

COMMUNIQUE

November



2024

SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2251 Willow Road
York, PA 17408
Telephone 717-764-3569
Email: office@shilohuccyorkpa.org

A GROWING CHURCH
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS



- November 3** *Proper 26 (31) Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion/Cash Rally*
Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Psalm 119:1-8
Mark 12:28-34
“The Greatest Commandment”
- November 10** *Proper 27 (32) Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost/Stewardship/Meeting to Adopt 2025 Budget*
1 Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 146
Mark 12:38-44
“The Greatest Gift”
- November 17** *Proper 28 (33) Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*
Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-25
“A Community of Love”
- November 24** *Proper 29 (34) Reign of Christ/Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost/Thanksgiving Sunday/ Slate of Consistory Nominees*
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
“The King of Love”

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"...Give thanks in all circumstances..." (Thessalonians 5:18)

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the miracle cures for spiritual suffering is gratitude. Gratitude is a free cure too. It doesn't even require popping pills. All you have to do is close your eyes for a moment, focus on God, and say "thank you" for all the blessings in your life. However, saying "thank you" to God is not always easy. It takes practice. If you are going through hard times, if your heart is hurting, if you feel depressed, if you are grieving a painful loss, if you are worried about a family member's or your own health, you may feel like you are all alone. You may feel like no one can help. At those crucial times, you need a true friend. And that's what we find in Jesus, the true doctor of us all. When we are focused on Jesus, and all the blessings that God gives, then saying "thank you" becomes easier. Gratitude is a miracle cure. When you are able to be grateful "in all circumstances" like Paul teaches to the Thessalonians, your circumstances miraculously change. Sometimes, it's not the circumstances that change. Sometimes, it's you who changes. Your attitude to hardships in life, to difficult people who are trying to control or hurt you, will change. With peace in our heart no one and nothing can hurt us. When employers become slave masters, when the bills overwhelm us, when all seems lost, gratitude for the joy we find in God comes to the rescue like a miracle. Even when the evil forces of this world are seemingly winning, God is in control. Evil unhappy people will try to hurt you and control you. But this fallen world only has power over you, if you let go of God. If you practice gratitude, you will find peace and joy in God, and God will lead you out of Hell into this beautiful but difficult journey we call life. Grief over losing a close loved one doesn't just disappear in the thin air in a few days. Losing my mother this year still makes me cry sometimes. Above that, there are some people, who really try to make my life harder than it is. I can't pretend that I'm happy all the time. That wouldn't be honest. I try to be honest with you, even when it's difficult. I hope that you feel the same. I hope that you feel like you can come and talk to Pastor Melinda when you are going through hard times. I want you to know that I feel your pain. I am not immune to grief and tears. I have a heart that feels just like yours. When you are suffering, I want to pray with you and for

you. As Thanksgiving gets closer, despite the sadness and disappointments that sometimes visit me, my soul finds joy in God. I am immensely grateful to God for everyone in my life. I am especially grateful for family and friends, for the people at Shiloh UCC who treat me like family, who love and support me. Thank you for showing your love and care in a world where people don't care about others' feelings. I am grateful to lead this faithful and generous congregation, Shiloh United Church of Christ. Thank you for being generous with your spiritual home. Thank you for giving faithfully your time, talent and treasure. I am hopeful for the future of Shiloh. Unbelievably, the church year is coming to an end. Thanksgiving will be here sooner than you think. Naturally, giving thanks is not a once a year event. Thanksgiving can be converted into an everyday spiritual practice. In Thessalonians 5:18 Paul writes: "Give thanks in all circumstances..." Even when it's hard to find something to be grateful for, when we are going through a dark night of the soul, there is always at least one thing that we can be grateful for. When you find that one thing for which you are grateful, your whole world changes. If there is at least one thing that makes your heart sing praises to God, you will find more. In his book, *The Prophet*, Kahlil Gibran writes: "When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy. When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight." Being grateful teaches us to find the joy that lives in faith's assurance that happiness will come again. So let us practice gratitude! Let us say "thank you" to God not only one day a year, on Thanksgiving Day, but every single day of our lives. Let us write Paul's words on our hearts and constantly remember: "Give thanks in all circumstances..."

Peace,
Pastor Melinda



October Consistory Highlights

Pastor's Report-

Worship

Special worship services:

- September 22nd – Back to Church Sunday and Luncheon
- September 29th – Family Friendly Worship Service + puppets
- October 6th – World Wide Communion Sunday + Bread display/donation

Administration

- September 19th – Annual Evaluation
- September 25th - Worship and Music
- October 1st – Mission Committee meeting
- October 3rd – ELC Board meeting
- Pastor Melinda Sabbatical plans for 2025: away during the summer months (June, July and August). Plan: Read at least three major theological books about church growth and/or preaching. Take at least one theological course at a seminary/online or in person. (I have invited Nora Faust from the UCC Conference to talk to us about this and answer questions.)

Pastoral Care

- Home, hospital, hospice, and nursing home visits (15)
- Office/lunch meeting (5)
- Phone calls (16+); countless text and Facebook messages to our members and friends.

Christian Education

- Confirmation class meets twice a month, Sunday mornings at 9AM in the Library. We have two confirmation kids. Please, contact Pastor Melinda if there are more people interested in this class.
- Brandi is doing a great job bringing together the youth and the children (5-8). Thank you, Brandi!
- Grief Group meets once a month. Last meeting was on **September 17th**.
- Wednesday Bible Study meets weekly. Thank you, Ray!

- Two Sunday School adult classes meet weekly. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers!
- Thank you to all the ladies who lead our women's social groups!
- Men's Breakfast group meets monthly. Thank you, Brad!
- **Contact with the larger UCC, ELC, and local community**
 - September 11th - York Association Luncheon in Red Lion
 - September 22nd - Homewood Auxiliary meeting and dinner
 - September 25th – Chapel Time
 - September 25th – Greeted ELC parents/families
 - October 5th – Attended the Church Women United meeting
 - October 9th – York Association Luncheon in Red Lion
 - October 9th – Boundary Awareness Training at St. John UCC in Red Lion

President's Report-

Time Off Requests

Approved requests by Pastor Melinda and Administrative Assistant
The following requests were approved

- Private event in Room 100 for Saturday November 23, 2024 from 11:00 AM-5:00 PM
- Private event in Room 100 for Saturday December 21, 2024 from 7:00 AM-1:00 PM.
- Private event in Room 100 for Saturday February 22, 2025 from 12:00 PM-4:00 PM

The following request was approved

- Private request for 10 tables and 55 folding chairs from November 27-29, 2024

Guest Report-

Brandi Shoff was present to talk about the Family and Youth Ministry asking for our input and any suggestions we may have.

New Business-

A. Outdoor sign changes. The lighting of the sign has been changed to different hours

B. Natalie will provide Brandi Shoff with a credit card for her to purchase her supplies for the Family and Youth Ministry and will be paid out of a fund set up for such needs.

Unfinished Business-

A. When we should possibly change the temporary pass code to the church doors. It was decided that the code should be changed quarterly.

B. Soup kitchen is wondering when the new sink will be connected?

Church and ministry-

- All evaluations of the church staff have been done and I'm pleased to say that everyone did well! Our next project will be working on membership. Church and ministry

Worship and Music-

- Contract signed for organ repairs/ waiting to hear from tuner/ tuner was hospitalized and is recovering
- Loaves of bread collected at World Wide communion donated to Life Path Ministries
- Several youth have volunteered to help with puppets and be acolytes
- Is it possible to purchase two banners for the sanctuary with Memorial Funds? Jane said the cost would be less than \$300 and approval was given in a motion by Jane Harrison and Bev Arnold.
- Jane Harrison will communicate with Courtney about events she needs to be aware of on our calendar.

Church Life-

- Reminder about the Engaging Women meeting on October 21 at 6:30. Open invitation to discuss Reen Bentzel's book

Outreach/Evangelism-

- Fall Festival will be held Oct.20 - 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
 - Trunk or Treat and games will be outside
 - Desserts will be served in room 100

- T-shirt sale is being discussed.
- Name tags distributed to most members
- Christmas Gift for congregation purchases - calendar cards (similar to last year)

Visioning-

- Hope to schedule meeting in October or November
- Talk to Brandi about attending this meeting

Missions Committee-

- The mission challenge for this year will be split between Bell Socialization Services and our Capital Expense Fund The amount raised at this time is \$1650 but that doesn't include what may have been collected this past Sunday.
- The mission committee suggests that the Cash Rally offering (Nov. 3) be given to the UCC Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund (Hurricanes 2024 Appeal) to help those affected by the hurricanes. Motion made and approved.
- The committee suggests that the Thanksgiving offering be given to the Salvation Army. Motion made and approved.
- The committee also suggested that the Christmas envelopes be given to the Veterans of the Cross. Motion made and approved.
- Natalie made the announcement about a Love Offering going to Hurricane Relief starting now because of the great immediate need. Many members asked her about how to help the people in Florida and North Carolina, etc. It starts now and runs through December. Cash Rally money will just be added to it.
- The grocery cart for November will be for New Hope's Thanksgiving distribution. Around 800 turkeys will be given out and churches are asked to contribute a side dish. Shiloh has signed up for gravy.
- Next meeting is January 21, 2025

Christian Ed.-

- At this time, there are 3 Sunday School classes meeting and Brandi has her classes at various times not just on Sunday
- Minutes from Mixed Adult SS class will be put in the safe

- Sunday School board will be giving \$100 each to Salvation Army and Life Path Ministries at Thanksgiving and Christmas; \$100 to the Cash Rally; and the Tree of Warmth items will go to Lehman Center and Mr. Sandy's Homeless Veterans Center.

Early Learning Center-

- There was a discussion about one of the bushes in the outdoor classroom /memorial garden. It was decided that the bush cannot be removed and will be dealt with in another manner.

Finance Committee-

- Review Budget for 2025

Communication and Technology-

- Brandi is using the extra computer from the spare office
- We need to update all computers and purchase 3 new desktop computers. Several suggestions were made on who could update the computer network.

Property Committee-

- Fire Alarm code Inspection done Friday the 11th
 - Recommended we tie the fire alarm to the HVAC system. Jeff Hershey is checking into a company to look at that. Otherwise we are good to go.
- ELC PTAC
 - Two replaced
 - One more needs to be replaced, it has a drainage issue
- Rapunzel's New Owner
 - Junk man coming for the old tables from the Garage Wednesday October 16th
 - Remove the Street sign along Carlisle Rd
 - Hold off on the this until we discuss
- Parlor AC has condensation issues

*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. We especially enjoyed experiencing the cooler weather in our outdoor classroom.

We washed apples and served tea in our outdoor kitchen. We observed the many plants growing throughout the space and are excited to see the changes that will continue to take place. In addition, we have produced beautiful sounds on our music wall and created amazing art at the easels. There are so many unique opportunities in this beautiful outdoor setting. The month of October has been filled with many other activities. Our friends in the 3's, 4's and PreK walked to the Shiloh Fire Station to learn about fire safety. We are so grateful to the members of the West Manchester Township Fire Department. They welcome us each year with big smiles, and valuable information about fire safety. 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. Our families were also invited to the Church Chum's Fall Festival. Games, trunk or treat, costumes, food and lots of fun was the theme of this very exciting event. Kidsight VisionCorps offered vision screening for all of our students. Lastly, our PreK friends visited the Pumpkin Hill pumpkin patch. October was also home to our first fundraisers. On October 14 th, we had a Shiloh UCC ELC day at Fun City. We also held a popcorn sale featuring popcorn from the Popcorn Loft. As we prepare for the month of November, our main focus is thankfulness 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 and 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 Noah and the Ark while our 4's and PreK 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

Family and Youth Ministry

Wow, what a month it's been. I can't believe it's already November. The month of October has been very busy. The Family and Youth Ministry held several small groups this month, along with our first Family Night. I have been splitting the groups up based on age and it seems to be working well. We hosted a small group at the end of September for the 5-8 yr age group which was a big success. There were 7 children that attended and got to enjoy painting, a lesson on choosing good friends, a puppet show hosted by our puppet ministry, and a "Do-it-Yourself" snack. Family Night was hosted and was a blast. We only had one family attend, but it was a lot of fun. We did a fall themed scavenger hunt around the church and had some yummy desserts afterwards. We have a small group on October 16 again for our 8-12 yr olds. We will be doing a lesson called "Giving is good" and playing a get to know you based game and also having snacks.

Family and Youth Ministry will also be hosting a "Paint your own" pumpkin station at the Fall Festival on Oct 20, 2024. On October 28th we will have our last small group for the month which will be for the 5-8yr olds, and we will be playing a fall themed bingo game and also learning about the importance of giving.

November 16th we will be hosting ANOTHER family event, We are going to have a painting craft for all ages. I encourage you and your families to come (I will need an RSVP for this event). It's going to be lots of fun. As always please feel free to contact me with any suggestions, comments, or concerns.

Brandi Shoff, Family and Youth Ministry



the **Salvation Army**

This year the **Cash Rally offering on November 3rd** will be going towards the United Church of Christ Disaster Relief fund for Hurricane Victims. Funds received in the **Thanksgiving envelope** will be given to



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 4, at 1:00 pm in room 202.** The program will be from our study book **Experiencing Contagious Joy, Chapter Seven: Joy Mingled.** Jessica Sechriest 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..*



The next **Shiloh UCC Men's Breakfast** will be held on **Tuesday, November 19th at 8:30 a.m.** at Dover Valley Restaurant. Contact Brad Jacobs for more information.

Please save this date **Sunday, December 8.** The Worship and Music Committee is planning to go **Christmas Caroling!** This will include singing for the shut-ins of the congregation during the afternoon. Watch for more details in the bulletin and the December Communique. Please consider joining the group to bring some Christmas cheer.



The **Woman's Social & Support Group** will meet for Lunch at **Manchester Diner on Friday, November 15 at 12:00.** Please call Mary Neiman at 717-855-9021 if you plan to attend.

Christmas is rapidly approaching! We are taking orders for **poinsettias beginning November 24th.** The cost is **\$7.50 each.** Ordering envelopes will be in the narthex and gallery. The deadline to order is **December 8th.** 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**.

Engaging Women will be meeting On **Tuesday, November 12 at 6:30 p.m.** we will be discussing Reen Bentzel's book, 'Glorious Sadness.' All who have read the book are welcome to join us in the Parlor, but please note this is a book discussion, not a speaking engagement by Reen. Please speak to any member of Engaging Women, with any questions."



You are invited to join members of Shiloh UCC on **Thursday, November 28 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, starting November 4th or by calling the church office. Family and friends are welcome. Please make your reservations by November 21st. Happy Thanksgiving!!

For the first Sunday in November (3rd), would you please prayerfully considering donating gravy for our grocery cart. New Hope Ministries in Dover will be providing about 800 turkeys to families in need in November and are asking their partner churches to provide the side dishes. Shiloh has signed up for gravy. It would be best if the gravy was the kind in a can or the packets (only because of glass jars breaking).



THANK YOU NOTES

Shiloh UCC Friends,
Once again you have overwhelmed us with your kindness and generosity to our family, especially Joe. He is working toward recuperating and adjusting to his new life. We are so grateful to you for supporting us with your concern, words of encouragement, prayers, and donations. We offer our sincere Thanks!

-Jack and Diane Jordan

NEW FOR FAMILIES:



Are you looking for an activity that the whole family can participate in together? Well, this is it, we are starting a Family Choir for ages 4 years and up (including siblings, parents & grandparents) to provide additional Special Music for our worship services. So come out with your families and join us. **Where: Shiloh UCC Sanctuary When: Thursdays at 6:00 to 6:30pm Starting November 7th** Looking forward to seeing you and your families, If you have any questions please contact Stephanie Limbert.

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Jerry Eppley** from Dave and Deb Althoff. and in memory of **Stephanie Berkheimer** from Rick Berkheimer.



COMING UP:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| December 1 | First Sunday of Advent/Communion |
| December 7 | Parent's Night Out |
| December 8 | Election of Consistory |
| | Blanket Sunday/Tree of Warmth |
| | Caroling with dinner after |
| December 16 | ELC Programs |
| December 17 | ELC Programs |
| December 22 | Christmas Fund Offering |
| | Advent Musical |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Services |
| December 25 | Christmas Day Office Closed |

Save the dates: Sunday, **December 22nd** ! There will be a Christmas Program at 10:00 AM. More details to follow in December Communique.

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Services:

Candlelight Services at 3:00 PM & 7:00 PM

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

CONSISTORY

Elders

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

Deacons

Sue Besecker
Tom Fox
Pat Myers
Carolyn Poff

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

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D. pastormelinda@shilohucc.com
Pastor Melinda office hours:	Tues, Wed, Thurs 9Am-1Pm
Director of Music	Stephanie Limbert
Organist	Sandy Bamberger
Missionaries in Costa Rica	Crosby and Sally Jane Johnson
Admin Assistant Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator	Courtney Olschefski Brandi Shoff Familyandyouthministry@shilohuccyorkpa.or
Early Learning Center Church Office Phone Number	Allison Hartnett 717-764-3569
Church Email Address	office@shilohuccyorkpa.org
Website	www.shilohuccyorkpa.org



www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa



2251 WILLOW ROAD
YORK PA 17408

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED