



COMMUNIQUE



January

2025

SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2251 Willow Road
York, PA 17408

A GROWING CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2251 WILLOW ROAD
YORK, PA 17408-4024

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- January 5** *Epiphany of the Lord*
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Matthew 2:1-12
“Who is Wise?”
- January 12** *Baptism of the Lord*
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
“Why Get Baptized”
- January 19** *Second Sunday after the Epiphany*
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
John 2:1-11
“The First Sign”
- January 26** *Third Sunday after the Epiphany*
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
“Many Gifts One Spirit”

Happy New Year!

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Dear Friends in Christ,

Here at Shiloh UCC, we are starting a new year together, with hope and great expectations. We are hoping not only for spiritual growth, but also for a church full of smiling people. We have seen small signs of growth this last year. Consistently, we have seen more children in church. We have had a Confirmation Class. We have had several family and youth programs, and we hired a new staff member, Brandy, our Family and Youth Ministry Coordinator. The future looks bright. Even if we have to take many small steps and be happy with small victories, Shiloh UCC is on the right track and God is blessing us with new life. Starting a new year is always challenging. Just think about “new year resolutions”. Maybe, you decided to read the whole Bible in the year 2025, or want to lose some weight. Maybe, you just decided to eat healthier and go for a short walk every day. No matter what the resolution is, it won't be easy. However, we have help.



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

CONSISTORY

Elders

Nathan Limbert, President
Linda Little, V. Pres.
Bev Arnold, Secretary
Jane Harrison
Matt Hildebrecht

Deacons

Sue Besecker
Tom Fox
Pat Myers
Carolyn Poff

Natalie Fuhrman – Treasurer
Sallie Hagerman – Financial Secretary
Sallie Hagerman – Church School Superintendent

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.
pastormelinda@shilohucc.com

Pastor Melinda office hours:

Tues, Wed, Thurs 9AM-1PM

Director of Music

Stephanie Limbert

Organist

Sandy Bamberger

Missionaries in Costa Rica

Crosby and Sally Jane Johnson

Administrative Assistant

Courtney Olschefski

Family and Youth Ministry

Brandi Shoff

Coordinator

Early Learning Center

Allison Hartnett

Church Office Phone Number

717-764-3569

Church Email Address

office@shilohuccyorkpa.org

Website

www.shilohuccyorkpa.org



www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa

SYMPATHY



Our sympathy to Deb and Dave Althoff on the passing of Dave's mother, Joyce Althoff, on December 5. Joyce was 92.

Memorial Contributions were also made in memory of **Donna Robertson** by Joan Hamme,

Deb & Dave Althoff, Susanne Werner.

COMING UP

Feb 2 Communion
Boy Scout Sunday

March 2 Communion
Building Birthday

March 5 Ash Wednesday

March 7 World Day of Prayer

March 9 First Sunday in Lent/Daylight Savings Time Begins
One Great Hour of Sharing

March 16 Daffodil Sunday

God is constantly present in our lives, so any time when we need a little “extra energy” to do what’s good for us mentally, spiritually and physically, we can ask for help. Prayer is a great way to ask for help. Prayer is yet another good spiritual practice that you can start doing every day, if you haven’t tried it before. Just like coming to church, regular prayer just makes us feel better. We find emotional stability, and we become more aware of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Reading the Bible, meditating on it’s words and praying in the morning and evening keeps our hearts and minds on the Holy One. This time of the year it is good for us to have new year resolutions. But make no mistake, giving your life to Jesus is not a new year’s resolution. It is more than that... Resolving to do something on our own will power usually ends in failure. But ironically, humbly surrendering, and turning our will and lives over to God, leads to success. Trust God with everything this year, my friends. Shiloh UCC has already so many amazing members and friends. Why don’t we all do our part to help our congregation grow? The pastor alone cannot grow a congregation. We are in this together. Every single person must invite family members and friends to attend services with them. I know it’s hard. If you have adult children, I know they don’t want to hear about going to church. They have busy lives and things to take care of. My dream for 2025 is this: every church member and friend who attends at Shiloh regularly will bring at least one new person with them in the coming year. I know this will be hard; especially for those who have already done this. But let’s dream big. Let’s do something great in God’s eyes! However, I am not asking you to do miracles. Simply, ask someone you know, a neighbor, a new friend, a family member that doesn’t go anywhere (and you may have asked them many times before). Make a conscious effort to invite everyone you meet on your journey to Shiloh UCC. The rest is in God’s hands. You can’t pick them up and drag them to church. Just do your best, make an effort to talk to people about Shiloh UCC. We, people, Jesus’ disciples, are in the “efforts department,” God is in the “results department.” *What are your dreams for the new year? Are you feeling hopeful? Is your faith strong? Are you willing to sacrifice for God?* Starting a new, good habit in 2025 is a good idea. Dust off that Bible on the shelf, or start reading it online. Pray and meditate on God’s Word and “trust in the Lord with all your heart...” Above all, don’t forget to talk about your faith. Tell people about Shiloh UCC, about the kind and generous people who love each other, and pray for each other faithfully. Talk about the friendships that are made here. If you hear a good sermon, share it with others. If you enjoy singing or fellowship, talk about it. Dare to invite people to church and let God take care of the rest. *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 Happy New Year everyone,* Pastor Melinda

December Consistory Highlights

Pastor's Report- Worship

Special worship services:

- November 24th – Thanksgiving Sunday Celebration
- December 1st – First Sunday of Advent + Communion (Thank you for decorating the Sanctuary! It looks beautiful!)
- December 8th – Second Sunday of Advent - the Bell Choir did an excellent job!

Administration

- Pastor Melinda vacation - November 12-18 (phone calls about a church member on the 13th, hospital visit on the 18th)
- Pastor Melinda sick days - November 19-21. Worked from home on the 19th (on the bulletin, finished Communique article), 20th (on the Bulletin and Worship)
 - 11/26 - attended the Worship and Music Meeting.
- 12/4 - Staff Meeting (Attended: Pastor Melinda, Courtney, Brandi, Stephanie and Sandy)
- November 5th – attended the ELC Board Meeting
- Pastor Melinda Sabbatical plans for 2025: away during the summer months (June, July and August). Plan: Read at least three major theological books (I have the book titles at the church!) about church growth and/or preaching. Take at least one theological course at a seminary/online or in person (I haven't found an online course that I would like to take, but I'm looking.) I will also work on my spiritual replenishment (so that I can "give" to the congregation). Nora Foust from the UCC Conference will talk to the Consistory about how a "Sabbatical" works for the church.

Pastoral Care

- Home, hospital, hospice, and nursing home visits (13) brought communion to 8 people.
- Office/lunch meeting (3)
- Phone calls (4+); countless text messages to our members, office, and friends.

Christian Education

- Confirmation class meets twice a month (the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month!) at 9AM in the Library. We have two confirmation kids. They are doing very well and attending regularly.
- Brandi is doing a great job bringing together the youth and the children. Thank you, Brandi!

• 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 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



THANK YOU NOTES

New Life For Girls would like to give their Heartfelt Thanks for our donations to helping the girls they serve.

The Soup Kitchen crew would like to thank everyone who generously donated candy for Our Daily Bread in December. We are especially grateful to Gladys Seigman for making the beautiful cloth bags that we filled with candy. Everyone expressed gratitude for the sweet treats.

The Sunday School would like to thank everyone who gave generously to the Tree of Warmth this year. With your generous donations we collected a total of 138 youth items to be donated to the Lehman Center of York and a total of 229 adult items to be donated to Mr. Sandy's Homeless Veteran Center. There was also a total of 14 blankets to be split between the two centers as well. There was a wide variety of hats, scarfs, socks, gloves and clothing. Many will be able to stay warm with these amazing donations this winter.

Thank You so much for making me feel welcome these past 3 months. A special Thank You for all the Christmas cards/gifts. They were very much appreciated by my family and myself. Courtney Olschefski

Hi my name is Randal Tuttle and I live in Lima, Ohio. I am a truck driver and stopped at the Petro in Carlisle, PA. I was in the store and made a purchase and received a Sack with cookies and a Christmas Card from your Church. What a very nice gesture. Please thank all the volunteers that made the cookies and your wonderful gift. May God bless you all In all the years 35 to be exact I have only one other time been given a gift during the Holidays. Thank You all and a very Blessed Christmas and A Happy Birthday to Jesus. Randal L Tuttle Lima Ohio. I will remember this into my retirement.

Dear Shiloh UCC,

A big thank you from the "Friends" Relay for Life team for allowing us to use the kitchen and room 100 to make our Christmas candy. And a bigger thank you for buying it and supporting us. God Bless each one of you!

Thank you to Shiloh for a REMARKABLE BLESSING that is helping us get through this year in the black and helping to supply our students with the necessities they need to attend school, which is keeping the mission work going. We are THANKFUL FOR YOU! Have a wonderful Christmas!!

The Board of Heart and Hands For Jesus

- Grief Group meets once a month.
- Advent Study started on December 4th. We meet on Wednesdays at 7pm in Room 202.
- Wednesday Bible Study meets weekly. Thank you, Ray!
- Two Sunday School adult classes meet weekly. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers!
- Thank you to all the ladies who lead our women's social groups!
- Men's Breakfast group meets monthly. Thank you, Brad!

Contact with the larger UCC, ELC, and local community

- November 11th – Attended and said prayers at the Veterans Memorial Dedication at Dover High School – Brad Jacobs.
- November 28th – I attended the Thanksgiving dinner at Shiloh UCC. We had a large group of people (about 30 people attended).
- December 8th – My family and I helped with the "Caroling for our Shut ins". We visited Normandie Ridge, a shut-in's home, Providence Place and Country Meadows. (I did not count these Caroling "visits" in my pastoral visits, although I did see and talk to another 8 shut ins and countless other people, non members, who live in the nursing homes.)

President's Report-

- No Report

Guest Report-

- No Guests at the meeting

New Business-

A. Duties for Christmas Eve Services.

- 3 PM service: Capt.-Nathan Limbert, Usher-Linda Little, Greeter-Jane Harrison, Candle lighters-Sue and Steve Besecker, Nathan Limbert and Linda Little.
- 7PM service: Capt.-Tom Fox, Usher-Carolyn Poff, Greeter-Bev Arnold, Candle lighters-Natalie Fuhrman, Tom Fox, Carolyn Poff, Pat Myers

B. Staff Luncheon Thursday December 12th. This will be held at Panera Bread.

C. Committee reorganization idea. It was suggested that we try to get lay leaders to chair some of the committees with a consistory liaison.

D. The consistory retreat will be held on January 4, 2025 and Pastor Melinda will contact the new members of the consistory.

E. Lin Heckert to cover one year of a 3-year consistory term.

- At the consistory meeting it was decided to invite Lin Heckert to be added to the new consistory for a one-year period. A motion was made and passed.

F. Sue will talk to Courtney about getting the end-of-year reports in.

Unfinished Business-

A. Soup kitchen is wondering when the new sink will be connected? The sink is currently being worked on by Matt. He is currently working on putting in the water supply line.

Church and ministry-

- Our last meeting of the year was held and membership was discussed and it was suggested that I work with Administrative Secretary Courtney to update. I tried setting up a time to meet but we have not been able to do so. This will be taken care of in the new year.

Worship and Music-

- Poinsettia Sale ended Dec 8. Price \$7.50 . Hope to have delivery Dec.21
- Christmas Caroling - Sunday, Dec 8 - 16 members visited Country Meadows, Providence Place, Normandie Ridge and Don and Jeanie Bentzel
- Thanksgiving dinner served 35 people

Church Life-

- We will have periodic meetings and invite Brandi to take part to keep us aware of her planned activities.

Outreach/Evangelism-

- T-shirt sale has begun and will last for the month of December. Delivery will be during January. Cost is \$15 per shirt (adult sizes S-XXL). Shirts provided by Funny Farm Apparel.
- A Direct Mail project is planned for Christmas to promote services during week of Christmas - 733 cards to the community, 180 to the ELC, remainder to inactive members by the end of the week
- Next meeting to be determined

Visioning-

- Hope to schedule meeting in January This committee needs a chairman and plans

Missions Committee-

- Next meeting is January 21, 2025

Christian Ed.-

- No report

Next Shiloh UCC men's breakfast will be held Tuesday, January 21 8:30 AM Dover Valley restaurant

Youth Paint Day, Sunday, January 5th 10:15 am in Room 100-



Join us for a day of fellowship & painting

Pizza Palooza Family Event, Sunday, January 19th please sign up (in gallery) -Join us for a Family Day!

Come to our church service at 10am, then a DIY (Do-it-yourself) Pizza Palooza afterwards in Room 100 (starting roughly around 11:30 am). We will have mini pizzas for your family to put together along with drinks. While your family waits to put together and bake your pizza, gather for a fun game with the board games we have available

Family and Youth Ministry Peanut Butter Cup Meltaways PRE-SALE Sale Dates are January 5th-February 2nd Candy will be distributed on Sunday, February 9th before & after service Peanut Butter Cups will be packaged into candy boxes \$5.00 per dozen of standard bite size PB cups



Wow, December came and went. I hope you all had a beautiful & blessed Christmas and HAPPY NEW YEAR! This month the Family and Youth Ministry hosted two small groups. We had such a fun time crafting ornaments on the 8th of December! We also got to decorate and send

Christmas cards to our shut-ins! Please check out our FB page for photos of the kids during these events. I will also post some on the boards outside the gallery. This month, we have another family event planned! I have sent invitations out to our pre-school family inviting them to our church service on the 19th of January and afterwards I have a pizza party event planned where families can enjoy lunch and some games together. I also have planned a paint day for children! Ages 1st grade to middle school are welcome to attend on January 5th to paint a festive canvas & socialize. We also will be doing a Peanut Butter cup sale starting in January, January 5th to be exact and will run to February 2nd. This will be a pre-sale and then candy will be distributed on February 9th before and after service right before the Valentine's day holiday. Proceeds will benefit the Family and Youth Ministry. As always, reach out to me with any questions, concerns or suggestions. Have a blessed month, and again HAPPY NEW YEAR. 2025 will be a good one!

Brandi Shoff

Worship Together



Engaging Women will be meeting Tuesday, Jan 14 at 6:30 pm. In the parlor

The Women's Guild will be meeting **January 6 at 1:00 pm in room 202**. The program will be from our study book Experiencing Contagious Joy, Chapter Nine: Rejoice With Me. Joyce Mummert will be leading this chapter. Special offering this month is for New Life for Girls and Cash Rally. We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.

Woman's Social January 17th 9:00 am at Central Family Restaurant for a delicious breakfast and great company



The Outreach Committee is having a T-Shirt sale! They cost \$15 each for adult sizes small through XXL. Look for the example in the Gallery. The shirts can worn at church functions, such as, the church picnic or Fall Festival. Volunteers can wear them when they work at the Soup Kitchen or Parents' Night Out. Of course, they can be worn anytime at all!

Profits from the shirt sale will help with expenses for the direct mailing projects and gifts given to the congregation. Activities organized by Church Chums will also benefit from the sale. The sale continues through January 5. Envelopes for ordering are available in the Gallery and Narthex. They should be placed in the offering plate or in the office. Thank you for supporting this exciting outreach project.

Early Learning Center-

- New program proposal - Natalie has details. A discussion was had at the ELC meeting about the possibility of having an under 2-yr old group once a week. This would be like a Mom and me gathering for mothers with younger children for discussion. Brandi would be involved in this.
- Bibles to be presented at Christmas programs by Pastor Melinda, and Amie Baker on the one occasion that Pastor Melinda cannot be present
- There will be a paint night in February for adults

Finance Committee-

- Reviewed the Treasurer's Report

Communication and Technology-

- PC's purchased (4, waiting for Jaron and Andrew to get setup after new year)
 - .Could 1 or 2 of the old ones be used by lay people

Property Committee-

- Property meeting Dec 16th 7PM in the Parlor
- PTAC update - Done by Matt
- Boiler service - Done by Matt
- Roof Quotes for parsonage - Quotes received from T.C Backer and Dover Roofing
- ELC lighting - Pricing received
- Parsonage rent increase
 - A discussion was had on the possibility of increasing the rent. Nothing has been determined yet.
- Pot sink underway Update: moving forward
- Shiloh UCC sign on the corner of Willow Road and Route 74. This needs to be removed. Discussion was held and some ideas were: to get rid of it completely or check to see if it can be piggy-backed on the Leber Funeral Home sign on T.C. Backers property or on the property of the home on the corner of School Street and Route 74.



JANUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 6:30 Choirs 6:30 NA Group	3	4
5 10:15 Paint Day for Youth (100) Communion/Installation new Consistory /Epiphany	6 1:00 Woman's Guild	7 6:30 Cub Scouts	8 9:30 Bible Study 5:00 TOPs (202)	9 6:30 Choirs 6:30 NA Group	10	11
12 9:00 Confirmation Class	13 7:00 Consistory	14 8:30 Men's Breakfast 6:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 Engaging Woman (Parlor)	15 7:30 Soup Prep 930 Bible Study 5pm TOPs (202)	16 10:30 Our Daily Bread 6:30 Choirs 6:30 NA Group	17 Woman's Social 9Am. Central Fam Rest.	18
19 11 am Pizza Palooza & Games (100) MLK Sunday	20	21 6pm Missions Meeting 6:30 Cub Scouts 7pm Grief Group 7pm Quilt Club	22 930 Bible Study 5pm TOPs (202) 7pm Worship & Music	23 6:30 Choirs 6:30 NA Group	24	25 11 am Private Event (100)
26 9 am Confirmation Class ANNUAL MEETING	27	28 10:30 House of Worship Tour (Providence Place) 6:30 Cub Scouts	29 930 Bible Study 5pm TOPs (202)	30 6:30 Choirs 6:30 NA Group	31	