

# COMMUNIQUE



## 2021

### SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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A GROWING CHURCH  
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS

## JANUARY

- January 3 ***Epiphany of the Lord***  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12  
***"Take the Long Way Home"***
- January 17 ***Second Sunday after the Epiphany***  
1 Samuel 3:1-20  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 John 1:43-51  
***"Follow Me!"***
- January 24 ***Third Sunday after the Epiphany***  
Jonah 3:1-10  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20  
***"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"***
- January 31 ***Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany***  
Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
Mark 1:21-28  
***"Silence is Golden"***



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### Happy New Year!

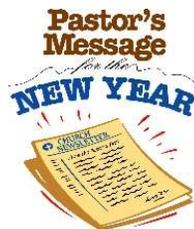
Dear Friends in Christ,

2020 is over. We are starting a new year with the hope that it will be much better than the last one. We are hoping for a healthier year, for open church doors, and church pews full of smiling people. In my dreams I go one step further. I imagine those people sitting next to each other and hugging each other during the "passing of the peace" without worry. I don't know when my dream will come true, but I do know that for God everything's possible.

In Mark 9:23 Jesus says to a worried father, "Everything is possible for one who believes." It's hard to imagine health and harmony when the world is struggling with an epidemic, when fear and division weakens our country. It's hard to imagine a time without masks when it has been almost a whole year that we were wearing them. It's hard to believe that things will get better when there is not much hope on the horizon.

However, that is exactly what I want to encourage you to do. Hope; when everywhere you look hopelessness looks back at you. Love; when everywhere you look people are fearful and disconnected from each other. Believe; when the world wants you to lose your faith in God.

Beautiful people at Shiloh UCC, we don't even know each other yet! My dream for 2021 is this: I will get to know you. I will get to know my generous, kind, and loving congregation. I began serving you in one the most horrible years of our lives. I dream of a time when we can live much differently in the new year. I feel like I'm still your "new" pastor, because I haven't had a chance to meet everyone. I miss seeing you in our gorgeous Sanctuary in person. I miss hearing our angelic choirs sing. I can't wait for the opportunity to be in community. I am excited to be in God's presence together, in person.



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

What are your dreams for the new year? Are you still hopeful? Is your faith strong? It's not always easy to remain joyful when we are going through a difficult situation. It's not always easy to make lemonade out of the lemons life sends. If you are struggling to stay hopeful, joyful and loving through this pandemic, remember to turn to God. Re-dedicate your life to Jesus. Ask God to help you with your spiritual struggles. Pray. Meditate. Read the Bible and ponder its words. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the meaning of the words in the Scriptures.

Start or restart a good habit in 2021. I like to find something to be grateful for even when my circumstances are less than perfect. Don't just be grateful on Thanksgiving Day. Be grateful for every new day when you can love and praise God with your thoughts, words, and deeds. Be grateful for all the good people in your life who encourage you when you are down. And most of all, be grateful for a brand new year, 2021.

*Happy New Year everyone, Pastor Melinda*

Yeah! There will be more singing at Shiloh UCC! The Worship and Music Committee is planning to hold drive-in sing-alongs once a month on a Sunday afternoon at 1:00 PM! (weather permitting) You can email any requests for your favorite hymns to the office to assist with planning. Please watch for additional information about these events on the church's website. Hopefully, you will plan to join the group!



## DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

**Pastor's Report** - Pastor Melinda reviewed her report, noting that details for preaching by the Reverend Marisa Laviola in January will need to be worked out, due to Covid restrictions.

**New business** - Following discussion regarding the Bailey Sanitation foggers, Consistory decided to have Tim follow up to have representatives of Baileys meet virtually with Consistory to address further concerns. Jeff will talk to Allison regarding sanitation foggers, also.

- Jaron will move forward with getting a new monitor for Pastor Melinda.
- Maira notified all groups that meet in the church of the new State Covid guidelines – 10 people or less for in-person gatherings. NA and Boy Scouts will not meet until after the New Year and will discuss options at that time. Others meeting are within that range.

**Unfinished Business** - Re-structuring of our committees and review of the By-laws will be started in the new year.

**Church and Ministry** - Reen reported that 92 emailed votes were received from the congregation to approve the three new members of Consistory: Dani Bentzel, Deacon; Janene Beck, Deacon and Sallie Hagerman, Elder. Maira will inform the congregation that installation will occur in January, possibly virtually.

**Worship and Music** - Jane reported that the new paraments are being shipped.

- 35 poinsettias were sold for the poinsettia tree. Those plants may be picked up 10:00-11:00 a.m. Dec. 24 or immediately after recording on Dec. 23.
- There will be a revised sound system for the Sing Along Sunday Dec 20 at 1:00 p.m. Volunteers will collect for the Salvation Army and the Christmas offering.
- Matt will record for Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
- Jaron will record the Christmas Eve Service Wednesday Dec 23 at 7 p.m.
- Nate will touch base with Lew to set up the candelabra down the center aisle of the sanctuary.

**Church Life** - Marsha Reiber reported the Adopt-a-Family presents were delivered to the Salvation Army.

## DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

### **Outreach/Evangelism** -

- Jaron reported they are working on new member procedures.
- Nametags for all frequent attendees have been suggested.

**Pastoral Care and Visitation** - Pastor Melinda reviewed her report, noting that currently visitations are conducted via the phone.

**Christian Ed** - Marsha reported the Tree of Warmth articles were delivered to Dover School District.

**ELC** - Norina reported that Allison will order the remainder of the Bibles needed for the three-year-olds. A video recording was made of Pastor Melinda handing out the Bibles.

- Allison is closely monitoring the Covid situation and closes down classrooms when necessary.

**Finance Committee and Budget** - Natalie reviewed the monthly budget, noting we are in a good position financially, noting the PPE helped us. Current fund has \$34,000 balance.

- Natalie also noted that she will be doing year-end checks and that she will pay off the boiler fund loan (less than \$500 owed), with new funds received going to additional items for the boiler.

### **Communication and Technology** -

- Done/In Progress: Jaron reported that the data projector is working and could be used for overflow in Room 100. Just need a long HDMI cable.
- Will continue to work on acquiring new phones, new pastor's monitor and printer.

**Stewardship** - Steve reviewed report, noting Christmas cards have been sent to the shut-ins and thank-you cards sent to outgoing consistory members.

### **Property Committee**-

- Jeff reviewed report, noting that the Boy Scouts helped with leak raking and that Elaine and Keith Krout cleaned up all of the flower beds.
- Jeff also reported that Roto Rooter had to come and clear tree roots from the sewer line for the parsonage, after a backup Thanksgiving week, at a cost of \$400. It was noted that perhaps regular maintenance on those lines should be scheduled.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Bentzel, Consistory President*

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER



Happy New Year! I hope and pray that your celebration of Jesus' birth filled your heart with love and enabled you to look at the New Year with hope and promise.

December was a festive month in the ELC. We blessed our families with beautiful Christmas programs filled with songs, poems, finger plays and so much more. Although these programs were done on Facebook rather than in front of a live audience, they were still very special. Once again, our three year-old classes were given the gift of a beautiful Bible by our church family. Pastor Melinda shared a beautiful message about the Bibles that was posted on each Facebook page. Thank you so much Pastor Melinda and all of our church family that made this special gift possible.

January continues with snowmen, penguins, winter animals, and friendship in honor of Martin Luther King. Pajama Day is our favorite day this month. All the students and the teachers will wear their pajamas, eat breakfast for snack and do other bedtime related activities.

January always reminds us that it is time to think ahead to the 2021-2022 school year and begin registration. The registration process will be a little different this year due to our COVID restrictions.

Please call the ELC office at 717-764-6491 or send an email to [ELC@shilohuccyorkpa.org](mailto:ELC@shilohuccyorkpa.org) with registration interest or questions.

I am praying as we enter 2021 we can continue, without interruption, to educate our very young children. I am very thankful for each day we can be in school.

*Happy New Year,  
Allison Hartnett*

The **Women's Guild** will try to meet **January 4 at 1:00 p.m.** in room 100. Please be advised we will social distance and wear masks. We will work on the new book **Bad Girls of the Bible, Chapter 2: Bored to Distraction Potiphar Wife.** Joyce Mummert will be leading our study. ***We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.***



The Soup Kitchen crew would like to thank everyone who generously donated candy for Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. We are especially grateful to Gladys Seigman for making the beautiful cloth bags that we filled with candy. The gift bags were handed out at Our Daily Bread on December 17.

A Blessed thank you to our Church Family for the cards, food, phone call, visits and flowers. A special thank you to Pastor Melinda for doing Troy's service.

*Keith and Elaine Krout*

Many thanks for all the Christmas greetings, cards, flowers, homemade cookies and chocolate, gift cards and gifts. This made me feel really special!

*Maira Rivera*

**OUR SYMPATHY** to the family and friends of **Elmer Duttera** who passed away December 6, 2020. His service was held private.



Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Mary Jane Arnold** from William and Shirley Lohmann.

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Elmer Duttera** from Judy Feeser.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S**

- January 1 Sharon Winstead
- January 3 Blaine Copenheaver Sr.  
Arlene Myers  
Donna Seifarth
- January 6 Paul Brubaker  
Laura Metzger  
Jake Spangler
- January 7 Queenetta Schneider
- January 8 Robert A. Limbert
- January 9 Joshua Bentzel  
Justin Claytor  
Jennifer Withey
- January 12 Christel Reiber  
Benjamin Stough  
Brandt Stough
- January 13 Sally Curren  
Bob Dunn
- January 14 Joshua Cramer  
Lew Wallace
- January 16 Joyce Mummert
- January 21 Anthony Metzger  
Brian Shaffer
- January 23 Angela Hull
- January 25 Mary Reiber
- January 26 Catherine Lochman
- January 28 Mary Hoffman
- January 31 Jenna Dell'Orfano  
James Kruza



**THE 2021 TEAM LISTS FOR GREETERS, USHERS, NURSERY AND OFFERING DUTY** are available in the welcome center. This will not be in effect unless we are holding in person worship services again. The lists may be picked up during office hours or you can request to have them mailed or emailed.

**ADDRESS CHANGES:**

Oscar Bupp  
Harmony at West Shore  
1910 Technology Pkwy. Rm H115  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Brian Copenheaver  
3311 Cardinal Lane  
Dover, PA 17315

Briana Hagerman  
6242 Rose Hill Drive Apt 3A  
Alexandria, VA 22310

Jared Hagerman  
751 Piedmont Ave NE #1  
Atlanta, GA 30308

Nancy Sipe  
3280 Cardinal Lane  
Dover, PA 17315



**COMING UP IN FEBRUARY:**

- February 14 Valentine's Day
- February 15 President's Day
- February 17 Ash Wednesday
- February 21 Lenten Prayer Breakfast *(subject to change)*

*“Shiloh United Church of Christ is called to show Christ’s love for all through witness, word, and worship.”*

MAILING PAGE

**CONSISTORY**

**Elders**

Tim Bentzel, President  
Marsha Reiber, V. Pres.  
Norina Bentzel  
Jaron Flickinger  
Sallie Hagerman  
Jane Harrison  
Jeff Hershey

**Deacons**

Sally Curren, Secretary  
Janene Beck  
Dani Bentzel  
Nathan Limbert  
Stephen Sechriest

Natalie Fuhrman – Treasurer  
Stephanie Berkheimer – Financial Secretary  
Jeanie Bentzel – Church School Superintendent

**THE CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor	Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D. <a href="mailto:pastormelinda@shilohucc.com">pastormelinda@shilohucc.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:office@shilohucc.com">office@shilohucc.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.shilohuccyorkpa.org">www.shilohuccyorkpa.org</a>



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