

# The Connection

The Newsletter of Shiloh Church, UCC

August 2020

**F R O M T H E**



**PASTOR**

We live in a world and time where so much is changing, we live in COVID-19 times, we are embarking on yet another election cycle where we have rhetoric from both sides that continue to divide us as a nation, we have experienced unjust killings that have shown us the racism that continues to exist not just here but around the world. If this is not enough because of COVID-19, we now wear masks and are asked to limit what we do each day. This year, even over last year with the tornadoes has brought with it much more to us in ways of coping and understanding our role in the world and more importantly how we navigate our faith journey. And now five months into this new way of normal and as I ponder my pastor article for all of us, I am fully invested on the idea of Staying Connected.

Let me first explain, we just completed our July sermon series where we journey through the idea that in our faith journey we all collectively do the work that we are called to do, that we must entrench ourselves into the good soil to be cultivated in the seed of the Spirit, and that at times the weeds (or things that weigh us down or divide us may grow with us) may keep us from growing into the works that we are called to do. And it culminated with the idea of the four parables that describes kingdom and what we are willing to do to make this happen. And yes in these times where it seems all of us are finding ways to divide us into certain camps of thought, politically, socially, and economically, we mustn't succumb to the pressures around us to lose sight of that which is our relationship with a loving and just God in our midst, that urges us to not take sides but to find ways to see beyond this and to cultivate the seed of the spirit in a way that leads to building kingdom. Let me be even clearer I am beginning to see relationships around me begin to change because someone believes something different politically, socially, and economically more and more. This is troublesome to me in this case, is not the kingdom that we are called to bring for everyone? Or are we deciding because of the world around us to believe a certain way and everyone else is wrong, or unworthy of our time. I remind each of you that this is not fulfillment of the scriptures to which we live on the teaching of Jesus, he fed and taught yes, the disengaged from society, but he never stopped there. He preached and taught to those who believed in a different world and yet if Jesus is the real savior for us, he had a love for those who believed differently. Ponder this idea.

This leads me to the notion of us staying connected. Now this is more than just calling those in the church that we have known for many years. It's us extending ourselves to talk to others who we may not know. Even dare I say, talk to someone and really get to

know them. Even those who may think differently than us politically, socially, economically. We live in a world where we have seen continued division, and this has not just occurred recently, I have personally seen this over the last 20 + years. Where because someone believes differently, we choose to spend less time with them and allow ourselves to feel safer with our own ideals for us to navigate. Now some may say, what is wrong with this idea, well? Jesus came across groups that challenged his authority, but he did not avoid, he listened and had conversation. And therein lies where my point for my thoughts come from. In all that we face, Coronavirus, Racism, Justice, Equality, Reform, comes to the forefront that we not lose our faith and make this faith yet again only for a select few, God and Jesus can be given to all through us. We are called to work even harder in times like this to not have the world dictate our lives, but to listen to the Still Speaking God to guide us, and direct us into not being perfect but more faithful in our journey.

In doing this, pick up a phone and talk to someone you have never talked to in the church, or rarely, and ask them how their doing in these times, and if the conversation gets to one of the above topics remember they are a child of God as well.

Conversations during times like this can provide a healing that we have never felt or even recognized. Recently I had a conversation with someone who because of their views it made me feel uncomfortable, but it also made me realize that even though I wanted to spar in my views I recognized I said the word "I". and then I said ahh, this is God Still Speaking, because I took it more internally of what I wanted rather than what God wanted. Reach out to people my friends every single one of us is struggling in these times. And yet, we are called to bring a kingdom where all persons (Black Lives, Blue Lives, LGBTQ Lives, Hispanic, Native Americans, Asian, Middle Eastern Lives, White Lives) and any other groups I didn't mention matter, we are all made by the spirit of God and should act accordingly. This is what it means to build kingdom. Reach out stay connected with one another and let us build this kingdom together, not divided but united in the Spirit.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jay

***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**

Rosalie Barnhill, Cheryl Beck, Steve Decamp, Scott Dellinger, Bob Rhoades, Adam Wirrig, Joyce Koenig, Tom Koenig, Sue Cox, Mary Jean Keeler.

### **Sympathy**

John Parker, Peggy Reece

### **Long-term Concerns**

Pat Sheaffer, Dorothy Arold, Mary Kreill, Ginnie McMillen, Betty Kosicki, Jewell Phelps, Doris Kallas, Lowella Stoerker, Janet Haynes, Dick & Mary Van Tine, Linda Peterson, Jeanne Hazel, Karen Kanaga, Nellie & Laymon Hoskins, Mike Mastrosimone, Melanie Salata, Vicki Holmes, Linda Homan, Shirley Lee, Bonnie McCarthy.

## **AUGUST ACTIONEER**



Our Actioneers for the month of August is our brave men and women of Harrison Township who serve as first responders in our area. So, let me share with you why? Over the last four months, we have seen our firefighters, and police officers going above and beyond each call. I personally have been a witness about every day where multiple calls to fire, and to crime taking place, and these brave people simply go and do their job for this community. Over the past several months as tensions have arisen, they too have felt this tension I have seen community treat them poorly and in even some instance hatred showed their way. I pray that we are better than this. Recently, we as a church took lunches and snack bags to our Harrison Township Police Department as a way of saying thanks for all they do. I have also made a point to stop by our Fire Stations to

check on them as well. They have a rough job to do, and the least we can do is say thanks to them for their sacrifice and protection of our community. In talks with them they all agree that change will need to happen, but in getting to know these officers and firefighters, their heart and their focus is in protecting and serving each resident with respect and love. I was glad to see this for myself and begin the dialogue to bringing all of us together as one in the community. Join with me and celebrating the men and women of Harrison Township, from our police officers, firefighters, EMT's and all that serve. We thank you in joining with us in "Living the Word, by Serving the World."

Blessings,  
Pastor Jay

## **Valerie School Supplies**

It's time again to plan for our donations of school supplies to Valerie Elementary School for the beginning of the new school year, 2020-2021. Let's help those kids start their learning year off right! This year we are asking that all donations be in cash to avoid many hands handling objects. Our super shopper Hank Vaughan will make all purchases with our donations. Please place a check in the offering labeled school supplies or donate online via the Shiloh website. Thank you for your response to the call to give to both teachers and students at our adopted school the supplies they need to achieve successful learning!

The following listing of memorial contributions shows those being honored as well as those who have made gifts that were received prior to July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020:

**Ministries (Undesignated)**

**In Memory of Dale Engel**

Al & Eileen Michael  
Linda Kramer & Milly Hubler  
Anonymous  
Mary Lou Stevenson  
Robert & Linda Guy  
Cynthia Smith  
Laurie Moore  
Connie Neef

**In Memory of Jean Sollenberger**

Laurie Moore

**In Memory of Robert Stevenson**

Connie Neef

**In Memory of Jane Pingle**

Connie Neef

**Media Equipment**

**In Memory of Dale Engel**

Amy & Linda DeCamp  
Melinda Hofstetter  
Brian & Lisa Salata  
Linda Peterson

**Music Fund**

**In Memory of Albert Hofstetter**

Ned Sharp  
James & Jeanette Patton  
Connie Neef

**In Memory of Jean Sollenberger**

Cynthia Smith  
Connie Neef

**In Memory of Dale Engel**

Keith & Maureen Aukerman

**PRAYER CHAIN**

WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO WELCOME ANOTHER "LINK" IN OUR PRAYER CHAIN, SO IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US, PLEASE CALL MARILYN SCHMIDT, 937-836-3262.

THE WAY IT WORKS: MARILYN RECEIVES A CALL FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION WHO KNOWS OF SOMEONE IN NEED OF PRAYER. SHE CALLS THE FIRST MEMBER OF THE CHAIN WITH THE SUBJECT OF THE PRAYER. THAT MEMBER THEN CALLS THE NEXT MEMBER OF THE CHAIN, AND SO ON. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US, PLEASE CALL MARILYN.

**Shiloh Church - UCC**  
**Summary of Income and Expenses for Ministries**

For the period of January 1 through June 30, 2020

	Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>MINISTRIES INCOME</b>			
Covenants & Offerings	169,607.92	195,000.00	(25,392.08)
Seasonal Offerings	1,665.00	2,800.00	(1,135.00)
Use of Building (Including Weddings)	12,722.09	16,200.00	(3,477.91)
Misc (Lamp of Faith, Tapes, etc.)	-	525.00	(525.00)
Fair Income	13,926.05	12,000.00	1,926.05
Rebates	2,037.20	935.00	1,102.20
Interest Income	314.37	550.00	(235.63)
Coffee	-	50.00	(50.00)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>200,272.63</b>	<b>228,060.00</b>	<b>(27,787.37)</b>
<b>MINISTRIES EXPENSES</b>			
Pastoral Expenses	47,385.04	48,079.09	(694.05)
Christian Education	47.84	630.00	(582.16)
Church Boards & Design			
Deacons	151.67	165.00	(13.33)
Stewardship	156.72	300.00	(143.28)
Growth & Marketing	967.35	1,135.00	(167.65)
Worship Board - Music Ministry	36,297.88	38,085.84	(1,787.96)
Worship Board - Media Ministry	1,777.24	5,135.04	(3,357.80)
Property Committee - Building	67,473.41	97,921.95	(30,448.54)
Administrative	36,218.73	40,012.22	(3,793.49)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>190,475.88</b>	<b>231,464.14</b>	<b>(40,988.26)</b>
<b>Income minus Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 9,796.75</b>	<b>(3,404.14)</b>	<b>13,200.89</b>

<u>Where were we a year ago?</u>	<u>As of 6/30/19</u>	<u>As of 6/30/20</u>
Covenants and Seasonal Offerings	192,828.82	171,272.92
Other Income	28,548.16	28,999.71
<b>Total income</b>	<b>221,376.98</b>	<b>200,272.63</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>211,910.34</b>	<b>190,475.88</b>
<b>Income minus Expenses</b>	<b>9,466.64</b>	<b>9,796.75</b>
<u>Other Transfers in</u>		
Endowment - Div., Int., Growth only	10,000.00	-
Memorials	4,120.00	2,980.00
Cares Act Fund (PPP) Loan	-	51,658.09
	14,120.00	54,638.09
<b>Endowment - Baseline</b>	<b>1,176,953.01</b>	<b>1,178,575.60</b>
<b>Endowment - Actual Balance</b>	<b>1,093,184.40</b>	<b>1,065,075.65</b>

# WORSHIP WITH US!

August 2, 2020 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 9: 1-5

Matthew 14: 13-21

**Topic: "Be Filled"**

**Theme: Be feeders of the spirit.**

August 9, 2020 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 10: 5-15

Matthew 14: 22-33

**Topic: "Don't Doubt, But Believe"**

**Theme: We are all in the same boat together.**

August 16, 2020 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: 10-20

**Topic: "What's Inside"**

**Theme: Our internal matters.**

August 23, 2020 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 12: 1-8

Matthew 16: 13-20

**Topic: "Building Together"**

**Theme: All of our gifts come together.**

August 30, 2020 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 12: 9-21

Matthew 16: 24-28

**Topic: "Take Up the Cross"**

**Theme: What will you give to carry the cross.**

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

Lukas Elkins 08/01  
Jay Howard III 08/01  
Jay D. McMillen 08/01  
Donna Caskey 08/03  
William Gilliland 08/03  
Andy Handwerker 08/03  
Stephanie Brown 08/04  
Ernest Rice 08/05  
Mona Hobson 08/06  
Terry Neff 08/06  
Foster Brown 08/07  
Patricia Dellinger 08/07  
Josh Harrison 08/07  
Jane Applegate 08/08  
Roger Smith 08/08  
Paul Koch 08/09  
Erin Callahan 08/12  
Randy Simmons 08/12  
Maryann Bergman 08/13  
Laymon Hoskins 08/14  
Laurie Moore 08/14  
Scott Taylor 08/14  
Calvin Childers 08/17  
C. Faye Childers 08/17  
Gene East 08/17  
Gail Sims 08/17  
Evelyn Coalt 08/18  
Beth Thieman 08/18  
Richard Aring 08/19  
Eryn Gerhart 08/19  
Evelyne Holmes 08/20  
Christopher Tiley 08/20  
Bari Bowser 08/21  
Ann Davis 08/21

John Rabius II 08/21  
Erica Roberts 08/24  
Karyn Sleppy 08/24  
Cynthia Dean-Kytola 08/25  
Randy Kreill 08/25  
Jeanette Patton 08/25  
Joy Krueger 08/27  
Carol Ryland 08/28  
Don McFarland 08/29  
Linda Homan 08/30  
Ethan Huysman 08/30  
Richard Peterson 08/30