

The Worship Service
Sunday, August 25, 2024

*What binds us to together is
our choice to be together*

Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown PA 19465
610-326-3535 ☎ www.shenkelucc.org ☎ shenkelucc@aol.com

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 Andante (Leveridge)

Welcome

Invocation

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

Call to Worship

L: With profound happiness, we welcome one another. How good it is to approach the courts of our God!

C: Happy are those who live in God's house! Singing our praise to God fills us with joy.

L: Here we welcome both friend and stranger. All peoples of the earth are God's children.

C: We greet one another by name in Jesus' name. Together we extol the name of our God.

L: Open your hearts to receive new strength. Open your lives to renewed understandings.

C: Surely God will equip us to face our world. We will be ambassadors for God wherever we go.

Opening Hymn "Sing Praise To God, Who Has Shaped" (SSB #63)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

God has called us, not to a set of beliefs but to a relationship of trust. We are drawn to the Spirit whose will for us is life at its fullest, attuned to all that is good and true. We are embraced by the gospel of peace. We come now to confess that we have looked elsewhere for our salvation.

Prayer of Confession

Alert us now, eternal Spirit, to your presence among us in this place. Together, we confess that we have been busy with so many things that we have often forgotten you. We have made little gods out of buildings and furnishings and programs. Sometimes our pet beliefs and interpretations have been all-consuming as we do battle to correct others and presume to defend you. We have forgotten that your love is stronger than any force on earth. Forgive our mistrust of its power, and draw us back into the company of disciples who are learning and growing in love. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Happy are those who daily find their strength in the living God, seeking to walk uprightly. Happy are those who trust in God, who sincerely and truthfully seek to serve where God needs them most. God redeems us, whatever our circumstances, lifting our spirits. Remember the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free.

Special Music

Softly and Tenderly (Thompson) Brenda Pardun, flute soloist. The congregation is invited to sing along with the refrain: *Come home, come home, all who are weary, come home; Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling – calling "O sinner, come home!"*

~We Hear God's Word~

Joshua 24:1, 2a & 14-18

Psalms 34:15-22

John 6:56-69

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Seek Ye First"

(SSB #48)

~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.

August’s Special Offering: North Coventry Meals on Wheels

Offertory Meditation

(Lanz)

Offering Response "Rise Up, Rise Up"

(SSB #2)

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "What Does Our God Require Of Us"

(SSB #102)

Benediction

Postlude Diademata

(Elvey)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com

Sexton: Stacy Keim

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth

Organist: Susan Royer

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Announcements:

Sunday, August 25, 2024

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 8/25/24 ~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Grove.

~ Labor Day Choir Rehearsal at 11:45 am

~ Famous Shenkel Corn and Pig Roast at 5:00 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 9/1/24 ~ Gathering of Faith Communities service with communion at 10:00 am in the grove

Tues, 9/17/24 ~ Midday Dinner at Limerick Diner at 12:00 pm

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



Scripture Reading for September 1st

Joan Palubinsky

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14, 15, & 21-23

Famous Shenkel Corn & Pig Roast today at 5 PM

Corn, Pig and Beverages to be provided.

Things to Bring:

- Your family and friends!
- Place settings for your family
- Side & Dessert to share

Blessings 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 Louise Hine at 610-385-3716 (home) or Tootie Hine 610-781-6645 (cell) or at angels2we@gmail.com.

Cluster donations for August: School supplies, pens, pencils, crayons, erasers and notebooks.

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.

40 Paper Towel Rolls: We continue to collect paper towels for Christ Episcopal. We have already collected and delivered 11 month's worth. Thank you for your generosity. Donations of any size are welcome.

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 on September 15th.

The Agape Group is re-organizing and will now become the Shenkel Prayer Group. This will be a time for prayer requests, meditation, fellowship and a way to explore prayer. We will be meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 10AM in the Social Hall. All are welcome, including new faces! Come join us for a cup of coffee or tea and celebrate the Spirit of God moving among us. Any questions feel free to talk with Tootie and/or Louise.

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

Lori Scharneck
David Klein
Gene and Nick Takach and Eric Croom
Mari, Christian and Connor O'Drain
Rosemary and Dan Wolgemuth

Birthdays in the month of August:

Steven Bade	8/3/2024
Ted Gray	8/4/2024
Dan Wolgemuth	8/6/2024
Maryln Rohrbach	8/8/2024
Jim Bevan	8/10/2024
Barbara Sweinhart	8/10/2024
Elaine Bevan	8/12/2024
Grace Major	8/12/2024
Morgan Scharneck	8/16/2024
Jennifer Dyott	8/17/2024
Carol Pearson	8/18/2024
Ashlyn Augustine	8/21/2024
Kaya Skulski	8/27/2024
Jeffrey Dyott	8/28/2024
Lori Scharneck	8/28/2024
Joyce Pashley	8/29/2024
Noah Bradley	8/30/2024
Christian Golden	8/31/2024
Wayne Klein	8/31/2024