

COMMUNIQUE



January

2022

SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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A GROWING CHURCH
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS

JANUARY

- January 2 *Epiphany of the Lord*
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 1:3-14
Matthew 2:1-12
“Following the Star”
- January 9 *Baptism of the Lord*
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
“Holy Spirit and Fire”
- January 16 *Second Sunday after the Epiphany*
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
John 2:1-11
“Transformation”
- January 23 *Third Sunday after the Epiphany*
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
“Many Gifts, One Spirit”
- January 30 *Third Sunday after the Epiphany*
Psalm 71:1-6
Jeremiah 1:4-10
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
“What is Love”





NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
2 Corinthians 5:17*

Dear Friends,

Ready or not, a new year is knocking on our door. We all think of resolutions when the New Year comes. Making a deeper commitment to God answers the call that is knocking on the door of our hearts. It opens us up to new spiritual experiences, new joys, new opportunities, new hopes, and new dreams.

2021 was a difficult year for everyone. Some people lost loved ones; some had major life changes. At the very least, we all suffered through a worldwide pandemic. However, 2021 is ending, and there's nothing we can do to change it. It's over. The past is finished and gone. But the future holds new possibilities, new opportunities for transcending the limitations placed upon God's people. So let's make a resolution to follow God closer than we ever have before. Let's make a greater commitment to God, so that everything can become new!

While many times we cannot do anything about circumstances beyond our control, we can always do something about our inner state. We can re-dedicate our lives to Jesus. We can invite the Holy Spirit to guide our souls back to God. We can pray and meditate on God's Word. We can decide to leave the prisons of our homes, and attend church services more often in the new year. We can leave the isolation behind, and re-discover spiritual friendships. We can increase our commitment and our giving to our spiritual home, our beloved Shiloh UCC. We can become the joyful people we always wished we were. We can let go of panic and worry, and let God guide us to true spiritual discernment. There is no need to be afraid anymore. We can give all our pain completely to God. This year, finally, we can start to heal.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

While people will never truly know what's deep in our heart, God knows our every thought and even every hair on our head. This may sound a bit scary to some who are misbehaving a little, but in reality, if our hearts are pure, this new closeness to God will make us rejoice. It will make us happier people.

God knows that none of us is perfect. God knows that we make mistakes. God knows we are sinners. In spite of all this, God still loves every single one of us. That love never leaves us. It only gets deeper, and more intimate, for God knows all, and still remains with us. We are completely accepted as we are. God loves us.

If you ever fully and consciously gave your life to Jesus Christ, you have nothing to fear, for "He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6). There is nothing in this manifest world, or even in the spacious invisible realm, that can separate you from the love of God. (Romans 8 verses 38-39). If you have given your life to Jesus, you have nothing to fear.

We may feel a bit of anxiety after a not so great 2021. We may be impatient and ask, "When will Covid-19 completely go away? When can we live somewhat normal lives again?" We don't know the answers, but what we do know is that our God is a powerful God. God can do anything; even end a pandemic. For God everything's possible. With God, with our omnipotent and omnipresent Creator, we can courageously step into a new year.

Not even 2022 can scare us, if God is with us. As God made us a new creation in Jesus Christ, God can destroy this pandemic and renew our world. God can make all things new in our individual world, as well. All we have to do is be willing vessels in the hands of God. All we have to do is follow Christ and love others. God will do the rest. God will make all things new, in the New Year.

*Happy New Year everyone,
Pastor Melinda*



DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report –

Worship

- Ø Special worship services were held on
 - November 28th – First Sunday in Advent
 - December 5th – Second Sunday in Advent and Communion
 - December 5th – Christmas Concert 6PM
 - December 12th – Hand bells playing at both services
- Ø Stephanie, Sandy, the choirs and all the singers and musicians did a wonderful job at the Christmas Concert on December 5th. Thank you for all your hard work! Also thank you to our tech people who helped live stream and record the concert and made sure that the sound system worked well.

*I need Christmas Eve readers

Administration

- Ø I attended all the scheduled meetings, when possible.
 - Ø Nov 11th – meeting with Ron Oelrich about the York Association Annual Meeting
 - Ø November 18th – Outreach Committee meeting
 - Ø November 30th – Staff meeting
 - Ø December 2nd – Meeting with a few members of the Consistory
- Upcoming events: Consistory retreat on 1-5-22 from 7pm to 9pm

Pastoral Care

- Ø Home (3) Hospital (2) and nursing home visits
 - Ø Office/lunch meeting (2)
 - Ø Phone calls/Facebook private messages (40+) to our members
- Question about funeral lunches
Upcoming funeral on Friday 12-17

Christian Education

- Ø Parents' night out – December 4th – It was a great success! Thank you for everyone who helped out with this event! A big thank you to the organizers.
- Ø December 8th (9:15 and 12:15) – Chapel Time for the ELC 4-year-old classes and the Pre-K class.
- Ø Confirmation class meets twice monthly.

Contact with the larger UCC + local community

- Ø York Association Annual Meeting at Shiloh UCC on November 14th. Thank you everyone for helping out with this event!

New business –

- Consistory duties chart was completed – Marsha will fill in for Carolyn Poff on Sunday, January 2, since she will not have been sworn in at that point.
- Request for a new saddle stapler for Maira was approved. The stapler is used to put the Communique together.

DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Unfinished Business –

- A. Reduced restrictions – with the current rise in Covid cases, all restrictions will remain the same.
 - a. Communion - keep the same
 - b. Keep doors locked
 - c. Offering - keep the same
 - d. Continue social distancing—yes
- B. Consistory Retreat for 2022 will be held Wednesday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. Consistory will need a new President and Secretary.

Church and Ministry –

- Adding new Consistory member positions will be considered in the new year.
- Three Consistory Elders met with Pastor Melinda on December 2, 2021 and discussed concerns from the November 14, 2021 church service. It was agreed that all supply pastors be approved by Consistory before they are engaged for services.
- The Nomination Committee received approval from the congregation on Sunday, December 12, 2021 for the following members to be on Consistory for the next three years: Jane Harrison, Elder, Nathan Limbert, Elder, Matt Hildebrecht, Elder and Carolyn Poff, Deacon. The installation service is scheduled for Sunday, January 9, 2022 and the retreat is scheduled for January 5, 2022 starting at 7 pm.
- The November Staff meeting was held on November 30, 2021. It lasted one hour and all 5 staff members were present. The next meeting is on January 26th at 10 am in Room 202.

Worship and Music –

- Following discussion regarding using older hymns, it was suggested that individuals should take personal concerns about the music used in services directly to Pastor Melinda.
- Concerns were raised about the length of Communion services.
- 53 poinsettias have been ordered and will be delivered Dec. 18
- Brass Ensemble will be scheduled after restrictions for masks are lifted
- Choir member numbers are diminishing due to difficulty breathing with masks while singing, leading to less choir presence in services.
- Piano and organ were tuned in December
- Positive comments received about December 5 Concert. It will be considered for a yearly event
- Consistory duties at both Christmas Eve services were assigned. Marsha, Nate and Jane will serve at the 3:00 service. Jeff, Sallie H, Reen and Sally C will serve at the 7:00 service. Candles will need to be passed out, other candles will need to be lit, along with 4 people to assist the congregation in lighting their candles during the service. Someone will also be needed to monitor the lights during the service.

DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Church Life -

- Coffee connections moved back to the Welcome Center. It was noted that we will need a new coordinator for Coffee Connections. That person will coordinate participants who supply items for Sunday mornings and will also take care of purchasing any supplies needed and seek reimbursement from Natalie.
- Food needs to be wrapped or someone needs to serve

Outreach/Evangelism -

- Postcards were sent to all members announcing events and services during Advent/Christmas season
- Survey for volunteer positions on Sunday mornings was sent out. If we have low response, then we should resend in January. We already have some responses.
- Maira prepared new volunteer sheets, but there are positions remaining to be filled. Care will be taken so that nothing changes on the original assignments on the sheets

Pastoral Care and Visitation - Visitation happening via the phone and in person.

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

ELC -

- No December meeting was held. The next meeting will be on January 6 at 5 pm.
- Parent's Night out was on December 4. About 30 children attended.
- Following a Reen Bentzel/Jane Harrison motion and with much discussion, the Shiloh UCC Consistory, with a 7-3 vote, approved highly recommending, but not mandating, that masks be worn by everyone in the ELC. We also encouraged the ELC to follow the guidelines set forth by the surrounding public school districts.

Finance Committee and Budget - Natalie reviewed the report, stating that she has paid all of the benevolence budget items, leaving some extra in that fund. Following a Dani Bentzel/Jaron Flickinger motion, Consistory approved using the remainder of this year's benevolence fund to fund the shortfall in the Adopt-a-Family collection.

Communication and Technology -

- Still waiting for media quotes
- Allison's laptop is postponed until after Christmas
- Planning to record/stream the 7 pm Christmas eve service.
- Dani will make the agenda and clean it up for 2022 Consistory meetings. Dani will also take care of setting up any virtual meetings via Google docs.

Stewardship - The next Stewardship Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 18th at 6:00 PM.

DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Property Committee-

- Approximately 20 Cub Scouts and adults from the troop raked the leaves on the church property.
- Southern Management did the annual parsonage inspection and there were no issues found.

Christian Ed. -

- Will need a Sunday School teacher for the Adult Sunday School class
- It was suggested to look at other avenues such as seminarians to procure needed Sunday School teachers, in order to advance our Sunday School program, using endowments or gifts to meet this need.

Youth Ministry -

- There will be no caroling this year due to Covid concerns at nursing homes.
- Nate will be sending out emails with regard to the possibility of holding the annual fast.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Reiber, Consistory President*



Looking for a way to share your talents?? We are in need of a coordinator for Coffee Connections. The weekly Coffee Connection list is posted for persons to volunteer to make the snacks & coffee. The coordinator checks the kitchen to see ensure we have coffee, sugar, stirrers etc. for the volunteers to use each week. Please let Sallie Hagerman or the office know if you would like to be the coordinator.

The **Women's Guild** will be meeting **January 3** at 1:00 pm in room 202. The program will be from our study book **Bad Girls of the Bible, Chapter Ten: I Beg Your Pardon - The Sinful Woman: Bad for a Season, but Not Forever.** Zoe Bordes will be leading this chapter.



We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.



Engaging Women will be meeting on Tuesday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. They will continue with the book called "The Power of a Woman's Words," by Sharon Jaynes.



Appreciated receiving the Get Well Cards and Christmas Cards from the Shiloh UCC Church Family. Thank You. May God continue to Bless our congregation this coming year with new ideas and motivation.

With Love, Sally Reiber

Team “Friends” would like to thank Shiloh UCC church for allowing our team to make candy here and for all those who supported us. We raise money for cancer patients and research and have been doing it for over 15 years. So Thank You on behalf of all those who have passed and those in remission and of course the caregivers.

Connie Redman

Carlisle Truckers Ministry was very grateful for the 200 bags of cookies that Shiloh UCC contributed.

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. On December 16, we handed out gift bags filled with candy at Our Daily Bread.

Susan Reidy



OUR SYMPATHY to the family and friends of **William L. “Bill” Jordan** who passed away December 10, 2021. His service was held at Shiloh UCC on December 17 with Pastor Melinda officiating.

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY:

- February 6 Communion
- February 14 Valentine’s Day
- February 21 President’s Day

ADDRESS CHANGES:

Drew Heilman
6905 Church Road
Spring Grove, Pa. 17362

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
- January 16 Joyce Mummert
- January 19 Tyler Bamberger
Connor Riccardi
- January 21 Anthony Metzger
Caden Milano-Hake
Brian Shaffer
- January 23 Angela Hull
Caitlyn Korkie
Emily Korkie
- January 25 Mary Reiber
- January 26 Catherine Lochman
- January 28 Mary Hoffman
- January 29 Christopher Ness
- January 31 Jenna Dell’Orfano
James Kruza
Sophia LaMontagne



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

MAILING PAGE

CONSISTORY

Elders

Marsha Reiber, President
Norina Bentzel , V. Pres.
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.
pastormelinda@shilohucc.com

Pastor Melinda office hours:
Please call for appointments

Wednesdays 9 AM-2 PM & 5-8 PM
Thurs 9 AM-11:30AM & 6-8:30 PM
Fridays 9AM-2 PM

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Missionaries in Costa Rica
Administrative Assistant
Early Learning Center
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