



Shenkel United Church of Christ



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>Thursdays: Chime Choir at 6:30 pm Chancel Choir at 7:30 pm</p>			<p>1 Office Closed</p>	<p>2 Choir</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Reflective service 8:30 am Traditional service 9:45 am Communion at both services</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Choir</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Reflective service 8:30 am Traditional service 9:45 am Baptism Welcome Reception</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Sewing Circle 9:30 am Consistory 6 pm</p>	<p>15 PRC 5 pm Agape at Freda Wanner's 7 pm</p>	<p>16 Card making class 10 am Choir</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Reflective service 8:30 am Traditional service 9:45 am</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Midday dinner club - 12 pm</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Choir</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Unified Jubilee Service 9:45 am Congregational Meeting following worship</p>	<p>27 Community Meal at Christ Episcopal 12pm</p>	<p>28 Sewing Circle 9:30 am</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Choir</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Homeless Shelter is held January 12 from 1-5 pm</p>

Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown PA 19465 610.326.3535

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

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:

Dave Derman

Treasurer:

Ken Bevan

Financial Secretary:

Joan Palubinsky

Elders:

Randy Berriker

Joan Palubinsky

Sandy Rowe

Deacons:

Dave Derman

Gary McDermit

Pat Kuestner

Tony Gulotta

MINISTERS

All the members
of the church

Greetings members and friends:

You've probably heard the good news by now that we have called Pastor Suzanne Spaulding as our designated-term pastor. I encourage you to take time to read her introduction included in the newsletter.

On Sunday, January 12th, she will lead both services in worship for the first time. After the late service, you are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall for a "meet and greet" with Pastor Suzanne. That will be your first chance to introduce yourself to her and test her name memory.

On Sunday, January 26th, we will have a unified service in Fellowship Hall, after which we will have our annual Congregational Meeting. Ken Bevan will have our final financial reports and we'll have an update on our water abatement project.

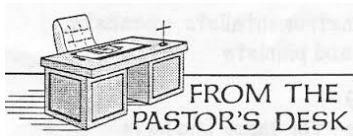
Thanks to your stewardship, we've raised over 50% of the \$8,000 we needed for the Paint Fund (and this is with 3 weeks to go in December.)

At the December 8th Congregational Meeting, we approved the Water Abatement project for the \$7,825 expected cost and an additional \$2,175 Contingency Fund. We've already identified \$6,350 in existing, Non-Property funds that have been allocated towards the cost. Donations for this project can be made directly to the Property Fund. Also, the coin jugs have reappeared in the sanctuary. All those funds will be used for the project also.

As 2019 comes to a close, I reflect on the challenging time Shenkel experienced this year. I want to personally thank all the members that have offered prayers and support to our Consistory as we navigated the unsettled waters of a change in pastoral ministry. We look forward with hope to 2020 and the exciting next leg of our communal faith journey.

Randy Berriker
Consistory President

Newsletter Editor: Lisa Dice



The first question most people want to ask when they meet me is “Did you play basketball?” (It’s a fair question since I’m 6’3”) So, to get that out of the way, Yes, I did play basketball in college, and yes I was good at it and I enjoyed it very much.

One thing I have enjoyed for as long as I can remember is reading. In fact I have a picture of me as a child of two or three with a book open on my lap, obviously enjoying the pictures! I recall reading books as a kid that I didn’t even understand but they were on the bookshelf and so I read them. I returned to them later and enjoyed them much more.

I also enjoy being with people. I draw energy from being with others. I won’t be the life of the party or the most talkative person in the room but I do enjoy hearing others’ stories and entering into conversations. I believe the fellowship at church after worship or other meetings is a very important piece of the community.

I am also an animal lover. I grew up with a great dog and various cats. As an adult I have had two dogs, one in Brazil and one here in Perkasié. Each of those dogs eventually had to be put down, which was painful for me, yet it was best for them. So if you have pets I would love to meet them. I understand how much they become family.

And I am passionate about missions. I am excited that Shenkel is very interested and involved in mission work. Missions has been a big part of my life and growth. I served as a missionary for 12 years in Brazil and 4 years in China. The congregation I am leaving has a regular monthly mission to serve breakfast to the homeless in Philadelphia. For three years I was involved with the Code Blue ministry in upper Bucks County. There are so many ways to be involved in reaching out to others; I look forward to joining all of you in that work.

I wish you all a healthy and peace-filled 2020,
Pastor Suzanne

Holy Communion

Shenkel UCC celebrates the sacrament of Holy Communion at both services on the first Sunday of the month.





Dear Shenkel Congregation and Leadership:

Thank you for having me at church on Nov. 24, 2019 to speak about my mission work in Malawi (Africa). It was so uplifting to be welcomed “home” by my childhood Shenkel family and friends!!! This support is what really keeps me going as I continue God’s work overseas.

Big thanks for the total of \$510 raised on that day for the Mustard Seed in Malawi, in addition to your continued support throughout the year! This is our preschool in the African village of Chanika, Malawi, where I live with my husband, Alex, and our daughter, Ziona. We offer education, improved nutrition, and healthcare to young children in this remote region, as well as other community development activities. I started teaching kids on a small front porch of the one-room house we rented in 2016, shortly after Ziona was born. In 2017 we built the larger school/house on vacant land, and I founded the nonprofit fundraising arm in the U.S., which continues to be managed through my mom, Janice. In 2018, we dug a well on this land which provides water throughout the year, including the dry season. This year, in 2019, we fitted the well with a closed-system hand-operated pump that protects the quality of the water for drinking. This well is used not only for our school but also by other villagers who come from far and wide to draw water.

We live in the upstairs portion of the single building that houses the school’s 2 classrooms on the lower level. In 2018 and 2019 we were able to purchase neighboring plots of land. Our next goal is to build a larger school building with additional classrooms to accommodate our 100+ students, as well as a playground. This will allow us to improve living conditions in the current building, with the potential to accommodate international volunteers or church mission groups in the near future.

With love,

Angela (Ziona, Alex, and Janice too!)



Spread the word! A little bit goes a long way in a place like Malawi. Donations are tax-deductible through Mustard Seed Malawi’s U.S.-based 501©3 nonprofit foundation, which provides all funding support to the school. Checks may be made out to “Mustard Seed Malawi” and mailed to: Mustard Seed Malawi, c/o Janice E. Lee, 3009 Reifsnyder Rd, Gilbertsville, PA 19525.

Donations may also be made electronically on our website at: www.mustardseedmalawi.org (you will be redirected electronically through PayPal for processing) – we need more monthly supporters! On the same website, you can sign up to support us throughout the year.

This Month at Shenkel UCC



Mid-Day Dinner Club

*Our next event will be on Tuesday,
January 21st at The Blue Elephant*

The Mid-day Dinner Club meets at 12 noon on the third Tuesday of each month and you're invited! It is open to young-at-heart adults of any age who enjoy eating out and would like to get to know other Shenkel members a little better. If you are a "regular," please check off your name on the plate in the narthex no later than the Sunday before the lunch so your reservation can be made on time. If you are a "newbie," please call the church office (or just add your name to the plate) if you're able to join us!

Special Offering for January— Bethany Children's Home

Bethany Children's Home provides residential services for children and adolescents who are unable to live with their own family. Using the Sanctuary Model, Bethany strives to provide a safe place of nurture, protection, and supportive care to aid their residents in their self-understanding, growth, and healing toward a brighter, healthier future. Founded in 1863 and related to the United Church of Christ, Bethany serves more than three hundred boys and girls each year on its Womelsdorf, PA campus.



Monthly Meets

The Agape group

Third Wednesday of the Month, 7 pm

Showing love through prayer, this group's time together is spent with a quiet time for centering and meditation with sharing prayer concerns. They meet at the home of Freda Wanner, 1752 Temple Road, Pottstown.

Card Making Class

Third Thursday, 10 am in Social hall

Each class participants make three beautiful cards. Cost is \$8. If you plan to attend the class or have any questions, please call Connie Armbruster at 610-326-6516 to insure there will be enough materials.

Community Lunch Bunch

First Thursday, 11:30 am in Social hall

Open to the community, this monthly get together offers lunch followed by a short program that changes every month. The cost is \$7. Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Look on page 6 for this month's program. For more info, please call Linda Foss at 610-741-6949 or Sam Wilson at 610-323-1637.

Mid-day Dinner Club

Third Tuesday, 12 pm

Open to young-at-heart adults of any age who enjoy eating out and would like to get to know other Shenkel members a little better. Meeting place changes every month. Look for the dinner plate sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please call the church office at 610-326-3535 with questions or RSVPs.

Shenkel Sewing Circle

Second & Fourth Tuesday, 9:30 am in Social hall

We are a small group of very friendly ladies who love to visit and sew. We are currently not working on any big project, so bring what you love to do or just come for the fun conversation. We love to share ideas for sewing, cross stitch, quilting and knitting, etc. We also offer help with any of your projects. We would love to expand our group, so please spread the word. For more information or If the weather is questionable, please call Margie Allen at 610-326-1519.



Baker, Tammy	01/03
Yocom, Kimberly	01/04
Apgar, Noah	01/05
Miller, Susan	01/05
Dushanko, Olivia	01/09
Heath, James	01/10
Andrien, Andrew	01/13
Foss, Brandon	01/13
Wanner, Freda	01/13
Woodman, Adelynn	01/17
Sanseverino, Delia	01/18
Martin, Mike	01/21
Painter, Kailyn	01/21
Keim, Aurora	01/22
Body, Lucy	01/23
Klein, David	01/24
Metzger, Matthew	01/24
Devine, Jared	01/25
Klein, Eric	01/27
Hudick, Jill	01/30

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

- 1/5 Ann Hartzell
DeDe and Pete Wanner
Pat Kuestner
Betty and Forrest Kreiger
Gene, Emily and Nick Takach and Eric Croom
- 1/12 Lisa and Barry Yocom
Lori and Tom Klein
Wayne Klein
Jenn and David Braley
Sandy Peterman and James Heath and Bryan and
Emily Trego
- 1/19 Sue and Mike Kulp
Drew Sweinhart
Elizabeth and Jim Carr
Ethel Miller
Lori and Kaya Skulski and Jordan Gerhardt-Skulski
- 1/26 Charlotte White
Britnee, Bill, Olivia and Delia Sanseverino
Judy Miller
Cellia Phillips
Kathy Harkins



The Pottstown Cluster Food collection at Shenkel UCC is the **1st Sunday** of each month.



Food Collection

Please place your items in the plastic bins in the narthex. Thank you for your support!

The Cluster welcomes all cash and food donations 8:30am to 12pm Monday thru Friday. They are at 57 N. Franklin Street in Pottstown. Items such as coffee, tea, peanut butter, sugar, artificial sweetener and baking products are *always needed*. Current cluster needs:

- tomato products, canned soup
- jelly, canned fruit
- laundry detergent and all purpose cleaner (small containers)
- dish soap
- toiletries
- paper towels
- twin and queen size sheets new/used (must be clean)
- blankets, comforters
- pots and pans

They are not accepting any clothing at this time.



As of 11/30/2019	Current Fund		Our Church's Wider Mission	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
Actual	15,211.00	13,897.95	451.00	6,842.00
Budget	14,310.81	157,412.40	958.33	10,541.67
Over/(Under)	900.19	(33,514.45)	(507.33)	(3,699.67)