

December 19, 2021  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

*~Gathering Together ~*

Welcome

Missions & Ministries

Invocation

Prelude

“The Son of Mary”

Branscombe

Call to Worship

Pastor: Come, let us be about our preparations for a new advent of love among us.

**People: The wastelands of life around us cannot shut out the promise of life-giving water.**

Pastor: Hatred and warfare, injustice and suffering, are not the last word, for they are not of God.

**People: We hear again the promise of peace, coming in the one who lived Shalom among all people.**

Pastor: We see again the light God promises in the midst of our darkness.

**People: We are feeling again the joy that comes through partnership in the gospel.**

Pastor: May our worship recall us to what is centered in life; to the One who gives us breath and purpose in life.

**People: We come to embrace the new advent, to be renewed in faith, hope and love.**

Opening Hymn

“Comfort, Comfort O My People”

NCH # 101

*~ Coming Alive in Community ~*

Call to Confession

How can we stand in the presence of God? Let us confess those places where we need to grow to prepare for Christ to come into our lives.

Prayer of Confession

**God of the loving heart, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance: people we have refused to love; habits we never get around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others. Come to us in the light of your Christ. Shine on those places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us. Be known among us now and forever! Amen.**

*Silence for Prayer and Reflection*

Assurance of Forgiveness

This is the good news in Jesus Christ. We can stand before God, not through our own goodness, but through God’s great kindness to us. Rejoice and be glad, for God comes to you!

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Sandy Rowe & Barbara Brown

Advent Song

“Come and Fill”  
*Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Al – le – lu – ia!*

Prayer

~ *We Hear God’s Word* ~

Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2-5a      Susan Royer

The Reading of Psalm 80:1-7

The Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

“My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise”  
(Consolation Tune)

*My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me,  
Who came when I was low and changed my destiny,  
The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace  
To those who seek their Maker’s will in every time and place.*

*The arm of God is strong and just to scatter all the proud,  
The tyrants tumble from their thrones and vanish like a cloud,  
The hungry all are satisfied; the rich are sent away,  
The poor of earth who suffer long will welcome God’s new day.*

*The promise made in ages past at last has come to be,  
For God has come in power to save, to set all people free,  
Remembering those who wait to see salvation’s dawning day,  
Our Savior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears away.*

~ *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 Father, who art 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

**Christmas Fund.** *The Christmas Fund provides assistance dollars in situations of critical need, including Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and*

*Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks to lower-income retired UCC pastors. Your gift will help to brighten the life of one of God’s servants who is facing a moment of personal need.*

Offering Response

***To God, all glorious heavenly Light,  
to Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise  
our joyful songs of thankful praise.***

Prayer of Dedication

***~ Going out in Joy ~***

Sending Hymn

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

NCH # 107

Benediction

Postlude

“Gabriel to the Virgin Came”

Irish Carol arr. Powell

## *Announcements*

**The Prayer Community asks you to join with us this week in praying for:**

Gary McDermit  
Mark Dushanko  
Joyce Pashley  
Lexi Foss  
Brooke Miller

## ***~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~***

Sun., 12/19 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.  
~ Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am.  
~ Congregational Meeting  
Tues., 12/21 ~ MidDay Dinner Club at Yellow House Hotel at noon  
~ Longest Night Service at 7 pm  
Wed., 12/22 ~ Bible Study on Zoom at 7 pm  
Fri., 12/24 ~ Christmas Eve service at 3 pm  
~ Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 8 pm with Communion

### *~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~*

Sun., 12/26 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.  
~ Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am.

Office closed Tuesday, December 28 through Monday, January 3, 2022

Scripture Readings for December 26:  
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Luke 2:41-52

There will be a **Congregational Meeting** immediately after the services TODAY to approve the proposed 2022 Current and OCWM Budgets.

**Pottstown Cluster.** This month's items are mouthwash, toothpaste (kids and regular). Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster.

**Youth Group** is selling luminaries again this year. Look for the envelopes in the narthex or see any youth or Gloria Mest. Cost is \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Deadline is TODAY.

**Living Market.** We will keep the market open for an additional two weeks (closing after the 9:45 service on Sunday, December 26th). We have set a goal of \$5000.00, which is equivalent to the cost of an ark through Heifer International. We are thinking of it as the "Shenkel Ark." Once the market has closed on December 26, any additional funds needed to meet the \$5000 goal will be provided through the Shenkel mission fund.

If you would like to purchase items through the Living Market, please see Kelli Sorg, Steve Mest, or Kelly Strunk after the 8:30 and 9:45 services on Sunday, December 19 and Sunday, December 26. You may also send checks with specific animal requests to the church by December 22. Please make checks payable to *Heifer International*. For additional information about items for sale and pricing, please see the attached price sheet or visit the Heifer International website at [heifer.org](http://heifer.org).

**Mid-day Dinner** club will be meeting at Yellow House Hotel on Tuesday, December 21 at noon. 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 sign up sheet no later than today so your reservation can be made on time or you may call Sharon Sabo at 610-326-1945 or let her know at the Sunday service if you are able to attend.

**Poinsettia Sunday Dedications**

**December 19, 2021**

**Randy & Brenda Berriker - In memory of Harold Smith Dottie McCann and  
Calvin Berriker**

**Barbara Brown - In memory of Loved Ones**

**Ted & Chris Gray - In celebration of Christmas**

**Louise & Tootie Hine - Christmas Blessings to All**

**Kreiger Family - In honor of our Shenkel Family**

**Pat Kuestner - New Year - New Settled Pastor - Welcome Suzanne!**

**Becky Major - In honor of Connie & Sam Armbruster**

**Gloria Mest - In honor of Grandchildren - Madeline & Jacoby Mest and Owen,  
Jack & John Mest**

**Ron & Carol Pearson - Love, Forgiveness and Peace**

**Ray & Sandy Rowe - In memory of our Parents**

**Pastor Suzanne Spaulding - To all the faithful saints at Shenkel UCC**

**Strunk-Mest Family - In memory of all our loved ones**

**Gary & Sue Stultz - Advent Season**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**December 12, 2021**

**Shenkel UCC Living**

**Gift Market**