



WELCOME TO SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
*FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT*  
FEBRUARY 18, 2024  
8:30AM AND 11:00AM

**MEDITATION**

*"We gain the strength of the temptation we resist."*

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**PRELUDE**

*"This Is My Father's World"*

Krug

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 25)**

*(Please Stand if you are able)*

One: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust.  
**All: Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your paths.**

One: Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.  
**All: Good and upright is the Lord; he leads the humble in what is right.**

One: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees. Come, let us worship the Lord!  
**All: Let us worship our Everlasting God!**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Let us pray!  
**As in days of old, Creator God,  
we come to look for your signs of covenant promises.  
Like the rainbow days of Noah, we see and know your signs  
and hear your voice again  
directing us to the places of preparation  
and transformation in our lives and in our world.  
Thank you God for your covenant signs in this season of Lent. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*"All Things Bright and Beautiful"*

#31

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Pastor:** Sisters and Brothers, in our daily lives we need the gift of the season of Lent. These 40 days can help us restore right relationships with God and with others. This is a fine time to focus, clear our hearts and minds of distractions, and re-orient and restore our whole selves. May God be with us. Let us pray:

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Creating and Renewing God.  
In this Lenten season we need the opportunity  
to clear our eyes of the glaze of indifference and apathy.  
Help us get our mind off our distractions, obsessions and self-pity  
so that we don't feel helpless.  
Help us to start over.  
Re-orient our hearts  
so that we may fill our whole selves  
with life-affirming activities and thoughts.  
May we be in right relationship with you and all your creation.  
May we find courage and clarity to do  
works of justice and compassion  
which make daily life bearable for many.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**Pastor:** Brothers and Sisters, God hears our prayers and, even in our human frailty, promises to be with us in the wilderness times. Observe, find comfort, and offer with courage to restore and build relationships among God's people. Experience a new and renewed sense of hope. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

## EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (*Please wave to one another*)

**Pastor:** Abundant grace is God's gift to us. Out of all proportion to our wrongdoing, we receive grace and forgiveness from God's amazing love, revealed to us in Christ Jesus. Share this love, so freely given to us, with one another.

Let us greet each other in Christian Friendship.  
The peace of God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON** (*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.*)

**\*HYMN** "As the Deer" Insert

## WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17  
Second Reading: Psalm 25:1-10

**MEN'S CHORUS** "Life's Railway to Heaven" Tillman

Third Reading: Mark 1:9-15

**SERMON** "In the Wilderness"

**\*HYMN** "Forty Days and Forty Nights" #205

## 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 OFFERINGS BEFORE GOD

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Psalm 25:10 reminds us,  
"All the paths of God are steadfast love and faithfulness  
for those who keep God's covenant and decrees."  
Our church's ministries are extensions of God's love  
and faithfulness made possible through the generous giving  
of our time, energy, and money.  
With love let us offer our gifts to God.

**\*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!

**Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. From your hands we receive all that we need, often before we even know how to ask. Along with our thanks, we return to you a portion of these gifts. Let them be used in Jesus' name to serve those in need, that whatever good works these gifts accomplish might glorify you. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*"The Old Rugged Cross"*

#195

**BENEDICTION**

Go now, filled with the love and Spirit of the God,  
Who has given us new life.  
Walk the way of the cross.  
Be strong in the face of temptation.  
Bring the good news of God's love to all.  
And may the peace of God go with you.  
**All: Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

*"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"*

Smith

**WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU JOINED US FOR WORSHIP TODAY!**

- **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert R. Reisinger by Randy, Deb and Tyler Reisinger.
- **THE BULLETINS** are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dennis Heath by his Mother and Family.
- **VIDEO TEAM:** Lew Wallace, Sallie Hagerman, Dani Bentzel, Matt Hildebrecht, & Nathan Limbert
- **LITURGISTS: 8:30AM:** Judy Clark **11:00AM:** Joyce Mummert
- **GREETERS: 8:30AM** Lisa & Kevan Stough **11:00AM:** Steve & Sue Besecker
- **NURSERY: 8:30AM** John Reiber **11:00AM** Jessie Sechriest
- **MUSIC:** Men's Chorus, Sandy Bamberger

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS AND MUSICIANS FOR PROVIDING THE WORSHIP MUSIC THIS SUNDAY!**

**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.

**PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

Sandy Baboian, Julene Bechtel, Jim Sr. and Rosemary Bentzel, Rosabel Bentzel, Marvel Burg, Helen Byers, Gerry Funkhouser, Joe Jordan, Bev Kirk, Tom Klunk, Donna Krone, Elaine Krout, Dottie Limbert, Catherine Lochman, Arlene Myers, Joanne Overmiller, Randy Reisinger, Donna Robertson, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Cedric Simpson, Rick & Sue Trimble, Stewart Wagner, Romaine Walton, Elva Winter

**THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES**

The Bechtel Family; The Geesey Family; The Shaffer Family, The LaMontagne/Boros Family, The Spahr Family



This year's **special Easter offering** collected will go to **New Life for Girls**. Help support this organization in their work to turn the lives around for the many girls they serve.



Beginning **Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>** Pastor Melinda will be leading a **Lenten Study**. The study will start at **7:00PM in room 202** and will continue **through March**

**27<sup>th</sup>**. 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 a sign-up sheet in the gallery. Everyone is welcome to join!

There is an envelope marked **LENTE OFFERING** in your box of envelopes. The money collected from that envelope will be going to **The Shiloh Fire Company**.



Also, during our Lenten season, the Sunday School Board has voted to support the **Heifer Project International** for our Lenten Project. These contributions will be collected the first **Sunday in Lent, February 18 through Easter Sunday, March 31** and should be placed in your regular envelopes and mark Heifer on the "other" line. All Sunday School and Church Members are invited to support both of these missions.



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

The **Women's Guild** will be meeting **March 4, at 1:00 pm in room 202**. The program will be from our study book **Encouraging One Another, Chapter Eleven: Encouraging Epistles**. Carolyn Poff 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.*



**GROCERY GIFT CARDS = CONTRIBUTION TO CHURCH.** Weis and Giant grocery gift cards are available for purchase in the gallery. For every dollar of gift cards purchased, \$.05 is donated to the church by the grocery store. This contribution is used to support our Missionaries, Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson in Costa Rica.

*"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	8:30 & 11	<b>First Sunday in Lent</b>
	9:45	Sunday School (100) & Wired Word (202)
MON	6:30	Church & Ministry (Library)
TUES	6:30	Cub Scouts (100)
	7:00	Quilt Club (202)
	7:00	Grief Group (Parlor)
WED	9:30	Bible Study (202)
	5:00	TOPS (117)
	7:00	Lenten Study (202)
THUR	6:30	NA Group (100)
	6:30	Choirs
SUN	8:30 & 11	Worship/Second Sunday in Lent



**OFFERING** is continually being collected for our missionaries, **Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson**.

**Attendance last week: 103**

**Ash Wednesday: 26**

**THE CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.  
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717-764-3609

**Pastor Melinda office hours: Wednesdays 9AM-12PM & 5-8PM  
Thursdays & Fridays 9AM-12PM**

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