

# The Worship Service

## Sunday, December 1, 2024



## THE PROPHECY CANDLE

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### Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

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### 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                      Gabriel's Oboe                      (Morricone)

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 to God's message to hear.**

L: Send out your light and your truth, O Lord: let them be our guide.

**C: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And God said, “Let there be light!”**

L: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

**C: Did not our hearts burn within us while he spoke to us and opened the Scriptures for us?**

L: “Let the prophet who has my word speak my word faithfully,” says the Lord. “Is not my word a fire?”

**One candle is burning – through darkness shines light,  
As prophets were yearning for God's holy might.  
To people in darkness came promises new –  
The promise of Jesus is faithful and true.**

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: Thy work is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

**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 my ignite.**

### ~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Lori Scharneck

Deuteronomy 18:15-18

Psalm 126

Special Music: O Loving Founder Of The Stars, Sandy Rowe, Soloist

Luke 1:5-25

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

Sermon                              Reader's Theater              Brian McShane, Maureen Gallant,  
Suzanne Spaulding, Tootie Hine

Hym for Reflection:              "Comfort, Comfort O My People"              (NCH #101)

**~Sharing Blessings with Others~**

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                              Von Himmel Hoch                              (Reger)

Offering Response              "Away In A Manger"

**Now let the glad tidings of great joy be heard  
Fulfilled in Christ's birth is the prophets' sure word.  
O God, send your Spirit, fresh gifts to impart,  
Let faith be ignited in each waiting heart.**

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

L: Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

**C: In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.**

Communion Prayer

L: God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to God.**

L: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom

you have sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

**C: 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!**

L: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: This is my body." Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." We remember Christ's promise not to drink of the fruit of the vine again until the heavenly banquet at the close of history, and we say boldly what we believe.

**C: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

L: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

**C: Amen.**

Breaking the Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

Prayer after Communion

**We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus 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; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Verses 1,2, & 6 (NCH #116)

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

Come O Savior

(Medlock)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Email: [shenkelpastor@gmail.com](mailto:shenkelpastor@gmail.com)

Sexton: Stacy Keim

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth

Organist: Susan Royer

Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Special Music: (Latin, 9th century/Sarum plainsong) Words Translation-© 1993 The Pilgrim Press / Music, P.D. (onelicense # 07641]

**Announcements:**  
**Sunday, December 1, 2024**

**~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~**

Sun, 12/1/2024 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am with communion in the Sanctuary.

~ Traditionalish Worship service with communion at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

**~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~**

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

~ Advent Social Hour between 8:30 – 9:45 am in the Social Hall.

~ 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 8th**

**Dan Wolgemuth**

Micah 5:2-5a

Psalms 24:7-10

Luke 1:67-79

**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 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**Advent Social Hour:** We don't have many opportunities to get the people from both services together, so here is your chance! On December 8th between 8:45 AM and 9:30 AM, bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to share with your friends. Don't worry, all you non-bakers! Come anyway, the people who love to bake have you covered! And we invite you to bring your favorite creche for the table, is there a story behind it? Share it with your tablemates. Coffee and tea are provided. Can't wait to see you!

**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 December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**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:

Stephanie and Jace Horonzy  
Stacey, Bill and Aurora Keim  
Michael Kulp  
Steve Craner  
Julie and Bill Zachesky

**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
Josh Palubinsky	12/23/2024
TJ Augustine III	12/24/2024
Jeffrey Luckenbach	12/26/2024

