

The Worship Service

Sunday, December 15, 2024



The Shepherd's Candle

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 There Were Shepherds (Martin)

Welcome

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Cradle Song”

**In darkness enshrouded, the world waits for light.
To shatter the shadowy darkness of night.
To greenery circled, the faithful draw near.
And longingly listen, God's message to hear.**

L: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

C: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

L: When the chief Shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

C: We are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

L: Let your light so shine before others that they may see the good that you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**Three flames how they flicker and tremble and shake,
As shepherds from fear into joy did awake.
As they shared with joy the great news of Christ's birth,
May we share the news with excitement and mirth.**

L: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

C: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.

L: But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

C: Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

L: When the chief Shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

**Oh, keep us Lord Jesus in your mighty care.
As for your arrival your people prepare.
The flames for the faithful, Lord, let them burn bright,
That hearts of all people in faith may ignite.**

Special Music

Scripture Lessons

Pam McShane

Ezekiel 34:11-16

Psalms 80:1-7

Luke 1:26-38

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

Sermon Reader's Theater

Brian McShane, Maureen Gallant
Pam McShane, Tootie Hine

Hymn for Reflection: Go Tell It On The Mountain (NCH#154)

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

**Our Mother/Father who are in heaven, hallowed by thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this 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 Come All Ye Shepherds (Bohemian Folk Song)

Offering Response "Away In A Manger" (NCH#124)

**Now let the glad tidings of great joy be told.
Fulfilled is the word which the shepherds behold.
O God, by your Spirit our voices employ.
To share the glad tidings, good news of great joy.**

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night (See insert)

Benediction

Choral Benediction "Cradle Song"

**O God, with your glory you once filled the night,
And now we behold in Christ Jesus the light.
May his presence brighten each pathway we take,
Until in his glory at last we awake.**

Postlude Wachet Auf (Polley)

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, December 15, 2024

~**This Sunday at Shenkel UCC**~

Sun, 12/15/2024 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship service 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.
~ After worship is cook and serve dinner for the homeless.
~ Church School is today at 11:00 am.
Tues, 12/17/24 ~ Midday Dinner at WQ at 12:00 pm.

~**Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC**~

Sun, 12/22/24 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

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



Scripture Reading for December 22nd

Brian McShane

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 91
Luke 1:39-56

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!

Gift Cards for Bethany Children's Home: Please check out the tree in the narthex and choose an ornament gift card to give to Bethany Children's Home. Please place the gift cards in the envelope available by today. Thank you!

Luminaries: We will be having luminaries again this Christmas Eve. Anyone interested in dedicating a luminary in memory of or honor of, the donations are \$10.00. The deadline is December 22nd, you can give your donations to Gloria Mest or put it in the offering plate. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex.

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, December 22nd to address the budget. The meeting will open immediately following the 8:30 am service and will close after the 9:45 am service.

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 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:

Joyce Pashley

David, Lynn and Katherine Derman

Danielle Petersen

Karl Metka

Marie Bade

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



Poinsettia Sunday Dedications

December 15, 2024

Connie Armbruster – In memory of Sam

Randy & Brenda Berriker – In memory of our parents

Bonnie Cox – In memory of loved ones

Ted & Chris Grey – In celebration of Christmas

Louise & Tootie Hine – In celebration of the Birth of Jesus

Dan Jenkins & Frank Bork – In memory of Klint Howard

Kreiger Daughters – Forrest & Betty Kreiger

Pat Kuestner – My wonderful Shenkel Family

Brian & Pam McShane – In honor of our children and grandchildren

**Gloria Mest – Grandchildren – Owen, Madeline, Jack, Jacoby and
John**

Lynne Moyer – In memory of loved ones, Mary Krasnick

**Ron & Carol Pearson – In memory of Nancy Delp, John & Caroline
Yearick**

Sandy Rowe – In memory of Loved Ones

**Pastor Suzanne Spaulding – To the faithful teachers of Shenkel's
Church School**

Gary & Sue Stultz – In memory of our parents

Freda Wanner – Celebration for Shenkel Family

Rose Wolgemuth – Jeanie Wolgemuth

