



Shenkel United Church of Christ



SHENKEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1580 Shenkel Road
Pottstown, PA 19465

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Shenkel United Church of Christ

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Suzanne Spaulding

Organist:

Susan Royer

Music Director

Dan Wolgemuth

Office Administrator:

Lisa Dice

Sexton:

Stacey Keim

COVENANTED MINISTER IN MISSION

Rev. Wanda D. Craner,
Gestalt Pastoral Care
Minister and Trainer
Gestalt Pastoral Care
Associates

CONSISTORY

President:

Randy Berriker

Vice President:

Sandy Rowe

Secretary:

Dave Derman

Treasurer:

Ken Bevan

Financial Secretary:

Joan Palubinsky

Elders:

Randy Berriker

Joan Palubinsky

Sandy Rowe

Deacons:

Dave Derman

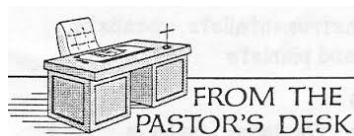
Gary McDermit

Pat Kuestner

Tony Gulotta

MINISTERS

All the members
of the church



Who would have guessed in March when

we began this journey of stay-home-stay-safe that we would still be here in June? All speculation and second guessing aside, here we are! It is becoming our new normal and the challenges are real. There are no easy answers and there are no quick fixes. Let's just sit with that for a while.

It might be good for us to practice accepting what is, without trying to change it! When I say that, I am not speaking for everyone. I am speaking for myself. It is a good, though difficult practice for me to accept what is and not try to change it so that it fits my schedule or my preferences or my timeframe or my prejudices. Just accept it, rest in the moment, and deal with what is.

Part of the "what is" right now is loss. Loss of the plans we made for the spring and summer. Loss of income, loss of life, loss of connection, loss of worship as we knew it, loss of schooling, loss of rites of passage. The losses really mount up! No wonder this is such a difficult time, we are all in the middle of grief. Sometimes grief can be mitigated by talking about it with someone else. Naming it to another person can help to lessen its impact and connect us with that other person. Another thing I have learned is that the only way to the other side of grief is through it. There are no easy answers and no quick fixes. We sit with grief and allow it to do its work.

One phrase I have often heard recently is, "We're not all in the same boat, but we are all in the same storm". I think that is largely true. As we all go through this time of pandemic separately yet together, we will also have varying reactions to the storm. May we continue to care for one another and be the church (we might need to think through what this means to us) as we weather the storm.

Remember that we do not weather the storm alone. God is walking with us during this time. Recall how Jesus invited Peter to get out of the boat amid the storm and walk to him. And recall the words of the Psalmist,

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Newsletter Editor: Lisa Dice

“even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will not fear, for you are with me...” The covid-19 pandemic cannot block the presence of God in our lives!

In closing I share with you a prayer from St. Teresa of Avila:

Let nothing disturb you.
Let nothing frighten you.
All things are changing.
God alone is changeless.
Patience attains the good.
One who has God lacks nothing.
God alone fills all our needs.

Blessings of grace and peace,

Pastor Suzanne

Beginning the first Sunday in June I'll be offering a Bible study at 11:00 am on Sunday's. We'll begin by studying the book of Esther. Anyone interested can contact me at shenkelpastor@gmail.com for the zoom link.



Redner's and Giant cards are still available during this time of social distancing and that it is a way to still support Shenkel financially and it is easier than handling cash at the store . Deliveries to those who need them can be done on Saturday by letting Gary McDermit know who would like them (which store/amount) by using the contact info in the 2020 church directory. He can then arrange (via phone) for delivery to those who request them .



Friday, August 7th at 5 pm is the Fourth Annual Ann Baccari Reading Phillies Outing. We will be traveling by Klein bus from Shenkel parking lot for a fun filled evening of baseball, food, fireworks and fellowship. More details to follow.



Shenkel Reopening May 13, 2020

Greetings members and friends:

We spent most of our May 12th Consistory meeting addressing the issue of when and how Shenkel should reopen from our current quarantine. After each member shared their thoughts on the topic, we realized we were all at virtually the same place. Outlined below are our thoughts on that process.

We will continue to follow the Governor's directive for reopening and the Red/Yellow/Green Phases he has outlined. Currently, Chester, Montgomery, and Berks Counties are all well in the Red Phase. We all know what the Red restrictions are because we've been living them for the past weeks.

Some projections show it could be several months until we have a sustained declining trend that would allow us to move to Yellow. The key parts of Yellow for Shenkel are:

Businesses with in-person operations must follow safety orders, as well as CDC/
Department of Health guidelines for social distancing and **cleaning**;
Large gatherings of more than 25 people are prohibited.

We reviewed reopening guidelines and suggestions from a variety of sources including the Wisconsin Council of Churches, West Park UCC in Ohio, and some churches in our Conference. The items to consider regarding sanitation and personal protection are daunting, to say the least. Information regarding the danger singing presents to a group, the cleaning of rest rooms, railings, seats, door knobs, etc. prior to and during meetings showed the length we will need to go to do this right.

In particular, we had information from various sources indicating the additional risk singing presents to both the singers and the listeners. The American Choral Director's Association has told its members not to expect choirs, concerts, and similar performances to be "normal" for up to two years.

We identified questions to be faced when we move to Yellow such as: Do we take a person's temperature before entering a service; and if they have a fever, do we turn them away? What if more than 25 people show up for a service, how do we decide who gets in? What liability does Shenkel have if a person gets infected by being around people at a service or event? Must everyone wear a mask during a service; and what if the person shows up without one?

After a frank and lengthy discussion, we concluded that we need to be more conservative rather than aggressive in reopening Shenkel's programs and services. A significant number of our members are in the high-risk age category. In addition, we can't insure that members who must return to work won't, even with their best efforts, come in contact with someone who is infected and in turn bring it to a service.

There is just too much uncertainty for us to reopen even an outdoor worship service and feel comfortable that the congregation would be safe. It pains me to say this because we are such a caring, hugging, compassionate group. We thrive on communal activity, seeing other members, sharing their joys and sorrows, laughing and crying together.

April Consistory Highlights

Thanks to our members generous contributions, our Current Fund went from a negative to a positive balance. Our Financial Summary shows our progress for the month and year-to-date. None of the PPP Loan proceeds are included in the April financial figures.

Starting May 1st, all contributions to our Property Fund will be split evenly between the Property Operating and Property Capital Improvement Funds. Our Property Operating Fund has a balance of over \$7,700. Based on this we felt it was time to beginning to add to our long-term account.

Our water abatement efforts have been effective. No new water has made it to the lower level with all the rain we had in April.

Confirmation has been postponed until a date when we are able to gather again in the sanctuary. The confirmands will have completed their program in May.

Dear Shenkel family,

As you know, each year the leadership committees of our church require new individuals to join the various roles on our teams. We value every member's input regarding the individuals that you feel most suited to lead us in the months ahead, and are therefore requesting nominations for our current open positions. Please consider nominating yourself OR someone else in the congregation that you feel most appropriate.

We are currently in need of two (2) new Board of Christian Education members to join the leadership currently in place. The following is a bit more detail as you consider your nominations: **Board of Christian Education** is currently led by Linda Foss, Sarah Neff Glatfelter and Gloria Mest. This group meets bi-monthly on average, and works to continue to improve and help create a functioning Sunday school program for the Sept-May calendar year. The group brainstorms about creative ways to engage our youth in the ministries of the church through a flexible yet education-based learning environment during Sunday services. Being part of this group DOES NOT mean teaching Sunday school regularly or even at all, instead it means helping to define the ways in which we can best help our youngest members learn in a fun and engaging format.

Please reply back with your nominations of yourself and others ASAP and they will be forwarded to our nominations committee to begin making reach-outs. Or feel free to email Julie Zachesky, Head of Nominations, with your ideas at juliezachesky@yahoo.com

Many thanks & please continue to stay safe.



Andrien, Brian	06/01
Yocom, Barry	06/01
Brewer, Ruth	06/02
Painter, Barbara	06/03
Denham, Priscilla	06/05
Allen, Margie	06/07
Sabo, Sharon	06/09
Yocom, Dawn	06/13
Hine, Tootie	06/14
Derman, David	06/16
Bade, Marie	06/18
Comishock, Steven	06/20
Bevan Jr., Ken	06/25
Keim Jr., William	06/25
Stubbe, Stanley	06/28
Baker, Logan	06/29
Jenkins, Dan	06/29
Foss, Michael	06/30

During the month of June, Shenkel UCC will be praying for these randomly selected members and friends of our congregation:

- 6/7 Jennifer, Jeff, Hannah, Catherine and Audrey Dyott
Verna Walters
Nicole and Scott Meehan
Olivia Dushanko
Kathy and Ron Lloyd
- 6/14 Clair and Jim Faust
Stephanie Viti
Stacey, Bill and Aurora Keim
Tammy and Keith Baker
Jordan Caplan
- 6/21 Sandy and Ray Rowe
Samantha Pennell
Dan Jenkins
Ron Christman
Faye and Ed Pedrick
- 6/28 Gary McDermit
BJ Peterman
Rachel Berriker
Taylor Baker
Pat and Don Laverty

*We always thank
GOD for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

Lunch Bunch Update

Due to Chester, Montgomery and Berks County still being in the red, Lunch Bunch committee has unanimously decided to cancel our June 4, 2020 end of the year celebration. Even if these counties decide to move to yellow there will still be stipulations on social gatherings. While we regret having to cancel this popular event, the health and safety of those folks who come out for the meeting are far more important. We have all missed the opportunity to gather since our March 5 meeting but know that the committee will be meeting (in one way or another) to plan activities for next year. It will be even more special when we can meet again. Until that time, please stay safe and healthy.

Lunch Bunch Committee - Linda Foss, Connie and Sam Armbruster, Barbara Brown, Ruthie Carr, Andrew Foss, Tootie and Louise Hine and Sam Wilson

As of April 30, 2020	Current Fund	
ACTUAL	Month	YTD
Opening Bal.	(4,837)	8,784
Giving	19,142	44,822
Expenses	(12,723)	(56,965)
Subtotal	1,582	(3,359)
Rent Income	1,700	6,800
Other	2	(157)
Ending Balance	3,284	3,284
Net Chg	8,120	(5,500)
BUDGET	Month	YTD
Giving	14,707	58,827
Over (Under)	4,435	(14,005)



Our Church's Wider Mission		
April 30, 2020	Month	YTD
Actual	540.00	3,121.00
Budget	958.33	3,833.33
Over (under)	(418.33)	(712.33)