

The Connection

The Newsletter of Shiloh Church, UCC

May 2020

FROM THE



PASTOR

Message of Hope in the World WE Live

As I have talked with many of you over these last five weeks of our time spent apart due to the Coronavirus, I have contemplated many things about how we do church, how we can still connect, and when can we safely return to some sort of normalcy in times like this. I feel that a balance will need to occur for both the safety of all of you as well as procedures that will need to take place for those who gather to be in the best position to stay safe. This is unlike anything I've ever seen or have experienced in our lives together.

Tornadoes came and ravaged our communities some 11 months ago, and we could see what needed to be done, this is the unseen and partly the unknown.

Over the last several weeks I've participated in several online meetings with local churches as well as the wider church to get a handle on what we can do. And as I've spoken to many of you some of you are itching to get back face to face. Breathe Shiloh, Breathe! We will get there eventually but as your Sr. Pastor and shepherd I don't want us to rush too soon and put any of you in danger. I've spent numbers of hours contemplating how this could happen and when would be the right time. I write this to you as we are taking necessary steps with leadership and our executive team to discern when the right time will be. Our executive committee and I are meeting every two weeks as we continue to learn more about this virus and ways that we might protect ourselves into the future. This does not mean the church or our ministry is closed! It means that in times like that we encounter we can become even more diligent about reaching out to one another through phone calls, texts, messages, emails to stay connected with one another, but more importantly to reach out to those who may not be a part of our congregation and to be

connected in ways that we show the love of Christ to them. Shiloh is in an opportunity to show others that have never stepped foot inside to be connected to our vision that we "Live the Word, by Serving the World." That to me is very exciting and energizing into what we can be. So many times over the past two years I've heard many of you speak about growth not in numbers but in faithful witness to the power of the spirit. And in conversations with you as well as those in this community and beyond everyone is searching for some hope and promise and this is where Shiloh can be a footprint into the lives of many.

So with that said, and in many conversations with those in our conference, they are asking all churches to not congregate in worship until the end of May at this time frame. I know from many of you who might read this it's disheartening, but stay strong my friends. We will need to take this time to make sure we have certain protocols in place to ensure the safety of you the congregation, as well as any visitors that might come. Now you may be wondering what some of those protocols might be, and as your executive team and our newly formed health team will be conversing on what these protocols might be.

To give you all an idea of what some of these protocols might be in gathering for worship, the following were just announced by the Conference Staff of the Heartland Conference.

- Only one entrance to be used upon arriving to the church
- No offering plates being passed, however a basket provided in the narthex for you to place your offering
- No ushers handing out bulletins; another station would be made that you could pick up a bulletin
- Every other pew in the sanctuary being closed off to that we might keep safe distance
- **NO HAND SHAKES OR HUGS AT THIS TIME DURING our MEET AND GREET!**
- Only entering the sanctuary and being dismissed after worship keeping 6 feet apart from others, (Families would be excluded)

These are just a few of what I want all of us to think about as we work together to find ways to connect and be the work of the church going forward.

Now, I know many of you as well as you know me, that I take the safety of each and every one of you seriously, and until we get word that this virus or ways that we can deal with this virus be at the forefront of what we do, we need as a body of Christ, to Breathe, to Focus and then Act in ways to connect with one another, to pray and to be ever mindful of what we can do as the church to protect one another and grow in our relationship with to God, and to gain an even deeper understanding of Christ Jesus and how through his teachings we can stay resolved and resolute in our faith and spiritual journeys with one another. I encourage each of you to reach out to me or call the church office if there is anything that you need. But I pray that each of you in these times of uncertainty and doubt might remember why we are the church, to care for all involved not just inside our doors but outside as well. To pray for our neighbors, for all of our leaders in government and to pray for our medical field who is at the front line of this, that we continue to stay vigilant in our path to finding answers and in ways that we might come together sooner rather than later to give our praise and worship to God for the bountiful blessings that God has given to all, and to stay the course that one day we will be RESTORED. My prayers and blessings to all of you in these times, and we will get through this together in Jesus name.

Blessings and Love

Sr. 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.

Quarantine Conversations

Please remember to reach out to your friends,
family and neighbors during this time!

Sympathy

Bob Stevenson

MAY ACTIONEER



Last month our actioneers were those in our medical field with doctors, nurses, EMT, firefighters and all those faced with those battling this virus. This month I would like to recognize those who work in our grocery industry. Now I know many of you may be thinking that I am only recognizing one store, but all stores will I recognize. For those working at Meijer, Kroger, Aldi's, Walmart, and any other store that is providing necessary items to you the public. I can remember from the earliest time these individuals and I go to each store in the area, workers who, over the course of this time, have seen ups and downs. Where I have seen employees masked and not masked but are still working hard to try and provide items to all of us from food, to cleaning supplies, and yes toilet paper, LOL. They have shared with me over this past month and for many of them they were apprehensive as all of us were but they came to work each day to provide and care for our needs. Over this past month I have tried to have conversations with as many workers as possible to talk with them and share our thanks for their due diligence to do their work but know they are appreciated. Over the course of this past month I have unfortunately seen those in our community that have become disturbed, combative and plain rude because of rules and regulations that these places have put on how much to buy. Here is the good part of the story, I have not seen yet even though I know they are stressed, where these workers have fought back in a way to elevate the situation. Good for them and for all of us. In times like this, in uncertain times where for week to week we are trying to figure what we need and only go once or whatever we must do. We need to recognize each of these persons in what they are doing, in cleaning and stocking and providing for our basic needs. It is a time for all of us to take a deep breath and know that each and every one of these workers plus our health care workers have families, yet they put their lives on the line for all of us. Take a moment when you visit one of these stores or any stores that you might go to and give thanks for their service in protecting us the best way they can and to also do to with a smile on their face and good intentions of their hearts, it's the least we can do as a body of Christ to give thanks for they are "Living the Word, by Serving the World". And we thank them for their sacrifice and Love in all they do. God Bless them ALL!
Pastor Jay

We sure hope everyone is safe and healthy. Because of the coronavirus situation we have been in, and in talking with Pastor Jay, the Women's Board President Marilyn Jones and the Garage Sale chairman Carol Oldham have decided to cancel the Garage Sale for this year which would have been on May 15 and 16, 2020. We Thank You for your understanding in keeping everyone safe and healthy. We are looking forward to better days ahead.

THANK YOU and Take Care -- Carol G. Oldham

Shiloh Church - UCC
Summary of Income and Expenses for Ministries

For the period of January 1 through March 31, 2020

Actual	Budget	Variance
MINISTRIES INCOME		
Covenants & Offerings	81,370.02	102,500.00 (21,129.98)
Seasonal Offerings	340.00	150.00 190.00
Use of Building (Including Weddings)	5,200.00	6,900.00 (1,700.00)
Misc (Lamp of Faith, Tapes, etc.)	-	262.50 (262.50)
Fair Income	13,926.05	12,000.00 1,926.05
Rebates	554.00	405.00 149.00
Interest Income	307.95	325.00 (17.05)
Coffee	-	25.00 (25.00)
Total Income	101,698.02	122,567.50 (20,869.48)
MINISTRIES EXPENSES		
Pastoral Expenses	22,210.85	22,426.47 (215.62)
Christian Education	(33.05)	295.00 (328.05)
Church Boards & Design		
Deacons	73.67	55.00 18.67
Stewardship	75.95	100.00 (24.05)
Growth & Marketing	967.35	455.00 512.35
Worship Board - Music Ministry	17,503.61	17,537.42 (33.81)
Worship Board - Media Ministry	1,059.80	2,464.74 (1,404.94)
Property Committee - Building	41,408.95	48,698.98 (7,290.03)
Administrative	17,531.80	18,632.28 (1,100.48)
Total Expenses	100,798.93	110,664.89 (9,865.96)
899.09\$	11,902.61	(11,003.52) Income minus Expenses
Where were we a year ago?	As of 3/31/19	As of 3/31/20
Covenants and Seasonal Offerings	97,678.99	81,710.02
Other Income	21,428.62	19,988.00
Total income	119,107.61	101,698.02
Total expenses	107,719.59	100,798.93
Income minus Expenses	11,388.02	899.09
Other Transfers in		
Endowment - Div., Int., Growth only	-	-
Memorials	1,095.00	1,100.00
1,095.00		1,100.00
Endowment - Baseline	1,176,953.01	1,177,025.60
Endowment - Actual Balance	1,075,823.07	924,090.99

Cooks Garden, formally of the Shiloh Farmers Market, is still open in New Lebanon and accepting online orders for vegetable plants and flowers! Visit their website or email them at cooksgarden@gmail.com for more information.

GIRL SCOUTS TROUP #307140 ACCEPTABLE PLASTIC CAP LIST

WASH BEFORE DONATING - THANK YOU

COTTAGE CHEESE

YOGART LIDS

MAYONNAISE JAR LIDS

PEANUT BUTTER LIDS

ICE CREAM BUCKET LIDS (UNDER 8")

SPICE LIDS

COOL WHIP CONTAINER LIDS

PRINGLE CAN LIDS

COFFEE CAN LIDS

BUTTER LIDS

CREAM CHEESE CONTAINER LID

MILK LIDS, JAR LIDS

GIRL SCOUTS TROUP #307140 NEVER ACCEPTABLE CAP LIST

NO METAL OF ANY KIND

WATER BOTTLES

PRESCRIPTION

PLASTTIC ZIPLOCK TYPE BAGS

TRIGGER SPRAYERS

ALL FAST FOOD DRINK LIDS

PLASTIC THAT IS NOT A CAP OR LID,

PLASTIC PIECES AND PARTS

HUMAN OR ANIMAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES

TRASH OR PAPER OF ANY KIND

ALL FOOD CONTAINERS

CARDBOARD LINERS

SOAP PUMPS

LOTION PUMPS

GROCERY BAGS

CAPS OR LIDS WITH

(1) (3) (6) (7) RECYCLE NUMBER

K-CUPS AND STRAWS

WORSHIP WITH US!

May 3, 2020 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 42-47
John 10: 7-10

Topic: "Abundance"

Theme: We live abundantly to be a blessing to all.

May 10, 2020 5th Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)

I Peter 2: 9-10
John 14: 1-7

Topic: "Home"

Theme: Jesus and mothers shows us how to be a home of love.

May 17, 2020 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17: 29-31
John 14: 15-21

Topic: "Witness to Love"

Theme: Love is the constant we can show others.

May 24, 2020 Ascension Sunday

Ephesians 1: 15-23
Luke 24: 44-53

Topic: "Ascension"

Theme: The Resurrected community revealed in this act.

May 31, 2020 Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2: 1-21
John 7: 37-39

Topic: "The Power of the Spirit" Theme: Allow the Spirit to grow in works for the Lord!

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

Kenneth Lundstrom 05/02
Ashley Pack 05/04
Shirley Lee 05/07
Warren Hofferberth 05/10
Alysha Rabiun 05/11
John Kirby 05/12
Edith LaVeris 05/13
Pat Berry 05/14
Jeanne Hazel 05/14
Betty Karns 05/14
Amy Zebney 05/14
Doris Brookey 05/15
Ginny Elkins 05/15
Linda Peterson 05/15
Emily Richardson 05/15
Thomas Taylor 05/15
Vera Kirby 05/16
Ashton Miller 05/16
Alex Elkins 05/17
Janet Haynes 05/17
Kyle Ragan 05/18
Ilene Schnabel 05/18
Maria Yantis 05/18
Roger Cox 05/19
Terrelia Ogletree 05/19
Lydia Freeze 05/21
Sandra Pohlman 05/21
Kelly Dwyer 05/22
Janet Lucas 05/22

Ann Routson 05/22
Spencer Hajarjian 05/23
Thomas D. Murph 05/23
Robert W. Horton 05/24
Brian Elkins 05/27
Ryan Roberts 05/27
Jason Bolin 05/28
Danielle Bergman 05/29
Timothy Holmes 05/29
Elizabeth Salata 05/30