



*The Blessings of Lent*

With the celebration of Ash Wednesday, we have begun a new journey in the Liturgical Calendar. This new season is called Lent. It lasts about six weeks, and ends before Easter Sunday. Lent helps us prepare for Holy Week. With discipline and reflection, we remember and celebrate the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

On the surface, the season of Lent appears somber. However, when we look deeper, the cleansing power of Lent brings spiritual joy. The somber reflection of Lent actually speeds up our spiritual growth process. Lent purifies our whole being, from the inside out.

*What can we do in Lent? What are the spiritual practices we, Protestant people, can follow during this time?*

Some Christians give up luxuries for Lent. For example, they refrain from rich foods, like meats, chocolates, or desserts. They live their lives frugally, without the added indulgences, remembering people who have less. Others focus on the spiritual aspects of Lent, and they tend to pray, meditate, and read the Bible frequently.

Lent is the time to focus on the inner riches, that can only be obtained by turning away from the world, and turning toward God. While we have time, we must find what is truly timeless. Lent is the perfect time to attend a special Study. To help you with this spiritual aspect of Lent, I will be offering a Lenten "Soup and Study" beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, on Wednesday evenings.

A simple soup supper will start at 6:30 PM, while the study itself will start at 7PM. We will be examining what Handel's Messiah can teach us about Lent and Easter. Even if you were not a part of the Handel's Messiah study during Advent, you are still welcome to join us. We have more books, and the study will stand on its own even without the Advent part. So, please, join us for this special study that will fill your life with beautiful music.

During Lent, instead of giving up things, we can add more love to the world. We can generously donate a bit more toward the mission of our spiritual home. We can help out in areas that need more hands, like to prepare food for Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. If you feel more adventurous, you can help serve food at the soup kitchen. You can reconcile with your family members and friends, if you are keeping grudges. You can love with greater care the people that are closest to you. Remember how much your family and friends mean to you this Lent. Often we forget to appreciate those we love the most.

The blessings of Lent are manifold. You can give things up, add positive things to your life, or you can serve others who have less. Prayer, meditation, Bible and Lenten Studies, reading the Bible, and coming to church all work together to help you grow in faith. All these Lenten observances help you have a closer relationship with God.

As your minister, I will walk this journey with you. Lent can be a house full of blessings for us, if we want to get closer to God. Let's use this time to focus on inner treasures that can only come from God. Let's turn away from distractions and focus on the eternal. Let's spend these forty holy days wisely.

*I wish all of you a blessed Lenten journey,  
Pastor Melinda*



**FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Pastor's Report-  
Worship**

*Special worship services*

- February 5<sup>th</sup> – Installation of new Consistory Member (Judy Clark).

**Administration**

- January 25<sup>th</sup> – Visioning Meeting.
- January 29<sup>th</sup> – Congregational Meeting.
- February 1<sup>st</sup> – Visioning Meeting
- February 2<sup>nd</sup> – ELC Board meeting
- February 8<sup>th</sup> – Worship and Music
- February 10<sup>th</sup> – Sick Day (4 sick days left from 2022)

**Pastoral Care**

- Home, Hospital and nursing home visits (6)
- Office/lunch meeting (5)
- Phone calls/Facebook private messages (20+); many text messages to our members.
- January 15<sup>th</sup> – attended David Roe's memorial service.

**Christian Education**

- Grief Group meets once a month (last meeting: January 20<sup>th</sup>).
- Bible Study meets weekly on Wednesdays in room 202. Thank you, Ray, for leading this group!
- Sunday School adult programs are held in room 100 and Room 202. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers!

## FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

- Men's Breakfast meets once a month. Thank you, Brad, for leading this group!
- Mission Trip. Mission Crew, thank you for bringing hope and lots of gifts to Costa Rica! Thank you for your hard work and sacrifice. You have made a difference in the lives of many people. **Well done, good and faithful servants!**
- March 1<sup>st</sup> Lenten Soup and Study group starts! The Advent Study will continue during Lent, on Wednesday evenings (Handel's Messiah). Everyone's welcome to join in (even if you did NOT attend the Advent studies!). Light soup and bread supper will be served at 6:30PM, followed by the Lenten Study at 7:00PM. You can attend both the "soup" and "study" part, or you can just come for the "study" part. We would love to have you!

### Contact with the larger UCC + local community

January 11<sup>th</sup> – York Association Luncheon and gathering in Red Lion.

January 25<sup>th</sup> – Leaders in Ministry. Meeting at the Christian School of York for local pastors and leaders in ministry.

January 28<sup>th</sup> – Sophia's birthday party in room 100. Thank you to everyone who helped us moved tables and chairs before and after the party! (Thank you for setting up the room for the Annual Meeting!) Thank you to everyone who helped with and attended the party. A lot of new young families attended. I think it was a good advertisement for us! 😊

February 1<sup>st</sup> – Chapel time with the ELC kids. We always have a great time singing together and listening to a Bible story.

### Consistory President's Report –

The By-Law that was proposed to be changed was unanimously approved during the Annual Meeting on 1-29-23.

Judy Clark was installed as a Deacon and Pat Myers was approved by the congregation to be a Deacon on Consistory as well and to be installed at a later date on 2-5-23.

**Room Requests:** There were four room requests approved by myself.

1. Pastor Melinda - Birthday party on 1-28-23
2. Christine Spahr - Birthday party on 2-18-23
3. Eric Davidson (Cub Scouts) - Pinewood Derby Race on 2-25-23
4. Tisha Spillman - Birthday party on 3-4-23

Should future room request forms be approved by the consistory and signed off by myself?

**Items cost:** We need to make sure that we are keeping everyone aware on the Consistory of what projects are being done for the church and how much it costs. Was it a policy that if anything was over a \$500 expense that was not budgeted needed to be approved by Consistory? I am bringing this back as a policy for the Consistory.

## FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

### New business-

- A. Are we streaming Ash Wednesday service? Is service day or evening?
  - a. We will stream both Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday
  - b. The Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7pm
- B. Leber's Parking Contract Renewal (see request letter) - Current contract was for 5 years expiring on Dec 31, 2023 at \$750 per year. It was approved to renew the parking contract with Leber's for another 5 years, beginning January 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2028 at the current price of \$750 per year following a Sallie Hagerman/Dani Bentzel motion.
- C. Lenten offering designation—to go to Heifer International along with the Sunday school Lenten Project.
- D. Verify that Natalie Fuhrman wishes to stay on as treasurer  
Natalie Fuhrman agreed to remain on as church treasurer.
- E. Are we staying in room 100 for our meetings or will we return to room 202?  
It was decided to return to having the Consistory meetings in room 202
- F. In case of inclement weather, are we set up with all-call?  
Closings are reported to WGAL News 8 and FOX 43. We can also put on Facebook and/or our website. Office phone messages can be changed to reflect closure.
- G. Any updates on the setup for streaming in the back of the church?  
Nathan Limbert and Lew Wallace are planning to meet about moving the pews and then we will see what is needed after that.
- H. Lenten Prayer breakfast / brunch- Feb.26?  
It was decided to cancel this for this year since time is a factor and we will be having a brunch on Palm Sunday
- I. Consistory Picture?  
It was decided to wait until Pat Myers is installed before having a Consistory group picture taken.
- J. Review new copier quote from Doceo to consider better options and lower cost.  
It was decided to table this item until the March meeting so we can review the quotes and get needed information.

### Unfinished Business-

- A. Consistory schedule
  - a. Consistory schedules—where to put Pat: with Dani (remove Nathan) or with Matt so he has a partner?
    - i. It was decided to partner Pat with Matt so we have 5 full teams.
    - ii. Sallie Hagerman will update the Duty list to show this change.
  - b. When do we return to serving communion—at Easter-Yes.

## FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

### Worship and Music-

- Ash Wednesday service February 22 at 7:00pm.
- Mar 12 (changed to March 19) - Daffodil Days (9 bunches / 14 potted mini-daffodils.
- Palm Sunday 4/2 – brunch.
- Maundy Thursday service April 6 at 7:00pm - no communion/ hand washing ceremony.
- Good Friday - noon service.
- Easter communion - pew service.
- April 23 - ELC Sunday (one service has been requested by ELC)
  - It was decided to have a single service at 10am, with a reception afterward. We will not have Sunday school on this day.
- May 7 Music Sunday - luncheon after 11:00 service for all choir members/invitation,
- June 25 - picnic - Sunset Lane Park - chicken with potluck sides.
- Banners ordered for Lent for the Sanctuary.

### Worship and Ministry-

- Caroline Tucker applied for the Family and Youth Coordinator position- Committee is working on interview questions and setting up a zoom interview with her sometime in March. She is not available until August and currently lives in NC. A Job Description needs to be created for this position. Could Nathan, Carol, Marsha, Sallie, and Pastor Melinda get some thoughts together on this and get back to Reen and Judy? Try to have thoughts/suggestions by the March Consistory meeting.
- Working on the Job Description for the Church Custodian.
- Working on reviewing all of the By-Laws for other changes- Deleting names from the church register is an item that needs to be reviewed. It is Article V. MEMBERSHIP number 4.
- Next meeting is on February 28 at 6:30 pm.

### Finance Committee and Budget-

- Current Fund contributions are below what is needed to meet the budget. Think of ways we can inspire/educate the congregation to contribute additional money each week to help eliminate/reduce this deficit.
  - The approved bank signers are:
    - President–Nathan Limbert
    - Vice President–Norina Bentzel
    - Secretary–Sallie Hagerman
    - Treasurer–Natalie Fuhrman

### Youth Ministry –

- Working on setting up a meeting with other churches that we have worked with before.

## FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

### Outreach/Evangelism -

- Direct mail postcards - It was agreed to increase the amount of postcards to 1,500.
- Planning Blood Drive - Thurs. March 23 (1-6).
- Sunday, March 19th - Junior Honors Choir at 3:00. Food after the concert.
- One applicant for Family/Youth Coordinator - initial contact made by J. Harrison and R. Bentzel. Interview questions provided to Church and Ministry - will discuss expectations to help form a more detailed job description.
- WMTFD donation for Firefighters Association of York Co. Annual Convention, August 12, (100 yr. Shiloh/ 75 yr. Lincoln way) \$100/name on Facebook, \$250/name on digital marquees for two weeks, \$500/name on banner at Fairgrounds day of event
  - We decided to table this decision until the March consistory meeting

### ELC –

- Meeting held on February 2
- Upcoming Events-Dental Presentation, Curious Little Playhouse, Colony Park Bowling, Dr. Seuss Play, Master Bob.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences for 3's and 4's soon, 2's are in April.
- Registration is excellent.
- Hosting a canned food drive- to go to New Life for Girls and St. Matthews Lutheran Church Pantry
- Summer Camps: Jungle Camp, Camping Camp and Theater Camp.
- Fun Day is May 19 9:30 to 11:30 am.
- Professional Development Day is May 18-Can Consistory/Church Life Committee Members provide Breakfast again for the staff?
  - It was decided to do this again as an outreach to show our appreciation for all they do to make this a great ELC. Particulars to be decided later.
- Elizabethtown College Grad students and their Mentor are partnering with the ELC staff to do a data collection research project on, “Addressing challenging behaviors in the childcare setting” with the outcome being the creation of an “Individualized Staff Education Plan” for the ELC. It is an 8-week program.
- Cake Pop Fundraiser orders are due by March 17 with delivery on March 30 and 31.
- ELC Sunday is April 23.

### Communication and Technology –

- We could really use some more help with running PPT and streaming– especially setting up PPTs. This is a lot of work for just 2 people.

## FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

### Missions Committee-

- The mission committee suggested the Easter offering go toward Bell Family Shelter
- It was decided to have the Ash Wednesday offering included with the special Lenten offering.
- Next meeting April 18, 2023

### Property Committee- -

- Ken Goodyear and John Reiber installed Sanctuary attic access stairs.
- Approval of the church access security improvement quotation (Kleppers). all 3 options, were approved.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Nathan Limbert, Consistory President*

## MISSIONARY NEWS

Just no other word to express how we feel after the wonderful January visit from CREW XI. It had been 5 years since a work team joined us in Limon and their visit was such an encouragement to us and our faith community.

**Blessed** by new fans being installed in the often-stifling Sunday School classrooms.

**Blessed** with fresh paint inside and out at Harvest Tabernacle.

**Blessed** by the Christian witness in worship, Sunday School and Bible School.

**Blessed** by help in assembly and distribution of back-to-school supply bags.

**Blessed** by clothing and Bibles brought by the team.

**Blessed** by computer donations and video beam for ministry

**Blessed** by the reminder that when things are unfair, when things are scary, and when life is good... GOD IS GOOD!!

**Blessed** by the encouragement of others sharing their gifts and love!

This work team lived into our goal of "Breaking Chains, Sharing God's Love, Changing Lives." We praise God and are grateful for the time CREW XI spent with us and each person that supported the team through prayer and financial support.

**Proverbs 11:25 The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.**

*Love and Blessings from Costa Rica,  
Crosby and Sally Johnson*

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER



February was a very busy month at the Early Learning Center. Our friends celebrated friendship during their Valentine's party. They made crafts, played games, enjoyed yummy treats and shared valentines with their friends. Our Younger Four's class had fun field trip at the Curious Little Playhouse in Downtown York. The older Fours and Pre-K friends had a great time at Colony Park Lanes. Finally, the staff from Children's Dental Centre of York taught our three and four-year-old friends the importance of dental health. Finally, the ELC will be finishing up their canned food drive. This amazing service project will benefit New Hope Ministries in Dover and St. Matthew Lutheran Church Food Pantry.

March will be filled with lots of fun activities at the Early Learning Center. We will be celebrating Doctor Seuss Week. We begin with a "live" storytelling of Green Eggs and Ham in honor of Dr. Seuss. During this special week, the children and staff will have an opportunity to celebrate with crazy hair day, red, white and black day, Wacky Wednesday, crazy sock day and crazy hat day. We also be celebrating St. Patrick's Day and looking for the tricky little leprechaun. We end the month of March with a visit from Master Bob from Dover Dragons. Master Bob teaches our children about discipline and respect. He uses this opportunity to teach the child the importance of discipline and respect to others as well as to themselves. During this time the children get to practice some Tae Kwan do moves and get to see one of their teachers break a board.

During the month of March our three and four-year-old families will also have the opportunity to conference with their child's teacher. This opportunity allows our teachers to share with our families all the wonderful things the children have been learning at preschool. Our two's families will have this opportunity in April.

During chapel/Bible time our four year olds will explore the book entitled It Will Be Okay by Lysa Terkeurst. The children will learn about fear and that with God's love and guidance everything will be ok. The children will also practice their beautiful songs for ELC Sunday. The 3's will explore the Triumphal entry into Jerusalem, complete with waving palms and a joyful parade.

The ELC will be holding an Easter Cake Pop Fundraiser during the first three weeks of March ending on March 17<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to order cake pops to support the ELC, an order form will be available in the office.

*With Gratitude,  
Allison Hartnett*



Beginning **February 26, 2023**, the first Sunday in Lent, the Sunday School will begin collecting money for **Heifer International for our Lenten Project**. Concurrently, the special Lenten offering will also go towards Heifer International. Both collections will continue thru **Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023**. Your support to this great cause is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Beginning **March 1<sup>st</sup>** the **Lenten Soup and Study** group starts! The Advent Study will continue during Lent, on Wednesday evenings. (Handel's Messiah). A Light soup and bread supper will be served at 6:30PM, followed by the Lenten Study at 7:00PM. You can attend both the "soup" and "study" part, or you can just come for the "study" part. There will be sign-up sheets in the gallery. Everyone is welcome to join (even if you did NOT attend the Advent studies.) We would love to have you!



Easter is rapidly approaching! The sale of **tulips and lilies** is part of the preparations. The cost for each pot of flowers is **\$7.00**. Envelopes for ordering will be available in the Gallery and the Narthex. Checks should be made payable to Shiloh United Church of Christ. Orders will be accepted beginning **Sunday, March 5 through Sunday, March 27**. Plants may be claimed on Easter Sunday. Thank you for helping to make the church a lovely place to worship.

This year's **special Easter offering** collected will go to the **Bell Family Shelter**.



The **Women's Guild** will be meeting **Monday, March 6, at 1:00 pm in room 202**. The program will be from our new study book **Encouraging One Another** Chapter One: God Encourages Me! Carolyn Poff will be leading this chapter. *We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.*

Each Sunday, the Altar is adorned with lovely bouquets of flowers! If you are interested in sponsoring **Altar Flowers**, contact **Connie Redman** at 717-767-4003 or [conniefirebird68@gmail.com](mailto:conniefirebird68@gmail.com) for availability.



We have invited the **York County Jr. Honor's Choir** to present a concert on **March 12 at 3pm in Shiloh's UCC sanctuary**. This choir has youth singers from several school districts in York County. Please mark your calendar to save the date for this beautiful concert. Refreshments will be provided after the concert in the Gallery as well as a freewill offering to fund the Honor's Choir music program.



Mark your calendar for the next Shiloh UCC Men's Breakfast on **Tuesday, March 14, at 8:30 am at Dover Valley Restaurant**. Contact Brad Jacobs at [bcj402@verizon.net](mailto:bcj402@verizon.net) or 717-764-2773 for additional information.

The Women's Social and Support Group will meet for breakfast at **Shiloh Family Restaurant March 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**. Please contact Pat Myers at 717-487-4642 by March 13 if you plan to attend.



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is MARCH 19**. This year's theme for OGHS is **"It's Time to Share"**. Your generosity makes all the difference. Your gifts provide immediate aid and long-term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster or crisis around the world. The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. It's time to share. **Offering envelopes may be found in the Welcome Center**. Thank you for your support of this offering.

**Daffodil Day** has been moved to **Sunday, March 19**. The plants and bunches can be picked up on that date. Sorry if the change has caused any inconvenience. Your support for this project is very much appreciated! Thank you!



Shiloh UCC's Outreach Committee is holding a blood drive on **Thursday, March 23 from 1pm-6pm**. The Central Pennsylvania Blood Mobile will be in our parking lot to obtain the blood donations. The church will be open during the donation hours. We have not held a blood drive since before COVID, so please consider donating.

## THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the entire Homewood family, I would like to express our deep appreciation for your gift to Plum Creek Benevolent Care. We are so grateful to be a recipient of your generosity.



*Jessica Laird, Director of Development*

Dear Shiloh UCC,

Thank you for your generous donation to Friends & Neighbors of PA, Inc. Your support enabled us to serve over 700 unsheltered and housing insecure neighbors in York County.

*Thank you, Robin Shearer*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your \$150.00 gift in support of the ministry of theological education at Lancaster Seminary. Your prayers and gifts opens the doors for our students' education, opens their minds to learning and open their hearts to serving.

*Matthew Hanna, Assistant Director*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$120.00 given to The Salvation Army of York. Through the programs we offer we have seen many lives changed for the better. You are key to touching more lives in York County.

*Bessie Babbit, Major*

Dear Pastor and Members of Shiloh UCC,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$250.00 to Bethany's Brighter Future Fund. Your special gift will provide our youth with a new foundation to become empowered young adults with positive goals.

*Carolyn Shultz Spano, Director of Development*

Dear Members and Friends,

Thanks so much for all the get well cards, prayers, and words of encouragement during my hospitalization and rehabilitation at home. It was so appreciated.

*Jay Mummert*

## MARCH BIRTHDAY'S

March 1 Dani Bentzel  
James Bentzel Jr.

March 2 Kyla Myers

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.

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 Pat Myers  
Kevan Stough

March 27 Benjamin Metzger

March 29 Mark Garber  
Judy Clark

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

<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deacons</b>
Nathan Limbert, President	Dani Bentzel
Norina Bentzel, V. Pres.	Judy Clark
Sallie Hagerman, Secretary	Carolyn Poff
Jane Harrison	
Jeff Hershey	
Matt Hildebrecht	

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

### THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D. <a href="mailto:pastormelinda@shilohucc.com">pastormelinda@shilohucc.com</a>
<b>Pastor Melinda office hours:</b>	<b>Wednesday 9 AM-2 PM &amp; 5-8 PM, Thursday 5-8 PM Friday 9AM-2 PM</b>
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
Church Office Phone Number	717-764-3569
Church Email Address	<a href="mailto:office@shilohucc.com">office@shilohucc.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.shilohuccyorkpa.org">www.shilohuccyorkpa.org</a>
 Find us on Facebook	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa">www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa</a>