

Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!

Sunday, September 11, 2022 – Traditional Service at 9:45 am

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

~Gathering Together ~

Prelude

“Fair Havens”

Pethel

Welcome

Missions & Ministries

Invocation

Choral Introit

“I Am Welcome”

Songbook # 72

I am welcome, I am welcome, I am loved just as I am.

I am welcome, I am welcome, I am loved just as I am.

O Spirit burn that truth into my heart.

You are welcome, You are welcome, You are loved just as You are.

You are welcome, You are welcome, You are loved just as You are.

O Spirit burn that truth into your hearts.

We are welcome, We are welcome, We are loved just as We are.

We are welcome, We are welcome, We are loved just as We are.

O Spirit burn that truth into our hearts.

Call to Worship

Pastor: God has given us this beautiful earth and all that grows and runs upon it.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

People: Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving, and praise.

Opening Hymn

“This Is My Father’s World”

Songbook # 87

This is my Father’s world, and to my list’ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world: I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.

This is our Father’s world: the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily bright, declare their maker’s praise.
he trusts us in his world, to keep it clean and fair -
all earth and trees, all skies and seas, all creatures everywhere.

This is our Father’s world: God shines in all that’s fair;
in rustling grass I hear him pass – God speaks to me everywhere.
This is my Father’s world, why should my heart be sad?
The Lord and King, let heaven ring! God reigns; let earth be glad.

~ Coming Alive in Community ~

Call to Confession

Trusting in God’s grace and mercy, let us confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you desire truth in our inner beings – so teach us wisdom. You know our sins and failures, wash us clean and restore us to right relationship with you. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Reflection

Assurance of Forgiveness

God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free.

Special Music

~ We Hear God’s Word ~

Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament Reading: Exodus 32:7-14

Tootie Hine

Reading of Psalm 51:1-10

The Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection

“Ask, Seek, Knock”

Songbook # 50

Sometimes it's hard to believe in Someone my eyes can't see.
Sometimes I question and doubt the way Thomas did.
But God's not the kind who says don't use your mind,
so when questions trouble my soul,
I trust in the promise that Jesus made to us all.

(Chorus)

When we ask, seek, knock we will receive from God!
When we ask, seek, knock surely we'll find!
When we ask, seek, knock doors will swing open wide!
So let us ask, seek, knock all of our lives! (second time, repeat line)

Sometimes when I'm feeling strong I promise things I can't keep.
Sometimes I let Jesus down the way Peter did.
But God gives me grace to learn from my mistakes,
and to pick up the pieces again,
and trust that the Savior is working good through it all (Chorus)

~ *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
Church World Services - Blanket Sunday For over 60 years, Church World Services has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including: blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster. For more information, go to www.cwsglobal.org.

Offering Response

“We Plow the Fields”

Songbook # 36

All good gifts around us Are sent from heaven above;
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord For all His love. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

~ Going out in Joy ~

Sending Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Songbook # 41

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven on earth be found,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore your temples leave..
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.

Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Benediction

Postlude

“You Are Holy”

Harling

Announcements

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

Sarah Neff, Emmit, Shane and Iris Glatfelter
Lindsay Hoff
Dawn Yocom
Cameron Dushanko
Ron Christman

Last Sunday, we collected \$675 for **the Pottstown Cluster** of Religious Organizations during our Community service.

~ This week at Shenkel UCC ~

- Sun., 9/11 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary.
~ Worship service in the grove at 9:45 am
~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
- Tues., 9/13 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
~ Consistory at 6:30 pm
- Wed., 9/14 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 7 pm
- Thurs., 9/15 ~ Card Class at 10 am
~ Agape at Freda Wanner's house at 6:30 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

- Sun., 9/18 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in sanctuary with Karen Smith leading the drum circle.
~ Worship service in the grove at 9:45 am with Karen Smith leading the drum circle.
~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
- Tues., 9/20 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 11 am
~ Midday Dinner Club at St. Peter's Inn at noon
- Wed., 9/21 ~ White Privilege Discussion at 7 pm
- Sat., 9/24 ~ Active Shooter Training at 10 am in the social hall
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Beginning today, we will be offering opportunities for **continuing education and discussion about white privilege**. We will be using the UCC curriculum "White Privilege, let's talk, A Resource for Transformational Dialogue" Again there will be three different discussion times 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 the third section 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 learning and growing together as we work our way through this curriculum.

Pottstown Cluster. This month's items are adult lotion, deodorant, feminine tampons, and laundry detergent. Please place your items in the bin marked for the Cluster. Next month's items are dish soap, multi-purpose cleaners, and toilet paper.

Thank you to Lori Scharneck for providing the refreshments after the service today.

A Different Worship Experience

On Sunday September 18 we will experience worship through a drum circle!

Ms Karen Smith, Percussionist/Playwright/Poet/Curator, will be with us to lead us in this new (to many) way to worship. She led a drum circle at the PSEC Spring Meeting I attended and so I have invited her to come and share that experience with us. Everyone of all ages is welcome and encouraged to be present, even those who feel they have no rhythm. Karen will invite you in and you may be surprised at what you experience. Looking forward to sharing this worship experience together. – Pastor Suzanne

Active Shooter Training. Over the past few years, our country has experienced a marked increase in shootings at places we historically considered safe (i.e. churches, schools, malls). In light of these events, Consistory asked itself, “What can we do to prepare our members in case a shooter comes into worship or a meeting? Are there things we can actively do during an assault to increase our safety?” With those and other questions in mind, we invite you to attend and Active Shooter Training session on Saturday, September 24th from 10-noon. A special agent from the FBI’s Philadelphia Field Office will be coming to fellowship hall to present this program. This agent specializes in training of this type for churches, businesses, and schools.

All ages are invited to attend this interactive session. What we learn will be applicable not only to Shenkel, but also to other settings as well.

Disaster Relief. We will be collecting money to help the people in Kentucky. All money will be sent to the PSEC to be forwarded to Kentucky.

Friends Helping Friends

Come and shop at Boscov’s on Wednesday, October 19. You will need to purchase a shopping pass for \$5.00 and get a 25 % discount on most items. Please see Tootie or Louise for your pass. Shenkel gets to keep the \$5.00 as a fundraiser.