

COMMUNIQUE



2023

SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2251 Willow Road
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Telephone 717-764-3569
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A GROWING CHURCH
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS



- October 1** *Proper 21 (26) Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worldwide Communion Sunday/Neighbors in
Need Offering*
Psalm 25:1-9
Matthew 21:23-32
Philippians 2:1-13
“Are You a Good Friend”
- October 8** *Proper 22 (27) Nineteenth Sunday after
Pentecost/Harvest Home*
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
“Let’s Talk About It!”
- October 15** *Proper 23 (28) Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*
Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
“Rejoice in the Lord Always!”
- October 22** *Proper 24 (29) Twenty-First Sunday after
Pentecost/Fall Fest, Trunk or Treat*
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22
“Tax Time”
- October 29** *Proper 25 (30) Twenty-Second Sunday after
Pentecost/Memorial Sunday*
Psalm 34:1-8
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12
“The Secret to Happiness”

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
John 14:27*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Life can be difficult sometimes. We all go through job losses, unfulfilled dreams, grief and aging. In those times, it's good to know that we are not alone. Jesus is with us through all the pain and loss. God's Holy Spirit, the Comforter calms our hearts, and we Christians can deal with anything, for God grants us peace through it all.

In the text from the Gospel of John, Jesus comforts his disciples with blessed assurance. As his death on the cross is getting closer, Jesus knows that seeing him die will try his disciples' faith. He reassures them and talks about a peace that can only come from God. This peace will not be understood by the world. It will pass beyond the world's ability to know it. However, there is joy for the faithful, who know this peace.

John's gospel is powerful. I often use this text (parts of John 14) at Memorial Services, because those are the times we need God's comfort the most. However, we don't just need peace for the sad times. When everything is going well, when our family is healthy and happy, we tend to forget that all our blessings come from God. Even in good times, Jesus doesn't want us to worry. Even when we are happy and overjoyed with temporal conditions, we need the timeless peace of God to put things in the right perspective. Otherwise, we confuse pleasure with sacred peace. Jesus wants us to look for *"the peace of God, which transcends all understanding."* (Philippians 4:7)

Where do we receive God's peace and blessings? At church. At Shiloh UCC we sit in God's presence and receive blessings every week. It makes a difference. You may not notice it right away, but the Holy Spirit is working hard to make the crooked places straight for you. God is working anonymously in the background, so that your life goes smoother.

God's Holy Spirit is already blessing your life. Coming to church is not enough though. We must give, as well. We must be witnesses to the faith, with our talent, time and money. We must invite others to experience the peace that God gives.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

God is calling you to higher ground. Do not miss your opportunity to be holy. Please, remember to bring your children and grandchildren to church with you. They need protection from the world, too. They need a safe place to learn about God, the soul, and how we can be free from worry. Invite your neighbors and friends, too. They need peace and hope for the future; and they need you to tell your story of faith. Everyone needs God's peace. So you should invite **everyone** you know to church.

I know you want to invite others to church. You are just worried, "What will people think?" Even though you are still full of fear, I am grateful for every single one of you. In this house of worship, you will learn to let go of worry and fear. If you attend faithfully, God will strengthen your faith.

Thank you for worshiping God at Shiloh UCC, together with me and my family. Together, we are building up the body of Christ, right here, in the heart of Shiloh. Together, we are making our services more joyful, happy, and beautiful. Thank you to all the talented people who are making this possible. If you like to sing and enjoy praising God with music, please remember to join one of our choirs. If you have a musical talent and can play an instrument, please, come and talk to Pastor Melinda or Stephanie, our Music Director and let us know how we can make you shine. Don't be shy. Let's find a way that you can play for our congregation. We always need a variety of musical offerings at the services.

My heart is hopeful for Shiloh UCC's future, because you are faithful in attendance and giving. Thank you for your sacrifice! I also encourage you to spread the word, invite your friends and family members to Shiloh. Tell them that we have two services and we welcome all people into God's presence. Tell them that in God's presence there is unimaginable peace and blessing. Tell them about the words of Jesus in John 14:27:

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

*Rejoicing in Christ,
Pastor Melinda*



Dear Shiloh UCC Members,



Words that we live by and hear every Sunday at Shiloh United Church of Christ are:

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Shiloh UCC, where God is still speaking."

These words are very important and not to be taken lightly. It is with heavy hearts that we heard a speaker at the August 20, 2023 Sunday service share words which were contradictory to what we believe.

We, the 2023 Shiloh UCC Consistory wish to express our sincere apologies to anyone who heard the inappropriate message from this guest speaker. We do not condone what the speaker shared and did address our concerns regarding his message. We also reached out to several congregation members regarding their feelings over this matter.

Do not hesitate to contact any member of the Consistory should you need further assistance. Thank you for your understanding.

2023 Shiloh UCC Consistory

SEPTEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report-

❖ **Worship**

• **Special worship services**

- September 3rd – Labor Day weekend (no Communion).
- September 10th – Visioning Sunday (Communion).

❖ **Administration**

- Vacation between August 8th and August 22nd.
- August 29th – Worship and Music Committee meeting
- August 30th – Staff Meeting September 6th – Outreach Meeting.
- Pastor Melinda is suggesting a change for the Constitution. Article V. Membership: suggestion is to delete point #4.

❖ **Pastoral Care**

- Home, Hospital and nursing home visits (5).
- Office/lunch meeting (2).
- Phone calls/Facebook private messages (15+); countless text messages to our members and friends.

SEPTEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

❖ **Christian Education**

- Grief Group – Next meeting on September 15th
- Wednesday Bible Study started on September 6th.
- Both of our Sunday School adult programs restarted in rooms 100 and 202. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers!
- Men's Breakfast group will start meeting again (September 19th).

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

- August 27th Ice Cream Social

New business-

- A. Insurance Quote/inspection—after review and discussion, consistory approved to change our insurance coverage to Brotherhood Mutual Insurance, through James O. Bower Insurance group. The coverage will cost \$18,392/year (approx. \$14,000 less than current) and will increase our value coverage from \$5.5 million to \$9.1 million. We also agreed to a one-time fee of \$2,451 to cover long-tail claims. The coverage will be effective beginning October 1, 2023.
- B. There was some discussion on sponsoring holiday meals—Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter—and expanding them to include the ELC families. Jane Harrison will take this back to the Worship and Music and/or Outreach groups.

Church Life-

- The library looks very nice now and is being taken care of by the Engaging Women group.
- There was a question about how to handle donations of books, DVDs, Blu-ray—Jane Harrison will take this back to the Engaging Women group.

Christian Ed –

- New Sunday School curriculum:
 - We began a new curriculum on Sunday, September 10th: TeachSundaySchool.com. It is a 52-week lesson plan that has multiple age sections and mostly discussion with older kids.

Church & Ministry-

- Meeting held on August 22 - Reviewed Membership roster information and finalized/approved 2022-2023 staff evaluations.
- This committee strongly recommends keeping all Constitution and Bylaws, as were revised in January 2023, including ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP.

SEPTEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Worship and Music-

- Response to Aug. 20 service - Steph Limbert received an email and would like a response from church.
 - Consistory will publish a response in the bulletin and October communique to address the concerns.
- Rehearsal began Sept. 7.
- Brunch is planned for Back to Church Sunday Sept. 17 9:45 - 11:00.
- Sally Jane Johnson will preach Sept 24.
- Worldwide Communion is Oct. 1- loaves of bread will be accepted from the congregation and donated to Life Path Ministries.
- Propose the following:
 - December 24, Christmas Eve—a single service at 10:00 AM, which will be an Advent Service
 - Christmas Eve services at 3:00 and 7:00 PM
 - December 31—regular services at 8:30 and 11:00 AM
- Next meeting—September 27 at 7: PM in room 202

Outreach/Evangelism-

- Central PA Blood drive Thursday Sept. 14, 1 - 6 PM.
- Visioning Sunday - video well received.
- Looking to post Youth / Family position additional places: Facebook/digital sign and Pastor Melinda will work with Outreach to brainstorm other ideas.
- Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat - Oct 22 - 3:00 - 5:00 PM (games, refreshments, bake sale, food trucks).
- Proposing a direct mail for Christmas season.
- Next meeting October 4, 2023 at 7pm.

Finance Committee and Budget – See report.

ELC-

- New staff member for the 3's is Samantha Dell Grosso, and one staff member will be joining as a music enrichment teacher.
- Will change title of new class from “Mommy and Me” to “Toddler Time” - currently there are 16 names on the 2's Waiting List - plan is to get the 2's parents in the church door, provide community to the parents, and offer speaker presentations to the parents
- Church Chums/Others - October 22 Fall Festival (Trunk or Treat), December 2, Parents' Night Out. March 24, Easter Egg Hunt. April 28, ELC Sunday.
- Two committees forming for new year - Tuition and Scholarship.
- No waiver necessary this year for Covid.
- Meetings for the year will be as follows: October 5, December 5, February 1, April 5.

SEPTEMBER CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Missions-

- 2023 Mission Challenge is under way – goal is \$3000 to be divided between White Rose Hospice & the VNA Hospice.
- Oct 8 – Harvest Home Collection going to Salvation Army.
 - The committee suggests that the Thanksgiving offering envelope be divided between Dover Food Bank & Salvation Army. This was also approved by Consistory.
- Next meeting Oct. 17 6:00 PM

Property Committee-

- Kitchen Update – Vision
 - Phase 1 completed—Cabinets installed, sink replaced, painting, etc.
 - \$13,000 expenses so far. The Capital Expense fund will cover the balance.
- Security Vulnerability Assessment Report
 - Jeff Hershey will be meeting with the security team and the ELC in the next month or so to review the recommendations.
- York Computer, PC Service Agreement
 - This would be for periodical log-in to our system and run upgrades and back up the computers.
 - Option A—\$400/month
 - Option B—\$582/month
 - This was not recommended at this time due to the expense.
- Jeff Hershey will touch base with Tom Jones about checking our system before the October meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Limbert, Consistory President*



Sunday, October 1, is World Wide Communion. As part of the celebration, loaves of bread will be displayed. The members are asked to bring a loaf of bread (possibly homemade) to contribute to this display. After the services on Sunday, the bread will be donated to the food pantry at Life Path Christian Ministries (formerly the Rescue Mission).

EARLY LEARNING CENTER



What an awesome September we had at the Early Learning Center! Our children, teachers and families returned to school with smiles, excitement, and the anticipation of a new school year. The children have enjoyed exploring their new environment, playing on the playground, listening to stories, singing, dancing, drawing, and painting. Friendships are beginning to form not only between the children but with their parents too. The Early Learning Center is an awesome place to be!

During the first few weeks of school, we learned all about our new classrooms, experienced the daily routine including art, playground time, circle time and a lot of play time. We also discussed how God made each of us special and unique. Our four's bible lesson was "You Are Special" while the twos and threes learned the story of creation. During September the threes and fours had the opportunity to participate in our Enrichment Program. On Mondays we offer the opportunity to get moving and grooving with our Movement Monday class. On Tuesday students can learn and experience Spanish in the Exploring Spanish class. Singing, dancing, and using musical instruments is what each student will experience in Making Music. Finally, on Thursdays we end our Enrichment week with Thriving Thursdays. The children will learn about their beautiful bodies and what makes them "thrive".

September was also the beginning of something new at the ELC. On Monday, September 18th, the ELC began a special adult and child Playgroup. This group will meet every Monday from 9-10:30 in the church nursery. Our hope is that this is an opportunity for a group of young children to socialize and interact with others while their adults also form relationships. It is our hope to bring in special visitors such as Pastor Melinda, other ELC staff as well as others depending on the desires of the group.

During September the four also enjoyed a visit from Master Bob from Dover Dragons. Master Bob spoke to the children about listening and respect while teaching them some tai kwon do moves. The fours also visited Smysers Farm while our Pre-K friends visited the Dover Library and Brown's Orchard.

The month of October brings many exciting themes and events. Fire Safety is one of our first units. We will discuss fire safety rules, take a field trip to the Shiloh Fire Station, and conduct school wide fire drills.

We will explore pumpkins, the colorful season of autumn and night animals. In addition, our Pre-K friends will be visiting the Pumpkin Hill pumpkin patch.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER (Cont'd)

In October the twos and three's bible story will focus on Noah's Ark while the fours will explore the story entitled The Scarecrow and the Spider. Our four-year-old friends will learn that God is ALWAYS with us therefore we are never alone!!! Finally, our month will end with our Fall Festivals, complete with special treats, costumes, and exciting games.

Happy Fall!
Allison Hartnett



The **Visioning Committee** has been meeting for over three years now. We use material from the Lewis Center for Church Resources. We began with inviting the congregation of Shiloh UCC to give their input on our church's Culture, History, Core Values, and Identity. These four topics are what the Lewis Center said should be studied. From the congregants who did participate we discerned our culture was based on our German Reformed heritage, produced a timeline of our history, which is on the bulletin board in the Narthex, recognized our core values involve reaching the unchurched, which our electric yard sign, streaming services, and website helps do, and our identity focuses on being a family as we spread the word of Christ. The last topic, identity, is being realized through our many small groups that meet, the Church Chums providing many activities for families, the Outreach Committee and all of its activities, and of course our excellent ELC which the Property Committee has been working with to improve the facilities they use and the implementation of a security system for them as well as the whole church. The next step is to decipher what changes need to occur for Shiloh UCC to move forward and grow. After identifying major concerns and using guidance from the Lewis Center, the committee decided the first problem we need to address is the lack of children and families with young children attending our church. We have been advertising to hire a Family and Youth Coordinator. This would be one step in addressing this issue. As we continue to work on this issue and need all of Shiloh's help and support, we showed one of the videos in church on September 10. After feedback and suggestions, our next step is to develop a plan of action that every member of Shiloh UCC is focusing on.

During The month of **October** and **November** we will be accepting memberships 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 **Mission challenge** ends on **October 8**. Our goal is to raise **\$3000** to be divided between **White Rose Hospice and the VNA Hospice and Home Care**. These non-profits provide a wonderful service to persons who want to stay in their home and receive health care as well as those who choose to wish to spend their end of life time with dignity. As we know all too well, many of our Shiloh members have had the need of these services. Please mark your offering envelope “Mission Challenge” on the other line or just use a regular envelope and mark it accordingly. Thanks for considering this mission challenge.

In 2023, the **Neighbors in Need “BEHOLD!”** theme continues. This year’s focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet! Shiloh UCC will have the offering on **October 1st** and special envelopes can be found in the pews.



The **Women’s Guild** will be meeting **Oct 2, at 1:00 pm in room 202**. The program will be from our study book **Encouraging One Another. Chapter Seven: Love One Another** 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.*

Sunday, **October 8** is Harvest Home. We are asking for donations of **NON-PERISHABLE** food. Please place your food donations in the designated boxes in the gallery by Friday, **October 6**. This is our time to share with those who have a great need to place a healthy meal on the table for their family. The food will then be donated to the Salvation Army.



The **Women’s Social and Support Group** will meet for lunch at **The Olive Garden Restaurant** on **Friday, October 20th at 12:00 pm**. Please contact Beverly Gerberick at 717-764-2988 by **Monday, October 16th** if you plan to attend.



During the month of **October**, the **Women’s Guild**, in cooperation with the Sunday School, will be having a special collection to support the needs of the residents and staff of “**New Life for Girls**” which is a residential ministry for women with drug and alcohol related problems. All members of the congregation, Sunday School classes, and church related groups are asked to review the wish list of needed items (see below) and respond accordingly. Collection boxes will be in room 100 and the gallery to receive your material donations. The deadline to donate is **October 29**. If you wish to donate, you may choose from the following specific request list.

- 1 **Most needed item**: Cash donations to purchase an emergency generator and /or to improve the safety of the agency’s driveway. Church members may use the “other” line on their offering envelope and designate New Life for Girls. Sunday School classes and other church related groups may give their cash donations directly to the church treasurer, Natalie Fuhrman.
- 2 **Female** personal care items (body wash, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, razors, Q-tips and toothpaste, etc.).
- 3 **School supplies** (spiral notebooks with paper, 2 pocket folders, index cards, pens, pencils and 3-ring binders).
- 4 **Kitchen and/or bath cleaning supplies** (dish detergent, toilet bowl cleaner, glass cleaner).
- 5 **Paper products of all types** (napkins, plates, paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissues, etc.)
- 6 **Laundry supplies** (powered detergent, liquid bleach and dryer sheets).
- 7 **Non-perishable food items** (coffee, tea, cereal, sugar, juice, canned fruits and vegetables).
- 8 **Clothing accessories for cold weather** (scarfs, gloves, hats).
- 9 **Baby needs** (wipes, baby wash, diapers size 3, 4 & 5).



The **Church Chums** will be holding the **Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 22 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** There will be games and activities and food trucks in the parking lot. There will also be fall desserts and goodies in Room 100. We are asking for donations for our Bakery table. Seasonal desserts would be greatly appreciated, but anything at all is welcome! Please see Patti Goodyear or Katie Bentzel with any questions.

A **Service of Remembrance** will be held on **October 29**. Pictures of deceased loved ones will be displayed. Please bring any pictures to the Gallery on Sunday, October 22 or 29. Also, please contact the office with the names of anyone who passed during 2022 that should be recognized during the service by **October 20**. A short scripture passage should be prepared to include with the recognition.



THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Shiloh Family & Friends,

We want to express our sincere appreciation to all members of Shiloh UCC who contributed to the Love Offering in June and July. New toys will be purchased for the nursery. As we envision more young children in our church, it is important to upgrade the nursery.

The Mission and Visionary Committees

Dear Friends at Shiloh UCC,

Thank you for your recent contributions of assorted grocery items and a gift of \$110 given to The Salvation Army of York. Because of you we are able to show God's love through the many services and programs we offer.

*Abundant Grace,
Ronald Starnes, Major*

COMING UP:

November 5	Communion/Cash Rally
November 12	Congregational meeting to adopt 2024 budget
November 19	Thanksgiving Sunday
November 23	Thanksgiving Dinner-Office Closed
November 26	Slate of Consistory Nominees

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY'S

October 1	Shirley Glatfelter Janine Pepo Ben Reiber Dawn Spahr
October 4	Anna Miller James Patterson
October 5	Diane Jordan
October 6	Wilbert Mickley
October 7	Andrea Mountford
October 8	Allan Schmidt
October 9	Vanessa Seifarth Jane Wilt James Wotherspoon
October 10	Abby Aldredge
October 13	Cindy Traettino
October 14	Mary Ellen Sayres Gladys Seigman
October 15	Scott Arnold Jr. Nathaniel Hamme Gloria Melhorn
October 19	Richard Berkheimer Brian Curren Lily Fahnestock
October 22	Mary Berger
October 23	Brittany Childress
October 24	Elysa Myers
October 25	Rebekah Bupp
October 29	Melinda Kreiser



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


Mailing Page

CONSISTORY

Elders	Deacons
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. pastormelinda@shilohucc.com
Pastor Melinda office hours:	Wednesday 9 AM-2 PM & 5-8 PM Thursday 5-8 PM Friday 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
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