



Shenkel United Church of Christ



SHENKEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1580 Shenkel Road
Pottstown, PA 19465


ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



September

2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
6 Traditional service 9:45 am Communion	7	8 Consistory 6 pm	9	10	11	12
13 Traditional service 9:45 am Baptism	14	15 Deadline for Profile Survey	16	17	18	19
20 Traditional service 9:45 am	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Traditional service 9:45 am	28	29	30			

Shenkel United Church of Christ

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor
Rev. Suzanne Spaulding

Organist:
Susan Royer

Music Director
Dan Wolgemuth

Office Administrator:
Lisa Dice

Sexton:
Stacey Keim

COVENANTED MINISTER IN MISSION

Rev. Wanda D. Craner,
Gestalt Pastoral Care
Minister and Trainer
Gestalt Pastoral Care
Associates

CONSISTORY

President:
Randy Berriker

Vice President:
Sandy Rowe

Secretary:
Dan Jenkins

Treasurer:
Ken Bevan

Financial Secretary:
Joan Palubinsky

Elders:
Randy Berriker
Joan Palubinsky
Sandy Rowe

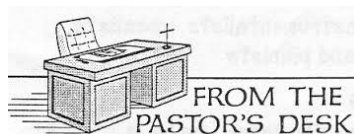
Deacons:
Dan Jenkins
Gary McDermit
Pat Kuestner
Tony Gulotta

MINISTERS

All the members
of the church

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown PA 19465 610.326.3535

Email: shenkelucc@aol.com www.shenkelucc.org



Usually in September our society's attention turns to school. Parents take pictures of children on their first day of a new grade. School buses fill the roads in the mornings and afternoons, delaying traffic with their frequent stops. Fall sports ramp up and football bleachers fill with parents and fans to cheer on their local high school team. Churches often have 'Rally Day', the day when Sunday School classes begin again. There isn't much 'usual' about this September.

Back in March when we were ordered to 'stay home and stay safe', many of us thought that surely by now, the worst would be behind us and we would be getting back to life as usual. Well, here we are in September and still feeling the 'disorder' created by the pandemic. In times of disorder I find myself returning again and again to the Psalms for insight, comfort, words of lament, and reminders of God's unfailing love. I have a book called Psalms for Praying; An Invitation to Wholeness by Nan C. Merrill. It is not meant in any way to replace the well-known Psalms of the Hebrew Scriptures. What it does for me is open up the Psalms and help them to be even more accessible and meaningful.

I share part of Psalm 46 with you here:

The Beloved is our refuge and our strength,
a loving Presence in times of trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though
the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the
heart of the sea;

Though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble
with its tumult....

Come, behold the works of the Beloved,
how love does reign even in
humanity's desolation.

For the Beloved makes wars to cease,
breaking through the barriers of fear,
shattering the greedy and oppressors,
refining hearts of iron!

"Be still and know that I am Love,
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth!"

The One who knows all hearts
is with us;

The Beloved is our refuge and our strength.

(Merrill, Nan C., Psalms for praying: an invitation to wholeness, The Continuum International Publishing Group Ltd., London, pg. 90,91)

(Continued from Page 3)

During this unusual September may you be reminded of God's continued presence with you. In the midst of the disorder all around and often within; may you sense Love and recognize your refuge and strength.

Pastor Suzanne

Sorrow upon sorrow

BY [NISHAN BAKALIAN](#) ON AUGUST 06, 2020

"It's an earthquake!" As the ground rolled under our feet at Haigazian University, we stirred with uncertainty as to how long it would last. Seconds later, when an explosion blew out windows all around, we realized that the first was not an earthquake at all, and that we had entered a new, sad chapter in the current history of Lebanon. Sorrow has been heaped upon sorrow.

The huge inferno at the Port of Beirut that devastated, in varying degrees, nearly half of the capital city brought Lebanon yet lower into the mire and yet farther from any hope of recovery from its travail of the past months.

A mismanaged and crashing economy, unsuccessful and feeble attempts to combat corruption, stresses of hosting a refugee population numbering nearly half of the country's resident citizens, reduction of electrical supply to 3 or 4 hours a day, the diversion of crucial resources to combat the coronavirus – all of these were more than most could bear. Now this, and people ask "What's next? What more could possibly happen?"

Glass is everywhere. Haigazian's buildings were all affected heavily. The churches and schools of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches (UAECNE) sustained great damage.

The sliding glass doors that form the entire front of the Near East School of Theology came crashing down. Thousands were injured, and the death toll is rapidly approaching 200. Homes and businesses were shattered. One side of our apartment, located in the UAECNE headquarters, had all its doors and windows blown inward. An elevated roadway near the blast site has been closed and is in danger of collapse.

Yet the greatest casualty of this event on a breezy August 4th evening was the spirit of the people. It has been crushed, demoralizing a population wishing for a better tomorrow for their children, hoping to stem the tide of emigration for job opportunities. Is it "crushed but not broken" (2 Cor. 4.8)? That remains to be seen. Our work in the meantime is to pray, serve, listen, encourage, and trust God fiercely through all of this. Join us in prayer!

Nishan Bakalian serves with the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in Lebanon. His appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission, and your special gifts.

August Consistory Highlights

- ◆ In-person services began on August 2nd. Our late service will continue in the Grove until weather no longer permits in the fall. We thank everyone for following our mask and social distancing protocols during our services.
- ◆ A \$500 Bill Boyer Scholarship was awarded to both Michaela Craner and TJ Augustine for 2020.
- ◆ Due to COVID-19 concerns, we have elected not to be a polling place for the upcoming November election. The North Coventry Elementary School on Kemp Road will be the substitute location.
- ◆ Recording of our outdoor services has been an audio challenge. We are exploring ways to improve the sound quality.

Shenkel's Early and Late Service Update

Greetings Shenkel Family:

We've now been sharing in-person services for three weeks. I wanted to let you know what we've learned and actions we've taken. As a reminder, only come back when you are comfortable. Whatever feelings you have about returning are fine.

I apologize for the audio quality on the recordings the first two weeks. We tried something different this past week and the sound was much better. You may have to increase your volume; but there aren't any crickets and static in the audio now. We will continue recording services and looking for ways to make the recordings better.

Of course the weather has not cooperated fully. As long as we are not having a monsoon or a heat index of 100, we will continue to meet in the Grove or under the pavilion. Someone told me on Sunday they've already broken out the hat and gloves for our fall, outside services.

Two or three people have been attending the early service; 23-27 folks have been attending the late service. The few attendees at the early service have volunteered to come at 9:45 rather than have us support the additional service. After prayerful consideration, Consistory has elected to suspend the early service for now. As the year and the pandemic progress, we will revisit this decision. Hopefully in the not too distant future, this will all be behind us.

Our late service format will not change. Thanks to Dan and Susan, we've had some wonderful music during that time. In particular, Pastor Suzanne has found ways for us to pray together using sign language and has reduced the number of times we verbally respond.

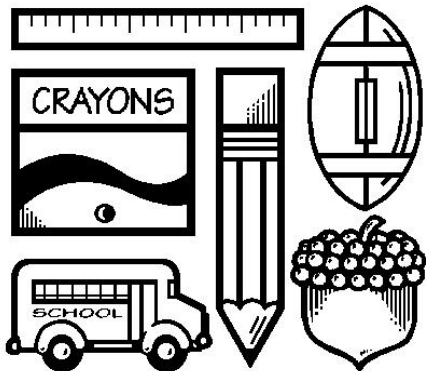
I also thank all of you for your financial stewardship during this time. The postal service has done a great job making certain we receive your mail-in offerings. Ken and I are hoping to have a PPP Loan update in September for you. For now, those funds have not been included in our Current Budget financial reports you see in the bulletin and newsletter.

As we move into the fall, let Pastor Suzanne and Consistory know what different shapes our various ministries could take for our community. As I noted before, the Israelites wandered in the Wilderness for 40 years. Thank goodness it's only been 5 months for us.

Randy Berriker
Consistory President



Dushanko, Mark	09/05
Zachesky, Clay	09/05
Bradley, Glen	09/08
Mocarski, Sherri	09/09
Gray, Collin	09/11
Viti, Jaden	09/12
Armbruster, Sam	09/13
Armbruster, Connie	09/16
Dyott, Catherine	09/19
Burhans Tran, Heather	09/20
Gray, Chris	09/21
Craner, Tesia	09/23
Pearson, Ronald	09/24
Scheler, Richard	09/30



During the month of September, Shenkel UCC will be praying for these randomly selected members and friends of our congregation:

- 9/6 June Hartung
Wanda and Steve Craner
Pat Kuestner
Tootie Hine
Susan and Gary Stultz
- 9/13 Sherri and Bob Mocarski
Judy Gergle
Lisa and Barry Yocom
Nicole and Scott Meehan
Clay Zachesky
- 9/20 Celia Phillips
Carolyn and Bill Baseley
Gene, Emily and Nick Takach and
Eric Croom
Kim and Steve Bade
Alex Mocarski
- 9/27 Carol Lykens
Mark Dushanko
Linda, Andrew, Brandon, Aaron, Michael and
AJ Foss and Christina Hauze
Joan and Joe Granger
Susan and Barry Miller





As of July 31, 2020	Current Fund	
ACTUAL	Month	YTD
Opening Bal.	(1,113)	8,784
Giving	6,887	69,796
Expenses	(14,005)	(96,859)
Subtotal	(8,231)	(18,279)
Rent Income	1,700	11,900
Other	3	(150)
Ending Balance	(6,528)	(6,528)
Net Chg	(5,415)	(15,312)
BUDGET	Month	YTD
Giving	14,707	102,947
Over (Under)	(7,820)	(33,151)

Our Church's Wider Mission		
July 31, 2020	Month	YTD
Actual	570.00	4,681.00
Budget	958.33	6,708.33
Over (under)	(388.33)	(2,027.33)

Greetings from Your Profile Committee!

First, a big thank you to everyone who completed our Strengths and Positive Qualities Survey. The more information we get from a variety of people, the more accurate and complete our Profile will be. Remember, the Profile is like our congregation's resume. It is what pastors will look at to determine whether they would be a good fit for our congregation. It's very important that all voices be heard.

While surveys would not be our first choice of getting input from the congregation, the pandemic has forced us to rely on this means of gathering information. We are also offering Zoom meetings and recognize that those of you with busy work schedules have had your fill of Zoom, so we encourage you to complete and return the surveys we will be presenting in the next few months.

Here is the next information we need from you. Please complete and return to Brenda Berriker at 338 Garey Road, Douglassville, PA 19518 OR email to shenkelprofile20@gmail.com **BY SEPTEMBER 15**. OR if you are attending worship, Dan Jenkins will be leading our discussion after church (outside) on September 13. Thank you!

Worship

How would you describe a "good sermon"?

Do you have deep feelings about the sanctuary? The grove? Is there anything you would like to say about our places of worship?

How important is music to your worship? If it is important, what style of music moves you?

What is the high point of worship for you?

Describe any worship service you ever attended that thrilled you and felt truly spirit led.

Does a Taize style of worship appeal to you, and have you ever attended one?

Your Profile Committee,

Dan Jenkins, Lori Scharneck, Gary McDermit,

Brenda Berriker

