

COMMUNIQUE



MARCH 2022

SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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A GROWING CHURCH
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS

MARCH

March 2



7:00 P.M. SERVICE

Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
“Do It in Secret”

March 6

First Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Luke 4:1-13
“Desert Experiences”

March 13

Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Luke 13:31-35
Psalm 27
You Are Never Alone”

March 20

Third Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
Luke 13:1-9
“Second Chances”

March 27

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Psalm 32
“Forgiveness”

COMING UP IN APRIL

April 10 – Palm Sunday
April 14 – Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m.
April 15 – Good Friday, service at 12:00 p.m. (Office Closed)
April 17 – Easter/Communion
April 24 – Butterfly Sunday/ELC Sunday



SAVE THE DATE – Sunday, May 22 – Church Service and Picnic at Sunset Park. More details to come in April’s Communique.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst... 'Repent and believe.'... What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor - He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you."

~St. Teresa of Calcutta

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Lent is the time for greater love..." says Mother Teresa. And soon, we will be embarking on our Lenten journey. Here, let me invite you to attend our Ash Wednesday service on March 2nd at 7PM, and start Lent together with your friends and family members at Shiloh UCC. Let us remember together the more serious aspects of our Christian faith. Let us remember that both in death and in life we belong to Christ. (Romans 14:8) I know Easter seems a bit far at this point, but we joyfully end the Lenten season on Easter Sunday (this year on April 17th), when we will celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lent is not simply "a time for greater love" but it is also a perfect time for reflection and prayer. It is an excellent opportunity to listen to Jesus in our heart, who "thirsts" to teach us how to love God and each other.

Please, remember that during Lent we will be starting a new Sunday School Class on the Book of Psalms (on Sundays between the two services); we will offer a Grief Group to people who have recently lost loved ones (we will meet once or twice a month), and a Men's Breakfast Group (once a month).

Our "love story" with God started when we gave our hearts to Jesus. At some point in our lives, we decided to follow in Jesus' footsteps, attend church services, and obey God's will. No matter where God leads us, Jesus, who is in our hearts, wants to love others through us. We say we are "*the hands and feet of Jesus*" in this world. However, we often fail to forgive and love others with the enthusiasm and sacrifice we would expect from the followers of Christ.

Lent is a great time for reflection; for as we pray, meditate, and read the Holy Scriptures more often, we come to realize our sinfulness and the common mistakes that hold us back from becoming truly joyful children of God. Also, don't forget to meditate on God's goodness, and all the blessings that we already have in our lives. Naturally, as grateful people who recognize God's blessings, we want to live lives that are holy and sacred.

How do we show our love and gratitude to God practically?

We express our appreciation by working for the happiness of others; by doing our best to lift up the poor, the lonely, the grieving and the suffering. We work for justice and peace in our world.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

Jesus wants to reach everyone through us. Jesus wants to love the whole world through our humble words and deeds. We just need to be willing vessels.

So, let us examine our spiritual state this Lent, and work on our imperfections, sins, and limitations. Let us make an effort to grow spiritually during these six precious weeks, for "*Lent is the time for greater love.*"

*Blessings,
Pastor Melinda*



FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report- Worship

Ø *Special worship services*

Sunday, January 16th – Memorial Service at LeRoy Leber Funeral Home for George E. Hohenshilt, Jr.

Friday, January 21st – Mary Rodgers funeral

January 23rd – Rentzel baptismal service

January 30th – Congregational meeting at 9:30

February 6th – Communion Sunday

February 13th – Scout Sunday

Administration

Ø I attended the scheduled meetings, when possible.

Ø January 10th – Consistory meeting

Ø January 18th – Stewardship / Missions Committee meeting

Ø February 2nd – Staff Meeting

Ø February 2nd – Worship and Music meeting

Ø February 3rd – Outreach meeting

Pastoral Care

Ø Home, hospital and nursing home visits (2)

Ø Office/lunch meetings (8)

Ø Phone calls/Facebook private messages (10+) to our members

Christian Education

Ø Working on starting 3 new programs. Brad Jacobs will start a Men's Group starting soon. Marsha Reiber will lead a Sunday School class on the Book of Psalms starting in March. I would like to start a Grief Group during Lent.

Ø Confirmation: Next meeting is February 27th.

Contact with the larger UCC + local community

Ø Contacted the Cub and the Boy Scouts about the upcoming Scout Sunday worship service.

FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

New business-

- A. Potential Gluten Free option for Communion—Offer a gluten free wafer option for communion for anyone needing it, or use gluten free bread and freeze to get the most use out of it.
- B. Jaron Flickinger and Lew Wallace to present Media quotes and answer questions—new estimates for the audio and video upgrades from SSP Custom Sound were presented since the previous ones were outdated. Jaron and Lew answered many questions/concerns. Following additional discussion, the consistory decided to present the information to the congregation for feedback. Marsha Reiber will ask Lew for a more detailed breakdown of the quotes and will present the information to the congregation on 2/27/2022, along with where the money will come from, to obtain feedback from the congregation on how they would like to proceed with the upgrades.
- C. Jaron is still working on Allison's laptop to upgrade Microsoft
- D. Need permission to post items on our Facebook Marketplace to sell or donate items that are in parsonage garage (child tables, chairs, filing cabinets, etc.) also some old equipment that Lew says we're not using.
- E. One Great Hour of Sharing Offering - March 27—Marsha Reiber will contact Maira about getting the envelopes for this special offering.
- F. Security webinar and need for a security plan. Governor has initiated another grant program that we should consider submitting applications. - Marsha Reiber distributed information from attending the faith-based security webinar. There are low-cost security measures that could be instituted. She suggested we set up a Security Committee and asked Janene Beck if Cliff Beck might want to help set this up.
- G. Consider mask-optional going forward for vaccinated and boosted members. -It was decided to make masks optional for those vaccinated and to again start coffee connections beginning March 6, 2022. The plexiglass will also come down.
- H. It was noted that lights were left on in room 100 after an event on Saturday 2/12/22. Marsha Reiber will talk to Maira to have her remind anyone using the facilities to be sure all lights are turned off and to lock up after their event—there needs to be a point person responsible for this.
- I. Marsha Reiber brought up that Community Aid, the company that removed the clothing box from our parking lot, is now requiring a number from anyone dropping off clothing to benefit a certain charity (Friends of Limon). Could we set up a bin in a certain place in the church? Marsha will see where the best place would be for this so anyone with clothing/shoes will have a place to put them.
- J. It was decided that the extra \$2,486.26 in the benevolence fund 2021, the total amount, will go to Friends and Neighbors of PA following a Jane Harrison/Carolyn Poff motion.

FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Unfinished Business-

- A. Personnel committee—Tabled until March
- B. Pastor/Parish relations committee—Pastor Melinda to work on this.
- C. Explore seminary student to build youth—Christian Ed committee to head.
 - a. Marsha Reiber contacted the church in Dover and is waiting to hear back. Marsha will also contact other churches to see how they run their youth programs.
- D. Ash Wednesday offering—This will be counted as the Lenten offering.
- E. Revisit Covid restrictions—covered in New Business.
- F. Church and Ministry committee will review proposed changes to costs of using the church facilities.
- G. By-Laws changes—consider looking at this towards the end of the year and then bring to the congregation.

Worship and Music-

- o Wed. Mar 2 - Ash Wednesday (record/stream)- 7:00 PM
- o Sun. Mar. 6 - Lenten Breakfast - After some discussion, it was decided to postpone the Lenten Breakfast this year.
- o Daffodil Sunday - March 27 - orders for flowers due February 20 (\$10 - Bunch of daffodils, \$15 - Pot of mini-daffodils or bunch of assorted colorful tulips)
- o Fri. Apr. 15 -Good Friday service - 12:00 noon (possibility of other churches joining)
- o Sun. Apr. 10 - Brunch? - will ask Joyce Mummert/Shepherding committee to take care of this
- o Church picnic - Ice cream truck - It was decided to not do the ice cream truck
- o Asking to purchase Brass Altar Vases/Liners- \$1491.99, Pair of Brass Candlesticks-\$84.99, Brass Bible Stand -\$141.99 (vases and candlesticks are lacquered) All items would be purchased from Christianbook. It was approved to purchase the brass altar vases/liners, pair of brass candlesticks, and brass bible stand, to be funded from the Memorial fund, following a Nathan Limbert/Janene Beck motion.

Worship and Ministry-

- o Reen checked with the Nominations Committee and the response about getting Consistory members each year is that it is difficult to find people willing to do this but they will keep trying as necessary.
- o Staff Meeting was on February 2, all staff attended.
- o Cub Scouts on Tuesday evenings not cleaning up after themselves and when meeting in the parking lot for camping trips are coming into the building to use the restrooms (which is fine) but are not checking in with Maira to let her know who is in the building. Reen Bentzel spoke to John Reiber and he will speak to the Cub Master regarding these issues.

FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

- Cleaning Service has subcontracted cleaning to a third party who employs teenage girls to do weekday ELC cleaning. Were observed banging on piano keys inappropriately in the classroom. Also cleaning hasn't been the greatest-has been reported to Juan - Marsha will have Jeff follow up with Maira and the cleaning company.

Outreach/Evangelism -

- Survey was sent out. If we have low response, then we should resend in January. We already have some responses.
- Discussed opening parlor on Sundays as a welcoming place for friends and family to meet /maybe hold Coffee Connections/ turn on fireplace in winter.
- Plan to send postcards for Easter Service to encourage attendance (focus on members who have not yet returned to worship)?
- Proposed increase in online presence through Facebook.

Christian Ed - Marsha Reiber will lead an 8-week curriculum, Journey Through the Psalms, beginning March 6 and running through April.

Youth Ministry – No fast due to COVID, maybe something later in the year.

ELC –

- Advisory Board Meeting February 3.
- 50% of ELC staff had Covid in January. One class recently had to close (10 days) due to the spreading of Covid among classmates, Staff are still required to wear masks, Registration continues to go well and classes are filling, “Hero Basket” service project getting many donations, Baskets will be placed on hospital floors for all staff to access. Thank you to church members for donating items to this worthwhile project. The Hero Baskets were featured on WGAL and Fox43.
- Next Meeting is March 3 at 5 pm in Room 100.

Finance Committee and Budget

Northwest Savings is closing the west branch and we need to change our banking relationship. After some discussion, it was decided to change our banking relationship to Traditions Bank. Bank signers on all accounts except the ELC Director account are: Marsha Reiber, President; Norina Bentzel, Vice-President; Sallie Hagerman, Secretary and Natalie Fuhrman, Treasurer. Bank signers on the ELC Director account will be Allison Hartnett, ELC Director; Karen Lingenfelter, Enrichment Director and Natalie Fuhrman, Treasurer. Natalie Fuhrman may have online access and Natalie Fuhrman and Maira Rivera will have ACH rights.

Communication and Technology –

- Media quotes came in around \$40,000—covered in new business
- Allison’s laptop is postponed until after Christmas—covered in new business

FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Stewardship

- In response to the request that the Stewardship Committee be called something else, they decided that they would like to be called the Missions Committee. Concerning the upcoming Easter and Mothers’ Day special offerings, the Committee recommends Friends & Neighbors of PA, a York charity that helps the homeless and New Life for Girls. The Committee will next meet on Tuesday, April 19th @ 6 PM. – It was decided, following a Jane Harrison/Nathan Limbert motion, to allocate the Easter offering to Friends and Neighbors of PA and Mother’s Day special offering to New Life for Girls.

Property Committee -

- Boiler has been repaired. Working on determining cause and remedies to prevent recurrence.
- Discussions ongoing with neighboring businesses using our parking lot during the week.
- Kitchen upgrades – upgrading the sinks is the #1 need. We also need to replace the cabinets and pull out the grill. We would like to put a double sink under the window where the current grill is. It was thought that the stove was not an issue, but there are questions of safety for turning it on and off.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Reiber, Consistory President*

MISSIONARY NEWS

Greetings from Limon! This year 2022 has started out so exciting! The school year was extended due to Covid so graduations took place in the month of January instead of December. We are preparing for the school year 2022, which began in February, purchasing school supplies and back pack materials for over 120 students. The church electric was totally rewired and upgraded to meet building codes. We have continued our monthly day of prayer and fasting at Harvest Tabernacle with other churches and the community praying for God to move mightily in Limon, Costa Rica, and throughout the world.

As we prepared to begin this school year, I reflected on my own school experiences growing up and my teaching experiences. Many of the same issues students face today are the same my insights and experiences peer pressure, social status, bullying, racism, and educational inequality in regard to resources, equipment, and community support. I pray that through the outreach of our mission students will know who they are in Christ. That they are deeply loved and God has a plan and purpose for their lives as they trust Him giving them Hope for a brighter future.

MISSIONARY NEWS (Cont'd)

We all have a responsibility to bring about Change with these issues for the future generations who will lead our world.

Through our education outreach ministry 2021 school year we had 12 high school graduates. Eight of these students were from our church Harvest Tabernacle. We are so proud of their accomplishments and the struggles and difficulties they overcame to reach this goal. Four of these graduates are planning to begin University. Several of the others are going to continue studies with the Technical Institute of Costa Rica learning a trade, and others are seeking work.



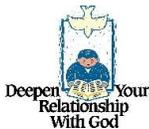
“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, Plans to give you hope and a future.” Jer. 29:11

*Serving Christ in Costa Rica,
Crosby and Sally Johnson*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Safety and physical wellbeing for us, those we serve, family, and friends
- God's favor through Monthly financial support and prayer to meet the needs of our mission
- Prayers for students' success and educational needs books, uniforms, bus passes
- Van repairs
- Hearing God's voice clearly and being led by the Spirit as we minister to our community

Please join us during the Sunday School hour for an eight week **"Journey Through the Psalms"**. The class will begin on March 6th in Room 202 from 9:45 to 10:45. The Psalms teach us that there are many different kinds of prayer and ways to pray to God. The Psalms remind us that faith includes struggle and doubt as well as gratitude and celebration. The course will feature eight video lessons by Dr Denise Dombrowski Hopkins plus small group discussion and activity.



EARLY LEARNING CENTER



It is hard to believe that we are turning our calendars to the month of March. February flew by with Valentine parties, dental health, heart health, polar animals and so much more. We also conducted an amazing service project during this special month. With the help of our ELC families, church families and the community, we collected items for the nurses and medical staff that work in our nearby hospitals and medical facilities. We were able to fill and deliver forty baskets filled with hand lotion, hair ties, snacks, gum, mints and chocolate. Beautiful homemade cards from our ELC students accompanied each basket. This very special “Hero” project even had media coverage from Fox 43 and WGAL TV stations. We were so glad that the ELC could do something very special for our hard working medical “HEROES”.

March is always a very interesting month at the ELC. The weather is often unpredictable and the month is usually very long. We begin this month by celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss. This celebration includes many “special” days, such as crazy hair day, red/white/black day, Wacky Wednesday, crazy hat day, and crazy sock day. In addition we will be busy with St. Patrick's Day, weather, and hopefully looking for and talking about signs of spring.

In addition to our Kindergarten Readiness Curriculum, we make it a priority to share a Bible lesson every month. In our 4's classes, the students will be reading a book entitled It Will Be Okay by Lysa TerKeurst. The two main characters, Little Fox and Little Seed will help the children learn to trust God through fear and change. The younger students will begin setting the stage for the Easter lesson by learning about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

The ELC Advisory Board continues to meet monthly. This COVID year number two continues to present many challenges. It has forced us to change things, reinvent things and sometimes even simplify things. The Board has helped immensely through this process. I am beyond grateful for their support and wisdom!!

We are still registering children for the 2022-23 school year. If you know anyone that is looking for a school, please send them our way. The ELC office number is 717-764-6491.

Allison Hartnett, Director

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



Pastor Melinda would like to start a **Grief Support Group in March**, at the beginning of Lent. Please let her know if you, a family member or a friend is interested in joining it. The group will follow the book called "Good Grief" by Granger Westberg that goes through the stages of grief and helps us integrate a painful loss into our daily lives. You can never "get over" losing someone, but you can still live a meaningful life, filled with hope, joy, and love. If you have any questions about the group, please call the office or Pastor Melinda.

The **Women's Guild** will be meeting **March 7** in room 202. The program will be from our study book **Leading a Life of Balance. Chapter Two: Balancing Time and Responsibilities.** Pat Roth will be leading this chapter. *We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.*



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is **MARCH 27**. This year's theme for OGHS is "**Love Remains**". One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. **Offering envelopes may be found in the Welcome Center.** Thank you for your support of this offering.

Easter lilies and tulips will brighten our worship on Easter Sunday (April 17) We will begin taking orders on **March 6**. **The cost will be \$7.00, and orders are due by April 3.** Envelopes are available in the narthex and church office. You can turn them in at the office or put in the offering plate. Please consider helping to make the church a lovely place for Easter morning!



Our **sympathy** to the family and friends of **Marie Wagner** who passed away on February 15, 2022. Her services were held on February 22 with Pastor Melinda officiating.

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Mary Rodgers** from Jay and Joyce Mummert.



Dear Shiloh UCC Members and Friends,

Many thanks to my church family for all the birthday cards for my 90th! It was a surprise and very much appreciated!

Bart Funkhouser

THANK YOU (Cont'd)

Dear Women's Guild of Shiloh UCC,

Because of your generosity, nearly 100 children received much needed therapies to cope with their mental health diagnoses this past year! From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for helping us continue to fight to keep our program going through what feels like a never-ending pandemic.

*With gratitude,
Alicia Stanley, VP Hoffman Homes for Youth*

Dear Shiloh UCC Friends,

Your generous donation to the **Church World Service** Blankets program tells people in crisis, "You're not alone. Someone cares." On behalf of all the people who feel more hopeful and less alone because of your generosity, we thank you.

*Sincerely,
Rick Santos, President and CEO*

Dear Members of Shiloh UCC,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of **Heart and Hands for Jesus** as well as Pastor Sally and Crosby, and Pastor Herbert, I want to send you a sincere thank you for your generous gifts in 2021 toward our mission work. Your donation of \$600 toward our window replacement project, plus the monthly housing allowance you provide, was much appreciated and went directly toward feeding the hungry, school supplies and other needs of those we serve Costa Rica.

*Sincerely,
Dr. Gregg Peters, Treasurer*

MESSAGE FROM TROOP 94

FAITH AND DUTY ARE AT THE CORE OF A SCOUTING WAY OF LIFE



They form the foundation for strengthening physical, mental, and spiritual character to guide every Scout's action to do what is right at the right time. Lord Robert S.S. Baden-Powell, the founder of international Scouting, understood religion to be life itself; that every Scout should profess a faith and know his duty in it. He believed the Scouting movement would fail if Scouts did not learn to recognize God in their everyday lives. His vision of underscoring the importance of duty and service to God in building honorable qualities in youth, regardless of custom or creed, has flourished across the globe for over a century.

MESSAGE FROM TROOP 94 (Cont'd)

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA DECLARATION OF RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES

The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizenship without recognizing an obligation to God. In the first part of the Scout Oath or Promise the member declares, "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law." The recognition of God as the ruling and leader power in the universe and the grateful acknowledgement of His favors and blessings are necessary to the best type of citizenship and are wholesome precepts in the education of the growing members.

No matter what the religious faith of the members may be, this fundamental need of the members should be kept before them. The Boy Scouts of America, therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member, but is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward the religious training. Its policy is that the home and the organization with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life.

Even as a troop with no direct religious affiliation, our leadership feels it is important to teach our scouts to practice the Scout Law and fulfill their Duty to God. We do this, in part, by ending each of our meetings with prayer, recognizing a higher power in our lives, and asking for a blessing upon each of us until we meet again. This prayer is led by one of our Chaplains' Aides, a youth leadership position voting on by all the scouts. Additionally, at our outdoor activities, we start all our meals by saying the Tuckahoe Grace, that the scouts learn while at summer camp. We also end each of our weekend events with a 'Thorns and Roses' discussion.

Troop 94, who is sponsored by the Shiloh Fire Company, is now in its 78th year of existence. Troop 94 meets every Tuesday night at the Shiloh Fire Hall to conduct their weekly scout meetings.

- Additionally, Troop 94 and Shiloh UCC have been very well connected over those 78 years as well as many of the Scouts and Scout Leaders of Troop 94 have been members of Shiloh UCC.
- Another important role Shiloh UCC helps to provide for Troop 94, is a facility the Scout Cub program, can meet at. While the Cub Pack is sponsored by the Shiloh Lions Club, the pack meets here at Shiloh UCC on Tuesday nights. Without Pack 94, Troop 94 would not have a constant and reliable source of Scouts for its scouting program.
- To date Troop 94 has awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouting, to 98 scouts. 20 of those scouts were members of Troop 94 including the troops very first Eagle Scout, Rodney Miller.

MARCH BIRTHDAY'S

March 1	Dani Bentzel James Bentzel Jr.
March 4	Rick Trimble
March 5	Norina Bentzel Matthew Dell'Orfano
March 7	Stephen Lighty Sr. Shirley Lohmann
March 11	Robert Davis II Jean Guillard Jr. Susan Reidy
March 12	Connie Redman
March 13	Sallie Hagerman
March 16	Lori Jacobs
March 18	Nathan Limbert
March 19	Emily Bentzel
March 20	Craig Davis Bryan Metzger
March 23	Todd Bamberger Beverly Kirk
March 24	Kevan Stough
March 27	Benjamin Metzger
March 29	Mark Garber
March 31	Wesley Myers



*“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.
Sallie Hagerman, Secretary
Jane Harrison
Jeff Hershey
Matt Hildebrecht
Nathan Limbert

Deacons

Janene Beck
Dani Bentzel
Carolyn Poff
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: Wednesday 9 AM-2 PM & 5-8 PM
Please call for an appointment Thursday 9 AM-11:30AM & 6-8:30 PM
Friday 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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