Shiloh United Methodist Church Newsletter | Sept 2026

hello SEPTEMBER

A Letter from Pastor Amanda

Dear Shiloh Family,

Last month, we gathered for our first Dinner Church, and I am so grateful for everyone who helped make it possible. We shared food, conversation, laughter, play, and blessing, and welcomed people into the life of Shiloh in a way that looked a little different from Sunday morning. I am excited to see how this ministry continues to grow. Our next Dinner Church will be **Thursday, September 17,** and I hope you will join us.

This month, we are also beginning a new worship series called **The Bible Is Weird (and Wonderful).** And, well… it is.

The Bible is ancient. It was written and edited across centuries, by different people, in different places and languages. It contains poetry and history, laws and letters, beautiful promises, difficult stories, strange visions, and plenty of questions. Sometimes we are taught that faithful reading means smoothing over all of that complexity. But questions are not the enemy of faith. They can be part of how faith grows.

Over the next several weeks, we will look at where the Bible came from, how it came together, why translations differ, how we approach difficult passages, and what it means to read Scripture faithfully today. My hope is not that we end the series with every question answered. I hope we come away with better questions, a deeper appreciation for Scripture, and more confidence opening the Bible together.

This fall, whether we are gathering around tables or around Scripture, I am grateful that Shiloh is making room to learn, grow, and encounter God together.

Peace, Pastor Amanda

P.S. If you would like a book to read alongside the series, Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible* will be a helpful companion. You certainly do not need to read it to follow along, but it offers an accessible deeper dive into many of the questions we will be exploring together.

"Follow" Opportunities This Month

Wherever you find yourself on your faith journey, here are a few ways to participate in the life of Shiloh this month:

WELCOME Join us for Dinner Church on **Thursday, Sept. 17** for food, conversation, connection, and faith around the table. Come as you are, and bring someone with you.

CARE As fall schedules get busier, make space for rest, prayer, and renewal. Sabbath reminds us that rest is part of faithful living, not something we have to earn.

GROW Bring your Bible as we begin **The Bible Is Weird (and Wonderful)** in worship. We'll explore how Scripture came together, why translation matters, and how we faithfully engage the questions it raises.

GO Know someone who has questions about the Bible—or has never felt like there was room to ask them? Invite them to join us for **The Bible Is Weird (and Wonderful)** as we explore Scripture with curiosity and honesty.

CHURCH INFORMATION:

Rev. Amanda Gastreich, Pastor—pastor@shiloh-methodist.com
Tara Hembree, Admin—admin@shiloh-methodist.com
shiloh-methodist.com 636/673-2144

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith will be assisting with the church services during the month of September to help celebrate UWF Month.

Each week these dedicated ladies will be your Liturgist, Communion help and your greeters.

A **Special Recognition Award** will be given on **Sept. 13** to someone we felt went above and beyond the call of Christian service in our community. Following the church service on Sunday, 9/13 you are invited to attend a reception in the Fellowship Hall, hosted by UWF. **We hope you will join us!**

United Methodist Men

Salvage Collection: We are always available to collect salvage! If you have something you'd like to donate, please contact Glenn Parker at 636-327- 5527.

The monies made from recycling donated salvage are used to support the UMM's mission budget.

Items collected for salvage: Stoves, refrigerators, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, metal siding, windows, doors, storm doors, screens, etc.

Generosity Corner

Generosity is something we practice together.
No single gift sustains the ministry of Shiloh. Instead, gifts of many different sizes come together to support worship, care for our church family, maintain our building, reach into the community, and participate in the wider ministry of the United Methodist Church.

That shared generosity helps sustain the life and ministry we share at Shiloh, while also giving us room to welcome, invite, and make space for something new. Ministries like Dinner Church remind us that God is still opening doors and creating new opportunities for connection.

If giving is not already part of your spiritual practice, consider how you might begin. If it is, take a moment to reflect on how your generosity helps Shiloh remain a place of welcome where God can continue working through this church for generations to come.

Thank you for the many ways you support Shiloh through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

September
Birthdays and Anniversaries

2 Meghan (Todd) Bridger
8 Jim Sherman
8 Patty Bunner
9 Fred & Pat Ameis
16 Sam Moore
18 Cheryl Satterfield
20 Megan Reed
21 Lillian Presley
25 Joshua & Megan Reed

Shiloh's Music Ministry

Choir Practice is back! Join each Wednesday evening from 7—8 p.m. at Shiloh. All are welcome!

Youth Ministry events will be announced soon for the Fall! Stay tuned!

Kids Ministry

September Theme:

Lead the Way: A 4-week series from Exodus on Moses

Happenings at Shiloh

Dinner Church @ Shiloh

DINNER. WORSHIP. CONNECTION.
3RD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH @ 5:30 P.M.
SEPT 17 | OCT 15 | NOV 19 | DEC 17

SCAN ME

⭐ Dinner provided by Shiloh
⭐ Invite a friend!

THE BIBLE IS *Weird* (And Wonderful)

STARTS SEPT 13

Lunch Bunch Sept 9 at 12PM

Top 5 Ways to Get More Out of *The Bible Is Weird (and Wonderful)*

1. Bring a Bible with you. Use the translation you already have and feel comfortable with. Part of the series will be noticing how different translations can shape what we hear.

2. Slow down with the text. Try reading a passage more than once. A simple practice (sometimes called *Lectio Divina)*—reading slowly, noticing a word or phrase that stands out, reflecting, praying, and resting with the text—can help Scripture move from information to encounter.

3. Ask what is behind the passage. Who wrote it? Who first heard it? What was happening historically or culturally? A good study Bible, Bible dictionary, commentary, or trusted online resource can help uncover the world behind the words and give important context for what you are reading.

4. Follow your questions. If something confuses, surprises, or troubles you, dig a little deeper. Check another translation, look at how the passage fits within the larger book, or bring the question to someone else.

5. Read in community. Talk about what you noticed, what bothered you, or what you are still wondering. We often understand more when we read Scripture alongside other people. Shiloh's **Bible in a Year group meets Sunday mornings and is always happy to welcome new members** into the conversation.

Lunch Bunch for September is Fall Favorites.

Please join us on Wed. Sept. 9 at 12 p.m. and bring your favorite fall dish, side or dessert to share and enjoy great food and fellowship. A donation for the food pantry is always appreciated.

Bring Your Bible!

As we prepare for **The Bible Is Weird (and Wonderful)**, we're creating a display of the many different Bibles that have shaped our lives.

You're invited to loan us a Bible for the series. It might be:

- an old or new Bible
- a children's Bible
- a family Bible
- a different translation
- or simply one that means something to you

Please make sure any Bible you loan is **clearly labeled with your name**, and don't bring anything irreplaceable unless you're comfortable with others seeing and handling it.

We also invite you to **bring a Bible you can use in worship each week** during the series.

If you don't have one, or would like a more readable translation, let Pastor Amanda know—no judgment, no explanation needed. We would be glad to provide one.

Trunk-or-Treat Event

Saturday, Oct. 24 from 2pm - 4pm

Follow us on Facebook for more info: www.facebook.com/shilohforistell

- Snacks & refreshments
- Activities
- Family fun
- Come in Costume
- Free event!

Shiloh United Methodist Church
1515 Hwy T
Foristell, MO 63348

Dated Material

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7 p.m. Choir	3	4	5
6 9 a.m. Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship	7	8 5:30 p.m. Lead Team	9 12 p.m. Lunch Bunch 7 p.m. Choir	10	11	12
13 9 a.m. Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship UWF Reception	14	15	16 7 p.m.Choir	17 5:30 p.m. Dinner Church	18	19
20 9 a.m. Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship	21	22	23 7 p.m. Choir	24	25	26
27 9 a.m. Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship	28	29	30 7 p.m. Choir			