

The Worship Service

Sunday, December 8, 2024



The Bethlehem Candle

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.**

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 How Far Is It to Bethlehem (Stowey)

Welcome

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Cradle Song”

**In darkness enshrouded, the world waits for light.
To shatter the shadowy darkness of night.
To greenery circled, the faithful draw near
And longingly listen, God's message to hear.**

L: A voice cries, “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.”

C: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

L: Be ready always, with your lamps lit and your hearts prepared.

C: From Bethlehem shall he come forth who shall feed his flock in the strength of the Lord.

L: Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you.

**Two flames, soft and yellow like straw, light as down.
Prepared in a manger in Bethlehem town.
Now wait for a baby, the King of the earth.
Our Savior is coming!
Prepare for his birth!**

L: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

C: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.

L: But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

C: Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

L: Be ready always, with your lamps lit and your hearts prepared.

**Oh, keep us Lord Jesus in your mighty care.
As for your arrival your people prepare.
The flames for the faithful, Lord, let them burn bright,
That hearts of all people in faith may ignite.**

Special Music Once in Royal David's City, Congregation w/Chimes (NCH#145)

Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm 24:7-10
Luke 1:67-69

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

Sermon Reader's Theater

Brian McShane, Maureen Gallant
Pam McShane, Tootie Hine

Hymn for Reflection: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (NCH #133)

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

**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 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. December's Special Offering – The Christmas Fund

Offertory To Bethlehem I Would Go (Czech Melody)

Offering Response "Away in a Manger"

**Now let the glad tidings of great joy be heard.
Fulfilled in Christ's birth is the long-awaited word.
O God, send your Spirit, with great gifts to share.
And brighten our lives, as our hearts we prepare.**

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "Keep Awake, Be Always Ready" (NCH #112)

Benediction

Choral Benediction "Cradle Song"

**O God, with your glory you once filled the night
And now we behold in Christ Jesus the light.
May his presence brighten each pathway we take.
Until in his glory at last we awake.**

Postlude Royal David's City (arr Lasky)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding
Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com
Sexton: Stacy Keim
Ministers: All Members of the Church

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth
Organist: Susan Royer
Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Special Music: (Cecil F. Alexander/Henry J. Gauntlett) [P.D.-2649014]

Announcements:
Sunday, December 8, 2024

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 12/8/2024 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Advent Social Gathering between services in the Social Hall, 8:30 – 9:30 am.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 12/15/24 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

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



Scripture Reading for December 15th

Pam McShane

Ezekiel 34:11-16
Psalm 80:1-7
Luke 1:26-38

Carol Lykens Giving 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!

Gift Cards for Bethany Children's Home: Please check out the tree in the narthex and choose an ornament gift card to give to Bethany Children's Home. Please place the gift cards in the envelope available by December 15th. Thank you!

Advent Social Hour: We don't have many opportunities to get the people from both services together, so here is your chance! Today between 8:30 – 9:30 AM, enjoy some homemade cookies brought by the church members and coffee and tea will be provided. And we invite you to bring your favorite crèche for the table, is there a story behind it? Can't wait to see you!

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, December 22nd to address the budget. The meeting will open immediately following the 8:30 am service and will close after the 9:45 am service.

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.

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 is on December 15th.

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:

Steven and Kim Bade

Noah Bradley

Joel Sweinhart

Christian, Mari and Connor O'Drain

Aaron Gray

Birthdays in the month of December:

Isabelle Chidawu	12/4/2024
Mari O'Drain	12/4/2024
John Jonides	12/8/2024
Abigail Dise	12/9/2024
Analexis Foss	12/15/2024
Verna Walters	12/15/2024
Judith Gergle	12/20/2024
Betty Bortz	12/21/2024
Bonnie Cox	12/21/2024
Jim Faust	12/22/2024
Jose Palubinsky	12/23/2024
TJ Augustine III	12/24/2024
Jeffrey Luckenbach	12/26/2024