are Jane Harrison – Elder, Nathan Limbert – Elder, Matt Hildebrecht – Elder, Carolyn Poff – Deacon. It was noted there will be a need for a new President and Secretary.
- Consistory will begin a review of the by-laws to consider the addition of another Consistory member for the year 2023.

Worship and Music-

- Poinsettia sale will begin November 14 and end December 5.
- Christmas Concert will be held December 5 at 6:00 PM followed by refreshments in room 100. A request has been made to record the program.
- Replacement candles and plastic holders will be ordered for the Christmas Eve services through Concordia – 250 of each for a total of \$195.
- There will be a price increase of 20% for altar flowers beginning January 2022, due to the massive increase in the cost of flowers.

Church Life- A sign will be made and an announcement made noting that Coffee Connections will now be held in Room 100 starting this Sunday, November 14th, following the 8:30 service in the hopes that more will stay for Sunday School. It was noted that food items to be served at Coffee Connections should be individually wrapped – either with plastic or a small baggie. We will continue to use the big coffee maker. NA said there is coffee in the freezer that may be used for our congregation.

Outreach/Evangelism-

- Postcards will be sent to all members announcing events and services during the Advent/Christmas season
- Flyers will be sent home with the ELC about the Christmas services.
- A new church pamphlet is being worked on.

Pastoral Care and Visitation-Visitation happening via the phone and in person. See visitation report at the end of the minutes.

Youth Ministry-

- Nate reported that Trunk or Treat went well. There was great participation by both the Congregation and with a large number of children attending.
- There is a carol sing in the planning stages for shut-ins and those for whom the holidays may be different this year due to a loss. They are welcome to call in and make a request.
- Nate plans to research the famine for the spring.

NOVEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

ELC-

- November 4 - Advisory Board meeting held, 14 people in attendance, lasted 70 minutes
- October activities included: Duck Donut Fundraiser - raising \$230, Trunk or Treat at the church was well attended by the children and tons of fun, Vision Screenings were completed, Picture Day happened last week, Classroom Halloween parties were held, Chapel Time was held with Pastor Melinda and Tank in the sanctuary with lots of singing, the 4's classes will soon be visiting a Christmas Tree Farm
- 5 students were exposed to CoVid but no ELC students has had CoVid
- Tuition – a 3% increase was approved at this meeting. It is hoped that the teachers will receive a 5% increase.
- 2022-2023 parents will have three opportunities to visit the Preschool and tour the building/classrooms (Nov. 12, Jan. 14 and 15)
- R&K sandwich sale ends on Nov. 8. Delivery date is Nov. 17
- Christmas Programs will take place during the week of Dec. 14 - 17. Shiloh UCC Bibles will be handed out to the 3-year-olds at this time.
- Dani Bentzel reported on the upcoming Parents' Night Out to be held on December 4 from 5 to 8 pm at church.
- Next meeting – January 6 at 5 p.m. in Room 202

Finance Committee and Budget- We had almost \$500 less in budgeted expenses this year to date because we didn't have janitorial services for a period of time.

Communication and Technology-Needs:

- Pastor's monitor
- New sound system and digital screens – Lew has met with another vender.
- Smart TV (65")
- ELC laptop is set up and waiting for Allison to clean up her files so they can be moved.
- Purchased licensing for online streaming. Cost: \$72 or \$143 (difference is using pre-recorded music instead of just singing).
- Online giving was successfully tested and placed on the church website.

Stewardship - It was requested that the Stewardship Committee consider changing its name to Charitable Giving or Missions, to more accurately reflect its purpose. It will be discussed at the next meeting on January 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Property Committee - An elevator outage due to power loss and subsequent service charge resulted in updated service contract terms (eff 01/01/2022) with Kone. New monthly price is \$107 vs. \$104 monthly, which was paid annually in a lump sum. Services are now scheduled quarterly vs. bi-monthly. Elected to pre-pay cost of State testing that is completed every 3 years for another \$7.25 monthly, or a total of \$115 monthly. Kone agreed to forego \$500 service charge for the outage.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Reiber, Consistory President*

MISSIONARY NEWS

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Mat. 28:19-20

This command was given to all of us as believers in Christ, share the Hope of the Gospel wherever we may be. This year we have been putting our Faith into Action. More than ever, we have been reaching outside of church to the hungry, homeless, and lost. During 2021 we have continued to help others food bank program. Frequently those we assisted needed not only physical food, but spiritual as well. They needed to know who Jehovah Jireh is, the God who provides. So, in giving out provisions we also began witnessing, testifying, and praying with those who received.

We also began street meetings every Friday weather permitting and reaching out in the community to share God’s Love with all that we meet. God promises in I Cor. 3 that some will plant seeds, others will water, but God will make it grow. We are God’s fellow workers in the field and God is building his kingdom. So, as we labor, we are believing for a great Harvest and praying that we meet our Core value of being fruitful! Let us not be weary in well doing, planting and watering; for we pray the Harvest will come.



Let us **Go** tell it on the Mountain and Everywhere that Jesus Christ is Born!

Joy to the World!
Feliz Navidad y un Ano Prospero



Crosby and Sally Johnson

Breaking Chains, Sharing God’s Love, Changing Lives

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



The sounds and sights of December are always very festive and fun in the Early Learning Center. We mark this very special month with many meaningful activities. All of our children are busy preparing songs, finger plays and even little musicals to present to their families for our Christmas Program this year. ***We welcome members to join us the week of December 14 in room 100 or the sanctuary during bible distribution. For dates, times and locations, contact Allison or Maira.*** In addition, the children will be making special gifts for their parents that I am sure will be treasured forever!!! Finally, the Bible Lesson this month is the timeless story of the birth of Jesus!! This beautiful lesson will be presented through crafts, songs, Bible reading, puzzles, felt board illustrations and children’s literature.

This month includes many other highlights. Our three-year old friends will be receiving a beautiful Bible, a very special present from the members of Shiloh UCC. What a beautiful and precious gift that our children will cherish for many years. In addition, the members of Shiloh UCC will be hosting a Parent’s Night Out on December 4th. This special event will allow our ELC parents to enjoy a “night out” while their children will be cared for by members of Shiloh UCC and ELC staff. Crafts, movies, a special snack and singing Christmas songs in the Sanctuary are among the festivities of the evening.

As we wrap up 2021, I continue to feel blessed. Our blending of ELC staff, church members and the ELC families has created a beautiful community that has endured many storms and celebrated many triumphs. And it is because of the strength of this community and the support we give each other that we have an amazing preschool.

May your Christmas be warm, peaceful and filled with many beautiful sounds and memories. May your New Year be filled with gratitude and hope!!

Allison Hartnett,
Director



We are updating our volunteer list and we would love to have you involved. We have included a survey for you to take – you only need to fill it out once, but you can do it with your phone, online or with paper. Please consider serving our church, Shiloh UCC. Thank you.



 Let's celebrate! A **Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, December 5 at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary.** It will feature all of the musical groups and volunteer musicians from the church. Refreshments will be served in room 100 following *the concert*. A goodwill offering to benefit the Music Programs will be collected. We hope you are able to join us for an evening of music.

The poinsettia sale will continue until **Sunday, December 5.** Each poinsettia is \$6.50 for a 6 in. pot. They will be delivered for display on Sunday, December 19 and Christmas Eve. You may take your poinsettias home after the 7:00 Christmas Eve service. Thank you for support of this project to help decorate the sanctuary for this important holiday.



 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 fund.



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!!

Just in time for Christmas! Call the York State Fair ticket office at 717-848-2033 to purchase your tickets to see the Christian band For King & Country on July 24th 2022. If you would like to hear what they are like check them out on YouTube.



We are collecting **treats and supplies for the York SPCA and the Raven Ridge Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.** Tags with the needed supplies are hanging on the **Animal Angel tree in the gallery.** We will collect supplies from **November 7th through December 5th.**



The **Sunshine Class** is selling cashews again this year. **The cost is \$7.00 for a half pound bag and \$14.00 for a pound.** They are available in salted or unsalted. We will be making them on **Friday, December 10th and they can be picked up that evening in room 100 from 7-8 p.m. or on the following Sunday morning.** Order forms can be found in the Welcome Center, church office, and room 100, or you may just let a class member know what you'd like to order.

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.



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.



Women's Fellowship **The Women's Guild** will be meeting **December 6 at 1:00 pm in room 202.** A Christmas program will be presented by Pat Roth and Marvel Burg.

We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.

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 in the welcome center. Please pick up your envelopes and any family members' envelopes.

THE 2022 TEAM LISTS FOR GREETERS, USHERS, NURSERY AND OFFERING DUTY will be available Sunday, **December 12** before and after worship in the narthex.



The Soup Kitchen Crew needs volunteers to prepare spaghetti and serve lunch one day a month at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen in downtown York. Shiloh UCC is one of many local churches that support Our Daily Bread by supplying and serving food to those in need. Four volunteers are needed to serve lunch on the third Thursday of the month, and we prepare spaghetti the day before. If you would like to help or want more information, please call Susan Reidy at 610-533-9745 or contact the Church office.



Thank you to my Shiloh UCC Family for their 90th birthday cards and phone calls. Very much appreciated.

God Bless, Gloria Melborn

Dear Shiloh UCC Members,

Thank you for your recent donation to the York County Food Bank! Your generosity and thoughtfulness means the world to our staff, volunteers and of course to the people we serve.

*Warmly, Jennifer Brillbart
President & CEO, York County Food Bank*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$80.00 given to The Salvation Army of York. You are key to touching more lives in York County. With your support, we continue to keep hope alive in those who are going through tough times. Again, thank you and may God richly bless you!

*Sincerely, Bessie Babbit, Major
York Area Coordinator & Corps Officer*

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Anna M. Riale** from Milton & Beverly Hoak.



Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Hilda L. Huss** from Milton & Beverly Hoak.

SHUT-IN LIST

Providence Place 3377 Fox Run Road Dover, PA 17315	Charlotte Rohrbaugh -Room 214 Helen Byers - Room 802 Dottie Limbert -Room 220 Mary Rodgers Room 211
Country Meadows 1900 Trolley Road York PA 17408	Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Wagner Room 204
Manor Care South 200 Pauline Drive York, PA 17402	Mrs. Nan Frost Room 111-A
Pleasant Acres 118 Pleasant Acres Road York, PA 17402	Catherine Lochman Room 309-D
SpiriTrust Lutheran 1801 Folkemer Circle York, PA 17404	Arlene Myers Room 209-A
SpiriTrust Lutheran 750 Kelly Drive York, PA 17404	Marguerite Lochman Room 253
Harmony at West Shore 1910 Technology Pkwy. Mechanicsburg, Pa 17050	Oscar Bupp Room H115
Masonic Village 44 Sycamore Drive Elizabethtown, PA 17022	Elva Winter Apt. 238
Chuck & Sandy Baboian 1876 Marigold Road York, PA 17408	Sally Reiber 1965 Niagara Lane York, PA 17408
Donna Krone 516 Buckthorn Drive York, PA 17406	Joanne Overmiller 2891 Anita Drive Dover, PA 17315

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

December 6	Amie Baker
December 7	Joe Seigman
December 8	Matt Hildebrecht
December 11	Andrew Herrold
December 12	Jason Betz
December 13	Katelyn Davis
December 14	James Baker Joseph Wallace
December 15	Geraldine Funkhouser
December 16	Sallie Harbold Lew Wallace
December 17	Judy Feeser Emma Gaetjen Jessica Shelly
December 18	Kathy Bryant Tammy Hildebrecht
December 19	Gary Burg Richard Hodgson



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S (Cont'd)

- December 20 Janenne Ellis
Elaine Krout

- December 21 Clifton Beck Jr.
Tim Bentzel
Christian Hoover
Lori Kruza
Joan Nusbaum

- December 22 Dawn Davis
Kaylin Mummert

- December 27 Deb Althoff
Michael Hombach

- December 30 Natalie Fuhrman

- December 31 Harry Hamme
Ethan Ness



COMING UP IN JANUARY:

- January 1 New Year's Day (Office Closed Friday, December 31)
- January 2 Communion/Epiphany Sunday
- January 8 Consistory Retreat
- January 9 Installation of Consistory
- January 30 Annual Congregational Meeting

***DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



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

CONSISTORY

Elders

- Marsha Reiber, President
- Norina Bentzel, V. Pres.
- Jaron Flickinger
- Sallie Hagerman
- Jane Harrison
- Jeff Hershey

Deacons

- Sally Curren, Secretary
- Janene Beck
- Dani Bentzel
- Nathan Limbert
- Stephen Sechrist

- Natalie Fuhrman – Treasurer
- Stephanie Berkheimer – Financial Secretary
- Jeanie Bentzel – Church School Superintendent

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

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

**Pastor Melinda office hours:
Please call for appointments**

**Wednesdays 9 AM-2 PM & 5-8 PM
Thurs 9 AM-11:30AM & 6-8:30 PM
Fridays 9AM-2 PM**

- Director of Music
- Organist
- Missionaries in Costa Rica
- Administrative Assistant
- Early Learning Center
- Church Office Phone Number
- Church Email Address
- Website

- Stephanie Limbert
- Sandy Bamberger
- Crosby and Sally Jane Johnson
- Maira Rivera
- Allison Hartnett
- 717-764-3569
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