

COMMUNIQUE



MARCH 2024

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

A GROWING CHURCH
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- March 3** *Third Sunday in Lent*
Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
John 2:13-22
“Cleansing the Temple”
- March 10** *Fourth Sunday in Lent*
Numbers 21:4-9
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21
“Live In the Light!”
- March 17** *Fifth Sunday in Lent*
Psalm 51:1-12
John 12:20-33
Jeremiah 31:31-34
“Who Is In Your Heart?”
- March 24** *Liturgy of the Palms*
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Philippians 2:5-11
John 12:12-16
“Palms Sunday”
- March 28** *Maundy Thursday*
Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
“Holy Meal with Jesus”
- March 29** *Good Friday*
Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
John 18:1-19:42
“The Cross”
- March 31** *Easter Sunday/Holy Communion*
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
Ezekiel 37:1-14
“A Time for Dreaming”



PASTOR'S MESSAGE



“This is the one we acknowledge and adore – one God in a Trinity of the sacred name.” (Confession,)

Dear Members and Friends of Shiloh UCC,

St. Patrick's Day is coming, and I thought it would be nice to remember who this saint was, and what he did. You must have heard some stories of how he drove the snakes out of Ireland, defeated fierce Druids in contests of magic, and how he used the shamrock to explain the Trinity to the pagan Irish.

Patrick used the shamrock with its three leaves to explain the Trinity. How do church members understand the Trinity in modern times? I know it's not Trinity Sunday yet - Trinity Sunday this year is May 26th - but let's meditate for a moment on who these three mysterious persons are, and how they exist in unity in one God. Understanding the Trinity can be a bit challenging, even for theologians.

The most basic explanation of the Holy Trinity, of course after St. Patrick's shamrock, is the image of water. Water is a fluid in room temperature, freezes when it's gets cold, and becomes a vapor when heated above the boiling point. Water, like the Trinity, can be three things, but unlike the Trinity, it cannot be those three things simultaneously, at all places and times. Still, this limited analogy, is the best way we can talk about the three persons of the immortal and invisible God. The most classical way describing the persons of the Trinity is through the traditional words: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

However, there are other approaches to the persons of the Trinity. We also call them Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, or Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. The list could go on, but let's not focus on what words we use to name the persons of the Trinity. None of these words get at the nature of God; for God is beyond language.

Understanding God's persons is not as important as knowing in our soul that God loves us and will help us through all our problems. Mortals cannot understand God. But one day, when this life is over, we will run into our Heavenly Father's arms, like a young child runs to their Daddy.

And our Heavenly Father will remove the veil that hides all these mysteries from our awareness. Our faith grants us courage to accept the epistemological limits of human reason, and to rest in the Divine love and benevolent care of our Father in Heaven.

Let me finish this short meditation with a blessing written by St. Patrick:

“May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. Be always ours this day and for evermore.”

I wish all of you a sunny and beautiful March and a happy and healthy St. Patrick's Day!

*Rejoicing in Christ,
Pastor Melinda*



Pastor Melinda is leading a **Lenten Study**. The study will start at **7:00PM in room 202** and will continue on **Wednesday's through March 27th**. The title of the study is *Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross*. “In the Seven Words Video Bible study, Susan Robb examines the last words that Christ said on the cross. In this six-session study, you will examine Jesus’ final words, full of life and hope for the Lent season.” There is a sign-up sheet in the gallery. Everyone is welcome to join!

FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report-

Worship

Special worship services

- January 14th - MLK Sunday
- January 28th – Annual Meeting (after the service)
- February 4th – Communion Sunday
- February 11th– Scout Sunday (@ the 11AM service)

Administration

- January 24th Visioning Meeting
- January 30th Outreach Meeting
- January 31st Worship and Music meeting
- February 1st ELC Board Meeting

Pastoral Care

- Home, Hospital and nursing home visits (5)
- Office/lunch meeting (6)
- Phone calls (36+); many text and Facebook messages to our members and friends.

Christian Education

- Next Grief Group meeting is Tuesday, February 20th at 7PM in the Parlor.
- Wednesday Bible Study meets every week. Thank you, Ray!
- Two Sunday School adult classes meet weekly in rooms 100 and 202. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers!
- Men's Breakfast group meets monthly. Thank you, Brad!

Contact with the larger UCC + local community

- Sunday, February 4th - attended Ecclesiastical Council @Trinity UCC for Rev. Dr. Kellie Turner

Consistory President's Report –

- Approved Room 100 use on 12-14-2024

New business-

- A. Articles for March Communique are due no later than February 16
- B. Server in the office needs to be updated and the computers need to be checked.

Unfinished business

- A. Revisited the Nominating Committee's letter submitted in November suggesting to consider changing back to one service.
- B. Membership roster update: Maira is about 85% done with updating Church Windows to reflect the proper membership status.
- C. Reminder about approval from Consistory–If projects are less than \$500, no approval needed. If over \$500, Consistory must approve.

FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Worship and Music-

- Baby grand piano needs to be tuned, should have a consistent temperature between 70 - 80 degrees.
- Pianos in music room and room 100 also need to be tuned
- Brunch planned for Palm Sunday 9:45 - 10:45. Committee is providing the food.
- Would like to reinstate use of ushers/create a volunteer list by passing clipboards through congregation after an announcement before church service.
- ELC Sunday April 28 - **10:00 service** followed by a reception.
- Next meeting March 14.

Church Life-

- Engaging Women will be hosting a women's dinner on April 14.

Outreach/Evangelism -

- Preparing for Easter direct mail campaign–Detailing Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday.
- Create name tags for all members, ask members to wear especially when greeting and ushering.
- Easter Egg Hunt - date changed to **Sat. March 23 (Church Chums) at 10:00 AM.**
- ELC Sunday April 28 - followed by a reception in room 100.
- Mother's Day gifts will be distributed.
- Next meeting March 5 - 7:00 in room 202.

Youth Fellowship-

- Will send email out about volunteering for upcoming Egg Hunt.

Visioning –

- Reviewed results from 21 surveys sent to ELC families/use verbiage from responses in marketing and announcements for events (friendly, welcoming, etc.)
- Proposing a family based service last Sunday of September - informal/ room 100/ activities for children/ invite community and ELC families - shared with Allison.
- There was some discussion about the possibility of going to one service.
- Next meeting - Feb. 27 - 7:00 room 202.

Missions Committee-

- The mission committee suggested that the **Easter offering** go to New Life for Girls.
- Our next meeting will be March 19.

MISSIONARY NEWS

FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Christin Ed.

- Still seeking teachers for younger students—need 1-2 more.
- Lenten project is designated for the Heifer Project

ELC –

- Service project - collected 551 boxes of cereal donated to Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen/Food Pantry
- **Smarter Parents/Safer Kids Program-Feb. 24 9-11 AM (Sanctuary, presenter Melissa Page)**
- Enrollment for next school year going well (2 classes of twos - 10 openings/4 classes of threes - one opening/ 6 classes of fours - 22 openings)
- Scholarship Fund needs donations - propose a Love Offering during April
- Spring fundraiser - POPcorn Loft
- Cleaning being done by ELC teacher
- Eagle Scout project will provide an outside classroom/Donavan Reiber (phase 2 Butterfly Garden)
- Summer Camps-May 20 - 23. July second or third week. Aug/5-8
- **Looking for another consistory representative**
- Next meeting April 4 5:00 PM in room 202

Communication and Technology–

- We would like to bring more volunteers onboard to help with setting up PPT, streaming and running PPT at the 11:00 service

Property Committee-

- Corey Chaffee was hired for 15 hrs. a week for janitorial duty for the church property.
- Allison Hartnett procured someone to take care of the ELC area.
- There was an incident where an external door was left unlocked and Nathan was unable to lock it. Matt Hildebrecht is checking to see who has master keys to lock external doors.
- After much discussion it was decided to terminate services with Regal.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Limbert, Consistory President*

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
and they'll know we are Christians by our love
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
and, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

As believers this is what we are all called to do. Share God's Love with those we meet so that they might know him. **John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."** This is exactly what CREW XII from North Dakota, Pennsylvania and Kentucky did when they came to help at Harvest Tabernacle. We worked side by side building the retaining wall, cleaning and painting the roof, and painting the sanctuary and varnishing the benches.



They brought school supply donations to help support our education and ministry. Together we packed in total 188 school supply bags to help children, youth, young adults, and single mothers for the school year 2024. What amazing experience in sharing God's Love as we prayed and handed them out to those with need.

MISSIONARY NEWS (Cont'd)

The team continued to share God's Love through the teaching of the Word and harvesting from our farm to distribute through our Food Bank program.



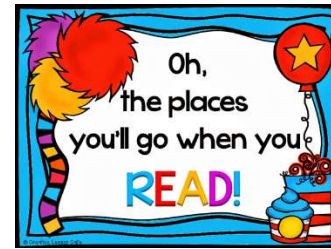
After the main group of the CREW XII left two of its members, Sue and Marsha, along with one of the young adults from church, Chelsey, went with me to BriBri to work with missionaries Alex and Julia. We delivered school supplies for distribution in this area and we did Vacation Bible School in a church at Alta Akeberia. What a Joy as we shared about God's Goodness and Love.



Through all these experiences, the family of God, children through adults, were "One in the Spirit and One in the Lord!" I can just imagine Father God's smile as we continue to fulfill our mission of "Breaking Chains, Sharing God's Love, and Changing Lives." We praise and thank God for YOUR LOVE expressed through your prayers, encouragement and support.

*Serving in Costa Rica through the Power of His Love,
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 delicious treats, and shared valentines with their friends. Our four-year-old friends had a field trip to the bowling alley and had a wonderful time at Colony Park Lanes. The staff from the Children's Dental Centre of York taught our three and four-year-old friends the importance of dental health. Finally, the ELC completed their Knock Down Hunger Cereal Drive. The families and staff collected 551 boxes of cereal and delivered them to Our Daily Bread.

March will be filled with many 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 will have fun searching for Easter eggs during our school-wide egg hunts. Finally, we will end the month of March by sharing the Easter story and celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus.

During the month of March our Pre-K and four-year-old families will have Parent/Teacher conferences. This opportunity allows our teachers to share with our families all the wonderful things the children have been learning at preschool. Our two- and three-year-old 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.

Thank you for all your support and guidance. May you have a blessed Easter with your families.

*With Gratitude,
Allison Hartnett*



This year's **special Easter offering** collected will go to **New Life for Girls**. Help support this organization in their work to turn the lives around for the many girls they serve.

Name tags are returning!! New members are interested in learning your name. Name tags will be available for the greeters/ushers in the Welcome Center each week. All members are asked to wear a name tag, if it is available at this time. Some of the previous name tags are on the wall in the Gallery. Perhaps some members may be keeping them at home. There is a plan to provide members with a new name tag, but that will be an upcoming event. Until then, let's use what is available to help to create a warm, welcoming community at Shiloh UCC.



Outreach Committee



The **Women's Guild** will be meeting **March 4, at 1:00 pm in room 202**. The program will be from our study book **Encouraging One Another, Chapter Eleven: Encouraging Epistles**. Carolyn Poff 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.*

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is **MARCH 10**. This year's theme for OGHS is **"Sharing the Light"**. "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine...let it shine...let it shine." If Jesus had a playlist of music, surely this familiar hymn would be among the top 5. Jesus teaches that faith calls for action. Sharing our light, as the diverse and colorful expression of God's love here on earth, leads to making blankets, staffing food pantries, cooking meals and building houses and schools. Your generosity makes all the difference. **Offering envelopes may be found in the Welcome Center.** "You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world." *Matthew 5:14-15*. Thank you for your support of this offering.



It has been determined that ushers will again be present in the narthex before services. While the Consistory has been assuming this responsibility, they are a busy group of people on a Sunday morning as many serve on choirs and other volunteer positions. At times, the narthex becomes empty. Some changes have been made to encourage participation by the congregation. Please note the changes in the list below:



- *One usher for each service
- *Stand or sit near the entrance to the narthex from the gallery
- *Welcome visitors and answer any questions they have
- *Show parents where the children's materials are on the rack
- *Distribute bulletins or remind people to get a bulletin when they place Offering in the plate
- *Wear a name tag
- *Encourage everyone to find the seat of their choice independently
- *Ask a consistory member for additional help

A sign-up sheet will be distributed during an upcoming service to create a list of volunteers. The goal is to have the program in place by Palm Sunday/Easter. Remember the more people that volunteer, the easier the job will be for everyone. Please consider helping to make it a friendly, welcoming experience for everyone. Thank you!

Worship and Music Committee



Mark your calendar for the next Shiloh UCC Men's Breakfast on **Tuesday, March 12, at 8:30 am at Dover Valley Restaurant**. Contact Brad Jacobs at bcj402@verizon.net or 717-764-2773 for additional information.



The Women's Social and Support Group will meet for breakfast at **Central Family Restaurant on Friday, March 15 at 9:00am**. Please contact Linda Little at 717-309-4523 by **March 11** if you plan to attend.

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, February 25 through Sunday, March 17**. Plants may be claimed on Easter Sunday. Thank you for helping to make the church a lovely place to worship.



This year's **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held **on Saturday, March 23rd at 10 am**. We will begin with an Easter skit presented by some of our ELC teachers, followed by the egg hunts for children ages 1-10. Please join us with your children or grandchildren! If you'd be interested in helping, please contact Patti Goodyear. Also, we will be accepting donations of plastic eggs and bags of small, individually wrapped candy **until Sunday, March 17th**. There will be a bin for each in the gallery. Thank you in advance for your support.

Everyone is invited to Brunch!

**When: Sunday, March 24
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM
Where: Room 100**

The food will be provided by Consistory committees. There will a sign-up sheet in the Gallery beginning March 7. We hope to see you there!



There is an envelope marked **LENTEN OFFERING** in your box of envelopes. The money collected from that envelope will be going to **The Shiloh Fire Company**.



Also, during our Lenten season, the Sunday School Board has voted to support the **Heifer Project International** for our Lenten Project. These contributions will be collected the first **Sunday in Lent, February 18 through Easter Sunday, March 31** and should be placed in your regular envelopes marked Heifer on the "other" line. All Sunday School and Church Members are invited to support both of these missions.

Come Grow with Us!



Engaging Women are inviting women and their children to Shiloh UCC to celebrate their uniqueness in a harmonious atmosphere on **Sunday, April 14 at 4:00 PM** in room 100.

A buffet dinner from Olive Garden will be served followed by a vocal presentation by Leslie Talley (daughter of Donna and Randy Seifarth who has performed professionally). Tickets will be sold in the Gallery on the following Sundays:

March 17, March 24, and April 7 (Adults \$14/Children \$6)

If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Hildebrecht at 717-683-0440 or the church office at 717-764-3569. We hope you will join us for this delightful event!

COMING UP IN APRIL

April 7 Butterfly Sunday
April 14 Women's Banquet
April 22 Earth Day
April 28 ELC Sunday – 1 service at 10:00am



Please save the date! The annual church picnic will be held on **Sunday, May 19** at Sunset Lane Park. (This is a change from the original date given on the Annual Church calendar.) It will begin with a church service at 10:00 AM followed by a picnic lunch. More details will be available closer to the date. We look forward to seeing you there!



SYMPATHY



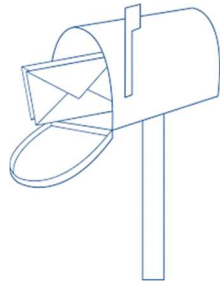
Our sympathy to the family and friends of **Dean Spahr** who passed away on **January 20, 2024**. His services will be held private.

ADDRESS/PHONE CHANGES

Stewart Wagner
Autumn House East
2618 E. Market St. #A-5
York, PA 17402
717-755-5911

Richard Berkheimer
1722 Normandie Drive
York, PA 17408

Steve & Sue Besecker
1733 Normandie Drive
York, PA 17408
717-858-1119
717-471-2352



THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Members of Shiloh UCC,

Thank you for believing in the mission of **Bethany Children's Home** and supporting the healing of our community's most vulnerable children. We are always in need of volunteers and welcome you to get involved in any way that you find meaningful.



Sincerely,
Calyn Brewer, Senior Director of Innovation

Dear Members of Shiloh UCC,

Many thanks for your recent gift of \$375 to **Hoffman Homes for Youth** through Penn Central Conference. Our team deeply appreciates your generosity!

In gratitude,
Susan Cann, Director of Development

Dear Members of Shiloh UCC,

Penn Central Conference has notified us of your recent gift of \$150 to the **Benevolent Fund of United Church of Christ Homes**. Your generosity will touch the lives of real people and enhance our mission to provide compassionate care and services.

Sincerely,
Victoria Velez, Director of Public Relations

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for your financial support to New Life for Girls. We Thank God for how your heart is shaped just like his, and how you respond to the needs of his children! God bless you.

With Sincere Gratitude,
Kathy Kelly Brown, Executive Director

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	Shirley Lohmann
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 *75 Kevan Stough
March 26	Laura Bryant
March 27	Benjamin Metzger
March 29	Mark Garber Judy Clark
March 31	Wesley Myers



****PLEASE NOTE MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS!****

**You're here to be
light, bringing out
the God-colors
in the world.**

Matthew 5:14-15 (The Message)

*"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it
shine...Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine..."*

If Jesus had a playlist of music, surely this familiar hymn would be among the Top Five.

Jesus teaches that faith calls for action. Sharing our light, as the diverse and colorful expression of God's love here on earth, leads to making blankets, staffing food pantries, cooking meals, building houses and schools, signing petitions for worthy causes, and protesting injustices. A simple song with a simple message—our light is on a light stand, for all to see—shine and share. On any given day, light is shining because we are there through our gifts to OGHS.

Your contributions make a difference.
Your dollars count. Give generously.

Share the light.

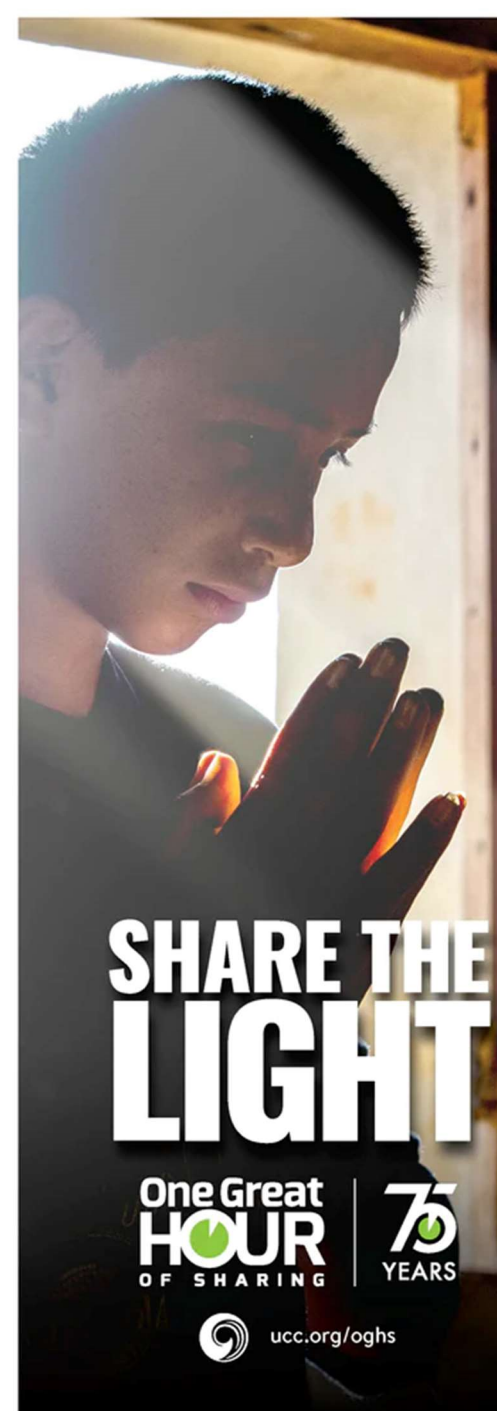
**One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING**

**75
YEARS**

 ucc.org/oghs

SCS24B

Photo: @disciplephoto



**SHARE THE
LIGHT**

**One Great
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**75
YEARS**

 ucc.org/oghs

“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
Tom Klunk
Patt Myers
Carolyn Poff

Natalie Fuhrman – Treasurer
Sallie Hagerman – 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 12 PM & 5-8 PM
Thursday and Friday 9AM-12 PM**

Director of Music
Organist
Missionaries in Costa Rica
Administrative Assistant
Early Learning Center
Church Office Phone Number
Church Email Address
Website

Stephanie Limbert
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