

# The Connection

The Newsletter of Shiloh Church, UCC

January 2025

F R O M T H E



PASTOR

## Happy New Year

As we approach the New Year of 2025, I wonder what everyone is thinking about. What was, and is, and how do we improve on the New Year ahead. This is a time of reflection and discernment for us to recognize in this past year what we have joy about as well as doubts that we have for the upcoming year. With it comes WISDOM.

Wisdom is one of those words that I heard a lot growing up, go talk to this person and gain their wisdom, or talk to them about what you are faced with and receive their wisdom. We approach a New Year and the wisdom lies in our relationship with God. Let me explain, in life we face ups and

downs, obstacles on the path that we live and we find clarity and wisdom along the way. Jesus, is born in all of us, and after his birth to biblical knowledge he goes from birth to that of a much older individual who is gaining in wisdom, because of his relationship with God. He cultivates this with an understanding that it wasn't about him, but about others and how in that wisdom he might grow stronger in his relationship with God.

This past year has taught me so much about the work we do in our ministry and mission. It's taught me how blessed we are as the embodiment of Jesus in all we say and in all we do. From our vibrant ministry, and invaluable focus to our mission we are all gaining wisdom along the way. Is it perfect, No, but it is faithful in living out our purpose of being the living and breathing example of Jesus as the church.

I want us to remember the year before and how much we have learned about each other and the work we continue to do with one another as we serve our community in faithful ways of service and love to all. Oftentimes, I wonder if we get caught up in how we want it to be and not allowing God to craft the outcome that simply is. A New Year brings about reflection and a vision for a prosperous New Year upon us all. Is it for us? Or is it for God? I pray to each of you to recognize that it should be for God, as a faithful witness to his love, grace and mercy to all. We can do our resolutions and those usually deal with self. However, I share with you the ideal that it's about the Spirit into which we live that becomes the resolution of who we will be in the year 2025.

I pray, that each of you finds the wisdom to know that God guides us in these moments of reflection and discernment, to navigate the world around us and to seize every encounter as special to profess the love of God, and of God's own Son in this world who is our light and example of how we are to truly live, not as perfect, but as a more faithful representation of his body and sacrifice in "Living the Word, by Serving the World."

We have so much to be thankful for and proud of the work and service we have done, and so, spend this time on ways that we listen and stay faithful in this New Year to expand God's kingdom in ways of truth, justice and most of all LOVE to all and for all.  
Happy New Year to you all and blessings to each of you,

Rev. Jay. D. McMillen

***When a family member or friend within the congregation is ill or in need of assistance, please call the church office and notify us of that need.***

### **December Health Concerns**

Ruby Eichelberger, Cathy Barnes, Doris Murph, Tom Murph, Irmgard Christian, Nancy Wolfe, Shirley Foreman, Zoe Hittner, Joan Caldwell, Dean Crandall, Laura Elish-Brown, Nellie Hoskins, Bev Skaggs.

### **December Sympathy**

Paul Salata, Dorothy Leach, Leonard Hall.

### **Congratulations**

To Makenize & Casey Smith on the birth of their daughter, Harper Rae.

### **Long-term Concerns**

Michael Belcher, Robert Bostick, Esther Brown, Laura Burchfield, Betsy & Brad Clapp, Janice Eichelberger, Shirley Foreman, Janet Haynes, Linda Homan, Nellie & Laymon Hoskins, Marlene Hunnell, Martha Kirkland, Bonnie McCarthy, Mary McFarland, Al Michael, David Miller, Mary Alice Newbauer, Sue Reid, Leanne Riley, Tami Rhoads, Lisa Robinson, Melanie Salata, Lillian Smith, Lori Stevenson, Stan & Sheila Swiderek, Janey Townsley, Betty Jane White, David White, Jill Wiltshire.

### **Bulletin & Connection Article Deadlines for January**

All bulletin articles and Connection articles can be sent to [apack@shiloh.org](mailto:apack@shiloh.org)  
Bulletin articles are due by noon the Wednesday preceding the Sunday it should appear.

Connection articles are due by noon on Wednesday, January 22 for the January Connection.

## January Actioneer



This month our Actioneer is Dawn Bolin. Dawn has been an instrumental part of our Shiloh Food Pantry now for some time and with the recent health with Cathy Barnes, Dawn has really taken on more with her pleasant and organized discipline to keep things moving with the help of many volunteers. She does so not for recognition, but simply to do the work she is called to do. Her disposition on Sundays is awesome with a warm smile and the joy she exhibits through whatever she is involved in. She quietly does what needs to be done. Please share with me all of our thanks to Dawn Bolin for the work she puts in and the continued support she provides to Shiloh Church UCC. Where we at Shiloh "Live the Word, by Serving the World." Thanks, Dawn, for all you do.

Blessings,  
Rev. Jay McMillen

## Join Us For "Souper Bowl" Sunday!

On Super Bowl Sunday this year, many of us will be settling back in a comfortable chair and enjoying a smorgasbord of munchies as we watch football's most celebrated game. Others will enjoy the game over a more elaborate meal. For some, however, Super Bowl Sunday will not be so "super". For these people, hunger is an ever-present concern, and local food pantries are a vital resource. To restock our local FISH Food Pantry and Shiloh's own Food Pantry after the demands of the holiday season, we invite you to make this year's game day a "Souper Bowl" event.

**Beginning in January, we are asking for monetary donations to be used toward purchasing non-perishable food items. Place your contributions in the offering plate, designated Souper Bowl, mail them to the church office, or go to the Souper Bowl Food Donations button on the Shiloh website to give online. On Super Bowl Sunday, we will announce the total donated for this worthy cause.**

Let's provide for those less fortunate and help make Super Bowl Sunday a "Souper Bowl" day for the needy in our community. And a **SUPER thanks to each of you!!**

# Facebook...what is it and how do I use it??

We have two opportunities for everyone to come and learn the basics of Facebook and how to engage with pages to share the wonderful things happening in our community.



**Sunday, January 12 @ 11:45am-12:15pm**

## Facebook Basics

- What is Facebook?
- Why do I want to be on Facebook?
- How do I create an account?

**Sunday, January 26 @ 11:45am-12:15pm**

## Facebook Next Steps

- Navigating Facebook
- Shiloh Church's Facebook page
- Sharing and Following pages and spreading the word

**Both sessions will be held in Omega Hall**

## **We Filled an Ark!**

Thanks to Shiloh's generosity, the Heifer International Living Gift Market raised the funds for an "ark" of animals ranging from water buffalo, llamas and camels to rabbits, chickens, and guinea pigs for needy people at home and abroad. Once again, Shiloh is making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Who could ask for a better Christmas gift? Many thanks!

## **Exciting Announcement: Upcoming Shiloh Church Pictorial Directory!**

After many years, we are thrilled to announce that Shiloh will be creating a new **Pictorial Directory**, and we want YOU to be a part of it!

The Pictorial Directory is an excellent way for us to stay connected as a church family. It will feature photos of all our members, families, and friends who wish to participate, along with contact information (if desired), making it easier for us to put faces with names and grow deeper in fellowship with one another.

This will be an exciting **Online Directory** that you can view on your computer or phone, but we will also have printed copies available. It will be updatable online so you can catch up with new Shiloh members as they come worship with us.

### **Key Details:**

- **Dates for Photos:** Initial dates will be January 11, 12 and 18, February 1, 2, 22 and 23.
- **Location:** Shiloh Church, first floor, lower level (electric lift will be available).
- **Scheduling:** We will have signup sheets on the Green Table. Be sure to sign up early to secure your preferred time slot!
- **Session Information:** Each photo session will be 10-15 minutes and is free.

### **Why Participate?**

- It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our church family.
- The directory will help us stay connected and grow closer in fellowship.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone and making this directory a true reflection of our vibrant church family. Keep an eye out for more details in the coming weeks! Let's come together to make this directory a meaningful way to celebrate one another!

If you have any questions, please contact anyone on the Growth Committee.

Thank you!

-Shiloh Growth Committee (Dawn McMillen, Kathy Penfield, Tasha Noggle, Terry Ogletree, Anthony Poly, Kimbal Ragan, Lin Rhoads, Karyn Sleppy)

## **Thinking of becoming a New Member?**

We respect each individual's spiritual journey and try to live into the United Church of Christ's motto: "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!" Attend a new member orientation where we share a bit about ourselves, Shiloh Church and the United Church of Christ. Attending a New Member orientation meeting does not obligate you to become a member of the church. **Our next orientation is Sunday, January 12 at 12:15 in Omega Hall.** Our New Member Sunday is January 19 during all of our services. Signup sheet is on the green table. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

## **Advent Trees for the House of Bread**

THANK YOU, SHILOH! The Missions Committee thanks you for your generous gifts under the Advent Trees for the House of Bread! On Monday, December 23rd, we delivered:

23 pairs of gloves/mittens	3 tee shirts
29 hats	19 sweaters/sweatshirts
9 jackets	9 sweat pants and 1 set
1 pkg. men's underwear	2 shawls
8 blankets plus	64 disaster relief blankets
5 scarfs	1 Hood
93 pairs sox plus 2 boxes of sox donated for Terry Ogletree's birthday	
Misc. Toiletries and 14 beautiful, handmade items handed to the Director with care.	

A big Thank You from The House of Bread!

## **HOUSE OF BREAD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

We are scheduled for another volunteer date on February 8th. We need a team of 4 volunteers from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm and the signup list will be on the green table. If unable to make that date, but interested in volunteering at another date, there will also be a signup sheet for that.

## **Appalachia Service Project Fall 2025 Trip**

Believe it or not, it's time to register for the Fall 2025 Appalachia Service Project long-weekend trip! Possible dates are September 11-14, September 18-21, September 25-28 and October 2-5, but a definite date will not be known until team leader registration opens on March 1. At that time, the number of people on the team and a deposit are due. Please review your calendars for this general time period and let Sue Cox know your availability ASAP. We cannot plan this trip if people are not willing to commit far ahead, as ASP has reduced available spots at Jonesville. Questions? – contact Sue.

## **Shiloh's Women Board is selling Quiche!**

Starting the New Year, Shiloh's Women Board is selling Quiche! Order a Quiche for your Game Day snack. Or buy one for a Valentine's Day Brunch. You will have a couple different quiche to choose from. Can't decide? Get one of each! Pick up an order form on the Green Table or see any Women's Board member to place your order. Remember to place your order by Sunday February 2, 2025 so we know how many Quiches to make. Orders will be ready for pick up the following Sunday February 9 after the Worship service

# WORSHIP WITH US!

**January 5, 2025**

Ephesians 3: 7-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

**Topic: "The Light"**

Theme: The light is revealed in all of us unto the world.

**January 12, 2025**

Acts 8: 14-17

Luke 3: 15-17; 21-22

**Topic: "Receive the Spirit"**

Theme: The Holy Spirit guides us in all we do for the Spirit.

**January 19, 2025**

I Corinthians 12: 4-11

John 2: 1-11

**Topic: "Spirit + Light= Abundance"**

Theme: How Can we utilize what we have to serve all.

**January 26, 2025**

I Corinthians 12: 12-27

Luke 4: 14-21

**Topic: "Hear and Do"**

Theme: Do not be stuck be open in the Spirit

Overall Theme: We have received the light of the world; how do we utilize it to our maximum potential in building kingdom.

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

Christal Gerhart 01/01  
Mary McFarland 01/01  
James LaBreck 01/03  
Kate Routson 01/05  
Howard LaShaw 01/06  
Cynthia Newcomb 01/07  
Carol Spolla 01/07  
Diana Baskin 01/10  
Sharon Safley 01/10  
Jim Waltz 01/10  
Mark Harper 01/11  
Charla Clapp 01/12  
Madoc LaBreck 01/12  
Sydney LaBreck 01/12  
Thomas Holmes 01/15  
Tom Behnken 01/16  
Betsy Handwerker 01/16  
Rhonda Hajarian 01/17

Robert Jergens 01/17  
Susan Harlow 01/18  
Edmond Fisher 01/19  
Patricia Kingery 01/20  
Tami Rhoads 01/20  
Lawrence Ferguson 01/21  
Julie Harvey 01/22  
Sharon Hobbs 01/25  
Sharon Roe 01/25  
Joyce Koenig 01/26  
Melanie Swiderek-Howard 01/29