

COMMUNIQUE



JANUARY 2024

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- January 7** *The Baptism of Christ/Communion*
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Mark 1:4-11
“Baptism and Blessing”
- January 14** *Second Sunday after Epiphany/MLK Jr. Sunday*
1 Samuel 3:1-20
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
John 1:43-51
“Come and See”
- January 21** *Third Sunday after Epiphany*
Jonah 3:1-10
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20
“Jesus says: Come, Follow Me!”
- January 28** *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*
Annual Congregational Meeting
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
Mark 1:21-28
“Be Quiet”

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."
Romans 12:12

Dear Friends in Christ,

Be joyful! 2024 will be a great year. God will take care of Shiloh UCC. Our job is simply to live joyfully, have hope, and be patient. 2024 will be a great year for all of us, because no matter what the circumstances may bring, God will be with us. The God, who came down to earth in Jesus Christ, has never left our side through the Holy Spirit. God is always with the faithful, in our hearts, in our souls, and through the Comforter.

Our greatest task for 2024 is to start building up our congregation, Shiloh UCC. No minister can do this alone. We need all of you. We need the members on the Consistory to be one in spirit, and we need all the committees to focus on how to build up the church. We need to invite our friends and family members (again, if you have done it before) to come to church with you.

If everyone brought just ONE person with them to church, our 100-member attendance would be 200 people. You must know ONE person who needs God's presence, and is willing to come to church with you in 2024.

The same thing is true about finances. If you were giving \$20 twenty years ago, unfortunately that \$20 doesn't buy the same amount of goods as it did twenty (or even three) years ago. These last few years, prices have doubled, tripled, and most of us are still on the same income. If you are able to raise your giving just by \$5/week next year, that would make a huge difference in our church's budget. Because there is no pledging at Shiloh UCC, we can't really ask people during the UCC Stewardship Month (November) to raise their pledges for the next year. However, if we have about 200 active people, and they all raise their weekly giving by \$5 next year... I will let you do the math. Pledging is the way the UCC has operated for its entire history. We need to be faithful enough to stand up and be counted. Your tithe matters.

As your spiritual leader, I promise to raise my weekly giving that is directly taken out of my salary, by \$5/week, or for me, \$10/every two weeks. I know people don't like to hear about finances, however, faithful giving belongs to our Christian faith. Pledging, promising to give ahead of time, is a spiritual practice. We trust ahead of time that God will lead us in the upcoming year, and that we will have enough food to feed our families, and have a roof over our heads.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

We are "joyful in hope" - with Paul's words. We are happily giving to our spiritual home, not to TV evangelists, who are millionaires, and not in the grocery store (where we don't know how they use our "donated" dollars). Those of you who love Shiloh UCC, and are able to afford it, please, try to give a little more next year. Even \$1 more every week will make a big difference for Shiloh. If you don't believe me, just ask Natalie...

For those of you who are struggling in any way, mentally, physically, spiritually, or even financially, please, reach out to your pastor. I am here to help you any way possible. I need to know if you have problems, or are going through difficulties. Please, give me a call/email/text/Facebook message if you want to meet with me, talk to me, or even chat with me. I am here to serve you and I am here, because I'm God's servant, and this is where God wants me to be for a period of time.

In 2024 please be brave, and come talk to me, share your thoughts, feelings and life with Pastor Melinda. I pray for you every day, so please, pray for me, too. My husband says, that I have a bit of a German accent, and I sound scary. :) Sometimes, he says that I sound like Dracula. :) Even if you think that I sound strange, my heart and soul is not different from yours. I have traveled to many places, but eventually I realized, people are really not that different. Languages can be different. Our looks can be different. But on the inside, we are more similar than you think. We are made in God's image, and so our souls are one in the body of Christ. The Christ in my heart recognizes the Christ in your heart. We both just want to serve God. Both of us are just trying to do God's will the best we can.

So instead of being afraid of each other, or criticizing each other, let's love one another. Let's forget and forgive the past, and start a brand new year with clean, new hearts. Let's empty our minds of negative thoughts and feelings. Let's let Jesus forgive us all, and fill our thoughts with harmony and unity.

2024 will be a great year for all of us, who trust in the Lord because no matter what happens, God will be with us. So let's be joyful! Let's have hope, and let's do it together, as a sacred community. It will be a great year for Shiloh UCC...because you are a part of it. Thank you for being a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ!

*Happy New Year everyone,
Pastor Melinda*



DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report –

Worship/Special worship services

- November 19th – Thanksgiving Sunday – Thank you for the beautiful decoration for that day!
- December 3rd – First Sunday in Advent and Communion Sunday
- December 10th – Second Sunday in Advent / Congregational meeting

Administration

- November 15th – Staff Meeting
- Pastor Melinda – Vacation days on November 22nd and 24th
- November 30th – ELC Board meeting
- Pastor Melinda will be on vacation between December 27th and December 31. (Rev. Martha Boyer will be preaching)

Pastoral Care

- Home, Hospital and nursing home visits (1)
- Office/lunch meeting (2)
- Phone calls/Facebook private messages (2+)

Christian Education

- November 29th - Advent Soup and Study started
- Grief Group – Next meeting on December 15th
- Wednesday Bible Study meets every week
- Two Sunday School adult classes meet weekly
- Men's Breakfast group meets monthly

Contact with the larger UCC + local community

- December 6th – Chapel time for the ELC students (2 groups)

Consistory President's Report –

Approved the following requests:

- December PTO:
 - Pastor Melinda: 12-27 to 12-29 & 12-31
 - Maira: 12-26
 - Katrina: 12-22 & 12-26
- Room Requests:
 - 12-4 & 12-22 for Room 100 for Mom's in Motion
 - 1-20-24 for Room 100

New business –

- A. Judy Clark turned in her resignation from consistory effective December 26, 2023
- B. The Consistory Retreat will be held January 3, 2024 at 7pm in room 202
- C. The members going off consistory at the end of 2023 will attend the beginning of the January 8 meeting to approve the December minutes then be free to leave

DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

- D. Jeff Hershey asked to change his Christmas Eve service assignment from 3pm to 7pm. Matt Hildebrecht offered to fill where needed, so he will help at the 3pm service

Church and Ministry –

- Committee Annual Reports due to Maira by December 31, 2023
- Committee members for 2024 are:
 - Church and Ministry: Reen Bentzel, Patti Goodyear, Two Open Positions
 - Nominating Committee: Patti Goodyear, Bobby Limbert, Katie Bentzel
- Roster Membership Information for future months
 - **Postcard Data - Total Letters Mailed on June 30, 2023 = 162**
 - **Maintain 53 Remove 38 Not Returned 63 Returned Undeliverable 8**
 - **Membership Roster Information Highlights - Wait 6 months (February 2024)** Member will be placed on the inactive list unless notified to remain active by member or by coming back to church in that time period, If member stated to be removed from roster Maira can complete that in her computer program in October through January (calmer months); **Wait another 6 months (August 2024)** During this time period, check to see if any members have become active, Inactive members are removed from the Inactive List and placed on the Previous Member List; **The Membership review process begins again for the time period July 2023 through July 2024** - checking for membership for individuals not in "Good Standing" and the process cycles through again as aforementioned. **Next Recommended Steps** are to review and revise the roster letter sent in June, 2023 submitting any changes to Consistory for approval and for Pastor Melinda to review the postcard information, reaching out to those in need.
- It was suggested to include in the letters if the member would wish to have visits and/or phone calls from the pastor and/or other church members
- Upcoming Meetings: February, April, and August
- New Consistory Chair(s) needed for this Committee in 2024

Worship and Music –

- 50 Poinsettias ordered (32 red/ 8 white)
- Sunday Dec. 17 - Advent Musical 10:00 service/ potluck lunch
- Sunday Dec. 24 - 10:00 AM service
- Christmas Eve services - 3:00 PM / 7:00 PM
- Jan. 17 at 7:00 PM in room 202

DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Outreach/Evangelism –

- Ordered calendars to share with congregation on Dec. 24
- Postcards mailed 11/30 in homes by 12/2
- Next meeting - Jan 30 at 7:00 PM in room 202
- Visioning -
 - Needs chairperson
 - Proposed to keep mission statement the same
 - Next meeting -Jan 24 at 7:00 PM in room 202

Christian Ed –

- More teachers will be needed if younger students begin attending Sunday School
- Younger students may begin attending which will require a second (early childhood) Sunday School class, and current teachers will not be able to pick up teaching another class or additional weeks

ELC -

- New Consistory Chairs needed for this Committee in 2024
- They had a busy, successful, Fall in the Preschool:
 - Fall parties/Trunk or Treat
 - Fall pictures by A Moment in Time
 - Fire Station visits and fire drills
- December and January will be a busy time as well with:
 - **Christmas Programs**
 - Start on December 6th with the 4s
 - Go through December 15th (just about every day)
 - 2s and 3s in the Sanctuary – 9:30am and 12:30pm
 - 3s will be given their bibles at the 3-year-old program (going on 4 years)
 - 4s in Room 100
 - **Service Project**
 - Begins in January
 - Hoping to collect cereal for Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
 - New tuition rates have come out
- **Round up for Scholarship**
 - Parents will have the opportunity to round up their monthly tuition seeing as tuition rates are odd numbers this year
 - Ex. \$88 or \$116, etc.
- **Registration**
 - Registration has begun with the lottery
- **Moms in Motion**
 - Playgroup with parents/guardians and 2-year old's is going very well
 - First class was on December 4th and more classes to come

DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

○ **Children's Advocacy Center**

- Melissa Page is the one running the program
- Used to teach a program called stewards of children (child sexual abuse program)
- Asked if the ELC would be interested in hosting this program one evening for parents to attend where they can learn about these behaviors and understand what to do and how to handle these situations (they can ask questions and learn from other experiences)
 - Smarter Parents, Safer Kids
 - Research-based program that goes through all different ages on what healthy behaviors are vs. problematic behaviors
 - Just one class (for now...)
 - Potentially one class during the day and one during the evening if child-care can be provided

○ **Eagle Scout Project?**

- Two Eagle Scout Projects in the past:
 - The storage room was completely redone
 - The office was completely redone
 - Fence in the grassy lot by the playground with the hopes of turning it into an outside classroom
 - Concerns with the drain pipes and water spigots
 - The consistory is asking for more details and this needs to be coordinated with the property committee
- Next Meeting is February 1st at 5:00pm, in Room 202

Property Committee –

- Security lighting upgrade around the entrances planned for the end of the month
- We will be getting rid of the Met-Ed pole lights as they do not illuminate very well but we still pay for them
- The scouts raked the leaves and this went well
- Jeff Hershey will be doing some painting in the kitchen over the Christmas and New Year's holiday
- A TV will be mounted in room 100 near the projector screen that will be set up for streaming as well

Finance Committee and Budget –

- Current giving is still down but is pretty much within the proposed budget for end of year 2023 provided the increases with the upcoming holiday giving.
- Consistory approved to use money from the charitable trust fund to cover any end-of-year deficits to keep the church functioning

DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Communication and Technology –

- Things are going well
- We need more updated worship planning information further out—right now we are only good through Christmas Eve

Missions –

- Lent offering – Shiloh Fire Co.
- Next Meeting January 16, 2024 at 6pm in the parlor

*Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Limbert, Consistory President*

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



Happy New Year!! The staff of the Early Learning Center hope that your holiday was enjoyable and relaxing. We trust that the time spent with family and friends was fun and memorable. We hope that as you celebrated the birth of Jesus that your heart was filled with love and enabled you the opportunity to look at the New Year with hope and promise.

The month of January begins with the threes learning the Bible lesson entitled Jesus Knows My Name. The children will learn about the tax collector Zacchaeus and how Jesus changed his life. To enhance their lesson, the children will enjoy a special craft and songs. The fours and Pre-K students will learn how God Made Them Special. The boys and girls will make snowflakes as they are reminded that God created each of us uniquely and special.

This snowy month will also feature many lessons, crafts, and songs about snow and snowmen. We will also have fun learning about polar animals, penguins, mittens and ice. In addition, our older students will honor the work of Dr. Martin Luther King by focusing on the themes of love, friendship and acceptance which is a very special and important lesson. We will also be celebrating spirit day where the children either wear their Shiloh UCC ELC shirts or one from their favorite team. We will also have pajama day where the children wear their favorite pj's and we enjoy some fun things for snack. We will also begin the second session of our enrichment program.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER (Cont'd)

January is also busy as we are preparing for the 2024-2025 school year. We have begun our registration process by sending home registration information with all of our families. In addition, we have mailed information to interested new families. We have also opened up our school and classrooms for tours. If you or someone you know is interested in our program, we invite you to call us at 717-764-6491 to schedule a tour. You may also find all our information on our webpage at shilohucelc.org.

*Happy January!!
Allison Hartnett, Director*

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.



The Women's Social and Support Group will meet for breakfast at **Denny's** on **Friday, January 19 at 9:00am**. Please contact Gladys Seigman at 717-764-1840 by **January 15** if you plan to attend.

The next **Shiloh UCC Men's Breakfast** will be held on **Tuesday, January 9th at 8:30 am** at Dover Valley Restaurant. Contact Brad Jacobs for more information.



Engaging Women are planning an afternoon event outside of the church on Tuesday, January 9. For more information, contact Sally Curren at 717-634-6353 or dgft25@hotmail.com.

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY:

February 4 Communion
February 11 Boy Scout Sunday
February 14 Ash Wednesday
February 18 First Sunday in Lent



THANK YOU NOTES



Dear Friends,

I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful cards and ongoing prayers. God Bless all of you.

Marvel Burg

Dear Members and Friends of Shiloh UCC and Sunday School,

Thank you so much for the beautiful donations to Mr. Sandy's homeless Veterans Center and the Lehman's Center. May God Bless you all.

The Sunday School Board

Dear Shiloh UCC,

Thank you for your gift of \$1585 to the **WellSpan VNA Home Care Program**. We provide free and subsidized care to patients each year! We could not continue to provide this type of support without gifts from friends like you.

*Sincerely,
Matthew Lane, Executive Director*

Dear Shiloh UCC,

Thank you so much for your contribution of \$609 to **New Life for Girls**. We know that God's hand is on this ministry not only because of His faithfulness through the years as He works through you to give, but because of the fruit we see in the lives that have been touched over the years!

*God Bless You,
Kathy Brown, Executive Director*

Dear Members and Friends,

I would like to thank everyone for all the Christmas cards, gift cards, special gifts and delicious treats I received throughout the year and especially during the holidays! I am beyond grateful that I am always thought of! Wishing you all an abundance of blessings and good health for the New Year!

Maira Rivera

THANK YOU NOTES (Cont'd)

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to acknowledge your recent gifts of \$300 to the Annual Fund at **Lancaster Theological Seminary**. Your generous contribution is greatly appreciated!

*Yours in service,
Matthew Hanna, Assistant Director*

Dear Members of Shiloh UCC,

Penn Central Conference has notified us of your gifts of \$300 toward our benevolent fund. **United Church of Christ Homes** continues to be the securing of sufficient funding to meet the growing financial needs of residents who are unable to pay for the cost of their care or have access to government assistance programs.

*Sincerely,
Victoria Velez, Director of Public Relations*

Dear Friends,

Jack and I will be forever grateful for the support shown to us and our family during his son Joe's sickness and unfortunate health issues. So many of you have expressed concern in so many ways. We are especially overwhelmed by your generous Love offering donations to help with his medical expenses. We are so thankful.

*With our sincere thanks,
Jack and Diane Jordan*

Dear Shiloh UCC,

On behalf of everyone at **Hoffman Homes for Youth**, thank you for your recent gift of \$375 through Penn Central Conference. Thank you for believing in and supporting our efforts! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*With deep appreciation,
Susan Cann, Director of Development*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your heartfelt gift of \$710 to reach as many neighbors in need as possible at **LifePath Christian Ministries** with meals, help and hope for life transformation in Jesus. Warm wishes for a blessed Advent season!

*In His Service,
Patrick Ball, Interim CEO*

JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S

January 3 **Blaine Copenheaver Sr. *80**
Arlene Myers
Donna Seifarth

January 6 Laura Metzger

January 7 Queenetta Schneider

January 8 Charlotte Bupp
Bobby Limbert



January 9 Joshua Bentzel
Justin Claytor
Jennifer Withey *50

January 12 John E. Herrold
Christel Reiber
Benjamin Stough
Brandt Stough

January 13 Sally Curren
Bob Dunn

January 14 Joshua Cramer

January 15 Craig Johnson

January 16 **Joyce Mummert *80**

January 17 Alex Daugherty

JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S (Cont'd)

January 19 Tyler Bamberger
Connor Riccardi

January 20 Laci Miller

January 21 Anthony Metzger
Caden Milano-Hake
Brian Shaffer

January 23 Caitlyn Korkie
Emily Korkie



January 25 Mary Reiber

January 26 **Catherine Lochman *75**

January 28 Mary Hoffman

January 29 Christopher Ness

January 31 Sophia LaMontagne

**** PLEASE NOTE MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS! ****


“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.”

CONSISTORY

Elders	Deacons
Nathan Limbert, President	Dani Bentzel
TBD - V. Pres.	Pat Myers
TBD - Secretary	Carolyn Poff
Jane Harrison	
Matt Hildebrecht	

Natalie Fuhrman – Treasurer
 TBD – Financial Secretary
 Jeanie Bentzel – Church School Superintendent

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D. pastormelinda@shilohucc.com
Pastor Melinda office hours:	Wednesdays 9 AM-12 PM & 5-8 PM Thursday & Friday 9AM-12 PM
Director of Music	Stephanie Limbert
Organist	Sandy Bamberger
Missionaries in Costa Rica	Crosby and Sally Jane Johnson
Administrative Assistant	Maira Rivera
Early Learning Center	Allison Hartnett
Church Office Phone Number	717-764-3569
Church Email Address	office@shilohucc.com
Website	www.shilohuccyorkpa.org
 Find us on Facebook	www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa