

The Worship Service

Sunday, December 29, 2024



Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

610-326-3535 ~ www.shenkelucc.org ~ shenkelucc@aol.com ~

Shenkel's UCC's Covenant Statement

So reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it, now you do it! (Romans 15:7, The Message)

We are aware of pain organized religion has inflicted on many; and we are aware many places of worship have not given the extravagant welcome God offers to us all. Therefore, Shenkel United Church of Christ covenants to extend heartfelt hospitality to ALL. Shenkel UCC affirms all persons are created in the image of God, so we offer full inclusion (communion, life, and ministries) in the faith journey of this congregation, regardless of differences: whether religious background, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, national origin, immigration and refugee status, age, ethnicity, relationship status, addiction/recovery, physical or mental ability, and political affiliation. We proclaim this statement: **no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**

Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!

An Open and Affirming congregation since 2018

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

~Gathering Together~

Prelude O Worship the King with Angels from the Realms of Glory (arr. Bernadine Johnson)

Welcome

Invocation

Call to Worship

L: Let us praise God together,

C: For our eyes have seen your salvation;

L: A light for revelation to the Gentiles,

C: And glory for your people Israel.

Opening Hymn "Awake! Awake, And Greet the New Morn" (See insert)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Friends, in Jesus, Emmanuel, God became one of us. There is no part of our being that he does not know and understand. Therefore, we have courage to confess our struggles and ask for forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

Now that the mad rush is over, O center of stillness and peace,

Now that the needles are falling from the tree,

We thank you that you are still God-with-us.

As we face the year ahead, help us to accept the difficult parts of our lives;

help us to make the changes we need to make;

bring us to new places of openness and love toward you and the people around us.

Help us to overcome the fears that keep us from the fullness of life.

As we face the year ahead, help us to be signs of your compassion, hope, joy and unity in this world you love through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear and trust in this good news: that unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. Through him, we are saved and receive new life!

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Special Music

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Louise Hine

Psalm 148

Luke 2:21-36

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Holding Hope in Your Arms"

Rev. Pam McShane

Hymn for Reflection: "O Come All You Faithful"

(See insert)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Our Savior

Minister: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

All: Our Mother/Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy

Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries. December's Special Offering: The Christmas Fund

Offertory I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (Calkin, arr. Mier)

Offering Response "Christmas Doxology"

**Praise God whose dawn transfigures night,
Whose daystar shines for us on high,
Whose Spirit brings into our sight,
The hope to which our world draws nigh. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "Who Would Think that What was Needed?" (See insert)

Benediction

Postlude Pat A Pan (arr. Scott)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com

Sexton: Stacy Keim

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth

Organist: Susan Royer

Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Special Music:

**Announcements:
Sunday, December 29, 2024**

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 12/29/24 ~ One service with breakfast at 9:00 am in the Social Hall

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 1/5/25 ~ Reflective Worship service with communion at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary

~ Traditionalish Worship service with communion at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary

Please feel free to scan this code to donate through our online giving page.



Scripture Reading for January 5th

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Matthew 2:1-12

Tootie Hine

Carol Lykens Giving Challenge: We're receiving gifts for our Carol Lykens Fill-The-Hat Challenge! You're encouraged to make an additional contribution to the Current Fund beyond your usual giving. The goal is to match Carol's \$5000 bequest to help us meet our budget. Contributions can be made to Shenkel UCC with "Carol Challenge" in the memo line, or donate online through our website. Thank you!

OPERATION 143 BACKPACK NIGHT: Monday, January 6th is the next Shenkel Pack Night at Operation 143. We will meet at 6 pm at Operation 143 (entrance in the back of the New York Plaza Building). At least 10 volunteers are needed. Individuals interested in participating should contact Chris Gray cgcgal@comcast.net or (610) 246-3548.

Mark Your Calendars: "NEW YEAR REBOOT: CONNECTING MIND, BODY & SPIRIT FOR A HEALTHIER YOU": January 11th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, this is an ADULT ONLY event.

Grocery run? Consider using Giant and Redner's cards for your grocery store purchases: Shenkel earns \$5 for every \$100 on Giant and Redner's gift cards – which are available every week at church.

Stewardship: Stewardship Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. The charge of the committee is to: find ways to increase much needed revenue, attract new members, and identify new ways to provide ministry. Please contact members of the committee with your thoughts. Committee members: Chris Gray, Dan Jenkins, Kim Yocum, Julie Zachesky, and Brenda Berriker.

Church School: Children from 3 years through grade 6 are invited to participate in church school on the third Sunday of the month at 11:00 AM. Our next church school is January 19th.

Shenkel Prayer Group: Meets at 10:00 am on the first Thursday of the month. All are welcome to participate. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and celebrate the Spirit of God moving among us as we pray together.

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

Collin Gray

Dan and Rosemary Wolgemuth

Joan Granger

Heather Burhans Tran

Suzanne Spaulding

Birthdays in the month of December:

Isabelle Chidawu	12/4/24
Mari O'Drain	12/4/24
John Jonides	12/8/24
Abigail Dise	12/9/24
Analexis Foss	12/15/24
Verna Walters	12/15/24
Judith Gergle	12/20/24
Betty Bortz	12/21/24
Bonnie Cox	12/21/24
Jim Faust	12/22/24
Josh Palubinsky	12/23/24
TJ Augustine III	12/24/24
Jeffrey Luckenbach	12/26/24