

# SHILOH MESSENGER

19731 Shiloh Church Rd.

Hagerstown, MD 21742

301-797-4083

[www.shilohumchagerstownmd.com](http://www.shilohumchagerstownmd.com)

## December 2016



*From the desk of Pastor Ken*

Dear Shiloh Members and Friends,

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her. But when he opened the box, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling her eyes and whispered; "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was full." The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Ken

## **Shiloh U M Church**

19731 Shiloh Church Rd  
Hagerstown, MD 21742  
301-797-4083  
301-991-7839 (cell)  
www.shilohumchagerstownmd.com

### **Shiloh Vision Statement:**

Having experienced firsthand the redeeming love of God, Shiloh United Methodist Church feels compelled to share that love with others by making disciples of Jesus Christ through growth, outreach and ministry to our community and world.

**Cancellation Policy:** In case of inclement weather, church cancellations will be put on local radio stations: WJEJ 1040 am, WCRH 90.5 fm, WHAG 1410 am. If snow emergency plan is in effect all church activities are "cancelled."

### **Sunday Worship:**

9:00 a.m. Traditional Service  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School  
11:15 a.m. Contemporary and Praise Service

### **Christmas for Holly Place**

Shiloh will be collecting various items for Holly Place again this year. These items would include Kleenex, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoos, lotions, men & women's colognes, notepads, ink pens etc. We will deliver these when we go Christmas caroling December 18<sup>th</sup>. A box will be put in the church vestibule for you to drop off your things. Thank you!

### **Adult Christmas Party**

**Thursday Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00 pm**  
Keystone Restaurant  
10530 Buchanan Trail (Rt. 16)  
Waynesboro, PA

The Shiloh Christmas party will be on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm. The buffet is \$13.25 per person (incl. tax and gratuity) or you may order off the menu. A sign-up sheet will be in the Sunday School room. Hope to see you there!

### **Home Coming Party**

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm**  
**Light Refreshments**

Please join us for a gathering to take a look at our New 2017 Pictorial Directory. Please plan to attend. This is an exciting time to see and reminisce with your friends and take your directory home.

Our directory is not only used for you to look for names, addresses, birthdays and anniversaries, it is an important way for our new members to put a name to a face and learn the history and activities of the church.

A signup sheet is located on the back table of the Social Hall for those attending or you can call Ginger – 301-824-6241.

### **Star Breakfast**

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 am**  
Ages 2-12

Children are invited to join us for a free pancake breakfast and to hear the Christmas Story and crafts, Children must be accompanied by an adult 18 or over.

Questions? Contact Nevalene or Tammy

## **The Season of Advent**

As we enter the Advent season, let us prepare ourselves for the coming of Christmas. Open our hearts and minds and to know the reason for the season.

### **Christmas Worship Services**

#### **Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School  
11:15 a.m. Contemporary Praise Service

#### **Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Christmas Cantata, "O Holy Night"  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School  
11:15 a.m. Contemporary Praise Service

#### **Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time  
10:15 a.m. Children's Program during School  
School hour  
11:15 a.m. Contemporary Praise Service

#### **Sunday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day**

**CHANGE:**

**10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service**

**No Fellowship Time**

**No Sunday School**

**Services will return to regular schedule**

**Sunday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

## **Christmas Cantata**

**December 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.**

"O Holy Night" The Cantata Choral Group will share the message of Christ's birth through scripture and songs during the traditional worship service.

## **Children's Christmas Program**

**December 18<sup>th</sup> 10:15 a.m.**

"A Time of Recitations and Songs"

What brings the joy of Christmas more than our children of Shiloh. The smiles on their faces as they sing and recite their various recitations is so heartwarming.

Please stay following worship service and enjoy coffee and cookies. Let's show the children how much we appreciate their hard work.

## **Christmas Caroling**

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 2:30 p.m.**

We will meet at the church to board the bus at 2:30 p.m. for hours of fun and fellowship.

After caroling, we will gather at the church for a meal.

If you would like to join us in song, have us stop by and sing to you, or contribute your favorite dish for the meal, please sign up on the sheets located on the back table in the Social Hall.

For questions or more information, please see Debbie Doyle or Curt Uzelac.

Please note that we strive to visit all our shut ins and anyone who would like to have us sing if time allows.

If inclement or very cold temperatures, we will meet on Sunday morning to determine whether or not to cancel the event.

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.**

Christmas Eve service beginning with special music at 7:00 p.m. Children's Rainbow Choir will be singing.

Come join us for a candle light worship service of Christmas carols as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

## **What Does Christmas Mean To You?**

**C** Christ, the Son of God who died for our sins.

**H** Hope, we have this in Christ to face the problems of the world.

**R** Resurrection, this assures us that Christ lives today.

**I** Immanuel, God with us, who will never leave or forsake us.

**S** Star, it shone bright reminding us that Christ is the light of the world.

**T** The symbol of the cross where Christ died for us.

**M** Mission, to share Christ's love to a desperate world.

**A** Agape, the unselfish love of God which He wants us to show others.

**S** Savior – access to the Father through Jesus Christ.

## **Board of Child Care**

On behalf of our Directors, staff, and children, thank you for participating in our Christmas appeal this year.

Children's needs have changed dramatically over the last fifty years, but their most basic needs

today are not different from children from any generation.

Your congregation's Christmas offerings helps us make sure that each boy and girl can take part in summer campus, field trips, receive supplies at the beginning of the school year, and of course, open their own presents on Christmas Day.

It is through your generosity that we see children's eyes light up and know that they feel cared about, sometimes for the first time in their lives. Thank You!

Board of Child Care

Laurie Anne Spagnola

Save your quarters and fill several of the Red stockings located in the back of the sanctuary. Christmas Eve offering and stockings are sent to Board of Child Care.

## **Order Your Christmas Poinsettias**

We will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias in honor of or in memory of. Listen for details and see Terri Shank for order forms.

## ***T'was the night before Jesus came***

Tw'as the night before Jesus came and all through the house  
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.  
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care  
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,  
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.  
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap  
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear  
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.  
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray  
I knew in a moment this must be The Day!

The light of His face made me cover my head  
It was Jesus! Returning just like He had said.  
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and  
wealth  
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand  
Was written the name of every saved man.  
He spoke not a word as He searched for my  
name,  
When He said "It's not here" my head hung in  
shame.

The people whose names had been written with  
love  
He gathered to take to His Father above.  
With those who were ready He rose without a  
sound  
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late,  
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.  
I stood and cried as they rose out of sight;  
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear  
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.  
There's only one life and when comes the last  
call,  
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

## **A Big "Thank You"**

### **Men's Chorus:**

What a spectacular job singing for the veterans in  
our congregation during worship!

Last week as I was sitting in the social hall  
wrapping plastic ware for the church supper, I  
listened to Franklin and Mark exchanging their  
many experiences and stories during their time in  
the service. It is such an honor to have so many  
men and women in our congregation who served  
our country. Thank you  
BTW guys, you *should* sing more often!

### **Holly Place Committee:**

Many thanks to the committee for providing meals for  
the residents during the past year. It's very rewarding  
to know that in some small way our Shiloh ladies can  
make a difference.

### **Nellie Lytton Class:**

Thanks to the Nellie Lytton Sunday School class for  
supporting Salvation Army in purchasing meals so  
that families may have meals for those less fortunate  
on Thanksgiving Day.

This is such an important organization helping  
others. Don't forget to drop a few coins in the Red  
kettles during your Christmas shopping.

## **Our Mitten Tree**

Again this year we will put up our Christmas tree  
for mittens, scarves, and hats for children that  
are in need of these items during the cold winter  
season.

While you are doing your Christmas shopping  
pick up some of these items for our Mitten Tree.

## **Administrative Council Meeting**

December 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

### **Shiloh Christmas Card Box**

Remember to place your Christmas cards in the box provided in the back of the sanctuary. Save money on postage by sending cards to church members through this box.

### **2016 Ham & Turkey Supper**

Once again Shiloh out did themselves serving up a meal that receives great reviews and promises of “you are the best” & “see you next year”. This year we served 302 guests, 157 carryouts, (fed the help a much deserved meal after all their hard work) as well as sending a meal to Holly Place. There are still a few outstanding invoices we need to cover so we will be announcing the final profit for the Building Fund in church and publishing the information in the next newsletter. Thank you to all who participated by giving up days of their time to make sure all went well, those who made donations and those who prayed for our success. We couldn't do this without all of you.

### **2016 Operation Christmas Child**

What a privilege to be the hands that God chose to pack a simple Shoebox with gifts for a child he has already chosen to receive this special gift as a vessel to introduce that child to his son, Jesus Christ. And what a life altering gift this may be not only to that one child but possibly for their entire family. Thank you Shiloh – 226 children, many of whom have never received a gift will be blessed by the boxes you packed for our Operation Christmas Child project for 2016. As an added accomplishment all shipping for those 226 boxes has been paid. On December 8<sup>th</sup> a small group from Shiloh will be traveling to Baltimore to volunteer for the afternoon at the Regional Collection Site and experience the next

step in the journey of the shoeboxes. We are really excited to be participating at this level and ask for your prayers. Thank you so much for your participation and may you be blessed this Christmas Season by the knowledge that a child on the other side of the world is feeling the love of Shiloh because of your willingness to pack a shoebox.

### **Choices In Giving.....**

Today's technology grants us many options of giving and meeting stewardship commitments. One of the easiest options is to use “Bill Pay” through your local bank. Many banks offer this service free. You can call your local bank for more information.

Whether It's cash in the plate or electronically, it's all faithfulness in God's eyes.

2017 envelopes will be distributed beginning Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Finance committee urges everyone to use the Stewardship Commitment cards inside to show how much your commitment may be to the church in 2017. This will help to plan finances and budget for the coming year. Place in your weekly envelope.

***We welcome Ron Boyd into our church family.***

**Deadline for Jan-Feb-Mar 2017 Newsletter  
December 18th**

## **Our Shut –Ins**

**Remember these members with prayers, cards, phone calls and other acts of kindness.**

Charles & Lois Patton  
216 Sunbrook Lane  
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Iris Stickell  
Ravenwood Lutheran Village  
1183 Lutheran Dr  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Nancy Hebb  
Twin Oaks Assisted Living Room #109  
154 North Artizan Street  
Williamsport, MD 21795

Betty Pryor  
10304 Whitehall Road  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Mary Appel  
538 Chestnut St  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

## **Recovering at Home:**

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Donna as she goes through the healing process. She is still with her sister Deanna. Cards can be mailed to:

Donna Gaylor  
c/o Deanna Whitehead  
28 Foxboro Drive  
Rising Sun, MD 21911

**To all those of our church family who are not able to be with us, we wish you a Very Merry Christmas.**

## **Happy Birthday!**

### **December**

1 – Richard Keller  
2 – Kristie Miller  
7 – Elizabeth Jones  
8 – Christopher Trovinger  
8 – Cynthia Davis  
10 – Cole McKeever  
11 – Alyssa Dorsey  
11 – Carolyn Brooks  
11 – Gerald Frey  
11 – James Koontz  
12 – Lester Trovinger  
23 – Jeanne Reeser  
23 – Marion Streletz  
24 – Nellie Mae French  
25 – David Frey  
25 – Kevin Jaye  
27 – Laura Miller Bruchey  
28 – Ashlyn Gardner Frey  
30 – Pamela Noble

## **Anniversaries**

### **December**

6 – Charles & Jane Frey  
29 – Frank & Carolyn Brooks

*Stockings and gifts, trees decked in lights  
May give us a lift, and make the day bright.  
But the best present of all, born on this day,  
Great light from a stall, on grass he did lay.  
Please don't be distracted, "Midst the wrap and  
the ribbon.  
In Jesus, God has acted, and invites us to  
Heaven.*

***Merry Christmas Everyone***