

WELCOME TO SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

JANUARY 1, 2023

10:00AM

MEDITATION

*The only journey is the one within.*

~ Rainer Maria Rilke

THE PRELUDE TO CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

*"Ring Out the Old, Ring in the New"*  
Williams

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The magi came from distant places, following a star.

**All: We come to worship, and the star sheds light on our lives.**

One: The magi brought gifts to offer the Child.

**All: We too bring gifts: ourselves, our hopes, and our dreams. Let us worship our God!**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Let us pray!

**God of light, your good news has been emblazoned across the skies, the great starry night of Jesus' birth, sung by angels, celebrated by shepherds, witnessed by animals. You have given us a new chance, a reminder of your everlasting love for us. Be with us in this time of worship, we pray. Guide our thoughts, our lives, and our spirits. Heal us and restore us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

#129

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray!

**Gracious God, we come to you on the first day of a new year, exhausted from all the activities of the season. It seems that we spend so much energy, time, and resources in preparation, and then when it is over, we collapse. We wonder what happened to all the enthusiasm we had. Lord, forgive us for placing our energies in getting and gathering. Give us strength to renew our commitment to you. Remind us again to look around at the many ways in which we can be of service to you by serving others. Help us move forward in our compassion and not collapse in our witness. Heal us, merciful God, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Though the world swirls around you and exhaustion threatens to overtake you, rest your spirits in the great God of all creation, who is with you now and forever! God will give you strength and restore your spirits in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

One: Let us greet each other in Christian friendship.

The peace of God be with you.

**All: 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

*"What Child Is This"*

#11 Special Hymnal

WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6; Second Reading: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

CHANCEL CHOIR

"Renew Us"

Frombach/Lantz III

Third Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

*“Wise Women and Men”*

\*HYMN *“We Three Kings of Orient Are”* #13 Special Hymnal

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

God’s Light is most obvious when we hold out our hands to give and bless together. So let us give from God’s Light within us and share God’s blessings with all of God’s children.

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE *“Doxology”* #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, You heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Let us pray!

**Loving God, who acted in the Bethlehem birth and who sustains the whole human family, we come to you seeking to be wise men and women. May our gifts be a sign, as were the gifts of those travelers of old, that it is wise to make pilgrimages and offerings to the Christ Child, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”* #15 Special Hymnal

BENEDICTION

One: Go forth in the light of God’s star. Go forth committed to a journey of faith and courage. Go forth to give the precious gift of your life to Christ.

**All: We will go forth and let the star guide us. We will share with others the journey of life. We will praise God, for the gift beyond measure – Jesus Christ! Amen.**

POSTLUDE

*“Three Kings”*

Harris

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**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 my grandparents, Annie and Melvin Latchaw and my aunt and uncle, Charlotte and Ken Dittenhafer by Connie Redman.

**THE BULLETINS** are presented to the glory of God and in honor of the faithful members and dedicated volunteers at Shiloh UCC by Jane Harrison.

➤ **LITURGIST:** Jeanie Bentzel

➤ **USHERS:** Patti Goodyear & Sara Jacoby

➤ **GREETERS:** Milton & Beverly Hoak

➤ **MUSIC:** Chancel Choir, Sandy Bamberger

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS AND MUSICIANS FOR PROVIDING THE WORSHIP MUSIC!**

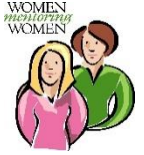
**PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

Chuck and Sandy Baboian, Julene Bechtel, Julie Beall, Jim Sr. and Rosemary Bentzel, Rosabel Bentzel, Helen Byers, Ross Hopple, Bev Kirk, Donna Krone, Dottie Limbert, Catherine Lochman, Marguerite Lochman, Jay Mummert, Arlene Myers, Joanne Overmiller, Randy Reisinger, Donna Robertson, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Cedric Simpson, Sue Trimble, Stewart Wagner, Elva Winter

### THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES

The Snyder Family, The Glass/Myers Family, The Anthony/Bentzel Family, The Waddell/Bentzel Family, The Waldron/Myers Family, The Repman Family, The O'Donnell Family, The Roe Family

The **Women's Guild** will be meeting **January 2, at 1:00 pm in room 202**. The program will be from our study book **Leading a Life of Balance. Chapter Eleven: Balancing Our Wishes and God's Will**. Shirley Lohmann will be leading this chapter. *We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.*



**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available on a table in the gallery. Please pick up your envelopes and any family members' envelopes.

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



**Morning Prayer** *Psalms 118:24 (New Living Translation)*

*This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.*

Dear Lord, I don't know who or what will cross my path today. But I do know that you are my Rock and my Fortress. You are my Shield and my Strong Tower. Help me to anchor myself to you today. Teach me how to stand strong in you and choose only your way today. Help me walk by your truth and not my feelings. Help me to embrace anything that comes my way as an opportunity to see you at work and as an opportunity to point others to you. Thank you that you love me and nothing can ever take that away from me! Even if I fail today and fall short, you whisper your unconditional love deep into my soul and remind me that your mercies are new every morning. That truly amazes me, Lord. Thank you for meeting with me today. Would you wake me again tomorrow with the same sweet whisper of your love? I can't wait to meet with you again. In Jesus' name, amen. (Written by Wendy Blight)

**Evening Prayer** *1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."*

Heavenly Father, my day is drawing to an end, and I'm ready to turn in. But before I do, I have to thank you for your faithfulness today. It's always a good day, even when things may not go the way I plan, or when the world seems in chaos, because you are in control. For all the times when I was aware of your help today, all the times when your unseen presence seemed so near, thank you, God. But for all the ways you worked behind the scenes, unknown to me, moments when heaven-sent angels moved on my behalf in ways I'll never know, thank you for those also, Lord. As I close my eyes tonight, I'm praying for loved ones around me, for friends and those who need to know you, Lord. I'm praying that your love, like the billions of stars in the night sky outside, will touch them and help them see who you really are. I pray for our world and those in it. I pray for their needs as well as my own. ... May your protection and your presence bathe this place with peace and safety against the enemy. In Jesus's name. Amen. (Written by Rebecca Barlow Jordan)



The **2023 Team Lists** for greeters, ushers and nursery duty are available on a table in the gallery. The lists will be emailed if you have an email address on file.



**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.

Please contact the office if you're interested in **sponsoring bulletins**. The cost is \$20 and may be placed in your regular offering envelope. Please call the church office **2 weeks' prior** your desired date to have your "Special" wording placed in the bulletin.



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.

*"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	<b>Worship/Epiphany/New Year's Day</b> Pork/Sauerkraut Meal (100)	
MON		OFFICE CLOSED	
	9:00	ELC Staff (100)	
	1:00	Women's Guild (202)	
TUES	6:30	Cub Scouts (100)	
WED	9:30	Bible Study (202)	
	5:00	TOPS (100)	
	7:00	Consistory Retreat (100)	
THUR	10:30	Shiloh Home Ec (202)	
	6:30	NA Group (100)	
	6:30	Choirs	
SUN	8:30 & 11	<b>Worship/Communion/Installation of Consistory</b>	

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 179**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE – 139, CHRISTMAS DAY – 40**

**THE CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D. [pastormelinda@shilohucc.com](mailto:pastormelinda@shilohucc.com)  
717-764-3569

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

Director of Music .....Stephanie Limbert  
Organist..... Sandra Bamberger  
Missionaries in Costa Rica.....Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson  
Early Learning Center Director..... Allison Hartnett  
Administrative Assistant..... Maira Rivera  
..... office@shilohucc.com

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