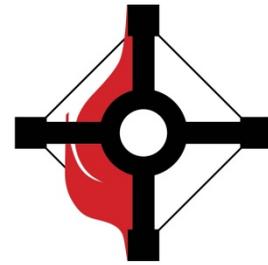


Genesis

The Newsletter of
Shiloh United Methodist Church
December 2018



SHILOH
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP AND LEARNING IN DECEMBER

Sunday Sermon Series – This Is Us

In December we will journey through Advent Season which is a preparation for the birth of Christ. It is a time to open our hearts to what God might do when we create space for them to be born in the world. The series is designed to help us look at Old and New Testament stories about what God calls us to be as people of God. We hope you will join us and allow yourself to get placed by God as a character in the story.

Study Group

We invite you to take part in one of our pastoral small study groups. These groups follow the topic of our sermon series and provide a chance to deepen your faith. We invite you to come as you are, wherever you are in your faith. Readers and non-readers alike are welcome. This month, we will be following the book *“If Grace is True”* by Phillip Gulley and James Mulholland. In the class, we will watch videos and discuss what it would mean if God’s grace means “everyone” is saved.

The group meets at **noon** on **Tuesday, December 4 and 18.**

Shiloh 101 – Coffee with the Pastor

Are you new to Shiloh? Meet Pastor Tyler, learn more about our church, and meet other new people by attending this one hour informational gathering. The next one will be offered Sunday, **December 2 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm** in the education wing. Children are welcome. See you there!

Solstice Service – Gathering Light

Our Interfaith Solstice Service is on December 21st at 7pm at Congregation Beth Aaron at 2031 Broadwater Avenue. Due to limited space, this is an RSVP-only event. Please contact the office 656-0050 or pastortyler@shilohbillings.church to RSVP. This service is our chance to stand with our brothers and sisters in the Jewish community, and it is also a powerful chance to share traditions with one another, so that we can understand one another and work together to build a diverse and loving community in Billings. There will be song, prayer, a message of hope, and we will support Family Promise together that evening.



Christmas Eve Children’s

Come-As-You-Are Pageant – 5:00 pm

This is for any child to come and be in a pageant. Children can arrive as early as 4:30 pm to get costumes. We will begin our service at 5:00 pm with hymns and telling the story of Christmas. Children will enter to create the nativity scene in all its controlled chaos. We invite all children who want to participate to join us.

Christmas Eve

7:00 and 9:00 pm Candlelight Services

Night of Wonder – Merry Christmas

Candlelight services will reflect on the story of Jesus and celebrate love born into the world. There will be deep storytelling brought through readings, song, and hymns. We invite you to join us as we gather to celebrate the light of Christ born among



406 Youth United

Youth group is held from 4:00-5:15 pm on Sundays with some special events running until 6 pm. In December, we have lots of activities to build community and learn about God's love. Please invite any youth 6th-12th Grade for our fun and learning.

December 2: Games and God Talk @ Shiloh

December 9: 4-6pm Serve those who are homeless in downtown Billings. Arrive at Shiloh at 3:40pm and ride down with us, or meet us at First UMC at 4pm.

December 16: Christmas Party – Location TBA

December 23: No Youth Group (Christmas Week)

December 30: No Youth Group (Vacation Week)

Committee and Team Meetings

All meetings are open except for SPRC, please attend if the area is of interest to you.

Finance Committee – Dec 13 @ 5:30 pm

Admin Council – Dec 13 @ 6:00 pm

SPRC – Dec 13 @ 7:00 pm

Trustees – Dec 13 @ 7:00 pm

Messy Church

Join us for Messy Church December 4th and 11th from 5:30-6:30 pm. This is a family friendly worship with a lesson, interactive prayer stations, family craft, and a light meal. Also, we want to extend a huge thank you to those who served the meals



for October and November. We appreciate you!!!

Children's Advent Choir

We will have a children's advent choir this year. They will perform just before children's time at the 10:15 service on December 2, 9, and 16. The rehearsals will take place on December 2, 9, and 16 from 9:45–10:10 am. Please call the church office or email Pastor Tyler if your kids plan to participate. Children do not need to be at all rehearsals to perform, but come when you can because your voice will help.

Adventures with God Sunday School



In December, Sunday school will be happening for children age 3 – 5th grade during the 10:15 service. We will meet December 2, 9, 16, 23. December 30 we will take a break and children are welcome to join parents in worship that day.

Free Store News

Throughout the year, donations often include Christmas items that are stored until this time of year when they are put out for the shoppers. If you have any Christmas items you no longer use, including artificial Christmas trees, the Free Store certainly will pass them on. The Free Store is open December 1st and 15th. On the 15th, there will also be a Toy Wonderland where the children choose a toy from those that have been donated. The Free Store is always short of items for boys and infants. These do not have to be new. Any donations will make such a difference. Thank you.

Songs of Worship and Praise CD

Free Store Fundraiser



Just in time for Christmas, our Music Director, Dave Merkel, has selected 20 songs of worship and praise performed by him and available for purchase in CD or USB thumb drive format or by digital download. The cost of the CD is \$25, with \$5 from each purchase designated for operating costs for The Free Store at Evangelical UMC. You may read more about it, preview the songs, and order digital downloads through his website: <https://davemerkel.com/swp-fs/>. Contact him through his website or drop off an order form and payment (made out to Dave Merkel) at the church office.



Faith and Film

As usual, Faith and Film is on hiatus for December. They will return in January with the Mr. Rogers documentary.



December Birthdays

- 8 Mike Heffner
- 12 Emily Pfeffer
- 14 Kevin Nelson
- 17 Judy Balzer
- 17 Ed Heidrich
- 17 Sally Thompson
- 19 Lorraine Wittman
- 25 Jackie Hutter
- 27 Irene Lanus
- 28 Dee Pedersen
- 28 Pam Dandrea
- 29 Judy Sullivan
- 31 Jean Hansen

December Anniversaries

- 4 Nick and Brenda Longin
- 7 Allen and Trish Cunnington
- 17 David and Trudye King
- 28 Don and Bernice See
- 30 Kevin and Michelle Nelson
- 31 Mark and Judy Sullivan

Cat/Griz Food Drive Challenge

Our youth group challenged us and Evangelical UMC to compete to collect food for Family Services through a Cat/Griz food drive. Our goal was to outdo First UMC. Shiloh collected 295 pounds of food. Evangelical UMC collections have not been counted yet. First UMC collected 990 pounds for a total of 1285 pounds so far. This was the most ever raised in this food drive and the grand total will be even more when the EUM's numbers are added. Even though the food drive had no impact on the outcome of a really good football game, we thank you for your donations.



Book Review – January 2019

The next book review will be held on Tuesday, January 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the church. The selected book is *“The Impossible Fortress”* by Jason Rekulak. The book is said to be “a surefire unexpected retro delight”. By reading this book, you will remember the events of the 1980's and also relive your teenage years from whatever decade those happened! Everyone welcome – we'd love to have you join us.

The Walk to Emmaus

Do you want a new understanding of God's grace and love for you? If so, consider attending the Walk to Emmaus in early 2019? In case you haven't heard of "The Walk", it is a long weekend in January each year. The Walk seeks to inspire, challenge, and equip you for Christian action in your home, place of work, and community. There are separate weekends for men (Jan. 17-20), women (Jan. 24-27) and High School students (Feb. 8-10). For those of us who have attended, it has strengthened our personal relationship with God. The weekend focuses on reflecting, praying, worshiping, and studying God's Word. Several have found additional purpose and meaning to our lives. If you are interested, please contact the church office for more info.

Aging Well....

Sounds of the Season!



The Aging Well program in December will be one of joy through song and music... carols, hymns, chimes, and bells. Join us as we gather to lift our voices at this most wonderful time of the year.

All are welcome on **Wednesday, December 12, noon-1:30**, at Shiloh United Methodist Church, 1810 Shiloh Road. A no-cost lunch will be provided; RSVPs are encouraged to assist our lunch sponsors. Call (406) 656-0050 or email Liz@shilohbillings.church.

Craft and Bake Sale

December 9th and 15th after each Service

We are seeking donations of your baked goods or crafted items to help make this a great sale. Please have your goodies to the church by 8:00 a.m. on December 9th. This year we have added a silent auction. Carrie Anderson will have four of her paintings available. The bids will close on December 15th at 10 am. Come and see what other items are available during this event sponsored by the Children and Youth Ministries Committee. Bring items to sell or buy, buy, buy!

December Scriptures

2 First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10 (UMH 756)
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

9 Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79 (UMH 208)
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

16 Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18



23 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

24 Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96 (UMH 815)
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20



25 Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98 (UMH 818)
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14

30 First Sunday After Christmas Day

1 Samuel 2:18-20
Psalm 148 (UMH 861)
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

October 2018 Financial Report

General Fund:	October 2018	2018 to Date
Gifts Received	\$12,802.50	\$156,645.62
Expenses	\$16,306.08	\$174,587.12
Difference	-\$ 3,503.58	-\$ 17,941.50

A more detailed report is available from the office if you are interested.



Appreciation for All Volunteers

This is the last newsletter for 2018 so I want to take this opportunity to say Thank You! As the Volunteer Coordinator, it is my job to find ushers, prayer leaders, help in the kitchen for special events, and help on Sunday Fellowship hour. This is not a hard job as everyone in this church is always willing to help and I am so thankful for this... If someone is ill or doesn't show up on the Sunday they signed up for, there is always someone who will step up and help out. Both the first and second services are usually covered and the prayer list and fellowship calendar are filled out. If not, I make a few phone calls and someone always volunteers to help. If not, I stand by the door on Sunday asking for help. To me, this is a sign of True Grace, and the love we all have for our church and our church family.

I want to take this time to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and I will be standing by the volunteer table in 2019. *Liz*

Waffles and Worship

On December 8th at 10:00 a.m., Evangelical United Methodist Church on 345 Broadwater Avenue is starting a new ministry that will reach out to Free Store shoppers and others who are not regular church-goers. They will serve waffles and worship – all at the same time. Members of SUMC are invited to attend this "practice" event. Come enjoy waffles, fellowship, and worship with others.

Relay for Life

The Shiloh Angels and Survivors Relay for Life team would like to thank the people of Shiloh UMC for their generous support this past year. If you ordered a Butter Braid at the recent fundraiser, delivery is scheduled for December 12th, in plenty of time to enjoy for the holidays.

Thank you for the support in the past and we look forward to a successful campaign for the 2019 relay.



Prayers for December

During the year of 2018 we lifted hundreds of prayers to God.

We prayed for our friends and families who lost loved ones, both people and our four-legged friends this past year and for people who will be celebrating the holidays this year without these special people.

We prayed for people who were having surgery and for people suffering from cancer and other diseases both at home or in the hospital and we prayed for their caregivers.

We asked for travel mercies as people went on vacation or for Methodist Pastors who were moving. And we prayed for our youth leaving for college as well as for all our younger children and their teachers as they returned to local schools.

We prayed for friends and families who were going through so many different and difficult problems that God would show them the way or at least let them know they weren't alone on their journey.

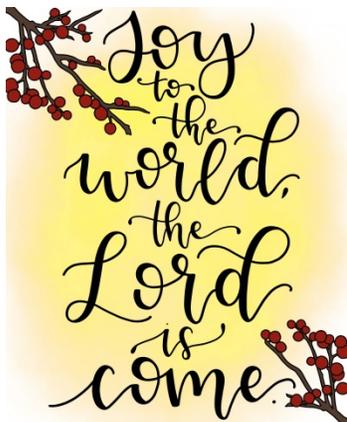
We offered prayers of joy for the all the ministries that work so hard and give so much. And we gave prayers of thanks for new beginnings.

We prayed for our Pastor and our church and our church leaders.

We prayed for our country to be a place of peace and kindness and that all people would be treated with love and respect. And we prayed for our country as it went through so many natural disasters this year, fire, floods, tornadoes and hurricanes.

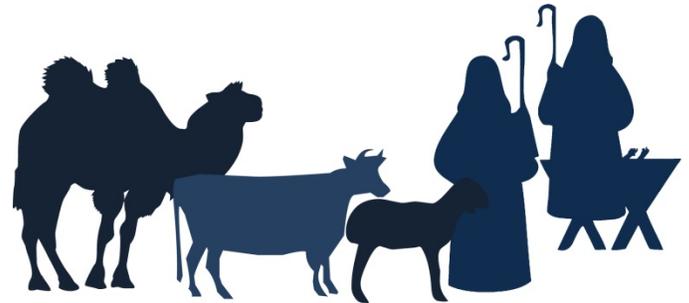
Most of all we gave thanks that, many times, our prayers were heard and answered. We know that all prayers are answered in God's way, not ours.

Please know that we are always here to hear your prayers and pray with you. Prayer Group meets every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary and everyone is welcome.



Read the Bible Cover-to-Cover

Have you ever wanted to read the Bible Cover to Cover? Start the new year with "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." and end it with "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen." A small group will gather at the church at **6:30pm on Monday nights starting January 7** for good discussions and encouragement. And if you can't make all the sessions, don't worry, it is the reading that counts! Contact Norma Smith at 406-656-4897.



Missions Tree

A beloved tradition at Shiloh UMC from the first year we worshiped in our church building has been the Missions Tree. On this tree in the narthex are gift tags you may take and fill with the described gift. Please have your gift back to the church by Sunday, December 16. Always there have been names of residents of St. John's Lutheran Home who, without a gift from a Shiloh congregant, would not receive any gifts. This is a special cause for our church because after Shiloh was chartered but before our building was built, we met for church services every Sunday at the St. John's original building and so this is a way to continue to thank them for sharing their space with us before we had our own facility. In the last several years we have also partnered with Tumbleweed Program for teens in Billings and the Veteran's Home, Independence Hall to provide some Christmas cheer to those in our own community that are of need.

Sunday, December 30th Worship Service

Shiloh UMC's Permanent Endowment



Shiloh United Methodist Church established a permanent endowment in 2007. By definition, an endowment is a donation of money or property to a nonprofit organization which uses the resulting investment income for a specific purpose. Usually an organization's endowment is structured so that the principal amount is kept intact while the investment income is available for use which allows for donations to have an impact over a longer period than if it were spent all at once. Shiloh UMC's endowment has met our minimum principal criteria so this year we will be granting our first gifts from the endowment this month.

If you are interested in donating to Shiloh's Endowment Fund, Montana taxpayers have an incredible tax incentive in the form of a Deferred Gift Annuity for gifts benefitting the permanent endowment of Shiloh United Methodist Church.

Not only is the gift allowed as a charitable deduction on your federal income tax return, it is also eligible for a Montana state 40 percent tax credit of the allowed charitable deduction permitted on federal income tax returns in the year of the gift. The allowable credit is limited to the lesser of 40% of the charitable deduction or your Montana income tax due in the year of the gift. This can represent a substantial income tax saving on both state and federal income tax returns for taxpayers who typically itemize their deductions.

In the last five years, generous donors have continued to give to Shiloh UMC's Permanent Endowment Fund with \$81,000 of those donations given in the Deferred Gift Annuity format which has saved those donors approximately \$51,379 in taxes.

If you would like more information on how you could donate to Shiloh UMC's Permanent

Endowment and receive a deferred payment gift annuity tax credit, please contact Tiffany Madden or Linda Stahley.

A vertical graphic featuring calligraphic text. The text reads "Glory to God in the highest heaven!" in a flowing, cursive script. Below the main text, in a smaller, simpler font, is "LUKE 2:14, NRSV". The text is centered between two vertical gold bars with thin red lines on the inner edges.

2019 Financial Stewardship Drive

The Finance Committee of Shiloh UMC would like to thank everyone who turned in their financial pledge card for 2019. By submitting your intended pledge of giving, it helps the committee to plan the operating budget for our next year. As members of the Finance Committee, we are entrusted to act as faithful and good stewards of your financial gifts by balancing the physical needs of the church with our call to mission work with our neighbors of the world. If you did not have a chance to return your pledge card and would still like to, you may pick one up in the office, complete and return to the office in a sealed envelope.

Pastor Tyler's Corner

We are amidst the hustle and bustle now, this season is such a mix of emotions. Every year I hear people say, "I am trying to change focus this year, or I want to settle and ground myself for the holidays." There is a strong desire for people to find themselves during this season and there should be. The holiday season draws us near family and people who make the times memorable and who have supported our growth. The can be hard for the same reason, because if we have lost people in the year or those relationships have changed, this is the time we miss what was.

I invite you this season to try one thing to ground yourself and change focus this season. You should prayerfully choose what will matter for you. Do not overdo it, be gentle with yourself. Choose one new tradition that makes you slow down, like our Solstice Service with the Jewish community. Find one way to learn something new this season, like listening to all the sermons for the season on our website. Or if you are missing someone find a way to gather with people, join us for Aging Well or Messy Worship this month. Finally, be sure to culminate the season by joining us on Christmas Eve to remember the story of who we are a people who follow love born in a lowly stable.

Finally, I want to celebrate this year of ministry. Advent officially begins the new Christian year and it is good to offer my thanks for the past year. We have welcomed 600+ people through our doors with an Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat. We have welcome 7 new members by profession of faith and 2 new transfers. Together we have mourned the loss of dear friends, and spent time remembering their contributions to our lives. And as always I give thanks for each conversation I have had with people who are growing their faith with our God.

As we reflect and turn toward the manger, blessings and prayers to each of you.

Pastor Tyler

SHILOH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1810 Shiloh Road, Billings, MT 59106-1708
406-656-0050
ShilohBillings.Church
Pastor Tyler Amundson
Sunday Schedule
Worship Times: 8 & 10:15 am
Adult Sunday School: 9 am
Children's Sunday School: 10:15 am
Nursery open: 7:45 to 11:15 am

Return Service Requested

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