

COMMUNIQUE



2021

SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

A GROWING CHURCH
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS

NOVEMBER

- November 7 *Proper 27 (32) Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Veteran's Sunday*
Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127
Mark 12:38-44
"All In"
- November 14 *Proper 28 (33) Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*
Guest Preacher, Tancrede LaMontagne
Matthew 6:25-34
"Why Worry?"
- November 21 *Thanksgiving Sunday*
Joel 2:21-27
Psalm 126
Philippians 4:1-7
"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"
- November 28 *First Sunday of Advent*
Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36
"Watch, Wait, and Wonder"





“Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:11-13

Through the ups and downs of life, I have learned many wise lessons. The most important lesson I have learned is not a modern scholarly discovery. The most important lesson in my life is that I can trust God with all my problems. No matter what I am going through, God is with me and loves me. Even through the darkest nights, I have had deep joy and a hope that only God’s presence could give.

You can feel this assurance too. You can trust God. You can relax and enjoy your life even when the times we are living in are scary. All it takes is faith.

This wisdom lesson is simple, but not easy to realize. We often get distracted by the world. Through the ups and downs of worldly life, sometimes we get scared. Sometimes, it is hard to wait. Whether it’s the night before Christmas, or the day before surgery, sometimes our emotions make it hard to just trust God. We worry. But there is hope for those who have given their hearts to Jesus.

The Apostle Paul wrote the Letter to the Philippians from a Roman prison. He had reason to worry, but because of his faith he didn’t. And he was able to write with courage and strength even when in prison. He not only kept the faith, he used his misfortune to give hope to others. Paul trusted God. His life was truly an expression of Christ’s love toward all. He traveled to many places, and did many things. Even though he started with the mind of a conservative Jewish Pharisee, he allowed God’s Holy Spirit to change him and mold him into a more loving and accepting Christian.

Paul was born again. He went from stoning and persecuting Christians to converting Gentiles to Christ. Paul truly had a spiritual awakening.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE (Cont’d)

He changed completely. His heart opened wide to be able to include everyone into the fold of the Good Shepherd. Throughout his life, through mostly bad experiences, Paul learned to lean on Jesus.

He trusted God with all his problems. And you can, too. You can let go of worry and simply trust God. You can change into a person who is full of joy, and leads others to that joy. In our reading Paul says,

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

No matter how difficult the times are, even if we are going through a pandemic, even if we are being manipulated from every side and don’t know what the truth is any more, even then, we can turn to God. We can be strong in Jesus Christ. When everything seems on the verge of change, we can place our hope in the hands of a benevolent and omnipotent God. With Paul’s words, **“(We) can do all things through him who strengthens (us).”**

This is why I have hope for Shiloh UCC’s future. Here at Shiloh, we trust God. We could complain that not everyone feels comfortable coming back to church yet, or we can rejoice that we have so many brave people in our pews who put God before everything else. Many of you come and worship every Sunday, regardless of what the TV says. God sees your courage, and I’m grateful for every single one of you.

I want you to know that I am grateful for you who have come back to worship in person, and I am grateful for you who watch us at home on your computer screen. I am grateful for every single member at Shiloh UCC. We will do great things together. We have already started an exciting visioning process. Everyone has an ongoing invitation to join us and dream together. If you feel inspired, share with the amazing people who belong to our Vision Team. Come and bend our ears a little with your hope for the future.

Believe it or not, we have a Confirmation Class, too. It’s not huge, but they are great kids, coming from faithful, good families. I am so grateful for them. Thank you for sending your children and grandchildren to learn more about the Bible, God, and faith! Thank you for inspiring them to confirm their baptism by becoming faithful Christians.

I know, together we will build back this wonderful congregation. Together we can inspire our children and grandchildren to come back and be a part of this loving spiritual community.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

Inspired by Paul's words, "*We can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us.*" We can be a light in this dark world. We can spread hope, instead of bad news. We can lift people up, instead of tearing them down.

As the darkness grows around us, and nature gets ready to take a short nap, let's remember to light up the world with Christ's message. Let's tell everyone that they are God's beloved children and that in Jesus Christ they can have a new, hope filled life. Open your hearts wider, forgive those that need to be forgiven, and walk in God's strength. If you haven't been back to Shiloh UCC for a while, come back and check us out. You can even sleep in, have breakfast, and get here by the 11AM service.

I am so hopeful about our future together. Shiloh UCC has persisted through joy filled and difficult times. God has been taking care of this wonderful congregation through thick and thin. Nothing has changed. God is still here. Together we will build this temple back up to its former glory, and who knows, with God's help, maybe we will do something new. Together, let's trust God and continue to keep the faith.

"(We) can do all things through him who strengthens (us)."

*Rejoicing in Christ,
Pastor Melinda*



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



OCTOBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report –

Worship

- The two worship services are going well (the attendance is good).
- Worship planning has been done until Ash Wednesday 2022.
- Stephanie and I are working together to schedule music/choirs/musicians/special music every week.
- October 2nd Wedding (met with the couple several times for pre-marital counseling; rehearsal was on the 1st).
- October 10th – Bell Choir played at both services.

Administration

- I attended the scheduled meetings, when possible.
- Visioning Team met on September 15th & September 29th.
- Meeting with Reen and Janene from Church and Ministry Committee. I started the new schedule for Office Hours on September 15th. The schedule is included in the Bulletin every week. If I can't be in the office for some reason, I can be reached on my cell phone any time.
- Last week I had to take three sick days, after catching a cold from Sophie.
- Worship and Music met on September 4th.
- "Donate online"? Where are we in the process?
- Stewardship Meeting September 21st
- Outreach Team met on September 30th
- September 28th – Re-started Staff Meetings (Reen and Janene were also present)
- October 4th ELC Board Meeting
- October 5th Worship and Music Meeting

Pastoral Care

- October 10th Confirmation class started with 6 students. We will meet twice a month.
- Hospital (1 visit) and home visits (1 visit), office meeting (1) when requested
- Phone calls (between 20-30) to our members

Contact with the larger UCC + local community

- Upcoming worship service on October 17th Nora Foust will be preaching at Shiloh UCC. She is the Associate Conference Minister for Ministerial and Congregational excellence.
- York Association Annual Meeting at Shiloh UCC on November 14th starting at 1:30 PM.
- The 52nd Greater York CROP Hunger Walk.
- Attended Troop 94 Monthly Troop meeting (Boy Scouts) on September 28.

OCTOBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

New business –

- A. In order to comply with Pastor Melinda's "Call" to Shiloh UCC, which states Pastor Melinda should have two days off a week, she will take off Tuesday instead of Monday the weeks of Consistory meetings, in order to provide her with a full day off.
- B. November 14 is the York Association Annual Meeting in our sanctuary, beginning at 1:30 p.m., with registration starting at 1:00 p.m., in the Welcome Center. Attendees will meet in person as well as using Zoom. (We will use the Zoom license from the Association.)
- C. Safety – An evacuation plan for the sanctuary will be scheduled in the spring.
- D. Street signs that include the new service times will be ordered.
- E. In response to the Shepherding Committee's question regarding plates, bowls, cups, etc. that are currently in the kitchen cupboards but not used, it was suggested that they be boxed up and exchanged with the location of the paper plates, etc.
- F. Thanksgiving Service will be held the Sunday before Thanksgiving, at which time Thanksgiving envelopes may be used, in addition to regular Sunday collection envelopes. The Thanksgiving offering will be split between the Dover Food Bank and the Salvation Army.
- G. Cash Rally will be held Sunday, November 7. The cash rally funds will go towards the kitchen fund for upgrades.

Unfinished Business –

- A. Maira is contacting ushers using the schedule on the Team sheets created for 2021 and alerting Greeters that they will be positioned in the Welcome Center.
 - A survey has been created highlighting the immediate need for ushers, greeters, nursery attendants, and acolytes for both services, plus soup kitchen helpers. It was noted that there are only three people signed up for the nursery for the 11:00 service time. More are needed. Worship Service Nursery helpers must have child clearances, but Maira is able to help expedite that process. The survey will be included in the bulletin, sent out to all members in an email and also included in the Communique.
 - A special meeting will be held to update wedding costs.
 - It was decided that visitation dates included in the Pastor's report should cover the previous month only.
 - STSG will be putting finishing touches on the digital sign on Sept 13.
- B. Reduced restrictions – will remain the same for the foreseeable future.
 - Communion - keep the same
 - Outside doors will be kept locked.
 - Offering - keep the same

OCTOBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Church and Ministry –

- All church staff reviews and individual staff meetings were completed by Janene Beck and Reen Bentzel. It was decided that Allison is also a staff member, therefore an evaluation document will be created prior to next August, when staff reviews are held, for her evaluation. A determination will be made as to teacher reviews.
- Consistory Elders met with Pastor Melinda on September 30, 2021 to discuss her "Raise Request". Staff raise increases take place in January of each year.
- Consistory and other church member Committee Chairs are asked to plan their next meeting at the conclusion of their current meeting and list it in the Consistory Agendas. Avoiding Monday meetings is expected and all Chairs should be reminded to keep minutes of the meetings including: topics discussed, attendees present, and start/end times. Keeping meetings to one hour or less is recommended. Also, it is necessary to notify the office of all planned meetings.
- Reen and Janene attended the September 28, 2021 monthly staff meeting. Four Shiloh UCC staff attended and it lasted 68 minutes. The next one is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26 at 10 am in Room 202.

Worship & Music –

- October 17 - Nora Foust, Associate Conference Minister for Ministerial and Congregational Excellence will be preaching.
- Memorial Sunday, October 31 - members will be invited to provide pictures of deceased family members to create a display.
- Poinsettia sale will begin November 14 and end December 5.
- Christmas Concert will be held December 5 at 6:00 PM followed by refreshments in room 100.

Church Life – The Harvest Home food collection collected 17 boxes of food for the Salvation Army.

Outreach/Evangelism –

- Contact will be made with all members announcing events and services during the Advent/Christmas season, possibly with postcards.
- Current member outreach – Shiloh UCC cups have been handed out
- Guest outreach – bags have been placed in Welcome Center and are ready to be handed out.
- SOS meetings have been held for three Sundays. Discussions were informational and summary meeting will be held on October 17, during the Sunday School hour.

Pastoral Care and Visitation – Visitation happening via the phone and in person.

Christian Ed – Sallie reported Sunday school has been in session for 3 weeks, with one student, using the 18-week Lego curriculum.

OCTOBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Youth Ministry –

- Crop Walk was held Sunday, Oct 10, at 2 pm in Sunset Park—money should be submitted to Nate by December 1.
- Trunk or Treat Sunday will be October 24th from 2 pm to 3 pm with individually wrapped candies and games. The congregation is invited to decorate their cars and hand out candy to the children as well. The Youth Ministry would love to see a large turnout from the congregation.
- There may be a carol sing.

ELC –

- ELC Advisory Meeting was on Monday, October 4, 2021, with 14 Advisory members in attendance. It lasted one hour and 11 minutes.
- Allison stated that this CoVid year is more difficult to navigate than last year. 4 students were out for a period of time due to having contact with someone with CoVid. No ELC student has had CoVid to Allison's knowledge. A few students are wearing shields instead of masks and one ELC teacher has her students wearing shields instead of masks due to her hearing impairment.
- Field trip masks will be used if they are indoors.
- Three kinds of Enrichment classes are offered and are well attended.
- ELC staff and students are looking forward to October 24th, 2 to 3 pm "Trunk or Treat".
- Duck Donut fundraiser pickup was October 9. A second fundraiser, R and K Sub and Pretzel Sandwich Sale will happen in November and the proceeds will go toward the ELC operational budget. Orders are due November 9 and pick-up is November 17 in Room 100. Church members are welcome to participate in fundraisers. Spring fundraiser will be simply "send a donation" for those who are able.
- Registration for 2022-2023 will happen November through January. Families will have opportunities to visit classrooms. Our church will provide some light refreshments. This can be a great "Outreach" time.
- The Tuition Committee will be Natalie Fuhrman, Allison Hartnett, and two parents. They will begin looking at the budget for 2022-2023 soon.
- Upcoming Events include: Fire Safety, Spirit Day, Chapel Time with Pastor Melinda, Vision Screenings, October Fall Party and Parade.
- Next meeting is on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 5 pm in Room 202.
- Reen will invite Allison Hartnett to the November Consistory Meeting.

Finance Committee and Budget –

- Treasurer's Report – Natalie paid the final bill for the digital sign of \$8,750, taken from the charitable trust.
- \$16,128.50 was collected in the month of September.
- September expenses were \$19,049.

OCTOBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Communication and Technology –

- Needs:
 - Pastor's monitor
 - Digital screens
 - Smart TV (65")
 - ELC laptop is set up and waiting for Allyson to clean up her files so they can be moved.
- Tech Soup (discounted access for software for non-profits) will no longer sell perpetual licenses for MS Office but will have non-profits purchase Office 365. This starts in April.
- Following a Jane Harrison/Steve Sechriest motion, Consistory approved purchasing the \$143 license for on-line streaming, which allows for the use of prerecorded music also.
- Online giving is in the testing phase. The rollout is still needed. This new donation site will be an opportunity for on-line viewers who are not members of the congregation to contribute to Shiloh UCC. It is noted that the ACH and envelope opportunities for members will also remain in place as the preferred methods of contribution for members of Shiloh UCC.

Stewardship –

- The Stewardship Committee met on Tuesday, Sept. 21st and recommends that the Christmas special offering be used to make improvements to the Kitchen and the All-Purpose Social Hall (room 100). It is recommended that the Lenten special offering go to the Shiloh Fire Company. The Committee plans to meet next on Tuesday, Jan. 18th at 6:00 PM. As previously addressed, the Thanksgiving offering will be split between the Dover Food Bank and the Salvation Army.

Property Committee –

- Sanctuary roof spouting drains on west side of building have been reconfigured to discharge above ground to eliminate water accumulating in Room 100 during heavy rains. Thanks to Ken Goodyear and John Reiber for their help with the project.
- Jeff also noted that he met with the janitorial service to extend the 90-day trial period for one more 30-day trial period. Jeff said they are doing an ok job, but he went over a few situations that could be better and the service was open to his request.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Reiber, Consistory President*



MISSIONARY NEWS

Greetings to all our friends and family during this time of Thanksgiving and Harvest. So much has happened over the past few months, I would like to highlight two. First, through the help of Hearts and Hands for Jesus five young ladies from our church, Pastor Siany, and I were able to participate in the virtual Remnant Conference 2021 **“Dwell.”** Our main scripture text was **Hebrews 4:16** **“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”** Throughout the pandemic and lock down learning to be still and entering into the throne room was what helped me to get through. I was forced because of circumstances to slow down. It brought me into a deeper relationship with the Lord and believing even more that Jesus is Better and He is Good. I dwelled in the Goodness of God. Two of the girls expressed how they learned the importance of taking time in their schedule to dwell in the presence of the Lord, and that Jesus is our High Priest. God pours out His presence so that we can draw near to Him. We were so blessed and encouraged as we fellowshipped, shared, prayed together, and grew in our relationship with the Lord.



Second, as I dwelled in Him, I was full and overflowing, it made me excited to be able to share that Goodness of God, to reach out and tell others. We opened up the church having service on Sundays, Prayer and Bible study Tuesday, and Street Service on Fridays. We began to hold a day of prayer and fasting once a month that was opened for others in the community to participate. We invited others to join us to press in and dwell with the Lord. The middle of August-September I was able to travel to the US to visit with supporting churches, friends, and family. I was able to share, witness, and fellowship with old and new friends. God gave me a message for that time on the Wedding Banquet. God wants each of us to be part of His kingdom. We are his servants sent to go out and share the Good News to be part of His family, to receive his grace and life, and to receive Christ as Savior and Lord. We are to turn from sin and put our hope and trust in him and his finished work on the cross. **Isaiah 52:7, “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, Your God reigns.”**

MISSIONARY NEWS (Cont'd)

Crosby and I are so grateful for the outpouring of your love, prayer, and support towards us, my state side visit, and the ministry we have been called to. May we continue to serve together singing and proclaiming the Goodness of God.

*In Christ,
Crosby and Sally Johnson*



Prayer Requests:

- ***Giving Tuesday, November 30th*** We are raising funds to replace the electrical wiring in the church to bring up to building codes. Estimated cost is \$2550.00
- 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
- Hearing God's voice clearly and being led by the Spirit as we minister to our community

The **Women's Guild** will be meeting **November 1** in room **202**. The program will be from our study book **Bad Girls of the Bible, Chapter Nine: Out of Step –Michal: Bad for a Moment**. Karen Bupp will be leading this chapter. *Remember to bring your items for New Life for Girls. We invite all women of the church to join us at any time!*



Engaging Women will be meeting on **Tuesday, November 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. They will continue with the book called "The Power of a Woman's Words," by Sharon Jaynes.



The **Soup Kitchen Crew** needs 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. **Four 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 call **Susan Reidy at 610-533-9745** or contact the **Church office**.

During The month of **October and November** we will be accepting memberships for the Homewood Auxiliary at Plumcreek for a \$3.00 donation per person or \$5.00 per couple. You will receive a quarterly newsletter with updates from all the Homewood sites. Please see **Pat Roth or Shirley Lohmann** for a membership until the end of November.



We will be collecting the **"Cash Rally"** special offering on **Sunday, November 7th**. The money collected will be used to start an improvement fund for Church's kitchen. Also, on **Sunday, November 25th** we will collect the **"Special Thanksgiving Offering,"** which will be split between the Dover Food Bank and the Salvation Army."

Beginning **November 28**, the **SOUP KITCHEN** crew is asking for donations of wrapped candy (i.e. any snack-sized wrapped candy or mini candy canes). Please put candy donations in the boxes labeled "Soup Kitchen" in the church Gallery or kitchen. The **deadline for donations is Sunday, December 12**. We will fill small gift bags with the candy and distribute them at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen in December. Thank you!



We are taking orders for poinsettias beginning **November 14**. The cost is ***\$6.50** each. Ordering envelopes will be in the narthex. The **deadline to order is December 5**. Please make checks payable to Shiloh UCC, thank you.

**The cost of \$6.50 for the poinsettias is what Whitcombs has charged in the past. However, at this time, we are still waiting for a final price and will follow-up when we can.

We will be putting up the tree in the gallery again this year for the **Tree of Warmth** donations which will be collected from **November 15 to December 13**.



The **Sunday School Board** has not yet made a decision as to where the donations will go.

Thank you for your kindness, Sunday School Board

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

November 3 Bonnie Bentzel

November 4 Hunter Mummert

November 5 Melissa Miller

November 7 Michael Bentzel
Rhonda Grove
Kathryn Slenker

November 8 Jeanie Bentzel

November 9 Kohen Stover

November 10 Jerry Epply

November 11 Jennifer Andras
Josie Milano-Hake

November 12 Deborah Schaale

November 14 Rev. Melinda LaMontagne

November 15 Paul Baboian
Tancrede LaMontagne

November 17 Barbara Patterson

November 18 Megan Garbacik
Mark Miller



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY'S (Cont'd)

November 19 Robert Long

November 20 Carol Harrold

November 21 Alara Benedict
Jane Hamme

November 22 Russell Brenneman
Michael Hopple
Anthony Metzger

November 23 Norma Hull

November 24 Rosabel Bentzel
Kimberly Eldredge

November 26 Stephen Besecker

November 27 Nicholas Metzger

November 28 Oscar Bupp



COMING UP IN DECEMBER:

December 5 Second Sunday of Advent
Christmas Concert

December 12 Third Sunday of Advent
Blanket Sunday/Tree of Warmth

December 19 Christmas Fund Offering/Advent Musical Program

December 24 Christmas Eve Services – 3 and 7 p.m.
Office closed

December 25 Christmas day

December 27 Office Closed



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

CONSISTORY

Elders

Marsha Reiber, President
Norina Bentzel, V. Pres.
Jaron Flickinger
Sallie Hagerman
Jane Harrison
Jeff Hershey

Deacons

Sally Curren, Secretary
Janene Beck
Dani Bentzel
Nathan Limbert
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
717-764-3609

Pastor Melinda office hours: Wednesdays 9 AM-2 PM & 5-8 PM
Please call for appointments Thurs 9 AM-11:30AM & 6-8:30 PM
Fridays 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
Church Office Phone Number 717-764-3569
Church Email Address office@shilohucc.com
Website www.shilohuccyorkpa.org



www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa