

# The Worship Service

## Sunday, September 22, 2024

Pure, Peaceable, Without Partiality,

Full of Good Fruits

Gentle, Without Hypocrisy,

Willing to Yield, Full of Mercy

WISDOM

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## Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown PA 19465

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### Shenkel 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 For the Fruit of All Creation (arr. Unke)

Welcome

Invocation

Congregational Introit "Lord Prepare Me" (SSB #13)

Call to Worship

L: God's wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity.

**C: Our wisdom is none of these things. We compete for knowledge, and our learning fosters belligerence. Our understanding is insufficient and our compassion limited. We long for certainty and sacrifice too much for its sake. We strive only for conditional sincerity.**

L: The harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

**C: We cannot know with God's wisdom, nor always walk in God's righteousness, but we can come together to share our thoughts, to read Scripture, to sing, to pray, and to make peace.**

L: Let us worship together.

Opening Hymn "Come Christians Join To Sing" (SSB #66)

### ~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

We are called to resist evil and to purify our hearts. Often our need for such cleansing is not apparent to us. We are hard pressed to find anything bad that we need to confess, and we take real delight in the good we have done. Yet the peaceful community God seeks, the serving church that embodies Christ, the spirit-filled company we are meant to be, are not yet realized. Our Prayer of Confession is for the whole people of God, including ourselves.

Prayer of Confession

**Forgive us, God, for our complacent attitudes and self-serving comforts. We do not relish the thought of sacrificing for some larger good we cannot see, for people with whom we find it difficult to identify. We compare ourselves favorably against many who seem less attuned to your purposes than we, forgetting that our true standard is Christ Jesus. We ask you to take from us all the bitterness, envy, and anger that stands in the way of your reign. May all we ask of you be for the common good for all your children. 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: Softly and Tenderly, Brenda Pardun, Flute

~We Hear God's Word~

James 3:13-18

Psalm 54

Mark 9:30-37

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

Sermon

Rev Suzanne M. Spauling

Hymn for Reflection: "Shall We Gather At The River"

(SSB #81)

Order for Baptism

Welcome

L: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

**C: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.**

L: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

Address

L: Jesus said: Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the reign of God; unless we are born of water and the Spirit, we cannot enter God's new order. Paul the apostle said: All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into Christ's death. We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, to the glory of God, we too might walk in newness of life.

L: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. In as much as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**C: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ members of Christ's body.**

Questions of the Candidates

Pastor: Do you desire to have your children baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**Parents: I /We do.**

Pastor: Will you encourage these children to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

**Parents: I / We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Will you teach these children that they may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

**Parents: I / We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple(s), to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

**Parents: I / We do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with these children in the Christian faith, to help these children to be faithful members of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that they may affirm their baptism?

**Parents: I / We do, with the help of God.**

#### Congregational Assent

L: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

**C: We promise our love, support, and care.**

#### United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the mad of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion of victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.**

#### Prayer of Baptism

L: Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

L: We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning.

In the time of Moses, your people of Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

L: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in all baptized this day that they may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

## Act of Baptism

### Prayer for the Baptized

L: Let us pray for the one baptized today. Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless this newly baptized child. May he be filled with joy: may he never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you.

L: Bless the parents of this child. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for Gavin.

L: Bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### ~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                      Gavotte & Bouree                      (Johann Krieger)

Offering Response              "Rise Up, Rise Up"                      (SSB #2)

## Prayer of Dedication

### ~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn              "We Are The Church"                      (SSB #80)

## Benediction

Postlude              Autumn from the Four Season Suite                      (Vivaldi)

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Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding  
Email: [shenkelpastor@gmail.com](mailto:shenkelpastor@gmail.com)  
Sexton: Stacy Keim  
Ministers: All Members of the Church

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth  
Organist: Susan Royer  
Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Special Music: (Will Thompson) © Public Domain [CCLI #28380]

**Announcements:**

**Sunday, September 22, 2024**

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

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

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 9/29/24 ~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Grove with the Blessing of the Animals followed by the All Church Picnic.

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



**Scripture Reading for September 29th**

**Dan Wolgemuth**

Psalm 104:14-34  
Mark 9:38-50

**The Hauze, Foss and Shannon families:** invite the congregation and guests today for a luncheon in the pavilion following the church service to celebrate the baptism of Gavin Hauze.

**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 will be sitting at Boscov's offering coupons to Boscov's customers. The date is Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> 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 & Louise Hine.

Any further suggestions for things to do, please contact Louise Hine at 610-385-3716 (home) or Tootie Hine 610-781-6645 (cell) or at [angels2we@gmail.com](mailto:angels2we@gmail.com).

**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. 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.

**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 Yocom, 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. April 21st is our next church school. Our next church school will be on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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:

Andrew, Linda, Brandon, Aaron, Michael and AJ Foss, Lexi and Christina Hauze  
Kim Yocom and Barry Peterman  
Ken and Betsy Bevan  
Stacia and Joseph Bradley  
Lucas Gray

**Birthdays in the month of September:**

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

## **IDEAS FOR REDUCING SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AT CHURCH:**

- Use real silverware and coffee cups at coffee hour (you know your church kitchen still has them!) Volunteer for the washing-up team.
- Use only paper straws.
- Go back to glass communion cups, or change to intinction.
- Buy coffee hour snacks in cardboard boxes or paper, not rigid plastic clamshells.
- Encourage using cloth or mesh bags, or even paper, not plastic bags from stores, such as when you buy groceries for a church meal, or Sunday School supplies at dollar-type stores. (Do this at home too, of course!)
- No more Styrofoam cups or take-out trays. Compostable items are available in restaurant stores. Foam items last forever in landfills.
- Install a water cooler to refill reusable water bottles; discourage stocking the church with single water bottles.
- Ditch plastic table covers you've been saving after a few uses and transition to cloth table covers. (Old bedsheets work well!)
- Throw a kitchen shower for tablecloths and dish towels and cloth napkins. Take turns taking them home to wash.
- Be intentional about recycling office paper, bulletins, notices.
- Investigate NexTrex or other companies which make composite benches from recycled plastic bags and wraps. Sponsor bag collections; partner with organizations that use your building; earn a bench for your garden.
- Take an inventory of how your church supplies (toilet paper, bulbs, furnace filters, etc.) are packaged. Let suppliers know you do not want plastic wrappings.
- If your township does not recycle, become a champion for changing that! Many things that are marked with 5 or above are theoretically recyclable, but there are very few facilities in Pennsylvania that actually take them.



