



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

The Worship Service – Sunday, October 6, 2024

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.**

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

When we come as children, acknowledging our dependence on God for life and all that sustains it, we recognize that loving arms surround us, and hands of blessing rest on our lives. We are sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, who is not ashamed to claim us and to walk with us through life. Rejoice that God tests our hearts and minds and helps us grow.

Special Music

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Genesis 2:18-24
Psalm 8
Mark 10:2-16

Brian McShane

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

“Jesus Loves Me”

(NCH#327)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers for 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 by 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 Shankel’s ongoing ministries.
October’s Special Offering - Neighbors in Need.

Offertory

Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place

(Wolfe)

Offertory Response

“We Give You But Your Own”

(NCH#785)

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

L: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us open our hearts.

C: We open them to God and to one another.

L: Let us give thanks to God.

C: It is right and good to give our thanks and praise. Alleluia, Alhamdullilah!

Communion Prayer

God of peace and justice, after 40 days and nights on the ark, Noah and his family knew it was safe to come back to the land after a dove brought back an olive branch. Since then, the olive branch has been a symbol of peace and stability in your Holy Land and beyond.

Yet we mourn that at this time in your Holy Land, O God, there is no peace, no stability, no justice. We mourn that tomorrow will mark one year since the devastating events of October 7, when 1200 of our Jewish siblings were killed. We mourn that tomorrow will also mark 365 days of relentless death and destruction in Gaza, with over 40,000 of our Palestinian siblings killed, nearly 20,000 of them children. We mourn the destruction of olive trees in the West Bank— one of the most important sources of livelihood for Palestinian farmers— bulldozed by the Israeli military, and set fire to and uprooted by illegal settlers.

We confess that we have grown tired of hearing about this war, and other places of violence in our world. We confess our own nation's complicity through the supply of bombs, artillery shells, and other weapons. We confess our sense of powerlessness and hopelessness.

And yet, O God, you remain faithful. You have not given up on your people in the Holy Land, and you do not give up on any of your children. You were faithful 2000 years ago when you sent us your son Jesus. Born under Roman occupation, in Bethlehem, and then a refugee in Egypt. Raised in Nazareth, baptized in the Jordan. He called his disciples while in the Galilee and journeyed through the Golan and along the Mediterranean coast, through Samaria and then back to Palestine, to Jerusalem. He rejoiced with all who rejoiced and wept with all who wept. He restored the alienated and made whole the broken. He listened with understanding and spoke your word of hope. He worked wonders to reveal your glory, and offered your peace to all.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus remained faithful to his friends, gathering them for a meal. During the meal he took the bread, broke it, and said to his disciples, "this is the bread of life, broken for all for the restoration and reconciliation of all creation. Each time you eat this bread, do so in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and share it with his disciples, saying, "this is the cup of God's renewed covenant

with humanity, poured out for the sake of peace, love, and justice in the world. Each time you drink from this cup, do so in remembrance of me.”

Let us pray... Holy God, pour out your Spirit upon this bread and this cup, and upon all of your children gathered, wherever they may be. May your spirit of peace be embraced throughout the earth on this world communion Sunday, and especially in your Holy Land. “War is a monster that consumes everything in its path. Peace is a gift shared at meals of memory with Christians, Muslims, Jews, and people of all faiths. Let us burn candles, not children. Let us break bread, not bodies. Let us plant olive groves, not cemeteries. We beg for love and compassion to prevail on all your holy mountains.”* Nourish us with this holy meal and empower us to be instruments of your peace. May there be peace within ourselves, our homes, our community, our nation, and our world. May there be peace on earth. Peace, Salam, Shalom. In your everlasting name we pray, Amen.

by Rev. Sara Ofner-Seals

Breaking the Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing The Elements

Prayer after Communion

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn “ Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing” (NCH#77)

Benediction

Postlude Rigaudon (Campra)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding
Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com
Secretary: Danielle Petersen
Ministers: All Members of the Church

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth
Organist: Susan Royer
Sexton: Stacey Keim

**Announcements:
Sunday, October 6, 2024**

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 10/6/2024 ~ 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, 10/13/2024 ~Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.
Tues, 10/15/2024 ~Midday Dinner at Giovanni's at 12:00 pm.

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



Scripture Reading for October 13th

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
Psalm 90:12-17
Mark 10:17-31

Brian McShane

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!! Here is the date when we will be sitting at Boscov's offering coupons to Boscov's customers on Saturday, October 12th 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 at 610-781-6645 (cell) or at angels2we@gmail.com.

Speaker Series: Saturday, October 26th form 1-3 pm, Rev. Bill Worley will start our speaker series with "Strategies for Loving Each Other in Times of Polarization". Invite your friends and come ready to be challenged and inspired.

Carol Lykens 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!

Cluster donations for October: Pasta sauce and noodles.

Grocery run? Consider using Giant and Redner's cards for your grocery store purchases: Shenkel earns \$5.00 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 Yocom, Jule 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 October 20th.

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:

Ted and Chris Gray
Eric Klein
Tracy Dise
Peter and Adrienne Wanner
Betty Bortz

Birthdays in the month of October:

Gen Hoff	10/2/2024
Joe Granger	10/5/2024
Forrest Kreiger	10/5/2024
Sharon Snyder	10/6/2024
Adrienne Wanner	10/7/2024
David Phillips	10/8/2024
William Zachesky	10/10/2024
Susan Stulz	10/12/2024
Stacia Bradley	10/13/2024
Aaron Foss	10/14/2024
Roberta Peterman	10/20/2024
Cameron Dushanko	10/23/2024
Lisa Yocom	10/24/2024
Betsy Bevan	10/28/2024
Jacoby Mest	10/29/2024
Aaron Gray	10/31/2024