

COMMUNIQUE



SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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A GROWING CHURCH
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- January 1** *Epiphany of the Lord*
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Matthew 2:1-12
“Wise Women and Men”
- January 8** *Baptism of the Lord/First Sunday after the Epiphany*
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Matthew 3:13-17
“I am Proud of You”
- January 15** *Second Sunday after the Epiphany*
Isaiah 49:1-7
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42
“We Have Found the Messiah!”
- January 22** *Third Sunday after the Epiphany*
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
Matthew 4:12-23
“Called to Follow Christ”
- January 29** *Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*
Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
Matthew 5:1-12
“A Mountain of Blessings”





A New Year with God

*“Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:30-31)*

Dear Friends in Christ,

At the beginning of a new year, I wanted to share with you one of my favorite Bible verses. I love the Book of Isaiah, and my favorite chapter is chapter 40. If you haven’t read it recently, dust off your Bible, open it at Isaiah, and read it again. You will see how beautiful its words are. While you are reading it, think about the suffering of the Jewish people, who were still in Babylonian exile, waiting to finally return home, and rebuild their country and Jerusalem.

2023 is a good year for all of us to start reading the Bible again more seriously. The comfort and peace you receive from the Bible through the Holy Spirit cannot be described with human words. If you are suffering, check out the Book of Psalms or Job. If you are happy, read the Gospel of John. See the “fun” side of Jesus and meditate on the “I am” statements. If you have plenty of time on your hands, read the Five Books of Moses, and think about why they take central place in Judaism (they are called the Torah).

If you have never read the whole Bible, it’s time for you to embark on that adventure. Please, come and see me before you do it, though. I will be happy to help you and guide you through the process. If you have questions about the Bible, or you are “stuck” somewhere in your readings, please, come and talk to your Pastor. I would love to talk to you about the Bible and answer your questions.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE (Cont’d)

However, let’s get back to Isaiah and the year 2023. Let me point out that our reading says that all those amazing things happen to “**those who hope in the Lord.**” After a long and difficult 2022, we all need spiritual and physical renewal. We need strength to start anew. We desperately need those “eagles’ wings” to soar above our problems and grief. We need God’s help to get through another year.

As we start a new year, let me encourage you to take your faith seriously. If we listen to the words of Isaiah, we must put our “hope in the Lord” in the year 2023. Put your hope in the Lord, so that we can have a better new year. Really, take your faith seriously. **Begin a New Year with God**, in 2023, right here with your friends at Shiloh, UCC.

*Happy New Year everyone,
Pastor Melinda*



DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor’s Report –

Worship

Special worship services

- November 20th – Thanksgiving Sunday
- November 24th – Thanksgiving dinner in Room 100.
- November 27th – First Sunday of Advent.
- December 4th – Second Sunday of Advent and Communion.
- December 11th – Judy Clark preached.
- Upcoming December 18th – Baptism (Fourth Sunday of Advent).

Administration

- November 16th – Worship and Music.
- November 30th – Staff Meeting.

Pastoral Care

- Home, Hospital and nursing home visits (4).
- Office/lunch meeting (2).
- Phone calls/Facebook private messages (21+); many text messages to our members.

DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Christian Education

- Grief Group meets once a month (last meeting: November 18th).
- Sunday School adult programs in room 100 and Room 202.
- Men's Breakfast meets once a month.
- Advent Study meets on Sundays during Sunday School time (Handel's Messiah). Stephanie lead the Study on the 11th and Judy Clark will lead it on the 18th (because of Baptism).

Contact with the larger UCC + local community

- November 16th – Chapel time for the ELC students.

New business –

A. What is the status with the Family Youth and Coordinator Position?

a. This has been posted on our website and on the newsletter in the Communique.

b. Pastor Melinda will look more into this in January.

B. Consistory “retreat” will be held Wednesday, January 4, 2023 from 7pm to 9pm.

a. Will begin with a business meeting with the members going off consistory.

Unfinished Business –

A. Consistory schedule

a. Teams 1 and 2 will be captain on their Sundays and find a vicar until the 2 vacant positions are filled.

Church and Ministry –

- o Annual Committee Reports are due by December 31.
- o Working on Job Description research and revision for the Cleaning staff position.
- o Nominating Committee Update:
 - Partial consistory position to be filled by Sallie Hagerman, Deacon position to be filled by Judy Clark, two consistory positions are still vacant.
- o Officer Reorganizational Meeting will take place in January at the consistory retreat.

Worship and Music –

- o Dec. 18-Baptism.
- o Poinsettia sale-55 plants ordered.
- o Dec. 24 3:00 and 7:00-both services candlelight, stream 7:00 service.
- o Dec. 25-10:00 AM service-hold in room 100 for informal service.
- o Jan. 1-10:00 service-hold in sanctuary, followed by pork and sauerkraut dinner in room 100 at 11:30.
- o Jan 8 - installation of consistory

DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

- o Jan. 8 - communion -should we return to use of plastic cups lids.
 - After discussion, it was decided to temporarily return to the use of plastic cups/lids until flu season is over.
- o Next meeting - Tues. Dec. 13 - 7:00 (library).

Church Life -

- o There is a good core of people to help and plan events.
- o Most events are coordinated with the Worship and Music committee.

Outreach/Evangelism –

- o Planning Blood Drive - March? April?
- o March 19th - Junior Honors Choir at 3:00 - Food after the concert.
- o Visioning next meeting -Wed. Jan. 25 room 100 at 7:00.
- o Outreach next meeting - Wed. Jan 11 7:00 PM.

Youth Fellowship - Nathan will reach out to the youth and pick a day in January to try and get together to coordinate possibly a 24-hour fast event and, hopefully, other events.

ELC -

- Class sizes are currently full., 3 students left for various reasons.
- The teachers are struggling with some behaviors so they are currently working with the IU to get volunteers, another teacher, etc.
- October and November were filled with Fall parties, Halloween parades, Thanksgiving feasts, and “service projects” (filling Christmas shoe boxes).
- December and January will be months filled with Christmas programs, Bible donations (12/15 & 16) and in-service for the teachers - Reen Bentzel will present on Dec. 15th and Jane will be there to present on Dec. 16.
- One teacher in the 4s class is leaving and they will be interviewing four people for the position.
- Donna Minnick will be attending a safety training on December 8th
- The meeting will be held with other local Preschool Teachers/Directors.
- Registration is open for the 2023-2024 school year!
- Next Meeting will be on February 2nd at 5 pm in Room 202 (all meetings have been moved to room 202 to avoid overlapping with the NA groups in room 100)

Property Committee-

- o The oak tree was cut down and the firewood dispensed. Stump removal planned.
- o Matt replaced the sink and leaky faucet in ELC boy's bathroom.
- o Scout troop assisted with leaf raking on November 19.
- o There was much discussion on security upgrade possibilities moving forward

DECEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Finance Committee and Budget –

- There is a deficit in the Current Funds collection to date.
 - There was much discussion on how to educate the congregation on the need for funds to be allocated to the Current Funds and less to Capital expense, Benevolence or other funds.
 - Additional discussion on ways to possibly use other available funds to help with the Current Fund deficit.
- After talking with an attorney, it was recommended to have someone set the Mary Emma Elicker trust into a trust fund.

Communication and Technology -

- One for streaming and one for the PowerPoint
- After discussion on the great need for having 2 new laptops, consistory agreed to allow Jeff Hershey to contact Tom Jones with the money to come from the Memorial Fund and a donor. Dani Bentzel will send Jeff the specs needed for the laptops.

Missions –

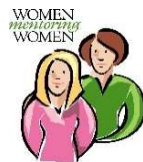
- The Christmas Offering will be donated to the UCC Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund.
- It has been recommended that the Lent (Ash Wednesday) Offering be used to support the Sunday School's Heifer International Project.
- The Committee has sent out Christmas Cards to the church's shut-ins.
- Next meeting - Tues. January 17th at 6:00 PM

*Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Reiber, Consistory President*



Happy New Year! **On January 1, 2023** the worship service will be held at **10:00 AM in the sanctuary**. Following the worship service, you're invited to join friends and family for a fabulous **pork and sauerkraut dinner in room 100**. The congregation is asked to contribute desserts to the dinner. A sign-up sheet is available in the gallery. We hope you are able to join us as we start our year together with worship and fellowship!

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 New 8**. If services are held, please use your best judgement as to whether you are able to attend.



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.*

The Women's Social and Support Group will meet for breakfast at **Dover Family Restaurant on Friday, January 20 at 9:00am**. Please contact Bev Arnold at 717-825-3319 by January 18 if you plan to attend.



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

Dear Friends at Shiloh UCC,

Times continue to be hard and you provide a lifeline for those in need. Thank you for your support and caring.

*Happy Holidays!
Jennifer and the Wellspan OBGYN Staff*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift in support of the ministry of theological education at Lancaster Seminary. Your gift provides support for Lancaster Seminary's mission to "educate and nurture leaders to join God's redemptive and liberating work so that all creation may flourish."

*In Chris,
Matthew Hanna, Assist. Director*

Dear Members and Friends at Shiloh UCC,

I would like to thank everyone for all the Christmas cards, gift cards, special gifts and yummy treats I received throughout the year and especially during the holidays! I am beyond grateful that I am always thought of ☺

Maira Rivera



OUR SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Shiloh UCC's former Pastor, **Rev. David Roe Jr.** who passed away on **December 15, 2022**. A celebration of life will be held on **January 15, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**, at St. John's United

Church of Christ, 161 North Main Street, Red Lion, PA. followed by an ice cream social.

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY:

- February 5 Communion
- February 20 President's Day
- February 22 Ash Wednesday
- February 26 First Sunday in Lent

JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S

- January 1 Sharon Winstead
- January 2 Billy Behler Jr.
- January 3 Blaine Copenheaver Sr.
Arlene Myers
Donna Seifarth
- January 6 Paul Brubaker
Laura Metzger
Jake Spangler
- January 7 Queenetta Schneider
- January 8 Charlotte Bupp
Bobby Limbert
- January 9 Joshua Bentzel
Justin Claytor
Jennifer Withey
- January 12 John E. Herrold
Christel Reiber
Benjamin Stough
Brandt Stough



JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S (Cont'd)

- January 13 Sally Curren
Bob Dunn
- January 14 Joshua Cramer
- January 15 Craig Johnson
- January 16 Joyce Mummert
- January 17 Alex Daugherty
- January 19 Tyler Bamberger
Connor Riccardi
- January 20 Laci Miller
- 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 27 Tai Strausbaugh
- 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	Deacons
Marsha Reiber, President	Dani Bentzel
Norina Bentzel , V. Pres.	Carolyn Poff
Sallie Hagerman, Secretary	Stephen Sechriest
Jane Harrison	
Jeff Hershey	
Matt Hildebrecht	
Nathan Limbert	

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:	Wednesdays 9 AM-2 PM & 5-8 PM Thurs 5-8:00 PM Fridays 9AM-2 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
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