

~ *Coming Alive in Community* ~

Call to Confession

God, we come before you as those who have been baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, and who seek to be raised to new life in Christ.

Prayer of Confession

We confess our fear of death. We fear death as life's ending, and its threat hidden in poverty, danger, or sickness. We fear death as letting go of old ways, old relationships, old self-understanding. We confess also our fear of life. Sometimes we want to build shells to protect ourselves from people who come too close, from change that comes too fast, from possibilities that seem too bewildering.

God, help us to entrust our lives into your keeping; to accept the embrace of your loving arms and to receive your forgiveness and promise of life eternal in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and we are set free!

Special Music "Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!" Congregation with Chimes
Edmund L Budry/G.F.Handel; © 1993-Words-The Pilgrim Press (onlicense #121309)

~ *We Hear God's Word* ~

Scripture Lessons

The Gospel Reading: John 10:22-30

Sandy Rowe

The Reading of Psalm 23

The Epistle Reading: Acts 9:36-43

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

"Now the Green Blades Rises"

NCH # 238

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;
Wheat that in dark earth for many years has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that rises green.

In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
Thinking that their Love would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that rises green.

Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus, who for three days in the grave had lain,

Quick from the dead my risen One is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that rises green.

~ 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
Strengthen the Church (STC) - *It is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches where the UCC voice has not been heard.*

Offering Response

"Doxology"

NCH # 778

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise god, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Prayer of Dedication

~ Going out in Joy ~

Sending Hymn

"When Peace, Like A River"

NCH # 438

When peace like a river, upholds me each day,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain:

It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come,
let this blessed assurance control,

That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has paid life and blood for my soul. (Refrain)

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought -
my sin – not in part, but the whole -
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! (Refrain)

O God, speed the day that is filled with your light,
when clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear,
“even so” - it is well with my soul. (Refrain)

Benediction

Postlude

“Draw the Circle Wide”

Light

Announcements

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

Lori Scharneck
Sarah Neff, Emmit, Shane and Iris Glatfelter
Lexi Foss
Antony Gulotta
Julianne Wanner

The FLOURS today in honor of John and Thelma Renninger. A donation was made for them
which will be sent to the Coventry Food Pantry.

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

Sun., 5/8 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
~ Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am
~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
Tues., 5/10 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
~ Consistory at 6:30 pm
Wed., 5/11 ~ Office closing at noon
~ White Privilege Discussion at 7 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

- Sun., 5/15 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
~ Worship service in the sanctuary at 9:45 am
~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
- Tues., 5/17 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
~ Midday Dinner Club at Douglassville Hotel at noon
- Wed., 5/18 ~ BOCE at 1 pm
~ White Privilege Discussion at 7 pm
- Thurs., 5/19 ~ Card Making Class at 10 am
~Agape at 6:45 pm

Scripture Readings for May 15:

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; John 13:31-35

Mid-day Dinner club will be meeting at Douglassville Hotel on Tuesday, May 17 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 15 so your reservation can be made on time or you may call Sharon Sabo at 610-326-1945 or let her know at the Sunday service if you are able to attend.

Beginning Sunday, May 8, we will begin part 2 of the **continuing education and discussion about white privilege**. We are using the UCC curriculum “White Privilege, let’s talk, A Resource for Transformational Dialogue.” There will be the same three discussion time options in which to participate:

Sunday after worship, 11:00 am; Tuesday at 11:00 am; Wednesday at 7:00 pm

All discussions are planned to take place in person in the social hall. You can pick up a copy of Part 2 at the church office. The expectation is that you will have read the first chapter and arrive ready to join in a discussion. I look forward to continuing our learning and growing together as we work our way through this curriculum.

The Coventry Woods festival will be held on Sunday May 22 from 1-5 PM. We are looking for people to staff the Shenkel display table and share information about Shenkel UCC with people who stop by. We would like to get 4 people (including youth) who can help for several hours each. We are also looking to borrow a 6’ or 8’ folding table and folding canopy to shade our volunteers from the sun. These items would need to be set up at 10 AM and removed after the festival ends (~5:15 PM). If you can help us with these items it would be appreciated. Please contact Gary McDermit, Chris Gray, or Dan Jenkins if you can help with any of the above.

Card Making Class will be starting on Thursday, May 19th at 10 am in the Social Hall. Each class participants make three beautiful cards. Cost is \$8. If you plan to attend the class or have any questions, please call Pat Kuestner at 610-327-0889 to insure there will be enough materials.