

Shenkel United Church of Christ



May 2021

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Traditional service with Communion at 9:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am—Zoom	3	4	5 Bible Study 7 pm	6	7	1 8
9 Traditional service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am—Zoom	10	11 Consistory 6:30 pm	12 Bible Study 7 pm	13	14	15
16 Traditional service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am—Zoom	17	18	19 Bible Study 7 pm	20	21	22
23 Traditional service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am—Zoom	24	25	26	27 Church office closed	28	29
30 Traditional service 9:45 am Rev. Wanda Craner preaching Sunday School 11:30 am—Zoom	31					

Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown PA 19465 610.326.3535
Email: shenkelucc@aol.com www.shenkelucc.org

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:
Dan Jenkins

Treasurer:
Ken Bevan

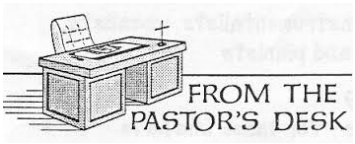
Financial Secretary:
Joan Palubinsky

Elders:
Randy Berriker
Joan Palubinsky
Sandy Rowe

Deacons:
Dan Jenkins
Gary McDermit
Pat Kuestner
Tony Gulotta

MINISTERS

All the members of the church



"If April showers bring May flowers,
What do May flowers bring?"

Pilgrims!

I enjoy watching the PBS show "Finding your Roots", hosted by Dr. Henry Louis Gates. The other day I watched an episode where one of the people was found to have connections back to William Bradford who came to this country on the Mayflower. In the course of their discussion they talked about how Bradford somehow survived the first awful winter at Plymouth when, of the 102 people who came on that ship, 52 died. That information which I'm sure I had heard before, suddenly felt close and all too real against the current backdrop of the Corona virus pandemic.

I am also re-reading a novel by Ken Follet set in the mid-1300s. During that time the people of Europe suffered from the "Bubonic Plague". They didn't know what caused it and they could only try to ease the suffering of fever and bleeding. Most people who contracted it died, some survived and a few never contracted it. The plague decimated cities, villages, and monasteries.

From that suffering, my mind turns to the suffering of those enslaved Africans forced to make the infamous "Middle Passage" – the journey by ship from Africa to the New World. We are the descendants of the terrible history of chattel slavery in our country. How often I wish it were not our history but merely a fairy tale. Our Lenten Devotional book highlighted for us and humanized some of the harrowing journeys to freedom by many of those enslaved people.

As we consider all this suffering throughout history and down to our day, it is easy to agree with Job in chapter 5 verse 7: "…but humans are born to trouble just as sparks fly upward." Trouble feels so inevitable; mainly unavoidable, and how we hate pain and suffering!

Thanks be to God that pain, suffering and even death does not have the last word in our lives. The Creator who brought all things into existence had this response according to Genesis 1:31; "God

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Newsletter Editor: Lisa Dice

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saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good." That same Creator sent the Son to take on flesh and blood, live among us, heal and teach, die and return to life for and with us.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 8 that God has a good outcome in mind for all of creation and we are all moving toward this fulfillment in God's good plan. This Creator God who made us and loves us beyond measure is continually calling us to pursue all that leads to life and human thriving. When suffering comes upon us we know that Jesus has already walked this way before us and is even present with us in our suffering. As we grow in our relationship with God, we can receive healing and wholeness and offer the same to others around us. As Jesus told his disciples in John 20:21, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

On this continued journey through the Easter Season, until Pentecost Sunday on May 23; may you be reminded of the joy and miracle of resurrection and know in your heart that death never has the last word. Know too that the showers of April will give way to the flowers of May!

Grace and peace in abundance,
Pastor Suzanne

April Consistory Highlights

- The following individuals were affirmed for presentation to the congregation at the April 25th Meeting for election to Consistory (Chris Gray and Kelly Strunk) and the Board of Christian Education (Barbara Brown and Betsy Bevan).
- The enhanced A/V system has been installed. It will be used for worship or other events in both Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary.
- Bill Boyer Scholarships in the amount of $500 each were awarded to Lilly Keim and TJ Augustine.
- Homes in the Eastwick Community in Philadelphia were badly damaged last August by Tropical Storm Isaias. St. Paul AME Church is spearing the repair project. We approved a $1,000 donation to the project from the Program, Mission, and Service Projects 2018 Allocation.
- We are still looking for a volunteer to be a backup to the Cemetery Superintendent as well as volunteers as Youth Advisors. If interested in learning more, please contact Randy Berriker.
- Special thanks to Joan Palubinsky and Sandy Rowe for their faithful service on Consistory and Louise Hine and Stacy Keim for their faithful service on the Board of Christian Education. All their 2nd terms expire at the end of April.



Kay Ellis	05/03
Robin Martin	05/03
Malcolm Snyder	05/04
Carol Lykens	05/06
Emily Trego	05/07
Connor O'Drain	05/08
Brooke Miller	05/10
Olivia Sanseverino	05/11
Matthew Scharneck	05/12
Michael Kulp	05/13
Jordan Hartzelll	05/15
Shane Glatfelter	05/18
Michaela Craner	05/20
Lynn Derman	05/20
Randy Berriker	05/21
Christina Hauze	05/21
Bob Mocarski	05/23
Andrew Foss	05/29

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

5/2 Sarah Neff, Emmit, Shane and Iris Glatfelter
Mindy, Isabella and Sela Chidawu
June Hartung
Maryln Rohrbach
Margie and Doug Allen

5/9 Drew Sweinhart
Pat Kuestner
Wayne Klein
Elaine and Jim Bevan
Becky, Joe, Grace and Cole Major and Seth Dawicki

5/16 Forrest Kreiger
Michaela Craner
Britnee, Bill, Olivia and Delia Sanseverino
Linda and John Jonides
Cameron Dushanko

5/23 Ethel Miller
Jen and David Braley
Noah Bradley
Mari, Christian and Connor O'Drain
Barbara Sweinhart

5/30 Kim and Steven Bade
Pat and Don Laverty
Angeline Viti
Linda, Andrew, Brandon, Aaron, Michael and AJ Foss and Christina Hauze
Jim White



Very Important Information from the Profile Team

Please join us in person or on Zoom Sunday, May 2 after the service for a very important visioning session. We should be able to begin by 10:45. Bring and share your ideas and visions for Shenkel's future!! If you absolutely cannot be part of the process in real time, please call or email Brenda Berriker with your thoughts.

Thank you for taking part in this very important piece of compiling the Church Profile!

Your Profile Team

As of March 31, 2021	Current Fund	
ACTUAL	Month	YTD
Opening Bal.	138	6,546
Giving	7,824	26,964
Expenses	(13,533)	(42,482)
Subtotal	(5,571)	(8,972)
Rent Income	1,700	5,100
Other	1	2
Ending Balance	(3,870)	(3,870)
Net Chg	(4,009)	(10,416)
BUDGET		
Giving	14,591	43,773
Over (Under)	(6,767)	(16,809)

Giant and Redner's Gift Cards

Giant gift cards in $25, $50 or $100 increments and Redner's gift cards in $50 and $100 increments can be purchased in the church office on Tuesdays, Wednesday or Thursdays from 9 am to 2 pm.



Our Church's Wider Mission		
March 31, 2021	Month	YTD
Actual	445.00	1,425.00
Budget	1,000.00	3,000.00
Over (under)	(555.00)	(1,575.00)