

COMMUNIQUE



DECEMBER 2023

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



- December 3** *First Sunday of Advent/Communion*
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Isaiah 64:1-9
“Where is God?”
- December 10** *Second Sunday of Advent*
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Mark 1:1-8
“Prepare the Way”
- December 17** *Third Sunday of Advent/Musical*
Psalm 126
Thessalonians 5:16-24
Luke 1:46-56
“Song of Joy”
- December 24** *Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve*
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Luke 1:26-38
“Fearless”
- December 31** *Epiphany of the Lord/ Guest Preacher*
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

NOVEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report-

❖ **Worship**

- October 29th – Memorial Sunday
- November 5th – Communion Sunday
- November 12th – Veteran's Sunday

❖ **Administration**

- October 25th Staff Meeting
- November 1st – Worship and Music Committee meeting
- Sick days taken: 3 (Nov 2,11,12)
- Vacation days taken: 4 (Nov 3,8,9,10)

❖ **Pastoral Care**

- Home, Hospital and nursing home visits (10)
- Office/lunch meeting (1)
- Phone calls (17+); countless text and Facebook messages to our members and friends.

❖ **Christian Education**

- Grief Group – Next meeting on November 17th.
- Advent Study starts on November 29th (we will have 4 sessions on Wednesdays at 6PM).
- Wednesday Bible Study meets every week.
- Two Sunday School adult classes meet weekly in rooms 100 and 202. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers!
- Men's Breakfast group meets monthly.

❖ **Contact with the larger UCC + local community**

- October 18th – Chapel Time with the ELC children.
- October 22nd – Trunk or Treat and Fall Festival.

New business-

- A. Volunteers for Christmas Eve services
- 3pm Reen Bentzel, Jane Harrison, Nathan Limbert, Jeff Hershey, Carolyn Poff
 - 7pm Sallie Hagerman, Dani Bentzel, Jane Harrison, Nathan Limbert, Pat Myers Matt Hildebrecht where needed.
- B. Insurance for Maira.
- Mentioned for consideration Under the Affordable Care Act, it is possible to get insurance for \$100/month.
- C. Nominating Committee Letter

NOVEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

- A letter was submitted to consistory to consider changing back to 1 service for many reasons; the main one being the difficulty in getting volunteers to be on the consistory.
- D. Thanksgiving offering designation
- This is to be divided between the Dover Food Bank and the Salvation Army.
- E. Join The Movement
- This is an online hub concerning antiracism. They are asking for a donation. This was declined at this time.
- F. Time off request forms
- These are given to the president for approval, which in turn will be relayed to the consistory.

Missions-

- Christmas envelopes –the first \$600 will go toward bibles for the ELC and the balance to the kitchen fund.
- The Lent offering will go to the Shiloh Fire Co.
- Next Meeting January 16, 2024.

Church & Ministry-

- Committee Annual Reports due by December 31, 2023.

Worship and Music-

- Dec. 17 - Advent Musical 10:00 service/ potluck lunch.
- Christmas Eve services:
 - 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM & 7:00 PM.
- Christmas Banners-Bright Joy series (Welcome Center/ outside).
- Decorating Dec. 2 at 9:00 AM.
- Will send an email out to ask about Advent Candle Lighters.
- Poinsettia sale - ends Dec. 4 / Delivery Dec. 23.
- Next meeting Dec. 13 via email/zoom.
- Jan. 17 at 7:00 PM in room 202.

Outreach/Evangelism-

- Postcards have arrived - will be mailed USPS Direct Mail Dec. 1 (community), distributed to ELC in Dec. mailed by committee.
- Parents night out - Dec. 2–5pm-8pm, there will be pizza, a STEM activity, bible lesson, and craft

NOVEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Church Life

- We will be having a Thanksgiving dinner in room 100 on Nov 24 at 1pm. A sign-up sheet is in the gallery for anyone interested. Maybe next year this can be extended to the ELC.

Visioning-

- Survey sent to ELC families.
- Decided mission statement would stay as written.
- Proposed a revision of the “About Us” portion on website (looking for someone who is a good writer).
- Continuing the search for a youth/family minister.
- Next meeting - Nov. 15 at 7:00 in room, 202.

ELC-

- Next Meeting November 30, 5 pm, Room 202.
- “Moms in Motion” movement group.
 - Abby Kessler (Allison Hartnett’s daughter) would like to start a movement group for pre/postpartum moms so that they have the opportunity to connect with other moms in similar positions as well as move their bodies.
 - Two days per week, Monday and Friday from 9-10am
 - A percentage of the profits would be donated to the church in lieu of the room usage fee.
 - It was decided, to charge a \$100 deposit for the room usage plus the donation plan proposed.
- The ELC will be asked to put things away on Friday so it is not in the hallways, welcome center, etc. on Sunday mornings.

Finance Committee and Budget

- Current giving is still down but is within the proposed budget for end of year 2023 provided the giving goes up with the upcoming holiday giving.
 - The 2024 budget was reviewed and approved with the proposed changes. The budget will be presented to the congregation on December 10, 2023.

Communication and Technology

- The consistory decided to continue to stream with the use of the information slide stating that we are using a video/music that cannot be streamed and the amount of time the video/music will be playing for the stream viewers.

NOVEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Property Committee

- Kitchen upgrade continues. The new sink is here for Matt to install when time permits.
- More painting to be completed.
- Jeff Hershey has a 50” flat screen T.V. that he would like to install in room 100 next to the projector screen.
- It was suggested and agreed to let the ELC take over the bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs from the welcome center. The items in the case will be displayed in the library.
- The scouts will be at the church on November 18, 2023 starting at 1:00pm to do yard clean-up.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Limbert, Consistory President*



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



MISSIONARY NEWS

Believe and Blessings

As Christmas approaches, I have been thinking about some of my favorite Christmas movies and how many of the movie themes are reflected in the work of Hearts and Hands for Jesus. Many of the story lines are similar to stories in the Bible and the life of Christ.

The movie “Elf” reminds us to be our genuine self and be kind to others. We may lose sight of what is truly important but we can find our way back and it’s never too late to change, the Prodigal son. These are messages we share with our community, especially those who have lost their way. God is always waiting with open arms of love.

“White Christmas” is a big favorite for my family. Did you know Crosby was named after Bing Crosby? Everyone faces hard times and difficulty throughout life. For the months we were without reliable transportation it was VERY difficult to help or support others. My joy comes from loving and serving my neighbors, friends and community. Arranging rides to and from church activities was a challenge; but as the song says, when we “Count our Blessings” we became aware of how God answered our prayer through the support and kindness of others. God is so faithful in meeting our needs even when we grumble. Just remember the Israelites and Moses when they were hungry and questioning where God was in their time of need; and then, there was manna and quail.

As adults we often become cynical and forget the power of choosing to believe. As the child in “Polar Express” shows us, it is all about believing. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to not depend on our own understanding or power, but to trust the Lord with all our heart. Jesus also reminded us when he said, “...With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” Mark 10:27.

As we move toward the celebration of Christ's birth and the coming New Year, I count you and the support of this mission as a **BLESSING** and choose to **BELIEVE** that God will continue to provide for his people.

MISSIONARY NEWS (Cont'd)

May the Joy of Christ's birth be yours this holiday season.

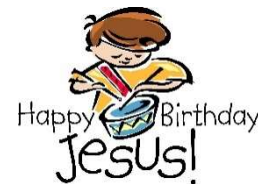


(Made by local Costa Rican artist)

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

The Johnsons

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



It is amazing how quickly the month of November flew by! Our students were busy learning about the meaning of Thanksgiving, turkeys and hibernation. Our teachers focused on thankfulness as we explored and identified the many blessings in our lives. This month of gratitude ended with a delicious and sometimes untraditional Thanksgiving Feast.

The sights and sounds of December are always fun and festive in the ELC. We mark this very special month with many meaningful activities. Our children are busy learning songs, finger plays and mini musicals to present to their families during our **Christmas programs**. **We welcome members to join us December 12-19 in room 100 or in the sanctuary to celebrate this beautiful season with our families and friends.** For dates, times and location please contact either Allison or Maira. In addition, the children have been busy making special gifts for their families which I am sure will be treasured forever!! Finally, the Bible lesson this month is the timeless story of the birth of Jesus.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER (Cont'd)

This beautiful lesson will be shared 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 gift from the members of Shiloh UCC. What a beautiful and precious gift our children will cherish for many years. In addition, members of Shiloh UCC Church Chums will be hosting a Parent's Night Out on December 2nd. This special event will allow our parents to enjoy a "night out" while their children are cared for by members of Shiloh UCC and ELC Staff. The children will be busy making crafts, listening to stories, watching a movie, singing Christmas carols and enjoying pizza and snacks during the festivities

As we wrap up 2023, I continue to feel blessed. The blending of our ELC staff, church members and ELC families have created a beautiful community. It is because of this community and the support and blessings we offer one another that we have an amazing preschool.

On behalf of the ELC staff and children we hope your Christmas may be warm, peaceful, and filled with many beautiful sounds and memories. May your New Year be filled with gratitude, hope and good health.

Allison Hartnett, Director



Adopt-a-Family

Shiloh UCC is sponsoring two families for **Adopt-a-Family**. We are asking for your support **by donating money** for our volunteers to purchase from the requested items on their lists. These families also need daily household items such as: laundry detergent, fabric softener, cleaning supplies, paper towels, paper plates, garbage bags, baggies, Tylenol, storage containers, dish detergent and air fresheners. You can designate Adopt-A-Family on your offering envelope or use a separate envelope which can be placed in the collection plate or mail it in to the office by **December 3**. Please make checks payable to Shiloh UCC. Thank you for your support as we prepare for the Christmas season!



The poinsettia sale will continue until **Sunday, December 3**. Each poinsettia is \$6.00 for a 6 in. pot. They will be delivered for display on Sunday, December 24 and Christmas Eve. You may take your poinsettias home after the 7:00 Christmas Eve service. Ordering envelopes will be in the narthex and gallery Thank you for support of this project to help decorate the sanctuary for this important holiday.

The **Women's Guild** will be meeting **December 4, at 1:00 pm in room 202**. The program will be from our study book **Encouraging One Another. Chapter Nine: "One Another" Actions**. Zoe Bordes will be leading this chapter. Special offering this month is for New Life for Girls and Cash Rally. *We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.*



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 **2024 Offering Envelopes** will be on a table in the gallery and available to pick-up on **Sunday, December 17**.

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.




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** near the parlor beginning **Sunday, November 26 through Sunday, December 10 for donated cookies**. Thank you for caring! Please contact Brian Curren at 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.**



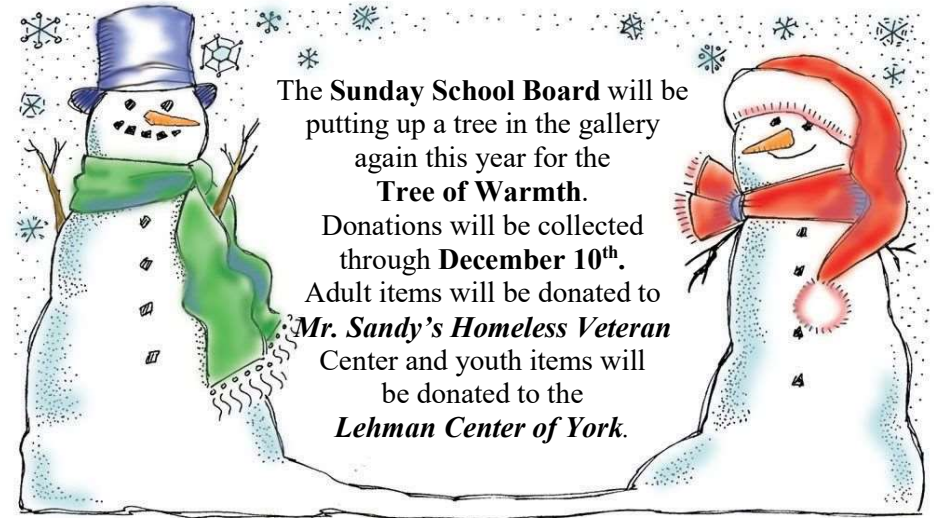
 It's that time of year to warm up with a nice cup of **coffee** from **Costa Rica!** A new shipment has come in and it includes decaffeinated coffee as well as whole coffee beans for a fresh grind! Please contact **Linda Little** if interested at 717-309-4523

As a reminder, the **first Sunday of every month** is food collection for the Salvation Army. The non-perishable food items should be placed in the shopping cart in the Welcoming Center.



 **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 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 **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 10th.** 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!

THANK YOU (Cont'd)

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!



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 17**. We will fill gift bags with the candy and distribute them at Our Daily Bread in December.

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Charles “Chuck” Baboian** from Norene Edgar.



THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Shiloh UCC,



Thank you for your contribution of non-perishable food items to the **Salvation Army** of York. Because of you we are able to show God’s love through the many services and programs we offer.

*Abundant Grace,
Brittane Varano, Director of Development*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$310 to **Lifepath Christian Ministries**. You have my gratitude and that of every person in our care. Wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!

*In His Service,
Patrick Ball, Interim CEO*

Dear Shiloh UCC,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$250 to **Bethany’s Brighter Future Fund**. Your special gift will provide our youth with a new foundation to become empowered young adults with positive goals.

*Sincerely,
Jennifer Koch, Development Coordinator*

Dear Shiloh UCC,

We would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$1585 to **Memorial White Rose Hospice**. We treasure the friendship and support you are giving and with your funds, we’re able to provide the very best medical care to our patients.

*Sincerely,
Susanne Pretty, Executive Director*

Dear Shiloh UCC,

Can you believe it’s already been over 2 years I’ve lived in the parsonage! This home is truly a dream come true for me and my daughters! We’ve made so many memories and many more to come. Jeff and Matt are amazing and I want to thank them for all they’ve done.

*God Bless,
Melissa*



Remember our Shut-ins

Autumn House West 914 W. Market St. York, PA 17404	Stewart Wagner #1120
Providence Place 3377 Fox Run Road Dover, PA 17315	Julene Bechtel Room 613 Donna Robertson Room 212 Dottie Limbert Room 220 Romaine Walton Room 902
Country Meadows 1920 Trolley Road York PA 17408	Mrs. Brenneman Apt 244
Country Meadows Bldg 5 4833 E. Trindle Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17050	Sandy Baboian #508
Pleasant Acres 118 Pleasant Acres York, PA 17402	Catherine Lochman Room 317-D
Rest Haven Rehab 1050 S. George St. York, PA 17403	Helen Byers- Room 106 Charlotte Rohrbaugh Room 661
Spiritrust Lutheran 1801 Folkemer Circle York, PA 17404	Arlene Myers Room 203-A
Masonic Village 44 Sycamore Drive Elizabethtown, PA 17022	Elva Winter Apt. 238

SHUT-INS (Cont'd)

Donna Krone Mrs. 516 Buckthorn Drive York, PA 17406	Mary Berger 7254 Lincoln Highway Thomasville, PA 17364
Joanne Overmiller 2891 Anita Drive Dover, PA 1731512	Karen Bupp 3270 Bull Road York, PA 17408
Rosabel Bentzel 1894 Azalea Drive York, PA 17408	Anna Miller 2340 Grecian Way Apt 58 Clearwater, FL 33763
Ms. Doris Robertson 112 Lookout Ct. York, PA 17408	

COMING UP:

January 1	New Year's Day – Office closed
January 3	Consistory Retreat
January 7	Communion Installation of Consistory
January 14	Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday
January 28	Annual Congregational Meeting

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

December 6	Amie Baker
December 7	Joe Seigman
December 8	Matt Hildebrecht Tom Klunk
December 11	Andrew Herrold



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S (Cont'd)

December 13 Katelyn Davis

December 14 James Baker
Joseph Wallace

December 15 **Geraldine Funkhouser *90**

December 16 Sallie Harbold
Lew Wallace

December 17 Judy Feeser
Jessica Shelly

December 18 Kathy Bryant
Tammy Hildebrecht *60

December 19 Gary Burg
Richard Hodgson *90

December 20 Janenne Ellis
Elaine Krout

December 21 **Tim Bentzel *60**
Christian Hoover

December 22 Dawn Davis

December 27 Deb Althoff
Michael Hombach *80

December 30 Natalie Fuhrman

December 31 **Harry Hamme *70**
Ethan Ness



****PLEASE NOTE MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS!****



The warm miracle of love

It's no secret that a miracle happens every time dedicated supporters donate to CWS Blankets.

Just ask the two churches in Columbus, Ohio that host "The Largest Table." During this monthly event, friends and neighbors experiencing homelessness are invited to share a meal and receive toiletries and items to keep warm, like a CWS Blanket.

"These are the kind of blankets that people carry with them. They pack them up in their roller suitcase or their backpacks," said Pastor Gini, one of the event's organizers.

For those experiencing difficult times, these blankets and other items serve as a warm and comforting reminder that they are loved.

Do you want to be a part of the miracle of sharing love and hope with neighbors around the world?

<p>FLEECE BLANKET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water-repellant • durable • warm • soft • doesn't add bulk • for warmer climates 	<p>WOOL BLANKET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water-resistant • flame-retardant • durable • warm • for frigid temps and extreme weather
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“Shiloh United Church of Christ is called to show Christ’s love for all through witness, word, and worship.”


Mailing Page

CONSISTORY

Elders	Deacons
Nathan Limbert, President	Dani Bentzel
Norina Bentzel, V. Pres.	Judy Clark
Sallie Hagerman	Pat Myers
Jane Harrison	Carolyn Poff
Jeff Hershey	
Matt Hildebrecht	

Natalie Fuhrman – Treasurer
Sallie Hagerman – Financial Secretary
Jeanie Bentzel – Church School Superintendent

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D. pastormelinda@shilohucc.com
Pastor Melinda office hours:	Wednesday 9AM-12PM & 5-8PM Thursday & Friday 9AM-12 PM
Director of Music	Stephanie Limbert
Organist	Sandy Bamberger
Missionaries in Costa Rica	Crosby and Sally Jane Johnson
Administrative Assistant	Maira Rivera
Early Learning Center	Allison Hartnett
Church Office Phone Number	717-764-3569
Church Email Address	office@shilohucc.com
Website	www.shilohuccyorkpa.org
 Find us on Facebook	www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa