



From the Heart

A letter from Pastor John

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,
says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts;
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other,
“Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,
says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:33-34

Dear Friends,

The United Methodist Church has a wonderful heritage. John Wesley established covenant services as an important part of early Methodist life. On Christmas Day in 1747, he wrote, “Urged the wholly giving up ourselves to God and renewing in every point our covenant that the Lord should be our God.” Wesley found inspiration for renewing of our covenant with Christ in Deuteronomy 26:17-18, Jeremiah 31:31-34, and the writings of Joseph Alleine such as *Directions for Believers Covenanting with God*.

According to Wesley’s journal, covenant services were held on a variety of occasions, but toward the end of his life, they were usually celebrated on New Year’s Day or on a Sunday near the beginning of the year. On December 31, at the end of the sermon, Shiloh prayed the **Wesleyan Covenant Prayer**:

I am no longer my own, but yours.

**Put me to what you will,
place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing; put me to suffering.**

**Let me be put to work for you
or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.**

**Let me be full; let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.**

**And now, O Wonderful and Holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
You are mine, and I am yours.**

**So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be made in heaven.
Amen.**

May this be a most fruitful year for Shiloh United Methodist Church!

Pastor John Whitaker

p.s. Pastor John and Mary Lynn would like to thank Shiloh for the many expressions of love and appreciation received during the Christmas season.

CHURCH-WIDE UPDATES

Sanctuary Renovation News

The Sanctuary Renovation Project is scheduled to begin the week of January 15, 2024. We will be out of the sanctuary for at least six weeks or so. **Starting on January 21st, 9:30AM worship will be held in John Wesley Hall.**

The basic schedule is demolition first (old pews removed, sanctuary carpet and chancel flooring removed). Electrical will follow with ceiling painting. Windows removed, repaired, and installed. The Parlor Family Restroom will be constructed. Hamilton County code requires a new doorway to be installed at the top of the ramp near the fountain and greenery. Touch up work on wood and walls of the sanctuary, pulpit, and lectern are next. Flooring installed. Pews and chairs installed.

Stained glass repair and seating has come in with an anticipated credit of \$472.

A new electric bid came in with a \$15,000 credit. The electrical bid contract was awarded to M & G Electric LLC, the company owned by Rob Mirus (Joe's son) and Matt Gillespie. Another credit was just approved for our hanging decorative electric lights in the sanctuary. The Sanctuary Lights over the pews will be kept but the insides rewired with LED fixtures. (Originally, the sanctuary lights were to be replaced. We discovered replacement lights had to be custom made and had 16 weeks lead time.) By rewiring the existing sanctuary lights, we save another \$15,000 (Rob Mirus's idea). Also, Joe Mirus will be hired to do the touch up staining/repair of wood and other carpentry work.

We have hired Transforming Christian Ministries with Michael Vilardo to help us with the capital campaign. Michael comes highly regarded. He is a member of the Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati. He has led stewardship training, capital campaigns, and strategic planning in numerous churches across the United States including Westwood UMC. Commitment Sunday will be May 5. We will be contacting people soon to be on the Campaign Cabinet to help with the process.

Our old pews are available to anyone who wants them. **If you would like a pew, they must be claimed by JANUARY 14th.** Call the church office for further details if you have not already spoken with Pastor John.

Pastor John is scheduled to retire July 1, 2024

Six years ago, Pastor John promised to serve Shiloh United Methodist Church until July 1, 2024. At the time of his retirement, he will conclude forty-two years of service in the United Methodist Church. During his career, he has served St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Celina, New Hope UMC in Proctorville, and Church of the Cross UM in Kettering. Pastor John is grateful for the staff and dedicated servants at Shiloh. In his letter to Bishop Gregory Palmer requesting retirement, Pastor John expresses, "This request is bittersweet for me. Although I feel as vital and energetic as when I began in ministry, it is time to give my family greater availability and devotion." Pastor John and his family will move back to the Dayton area to be closer to the grandchildren. The vision of Shiloh United Methodist Church is to seek and share God's gift of oneness. This will also serve as Pastor John's personal vision in retirement. Pastor John is committed to continuing his ministry at Shiloh until retirement, completing the renovation of the sanctuary, and preparing Shiloh for a successful transition.

The Staff-Pastor-Parish-Relations Committee has already completed a process of defining what is needed in the next pastor and has met with Rev. Jen Lucas, the District Superintendent of the Great Miami River District, to communicate the needs, values, mission, and vision of Shiloh UMC. Rev. Jen Lucas also recently worshiped at Shiloh to experience more directly our values as a covenant community. The SPPRC believes we have an advocate for Shiloh UMC in Jen Lucas. The cabinet which includes the Bishop, six District Superintendents, and occasional consultants, will begin meeting in January to discuss possibilities for clergy appointment to Shiloh. This is a prayerful, thoughtful, and spiritual procedure designed to lead to discernment of God's will.

prayer

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Amelia
Barry
Roy Chambers
Mike Cranley
Ely
Nancy Fenburs
Gardner Family
Steve Hansen
Joy
Kay Kleinholz
Lorraine
Mason
Jim Meyung
Joe Middendorf
Natalia
Natalia
Paula Noble
Lea Papner
Sammi
Judy Schneider
Mary Stephens
Russ Trupp
Veronica

HOMEBOUND

Ginny Konerman
Barb Lienhart
Ruth Mathias
Esther Reher
Mary Anita Schaefer
Roland Zimmerman

If you'd like to send a card to any of our shut-ins, please contact the office and we can give you the needed information.

Do you have a prayer request?
Please send it to
kplumlee@shilohumc.com
or call the office @ 513-451-3600

Please specify if you'd like the request published in the newsletter, or if you'd like to keep it private. Urgent requests can be sent-out via email as well.



pray

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

Shiloh Preschool



The Twinkly Nativity!

December was full of festive parties, pajama days and practicing for the Christmas play! We had approximately 300 people in attendance for our program! Thank you to Theresa Works and Nathan Chaney for running sound. Thank you to Mark Taylor for being such a wonderful Santa and for Joe Mirus for donating all the gifts! Every year I have a sibling who loves the toy so much and are sad that they can't have one but Joe always make a few extra and I am able to give one extra out! That is the meaning of Christmas in action!



We are headed into registration time for the fall. Please pray with us for an abundance of students that God wants at our preschool!

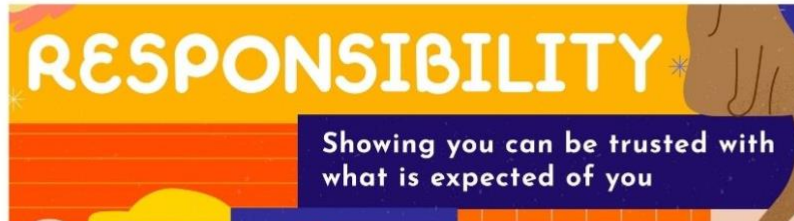


CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CLASSROOM NOTES

JANUARY

This month we will teach about how to live with responsibility. We hope to inspire kids to reflect God's character in the way they follow through on the work that needs to get done. The Bible is filled with stories about people who could be trusted along with others who struggled in this area.



1/7

Communion Sunday

Children will join parents for communion.

Kids will love the Shopping For Your Pet activity that teaches time with God will help us to remember to love others

Bottom Line

Love God and love others

1/14

Worship Sunday

Kids will practice their worship song that will be performed at both services in April.

We will be working on our memory verse using a fun relay game and discussing how it ties into responsibility.

Memory Verse

"Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large."

1/21

Messy Sunday

Our class will get a messy workout today with our super busy Work, Rest and Repeat lesson.

Memory Verse

"Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large."

1/28

Super Sized Sunday

We are super sizing our responsibility with our words by making PET bracelets. Be sure to ask your child what PET means.

Bottom Line

Use your words wisely

Wednesday Night Kids Club

December Calendar

- 1/10 Kids Club 6-7:30pm
1/17 Kids Club 6-7:30pm
1/24 Kids Club 6-7:30pm
1/31 Kids Club 6-7:30pm
Service project

January Theme



Kids Club Notes

January Service Project

This month we will be discussing and voting on upcoming projects. We want to hear from the kids and volunteers what matters to them.

About Kids Club

K-5th grade meet every Wednesday from 6-7:30pm

- Large group gym games
- Small group activities that help kids grow in their faith.
- Monthly service project

KIDS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

KIDS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY. WE SANG HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO JESUS, PLAYED NATIVITY TRIVIA AND HAD A LITTLE CHRISTMAS KARAOKE



KIDS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

KIDS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY



SUNDAY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

ONE OF OUR GIFTS TO THE KIDS FOR CHRISTMAS WAS A COLOR CHANGING CUP THAT THEY COULD CUSTOMIZE WITH FAITH FILLED STICKERS





FAMILY MINISTRIES
SHILOH UMC

CHRISTMAS CAROLING WAS A HIT! WE HAD A GROUP OF 20 AND A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT TO GO CAROLING. THIS WAS A FIRST TIME EXPERIENCE FOR MANY AND WAS ENJOYED BY EVERYONE.





FAMILY MINISTRIES
SHILOH UMC

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE WAS AMAZING! THANK YOU TO OUR PLAY & CHOIR CAST AND
OUR FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM.**





NOTES

Thank you to everyone that donated to the Upward Scholarship fund. We are so very blessed! We collected over \$500.00 and were able to scholarship 6 children.

Upward is looking for substitute Referees. This is vital to our ministry. Just one Saturday for an hour or two :) Games begin on 1/27 and end 3/16. If you have interest or questions please contact
Sue Squeri 513-301-9795

STUDENT MINISTRIES



January



NOTES FROM NATHAN

Happy New Year everyone, as we journey into 2024 we have a lot of opportunities coming for our youth. Our Summer Mission trip will be from June 30th to July 6th. I have also connected with the Delhi Middle School Bible Study Club and have started mentoring a couple of students through the Click and Connect program. The progress has been immense and I am so looking forward to the future. Confirmation from mid Jan through mid March, this is my first opportunity to dive deep into the matters of faith and our church history with the students here. Glory to God.

EVENTS FROM THE PAST MONTH



CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 10th we held the annual Youth Group Christmas Party. We played Christmas themed games, highlighted by the Saran Ball of Gifts (pictured right). The music, treats and celebration of the coming of Jesus were all loved by all.

FRIENDSGIVING

On December 3rd our students came and shared in a great meal together. They each brought a dish to share and we ate and were merry together. Sharing the table is a large part of all Christian Tradition, and what a better way to do that?





BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION & JOURNEY TO THE MANGER

For our last Youth Group meeting of 2023 we celebrated all of our July- December Birthdays. Pictured to the left are the students who had birthdays during those months with their cake.



We also spent the evening appreciating the stations of the Manger. As we split into small groups we followed the story and joined together in the recognition of the reason for the season.

SSM "LATE NIGHT"

On December 27th we had an event here at Shiloh. From 5 to 11PM we gathered for dinner, a trip to the movie theater, and then played a few different games here at the church. Let me tell you what, Family Feud gets really competitive between all of our students.



Calendar of Events

Jan 7th-Youth Group 6PM

Jan 13th- Youth Group 6PM

-High School Bible Study 7:30PM

Jan 18th- Confirmation begins- 6PM

Jan 20th-Youth Group 6PM

Jan 25th- Confirmation 6PM

Jan 27th- Youth Group 6PM

-High School Bible Study 7:30PM

MISSION MOMENTS

WOMEN ARE GOLD

This month we celebrated the completion of an Inaugural 13-week course of Healthy Glow. Healthy Glow was taught under the guidance of AusCam Freedom Project and is a program for young women and girls to teach them about health and reproduction. These young women were very eager to learn, asked many great questions and have even requested to have health checks done to follow up on their health. We are so proud of each and every one of these young women for completing this course and taking interest and responsibility in their health.



Women Are Gold is thrilled to announce that we have been accepted as a member of Chab Dai, a world-class international anti-trafficking coalition. Chab Dai (which means “joining hands” in Khmer) was founded in Cambodia in 2005. Their vision is to see individuals, organizations and agencies work together toward addressing human trafficking and exploitation. They do this by building upon the Biblical framework of working together as the body of Christ, in addition to frameworks for basic human rights. Chab Dai seeks to raise the standards of advocacy, prevention and care utilized by individuals, organizations, businesses, researchers and government agencies in addressing human trafficking and exploitation. We are honored and excited to be a part of the Chab Dai community!



In late December, our staff member Dany, accepted a Women Are Gold certificate of participation, cooperation and completion from the BSDA organization in Kampong Cham. Throughout 2023, the BSDA has held free monthly trainings for all NGO's in Kampong Cham. These trainings were provided to help strengthen the working bond between NGO's in the community, to broaden their knowledge base on government policies and reporting, to help them better understand the financial/fundraising aspects of the NGO world, and to provide in-depth conversations on social work best practices and strategies to ensure the best possible outcomes for our clients and their families. Our staff is always eager to learn new material pertaining to their work and connect with others in their field. These training were the perfect way for them to do just that. We thank the BSDA for allowing us to join these training sessions, and we thank Dany for accepting this certificate on behalf of Women Are Gold.

Our Women Are Gold family would like to wish you and your loved ones a holiday filled with hope, joy, peace, love and happiness. We thank you for all of your prayers, encouragement and support in 2023. May God Bless.

Happy Merry Christmas. 🎄📺🌟





LET'S PLAY!

Come play Euchre and enjoy some fun and fellowship!

WHEN AND WHERE:

Saturday, January 20

Starts promptly at **6:00** Ends approx. **9:00**
in the Big Gym

Please park in the BACK LOT & come in
through the back porch doors.

BRING: \$1.00 Donation for the Christmas Jars (to bless families at Christmas), something to drink & a SNACK to share!

Sign Ups not required.

QUESTIONS?

Kathy Shea, kathylshea@gmail.com, Maria Coogan, coogan21@gmail.com
Teresa Olson, tvsign11@gmail.com, Jenny Lachtrupp, lovepog02@yahoo.com

CHRISTMAS JARS



Shiloh's congregation collected \$1,800 to bless 5 families through our *Christmas Jar Mission Project*

From one recipient " Thank you so much! This means the world to me & my family! We will have a blessed Christmas thanks to you! I was struggling with bills vs Christmas presents & this just means so much! I can't stop crying! Thank you so much!"

**SHARING GOD'S GIFT OF ONENESS,
WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



United Women in Faith made & sold 84 wreaths! Thank you!

Looking ahead, we will need embellishments for 2024 wreaths.

-shatterproof ornaments all sizes & colors

-2 1/2" wide wired ribbon

-Christmas picks

Please leave your donations in the parlor closet.

Questions? Nancy Gallat 513-315-6266



JANUARY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MEETINGS

Executive Board Thursday, January 11 11 a.m.
Classroom 1 (note new location)

Unit Meeting Thursday, January 11 12:30 p.m.
Asbury Hall All women are invited to join us at our first meeting of the new year. Our program will be the Pledge Service. Refreshments will be served.



United
Women
in Faith

JANUARY JOY CIRCLE

Joy Circle will be eating out on Dr. Martin Luther King Day – January 15th. More details to come! Questions? Contact Betty English or Janet Klem.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS – JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 <u>12:30PM</u> – STAFF MTG <u>7:00PM</u> –CHOIR REHEARSAL	4 <u>7:00PM</u> - AA	5 <u>6:00PM</u> – PICKLEBALL	6
7 <u>9:30AM</u> – TRADITIONAL <u>11:00AM</u> – MODERN <u>6:00PM</u> – YOUTH	8 <u>6:30PM</u> – NA	9 <u>11:00AM</u> – UPPER ROOM <u>5:00PM</u> - UPWARD <u>6:00PM</u> – SCOUTS <u>6:15PM</u> – SPPRC <u>7:00PM</u> – CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MEETING	10 <u>12:30PM</u> – STAFF MTG <u>6:00PM</u> – KIDS CLUB <u>7:00PM</u> –CHOIR REHEARSAL	11 <u>11:00AM</u> – UWF <u>12:30PM</u> – UWF <u>5:00PM</u> – UPWARD <u>6:00PM</u> – FINANCE MEETING <u>7:00PM</u> - AA	12 <u>6:00PM</u> – PICKLEBALL	13
14 <u>9:30AM</u> – TRADITIONAL <u>11:00AM</u> – MODERN <u>6:00PM</u> – YOUTH	15 <u>5:00PM</u> - UPWARD <u>6:00PM</u> – JOY CIRCLE <u>6:30PM</u> – NA	16 <u>11:00AM</u> – UPPER ROOM <u>4:00PM</u> - TAAA <u>5:00PM</u> - UPWARD <u>6:00PM</u> – SCOUTS <u>6:00PM</u> – TRUSTEES <u>7:30PM</u> - LEADERSHIP	17 <u>12:30PM</u> – STAFF MTG <u>12:30PM</u> - FORTNIGHTLY <u>6:00PM</u> – KIDS CLUB <u>7:00PM</u> –CHOIR REHEARSAL	18 <u>5:00PM</u> - UPWARD <u>5:15PM</u> – CLIFF CONDO MTG. <u>6:00PM</u> – CONFIRMATION CLASS <u>7:00PM</u> – AA	19 <u>6:00PM</u> – PICKLEBALL	20 <u>2:00PM</u> – YOUNG ADULT BOWLING <u>6:00PM</u> - EUCHRE
21 <u>9:30AM</u> – TRADITIONAL - JWH <u>11:00AM</u> – MODERN <u>6:00PM</u> – YOUTH	22 <u>5:00PM</u> - UPWARD <u>6:30PM</u> – NA	23 <u>11:00AM</u> – UPPER ROOM <u>5:00PM</u> - UPWARD <u>6:00PM</u> – SCOUTS	24 <u>12:30PM</u> – STAFF MTG <u>6:00PM</u> – KIDS CLUB <u>7:00PM</u> –CHOIR REHEARSAL	25 <u>5:00PM</u> - UPWARD <u>6:00PM</u> – CONFIRMATION CLASS <u>7:00PM</u> – AA	26 <u>5:00PM</u> – COMMUNITY DINNER <u>6:00PM</u> – PICKLEBALL	27 <u>8:00AM</u> - UPWARD
28 – <u>9:30AM</u> – TRADITIONAL - JWH <u>11:00AM</u> – MODERN	29 – <u>5:00PM</u> - UPWARD <u>6:00PM</u> – PRIVATE PARTY – GATHERING SPACE <u>6:30PM</u> – NA	30 <u>11:00AM</u> – UPPER ROOM <u>5:00PM</u> - UPWARD <u>6:00PM</u> – SCOUTS	31 <u>12:30PM</u> – STAFF MTG <u>6:00PM</u> – KIDS CLUB <u>7:00PM</u> –CHOIR REHEARSAL			

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Victoria	Bloechl	1-Jan
Robert	Lewis	1-Jan
Sarah	Lykins	1-Jan
Walter	Conkright	2-Jan
Kathy	Lowry	6-Jan
Paula	Noble	6-Jan
Will	Sobolewski	6-Jan
Drew	Watkins	6-Jan
Wyatt	Loechel	10-Jan
Ben	Moore	11-Jan
Jonah	Carter	11-Jan
Alli	Szymaniak	14-Jan
Donna	Sample	16-Jan
Stephanie	Mendez	16-Jan
Lincoln	Andriacco	17-Jan
Jaden	Marcus	17-Jan
Rory	Bloechl	18-Jan
Joey	Fenbers	20-Jan
Jeffrey	Spraul	24-Jan
Lauren	Watkins	24-Jan
Patricia	Dull	25-Jan
Lin	Crossty-Cody	29-Jan
Jackson	Helligrath	29-Jan
Parker	Helligrath	29-Jan

— SHILOH CHURCH —

Mission Statement:

The mission of Shiloh United Methodist Church through the Spirit is to glorify God, develop disciples of Jesus Christ, and change the world.

Vision Statement:

Our vision is to seek and share God's gift of oneness.

Shiloh Church Staff Contact Information

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Do you have something for our newsletter? Submit to kplumlee@shilohumc.com by the 20th of each month to be included in the next month's publication.

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Join us online!
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