

The Connection

The Newsletter of Shiloh Church, UCC

April 2021

FROM THE



PASTOR

Now that we have approached the month of April and the Easter season is upon us, and as we have now journeyed past a year with the Covid-19 virus we embark on a new adventure, the journey in the Resurrection. For many of us and over many years we can all recollect into what Easter has brought to our lives in the past. However, I wish to share with you my own journey this year. After the loss of my father and mother over the last year and a half, and I have had some small moments to reflect upon their passing and everything they taught me and shared with me, especially growing up in the church, and I've come to this realization. They were faithful. They never tried to be perfect, even though I thought at a young age that this is what they were trying to teach me. To be more faithful is not to be perfect in this journey of our faith. For

church has come to be something a little different than what many of you have come to know, especially in this last year. Many of you are viewing church on-line, or from the website, or YouTube, and while that is different, I hope and pray that these times has given us some clarity into our journeys in the spirit and into our faith. Now is the time for us to recognize in ourselves that this is a time for the Resurrection to be at the forefront of our journey.

So, what does this all mean for us going forward? It means that in these moments we must cherish the foundation of who we are in the church, not perfect, not better but simply more faithful in what we do in our relationships and connections with others that we come across. It means for us, that while Christmas is great, Easter is even greater. With Easter, we see that the tomb is empty, that Jesus has defeated death, and with it has shown us that this world is just one step into our understanding of the "Still Speaking God."

When I was a little kid, I would get excited about Christmas because of the presents and the lights, and the cookies and thoughts of Santa. And Easter was the same way I guess, I was excited about the Easter Bunny, candy, baskets, Easter egg hunts and for me always a new suit when I was little to come to church in. Many of you probably have these same thoughts. But without the Resurrection we have no Easter!!! Think about this for a moment.....

We have an Easter because God sent God's own Son to this world to teach and to guide us into a new understanding of what we are called to be as faithful followers. Not to be perfect in our journey but to learn, pray, journey, sacrifice in ways of being the body of God's Son sent to this world.

This will be the second year that I've not dressed up in the bunny costume as even last year was not possible. I do enjoy doing those things especially for young children. And I know that in years to come I will dress up from time to time to bring joy to the children, this year I am thankful that we are still in this time of dealing with the effects of the pandemic, as it gives us

more times to breathe and realize the true meaning of things in our lives. Easter is about the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.....

And to contemplate on what Easter means is this, without the Resurrection, churches as we know it would not be here. It's the example of the New life given in this Resurrection that gives us the foundation of words and actions that deal with Love, grace, mercy, forgiveness. And as you ponder these words what does this mean for you? Does it mean for only those that you know, or does it mean for those who you will meet along the way? Many of us I hope are meeting new and exciting people along the way, and in so doing are forging relationships where the Spirit that resides in you is flowing into the lives of those you meet. Where you listen and begin to understand the person you are talking to. For every person we encounter whether in the church or outside the church becomes an extension of who we are in our faith journey.

I've been so fortunate over my 45 years of life to come across a blessing of individuals who have shaped and molded my life, parents, brother, wife, daughters, friends, those who were hurting and lost, those who experienced grief and sadness, and they all make me who I am. Who has influenced you over these many years? This is the blessing of who we are!! To know that with each passing day, that the Resurrection serves a purpose that is more meaningful than anything else it's the foundation of our Spirit with one another. And with that it gives us the most glorious gift of NEW LIFE.

So how will you spend your Easter this year? Will you spend it with focus of presents, easter eggs, candy, flowers, big dinners, without recognizing this wonderful gift of the New Life given and granted by God, of the TOMB IS EMPTY, which is the ultimate foundation of our lives in a faithful journey to be like Jesus, not perfect but more faithful to the Still Speaking God.

My hopes and prayers for all of you is to be thankful this Easter season, to be mindful of the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior and to know that through this sacrifice we are called to bring this new gift of life to all we come across with our words and actions and with our presence. In doing so, we continue to build on what the church has always known, that Easter is great, but without Jesus it's only a day. Be great in celebrating the Easter season with loved ones and those you come across and know that each of you empowered in the Spirit represents the gift of New Life to all. Be vigilant in your journeys to affect as many as you come across with the power of love and light and grace to all.

From my family to yours, Happy Easter we love you all.

Pastor 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.

Health Concerns

Nellie Hoskins, Melinda Hofstetter, Dick Van Tine, James Troeger, Barry Johnson, Savannah Sage-Bryant, Hazel Davis, Tanner Beck

Sympathy

Carolyn Baumgardner, Patrick Roberts, Susie Wertz, Jennifer Payne

Long-term Concerns

Gene East, Janice Eichelberger, Janet Haynes, Jeanne Hazel, Mona Hobson, Vicki Holmes, Linda Homan, Nellie & Laymon Hoskins
Karen Kanaga, Betty Kosicki, Mary Kreill,
Mike Mastro Simone, Bonnie McCarthy, Don McFarland, Joyce McLaughlin, Jewel Phelps, Melanie & Paul Salata
Lori Stevenson, Lowella Stoerker, Janey Townsley, Mary & Dick Van Tine

APRIL ACTIONEER



This month our actioneers are the entire crew and volunteers of Rebuilding Together Dayton. The biggest volunteer project of the year is National Rebuilding Day which is held the last Saturday in April. Almost 1,000 volunteers lend a hand any way they can to improve the community in Dayton and housing for a senior citizen in need! Your time, talents and treasures are invaluable. Thanks, Rebuilding Together Volunteers, for being people who "Lives the Word, by Serving the World."

Blessings,
Pastor Jay D. McMillen

REBUILDING TOGETHER DAYTON

Saturday, April 24, 2021

Roll Up Your
Sleeves for



Rebuilding Together
Dayton

Members and friends of Shiloh Church will once again participate in **Rebuilding Together Dayton**, a program which takes place in nearly 150 cities across the nation each year on National Rebuilding Day. Businesses, churches and community organizations provide workers, supplies and funds to repair, clean, beautify and make accessible the homes of low-income, elderly and disabled people from their own communities. Last year 20 Shiloh volunteers experienced wonderful days of fellowship besides repairing and painting interior walls, remodelling a kitchen, fixing electric,

replacing doors, laying flooring, installing vent covers, replacing attic stairs and performing some siding repair, roofing and landscaping. This year, Shiloh will join the effort by sponsoring Rebuilding Together financially and by providing volunteers for Prep Day on April 10th and for National Rebuilding Day on April 24th. We are signing up volunteers now since the Rebuilding Together office needs to know our numbers by early April. Please note that many types of jobs are available, so volunteers do not need to be especially skilled or physically fit. Just **contact Sue Cox at rasmcox@gmail.com** or 937-836-4155 to indicate your availability. **COVID protocols will be followed.** Let's work to be good neighbors to the needy in our own community and come out in force to make **Rebuilding Together Dayton** a success.

Thank you to so many of you who sent cards to Mom celebrating her 100th birthday. It was a grand day filled with many good wishes, loving memories, and flowers. Our heartfelt thanks that you chose to help make it such a special day.

Bless you!
Jim and Debbie Waltz



April Food Pantry

April is for All Spices to help Shiloh Food Pantry patrons fix meals for their families. Church members answered the "March Is for Mayonnaise" (and mustard and catsup) call last month. So join the drive in April while you're grocery shopping. Have fun grabbing a shaker as simple as salt & pepper or as exotic as yogi tea and zaatar spice. Oh, and don't forget cinnamon, parsley, oregano! Just place your favorite herbs and spices in the grocery cart in the Copper Room or place them in the donation box outside of Door 4.

Stewardship 2021

Hopefully, many of you are intrigued with the title that has been presented for you, and many of you might be cringing at that same title. We are blessed in so many ways. When the whole pandemic came down in the early part of 2020, we had no idea of what was to come. We flew by the seat of our pants if you will, to venture into this new world of what we were becoming. But, yet through it all, the Stewardship of this church in 2020 was amazing! We met or exceeded expectations on many of our mission goals throughout the year and even saw an increase in our ministry contributions at times. We finished ahead! Which has been a first in my twenty years at the church. We started the year 2021 in the same fashion with what is to be a small surplus at the end of the year, and even though this is cause for excitement we cannot get lax. There are a lot of things that are taking shape in the year 2021 that we want you to be aware of, especially in our stewardship.

We are in the beginning stages of a what I am to believe a three-year plan to reshape and envision what Shiloh Church will be going forward.

This year we are to replace the narthex ceiling with the pipe burst that happened in September 2020 with a whole new ceiling, once that is complete, we will be taking down the carpeted wall of the Copper Room, then venturing to the Nursery to take down some wood paneling and put-up drywall in these rooms. In doing so we are hoping we can reinvigorate these rooms to bring the church into a place of a more welcoming place to come and worship and bring families to. We will also hopefully by the end of this year will be replacing the carpet in the sanctuary, narthex, gallery, back hallway, copper room and stairwells to give us a consistent look throughout. And with some freshly painted walls we are well on our way to achieving the first step into this endeavor.

But as I speak to you about your stewardship which has been so amazing to witness, especially with our look into this year and where we envision our finances to look like we are slightly healthy. So, as you contemplate this, I urge you to not take a breath in your journey to stewardship and it goes much further than dollars and cents, remember that it is your time, talent and treasures that exemplifies your journey in stewardship. From our Ministry, to Missions, to our Food Pantry, to our renovations that will set us up for the future anything and everything you can give will just further the ministry of Jesus Christ going forward into the world.

Remember at Shiloh Church WE "Live the World, by Serving the World."

Pastor Jay D. McMillen

The following listing of memorial contributions shows those being honored as well as those who have made gifts that were received prior to March 24th, 2021:

Ministries (Undesignated)

In Memory of Ellen "Ginny" McMillen

John & Sharon Brownlee
Tami & Lin Rhoads
Ronald & Patricia Burnside
James & Ann LaBreck
Anonymous
Judy Peck
Susan Wampler
Roger & Sue Cox
Sandra Pfening

In Memory of Patricia Sheaffer

Anonymous

In Memory of Shirley Lee

Laymon & Nellie Hoskins

Food Pantry

In Memory of Ellen "Ginny" McMillen

Tia Smith

Shiloh Church - UCC
Summary of Income and Expenses for Ministries

For the period of January 1 through February 28, 2021

	Actual	Budget	Variance
MINISTRIES INCOME			
Covenants & Offerings	66,937.01	73,250.00	(6,312.99)
Seasonal Offerings	125.00	500.00	(375.00)
Use of Building (Including Weddings)	225.00	200.00	25.00
Misc (Lamp of Faith, Tapes, etc.)	60.00	50.00	10.00
Fair Income	6,098.52	4,000.00	2,098.52
Rebates	215.51	350.00	(134.49)
Interest Income	1.95	250.00	(248.05)
Coffee	-	-	-
Total Income	73,662.99	78,600.00	(4,937.01)
MINISTRIES EXPENSES			
Pastoral Expenses	13,794.65	13,813.53	(18.88)
Christian Education	-	35.00	(35.00)
Church Boards & Design			
Deacons	(250.00)	39.00	(289.00)
Stewardship	71.02	75.00	(3.98)
Growth & Marketing	244.68	250.00	(5.32)
Worship Board - Music Ministry	11,906.37	11,564.55	341.82
Worship Board - Media Ministry	316.76	839.59	(522.83)
Property Committee - Building	24,756.89	34,646.96	(9,890.07)
Administrative	15,477.20	15,672.94	(195.74)
Total Expenses	66,317.57	76,936.57	(10,619.00)
Income minus Expenses	\$ 7,345.42	1,663.43	5,681.99

Where were we a year ago?

	<u>As of 2/29/20</u>	<u>As of 2/28/21</u>
Covenants and Seasonal Offerings	55,235.19	67,062.01
Other Income	19,130.59	6,600.98
Total income	74,365.78	73,662.99
Total expenses	64,147.23	66,317.57
Income minus Expenses	10,218.55	7,345.42

Other Transfers in

Endowment - Div., Int., Growth only	-	-
Memorials	1,020.00	2,315.00
	1,020.00	2,315.00
Endowment - Baseline	1,177,025.60	1,178,575.60
Endowment - Actual Balance	1,055,340.99	1,267,989.84

WORSHIP WITH US!

April 4, 2021 Easter Day

Acts 10: 34-43

John 20: 1-18

Topic: "Happy Easter"

Theme: The tomb is empty, He is Risen!!!

April 11, 2021 2nd Sunday of Easter

I John 1: 1-10

John 20: 19-31

Topic: "Why doubt, Believe!"

Theme: When we open our eyes and heart we can believe.

April 18, 2021 3rd Sunday of Easter

I John 3: 1-7

Luke 24: 36b-48

Topic: "Be a Witness"

Theme: Do we wander or do we move forward knowing?

April 25, 2021 4th Sunday of Easter

I John 3: 16-24

John 10: 11-18

Topic: "The Good Shepherd"

Theme: The shepherd guides, protects, and serves.

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

Juday Fender 04/04
Donald Kerschner 04/04
Nicole McMillen 04/04
Dan Murph 04/04
Stephanie Lundstrom 04/05
Matthew Hangen 04/06
Janet Ferguson 04/09
Esther Brown 04/10
Emma Kreill 04/10
Alexis Brown 04/12
Lisa Neff 04/12
Jonathan Ellingson 04/13
Shelby Parnell 04/14
Edward Taylor, Jr. 04/19

Stephanie Lyons 04/21
Ethel Vogel 04/21
James Shepler 04/22
Brian Zuercher 04/22
Caitlin Jones 04/24
Nancy Kerschner 04/25
Arin Kreill 04/26
Christopher Ferguson 04/27
Robert Zebney 4/27
Marlene Hunnell 04/29
John Maxwell 04/29
Ken Rhoads 04/29
Carol Rieger 04/30