

# COMMUNIQUE



## 2023

### SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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A GROWING CHURCH  
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS



- November 5** *Proper 26 (31) Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost/Communion/Cash Rally*  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Joshua 3:7-17  
*“God Will Make a Way”*
- November 12** *Proper 27 (32) Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Meeting to Adopt 2024 Budget*  
Psalm 78:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
*“Choose Wisely”*
- November 19** *Proper 28 (33) Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost/Thanksgiving Sunday*  
Deuteronomy 8:7-18  
Psalm 65  
Luke 17:11-19  
*“Remember to Say Thank You!”*
- November 26** *Proper 29 (34) Reign of Christ/Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost/Slate of Consistory Nominees*  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100  
Matthew 25:31-46  
*“Unfinished Business”*

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*“For we live by faith, not by sight.”  
(2 Corinthians 5:7, NIV)*

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the days of the year get darker, we need inner light to keep our soul from becoming discouraged. We need God's light to lift us up and carry us through the dark days. We need God's immortal invisible light to redeem us, and warm our soul, until the physical light of the sun returns to its fullness again. We need the light of God, the spiritual nourishment we receive in church, because it gives us faith to live, not by sight, but by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Our quote for November comes from 2 Corinthians chapter 5, where, like a good preacher, Paul comforts the Christians in Corinth. In chapters 4 and 5 he explains that at this time, while we are in these physical bodies, we don't have full knowledge. We don't understand why things happen the way they do. We fully depend on God. We will only understand God's mysterious will and the “why-s” of this life when the “Parousia” comes, at the end of this age, when Jesus Christ returns. Until then, as long as we are in these “earthen vessels” (2 Cor. 4:7, NKJV), we don't see the full picture. However, as always, Paul sends encouragement to the Christians in Corinth with these words:

*“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” (2 Cor. 4:16, NIV)*

These words encourage me and everyone else who is going through trying times. Even though we may suffer, even though we may go through illnesses and problems associated with these bodies, in spite of this material suffering, spiritually “we are being renewed” by the Holy Spirit. This gives us strength to go on living, even when our circumstances are less than ideal. It gives us faith to live in the comfort of God's grace.

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

Inner strength can only come from God. Spiritual growth happens when we remain joyful and keep the faith, even when the world appears unjust and cruel. No matter what the outer manifestation, the Devil has no power over our souls. Evil may want to hurt us physically or emotionally, but in the end “every knee will bow” before Jesus Christ. (Philippians 2:10 NIV)

Satan has no power over the soul. When we ask Jesus to come into our hearts, we are protected. When outside circumstances are trying, we Christians can place our worry and anxiety at the foot of the cross. If you are going through difficulties in your personal, work, or spiritual life, turn to God. Live in the protective arms of the Most High. Your God is an awesome God, with power to deliver you from suffering.

When we are weak, the power of the Almighty One becomes apparent. It brings a joy and peaceful resignation that the world cannot perceive. Though they have eyes, they do not see. Though they have ears, they cannot hear. The world cannot hear the delightful song of the soul, that God is singing, just for you. Give your life to Jesus, so that your name can be written in the Book of Life, and so that you will be saved, and can begin to hear the song the angels are singing.

Remember what the Apostle Paul said to the Corinthians, and find joy in the midst of trouble:

*“For we live by faith, not by sight.”  
(2 Corinthians 5:7, NIV)*

*Rejoicing in Jesus Christ,  
Pastor Melinda*



## OCTOBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

### Pastor's Report-

#### ❖ **Worship**

- September 17<sup>th</sup> – Welcome Back Sunday and Brunch
- September 24<sup>th</sup> – Sally Jane was preaching
- October 1<sup>st</sup> – World Wide Communion Sunday – Members of the Congregation were asked to bake or bring [a loaf of] bread, which was donated after the service.
- October 8<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Home Sunday.

#### ❖ **Administration**

- September 26<sup>th</sup> Visioning Meeting
- September 27<sup>th</sup> – Worship and Music Meeting
- October 4<sup>th</sup> – Outreach Meeting
- October 5<sup>th</sup> – ELC Board Meeting
- Evaluation – read, and goals for the upcoming year sent out.

#### ❖ **Pastoral Care**

- Home, Hospital and nursing home visits (5+)
- Office/lunch meeting (3)
- Phone calls/Facebook private messages (31+); countless text messages to our members and friends.

#### ❖ **Christian Education**

- Grief Group – Next meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Wednesday Bible Study meets every week.
- Two Sunday School adult classes meet weekly in rooms 100 and 202. Thank you to our Sunday School and Bible Study teachers!
- Men's Breakfast group meets monthly.

#### ❖ **Contact with the larger UCC + local community**

- October 18<sup>th</sup> – Chapel Time with the ELC children.

### New business-

- A. ELC Parent Question about Building Use - Are non-members permitted to use Room 100?
  - a. Yes, room 100 is available for use by non-members.
- B. Pastor Melinda received an email from a Hungarian church that is helping Ukrainian refugees, asking for monetary assistance. It was agreed that money from the Parish Fund could be used to send monetary assistance.

## OCTOBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

### New business-

- Cash Rally offering–This will go towards our Current Expenses deficit. Additionally, it was brought up how we can help Joe Jordan with medical expenses. It was decided to do a Love Offering for the next 4 Sundays, October 15-November 5, and use the money in the Medical Expense account. Pastor Melinda will also give money from the Parish Fund.

### Missions-

- Next meeting Oct. 17 6:00 PM in the Parlor.

### Christian Ed –

- The Sunday school board decided to send the Tree of Warmth items to Mr. Sandys Homeless Veteran's Center and The Lehman Center.

### Church & Ministry-

- Maira is working on the Roster Membership Identification Information on her Church Windows' Program (Active, Inactive, Previous Member). This is a huge task and will take time to complete.
- Six Shiloh UCC staff evaluations have been completed; The Consistory will do a Comprehensive review as well as this year's 2022-2023 evaluation review with Pastor Melinda at the conclusion of this meeting.
- All Shiloh UCC Staff Members are reminded to fill out the Vacation/Sick Day Forms for Maira when they are requesting them. Maira uses them to track all Vacation/Sick Day uses. Maira will give you a clean copy of the form this week in your mailbox. Consistory President approves all sick and vacation days.

### Worship and Music-

- Sunday Dec. 17 - Advent Musical 10:00 service/ potluck meal.
- Christmas Banners - Concordia - Bright Joy series.
- Still seeking members for all choirs.
- Next meeting - Nov. 1, 7:00 PM room 202.

### Outreach/Evangelism-

- Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat -Sun. Oct.22 3:00-5:00 PM

## OCTOBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

- (Games and activities/Trunk or Treat in parking lot, food trucks in side parking lot, beverages and desserts in room 100).
- Direct Mail - postcards from Concordia, USPS Direct Mail—this is cheaper than the company used last year.
- Next meeting - Nov. 7, 7:00 PM room 202.

### Visioning-

- A survey will be created for ELC families concerning their needs for a church.
- A document will be given to small groups in the church to share how they are meeting the call to action given on Sept. 10.
- Reach out to seminaries in the area for a family/youth coordinator.
- Next meeting Oct. 24 at 7:00 PM in room 202.

### Finance Committee and Budget –

- Current expenses are down but we still have time to make it up. See Report.

### ELC-

- Meeting held on October 5.
- Enrollment is 179 students-over capacity, one full scholarship and three 50% scholarships were awarded.
- WMT Police Officer did a partial walkthrough on October 3.
- Planning on having Junior Achievement Programs for the students this year, Patrons who sign up for Weis 4 School has a portion of their shopping receipt donated to the ELC.
- Church Chums is participating in the October Fall Fest on October 22 for ELC students.
- Play Group 2's and their parent/guardian (7 total) are using the Nursery on Monday morning; Allison is asking permission to make some room changes to accommodate the group. Jeff, Reen, Dani, Katie, and Patti reviewed requests and recommended ideas to Allison.
- Next Meeting November 30, 5 pm, Room 202.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Nathan Limbert, Consistory President*

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER



It is amazing how quickly October has flown by! Students at the ELC have been busy exploring the season of Autumn and enjoying the cooler weather. Our friends in the 3's, 4's and Pre-K walked to the Shiloh Fire Station to learn about fire safety. We're grateful that the Shiloh fire fighters welcomed our friends and allowed the children to not only see but get inside the fire trucks.

This important unit ended with a school wide fire drill.

Another exciting highlight of October was our Fall Festivals and costume parade. We welcomed our parents into the building to help celebrate with the children. Also during October, we were blessed to have Kidsight Vision Corps perform vision screening for our students. The Church Chums and ELC teachers welcomed our families for a Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat. It was so special. Lastly, our Pre-K friends visited the Pumpkin Hill pumpkin patch.

As we prepare for the month of November, our main focus is thankfulness and exploring and identifying the many blessings in our lives. As the Director of the ELC, I am blessed for so many reasons. First, is my creative, nurturing and dedicated staff who are helping guide our ELC students to become independent, self-confident and caring individuals as well as teaching pre-kindergarten skills. Next are the wonderful children who brighten our days with their joy, enthusiasm and smiles! I am also thankful for our fantastic and patient families. The constant support and encouragement we have received throughout the beginning of the school year is greatly appreciated. Finally, I am thankful for our church family and Advisory Board who continued to support our ELC.

We will also be busy in November learning about Thanksgiving, turkeys. We will share a Thanksgiving Feast with our friends complete with all different types of foods. Our Bible lesson for the 2's and 3's will explore the story of the birth of Jesus while our 4's and Pre-K friends will read the Parable of the Christmas Tree.

On behalf of the ELC Staff and children we wish you and your families and blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.

*Allison Hartnett, Director*



This year the **Cash Rally offering on November 5<sup>th</sup>** will be going towards the Church's current fund.

As many of you have been aware, we have been praying for Jack and Diane Jordan's 44-year-old son/stepson, Joe, for many months following a strep infection which necessitated the amputation of all of his limbs. Joe is now in the healing stage, awaiting the next step, getting prosthetics and learning to use them to replace his limbs. We now have another opportunity to help Joe – there will be a love offering collected at Shiloh UCC until November 5, using either the special envelopes with a heart on them in your pew, or simply adding a line item on your regular offering envelope, labeling it 'love offering for Joe.' The other option would be to put a check in the offering plate made out to Shiloh UCC with the line item 'love offering for Joe.' We thank you and I know Jack and Diane and Joe thank you for all of the ways that you care and support Shiloh UCC's family.



Memberships are still being accepted for the **Homewood Auxiliary**. A **single membership is \$3.00 or \$5.00 per couple**. You will receive a quarterly newsletter with updates from all the Homewood sites and a pen for your support. Please see **Pat Roth or Shirley Lohmann will receive your membership**.

The **Women's Guild** will be meeting **November 6, at 1:00 pm in room 202**. The program will be from our study book **Encouraging One Another, Chapter Eight: "One Another" Attitudes**. Joyce Mummert will be leading this chapter. Special offering this month is for Sally Jane Johnson. *We invite all women of the church to join us at any time.*



The next **Shiloh UCC Men's Breakfast** will be held on **Tuesday, November 14 at 8:30 a.m.** at Dover Valley Restaurant. Contact Brad Jacobs for more information.



**Engaging Women** will be meeting on **Tuesday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor**. Contact Sally Curren for more information.

As a reminder, the **first Sunday of every month** is food collection for the Salvation Army. The non-perishable food items should be placed in the shopping cart in the Welcoming Center.



The **Woman's Social & Support Group** will meet for breakfast at **Bob Evans Restaurant** in West York on **Friday, November 17 at 9:00 am**. Please call Carolyn Poff at 717-292-2893 if you plan to attend.

Christmas is rapidly approaching! We are taking orders for **poinsettias beginning November 12**. The cost is **\$6.00 each**. Ordering envelopes will be in the narthex and gallery. The deadline to order is **December 3**. Please make checks payable to Shiloh UCC, thank you.



The **Soup Kitchen Crew** are looking for volunteers to prepare spaghetti and serve lunch one day a month at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen in downtown York. Shiloh UCC is one of many local churches that support Our Daily Bread by supplying and serving food to those in need. Volunteers are needed to serve lunch on the third Thursday of the month, and we prepare spaghetti the day before. If you would like to help or want more information, please contact **Cheryl Hershey at 717-891-6440**.

If you do not have plans for Thanksgiving come and join us on **Thursday, November 23 at 1:00 PM** for dinner and fellowship in **Room 100**. We will have Turkey and all the trimmings. A free will offering will be collected. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gallery, if you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Limbert.



## THANK YOU (Cont'd)

The members of the **Women's Guild** and the **Sunday School Board** wish to thank everyone, who contributed to the special offering for "New Life for Girls."

Dear Shiloh UCC Members,

On Behalf of everyone at Hoffman Homes for Youth, thank you for your recent gift of \$375 through Penn Central Conference. Thank you for believing in and supporting our efforts!

*With deep appreciation,  
Susan Cann, Director of Development*



Beginning **Wednesday, November 29** through **Wednesday, December 20**, Pastor Melinda will be leading an **Advent Soup and Study** called "An **Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story**"

A Light soup and bread supper will be served at **6:00PM**, followed by the Advent Study at **6:30PM**. You can attend both the "soup" and "study" part, or you can just come for the "study" part. There will be **two sign-up sheets in the gallery. One** for the study and one for volunteers to bring soup. The group will meet in **room 202**. Everyone is welcome to join. We would love to have you!



**Memorial Gifts** were received in memory of **Stephanie Berkheimer** from Richard Berkheimer.

### COMING UP:

December 2	Parent's Night Out
December 3	First Sunday of Advent/Communion
December 10	Election of Consistory
	Blanket Sunday/Tree of Warmth
	Meeting to adopt 2024 Budget (rescheduled from November 12)

Save the dates: Sunday, **December 17!** There will be a Christmas Program at 10:00 AM followed by a meal and fellowship event in room 100. More details will be available in the next Communique.

### Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Services:

Morning Worship Service at 10:00AM  
Candlelight Services at 3:00 PM & 7:00 PM



## THANK YOU NOTES



Dear Shiloh Family & Friends,

The Missions committee is very grateful for the members of the congregation who supported our challenge for 2023. \$3170 was raised and will be divided between White Rose Hospice of York and the VNA of York.

Dear Members and Friends,

I wish to sincerely thank our members for the birthday cards and meaningful messages and thoughts. It certainly was a pleasant surprise.

*Ray Fox*

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

November 2 Lonny Neiman Sr.  
November 3 Bonnie Bentzel  
November 4 Kendra Tredway  
November 5 Melissa Miller  
November 7 Rhonda Grove  
Kathryn Slenker  
November 8 Jeanie Bentzel  
November 9 Kohen Stover  
November 10 Jerry Eppley  
November 11 Jennifer Andras  
Josie Milano-Hake  
November 12 Deborah Schaale  
November 14 Rev. Melinda LaMontagne



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY'S (Cont'd)

November 15 Tancrede LaMontagne  
November 17 Barbara Patterson  
November 18 Megan Garbacik  
November 19 Robert Long  
November 20 Carol Harrold  
November 21 Alara Benedict  
Jane Hamme  
November 22 Michael Hopple  
November 24 Rosabel Bentzel  
Kimberly Eldredge  
November 26 Stephen Besecker  
November 27 Nicholas Metzger



*“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	Pat Myers
Jane Harrison	Carolyn Poff
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-12 PM &amp; 5-8 PM</b> <b>Thursday 5-8 PM</b> <b>Friday 9AM-12 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>