

**Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ
Communion Service
The Baptism of Christ
January 7, 2024
8:30AM and 11:00AM**

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful;
The Lord God
made them all.

How many are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures...
living things both large and small.

PSALM 104:24-25 (NIV*)



MEDITATION

"Baptism is the door of the spiritual life and the gateway to the sacraments."

- Thomas Aquinas: *Summa Theologica*

PRELUDE

8:30AM "Liebster Immanuel" Smith
11:00AM "Gesu Bambino/Go Tell It on the Mountain" Yon & Goldston

WELCOME AND CONCERNS

INSTALLATION OF CONSISTORY AND ORDINATION OF NEW DEACONS

Pastor: Let us remember the model of leadership provided by our Lord, who came not to be served, but to serve, and who said to his disciples, "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whosoever would be first among you must be slave of all."

Consistory: In Christ's name and by his grace we accept our mission of witness and service to all people.

Pastor: Let us remember the unity that God has given us: one body, one spirit, one hope of our calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Creator of all, over all, through all, and in all.

Consistory: We rejoice in God, maker of heaven and earth, and in the covenant of love which binds us to God and to one another.

Pastor: Let us remember the church we are chosen to serve using the gifts with which we are equipped "for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

ACT OF ORDINATION

Pastor: The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful men and women and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon **Susan Besecker, Tom Fox and Tom Klunk** for the position of deacons.

Laying on of Hands

Pastor: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of deacon in Christ's church and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive authority to execute your office in the name of Christ.

People: Amen.

Pastor: And now do you all gladly accept the duties of members of the consistory to which you have been elected, and do you promise to fulfill those duties?

Consistory: I do, the Lord being my helper.

Pastor: Do you, members of Shiloh UCC, agree to encourage these Elders and Deacons and respect their decisions, as together we seek to witness to Jesus Christ?

People: We do.

Pastor: Let us pray,

People: We thank you, God, for these who have accepted special servant roles in the life of Shiloh UCC. We are blessed by the gifts they are willing to share in our mutual ministry. Preserve the resolve each of these servants has at this moment. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus, Christ. Amen.

Pastor: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of *deacon and elder* in Christ's church and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive authority to execute the office of deacon or elder in the name of Christ. Amen.

2024 CONSISTORY

ELDERS

Jane Harrison
Matt Hildebrecht
Nathan Limbert-President
Beverly Arnold-Secretary
Linda Little-V. President

DEACONS

Carolyn Poff
Patricia Myers
Tom Fox
Tom Klunk
Susan Besecker

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Cynthia Langston Kirk*)

(Please stand if you are able)

One: As we take our first breath

All: The God of miracles is present.

One: As we test our wings in adolescence and young adulthood

All: The God of faithfulness is ever with us.

One: When responsibilities, geography, and relationships are altered

All: God is there in the joy and in the sorrow.

One: And when we snuggle into the status quo

All: Christ inspires us to a life of caring and community.

One: Wherever we are on our journey this Sabbath

All: God calls us from the font to a new day, a fresh beginning. Let us worship God!

*HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#43

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Let us pray!

God who watches over us, offering us light and hope, be with us this day as we hear the story of Jesus' baptism. Help us to remember your healing, cleansing, and claiming love for us. Remind us again of the many ways in which you reach out to us. May the image of the waters be for us an image of hope. Bring us closer to you, loving God. Embrace us again with your love. We open our hearts to you this day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

CD

WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-15

Second Reading: Psalm 29

*CHANCEL CHOIR

"Sweet Rivers of Mercy"

Curry

Third Reading: Mark 1:4-11

SERMON

“Baptism and Blessing”

*HYMN

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

#Insert

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 OFFERING BEFORE GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Just as the waters of the earth are abundant and full of life, so are the blessings God pours upon us daily. Let us now joyfully offer our tithes, pledges, and offerings with the hope that they may enable others to feel immersed in God’s love.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Doxology”

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace
Praise God for gifts of joy and love
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Let us pray!
**Faithful God,
Bless us in our baptismal calling
to be in ministry of showing hospitality to others.
We offer the gifts that we have been given to be used
not for conquest and dominance,
but for use in liberating the poor and hurting people,
who pray for our liberation as well as their own.
Receive and multiply our gifts for life-giving ministry. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

(All are welcome to partake of communion)

*HYMN

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (Vs. 1-2)

#345

STATEMENT OF FAITH DOXOLOGY

NCH #885

INVITATION

One: Jesus Christ said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

All: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

One: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God’s people.

CONFESSION OF SIN

One: God is present to us, but we don’t always feel it. God is good to us, but we can’t always accept it. Fact is, there are things within and around us that attempt to step between us and our relationship to God’s goodness. There are things that we think, things that we do, that act to separate us from God. The church calls that “sin.”

All: God of all mercy, I confess that sin grips me and I cannot break free. The sin is in my mind, on my lips, in my acts done or even ignored stand between me and you. My entire heart is not always yours. My love of neighbor falls short. In the name of Jesus, have mercy on me. Grant me your renewing forgiveness. Lead me on your paths of righteousness, and I shall delight in you, and I shall follow you, giving glory to your holy name. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The God who gives, gives all. The God who loves, loves all. The God who forgives, forgives all. Through Christ, our sins, every one of them: the sins of commission, the sins of omission, the sins we confessed with contrition – all are forgiven.

All: By the grace of God, we are forgiven. Alleluia!

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.

*HYMN

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

#14 Special Hymnal

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP (*The members of Consistory will serve you the bread and juice. To demonstrate our unity in Christ, we will take the elements together. Please wait until everyone has been served.*)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Let us pray!

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN *“O God of Love, O God of Peace”* #571

BENEDICTION

Go forth joyfully! God is with you. Bring peace and hope to all you meet. And may God’s eternal love shine through you always. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

8:30AM *“In Thee Is Gladness”* Hamilton
11:00AM *“The Little Drummer Boy”* Davis, Onorati, Simeone


WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU JOINED US FOR WORSHIP TODAY!

- **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the glory of God and in appreciation to the Shiloh UCC staff, Consistory, members and ELC staff for their dedication to our church and community by Sue and Brad Jacobs.
- **THE BULLETINS** are dedicated to the glory of God and in honor of our new Consistory members by Jane Harrison.
- **VIDEO TEAM:** Lew Wallace, Sallie Hagerman, Dani Bentzel, Matt Hildebrecht, & Nathan Limbert.
- **LITURGIST: 8:30AM:** Tom Fox **11:00 AM:** Linda Little
- **GREETERS: 8:30AM** Jack & Diane Jordan **11:00AM:** Richard & Helen Hodgson
- **NURSERY: 8:30AM:** Jim & Reen Bentzel **11:00AM** Volunteer
- **MUSIC:** Chancel Choir, Joan Hamme, Sandy Bamberger

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS AND MUSICIANS!

“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	8:30 & 11	Communion/Baptism of the Lord/Installation of Consistory	
	9:45	Sunday School (100) & Wired Word (202)	
MON	7:00	Consistory (202)	
TUES	8:30	Men’s Breakfast (Dover Valley Rest)	
	6:30	Cub Scouts (100)	
	8:00	Men’s Chorus	
WED	9:30	Bible Study	
	5:00	TOPS (117)	
THUR	6:30	NA Group	
	6:30	Choirs	
SUN	8:30 & 11	Worship/Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday	

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 97

THE CHURCH STAFF	
Pastor	Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D. pastormelinda@shilohucc.com 717-764-3609
Pastor Melinda office hours:	Wednesdays 9AM-12PM & 5-8PM Thursdays & 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 717-764-3569
Website:	www.shilohuccyorkpa.org
Facebook Page	www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa
	 Find us on Facebook

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

Morning Prayer *(Lutheran morning prayer)*

Heavenly Father, thank you that You have kept me from all harm and danger this night. I pray that You would keep me from sin and every evil this day, that all my doings and life may please You. Into Your hands I commend myself, my body, my soul, and all things. Let Your Holy Spirit be with me and guide me throughout this day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Evening Prayer *(Author unknown)*

Lord,
You bless us as we rest
Restore us as we sleep
You care for us as we drift off
And make our dreaming sweet.

You are the safest place
You are the God of Grace
Forgiven, loved and held by you
Is each small seed of faith.

You know our thoughts and feelings
You see our deep desires
You understand our weariness
And catch each tear we cry.

You walk beside us every day
You are a constant friend
You stay with us all through the night
On you we can depend.
Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Sandy Baboian, Julene Bechtel, Jim Sr. and Rosemary Bentzel, Rosabel Bentzel, Marvel Burg, Helen Byers, Gerry Funkhouser, Joe Jordan, Bev Kirk, Donna Krone, Elaine Krout, Dottie Limbert, Catherine Lochman, Arlene Myers, Joanne Overmiller, Randy Reisinger, Donna Robertson, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Cedric Simpson, Stewart Wagner, Romaine Walton, Elva Winter

THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES

The Bechtel Family; The Geesey Family; The Shaffer Family



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 next **Shiloh UCC Men's Breakfast** will be held on **Tuesday, January 9th at 8:30 am** at Dover Valley Restaurant. Contact Brad Jacobs at 717-764-2773 or bcj402@verizon.net for more information.



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

It's that time of year to warm up with a nice cup of **coffee** from **Costa Rica**! A new shipment has come in and it includes decaffeinated coffee as well as whole coffee beans for a fresh grind! Please contact Linda Little if interested at 717-309-4523



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

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.



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

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.





The Visioning committee continues to meet and will be reviewing surveys from the ELC parents. As we work on the issue of reaching more families with young children, we need all of Shiloh's help and support. This is a follow up to the video from the Lewis Center we shared last fall. Also we have recommended and the Consistory has approved a new Vision statement which reads

“Shiloh UCC is called to be a community where love is affirmed, truth is told, laughter, and tears are encouraged to be 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.”

Some suggestions to carry out a plan of action to address our major focus are and fulfill our vision are:

- *Pray for the Pastor and the members of the Consistory
- *Always support the Pastor in front of others (if you have a concern go to the Church and Ministry Committee or if comfortable go directly to the Pastor).
- *Be a team player. The church is a *community* not an *individual*. You may not agree with everyone or everything but the purpose of the church is not to try to please you. It is to spread the word of God.
- *Get involved in the small groups that meet and / or volunteer for one of the many committees that meet.
- *Bring your children or grandchildren to church.
- *Invite your neighborhood children to church.
- *Volunteer to help the Church Chums which is a group that has events for families and young children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

The Visioning Committee