

COMMUNIQUE



February 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



Worship Schedule

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 5 | <i>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany / Communion</i> Isaiah 58:1-9a Psalm 112:1-9 Matthew 5:13-20 <i>“This Little Light of Mine”</i> |
| February 12 | <i>Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany / Scout Sunday</i> Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 <i>“You Belong Here”</i> |
| February 19 | <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 99 Matthew 17:1-9 <i>“The Miracle of the Moment”</i> |
| February 22 | <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 Matthew 6:19-21 <i>“The Treasures of Lent”</i> |
| February 26 | <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Matthew 4:1-11 <i>“A Time for Learning”</i> |



Happy Groundhog Day!

On February 2nd we celebrate a strange holiday. We will let go of our sophisticated satellite technology and meteorological science, and focus on a happy little animal's weather forecasting talent. That's right, Groundhog day is right around the corner. Especially here in Pennsylvania, where the famous "official" groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil lives, we will discern the future through our furry little friend.

How long will the winter last? Will Phil see his shadow and return to his burrow (which is bad news for us, because winter will last for 6 more weeks), or will he happily enjoy all the attention of visitors and cameras under some dark clouds? Who knows?... But spring is on her way, no matter what. At least in the hearts of those who will give flowers and send cards to their loved ones on Valentine's Day.

Seasons, years, and days do repeat endlessly, just like in the movie "Groundhog Day," but we can respond to the monotonous repetition in many different ways. We can rejoice at the first sight of an early flower. We can observe how the trees shyly put their first clothes on as the sun starts warming their naked branches.

"Groundhog Day" does not have to depress or discourage us because even though the seasons change quickly, and everything seems the same, we are being transformed and renewed daily.

The God who created our beautiful world, with its Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, the Holy One who created flowers and groundhogs and human beings, loves and cares about us with an immense passion. The greatest love letter sent to us by God is our beautiful world: the colors, the diversity of flowers, animals, and people. When we recognize this, we are inspired to share God's goodness and love with others.

So, even though winter will probably last for another month or so, we can still share warmth and kindness from our hearts with all God's children. Don't be brought down by the repetitious nature of days, months, and years, for God is inviting you to dance and rejoice every moment of every minute.

There are spiritual riches hidden among the business, boredom, or madness of days. God is close to us every moment. Whether at work or play, God's presence is calling us to a higher awareness through repetition.

So I encourage you to pray, meditate, and read the Bible every day. Come to church weekly, and see how God will transform you into the best version of you. Find freedom and peace in the midst of life's busyness, and dare to change. Watch the repetition of "Groundhog Day" with the joyful, love filled eyes of a precious child of God.

*Rejoicing in Christ,
Pastor Melinda*

JANUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report-

***Special Worship Services**

- December 18th– Baptism (on the Fourth Sunday of Advent).
- December 24th– two Christmas Eve services (3PM and 7PM).
- December 25th– one service on Christmas Day at 10AM.
- January 1st– one service at 10AM.
- January 8th– back to two services; Communion with small cups for bread and juice.

***Administration**

- December 13th – Worship and Music.
- January 4th – Consistory Retreat.
- Staff Meeting - we skipped December. (Next Staff Meeting is on January 25th.).
- I used up my vacation days between Christmas Day and New Year's Eve.
- Finished Communique article and Annual Report before the end of the year (2022).

***Pastoral Care**

- Home, Hospital and nursing home visits (4).
- Office/lunch meeting (2).
- Phone calls/Facebook private messages (21+); many text messages to our members.

***Christian Education**

- Grief Group meets once a month (we skipped December).
- Sunday School adult programs are held in room 100 and Room 202.
- Men's Breakfast Group meets once a month.
- Advent Study met during Sunday School (Handel's Messiah). The study will continue Wednesday evenings during Lent.

JANUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

*Contact with the larger UCC + local community

- Helped Allison distribute the Bibles to the 3-year-olds. I met with some of the ELC families.

New business-

- A. What is the status with the Family Youth and Coordinator Position?
 - a. No update
- B. Annual Congregational Meeting planning January 29, 2023 - meal at 12:30, business meeting at 1:30.
 - a. Will be a pot-luck - Tammy Hildebrecht will facilitate, Jane Harrison will have a sign-up sheet.
 - b. Jane Harrison will put a blurb in the bulletin.
- C. Handel's Messiah bible study will continue during Lent.
 - . This will be held on Wednesday evenings and not on Sunday during Sunday school.
- D. The By-laws will continue to be reviewed by the Church and Ministry and Nominating committees.

Unfinished Business-

- A. Consistory schedule.
 - a. Team 1 (Matt Hildebrecht) will continue as a single person since Tammy helps with Vicar duties.
 - b. Judy Clark will be put on Team 2 with Jeff Hershey.
 - c. Nathan Limbert, president, will continue on Team 3.
 - d. If/when we are able to fill the 2 vacant positions, the first person will be put with Dani Bentzel to relieve Nathan of those duties and the 2nd will be put with Matt Hildebrecht.

Church Life-

- o Coffee connections continues.
- o They organized 3 events in December.

Church and ministry-

- o Proposed By-Law changes were shared with congregation members via email Jan. 5 and verbally at the church services on Jan. 8.
- o Financial Secretary position will need filled, Stephanie Berkheimer is retiring this position after doing it for 20 years.
 - Sallie Hagerman agreed to fill in the interim - if it works out, she will stay on as Financial Secretary.
- o Another new member is interested in joining the consistory if the By-Law change is approved on January 29.
- o Judy Clark agreed to join this committee with Norina Bentzel.

Worship and Music-

- o 30 dinners served on New Year's Day.
- o Jan. 15 - commissioning for Crew Trip.

JANUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

- o Feb. 5 – Communion.
- o Next meeting - Feb. 8 - 7:00 PM.

Outreach/Evangelism -

- Planning Blood Drive - March?
- March 19th - Junior Honors Choir at 3:00 - Food after the concert.
- Visioning next meeting -Wed. Jan. 25 room 100 at 7:00.
- Outreach next meeting - Wed. Jan 11 7:00 PM.
- After some discussion, it was decided to again mail postcards at Easter to promote our church.

Youth Ministry—Made contact with other churches about a possible get together for a Fast - there will be nothing until February.

Christian Ed-

- o Pastor Melinda is having Maira purchase a 2023 52-week Preschool + Elementary Curriculum bundle, from The Sunday School Store, to be used for children's sermons, VBS and Sunday school lessons. Cost is \$48.50.

Communication and Technology -

- Looking at rearranging pews to prepare for “desk space” for streaming/PPT along with a desktop computer—this was brought up at the Consistory Retreat.

Missions-

- o It has been recommended that the Lent (Ash Wednesday) Offering be used to support the Sunday School's Heifer International Project.
- o Next meeting - Tues. January 17th at 6:00 PM.

Property Committee-

- o The tree stump has been removed.
- o There was major clean-up in the ELC over the Christmas break.
- o Still looking into a new security system.

ELC – Next Meeting is February 2, 2023 at 5 pm in Room 202.

Finance Committee and Budget –

- o The year ended with expenses of \$28,000 in excess of income for the Current Fund.
 - So far we received \$1,200 in interest from the Mary Emma Elicker trust.
- o Following a Reen Bentzel/Matt Hildebrecht motion, it was agreed to allow use of the Capital Fund for major expenses of \$1,000 or more.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Reiber, Consistory President*

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



The Early Learning Center is in the midst of celebrating Winter. While walking down the halls of the ELC you will be delighted by the sights and sounds of Winter. The hallways are full of winter jackets, hats and gloves. At any given time, songs about snow, snowmen, sledding and winter weather can be heard. You may even see some ice skating or a snowball fight taking place. Snowmen, snowflakes, snow scenes and penguins are so proudly displayed throughout our school reminding us of the beauty of the season. We celebrated PJ Day by dressing in our favorite pjs and enjoying a snack of pancakes, cereal or another breakfast treat. During January our four-year old friends had a Bible lesson about how God made them special. Our friends decorated snowflakes that represented how each child is special and unique just like snowflakes.

Looking ahead to February, the ELC has many exciting things planned. We will celebrate friendship during our Valentine Friendship parties. On this day our friends will have the opportunity to play some fun games, eat a yummy snack, create a special craft for their family and share Valentines with their friends. We will explore dental health and complete a unit on healthy hearts and bodies. Our Younger Fours class will visit the Curious Little Playhouse while the older Fours and Pre-K friends will learn how to bowl at Colony Park Lanes. Our Bible lesson from the Book of Mark will be Jesus Loves the Little Children.

In addition to our seasonal themes our teachers are busy with student evaluations and parent teacher conferences. Each class will hold conferences at various times between March and April.

We have been busy introducing new families to our preschool as we have begun the registration process for next year. If you know anyone who may be interested in our program, please have them contact the office at 717-764-6491 or check out our website at ELC@shilohuccyorkpa.org.

*Happy winter!!
Allison Hartnett, Director*



Women's Fellowship The Women's Guild will be meeting **February 6, at 1:00 pm in room 202**. The program will be from our study book *Leading a Life of Balance*. Chapter Twelve: *Balancing Working and Waiting*. Jessica Sechriest will be leading this chapter. *We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.*

The American Cancer Society is holding a longtime favorite spring fundraiser, **Daffodil Days!** The campaign will once again celebrate the arrival of spring. Bunches of daffodils are available for \$10.00. Mini Potted Daffodils will be on sale for \$15.00 each. Envelopes for your orders may be found on the tables in the narthex. All orders must be received by Sunday, **February 10**. Please make checks payable to the American Cancer Society. The Mini-Potted Daffodils will be displayed in the sanctuary on Sunday, **March 12**.



Mark your calendar for the next Shiloh UCC Men's Breakfast on **Tuesday, February 14, at 8:30 am at Dover Valley Restaurant**. Contact Brad Jacobs for additional information at bcj402@verizon.net.

It has been recommended that the **Lent (Ash Wednesday)** Offering be used to support the **Sunday School's Heifer International Project**.



The **Annual giving statements** were emailed last week to members with an email. The others were handed out or mailed. Please call the church office if you have trouble with the attachment or need a paper copy.

THANK YOU (Cont'd)



In case of inclement weather for church and Sunday school, please check the church's website, Facebook page, or your email for closings or delays. We will also submit the information to Fox 43 News and WGAL. If services are held, please use your best judgement as to whether you are able to attend.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family and friends of former member **Elaine Reiber** who passed away on January 2, 2023. Her final resting place will be Shiloh Union Cemetery.



Memorial gifts were received in memory of Elaine Reiber from Sara Jacoby, Don and Jeanie Bentzel, Karen Bupp and Stanley and Janet Reiber.

THANK YOU



To our York Habitat Friend,

Your most recent gift of \$500 is making a difference in the lives of families. You are providing support that families need on their homeownership journey, and you are making a difference in addressing the affordable housing crisis that our community is facing. Thank you for your financial support of York Habitat for Humanity.

*Gratefully,
Natasha Kukorlo, Associate Director*

Dear Members and Friends,

I want to thank everyone from Shiloh UCC for the cards they sent me for my 95th birthday.

*Thank you,
Chris Hoover*

Dear Friends at Shiloh UCC,

I write to all of you and the various groups at Shiloh to thank you for all your cards, well wishes and words of encouragement and prayers. We appreciate your caring and thoughtfulness. We are both doing well. Chuck seems to have leveled off in regards to the dementia for now. The move has been good for both of us; and we are 5 minutes from our son, who is a great help to us.

Even though we have had so many changes in a short period of time, we have much to be thankful for, and God's gift of love is still the greatest gift of all.

Thanks to those who do the videoing of the services. I enjoy the video of the services so much. I can feel like I'm there with you at worship. Thank you all!

*Your Friends,
Chuck and Sandy Baboian*

Dear Friends at Shiloh UCC,

I would like to thank all the individuals, organizations and committees for the visits, cards and gifts during the holidays. I'm grateful to be able to continue feeling close to my church family.

*Many blessings for the new year!
Charlotte Rohrbaugh*

Dear Friends,

On Behalf of the entire Homewood family, I would like to express our deep appreciation for your gift through the Penn Central Conference to Plum Creek Benevolent Care through the Homewood Foundation. Your contribution, and those of our entire donor family, will help us to continue in our mission to provide compassionate, professional and caring service in order to enhance the quality of life for residents, clients and co-workers. We are so grateful to be a recipient of your generosity.

*With sincere gratitude,
Jessica Laird, Director of Development*

THANK YOU (Cont'd)

Dear Shiloh UCC,

Thank you for your most generous, continued, and vital support to Hoffman Homes for Youth through Penn Central Conference! We can't do it without you, and we greatly appreciate your willingness to be a helping hand. Your donation of \$380 helps our children thrive and truly makes a difference in their lives. Thank you for giving hope and investing in our children's future!

*With gratitude,
Susan Cann, Director of Development*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$640 to Lifepath Christian Ministries. Your gift and prayers help make possible all the Christ-centered services and resources we share, as God transforms the lives in our care! Thank you for your faithful support over the past 27 years!

*Serving together,
Norman Humber, CEO*

Dear Friends,

We want to say thank you for your continued support of New Life For Girls. Your contribution of \$815 makes a huge difference in helping to sustain this work. Your gift essentially has the potential to impact generations of women, children, and their entire families.

*Regards,
Kathy Kelly, Executive Director*

Dear Members of Shiloh UCC,

Your special gift of \$250 to Bethany Children's Home helps to provide services such as individual and Family Therapeutic and Counseling Services, Art and Recreation Programs, Birthday and Holiday Celebrations, Special Off-Campus Trips, Supportive Educational Services, and much more. Thank you for helping Bethany to provide a brighter future for kids and families.

*Sincerely,
Carolyn Shultz Spano, Director of Development*

THANK YOU (Cont'd)

Dear Shiloh UCC,

Thank you so much for all the birthday cards I received for my 85th birthday! It was a great surprise and very much appreciated.

Mary Hoffman

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY'S

- February 1 Connie Cramer
 Peggy Eckert
 Hobart Funkhouser Jr.
 Randy Mummert
- February 3 Keith Eldredge
- February 4 Ricky Glatfelter
 Janis Heindel
 Catherine McCarty
- February 6 Jaime Betz
- February 7 Russell Jacobs
- February 8 Donald Bentzel
- February 9 Helen Hodgson
- February 13 Patti Goodyear
- February 16 Ashley Claytor
 Jeanette Heilman
 Kevin Stover
- February 18 Janice Herrold
 Madeline Myers



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY'S (Cont'd)

- February 20 Timothy Arnold
David Guillard Sr.
Jared Hagerman
Deborah Reisinger
James Schneider
- February 21 Sharon Daugherty
- February 23 Vivian Brenneman
Rick Repman
Kellie Stover
- February 25 Kathy Ball
Sara Jacoby
Christine Pfeiger
Tyler Reisinger
- February 26 Trisha Kessler
- February 28 Beverly Gerberick
Ryan Ness



- March 3 – World Day of Prayer
- March 5 – Communion
- March 12 – Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 17 – St. Patrick's Day
- March 19 – Honors Choir
One Great Hour of Sharing

COMMUNIQUE ARTICLE DEADLINE:

If you have an article for the monthly **Communique**, below are the dates for the remainder of 2023 that it must be submitted by. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

February 17

March 17

April 21

May 19

June 16

July 21

August 18

September 15

October 20

November 17

December 22

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

CONSISTORY

Elders

Nathan Limbert, President
Norina Bentzel, V. Pres.
Sallie Hagerman, Secretary
Jane Harrison
Jeff Hershey
Matt Hildebrecht

Deacons

Dani Bentzel
Judy Clark
Carolyn Poff

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

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.
pastormelinda@shilohucc.com

Pastor Melinda office hours:

Wednesday 9 AM-2 PM & 5-8 PM
Thursday 5-8 PM
Friday 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
office@shilohucc.com
www.shilohuccyorkpa.org



www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa