



*From the Heart*

A letter from Pastor John

An Unlikely Advent

Rachel Billups writes, "In this Advent season, I cannot help but especially remind those of you who experienced great loss that God is mindful of you. Immanuel, God is with us."

Dear Friends,

I often pay attention to the first line in a book. Good first lines hint at the theme of the book. They draw us into the story. The first line in the Bible reads "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." This first line tells us that God is creator and intimately involved in creation. In the book *The Road Less Traveled* by M. Scott Peck, the first line is "Life is difficult." Who can argue with that?

We all experience loss. We find ourselves in places that feel dark, uncomfortable, confusing, and the next step is perplexing. The second sentence in the Bible is "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light." God has us in mind. God intervenes with truth and lights the way forward. The first line in the Gospel of John says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." In other words, the divine creative energy of God, the Logos, is one with God, is God, and has voice. The Word is identified as Jesus, the one who spoke creation into existence, the light that shines in the darkness.

During the season of Advent, we remember that the Word became flesh, the supreme act of love. The situation of that "first Advent" was dark. The Roman Empire ruled much of the world with an iron fist of domination. The people of God were living in an occupied country under a tax burden that caused many to lose their homes and land. Unfortunately, numerous religious and political leaders aligned themselves with the prevailing powers, adding to the burden of injustice. Common folks yearned for the Messiah, the promised deliverer. They often wondered if God had forgotten them. They were hungry, sick, tormented, and fearful. The first line in the Gospel of Mark answers, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Advent means God comes into our world. God brings good news with the unlikely advent of becoming human. Contemplating this mystery humbles and astounds us.

God intervenes in our lives far more than we realize. We will examine this truth through the study and sermons based on the book *An Unlikely Advent* written by one of Shiloh's former pastors, Rachel Billups. I invite you to pray with me this Advent season, "Beloved, enable me to recognize your intervention into our lives." The Book of Revelation concludes with Jesus saying, "Surely I am coming soon!" The writer proclaims, "Amen, Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen."

Blessings,

Pastor John Whitaker

# CHURCH-WIDE UPDATES

## ADVENT SUNDAY MORNING SERMON SCHEDULE

December 3	What if I Missed It?	Luke 1:8-20
December 10	Playing the Villain	Matthew 2:1-8
December 17	A Curious People	Matthew 2:9-12
December 24	When God Shows Up	Luke 2:8-20

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Family Worship (Gym)	7:00pm	"It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas"	
Candlelight (Sanctuary)	11:00pm	"The Guest Room"	Luke 2:1-7

## SAVE THE DATE FOR DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

In early 2024, District Leadership Training will be held throughout West Ohio. These events are open to all local church leaders. Below is a schedule of the upcoming leadership trainings in listed by district. **Mark your calendars and watch for more details in your district newsletter and the next issue of NewsNET.** If you have any questions, please contact your district office.

### **Scioto River District – Saturday, January 20, 2024**

10:00 am - 2:00 pm; Lunch included - Waverly Grace UMC

### **Great Miami River Valley District – Sunday, January 21, 2024**

2:00 pm - 5:30 pm- Mason UMC

### **Maumee River District – Saturday, January 27, 2024**

9:30 am – 2:00 pm; Lunch included - Maumee UMC

### **Olentangy River District – Saturday, February 3, 2024**

9:30 am - 12:30 pm - New Albany UMC

### **Hocking River District – Saturday, February 10, 2024**

9:30 am - 1:00 pm; Gathering 9:00 a.m. Lunch Included Location TBD

### **Western Lakes District Saturday, January 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024**

2:00 pm Locations TBD

# prayer

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

AnneElizabeth  
Ken Burger  
Abby Coogan  
Darrell  
David  
Don  
Eileen  
James Fleager  
David Goff Sr.  
Tom Herzog  
Jim  
Linda  
Lisa

Lorraine  
Joe Mackey  
Mason  
Phil & Debbie  
Sarah  
Gary Smallwood  
Student Ministry  
Russ Trupp  
Wanda  
James Williams  
John Wilson  
Jane Wise  
Tony Wong

## 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](mailto: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.

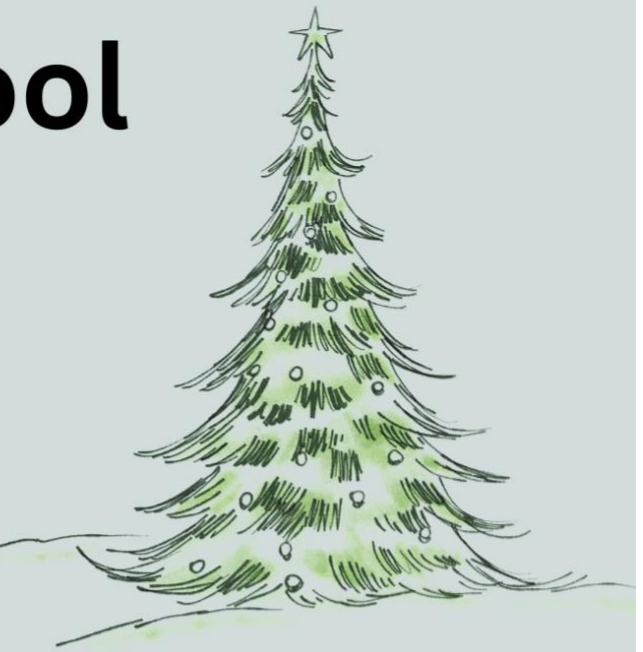
# SHILOH PRESCHOOL

## Shiloh Preschool



Thank you Shiloh Church!

It is such a beautiful thing to be blessed while blessing others too! Without all the church members, preschool parents and delhi community members; our Thanks is for Giving event wouldn't have been such a success. The plan was 60 snack packs and enough placemats for Shiloh's homebound but what God provided through all of you was so much more! 200 bags and about 100 extra of each item for their pantry is what we provided to Delhi Middle. We also made 120 placemats . Thank you for your generosity!



**200 snack bags with extras for pantry and 120 placemats for shiloh homebound and Bailey place**

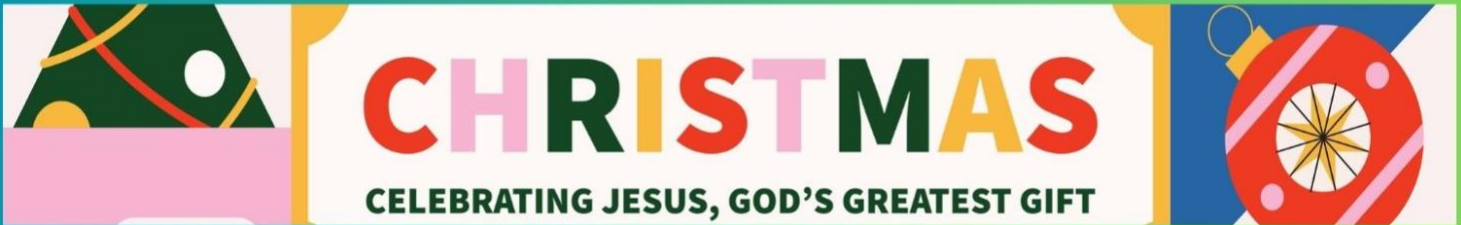
# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CLASSROOM NOTES

### DECEMBER

PLEASE NOTE:

DECEMBER 31 WILL BE AN ALL IN SUNDAY FOR K-5  
NURSERY/PRESCHOOL WILL BE PROVIDED



**12/3**

#### **Communion Sunday**

Children will join parents for communion.

Through interactive games kids will discover that Jesus was the One the Bible promised

#### **Bottom Line**

You can have hope because God is faithful

**12/10**

#### **Worship Sunday**

Lots of excitement as we sing & dance and learn more about the meaning of worship

Kids will love the game Right/Left as we read the story of Mary & Elizabeth.

#### **Bottom Line**

You can have peace because God has a plan

**12/17**

#### **Messy Sunday**

Our Messy Sunday activity will involve lots of moving as kids learn all about our verse for the month A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. Isaiah 9:6

#### **Bottom Line**

You can have joy because God sent Jesus

**12/24**

#### **Super Sized Sunday**

We are super sizing today's lesson with a Birthday Party for Jesus. Celebrating Jesus is the best!

#### **Bottom Line**

God's love is for everyone

# Wednesday Night Kids Club

## December Calendar

- 12/6 Kids Club 6-7:30pm**
- 12/13 Kids Club 6-7:30pm**
- 12/15 Christmas Caroling  
6:30-8pm**
- 12/20 Kids Club 6-7:30pm  
Service project  
Christmas Party**
- 12/24 Christmas Play 7pm**
- 12/27 No Kids Club**

## December Theme



## Kids Club Notes

### December Service Project

This month we will make Christmas Cookies for our Delhi Police and Fire Department.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

## 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

# NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**KIDS CLUB SERVICE NIGHT WE MADE PLACEMATS WITH ENCOURAGING MESSAGES FOR MEALS ON WHEELS RECEIPANTS**

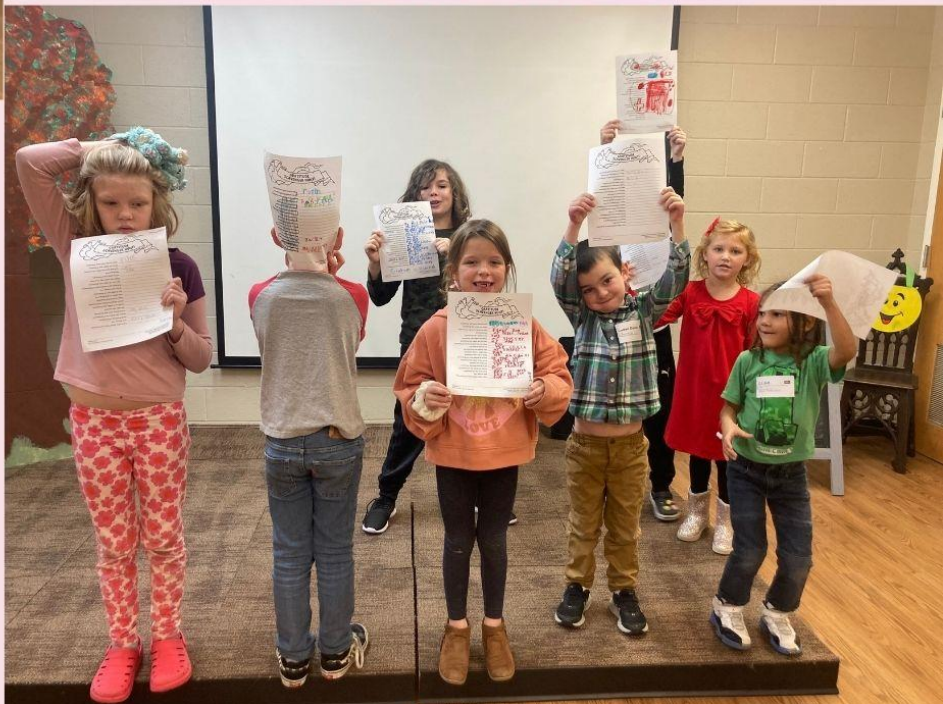


# NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## KIDS CLUB FUN



## SUNDAY CLASSROOM FUN





# Kids Club Toy Drive



We are looking for gently used:

**Sports  
Equipment**

**Toys**

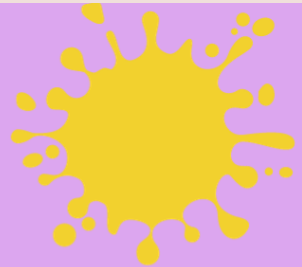
**Board  
Games**

Please contact Sue Squeri or Sarah Pease if you have something you'd like to donate!

Sue Squeri: 513-301-9795

Sarah Pease: 513-570-9265

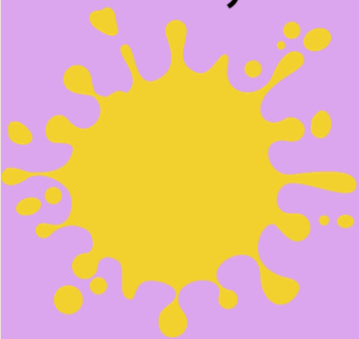
# Wish List:



Sports equipment such as a variety of balls, baseball gloves, tee ball, long jump ropes, bowling pins, hula hoops, cones, pennies, etc.

Games such as

Guess Who, Yeti in my Spaghetti, Throw Throw Burrito, Life, Go Fish, Old Maid, Clue, Chutes and Ladders, Operation, etc.



Toys such as barbies, barbie accessories, cars, pop-its, magna-tiles, scooters, dress-up clothes, dress-up accessories, obstacle course items, action figures, tunnels, gym mats, bean bag chairs, pop up tents, bubble guns or large bubble wands, rocket launchers, Glow in the Dark items/games, etc.



# HELP A CHILD BE A PART OF UPWARD!



**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TOWARDS  
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN WHO WANT THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO GROW IN THEIR FAITH, PLAY,  
AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS!**

To donate please contact  
Sue Squeri at [ssqueri@shilohmc.com](mailto:ssqueri@shilohmc.com) or mail donations to  
Shiloh  
5261 Foley Rd  
Cincinnati Oh 45238  
Attention Upward Scholarship

**UPWARD  
REGISTRATION ENDS  
12/4/23**



## Casting Call for Play & Choir

Adults, teens & children (all ages)

Only 3 practices

Children have short & easy lines

Sign up in Gathering Space or Contact Sue Squeri



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
PRESENTS

IT'S BEGINNING TO  
LOOK ALOT LIKE  
*Christmas*

DECEMBER 24

A HEARTWARMING  
PLAY OF A FAMILY  
PREPARING FOR THE  
HOLIDAYS AND THE  
TRUE MEANING OF  
CHRISTMAS



FAMILY MINISTRIES  
SHILOH UMC

Join us for  
*Christmas Caroling*

DECEMBER 15  
6:30 - 8PM

Meet at 6:30 in Gathering Space and we will Carol in our surrounding neighborhood



Hot Chocolate and Cookies  
immediately following caroling



# STUDENT MINISTRIES



»»» D e c e m b e r «««

## NOTES FROM NATHAN

Happy December everyone. As Advent comes we have entered a season of waiting, both for the arrival of the newborn Christ, and for the coming of our New Year. Advent is actually the beginning of the Church Calendar. This of course reminds us of the upcoming calendar year and all we have planned. Keep an eye out for notes on the Youth Summer Mission Trip, Spring Break Service opportunities, and fun events. Merry Christmas.

## CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Hey everyone, I'm sure that you heard us announce that confirmation would be starting soon and that we are so excited to revisit Confirmation. I wanted to let you know that from Jan 18th-March 7th, every Thursday night from 6PM-7:15PM Pastor John and I will be teaching classes. We already have a few signed up. A letter will be sent out to all eligible students and their families. Please consider joining us to learn more about our Faith and the Church.

## EVENTS FROM THE PAST MONTH

Your Questions  
Answered

### QUESTION AND ANSWER NIGHT

««« On November 5th, we had our students continue asking us questions about Faith and the Bible so that we could answer minor things, that often don't get a full lesson. They loved getting answers.

### SERVICE NIGHT

»»» On November 12th, we had a few different service projects that we tackled at Youth Group. Some students painted flower pots, others helped make natural dog treats for the animal shelter, and others helped make Oreo turkeys for the community dinner.

Aren't they so wonderful?



## FALL RETREAT



From November 17th-19th. We took 11 students to Camp Lebanon Retreat Center for our Fall Retreat. We started off our weekend by joining the community meal and spending time with everyone around us. Kassady (pictured left), even helped serve while we joined with them. The rest of the weekend was spent hearing lessons on friendship and acceptance, experiencing nature with hikes and playing games together. This is one of my favorite events of the year.

## MOVIE NIGHT & CHRISTMAS DECORATING

On November 26th we got together after thanksgiving to watch a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving. We also purchased gifts for two angel tree participants, and followed by putting up all of the Christmas decorations in the Youth room.



## Calendar of Events

**December 3rd-** Friendsgiving 6PM

**December 10th-** Youth Group

Christmas Party 6PM

-High School Bible Study 7:30PM

**December 17th-**Youth Group 6PM

**December 24th-**Youth Group and Sunday School Canceled

**December 31st-** Youth Group and Sunday School Canceled

# MISSION MOMENTS

## WOMEN ARE GOLD

This November brought many new and exciting things to Women Are Gold.

After many months of interviews, background checks, reference checks and thorough reviews of our Child Protection Policies, we are thrilled to announce that we were given the gold stamp of approval and have been accepted into the elite coalition with the organization, Chab Dai.



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. Women Are Gold is honored to have a partnership with Chab Dai.

We have added another two clients to our case load this month, bringing our total client case load to 17 young women. Over the course of the coming year, we plan to double our client case load and client reach to make our services available to as many vulnerable young women as possible.



Our fourth SHINE program was held for the year, and this time we are excited to share that we had some boys who were interested in joining this program. Three boys and eleven girls spent their days learning about their worth and how God loves them and sees them as a vital part of his plan on this earth.



We are over the moon excited to share the news of our newest addition to the Women Are Gold family. At the beginning of November, our accountant, Malen, gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. Congratulations to Malen and her family on this precious gift from God.

We have so much to be thankful for. God is good.





# United Women in Faith

**Shiloh United Women in Faith**

**CHRISTMAS**

*Dinner*

THURSDAY | 7 | DECEMBER  
5:30 PM | 2023

**THE FARM**

**239 Anderson Ferry Road**

Cost: \$17 - Buffet including desserts and beverages

**All ladies are welcome to join us as we celebrate this special time of year. We will be in the Harvest Room at The Farm. When you arrive, just tell them you are with the Shiloh Women's group - the meals are pre-paid. If you need special access for your table, be sure to arrive as early as possible to get a good choice of table location in the room. If you need a ride, please call Nancy Gallat (513-315-6266) or Paula Hunterman (513-205-2609).**

**Please reserve your spot with Janet Jackson (513-451-6015) or Betty English (513-922-2138) by December 4th. Payment by cash or check will be needed when you make your reservation. (Checks payable to Shiloh UMW).**

**In case of inclement weather, call Janet Jackson (513-225-6193) if you are unsure of any dinner cancellation.**

**Looking forward to being together to share in the Christmas Season!**





## WREATH MAKING

WE ARE MAKING CHRISTMAS  
WREATHS TO SELL AT THE TREE &  
WREATH SALE. ALL PROCEEDS GO  
TO MISSIONS!

SIGN UP ON THE SHEET IN THE  
GATHERING SPACE.  
STARTS MONDAY NOVEMBER 27TH.

TIMES: MON - FRI  
9A-12P, 1P-4P, 6P-9P

*Merry  
Christmas*

QUESTIONS? CALL NANCY GALLAT - 513-315-6266  
~SHILOH UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH~

# UPCOMING EVENTS

What took place in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago impacts how we live each day.

Emmanuel – God with us – is what Christmas is all about.

Save a half hour in your busy schedule this year to rediscover “the reason for the season” by following a self-guided scriptural Journey to the Manger.

Offered in the Parlor  
Saturday, December 16, 1:00 – 5:00  
Sunday, December 17, 10:20 – 2:00  
Let's keep Christ in Christmas.



## Looking Ahead on December 24

The Fourth Sunday in Advent is December 24.

On that day we will have four worship services:

9:30am Traditional

11:00am Modern

7:00pm Family Christmas Eve

11:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS – DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 <u>9:30AM</u> – TRADITIONAL <u>11:00AM</u> – MODERN <u>6:00PM</u> – YOUTH	4 <u>10:00AM</u> – METZCOR <u>6:00PM</u> – PICKLEBALL <u>6:30PM</u> – NA	5 <u>11:00AM</u> – UPPER ROOM <u>6:00PM</u> – SCOUTS <u>6:00PM</u> – UPWARD EVALUATIONS <u>6:00PM</u> – UNLIKELY ADVENT STUDY	6 <u>12:30PM</u> – STAFF MTG <u>6:00PM</u> – KIDS CLUB <u>7:00PM</u> – CHOIR REHEARSAL	7 <u>5:30PM</u> – UWF DINNER @ THE FARM <u>6:00PM</u> – CHILDRENS PLAY PRACTICE <u>6:00PM</u> – UPWARD COACH TRAINING <u>7:00PM</u> – AA	8	9 9:00AM – DELSHIRE SWIM CLUB BREAKFAST
10 <u>9:30AM</u> – TRADITIONAL <u>11:00AM</u> – MODERN <u>6:00PM</u> – YOUTH	11 <u>6:00PM</u> – UPWARD COACH TRAINING <u>6:00PM</u> – PICKLEBALL <u>6:30PM</u> – NA	12 <u>11:00AM</u> – UPPER ROOM <u>6:00PM</u> – SCOUTS <u>6:00PM</u> – SPPRC <u>6:00PM</u> – UNLIKELY ADVENT STUDY	13 <u>12:30PM</u> – STAFF MTG <u>6:00PM</u> – KIDS CLUB <u>7:00PM</u> – CHOIR REHEARSAL	14 <u>6:00PM</u> – CHILDRENS PLAY PRACTICE <u>6:00PM</u> – FINANCE MEETING <u>7:00PM</u> – AA	15	16 <u>1:00PM</u> – JOURNEY TO THE MANGER
17 <u>9:30AM</u> – TRADITIONAL <u>10:30AM</u> – JOURNEY TO THE MANGER <u>11:00AM</u> – MODERN <u>1:30PM</u> – WOLLENHAUPT MEMORIAL <u>6:00PM</u> – YOUTH	18 <u>6:00PM</u> – PICKLEBALL <u>6:30PM</u> – NA	19 <u>11:00AM</u> – UPPER ROOM <u>2:30PM</u> – DELHI MIDDLE BASKETBALL <u>6:00PM</u> – SCOUTS <u>6:00PM</u> – TRUSTEES <u>6:00PM</u> – UNLIKELY ADVENT STUDY	20 <u>8:00AM</u> – LIFELINE SCREENINGS <u>12:00PM</u> – FORTNIGHTLY <u>12:30PM</u> – STAFF MTG <u>6:00PM</u> – KIDS CLUB <u>7:00PM</u> – CHOIR REHEARSAL	21 <u>6:00PM</u> – CHILDRENS PLAY PRACTICE <u>7:00PM</u> – AA	22	23
24 – <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <u>9:30AM</u> – TRADITIONAL <u>11:00AM</u> – MODERN <u>7:00PM</u> – FAMILY SERVICE <u>11:00PM</u> – CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25 – <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY</b> </div>	26	27 <u>12:30PM</u> – STAFF MTG	28 <u>7:00PM</u> – AA	29	30
31 <u>9:30AM</u> – TRADITIONAL <u>11:00AM</u> – MODERN						

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

E. John	Rewwer	1-Dec
Susan	Walpole	1-Dec
Amanda	Yockey	1-Dec
Scott	Brown	4-Dec
Carol	Grimm	4-Dec
Janet	Jackson	4-Dec
Rowen	Jessup	5-Dec
Larry	Mahan	5-Dec
Liam	Plumlee	9-Dec
Ivorie	Keller	11-Dec
Esther	Reher	11-Dec
Debbie	Dorsey	12-Dec
Gail	Giese	12-Dec
Sarah	Hunterman	12-Dec
Temani	Chapple	13-Dec
Jeannie	Schoonover	13-Dec
Max	Greene	14-Dec
Michelle	Grzebyk	15-Dec
Meier	Bauer	16-Dec
Carissa	Sizemore	16-Dec
Beverly	Hansen	19-Dec
Steven	Hoeffler	19-Dec
Earl	Howard	19-Dec
Joseph	Sarka	19-Dec
David	Thomas	21-Dec
David	Eyrich	24-Dec
Jennifer	Redden (Gallat)	24-Dec
Cynthia	Kober	25-Dec
John	Erpelding	26-Dec
Mary	McGlade	27-Dec
John	Sample	28-Dec
Nathaniel	Dull	30-Dec
Genevieve	Brannon	31-Dec
Maria	Olson	31-Dec

# **—SHILOHCHURCH—**

### **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**

Rev. Dr. John C. Whitaker: Pastor

[jwhitaker@shilohumc.com](mailto:jwhitaker@shilohumc.com)

937-416-7262 Cell

513-451-3600 Church Office

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Nathan Cheney: Director of Student Ministries

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Sue Squeri: Director of Children and Family Ministries

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Jerry Suit: Traditional Worship Coordinator

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Theresa Works: Modern Worship Coordinator

[tworks@shilohumc.com](mailto:tworks@shilohumc.com)

*Do you have something for our newsletter? Submit to [kplumlee@shilohumc.com](mailto:kplumlee@shilohumc.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to be included in the next month's publication.*

**Shiloh United Methodist Church**  
5261 Foley Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45238

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**YouTube: @Shilohcincy**