

The Worship Service – Sunday April 28, 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.**

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 Improvisation on "Wye Valley"(R Miller)

Welcome

Invocation

Congregational Introit (Refrain Only): "Yours Is The Glory, Resurrected One" (NCH#253)

Call to Worship

L: God is not contained by this place or bounded by this hour.

C: Praise to the God of everywhere and always!

L: Yet God is present in this place and active in this hour.

C: Praise to the God of here and now!

L: Our good and gracious Creator calls us to worship, and we have chosen to come together gladly and openly acknowledging a common need.

**C: We affirm our need for God, our Enabler of hope, Advocate of peace,
Provider of unlimited love, and Source of sustaining faith. All praise be to God
now and forever.**

Opening Hymn "Enter, Rejoice, And Come In" (NCH #73)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Sense the love of God that seeks to live in us. Remember the times you have felt connected to the true vine, Jesus Christ. Listen again to the promise and challenge: If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish and it will be done for you...bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Prayer of Confession

**O God, we have ignored our origin in you and denied your rule over the nations.
We have pursued illusions of self-interest rather than abiding in your love. We
have turned away from brothers and sisters as if they were enemies to be hated.
We are afraid to love those who differ from us or who have the power to harm
us. We hesitate to take the risks of caring for fear that we may be hurt.
Discipleship seems too demanding. O God, release us from our fears and failures
to trust your love and live with bold generosity. Amen**

~Silence for Prayer and Meditation~

Assurance of Pardon

There is good news for all who sincerely repent and seek a living, growing relationship with God. Those who are open to the gift of God's love are blessed with the capacity to extend love to others and thus experience the depth and riches of life that God intends for us. When we love one another, God's love is perfected in us.

Special Music Vine and Branches

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Joan Palubinsky

John 15:1-8

Psalms 22:25-31

Acts 8:26-40

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Wonder Of Wonders, Here Revealed" (NCH #328)

~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 Mother/Father, who are 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 of glory, forever. Amen

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel’s ongoing ministries.
April’s Special Offering – Phoebe Ministries

Offertory	Berceuse (Barrus)
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Offering Response “Here Are Our Hearts (Sing! Prayer And Praise – Once Thru)”
See insert

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn “Sun Of My Soul, O Savior Dear” (NCH #96)

Benediction

Postlude	Deo Gracias (Hymn Tune)
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Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding
 Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com
 Sexton: Stacy Keim

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth
 Organist: Susan Royer
 Ministers: All Members of the Church

Announcements:

Sunday, April 28, 2024

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 4/28/24 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary
 ~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary
 ~ Congregational meeting after worship

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 5/5/24 ~ Reflective Worship service with communion at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary
 ~ Traditionalish Worship service with communion at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary
 ~ Conversation on the crisis in Gaza at 11:30 am in the Social Hall

Scripture Reading for May 5th

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
John 15:9-17

Famous Shenkel Corn & Pig Roast Sunday, August 25, 2024 at 5 PM

Corn, Pig and Beverages to be provided.

Things to Bring:

- Your family and friends!
- Place settings for your family
- Side & Dessert to share

Conversations on the crisis in Gaza:

- Understand more about this catastrophe – the Nakba in 1948 and now.
- Hear the voices of our Palestinian Christian partners.
- Learn how to take action now and over time.

First Opportunity - May 5 at 11:30 am in the Social Hall – food will be available. Soup, dessert and drinks will be provided, please bring a side dish. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex.
Second Opportunity - June 2 at 11:30 am in the Social Hall – food will be available. Special guests: Rev. Linda Noonan and Ariel Ackermann

Flours: Are in memory of John and Thelma Renninger, parents of Linda & John Jonides and Carole and Henry Bailey.

Cluster donations for April: Laundry detergent, fabric softener and dryer sheets.

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.

160 Paper Towel Rolls: We continue to collect paper towels for Christ Episcopal. We have already collected and delivered 7 month's worth. Thank you for your generosity. Donations of any size are welcome.

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, Sandy Peterman, Tootie, Louise Hine, 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. May 19th is our next church school.

The Agape Group is re-organizing and will now become the Shenkel Prayer Group. This will be a time for prayer requests, meditation, fellowship and a way to explore prayer. We will be meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 10AM at Freda Wanner’s home starting in May. Freda’s address is 1752 Temple Rd, Pottstown 19465. All are welcome, including new faces! Come join us for a cup of coffee or tea and celebrate the Spirit of God moving among us. Any questions feel free to talk with Tootie and/or Louise.

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

- Glorie Mest
- Barbara Brown
- Lexi Foss
- Gary McDermitt
- Matthew Scharneck

Birthdays in the month of April:

Scott Meehan	4/4/2024	Angeline Viti	4/16/2024
James White	4/7/2024	Rosemary Wolgemuth	4/16/2024
Debbie Hoff	4/10/2024	Jennifer Braley	4/18/2024
Scott Kutz	4/10/2024	Kelly Strunk	4/19/2024
Gloria Mest	4/10/2024	Barbara Brown	4/21/2024
Sandy Rowe	4/11/2024	Kaelyn Kline	4/24/2024
Gart Stultz	4/12/2024	Sarah Neff Glatfelter	4/25/2024
Julianne Wanner	4/12/2024	Joan Palubinsky	4/28/2024
Drew Sweinhart	4/16/2024	Donald Laverty	4/29/2024

