

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

O Love How Vast

Welcome

Invocation

Congregational Introit (Refrain Only): "Yours Is The Glory, Resurrected One" (NCH#253)

Call to Worship

L: The Christ said, "This is my commandment: Love one another."

C: We come to worship the God who is love, that we may learn to love one another.

L: The Christ said, "No longer do I call you servants, but now I call you my friends."

C: We come to worship the God whose friends we are through Christ.

L: Let us praise God, and live in love and friendship toward the human family, through Jesus our Christ.
Amen.

Opening Hymn "In Christ There Is No East Or West"

(NCH #395)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

God judges the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity, God knows all that we have done and all that we avoid. God is aware of our obedience to the way of love and our rebellion against it. We are invited to confess all that God already knows so healing and freedom can be ours in Christ Jesus.

Prayer of Confession

Ever-present God, we confess to you our unloving thoughts and deeds. We live by standards that we bend and break in our own favor, while ignoring the commandments you have given. We find it hard to love everyone, for so many act in unloving ways. It is easier to treat people as things than to listen for their needs. We withhold ourselves rather than offer our lives, even for our friends. We hoard the gifts you entrust to us instead of letting them bear fruit for you. Cleanse us from these destructive ways, freeing us to love as you have loved us, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

~Silence for Prayer and Meditation~

Assurance of Pardon

Even now, God is giving us victory over the limitations we impose on ourselves. When we trust God's love, we can emerge from the shell of self-protection to celebrate the joy of friendship in Christ. We can dare to show love that is not dependent on others' responses. We can serve without the need for recognition. Praise God!

Special Music Vine And Branches (Trevor Thomson) © 2012 Spirit And Song [CCLI #7229019]; Sandy Rowe, Vocalist

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Maddie Mest

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

John 15:9-17

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Spirit Of The Living God" 2X (NCH #283)

~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 of glory, forever. Amen

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries.

May's Special Offering: Creative Health Services provides quality behavioral healthcare designed to empower and promote wellness for individuals, families, and communities.

Offertory Meditation on "Toulon"(arr. Miller)

Offering Response "Here Are Our Hearts (Sing! Prayer And Praise – Once Thru)" See insert

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion

L: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger, you who believe in me shall never thirst.

C: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: Is it right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your

steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history. We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

ALL: Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!

Pastor: Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt, and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

ALL: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit!

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing The Elements

Prayer After Communion (Unison)

Eternal God, you have called your people from the east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

"I Come With Joy"

(NCH #349)

Benediction

Postlude

Trumpet Tune (Johnson)

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, May 5, 2024

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 5/5/24 ~ Reflective Worship service with communion at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary
~ Traditionalish Worship service with communion at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 5/12/24 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary
~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary

Scripture Reading for May 12th

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

John 17:6-19

Famous Shenkel Corn & Pig Roast Sunday, August 25, 2024 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

Conversations on the crisis in Gaza:

- Understand more about this catastrophe – the Nakba in 1948 and now.
- Hear the voices of our Palestinian Christian partners.
- Learn how to take action now and over time.

First Opportunity - Today at 11:30 am in the Social Hall – food will be available. Soup, dessert and drinks will be provided.

Second Opportunity - June 2 at 11:30 am in the Social Hall – food will be available. Special guests: Rev. Linda Noonan and Ariel Ackerman

June 9th: After worship, please join the Bade family in the Social Hall for a celebration of Marie's 99th birthday.

Cluster donations for May: Oatmeal and pancake syrup.

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.

160 Paper Towel Rolls: We continue to collect paper towels for Christ Episcopal. We have already collected and delivered 7 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, Sandy Peterman, Tootie, Louise Hine, 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. Church School will be meeting on: 5/19/2024

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 at Freda Wanner's home starting in June. Freda's address is 1752 Temple Rd, Pottstown 19465. 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:

Laura Golden

Sandy Peterman, James Heath, and Emily Trego

Abby Dise

Heather Burhans Tran

Olivia Dushanko

Birthdays in the month of May:

Robin Martin	5/3/2024
Malcolm Snyder	5/4/2024
Emily Trego	5/7/2024
Connor O'Drain	5/8/2024
Brooke Miller	5/10/2024
Olivia Sanseverino	5/11/2024
Matthew Scharneck	5/12/2024
Michael Kulp	5/13/2024
Jordan Hartzell	5/15/2024
Shane Glatfelter	5/18/2024
Michaela Craner	5/20/2024
Lynn Derman	5/20/2024
Randy Berriker	5/21/2024
Christina Hauze	5/21/2024
Bob Mocarski	5/23/2024
Andrew Foss	5/29/2024