

COMMUNIQUE



SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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A GROWING CHURCH
MEETING YOUR GROWING NEEDS

SEPTEMBER

- September 5 *Proper 18 (23) Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Guest Preacher – Sally Jane Johnson
- September 12 *Proper 19 (24) Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Psalm 116:1-9
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Mark 8:27-38
“Follow Jesus”
- September 19 *Proper 20 (25) Seventeenth Sun. after Pentecost*
Psalm 1
James 3:13-18
Mark 9:30-37
“Welcome Home!”
- September 26 *Proper 21 (26) Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Psalm 19:7-14
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50
“Handless in Heaven”



AUGUST CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report –

Worship:

- Ø The attendance of the services has been steady and going up.
- Ø I was on vacation between June 15th and 29th
- Ø July 16th – Nancy Hamme funeral
- Ø Worship planning done until March 2nd, 2022 – Ash Wednesday
- Ø September - two worship services – We have many volunteers who can help out with the music for the 11 AM service.
 - ü Sunday School teachers – I will need to meet with them before Sunday School starts.
 - ü Confirmation class – I know of a few kids who will be attending.

Administration:

- Ø I attended the scheduled meetings, when possible.
- Ø Visioning Team met on July 7th
- Ø Outreach Team met on July 29th
- Ø ELC meeting August 2nd
- Ø Worship and Music August 2nd
- Ø “Donate online”? Thank you, Jaron, for looking into it!

Pastoral Care:

- Ø Restarted visits and meetings with our church members
- Ø Hospital and nursing home visits: 4; Home visits: 4; other meetings: 12

Contact with the larger UCC:

- Ø York Association Annual Meeting at Shiloh UCC on November 14th starting at 1:30 PM
- Ø The 52nd Greater York CROP Hunger Walk date is Sunday, October 10, 2021.

Church and Ministry –

- Annual staff reviews happen in August/September. We are in the “gathering of information” process of evaluations for 2021.
- When Maira is out of the office for an unplanned reason, she will contact Consistory and the Pastor. She will set up her own group text for this purpose. The office will be closed unless a substitute is available. Maira has a list of possible volunteer subs. Also, if anyone calls in to the office and leaves a voice message, it can be checked remotely and those who can resolve any concerns can be contacted to do so.
- Maira has a list of people to contact if emergencies arise when Pastor Melinda is unavailable.
- Jaron also has access to email if necessary.
- As the employer for our Church staff and ELC staff, Consistory will now have a conversation with them to promote Covid vaccines, but will stay attuned to the local school systems and their Covid decisions for any future decisions needed.

AUGUST CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

Finance Committee and Budget – Treasurers Report

Communication and Technology –

- To do:
 - **Phones Report**
 - Consistory approved spending what is needed for Telecom to get Pastor Melinda's phone ringing after it was discovered that the ring was purposely turned off years ago, rather than getting a new system from Comcast at \$2,800 plus an annual cost for support
 - Pastor's monitor - will get one this summer
 - New sound system and mounted data projector
 - Smart TV (65") on wish list
- Completed:
 - Office/Pastor printer/copier - a Brother printer was received and set up
 - New soundboard – has been installed and is in use
 - We have 3 people who have been trained to stream video and a laptop to use
 - There is a new ELC website

Property -Janitorial contract signed with J&D Clean All to replace the Smiths who resigned May 31. Contract to commence 8/1/2021 and includes 90-day trial period. Monthly cost \$2,500.

- An aftermarket control board was secured to repair the malfunctioning Sanctuary (west) air conditioning unit. Matt completed the repair and also installed wireless programmable thermostats on all three units—thank you, Matt!!
- Work crew completed scrubbing and waxing ELC classrooms and Room 100. Thanks to Brian Curren, Marlyn Hawn and Lew Wallace for their help!
- Bid was secured to trim/remove stressed oak tree in front of church. Arborist suggested the problem could be iron deficiency. Planning to provide iron supplement treatment this fall and see how tree responds in spring.
- The ELC has replaced the little adjustable tables and no longer needs them. It was suggested also that some of the chairs for Room 100 need repaired or disposed of.

Worship and Music-Carol Burns has agreed to be the new acolyte mentor/coordinator—thank you, Carol!!

- We will begin two Sunday services starting September 12, 2021 – 8:30 and 11:00 am, which will help us with social distancing also.
- Welcome Back Sunday will be September 19, with a surprise for those attending.

AUGUST CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

- The Christmas Concert will be Sunday December 5 at 6:00 p.m. followed by refreshments, of course, subject to change with Covid restrictions.
- Nate reported that the altar vases and candles need updated.

Outreach/Evangelism –

- The Outreach/Evangelism committee will be meeting Friday the 13th and is working on updating procedures for visitors.
- They are considering having Shiloh UCC t-shirts made for anyone participating in outside projects – Crop Walk, etc.

Christian Ed - Marsha Reiber & Sallie Hagerman will be meeting with Pastor Melinda for final prep for fall Sunday School.

Youth Ministry - An email has been sent out to appropriately aged youth of the church listing upcoming opportunities:

- York Giving Helping Hands
- St. Paul UCC Youth Workshop
- Crop Walk
- Puppetry
- Trunk or Treat tentatively to be held October 24, 2021

Stewardship –

- The Committee met on June 15th. It was decided that the Stewardship Challenge will begin on Aug. 29th and end on Oct. 10th.
 - It was decided to change the Challenge from building the Discretionary Fund to raising funds for the Heifer Project since the Sunday School has not been meeting and has been unable to raise funds for this great cause.
 - Because of the change, the Committee recommends that the Cash Rally collection go towards building the Discretionary Fund.
 - It is recommended that the Thanksgiving offering be split between the Dover Food Bank and the Salvation Army.
 - Pastor Melinda asked where money could come from when someone needs help – that is the purpose of the Discretionary Fund
- The Committee plans to hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 21st at 6:00 PM.

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

ELC - Meeting held on August 2 with ELC Advisory Board

- Olympic Summer Camp happened on August 2 to 5. About 41 children attended and had great fun
- Registration is fantastic with a total enrolled for this year of 146 children. Only a few openings are left. They are back to Pre-Covid numbers.
- ELC Website is changing and is currently under construction.

AUGUST CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd)

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- Consistory approved the following Staff changes: Teacher for 3-year-old class hired, Brianna Markle; Kaitlin Rhodes was hired to help with the Enrichment Team; Tisha Spillman was hired to teach students how to cook. They still need a teacher for another 3-year-old class and an assistant for that class as well.
- New Board Members - 3 parents are needed to complete the Board, following the By-Law Guidelines (six church members = six parent members)
- Back to School Happenings - Parents received a letter, every parent will receive a personal call from their classroom teacher, a video will be sent out to give an overview of the ELC program, At the end of the month, the classroom teacher will send out a video to parents, Drop in Day is August 31 and the Official start date is September 7
- Covid Updates - Waivers will be signed, ELC is waiting to see what local school districts will require regarding masks and will follow their lead
- Chapel Time with Pastor Melinda will happen every other month
- Fun Day will be held on May 17 from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Help is always appreciated!
- Monthly meetings will happen this year as follows: Sept.7, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. none, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar. 7, April 4 and May 2. All commence at 5 pm in Room 100 unless Zooming is needed due to Covid.
- New ELC website

Unfinished Business -

- A. Reconsidering committee structure/Bylaws Review—on hold
- B. The Sign-up sheet for Consistory Sunday duties will be completed, with one Consistory team providing coverage per Sunday, for both the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Offering will be put in the safe after each service. Maira will continue to email greeters and ushers and nursery volunteers listed on the Team sheets, informing the Greeters that they will meet people in the Welcome Center. Reen and Maira have constructed a list that has all duties for the month on it, thereby streamlining that list so that people are not scheduled for two volunteer spots on the same Sunday. That list is hanging on the Timothy Board for August and September. Maira is also working on getting the Nursery list updated and running effectively. There is still a need for more certified nursery volunteers.
- C. Bulletin subscription ended 5/31. We are just using a basic picture - Jane and Pastor Melinda will review bulletins needed for services

New business -

- A. Jane Harrison presented information from the visioning committee, including three different proposals, regarding the purchase of a digital church sign to replace the current sign on Willow Street, in front of the church. It was noted that it is very difficult to manually keep the sign updated. Following a motion by Sallie Hagerman and Steve Sechrist, Consistory approved going forward with the purchase of a digital sign to be installed by STSG and Associates, for the estimate of \$25,170. That proposal includes all needed permits, 5 years' parts and labor, with support and training. This sign's circuit board is totally sealed from the weather. The sign is controlled remotely, allowing for current events to be quickly and easily posted to the sign. There is a dimmer on for after dark, allowing us to be respectful of our church neighbors. It was noted that the sign portion will be raised so that it may be seen from Route 74. The purchase will be funded with \$4,000 from the Memorial Fund, and the remainder will be taken from the Charitable Trust Fund.
- B. Maira is obtaining quotes on a machine that would replace the duplicator, copier and folding machine, in part to update bulletin and Communicate processing.
- C. Following a Jane Harrison/Reen Bentzel motion, Consistory voted to include in our envelopes a Father's Day envelope at a cost that right now would be an extra cost of \$7.86 per 300 sets, to be available for the year 2023.
- D. Maira is the keeper of all the information regarding who is using the church and will make certain that someone is responsible for locking the church after all events are held here.
- E. J&D Super Cleanall has been contracted for cleaning on a 90-day trial basis at a cost of \$2,500 a month, starting August 1.
- F. It was noted that York County has fallen back into "substantial" Covid case numbers – substantial meaning above 50 cases per 100,000. Today, August 9, we are at 82 per 100,000 and some of those are breakthrough cases for those already vaccinated. Regretfully, in order to protect our congregation, Consistory has made the decision to go back and reinstate social distancing in the pews, the wearing of masks inside and the plexiglass will be reinstalled, effective Sunday, August 22. No decision was made on singing. Marsha will make this announcement Sunday, August 15 along with asking everyone to please stay home and enjoy the on-line streaming if they are experiencing any type of symptoms. Distribution of Communion and Offering will remain the same. All doors will remain locked for security, with the exception of the Welcome Center doors.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Reiber, Consistory President*

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

It is hard to believe it is the middle of August and summer is almost over. Without looking at the calendar I can tell we are getting closer to the first day of school by the “buzz” in the Early Learning Center. The teachers have received their class lists and are busy preparing letters, nametags, folders and much more to get ready for their new students. The floors have been scrubbed and the carpets cleaned. The phone has been ringing with people looking for a preschool or asking last minute questions. Finally, every once in a while a very excited student stops in to drop something off or to take another look at his or her “new” classroom. As we prepare for our 45th year of educating young children, we are grateful to the members of Shiloh UCC for their constant support and help. Not only are you helping to provide children with the skills that they need for kindergarten and beyond, you are enabling them to do so in a caring, Christian community where the love of Jesus, values, and prayers can be taught. What a gift the church is providing to the children and families that come through the doors of the ELC!

This year we will welcome 172 students “Back to School”. Although with Covid still a big concern, our Orientation did not look “normal”. Most of it was done virtually but beginning August 31st we welcome students and their parents to “drop in” to meet the teachers in person and see the classrooms. Then on September 7th we begin another exciting school year.

We would also like to welcome three new teachers to our ELC Staff, Brianna Markle, Kara Hetrick, and Emily Wampler. Brianna has been an Enrichment staff member as well as a classroom substitute since 2018. Both of her children attended the ELC. Emily has been with us since 2019 also working for our Enrichment program. She has three children, two who have attended the ELC. Finally, Kara is brand new to our staff. Prior to this year, she has worked as a youth fitness instructor at the JCC. We are all very excited to have Kara, Emily and Brianna as a part of the teaching staff of the ELC.

Our first fundraiser will be a Duck Donut sale. This fundraiser is all done online. Donut pickup takes place on October 9th. More details to come. Thank you in advance for supporting our fundraiser!!!!

We love this preschool and we are very excited to begin our 45th year!



Beginning **September 12**, we will be having two services. The first one is at **8:30 a.m.** and the second one is at **11:00 a.m.** If you are on one of the volunteer lists, Maira will be contacting you to inquire which of the two services you will be attending. As a reminder, our **September 12 services will include communion** as well.

Good News!



Engaging Women will be meeting again starting **Tuesday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** We will be doing a book study called “The Power of a Woman’s Words,” by Sharon Jaynes. Sally Curren will be ordering books for anyone who is interested in joining us.

Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday Sept 26th from 9:45 to 10:45. Youth will meet in Room 117. Be on the lookout for more classes and small group sessions as the year progresses.



Starting on **Sunday, September 26**, between the two church services the **the Visioning Committee** will host a discussion group called **SOS which stands for “share our story”**. This group will meet in **room 100** and will be discussing many topics including the history of Shiloh UCC, the culture of our church, and what our future Sunday School classes should look like and be called, as well as many other topics that arise. At no time are we trying to rewrite Shiloh UCC’s story, or change anything that already is working well, but rather begin writing the next chapter. **This needs the participation of the congregation, so please plan on participating in all or some of these group discussions.**



The **Stewardship Challenge for 2021** began on August 29. This year we are trying to raise enough money to “buy a farm” through Heifer International. We would like to buy chicks, ducks, honeybees, one sheep, one pig, one goat, one water buffalo, and one heifer. The total cost for those animals is \$1180. Of course we would be happy to buy more animals for our farm if we raise more money than that. Many times the Heifer Project received funds from our Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School. Of course with the Covid Pandemic that was not happening. Also, during Covid our own country suffered, but the third world countries even more so. Please prayerfully consider supporting this year’s challenge and put your donation in your regular offering envelope or any envelope and mark it Stewardship Challenge. The challenge will end on October 10th before our many other holiday outreach projects begin.

The Greater York Crop Hunger Walk Committee met on August 11th and, because of the increasing COVID testing positivity rate, decided to have this year’s walk be a Virtual Walk like we had last year, rather than an in-person walk with all walkers assembling at one location. Therefore each congregation or business team can walk in the manner they wish, at a location of their own choosing ... The proceeds of the walk will support the work of Church World Service and the York County Food Bank."



Our congregation will be walking on **Sunday October 10th**. A specific time and location will be determined at a later date. If you would like to participate or donate money please let me know. If anyone has questions Nathan Limbert will be at the narthex after the service(s) on Sunday or, you can reach him at 717-873-9507 or nrlimb@gmail.com.

Updates will be provided in the bulletins and October Communique when specific information has been determined.



As a reminder, the office will be **closed on Monday, September 6** in observance of **Labor Day**. Also, the **office hours on Tuesday, September 7 will be 9am-12pm**.



Our Family thanks those who donated to the memorial fund in the name of Philp T. Myers.

His Family

Dear Shiloh UCC,

We would sincerely like to thank Pastor Melinda, girls serving luncheon and all the visitations for Bobby from Joyce Mummert, Donna Seifarth and Pastor Melinda. He loved the flowers. God bless all of you.

*Sincerely,
Margie Behler and Family*



Our sympathy to the family and friends of **Robert J. Beiler Sr.** who passed away on July 29, 2021. A memorial service was held at Shiloh UCC with Pastor Melinda officiating.

Our sympathy to the family and friends of **Mary Emma Elicker** who passed away on August 17, 2021. Her services were held private.

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Robert J. Beiler Sr.** from Don and Jeanie Bentzel, James and Amie Baker, Robert and Wendy Davis, Sara Jacoby, Frederick and Aralene Callahan, Brenda and Dale Landis, Patricia and Charles Kauffman, White Rose Settlement Services, Robert J. Behler Jr., Clair and Janet Chronister, Robert and Martha Kline, Albert and Patricia Maul, Donald and Karen Chronister, Philip and Fay Ort, Bennett Williams Realty, William and Barbara Kochenour, Margie Behler and Family and Jean and John Nitchman.



Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Nancy A. Hamme** from Romaine Walton, Jay and Joyce Mummert and Shirley and William Lohmann.

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Gordon Heath** from Patricia Kurz.

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of **Betty Harper** from Milton and Beverly Hoak and Sara Jacoby.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

September 1 Patricia Hombach
Tisha Spillman

September 2 Allison Jacobs
Deborah Myers

September 3 Karen Bupp
Connor McDaniel

September 4 Ben Spangler

September 6 Ruthann Sprenkle

September 7 Rebekah Baker
Michael Davis
Cathy Schmidt

September 8 Sherrie Leber
Theresa Thompson

September 9 Jessie Sechriest

September 10 Alexander Hamme
Kyle Miller

September 12 Sue Jacobs
David Kreiser

September 14 Marlyn Hahn

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY'S (Cont'd)**

September 15 Laura Andras
Wendy Davis
Gregory Jacobs

September 16 Angela Conlon

September 17 Robert Barnes
Jessica Kier

September 18 Dale Hamme

September 19 Randy Reisinger

September 20 Joyce Bowers

September 22 Gabe Gladfelter

September 23 George Betz Jr.
Ray Fox
Crosby Johnson

September 24 Norene Edgar
Joanne Gruver
Patricia Hamme
Michael Jacobs

September 25 Sarah Kruza

September 26 John Herrold

September 27 Logan Kane

September 28 Linda Little

September 29 Jeffrey Korkie

September 30 Charlotte Mickley



“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
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
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