

COMMUNIQUE



*Welcome
To our Church*

*February
2024*

SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2251 Willow Road
York, PA 17408
Telephone 717-764-3569
Email: office@shilohucc.com

“Shiloh UCC is called to be a community where love is affirmed, truth is told, laughter, and tears are encouraged and shared, and the acceptance and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is extended to all. The members of this community will strive to live a life that has a Christ centered faith in God.”



- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 4 | <i>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany /Communion</i>
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Mark 1:29-39
Isaiah 40:21-31
<i>“On Eagles’ Wings”</i> |
| February 11 | <i>Transfiguration Sunday/Scout Sunday</i>
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6 2
Mark 9:2-9
<i>“Listen to Jesus”</i> |
| February 14 | <i>Ash Wednesday</i>
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
2 Cor. 5:20b—6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
<i>“Drive-thru service”</i> |
| February 18 | <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
Mark 1:9-15
<i>“In the Wilderness</i> |
| February 25 | <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38
<i>“Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus!”</i> |

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”*
(Psalm 23:4 New King James Version)

Dear Friends of Shiloh UCC,

Sometimes, pastors go through dark times. No human being is immune to suffering. Even ministers walk through “the valley of the shadow of death.” When a pastor suffers, all you can do, is pray for them. Trust me. They are very grateful for your prayers and support. As many of you know it by now, my Mom passed away on January 16th, so it’s difficult for me to write uplifting and comforting words. However, I can tell you what comforts me when I’m in a dark place.

With the psalmist’s words, I can say, *“I will fear no evil, for You are with me...”* I know that God is with me through good and bad times. It’s also comforting to know, that one day I will see my beloved Mother on the other side. She lives in my heart, wanting me to have a good and happy life. My husband, Tank, is truly my strength through this grief, and even my little Sophia tries to comfort me her own way. I cannot say enough about all the kind words that I still receive through Facebook, emails, phone calls, cards and flowers. I look at all these expressions of love and care as love letters come down from God, through angel wings, straight from Heaven.

The Bible says that God is love. And February is all about love. I wish all of you the experience of love. Don’t be afraid to show your love toward others, and humbly accept the love that others want to gift to you. There are many types of love, but I believe they all come from God. The source of pure love is God... for “God is love.” (1John 4:8). I know that many of you are going through hard times, because of illnesses, grief or other problems. I want you to know that you are not alone. Your Pastor cares about you, and what’s even more important, God loves you.

When dark times knock on your door, open your Bible. My “go to” book in the Bible is the Book of Psalms. Most people’s favorite psalm is psalm 23. However, even if you just randomly read a psalm, God will speak through its words. This book is so rich in poetry, beautiful images, comfort, history, and deep human feelings. I can only encourage you to read it over and over again.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

I can never get tired of reading the Psalms. There is always a new message in there waiting for you. All you have to do is open your Bible and let God speak to you.

If your life is joyful, fulfilled and happy at this time, I hope you remember to thank God for all your blessings. Remember to be grateful and maybe even reach out to others who need some comforting. Regardless if you are happy or sad, if you are on a mountain of joy or in the valley of death, I wish all of you a blessed, love filled February.

It’s a bit ironic that Valentine’s Day this year is also Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It’s a reminder that life is not all love and happiness. For those who are sad and suffering, this is a reminder that life is not all “Lent,” grief and sadness. On the ups and downs of life, God is with us, crying and smiling with us, for the Holy Spirit lives in our heart. No matter where you are on life’s journey, no matter if you are happy or sad, you can find comfort in the words of the psalm writer, and say it with him: *“I will fear no evil; For You are with me...”*

*Shalom/Peace,
Pastor Melinda*



JANUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report-

*Special Worship Services

- December 17th – One service at 10AM Advent Music Program
- December 24th – One service at 10AM for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.
- December 24th– Two Christmas Eve services (at 3PM and 7PM)
- December 31st – Pastor Melinda on vacation (Guest Preacher, Rev. Boyer)
- January 7th – Communion Sunday, Installation of the new Consistory members.

*Administration

- Vacation days on December 20-21 and December 25-January 2
- January 3rd – Consistory retreat

JANUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Consistory President's Report

- Approved the following items: Requests for 1-20-24 for Room 100

New business-

- A. Hand off of outgoing consistory members to new consistory members
- B. Donovan Reiber Eagle Scout Project to create ELC learning garden space as part of existing Memorial Garden—Plans forthcoming
- C. Discuss Melinda Kreisers (Leber's Funeral Home) concern about the Landscaping company.

Church Life-

- Annual meeting/potluck luncheon will be held January 28, 2024
- Lunch will be at 12:30 with the meeting following at 1:15

Church and ministry-

- Upcoming Meetings: February, April, and August
- New Consistory Chair(s) needed for this Committee in 2024
 - Committee members for 2024 are:
 - Church and Ministry: Reen Bentzel, Patti Goodyear, 2 open positions
 - Nominating Committee: Patti Goodyear, Bobby Limbert, Katie Bentzel

Worship and Music-

- Jan. 17 at 7:00 PM in room 202
- Reservations made for annual picnic on May 19 at Sunset Lane Park (dawn - 3:00 PM)
- Baby grand piano needs to be tuned, should have a consistent temperature between 70 - 80 degrees
- Linda Little said there would no longer be a choir president due to low participation

Outreach/Evangelism -

- Outreach
 - Distributed calendars to members & mailed to shut-ins
 - Next meeting -January 30 at 7:00 PM in room 202
- Visioning -
 - review
 - Next meeting -January 24 at 7:00 PM in room 202

Christian Ed-

- Still seeking teachers for younger students—Carol Burns has offered to help but at least 1-2 more are needed
- Lenten Project to be decided

JANUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Communication and Technology -

- We would like to bring more volunteers onboard to help with setting up PPT, streaming and running PPT at the 11:00 service

• Missions-

- Next Meeting January 16, 2024 at 6pm in the parlor

Property Committee-

- Kitchen cabinet painting completed
- Kitchen sink install planned
- Security lighting upgrade planned for January 15
- Small maintenance projects are ongoing
- Cleaning staff resigned effective at the end of December
Interviewing taking place for replacement

ELC -

- Next Meeting is February 1st at 5:00pm, in Room 202
- There is a waiting list for enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year

*Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Limbert, Consistory President*

Lenten Bible Study



Beginning Wednesday, February 21st Pastor Melinda will be leading a **Lenten Study**. The study will start at 7:00PM in room 202 and will continue through Wednesday, March 27th. The title of the study is *Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross*. "In the Seven Words Video Bible study, Susan Robb examines the last words that Christ said on the cross. In this six-session study, you will examine Jesus' final words, full of life and hope for the Lent season." There will be sign-up sheets in the gallery. Everyone is welcome to join!

In the event of inclement weather, any delays or closings will be listed on the **Church's Website and Facebook page**. We will also submit the information to **Fox 43 News and WGAL New 8**. If services are held, please use your best judgement as to whether you are able to attend



EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Happy New Year!!!!

Winter is upon us, and it is very evident in the Early Learning Center. In addition to the many winter jackets hanging outside the classrooms, songs about snow, snowmen, sledding, and winter weather can be heard as you are walking down the halls. You may even see ice skating or a snowball fight taking place. Snowmen, snowflakes, snow scenes, and penguins are proudly displayed throughout our school reminding us of the beauty of the season. January was also our service project month. This year we collected boxes of cereal for Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen.



Looking ahead to February, the ELC has many exciting things planned. We will continue to celebrate the season of winter as well as prepare for Valentine's Day and our Valentine Parties. We will explore dental health with a visit from The Children's Dental Centre of York. Our four and five year-old classes will exercise their bodies in a fun way by going bowling. Finally, our school wide Bible story for February is "Jesus Loves the Little Children."

In addition to all our seasonal themes, our classes will continue with student evaluations. Each class will hold parent/teacher conferences at various times between February and April.

We have begun registration for the 2024-2025 school year. Please call the ELC office if you or anyone you know might be interested in the Early Learning Center.

*Happy winter!!!!
Allison Hartnett, Director*



The Sunday School Board has voted to support the **Heifer Project International** for our Lenten Project. Our offerings will begin the first **Sunday in Lent, February 18 through Easter Sunday, March 31**. All Sunday School and Church Members are invited to support this worth while cause.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission Statement says that "Shiloh UCC Early Learning Center exists to provide a foundation for success in Kindergarten and beyond to two, three, four, and five-year-old preschoolers in a caring Christian environment." To achieve this, our curriculum has been carefully designed to provide social, physical, and emotional growth. There is freedom to explore ideas, ask questions, develop positive relationships, and begin to learn individual and group problem solving. Creative expression is nurtured through music and art. Finally, many finger plays, songs, and both gross and fine motor activities take place during the pre-school day.

The 2022-23 school year began our 46th year of educating children at Shiloh UCC ELC. We were fully enrolled with over 180 children. We were blessed to have most staff returning as well as three new ladies joining our ELC teaching family. Our Enrichment program continued allowing our children to enjoy a longer day here at school. We were able to enjoy field trips to Smyser's Farm, Brown's Orchard, West Manchester Fire Station, and Pumpkin Hill. Our ELC families enjoyed a Fall Festival and Parent's Night Out compliments of the amazing Church Chums group. Lastly our four's classes enjoyed precious time in the Sanctuary with Pastor Melinda and the three's classes received a beautiful Bible from the members of Shiloh UCC.

The second half of the 2022-23 school year was equally as amazing. We continued with fun activities and programs such as pajama day, dental lessons; compliments of the Children's Dental Centre and Dr. Seuss dress up days and funny dramas. During healthy heart month our four's students enjoyed bowling with their preschool friends and teachers. ELC Sunday was incredibly special as the children performed many songs followed by delicious refreshments provided by the Church members. Our school year ended with Spring Programs and an extremely exciting Fun Day.

Summer at the Early Learning Center was very enjoyable. We offered three successful summer camps. Our Jungle themed camp took place in May. Mrs. Wishy Washy was the musical performed at the theatre camp which was held in July. Finally, in August we went camping in the ELC and enjoyed four days of fun adventures.

The above amazing things would not happen without many people. First my dedicated staff who continue to go above and beyond to educate and nurture our young people and their families.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER ANNUAL REPORT (Cont'd)

Maira, who patiently helps and supports our staff and me. She is our biggest fan and cheerleader!!! Natalie who has taken on a huge role in running our preschool and keeping our budget intact. There are very few days that go by that one of my office staff or I are not calling or emailing Natalie to ask a question or share information. The work crew whose efforts do not go unnoticed as they work hard to maintain a beautiful, clean, and safe building. Jeff Hershey, the leader of the group, who is easily thought of as a part of our ELC family, helps us tremendously. His willingness to help, problem solve, and support us daily is greatly appreciated. The Advisory Board who diligently works to help me provide an excellent preschool. And finally, the ELC Consistory and members who support and encourage this beautiful mission.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Hartnett, Director*



The Lent and Easter seasons are approaching. With these two seasons comes a variety of activities and events. Please note that some of them are different from previous years.

- ❖ Ash Wednesday, February 14 – a drive-through service will be held. Additional details will be in the bulletin.
- ❖ Palm Sunday, March 24 – worship services will be held at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM. A brunch will be held in room 100, 9:45 – 10:45. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Gallery March 3.
- ❖ Maundy Thursday, March 28 – a worship service will be held at 7:00 PM.
- ❖ Good Friday, March 29 – a worship service will be held at 12:00 noon.
- ❖ Easter Sunday, March 31 – Holy Communion/worship services will be held at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM.
- ❖ Easter flowers, tulips and lilies, can be ordered beginning February 25. Additional details will be placed in the bulletin.

Please plan to join us for these events during this special time of year.

Worship and Music Committee



The Visioning committee continues to meet and will be reviewing surveys from the ELC parents. As we work on the issue of reaching more families with young children, we need all of Shiloh's help and support. This is a follow up to the video from the Lewis Center we shared last fall. Also we have recommended and the Consistory has approved a new Vision statement which reads

"Shiloh UCC is called to be a community where love is affirmed, truth is told, laughter, and tears are encouraged to be shared, and the acceptance and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is extended to all. The members of this community will strive to live a life that has a Christ centered faith in God."

Some suggestions to carry out a plan of action to address our major focus are and fulfill our vision are:

- *Pray for the Pastor and the members of the Consistory
- *Always support the Pastor in front of others (if you have a concern go to the Church and Ministry Committee or if comfortable go directly to the Pastor).
- *Be a team player. The church is a *community* not an *individual*. You may not agree with everyone or everything but the purpose of the church is not to try to please you. It is to spread the word of God.
- *Get involved in the small groups that meet and / or volunteer for one of the many committees that meet.
- *Bring your children or grandchildren to church.
- *Invite your neighborhood children to church.
- *Volunteer to help the Church Chums which is a group that has events for families and young children.

*Thank you for your time and consideration.
The Visioning Committee*

The **Women's Guild** will be meeting **Monday, February 5, at 1:00 pm in room 202.** The program will be from our study book **Encouraging One Another, Chapter Ten: Where It's Needed Most.** Joyce Mummert will be leading this chapter. Special offering this month is for Sally Jane Johnson. *We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.*



Engaging Women Will be meeting **Tuesday, February 13 at 6:30 in the parlor.** They will be discussing the book **The Forest of the Vanishing Stars** by Kristin Harmel. Contact Sally Curren at dgft25@hotmail.com for additional information.



The next **Shiloh UCC Men's Breakfast** will be held on **Tuesday, February 13th at 8:30 am** at **Astoria Diner located at 1900 W. Market St.** Contact Brad Jacobs at 717-764-2773 or bcj402@verizon.net for more information.



The Women's Social and Support Group will meet for lunch at **West Manchester Cafe** on **Friday, February 16th at 12:00pm.** Please contact Bertie Lighty at 717-764-3063 by **February 12** if you plan to attend.



COMING UP

- March 1 – World Day of Prayer
- March 10 – Daylight Saving Time Begins
One Great Hour of Sharing
- March 23 – Easter Egg Hunt (*subject to change*)
- March 24 – Palm Sunday & Brunch/Daffodil Sunday (*8:30am & 11am Services*)
- March 28 – Maundy Thursday (*7pm Service*)
- March 29 – Good Friday (*12pm Service*)
- March 31 – Easter/Holy Communion (*8:30am & 11am Services*)



THANK YOU NOTES



I would like to thank the members, friends and especially the Consistory of Shiloh UCC for all the kind sympathy cards, flowers and words after my Mom passed away. I am very grateful for all your love and support.

Blessings, Pastor Melinda

The **Soup Kitchen** crew would like to thank everyone who generously donated candy for **Our Daily Bread** in December. We are especially grateful to Gladys Seigman for making the beautiful cloth bags that we filled with candy. Everyone expressed gratitude for the sweet treats.

Cheryl Hershey

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to acknowledge your recent gift of \$150 to the **Annual Fund at Lancaster Theological Seminary.** Thank you for supporting our mission to educate and nurture leaders to join in God's redemptive and liberating work.

*Yours in Service,
Matthew Hanna, Assistant Director*

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you for all the beautiful Christmas cards and well wishes I received at Christmas. It means a lot to me, bless you all.

Romaine Walton

Dear Friends at Shiloh UCC,

Many thanks for your recent gift of \$375 to **Hoffman Homes for Youth** through Penn Central Conference. Our team deeply appreciates your generosity! Your kindness changes lives.

*In gratitude,
Susan Cann, Director of Development*

THANK YOU NOTES (Cont'd)

Dear Friends at Shiloh UCC,

On behalf of everyone here at **The Salvation Army in York**, I would like to sincerely thank you for your donation of 552.50 during the holiday season. Your generosity makes an important contribution to the success of this beloved annual tradition. Your congregation is a blessing to those we serve!

*Sincerely,
Brittane Varano, Director of Development*

Dear Church family and friends,

Thanks so much for all the beautiful birthday cards to celebrate my 80th birthday. It was so thoughtful of you. Our children and grandchildren had a SURPRISE birthday dinner for me at Eagle's Nest. Over the top!

*Blessings and Love,
Joyce Mummert*

Dear Shiloh UCC,

As we begin 2024, please accept my sincere thanks for your support of **Bethany Children's Home**. We appreciate that you believe in our mission of supporting and healing our community's most vulnerable children.

*With appreciation,
Jennifer Koch, Coordinator and Archivist*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your kind gift of \$120 to the Children's Aid Society. You have truly spread the spirit of the season to homes that have truly little.

*Blessings,
Eric Chase, President/CEO*

Dear Shiloh UCC,

A big thank you from the "**Friends**" Relay for Life team for allowing us to use the kitchen and room 100 to make our candy. And a bigger thank you for buying it and supporting us. God Bless each one of you!

Connie Redman

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY'S

February 1	Connie Cramer *70 Peggy Eckert Hobart Funkhouser Jr.
February 3	Keith Eldredge
February 4	Ricky Glatfelter Janis Heindel *85 Catherine McCarty
February 7	Russell Jacobs
February 8	Donald Bentzel
February 9	Helen Hodgson *85
February 13	Patti Goodyear
February 16	Ashley Claytor Jeanette Heilman Kevin Stover
February 18	Janice Herrold Madeline Myers
February 20	Jared Hagerman Sharon Klunk Deborah Reisinger James Schneider
February 21	Sharon Daugherty
February 23	Vivian Brenneman Rick Repman Kellie Stover
February 25	Kathy Fillman Sara Jacoby *85 Christine Pfeifer Tyler Reisinger
February 27	Chad Bryant
February 28	Beverly Gerberick Ryan Ness



****PLEASE NOTE MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS!**

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

MAILING PAGE

CONSISTORY

Elders

Nathan Limbert, President
Linda Little, V. Pres.
Bev Arnold, Secretary
Jane Harrison
Matt Hildebrecht

Deacons

Sue Besecker
Tom Fox
Tom Klunk
Patt Myers
Carolyn Poff

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 9 AM 12 PM & 5-8 PM
Thursday and Friday 9AM-12 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.shilohucccyorkpa.org



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