

# *Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!*

*Sunday, May 14, 2023 – Traditional Service at 9:45 am*

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

*~Gathering Together ~*

Prelude "Celebration" Hegarty

Welcome

Invocation

Solo Introit "Gathered Here"

Call to Worship

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O people, sing!

**People: Let the sound of praise ring out.**

Pastor: Come and hear what the Lord has done,

**People: the Lord who has made everything!**

Opening Hymn "The Strife Is O'er" NCH # 242

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done, the victory of life is won;

The song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions has dispersed;

Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped, Christ rises glorious from the dead:

All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

Christ, by your wounds on Calvary from death's dread sting your servants free,

That we may live eternally. Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*~ Coming Alive in Community ~*

Call to Confession

Brother and sisters, God not only asks us to repent, but also assures us of forgiveness. Therefore, let us confess our sins to the one who is steadfast love.

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, we do not always keep your commandments; we fail to love you; our conscience is not clear. Wash us in the water of life that we might live again through the grace and mercy of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.**

*Silence for Prayer and Reflection*

Assurance of Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers, God forgives, restores, and strengthens us through the risen Christ. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Special Music

“The Comforter Has Come”

Sue Stultz, Flute

Frank Bottome/William J. Kirkpatrick (CCLI #1169209-P.D.)

*~ We Hear God’s Word ~*

Scripture Lessons

The Epistle Lesson: Acts 17:22-31

Dan Wolgemuth

The Reading of Psalm 66:8-20

The Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

NCH # 485

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in you;  
I give you back the life I owe, that in your ocean depths its flow  
may swell with ardor true.

O Light that follows all my way, to you I yield my flickering flame;  
Renew my spirit’s feeble ray, that from you brilliant sunlit day,  
it may new brightness claim.

O Joy that seeks me through my pain, to you I cannot close my heart;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and know the promise is not vain,  
that you will ne’er depart.

O Cross that raises up my head, from you I dare not seek to flee;  
Life’s glories wither and are dead, but from the ground there blossoms red,  
life that shall endless be.

*~ 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 Father, who art 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  
*Special Collection – William Burhans Scholarship.* This scholarship was established to help further the education of students who are members of Shenkel UCC and have completed high school and have a passion for history or music. Applications, available from the church office are due by April. 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, and awards are announced around May 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

Offertory "A Dance Prelude" Martin

Offering Response "We Give You But Your Own" NCH # 785  
We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

Prayer of Dedication

~ *Going out in Joy* ~

Sending Hymn "God Our Author and Creator" NCH # 530  
God our Author and Creator, in whose life we find our own,  
make our daily witness greater, by our lives make your love known.  
Help us show how love embraces those whom fear and greed down-trod;  
in all yearning hearts and faces let us see a child of God.

Like those first apostles, Savior, give us strength to love and serve;  
when our fainting spirits waver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.  
Teach us wisdom and compassion; bid our restless thoughts be still;  
by your guidance help us fashion lives conformed unto your will.

Keep us faithful, Holy Spirit, help us bear the message true,  
that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."

Join our lives in mighty chorus till we come from every place,  
with all those who went before us, to the fullness of God's grace.

Benediction

Postlude "Come Thou Fount" arr. Innes

## *Announcements*

**The Prayer Community asks you to join with us this week in praying for:**

Suzanne Spaulding  
Verna Walters  
Barbara Sweinhart  
Elaine and Jim Bevan  
Linda and John Jonides

Scripture Readings for May 21  
Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; John 17:1-11

### *~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~*

Sun., 5/14 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.  
~ Worship service at 9:45 am in sanctuary  
~ Book Study at 11 am  
Tues., 5/16 ~ Midday Dinner Club at WQ Diner at noon  
Thurs., 5/18 ~ Card class at 10 am  
~ Agape at 6:30 pm

### *~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~*

Sun., 5/21 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.  
~ Worship service at 9:45 am in sanctuary  
~ Book Study at 11 am  
~ Church School at 11 am  
~ Coventry Woods Festival 1-5 pm  
Mon., 5/22 ~ Community Meal at Christ Episcopal at 12 pm

**Pottstown Cluster.** This month's items are cleaning supplies: toilet brushes, toilet plungers, dust pans and brushes, mops, brooms. Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster.

**Operation 143.** We will be packing backpacks of food again for operation 143 on May 22, 2023 at 6 pm. We need at least 8 people to help. Youth Group and any church members are welcome to help. Please let Gloria Mest know if you are able to help by May 14.

**Mid-day Dinner club** will be meeting at WQ Diner on Tuesday, May 16 at noon. It is open to young-at-heart adults of any age who enjoy eating out and would like to get to know other Shenkel members a little better. If you are attending, please add your name and phone number on the sign up sheet no later than Sunday, May 14 or you may call Sharon Sabo at 610-326-1945 or let her know at the Sunday service if you are able to attend.

**The Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities "Trash Team"** will be working collaboratively on the following clean-ups:

Supporting Veterans Island Project & Travis Manion Foundation

Landscaping Work & Trash Clean-up

May 20th from 8:30AM - Noon

Veteran's Island; 251 Manatawny Street; Pottstown PA 19464

<https://donate.travismanion.org/event/pottstown-pa-annual-clean-up/e465028>

Anyone who registers through the Travis Manion Website gets a free T-shirt. You **DO NOT** have to donate to get the shirt.

Learn more about volunteering for our Resource Team and Trash Team: <https://www.pottstowncluster.org/volunteer/>