

The Worship Service

Sunday, September 15, 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

Welcome

Invocation

Congregational Introit "Lord Prepare Me"

(SSB #13)

Call to Worship

L: In autumn beauty blue sky and golden land is clothed. Apple-gathering children and nut-gathering squirrels alike prepare for winter.

C: In our tradition, harvest is a time of rejoicing in God's natural bounty and the ingathering of our lives.

L: We praise God for all we have received. Seasons turn but God's love is changeless.

C: We praise God for all we have received. Maple leaves dancing, crisp breezes blowing, the good news stories of Jesus' sojourn in Galilee, and the restless winds of the Spirit rushing through our lives—all these assure us of God's faithful presence.

Opening Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

(SSB #77)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sin and our need for divine release.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that our hearts are closed tight against your love and mercy. We hold on to unlove for ourselves, resentment against those for whom we care, anger at our helplessness, and complicity in the structures of society. We have protected ourselves emotionally, socially, and spiritually; and our selfishness has nourished the pain of the world rather than its hope. Open, loosen, and unbind us, God. Enable our frozen hearts to love, our clenched hands to help, and our stifled spirits to breathe and pray, in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Friends hear and believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free.

Special Music

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Lori Scharneck

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19

Mark 8:27-38

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection:

“Here I Am Lord”

(SSB #26)

~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.
September’s Special Offering – Church World Service

Offertory

Offering Response

Rise Up, Rise Up

(SSB #2)

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

“I have Decided to Follow Jesus”

(SSB #38)

Benediction

Postlude

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

Announcements:

Sunday, September 15, 2024

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 9/15/2024 ~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Grove

Tues, 9/17/2024 ~ Midday Dinner at Limerick Diner at 12:00 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 9/22/24 ~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Grove

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



Scripture Reading for September 22nd

Susan Royer

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalm 54

Mark 9:30-37

Blessing of the Animals (Service) and All Church Picnic on 9/29/24: following the service.

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends on 10/22/24: \$5.00 Coupon Shopping Passes. Shopping can be done in any Boscov's or this year online!! We have two dates where we will be sitting at Boscov's offering coupons to Boscov's customers. The dates are: Saturday, September 21 starting at noon; and Saturday, October 12 starting at noon. We will be able to be there for 3 hours or more. If anyone can help us it would be greatly appreciated, Tootie and Louise Hine.

Any further suggestions for things to do, please contact Lousie Hine at 610-385-3716 (Home) or Tootie Hine 610-781-6645 (cell) or at angels2we@gmail.com.

Carol Lykens Giving Challenge: We're kicking off 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!

Cluster donations for September: Trash bags and cleaning supplies.

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.

Paper Towels: Over the past 12 months we collected and delivered 480 rolls of paper towels to Christ Episcopal for their essential pantry! Thank you all for your generosity. Well done!

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 starts today.

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:

Dawn Yocom
Sharon and John Sabo
Bob and Sherri Mocarski
Richard Golden
Bonnie Cox

Birthdays in the month of September:

Mark Dushanko	9/5/2024
Clay Zachesky	9/5/2024
Glen Bradley	9/8/2024
Sherri Mocarski	9/9/2024
Collin Gray	9/11/2024
Jaden Viti	9/12/2024
Connie Armbruster	9/16/2024
Catherine Dyott	9/19/2024
Heather Burhans Tran	9/20/2024
Chris Gray	9/21/2024
Tesia Craner	9/23/2024
Ronald Pearson	9/24/2024

