



Shenkel United Church of Christ



2021

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Reflective Service 8:30 am Traditional service 9:45 am Communion	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Reflective Service 8:30 am Traditional service 9:45 am	11	12 Consistory 6:30 pm	13	14	15	16
17 Reflective Service 8:30 am Traditional service 9:45 am	18	19 Mid-Day Dinner Club – noon Copperfields	20	21 Agape at Freda Wanner's home at 6:30 pm	22	23
24/31 Reflective Service 8:30 am Traditional service 9:45 am	25	26	27	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:
Gary McDermit

Secretary:
Dan Jenkins

Treasurer:
Ken Bevan

Financial Secretary:
Joan Palubinsky

Elder
Randy Berriker

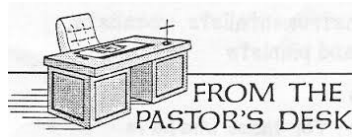
Deacons:
Dan Jenkins
Gary McDermit
Pat Kuestner
Tony Gulotta
Chris Gray
Kelly Strunk

MINISTERS

All the members
of the church

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown PA 19465 610.326.3535

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



I have a small book named “Comfortable with Uncertainty”. When I saw the title I was intrigued and thought, “As if anyone is very comfortable with uncertainty, and, I would like to grow in this area”. The subtitle is “108 Teachings on Cultivating Fearlessness and Compassion”. The book is by Pema Chodron, an American Buddhist nun.

The teaching I share here is about ‘Lightening Up’ and I have found it helpful. I think that often we Christians can take ourselves and our faith too seriously. It is easy to become burdened by our own expectations of ourselves and of our faith journey. We may learn something valuable from Pema.

Being able to lighten up is the key to feeling at home with your body, mind, and emotions, to feeling worthy to live on this planet. For example, you can hear the slogan “Always maintain only a joyful mind” and start beating yourself over the head for never being joyful. That kind of witness is a bit heavy.

This earnestness, this seriousness about everything in our lives – including practice – this goal-oriented, we’re-going-to-do-it-or-else attitude, is the world’s greatest killjoy. There’s no sense of appreciation because we’re so solemn about everything. In contrast, a joyful mind is very ordinary and relaxed. So lighten up. Don’t make such a big deal.

When your aspiration is to lighten up, you begin to have a sense of humor. Your serious state of mind keeps getting popped. In addition to a sense of humor, a basic support for a joyful mind is curiosity, paying attention, taking an interest in the world around you. Happiness is not required, but being curious without a heavy judgmental attitude helps. If you are judgmental, you can even be curious about that.

Curiosity encourages cheering up. So does simply remembering to do something different. We are so locked into this sense of burden – Big Deal Joy and Big Deal Unhappiness – that it’s sometimes helpful just to change the pattern. Anything out of the ordinary will help. You can go to the window and look at the sky, you can splash cold water on your face, you can sing in the shower, you can go jogging – anything that’s against your usual pattern. That’s how things start to lighten up.

In the midst of the uncertainty in which we live now, in your face uncertainty, let’s remember to ‘lighten up’ and not take ourselves or others too seriously. Find joy in the small things and little occurrences of your day. Smile, and thank God for being present with us each moment and for the opportunities

we have to practice becoming comfortable with uncertainty!

Grace and peace as we move into the colorful month of October,
Pastor Suzanne

September Consistory Highlights

- Our Search Team for a settled pastor was appointed. The members are Barbara Brown, Tony Gulotta, Erika Manetti, Joan Palubinsky, Sandy Rowe, Kelli Sorg, and Julie Zachesky. They have decided that Joan Palubinsky will be their Team Leader.
- Consistory determined that when the special congregational meeting is held to call a settled pastor, 90% of the votes cast at that meeting must be in the affirmative in order to call the individual. A lesser percentage would indicate a lack of congregational support.
- Music interns were approved for Christmas 2021 and Easter 2022.
- The Chancel Choir can reconvene provided they follow all in-door and out-door COVID protocols in effect.
- The Worship and Music Committee has been asked to begin plans for in-door and out-door Christmas Eve services.
- Our labyrinth has been neglected. Gary McDermit will be working to restore the Peace Pole and Chris Gray is getting quotes to refurbish the area surrounding the labyrinth. She's getting a separate quote for weeding the labyrinth itself. We may look for volunteers for some of the work.
- Our thanks to Lisa Dice who has agreed to be Pete Wanner's backup as Cemetery Superintendent.

The A/V team is looking for additional videographers to help with recording worship services and other church-related events and posting the videos online. If you like working with a computer and video equipment and are interested in helping in this effort please contact Gary McDermit.

This Month at Shenkel UCC



Mid-Day Dinner Club

Our next event will be on

October 19 at Copperfield Inn in Limerick

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 attending, please add your name and phone number on the plate on the table no later than the Sunday before the lunch so your reservation can be made on time or you may call Sharon Sabo at 610-326-1945 by Sunday, October 17 or let her know at the Sunday service if you are able to attend.

Pottstown Cluster. We will be starting to collect items again for the Pottstown Cluster. This month's items are dish soap, multi-purpose cleaners, toilet paper. Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster. We will be collecting each week and items will change on a monthly basis. Items for November will be paper towels, razors, and shaving cream.



October Special Offering—Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. For more information, go to www.ucc.org/nin.

Children's Sunday School Update

Board of Christian Ed has met and we have decided on two exciting Sunday School programs for our children. Due to the uncertainty of COVID cases due to the Delta variant and the fact that many of our children are too young to be vaccinated, both programs will be offered virtual.

Sunday School for children Kindergarten through 7th grade:

This will again be offered every Sunday morning at 11:30 Via Zoom. Lessons will run approximately 30 to 45 minutes and consist of a Bible story/lesson followed by an activity relating to the lesson. The activity could be a word game, an arts and crafts project, a cooking activity, a game, a Bible activity or possibly a virtual escape room. There will be many opportunities for students to navigate the Bible. For students who are unable to attend the interactive class (or any interested adult) lessons will be recorded for viewing on the Shenkel Youtube channel. Each child will receive his or her own box of supplies for ALL lessons. Parents just need to help their child log on and we will do the rest. Parents do not need to attend with child but are welcome to sit in if desired.

Sunday School for children ages 1 through 4

Each Sunday I (with help from my husband) will read a Bible story which will be the same lesson our older children are learning. In addition to the story there will be a small activity and song we do with our preschoolers. This lesson will be recorded and available for viewing around 1:00 PM on the Shenkel Youtube channel. Parents and/or grandparents can put the lesson on whenever time works for the child and themselves. Preschoolers will also receive a box with any supplies they may need.

Please contact me either by phone (610-741-6949) or e-mail (pover@comcast.net) if your child is interested so we can prepare their own special box. Please let me know by Sunday night, September 26th. I very much look forward to working with our youngest members.

Sincerely,
Linda Foss, SS superintendent/teacher



The Lunch Bunch committee has decided to postpone Lunch Bunch activities for the time being. As much as we would all love to gather again we just feel that the Delta variant is too prevalent in our area to meet safely. Thank you for your understanding. We will be in touch with people when we decide it is safe to resume again.



Hoff, Glen	10/02
Granger, Joe	10/05
Kreiger, Forrest	10/05
Snyder, Sharon	10/06
Wanner, Adrienne	10/07
Phillips, David	10/08
Zachesky, William	10/10
Stultz, Susan	10/12
Bradley, Stacia	10/13
Gerhardt-Skulskil, Jordan	10/13
Foss, Aaron	10/14
Iezzi, Lois	10/17
Peterman, Roberta	10/20
Dice, Lisa	10/21
Dushanko, Cameron	10/23
Yocom, Lisa	10/24
Bevan, Betsy	10/28
Glatfelter, Emmit	10/29
Mest, Jacoby	10/29
Gray, Aaron	10/31

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

- 10/3 Erika Manetti
DeDe and Pete Wanner
Drew Sweinhart
Morgan Scharneck
Lucas Gray
- 10/10 Michaela Craner
Heather Burhans Tran
Susan and Barry Miller
Joel Sweinhart
Jim White
- 10/17 Sharon, Dan, Malcolm and Amelia Snyder
Sheree and Rick Scheler
Kelly Sorg
Debbie and Glen Hoff
Sherrie and Bob Mocarski
- 10/24 Stacia and Joe Bradley
Scott Kutz
Mari, Christian and Connor O'Drain
Britnee, Bill, Olivia and Delia Sanseverino
Tootie Hine
- 10/31 Wayne Klein
Sue and Gary Stultz
Mary Lou Smith
Joan and Joe Palubinsky
Brenda and Randy Berriker



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*



Impossibly Easy Salted Caramel Apple Mini Pies

Prep 15 minutes

Total 35 minutes

Servings 12

A yummy Bisquick® batter, apples and cinnamon bake up to make impossibly delicious little "apple pies" topped with whipped cream, caramel, pecans and sea salt. You won't miss the traditional pie crust!

Ingredients:

Apple Filling

- 1 1/2 cups peeled diced (1/4-inch) Granny Smith apples
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Batter

- 1/2 cup Original Bisquick™ mix
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
- 1 egg

Topping

- 3/4 cup sweetened whipped cream
- 1/2 cup caramel topping
- 1/4 cup chopped toasted pecans
- Coarse sea salt, if desired

Steps

Heat oven to 375°F. Place paper baking cups in each of 12 regular-size muffin cups; spray with cooking spray. In small bowl, mix Apple Filling; set aside.

In another small bowl, stir together Batter ingredients with whisk or fork until blended. Spoon 1 level measuring tablespoon batter into each paper-lined muffin cup. Top with 2 measuring tablespoons apples. Spoon 1 level measuring tablespoon remaining batter over apples in each muffin cup.

Bake 15 minutes or until set in center and edges are golden brown. Cool 5 minutes; remove from muffin pan. To serve, leave in paper baking cup or remove; place in small individual serving bowls. Top each pie with 1 tablespoon whipped cream, 2 teaspoons caramel sauce and 1 teaspoon pecans; sprinkle with salt.

Lisa Dice

Holy Communion

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



As of August 31, 2021	Current Fund	
ACTUAL	Month	YTD
Opening Bal.	(3,956)	6,546
Giving	11,564	87,443
Expenses	(14,335)	(112,621)
Subtotal	(6,727)	(18,631)
Rent Income	1,700	11,900
Other	1	4
Ending Balance	(5,026)	(5,026)
Net Chg	(1,070)	(11,572)
BUDGET		
Giving	14,591	116,728
Over (Under)	(3,027)	(29,285)



Our Church's Wider Mission		
August 31, 2021	Month	YTD
Actual	1,045.00	7,398.00
Budget	1,000.00	8,000.00
Over (under)	(45.00)	(602.00)