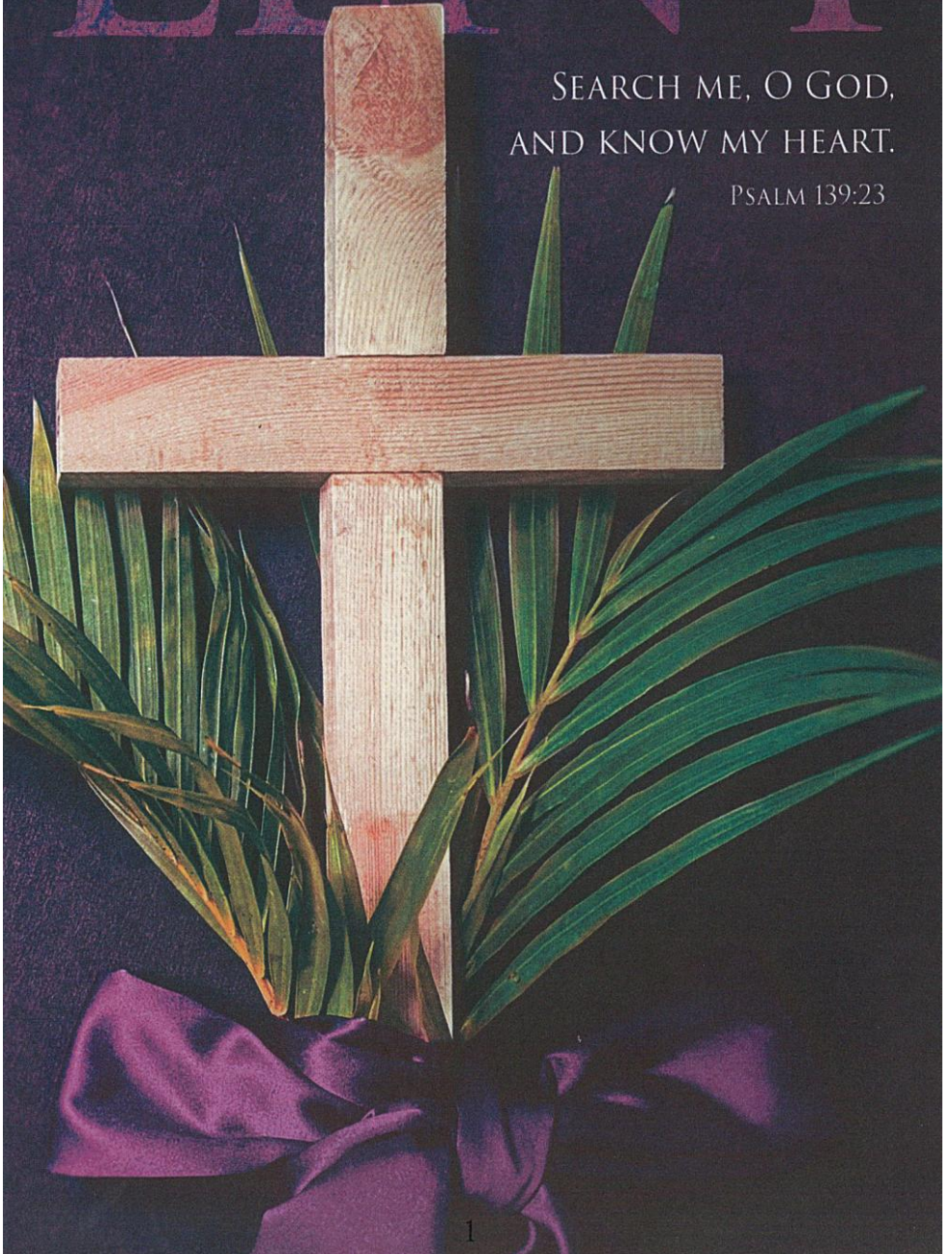


LENT

SEARCH ME, O GOD,
AND KNOW MY HEART.

PSALM 139:23



Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ
Fist Sunday in Lent
February 22nd 2026 @ 10:00AM

MEDITATION *"Over the years, I have come to realize that the greatest trap in our life is not success, popularity, or power, but self-rejection. When we have come to believe in the voices that call us worthless and unlovable, then success, popularity, and power are easily perceived as attractive solutions. Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the 'Beloved.' Being the Beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence."*

~ Henri J.M. Nouwen, 20th century

PRELUDE *"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" McConnell*

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Please, stand if you are able!)*

One: Temptation surrounds us at every turn, inviting us to take just a little more:

All: More food, more money, more power, more life!

One: We are tempted by television, by media, from friends, in our own souls:

All: More suffering, more hunger, more need, more fear, more anger.

One: So we gather today in worship to hear the consequences of "more":

All: And to celebrate that we do not need "more" when we have everything in Christ.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God, you are our hiding place and our refuge in the time of distress. We turn to you now, seeking comfort from the wounds of the world and power to face all our afflictions. Be present in our struggle, and help us to rest in your eternal promises, that we might be fed courage and wisdom through your sacred word. In your son, Jesus Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Psalm 32*)

One: Let us pray!

All: We keep silent before you, Lord— we are afraid to confront our transgressions; we are terrified to face the reality of our sin; we feel as if the weight of the world were upon our shoulders; we no longer recognize ourselves or what we have become as we keep our failings and fears inside. Help us admit our sins and accept our imperfections. Why is that simple act so difficult for us? Why do we hesitate, knowing that you stand ready to wash away our guilt? You are the sanctuary where distress cannot reach us. In your steadfast love, forgive us. In your healing caress, cleanse us. In your Holy Spirit, restore us. In the name of our Savior, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (*Psalm 32*)

One: When distress and anxiety surround us like an angry flood,

All: our pleas are heard.

One: The Lord hears the prayers of a faithful heart.

All: God has become our hiding place, our refuge from trouble.

One: No harm can touch us here.

All: The Lord wraps us in the arms of salvation. Shouts of deliverance enfold us. Amen.

EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Let us greet each other in Christian Friendship.
The peace of God be with you.

All: And also with you.

PUPPET MINISTRY

(All children of God who desire to come forward for the Children’s Sermon are welcomed. Parent’s/caregivers are encouraged to accompany their young child(ren) during the message.)

CHILDREN’S CHOIR

“Put on Love Everyday”

WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7

Second Reading: Psalm 32

CHANCEL CHOIR

“My Hiding Place”

Fettke

Third Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON

“A Time for Learning”

Pastor Melinda

***HYMN**

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

#403

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERING BEFORE GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In Christ, we see humanity’s strength and God’s glory made manifest – the harmony of creation restored. We offer these gifts and tithes as we seek to restore balance and beauty to a world gone haywire with temptation and deceit.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** “A Lenten Doxology”

**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God’s love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

One: Let us pray!

All: Faithful God, let these gifts be like food and drink in the wilderness for those who have suffered and longed for your presence. May these offerings strengthen those who are resisting temptation, and lead us to attend to all who need your healing touch. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our example and Savior. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Blessed Assurance”

#473

BENEDICTION

One: The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Lenten Postlude”

Broughton

**THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY!
PLEASE COME AGAIN SOON!**



PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Sandy Baboian, Julene Bechtel, Jim Sr. and Rosemary Bentzel, Rosabel Bentzel, Helen Byers, Judy Feeser, Dick & Helen Hodgson, Joe Jordan, Bev Kirk, Donna Krone, Elaine Krout, Dottie Limbert, Catherine Lochman, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Cedric Simpson, Steve Snyder, Rick & Sue Trimble, Romaine Walton, Elva Winter, Gloria Melhorn, Noah Olschefski, Fay Myers



THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES

The Althoff Family, The Mummert Family, The Myers Family,
The Jordan Family

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Morning Prayer (by Traci Miles)

Dear Lord, help me remember what a difference it makes when I make time with You a priority in my morning. Awaken me in body and spirit each day with a desire to meet with You and to hear You speak words of affirmation, assurance and wisdom in my heart as I prepare to go into my day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Evening Prayer (by Rebecca Barlow Jordan)

Oh Lord, sometimes my insides feel like a battle zone, where missiles are falling too close to home. Other times I'm caught in an endless storm, with thoughts flying out of control. Confusion reigns, and defeat creeps in to steal my joy. I need your peace—the deep-down-in-your-heart kind that stays with me day and night and speaks confidently into the wind. Calm my anxious spirit, Lord; all the attacking “if-onlys” and “what-ifs” fill me with needless worry. I know that trust is a big part of experiencing peace and that fear has no place in my life. Most of the things I worry about or dread don't even happen. So I'm declaring my trust in you. I'm releasing the reins of my life again and asking you to take control. I may need to pray this same prayer daily, but I'm tired of the frenzy of life that leaves my schedule and my thoughts without any margin. I need more of you, Lord, and less of me. In Jesus' name. Amen.



**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS
AND MUSICIANS WHO CONTRIBUTED
TO THE WORSHIP SERVICE!**

ALTAR FLOWERS: *In honor of our family's February birthdays by the Reisinger Family*

BULLETINS: *In loving memory of Dennis Heath. From your loving family*

VIDEO TEAM: Lew Wallace, Sallie Hagerman, Dani Bentzel

LITURGIST: Mary Reiber

GREETERS: Keith Krout and Jackie Taft

USHER: Deb Althoff

NURSERY: Norina and Jim Bentzel Jr.

COFFEE CONNECTIONS: Cheryl Hershey

“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	10:00	Worship
	8:45	Wired Word (124) & Sunday School (202)
	9:15	Coffee Connections (gallery)
MON	5:30	Gospel Choir (100)
TUES	6:00	Cub Scouts (100)
	7:00	Outreach(202)
	8:00	Men’s Chorus
WED	9:30	Bible Study (202)
	5:00	TOPS (202)
	7:00	Lenten Study(202)
THUR	6:30	Choirs
	6:30	NA Group (100)
SUN	10:00	Worship

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 75

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	<i>Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.</i>
Email	pastormelinda@shilohuccyorkpa.org
Phone	717-764-3569
Pastor Melinda office hours:	Tues., Wed. and Thurs. 9AM-1PM
Director of Music	Stephanie Limbert
Organist	Sandra Bamberger
Missionaries in Costa Rica	Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson
Early Learning Center Director	Allison Hartnett
Admin Assistant	Courtney Olschefski
Office Email	office@shilohuccyorkpa.org
Website:	www.shilohuccyorkpa.org

www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa

