

The Connection

The Newsletter of Shiloh Church, UCC

February 2025

FROM THE



PASTOR

Welcome to February, and Groundhogs Day, Valentine's Day, and the beginning of Lent, plus many more happenings at Shiloh Church. With it becomes a perspective of where we were and where we are going. Which brings me to our focus for the month of February, and it was shared in our worship in January, a simple equation $\text{Light} + \text{Spirit} = \text{Abundance}$. Abundance is such a word that conjures up so many things, like abundance of wealth, or abundance of intangible things that we thirst for yet the abundance I was referring to is this Love.

When we think of how we live in our faith what's most important to us. Is it about self or how we live in the spirit? Let me explain. First, I feel that life which is moving even faster now in the world has driven us to even further our ideals that we react without thinking about what our reactions and actions might be to others around us. We get information so quick from media, internet, and through conversation that we immediately jump to an understanding even before we process this. Is that being faithful to the gift we have been given? I hope and pray that we all take a breath when we encounter these moments in life. Why? It's important to understand the light that we have been given, in God's own Son sent into this world, whose name is Jesus. For God loved us and sent his Son into the world not just for us but for all, and I mean all. So many times, in my travels I come across friends who have differing opinions on topics, like politics, daily living, and even life itself and they get into heated debates, why? We have received a tremendous gift in God's own Son who bore the brunt of so much to offer New Life. Which leads me to our next point and that is Spirit. The Spirit gives us the opportunity to utilize this precious gift from God to use it for good not for self, but to give glory to God. We do that in ways of our conversations with one another, how we serve our fellow persons that we come to and even to those who we have known for years. We do so with sometimes good practices, and often time does our own ways get in the way of how we want to help? Do we bring our own way of thinking into our way of life to make it what we want or what God wants? I am to a point in my journey where I ask these same questions every single day not to question my call but to question how we continue to live in peace and grace with all that we come across. That is the $\text{Light} + \text{Spirit}$ and now becomes the abundance.

Abundance comes in pure love. What is pure love? Pure love comes from the depths of our being in knowing that every single person deserves our love, and you may not agree with where they are at but we need to show love. To embody that of our Lord and Savior means to embody all that he loved which is all persons. Regardless of what they say or do, regardless of what they believe we embrace them, with God's grace and mercy. Love is the

greatest emotion we can feel as human beings and it's what defines us as people of faith in our everyday journeys in life. And when we encounter one when we see something going sideways take that breath so we can focus onto what we are called to do as body of the church and act in our Abundance of that love in what we do and say.

To serve as a reminder of our statement: We Live the Word, by Serving the World.

It's more than just a phrase it's a call to action in how we live and serve the church and our community that we serve with God's love in all we do.

Blessings,
Rev. Jay 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.

January Health Concerns

Leanne Anstaett, Tarri Bryant, Joan Caldwell, Mary Lou Stevenson, Nellie Hoskins, Marilyn Jones, Zoe Hittner.

January Sympathy

Brad Clapp, Tetsuo Tatsumi

Congratulations

To Donna & Mark Hangen on the birth of their grandson, Elliott.

Long-term Concerns

Michael Belcher, Robert Bostick, Esther Brown, Laura Burchfield, Betsy 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 February

All bulletin articles and Connection articles can be sent to 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, February 19 for the March Connection.

February Actioneer



Our Actioneer for the month of February is none other than Melinda Hofstetter and well deserved. Melinda who has been a member of this church for some time and has faithfully served on our Deacons committees for many years started her own ministry many years ago. She is always pleasant to talk to and always gracious in her conversations but she started with her amazing talents in playing the violin. She has been doing this for many years now and I for one who have been on the receiving end of her phone call, kind words and her playing of this wonderful instrument that she does so well. So many have received a call over the years and have heard Melinda call them and hear her voice and kind words and then are taken aback with her wonderful playing. She has even graced us on worship and before worship over the years with her mastery of this instrument. She is a true gift not just for us, but for all she plays for. Her artistry of playing but also her self being placed into the forefront of what she feels for people listening is a true depiction of what an Actioneer is. Her love for people has always been on display, and we want to recognize all her efforts in what she does for others. She is a true and tried action of what it means to live in your faith and do what you can to bring joy to others. So, join with me in reaching out to Melinda and thank her for her countless years of bringing joy to others through her playing. Thanks to Melinda for all she continues to do in "Living the Word, by Serving the World."

Blessings,
Rev. Jay D. 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!!**

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 (rasmcox@gmail.com or text to (937) 266-0555) 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.

Black American Contributions to the Family of God

Our annual celebration of Black American Contributions to the Family of God will take place the second weekend in March.

- Friday, March 7: Symphony of Schools Program from 9 am to 12:30 pm.
- Friday, March 7, A Gospel and Spiritual Songfest from 6-8 pm.
- Sunday March 9, 10:40 worship -- speaker - Willis "Bing" Davis, Dayton's native son and internationally renowned artist. Also look forward to praise dancing, exhibits, special music, an ethnic feast, and honoring local citizens.

Please plan to attend these joyous events and feel free to invite guests! A signup sheet to volunteer your assistance is on the green table. For any questions, contact Terry Ogletree (937.477.1922).

QUICHE SALE & ORDER PICK UP INFORMATION

Shiloh's Women's Board thanks everyone for their support in the Quiche sale, which ends on Sunday, February 2. Just a reminder, if you have ordered Quiche, **pick up** your order after the service **Sunday, February 9.**

Please join us for lunch
with members and friends of Shiloh Church, UCC
on the **2nd Friday of the month**
at **BrookHaven Retirement Community in Brookville, Ohio.**
(main dining hall in building #3 at 12:30 pm)

This is a time when we can fellowship with our members and friends who are residents of BrookHaven over a wonderful luncheon.

ALL ARE WELCOME

As reservations are required, please contact:

Jo Anne Orihood, 937-837-7204, by noon of the Wednesday before the luncheon so we can make sure a place is set for you at the table.

Upcoming dates:

January 10, 2025	February 14	March 14	April 11	May 9
June 13	July 11	August 8	September 12	October 10
November 14	December 12			

“Living the Word, by Serving the World” Card Ministry

We have been provided with an opportunity to begin a new ministry at Shiloh with the passing of Pam Carr. She left behind a wonderful collection of card making equipment and supplies. With the generous donation of these items, we are starting a card ministry right here at Shiloh Church UCC.

Card Ministry Purpose: An intergenerational ministry of caring and outreach. Teaching the many aspects of making greeting cards. Sending handmade cards at special occasions and to groups needing cards for their outreach. Providing space for outside groups as well as for the use of Shiloh. A ministry in memory of the creativity and life of Pam Carr, owner of most of the equipment and supplies used. Growing with the desires of the participants.

We would love for you to be a part of this new endeavor. Our first workshops will be:

- Wednesday, February 12 from 1-3 and again from 6-8. We will be making valentines for your own use and to be taken to the local VA Center.
- Wednesday, March 12 from 1-3 and again from 6-8. We will be recycling cards, creating new ones from used ones

A donation jar will be available to help with ongoing expenses.

Interested or have questions? Contact Jo Anne Orihood, 937-837-7204 or jorihood46@gmail.com. **Please RSVP** Jo Anne Orihood by the Sunday before the workshop so we can be prepared for all in attendance. Look for a sign-up sheet on the green table.

DAY OF CARING PANCAKE BRUNCH

On Sunday, February 23, Shiloh Church will again be a site for the Day of Caring Pancake Brunch. Over the past 34 years, this annual event has raised over \$900,000 to benefit homeless and hunger coalitions throughout the area. The menu will include sausage, pancakes and syrup, eggs, applesauce, orange juice, milk and coffee. The ticket price for adults is just \$7. Those under 12 or over 60 pay only \$5. Donations are welcome. Brunch will be served from 9:30 until 12:30. Please help promote this event by inviting family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to join you in enjoying a good meal and helping others. We will need lots of help on the day of the Brunch. Please sign up to cook, clean up, set up or serve on the Day of Caring schedule on the Green Table.

Thanks!

WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 2024 Annual Report

We are a group of women of Shiloh United Church of Christ, who meet every Tuesday morning (weather permitting) at 8:30, at Perkins' Restaurant, in Englewood. All women of Shiloh are welcome for about an hour of breakfast, friendship and fellowship. We collect \$1.00 from each person each time, and following is a report of how we spent that money in 2024:

\$ 40.00	Golf Outing
\$125.00	USO Telephone Cards for Troops
\$ 20.00	Heifer Project – flock of chicks
\$ 15.00	Waitress at Perkins

As of 12/31/2024, our treasury has a balance of \$5.19

Our membership is dwindling and if any of you ladies have a question about our group, please call—we would love to have you join us!

Marilyn Schmidt – 937-836-3262

Recycling of Prescription Containers

When bringing in your prescription bottles for recycling please help us by following these guidelines:

- **Only** brown empty prescription containers
- Labels and sticky removed
- Clean (wash and dry)
- Place in bag marked "clean"

Questions? Contact Jo Anne Orihood, 937-837-7204

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of red hearts and love-related symbols, such as hands holding hearts and various heart shapes, all in a light red color. The main text is centered on a white rectangular background.

LOVE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9
@ 9:45-10:30

ALL AGES WELCOME!

JOIN US FOR A LIGHT
BREAKFAST, CRAFTS, GAMES,
AND VALENTINE CARD MAKING

HOSTED BY: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

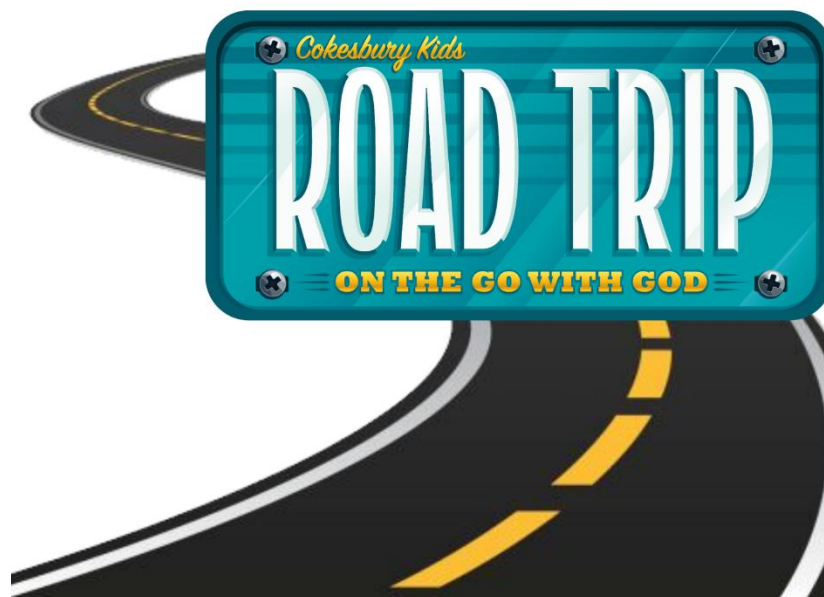


SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School

June 17-19

@5:30-8:00PM



WORSHIP WITH US!

February 2, 2025

I Corinthians 13: 4-13

Luke 4: 21-30

Topic: "Love is Revealed"

Theme: Be good and be good at it in Love.

February 9, 2025

I Corinthians 15: 3-11

Luke 5: 1-11

Topic: "Cast the Nets"

Theme: Our relationships matter to God.

February 16, 2025

I Corinthians 15: 12-20

Luke 6: 17-26

Topic: "Blessed"

Theme: The blessings are revealed every day, pay attention.

February 23, 2025

I Corinthians 15: 42-50

Luke 6: 27-38

Topic: "Love"

Theme: Do the best you can and simply Love.

Overall Theme: In this season of light it's about the blessings and love we can share in our everyday living that shows the face of Jesus.

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

Shirley Foreman 02/01

Linda Thiele 02/01

Anita Hake 02/02

Teresa Pur Hall 02/02

Roni Sedor 02/02

Michele Waymire 02/02

Annabelle Glanton 02/03

Lori Rieker 02/03

Matthew Jergens 02/04

Casey Robinson 02/05

Lorna Weeks 02/05

Carol Oldham 02/06

Donna Knab 02/07

Mallory Woods 02/09

Kathleen Glover 02/11

Douglas Harlow 02/11

Sharon Lundstrom 02/12

Terrence Bradley 02/14

Beverly Warren 02/15

Brad Harvey 02/16

Carol Lawler 02/18

Doris Murph 02/18

Lisa Rice 02/18

Norma Timmerman 02/18

Marcie Adenuga 02/19

Zoe Hittner 02/20

Jennie Eisnaugle 02/22

Jill Jones 02/23

Kim Wachter 02/24

Keith Aukerman 02/25

Ed Crosthwaite 02/29