

The Connection

The Newsletter of Shiloh Church, UCC

July 2020

F R O M T H E



PASTOR

Soon we will be celebrating the 4th of July a little differently this year. In our house, Dawn's birthday is on the 4th, so it is always a day to celebrate her birthday and the Independence of what we celebrate every July. Which led me to the pastoral thought for July for Shiloh. It is all centered on the theme of Independence. Now the definition of Independence is a noun and is described as the fact or state of being independent. And when we think of Independence, I tend to think that from an early age of mine, that it included all communally. This Independence Day that comes this year is different. We are dealing with Covid-19 and the effects and numbers that we are continuing to see go up every day. There are protesters who are seeking justice and equality for black lives, and for racism to cease in existence. And as a child who always loved history even in these times, we begin to see the next generation begin to show their independence. Throughout our history as a nation we have gone through many changes, through culture, through economics, social issues, wars, hardships, calamities along the same way of what we are dealing with now. And yet we are still here. Change is inevitable in times of understanding what Independence brings. For some it is all about patriotism, while others it is about making the world around us better. And for me I try and find the balance between both. I have a deep love of this nation we live in, and are we perfect no, can we become better yes. Which leads me to my main point with everyone reading this. In most of what I have heard from people, news, sources in media, change is happening, the Independence is being brought to the forefront. But in all of this I rarely hear anything about God. We as people of faith have also the independence of listening and being in relationship with a still speaking God. Who calls us to not be perfect ourselves but simply calls us to be more faithful in our walk and call in creating moments of love and peace to all persons? In the church especially, we are called during these unusual times to work even harder on our personal relationship and understanding to God and to the teachings of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. In so doing we begin to build a foundation of love and respect for one another with different ideals. Where we can build on things, we have in value for one another. Things like Equality, Justice, Compassion, Forgiveness, and Love to all persons, (Black Lives, Blue Lives, LBGTQ Lives, Elderly Lives, Homeless Lives, those marginalized. We are called into the church to celebrate our Independence, by finding ways to explore what we can be as the church into the future. Some of these ways are in the following:

- 1) Becoming a Food Pantry that can feed the needs of those in our community sometime later this year. More in the time frame of late fall early winter.
- 2) Being prepared to assist in our facility welcoming outside groups in the restructuring of those affected by the tornadoes over a year ago.
- 3) Maybe being a site where we can have trained persons helping those in our community help in the mental health aspect of dealing with tornadoes, recovery, Covid-19, social unrest, etc.....
- 4) Finding ways to explore events that are informative and inspirational in providing to those in our community avenues that they would like to explore.
- 5) Continuing to further our mission and ministry in and around Shiloh that speaks to the needs of all persons and recognizing them as children of God.
- 6) Continuing to look at ways to address the needs of the home we call Shiloh to better prepare us for the work that we are called to do. Looking at ways that we might integrate into a balance between how we are and growing into the future with the needs changing.

These are just a few of the independent thought as your Senior Pastor would like to share. We live in a time where for the life of the church rests in our independence of worshipping and creating a deeper relationship with a God that is Still Speaking, and cultivating that into real and spirited work of change and resolve for so many who are divided, feeling helpless or hopeless, and showing them through the power of the Spirit what God can do in us and through us. I am beginning to feel excited about the possibilities of what this might bring. Shiloh Church staying committed at being at the forefront of this change and not only embracing the challenges that we will face but the reward of bringing effective and meaningful change into the lives of those we minister and love along the way.

Blessings to all during this time as I see you in worship and to those who I also pray for at home during this time blessings as well, much love to you all.

And as always celebrate this month of July with renewed spirit in our Independence to continue to worship a Still Speaking God, now and into the future.

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

Benjamin Ferguson, Jeanette Patton,
Jay Howard, Sydney LaBreck, Tom
Koenig, Joyce Koenig, Nellie Hoskins,
Melanie Salata, Mary Jean Keller.

Sympathy

Jane Pingle, Dale Engel.

JULY ACTIONEER



This month our Actioneer is none other than Sheldon Carr. Since the time came when things began to shut down with the Covid-19 pandemic back in mid-March, Sheldon has been an instrumental force in taking care of so much painting throughout the building. It started with simply painting the tables and wells in Omega Hall. It then shifted to hallways and doors and some classrooms, and over the past month Sheldon has spent his time downstairs getting hallways and doors done. Wow what a difference all this makes. When most of us confined to our homes have tried to find projects like painting to do, and I know for a fact that Sheldon has had many of these same projects at his own house. But he has lent his considerable time and talent in taking care of this home we call Shiloh Church. Sheldon on behalf of Shiloh we thank you for investing your time in, "Living the Word, by Serving the World."

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!

Member Suggestions!

An anonymous member suggests that because our monthly lunches after church are curtailed at the moment, it might be good to make an extra contribution to the church. Since it's been four months already, that's \$5 a pop or \$40 per couple!"

Media Campaign

I bring you good news of our recent campaign into upgrading our Media equipment to offer worship services online and into the future. A little over 4 weeks ago I shared with all of you online and in our live worship that we were looking to build into the future of what we can be capable of in providing meaningful worship to those who are at home. This is being done through sources like Facebook (Shiloh Church United Church of Christ) or to our website www.shiloh.org, or through going on You Tube at Shiloh Church UCC. We have heard many of you express your joy in being able to stay connected in times like this and be able to worship from the comforts of your home. We started a campaign to get some much needed newer equipment because the equipment we were using was on loan from another municipality. In doing the first phase we needed to raise roughly \$10,500 to complete the first phase, overall we are probably looking at @\$24,000 to complete the complete overhaul to set us up for the long run into the future. Well as I write to you we have raised roughly \$10,000 and with a budget that had already expected to spend in year 2020, \$5,000, we are over halfway achieving this goal. Now I have to admit when it comes to technology I am not the wizard of understanding. But, let me share with you the premise behind these plans. We know that our world has become increasingly more technology based and using some of the media platforms out there this is a way for us to connect to a wider community about who Shiloh Church is. We are learning as we go how we might be able to further our ministry outreach by using this equipment to reaching or touching someone through this capability. In getting over half way to funds needed to completely overhaul what we do live and also what we can pre-record will give us an opportunity to market, and share the Good News of Jesus Christ and will also give us the capability in being good stewards of our resources to highlight events with pre-recorded snippets, or even showing live events taking place in the life of the church. Now I know when this was presented to me I was a little hesitant about the price tag, but with our current equipment we have now we do need to look 10 if not 20 years down the road. The limits by which we can share more freely to a wider media base, the further the message of Shiloh in "Living the Word, by Serving the World", can be reached. Join me in supporting this campaign of taking us into the future with an extra offering if you can, to reach this goal, to further the message of Jesus Christ and to sharing with all who and what Shiloh is doing in the Dayton community.

Blessings on your giving to this step to the future,
Love and Grace
Pastor Jay McMillen

The following listing of memorial contributions shows those being honored as well as those who have made gifts that were received prior to June 24th, 2020:

Ministries (Undesignated)

In Memory of Robert Stevenson

Carl Bomboy
Judy Peck
Charles Smith
Judith Reed
Kimbal & Julie Ragan
Kay Musick
Jerry & Joanne Hillelson
Laymon & Nellie Hoskins
Charlotte Wolcott
Anonymous
David & Terri Howard
Zoe Hittner
Ronald & Lee Ann Laird
David & Kathy Penfield
Alan & Eileen Michael
Bruce Osborn
Karen Murray
Mona Hobson

In Memory of Jean Sollenberger

Kimbal & Julie Ragan
Carl Bomboy
Mary Lou Stevenson
Anonymous
Maureen Aukerman
Alan & Eileen Michael
Marilyn Strickler
Englewood Sister City Club
Karen Murray

In Memory of Barbara Holmes

Laymon & Nellie Hoskins

In Memory of Earl McMillen

Laymon & Nellie Hoskins

In Memory of Albert Hofstetter

Carl Bomboy
Nancy Stout
Anonymous
Alan & Eileen Michael

In Memory of Jane Pingle

Carl Bomboy
Mary Lou Stevenson
Carol Billips
William Greenaway
Alan & Eileen Michael
Jane Slanker & Mark Rudolph
Chris Harman
Karen Murray
Mona Hobson

Music Fund

In Memory of Jean Sollenberger

Larry & Janet Ferguson
Anonymous
Linda Peterson
Tom Holmes
Mona Hobson

In Memory of Al Hofstetter

Mona Hobson

Endowment Fund

In Memory of Robert Stevenson

Janet Lucas

Local Tornado Fund

In Memory of Robert Stevenson

Tom Holmes

Shiloh Church - UCC
Summary of Income and Expenses for Ministries

For the period of January 1 through May 31, 2020

	Actual	Budget	Variance
MINISTRIES INCOME			
Covenants & Offerings	148,873.47	164,000.00	(15,126.53)
Seasonal Offerings	1,665.00	2,800.00	(1,135.00)
Use of Building (Including Weddings)	12,722.09	11,500.00	1,222.09
Misc (Lamp of Faith, Tapes, etc.)	-	437.50	(437.50)
Fair Income	13,926.05	12,000.00	1,926.05
Rebates	1,802.57	760.00	1,042.57
Interest Income	312.00	475.00	(163.00)
Coffee	-	41.00	(41.00)
Total Income	179,301.18	192,013.50	(12,712.32)
MINISTRIES EXPENSES			
Pastoral Expenses	38,673.67	39,049.03	(375.36)
Christian Education	47.84	435.00	(387.16)
Church Boards & Design			
Deacons	112.67	110.00	2.67
Stewardship	156.72	200.00	(43.28)
Growth & Marketing	967.35	910.00	57.35
Worship Board - Music Ministry	30,696.92	31,871.31	(1,174.39)
Worship Board - Media Ministry	1,575.27	3,477.66	(1,902.39)
Property Committee - Building	56,298.98	79,929.21	(23,630.23)
Administrative	29,922.98	33,761.18	(3,838.20)
Total Expenses	158,452.40	189,743.39	(31,290.99)
Income minus Expenses	\$ 20,848.78	2,270.11	18,578.67

Where were we a year ago?

	<u>As of 5/31/19</u>	<u>As of 5/31/20</u>
Covenants and Seasonal Offerings	161,710.93	150,538.47
Other Income	25,176.54	28,762.71
Total income	186,887.47	179,301.18
Total expenses	175,629.27	158,452.40
Income minus Expenses	<u>11,258.20</u>	<u>20,848.78</u>

Other Transfers in

Endowment - Div., Int., Growth only	10,000.00	-
Memorials	2,975.00	2,085.00
Cares Act Fund (PPP) Loan	-	43,991.89
	12,975.00	46,076.89
Endowment - Baseline	1,176,953.01	1,178,575.60
Endowment - Actual Balance	1,041,013.40	1,065,025.65

WORSHIP WITH US!

July 5, 2020 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 7: 15-25a

Matthew 11: 25-30

Topic: "The Journey"

Theme: The work is easy and the burden is light.

July 12, 2020 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 8: 9-11

Matthew 13: 1-9

Topic: "The Seed"

Theme: How we are planted determines our growth.

July 19, 2020 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 8: 12-17

Matthew 13: 24-30

Topic: "Weeds"

Theme: Be diligent in your cultivation.

July 26, 2020 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Topic: "Kingdom"

Theme: Examples of kingdom rely on each of us.

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

Glenna Harmuth 07/02
Meredith Fisher 07/04
Dawn McMillen 07/04
David White 07/04
Charles Banks 07/05
Anthony Ragan 07/07
Judy Smith 07/07
Mary Lou Stevenson 07/07
Lillian Smith 07/08
Pamela Carr 07/09
Doug Farinet 07/10
Lindsay Hofferberth 07/10
Patricia Farinet 07/11
Linda Leach 07/11
Pat Reid 07/17
Whitley Darner 07/18
Shirley Hill 07/18
Betty Brown 07/19
Ted Patton 07/20
Martha Kirkland 07/21
Larry Schnabel 07/21
Russell A. Worley Jr. 07/21

Connie Neef 07/22
George Safley 07/23
Jerry Engel 07/25
David Kentner 07/25
Kathy Wall 07/25
Elizabeth Van Tine 07/27
Robert Kell 07/29
Melinda Hofstetter 07/30