

SHILOH CONNECT

DECEMBER 2023



SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH . 855 EAST 20TH AVENUE . ANCHORAGE, AK 99501



Dear Church Family

Christmas presents an exceptional opportunity each year for us to refocus. We are reminded of the overwhelming, world-altering, life-transforming gift that is Jesus and our absolute need for Jesus to restore us in our relationship with the Father. That is why he came: to allow us to live in peace with God. That's why Jesus announced to Zachaeus, the tax collector, *"The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost"* (Luke 19:10). Not only that, but the angels declared triumphantly, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."* (Luke 2:14).

In preparing for this season, I am amazed at the abundance of Scriptures that speak of why Jesus came. I pray you take some personal and family time to journey through the Bible this Christmas season to see what God says about Jesus' coming. You cannot exhaust the Scriptures, but I pray you will see the central focus: *Jesus Came to Save the lost*. It's not enough for us to know who Jesus is. The world must understand why He came and what impact He will make!

You and your family are invited to join us for the following special Christmas Services that will touch our hearts with hope, peace, joy, and love. Please invite your friends, co-workers, and neighbors to join us.

December 20, 7:00 PM ~ Shiloh Family Christmas Celebration (in-person Only)

December 24, 11:00 AM ~ Worship & Baptism

December 25, 11:00 AM ~ Shiloh Christmas Day Worship

It is a blessing for us to behold the baby Jesus! As we approach our celebrations and festivities this Christmas season, don't let this story of God's unfailing love for the world go unspoken, but share this good news with everyone so they, too, can find hope, peace, joy, and love in baby Jesus Christ! Rest assured; Jesus will always be the pinnacle of Christmas!

I leave you with this traditional Christmas benediction: "May God fill you with the wonders of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of Jesus. God's blessings be upon you now and forever!"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

In His Grip,
Pastor Undra Parker

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church



6th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration for

Reverend Dr. Undra Parker & First Lady Mildred Parker

December 10, 2023 at 11:00 AM

Our Pastor, God's Gift to Our Church
Jeremiah 3:15

Anniversary Speaker: Pastor Tommy Leonard, III, New Season
Anniversary Reception Immediately Following Worship

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Christmas Day Worship | 11:00 AM



O, COME LET US ADORE HIM



YOU ARE INVITED

SHILOH FAMILY CHRISTMAS NIGHT

DECEMBER 20, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

WE'RE HAVING A PARTY! OUR SHILOH CHILDREN, YOUTH AND SENIORS ARE COMING TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS. YOU ARE INVITED!!!! THIS WILL BE THE GREATEST BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH SHILOH FAMILIES! YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS NIGHT.

THERE WILL BE STORYTELLING ABOUT THE BIRTH OF JESUS, FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN TO INCLUDE FAMILY GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING AND MORE.....

WE INVITE ALL SHILOH KIDS AND YOUTH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MUSIC AND SPEECHES THAT WILL BE PRESENTED.

PARENTS, PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS TO BE A PART OF THE CELEBRATION TEAM AS WE PREPARE FOR JESUS BIRTHDAY.

DATES OF REHEARSALS: DECEMBER 6TH AT 7:00 PM; DECEMBER 9TH AT 1:00 PM; DECEMBER 13TH AT 7:00 PM; DECEMBER 16TH AT 1:00 PM; DECEMBER 19TH AT 7:00 PM.

Season Of Thanks and Giving

2023 Sacrificial Giving STRETCHING OURSELVES

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” — 2 Corinthians 9:7 NKJV

November and December are a SEASON OF THANKS and GIVING! We have come to expect requests for giving to support people in need, and we have always been very generous in our Shiloh giving. We are very aware, however, that these post-pandemic years, combined with high food costs, high interest rates, increased housing costs, and inflation in everything, have made 2023 a challenging financial year for many of us.

At Shiloh, we hear daily, Jesus when He tells us in Matthew 25:

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

Jesus’ words motivate Shiloh to constantly look into our community and see the needs of those who are struggling even more than we are; His words encourages

us to **STRETCH OURSELVES** to give sacrificially!

Our desire is to LIVE SIMPLY THAT OTHERS MAY SIMPLY LIVE!

A SEASON OF THANKS and GIVING:

During this season, we offer giving opportunities to our members because God will magnify our collective offerings to do more excellent work in His name than any of us alone could do—and by this, our community will know that we are Christians [Christ-followers] by our LOVE! When this happens, many non-believers will want to know the God we serve! This is our purpose—to make God known in this unbelieving world!

As you review our November and December Season of Thanks and Giving Opportunities, will you “purpose in your heart”—that is, pray and plan to include our church’s 2023 Mission Outreach in your budget? When we are careful with our prayers and planning for our financial life, we never have to give grudgingly or of necessity—we can always give cheerfully, with thanksgiving, unspeakable joy and gratitude for the opportunities we have to serve our GREAT GOD!

SHILOH LET’S
Stretch, STRETCH, STRETCH,
OURSELVES THIS SEASON!

Season Of Thanks and Giving



GIVING for CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

The Shiloh Foodbank will prepare Food Baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Foodbank Team can purchase the items for the baskets for less than individual members can because they will buy in bulk from Foodbank Alaska and from warehouse stores such as Costco. This year we are requesting financial donations—not food items. The Foodbank Team will shop for us and **STRETCH** our donations 2, 3 or even 4 folds.

How do you give? Give as you always do—simply make a notation **STRETCHING FOR HUNGER 2023! Or you can just quietly say for Foodbank Food Baskets!**

Beginning November 12, as an act of THANKSGIVING and GRATITUDE to our God who provides, the Team will place food bags on the Altar with the names of those who have given. We are praying that we will see a beautiful portrait of sacrificial offerings from Shiloh—there will be so many bags that there will not be room on the Altar for more. Will you **STRETCH FOR HUNGER?**



GIFTS for THE SHILOH CLOTHES CLOSET

We love to give gifts during this SEASON OF THANKS and GIVING! We invite you to add one more gift to your list—a gift for someone who has so very little and who is in need of the basic necessities—gloves, underwear, socks, a warm coat, boots, warm throws and blankets—all winter wear for both men and women. Can you imagine being without these clothing?

You can shop for your gift—maybe in your own closet of gently used clean clothing! Underwear must be new! You can purchase your gift or give a donation and the Clothes Closet Team will shop for you.

How do you give? Give as you always do—simply make a notation **STRETCHING to CLOTHE 2023! Or you can just quietly say Gift for Clothes Closet! You can bring your gift to the church office Tuesday-Saturday. You can visit the Clothes Closet on Saturdays at 8:00-10:00 AM—bring your gift!**



SHILOH

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SHILOH SWAG STORE IS OPEN

Every Sunday after worship the store will be open for 30 minutes. It is opened Tuesday-Saturday during church office hours. Purchase, "I Love My Church Shirts, Shiloh mugs, Shiloh hats and more. We invite you to visit the store!

SEASON OF THANKS AND GIVING



MEMBERSHIP CARE MINISTRY ADOPT-A-FAMILY 2023

STRETCHING TO BE A BLESSING

The holidays can be a time of joy and togetherness, but for many under-resourced families, it is the time of year they dread. We want every Shiloh family to have a wonderful Christmas. We help our families year-round with basic needs. At Christmas, because of the beautiful gift God has given—His only Son for our redemption—we celebrate Christmas by giving extravagantly to others—because we are so thankful!

Families can be referred for adoption by any Shiloh member. All referrals are approved and processed by Shiloh's Membership Care Family Support Team.

HOW TO REFER A FAMILY:

You can refer a family for adoption to your Parish Leader[Deacon/Deaconesses]. Call your deacon or deaconess, and they will help you make your referral. You can refer your own family.

HOW TO ADOPT-A-FAMILY

You can participate as an individual sponsor or organize a group of friends or co-workers to work with you. Shiloh Ministries can also work together to adopt one or more families. If you are willing to ADOPT-A-FAMILY, our Family Support Ministry will match you with a family. You will connect with your family and discuss their needs for Christmas—then you give accordingly. Please share with Shiloh, not directly to the family. You will get to know the family and will be able to encourage and pray with and for them long after the Christmas season is over.

To ADOPT-A-FAMILY, call 907.276.6673 and give your name, email, and phone and Family Support will contact you. You can also email: billiehill@shilohmbcalaska.org

HOW TO GIVE TO ADOPT-A-FAMILY

How do you give? Give as you always do—make a notation STRETCHING TO BE A BLESSING 2023! Or you can quietly say Adopt-A-FAMILY!

Adopted Families will receive gift cards for food and gifts for Christmas.

- ☐ I want to Adopt a Family this Christmas.
- ☐ I want to recommend a Family for Adoption: _____
- ☐ I want to make a donation toward helping a Family this Christmas.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

CHRISTMAS@SHILOH CONNECT WITH SHILOH



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(in-person Only)

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Worship Celebration & Baptism

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Shiloh Christmas Day Worship



EVERY WEEK @ SHILOH

SUNDAY:
Worship Service 11:00 AM
Sunday School 9:45 AM

MONDAY:
Shiloh Offices Closed

WEDNESDAY:
Senior Wednesday: 11:00 AM
Prayer, Bible Study, Lunch 6:30 PM
Shiloh Prayer 6:30 PM
Youth & Children's Groups 7:00 PM
Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
The Voices of Shiloh Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM

SATURDAY:
Shiloh Conference Line Prayer 8:00 AM
Clothe Closet Outreach 8:00 AM
Food Bank Outreach 9:00 AM

EVERY MONTH @ SHILOH

- Communion Celebration: Every 1st Sunday
- Shiloh 101 "Discover Our Church"
New Members Orientation [Visitors Welcome] 9:45 AM
- Baptism Celebration: 4th Sundays @ 11:00 AM

SHILOH STAFF

Reverend Dr. Undra Parker, Pastor: undra.parker@shilohmbcalaska.org

Reverend Gwuana Thomas, Associate Pastor for Disciples & Operation:
gwuana.thomas@shilohmbcalaska.org

Reverend Mildred Parker, Executive Minister for Administration & Ministries: mildred.parker@shilohmbcalaska.org

Reverend Edwin Taylor, Minister of Music & Worship Arts:
edwin.taylor@shilohmbcalaska.org

Walsh Brown, Director of IT & Media: walsh.brown@shilohmbcalaska.org

Billie Hill, Administrative Assistant: billie.hill@shilohmbcalaska.org



Scan the QR Code to visit Shiloh's website where you can learn more about Shiloh as well as stay up-to-date on all ministry opportunities, events and activities.



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