

COMMUNIQUE



2022

SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2251 Willow Road
York, PA 17408
Telephone 717-764-3569
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A GROWING CHURCH
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS

- February 6 *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany/Communion*
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11
“Gone Fishin?”
- February 13 *Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany*
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26
“Who is Happy?”
- February 20 *Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany*
Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
Luke 6:27-38
“A Lesson On Love”
- February 27 *Transfiguration Sunday*
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
Luke 9:28-36
“Fully Awake”



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."
(1 Corinthians 13:13)*

Dear Friends of Shiloh UCC,

On January 23rd I preached a sermon on 1 Corinthians chapter 12. Some of you may have heard it in person or watched it online. After I finished reading chapter 12, I gave you some homework. I asked you to check out what comes after 1 Corinthians chapter 12. Of course, you know the answer; it's chapter 13. Many of you remember that 1 Corinthians 13 talks about love.

Why did I tell you this story? Because in chapter 12 we learned about the different gifts and talents that every part has in the Body of Christ. However, it doesn't matter what kind of talent you have and what kind of faith you have; if you don't possess the greatest gift of all: love. Kindness, gentleness, acceptance, and patience all come from the same source: agape - love.

In February, we hear about love a lot. We see heart shaped chocolate boxes and teddy bears carrying little pink pillows in every store. We see and hear a lot about the surface layer of love in the month of February. But real love, love that stands the test of time goes way beyond the cute jingles and puppy love of Valentine's Day. Falling in love is great and exciting, however, staying in love, having faith in our commitments and sacred covenants over time, that is the real challenge.

Friendships and marriages have to be sustained and maintained over the years. Spiritual relationships require a lot of patience, kindness, forgiveness and perseverance. All these attributes can be found in 1 Corinthians chapter 13. If you haven't read the chapter lately, I would like to encourage you to read it again. Refresh your memory, and maybe buy a bouquet of flowers for that person who drives you crazy every day. Forgive the people in your family who – probably accidentally – sometimes willingly, hurt your feelings. Staying in love, staying faithful to our family, friends and church, is difficult. But agape love gives our relationships meaning. So the sacrifice to be faithful to our commitments is worth it.

Agape-love is not something we can achieve easily. Only God loves this world with a perfect love. Our love almost always depends on circumstances. We, human beings, need a lifetime to learn how to love with detached awareness. Riddled with guilt and insecurities, we often need a lifetime just to accept that God loves us. Some people grow up feeling unworthy of love, and that can continue into adulthood. But all this suffering is unnecessary.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

I would like all of you to know that you are God's precious and beloved children. God created you with love and for love. Not just any kind of love, but the highest of all, Agape-love.

*"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."
1 Corinthians 13:13*

*With love in Christ,
Pastor Melinda*



JANUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report-

*Worship

- ⑩ Special worship services
- ⑩ Bill Jordan memorial service December 17th
- ⑩ December 19th – Advent music program
- ⑩ December 24th – Christmas Eve Services (3PM and 7PM)
- ⑩ January 9th – worship service was canceled because of freezing rain
- ⑩ January 16th – Consistory Installation

*Administration

- ⑩ I attended all the scheduled meetings, when possible.
- ⑩ January 4th - Worship and Music meeting
- ⑩ January 5th - Consistory Retreat
- ⑩ January 6th – ELC Board meeting

*Pastoral Care

- ⑩ Home, Hospital and nursing home visits (1)
- ⑩ Office/lunch meeting (3)
- ⑩ Phone calls/Facebook private messages (20+) to our members

*Christian Education

- ⑩ December 15-17th attended most of the ELC Christmas programs for the 3 and 4 year olds.
- ⑩ Confirmation class meets twice monthly. Next meeting January 16th – 2 hour meeting
- ⑩ Contact with the larger UCC + local community

JANUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

New business-

- A. It was decided that the Personnel committee will be under Church and Ministry
- B. Pastor Melinda suggested we look into creating a Pastor/Parish committee. Pastor Melinda found information on the UCC website as a place to start. This committee will also fall under Church and Ministry.
- C. A small group will be created to explore getting a seminary student/family minister in the hopes to build youth and young families/adults.
- D. Matt Hildebrecht agreed to take over the Church Life committee to lighten the load for Sallie Hagerman in her new role as consistory secretary.
- E. Ash Wednesday is March 2, 2022. The Lenten offering will go to the Shiloh Fire Co for any large purchase they may have coming up. Marsha Reiber also suggested Friends and Neighbors of PA be considered for future special collections. This group goes out into the community to find homeless people in need and gives them survival gear or help them find shelter.
- F. It was agreed to have the Consistory installation Jan.16 since we did not have church Jan.9 due to inclement weather. It was discussed to use the same bulletins with an added insert with any new information.
- G. The Annual meeting will be held Jan 30, during the Sunday School hour, in the sanctuary.
- H. Carolyn Poff brought up about how to contact Church members in case of inclement weather or other emergencies.

Unfinished Business-

- A. Reduced restrictions – will remain the same for the foreseeable future, with social distancing.
- B. Mask wearing was again revisited, as a special request from the ELC and it was decided to continue strongly recommending it, but not mandating it at this time.

Church Life-

- o Coffee connections has again been discontinued due to the rise in Covid cases and small participation.
- o Per Dani Bentzel, Katie Bentzel has volunteered to take over Coffee Connections when it is resumed.

Church and ministry-

Consistory will begin a review of the by-laws to consider the addition of another Consistory member for the year 2023. This would have to be brought before and approved by the congregation.

JANUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Worship and Music-

- The Church Picnic is scheduled for May 22, 2022.
- Choral groups are greatly diminished. The music will look much different and we may not be able to put a music program together.
- Scout Sunday is tentatively scheduled for February 13. We hope to include both Cub scouts and Boy scouts. Jeff Hershey will get information on the Cub scouts to Pastor Melinda.
- Ash Wednesday is March 2. We would like to have the service streamed.
- Daffodil Sunday is March 27.
- Service length was discussed. There will be less hymns with more verses used instead of more hymns with less verses.

Outreach/Evangelism -

- The next meeting is January 20. The surveys will be discussed at that time.
- Some people coming back to church that we haven't seen in a while.

Youth Ministry –

- o There will not be a Fast again this year due to Covid. Maybe we could try something in spring to summer time frame for an outreach cause.
- o Nathan Limbert will try contacting the youth to start having meetings again.

Christian Ed-Marsha Reiber is looking into starting an adult Sunday School class closer to Easter, this would be an 8-week course.

Communication and Technology -

- Media quotes for the Sanctuary have come in around \$40,000. Sallie Hagerman will ask Jaron Flickinger and Lew Wallace to come to the meeting to go over the quote and answer any questions.
- Jaron Flickinger's access will not diminish as most information is public

Stewardship-Christmas cards were sent to the shut-ins

- o Next meeting is January 18 at which time we will discuss renaming the committee.

Property Committee-

- Thoughts on kitchen renovations moving forward.
- Jeff Hershey will touch base with those who use it most to find out the major concerns/needs. This includes: Soup kitchen, Bev Arnold, Joyce Mummert, and ELC to name a few.
- Parking lot use by neighboring businesses. Should we have a contract or a signed agreement for insurance purposes?
- There have been minor issues with one of the boilers that is getting resolved with the manufacturer and distributor.

JANUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

ELC – January 6 - Advisory Board meeting held, 13 people in attendance.

- o All Christmas programs went very well and the teachers liked having them in the Sanctuary.
- o The ELC staff participated in a staff development day on January 3 with 2 LIU teachers sharing with them Behavioral and Speech/Language techniques for children.
- o Registration and Open Houses are going well.
- o January is a fun month with gymnastics, in house workshops, PJ Day, ELC stakeholders are collecting supplies for the hospital heroes and taking them to our local hospital.
- o Snow day happened on January 7. There was not enough staff to hold classes due to the local districts closing with Virtual learning days which impacted the ELC children/staff.
- o Fun Day Committee has begun planning, a Covid Task Force Committee has been formed to help make decisions always following the Dept. Of Health Guidelines.
- o It was asked what the Consistory is expecting regarding masks and the congregation. In our discussion earlier, it was decided to continue to strongly recommend the wearing of masks.
- o Allison and Advisory Board set the expectation that all ELC staff wear masks while they work with children.
- o Next meeting is on February 3 at 5 PM, hopefully in Room 100.

Finance Committee and Budget -We ended the year with Current operating income in excess of expenses by \$3,220.53. We did receive \$33,034.76 as a beneficiary of Mary Emma Elicker's estate. The Charitable Trust Fund balance is \$49,435.83. During the year, \$21,174.50 of this fund was spent on the digital sign.

- The Benevolence Fund ended with contributions in excess of expenditures of \$2,486.26 which will need to be disbursed in 2022.
- The Memorial Fund ended with a balance of \$12,435.61. \$4,000 was spent on the new digital sign.
- The Kitchen Project Fund has a balance of \$6,394.64. \$445 was from contributions; \$2,327 was from Cash Rally and \$3,622.64 was from Christmas offerings.
- The Capital Expense Fund increased by \$14,404.08 and has a balance of \$39,948.26.
- The Boiler Fund has a balance of \$807 from contributions.
- The Parish Fund has a balance of \$6,369.84.
- Since our last meeting, I got the renewal notice for our building and liability insurance with a 25% increase.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Reiber, Consistory President*

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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 in many classrooms. A variety of different snowmen, winter animals, and colorful penguins are proudly displayed throughout the building.

Our Bible lesson and theme this month is love, especially the love Jesus taught us about and displayed throughout His life. Using our beautiful new Bibles and some wonderful literature our staff will teach this concept and then reinforce it with songs and crafts.

This month we will celebrate Valentine's Day by having class parties, exchanging Valentines and learning more about love and friendship. February also brings many other exciting and important themes. Dental Health is explored through books, demonstrations and finally visits from the staff of the Children's Dental Centre of York. Healthy bodies, healthy food, and healthy hearts are a huge part of our curriculum during this beautiful month.

Our registration for the 2022-2023 school years is going well. We hosted two Open Houses in mid-January that were very successful. If you or anyone you know is looking for a wonderful preschool, please ask them to call the ELC office at 717-764-6491.

We are continuing to navigate through all the challenges that Covid presents. Our Board continues to meet monthly to support and advise as tough decisions need to be made. In addition, we have formed a Task Force to help me stay as current as possible as things are constantly changing with Covid. In addition, this group will help to discern all the available information from the CDC and Department of Health.



*Happy winter!!
Allison Hartnett, Director*

THANK YOU (Cont'd)

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.



To our York Habitat Friend,

On behalf of the entire York Habitat for Humanity team, thank you for your donation of \$500 and your ongoing support. We wish you a joyous and healthy 2022!

*Thank you,
Patrick Ball, Interim Executive Director*

Dear Members of Shiloh UCC,

I would like to express my gratitude for all the cards, treats and gifts I received over the holidays! I couldn't feel more loved and appreciated!

*Sincerely,
Maira Rivera*

Dear Pastor Melinda and Members,

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. Your ongoing support will help them to continue to heal and take back their lives.

*Sincerely,
Carolyn Shultz Spano, Director of Development*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$320 to the Church World Service Blankets program. Your contribution provides warmth, comfort and hope to neighbors near and far. Because of you, CWS is able to respond when disasters occur and support is needed.

*Sincerely,
Rick Santos, President and CEO*

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your generous gift of \$155.00 to the CWS Blanks program. Now more than ever, we are so grateful for your support.

*Sincerely,
Rev. John L. McCullough, President and CEO CWS*



The Women's Guild will meet **February 7 at 1:00 p.m. in room 202**. Please be advised we will social distance and wear masks. We will work on the new book **Leading a Life of Balance, Chapter 1: The Juggling Act**. Carolyn

Poff will be leading our study. ***We invite all women of the church to join us at any time!***

Sylvia Gooding, one of our former members, has been living at the Masonic Center in Elizabethtown for several years. She suffered a stroke a few months ago, and has been moved to the Health Care Center on the Masonic Campus. Her sister mentioned she is recovering well, but has back issues. She enjoys hearing from friends and would enjoy receiving some cards. Thank you for remembering someone who made valuable contributions to our church. Her address is:

Sylvia Goodling
Masonic Health Care Center
201 Freemason Drive
Room 2929
Elizabethtown, PA 17022



Hadley Sloan Rentzel, daughter of Drew Eric Scott Rentzel and Kaitlin Marie Rentzel was baptized on January 23, 2022. Hadley was born on September 24, 2021.

Thank you to all people that came to Bill's funeral and all the kind comments. I want to thank Pastor Melinda for her wonderful sermon. I received a lot of nice comments about it from my relatives. Also, thank you Sandy Bamberger for playing the organ.



"We have lost someone very special. Thank you for sharing our grief"
Mrs. Dianne Jordan

THANK YOU (Cont'd)

Dear Pastor Melinda and Members,

Thank you for your most generous, continued and vital support through Penn Central Conference! Your \$375 donation helps our children thrive and truly makes a difference in their lives.

*With gratitude,
Alicia Stanley, VP of Marketing and Development*

Dear Shiloh UCC,

Thank you for your gift of \$2940 to Heifer International. Your gift of animals and training allows families to become self-reliant farmers and entrepreneurs. Thank you for your commitment to creating a better world as we work together to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth.

*Sincerely!
Pierre Ferrari, President and CEO*

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the entire Homewood family, I would like to express our deep appreciation for your gift to Plum Creek Benevolent Care through Penn Central Conference. We hope to continue our nearly nine-decade long tradition of providing world-class, personalized care and support for the entire Homewood family for decades to come.

*With sincere gratitude!
Pat O'Toole, VP of Fund Development*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$150 in support of the ministry of theological education at Lancaster Seminary. The support you provide opens the doors for our students' education, opens their minds to learning and opens their hearts to serving.

*In Christ,
Matthew Hanna, Assistant Director*

Dear Members of Shiloh UCC,

I would like to thank the congregation for all the cards and expressions of love that my family and I received over the holidays!

*Sincerely,
Pastor Melinda*

THANK YOU (Cont'd)

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Salvation Army of York, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$555. Your commitment to help the Salvation Army change more lives is sincerely appreciated. Thank you and may God richly bless you!

*Sincerely,
Bessie Babbitt, Major*

Dear Shiloh UCC,

We want to say thank you for your continued support of New Life for girls. Your contribution of \$1085 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.

*Thank you and God bless you!
New Life For Girls*



We want to thank all the offering counting and communicate collating teams for all their hard work and assistance throughout the year. Your help is very much appreciated!

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to the family and friends of **Mary Rodgers** who passed away on January 16. A memorial service was held at Shiloh UCC with Pastor Melinda officiating.



Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **William "Bill" Jordan** from Connie and Don Markle, Carl and Ann Seelye, Dale and Gladys McCoy, Julene Bechtel, Richard and Helen Hodgson, Donald and Jeanie Bentzel, John and Janice Stitt, David and Phyllis Smith, Patricia and Charles Kauffman, Gloria Melhorn, Sara Jacoby, Judy Feeser, Anthony and Stephanie Campisi.

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Mary Rodgers** from Sara Jacoby, Keith and Elaine Krout, Richard and Helen Hodgson.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY'S

February 1 Connie Cramer
Sharon Daugherty
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 Charles Hull
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
Johnathan Schmidt
James Schneider

February 23 Vivian Brenneman
Rick Repman
Kellie Stover

February 25 Kathy Ball
Sara Jacoby
Christine Pfeleger
Tyler Reisinger

February 26 Trisha Kessler

February 28 Beverly Gerberick
Ryan Ness



COMING UP IN MARCH:

- March 2 – Ash Wednesday
- March 4 – World Day of Prayer
- March 6 – First Sunday in Lent
- March 13 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 27 – OGHS Offering

GRIEF GROUP AT SHILOH UCC

Pastor Melinda would like to begin a grief group in **March**, at the beginning of Lent. Please let her know if you, a family member or a friend is interested in joining. The group will follow the book called “Good Grief” by Granger Westberg that goes through the stages of grief and helps us integrate a painful loss into our daily lives. You can never “get over” losing someone, but you can still live a meaningful life, filled with hope, joy, and love. If you have any questions about the group, please call the Office or Pastor Melinda.

CONSISTORY

Elders

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

Deacons

Janene Beck
Dani Bentzel
Carolyn Poff
Stephen Sechriest

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:
Please call for an appointment

Wednesday 9 AM-2 PM & 5-8 PM
Thursday 9 AM-11:30AM & 6-8:30 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
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