



# *Shenkel United Church of Christ*



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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

# **APRIL 2020**

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

<p>Thursdays: Chime Choir at 6:30 pm Chancel Choir at 7:30 pm</p>			<p><b>1</b> BOCE 1 pm</p>	<p><b>2</b> Choir</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b> Reflective service 8:30 am Traditional service 9:45 am Communion</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> Maundy Thursday simple supper Service 6 pm</p>	<p><b>10</b> Good Friday Service 7 pm</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b> Sunrise service at Temple UMC 6:30 am Traditional service 9:45 am Communion</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> Consistory 6 pm</p>	<p><b>15</b> PRC 5 pm Agape at Freda Wanner's 7 pm</p>	<p><b>16</b> Card making class 10 am Choir</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b> Reflective service 8:30 am Traditional service 9:45 am</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> Midday dinner club - 12 pm</p>	<p><b>22</b> Friendly's Fundraiser 4 pm</p>	<p><b>23</b> Choir</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> Reflective service 8:30 am Traditional service 9:45 am Communion at the Villa noon</p>	<p><b>27</b> Community Meal at Christ Episcopal 12pm</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> Choir</p>		

# 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:

Dave Derman

### Treasurer:

Ken Bevan

### Financial Secretary:

Joan Palubinsky

### Elders:

Randy Berriker

Joan Palubinsky

Sandy Rowe

### Deacons:

Dave Derman

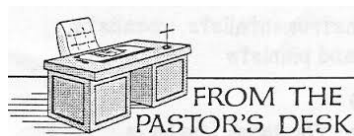
Gary McDermit

Pat Kuestner

Tony Gulotta

## MINISTERS

All the members  
of the church



Questions and then theories abound in an effort to make sense of “Why is this happening?” No matter what is happening we want to make sense of it and be able to know a reason. We receive a difficult diagnosis, homes and lives are destroyed by a natural disaster, our world is turned upside down by the corona virus pandemic... the list could go on and on. The human, knee jerk reaction is to ask “Why?”; “Why me?”; “Why now?”; “Why?”

The ancient Hebrews answered that question by ascribing all the bad things that happened to their lack of correct worship of God or to their failure to worship the one, true God. The Hebrew Scriptures are full of stories with this ‘justification’. And so it has been through history and still today that we believe in a transactional God. The idea being that if you do good things and please God then God will take care of you and keep you safe. Conversely, if you do bad and displease God then God will send punishment upon you. One of the most beloved movies of our time is quite blatant in that with a song sung by the main character that goes sort of like this; “Nothing comes from nothing, nothing ever could, so somewhere in my youth or childhood, I must have done something good.” Maria must have done something good in order to have won the love of Captain Von Trapp.

Is that what we really see in Jesus’ life as recorded in the Gospels? In the Gospel lesson for March 22 we find the story in John 9 of the man born blind being healed by Jesus. The disciples ask Jesus, “Who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?” Jesus refuses to pursue this line of reasoning. He resists analysis of the situation in any such terms. In fact, Jesus goes on to say, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but in order that the works of God might be revealed in him, we must work the works of him who sent me...” Jesus instead points his disciples to consider the situation in terms of what their work here must be, doing the healing, helping work of God and not analyzing someone else’s life situation. Jesus was a master at meeting people where they were and then bringing the healing, hope and restoration

Continued on Page 4

Newsletter Editor: Lisa Dice

that they needed.

How beautiful is the non-transactional grace of God. God sees us in our need and offers forgiveness, hope, and wholeness without blame or explanations; just grace overflowing into our lives. Jesus models it for us and calls us to be like him.

As we find ourselves in the midst of a pandemic; an unsettling, scary, disturbing time; what is the work of God that we are to be about? Where are the hurting and helpless, the vulnerable and frightened? How might we be God's hands and feet to bring hope, help, peace and comfort? Let us be about the work of God in the world in the most creative, loving, hopeful ways possible!

Blessings of peace,

Pastor Suzanne



We will be recording the service on Thursdays and placing them on You Tube. The sermon was recorded on Sunday, March 15 and placed on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwGHWabXRDE&feature=youtu.be> . Please feel free to watch the services at your leisure. The service will be similar to the Reflective service. There will be no music. Just click on the links sent each week or enter into your web browser. Look for the e-blast with the information.

**Restaurant Fundraiser, Wednesday, April 22.** Spread the word to friends and family and come out to Friendly's Restaurant, 200 Shoemaker Rd, Pottstown, 4-9PM. Shenkel will receive a portion of all dinner (and ice cream!) sales.



**Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>** at 5 pm is the Fourth Annual Ann Baccari Reading Phillies Outing. We will be traveling by Klein bus from Shenkel parking lot for a fun filled evening of baseball, food, fireworks and fellowship. More details to follow.



## Shenkel UCC COVID-19 Response

Greetings Shenkel members and friends. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you our response to the current COVID-19 Emergency. After prayerful consideration with Consistory and Pastor Suzanne, we have elected to suspend all Shenkel UCC activity through March 31<sup>st</sup>. This includes all worship services, meetings, and gatherings.

We understand how important our fellowship and worship are to each of us and the support we offer and receive from each other. Yet right now we must do all we can to not pass the virus on to each other or our community.

We are exploring ways that Pastor Suzanne can deliver a Sunday service either through a recorded link or a teleconference format. Dave Derman, our resident tech guru, has some ideas on how this can be accomplished so that we can have remote worship each week.

Remember that our outdoor worship center in the grove and labyrinth are always open for anyone who wishes to get in touch with God through nature. We just ask that you honor the suggested social distancing if you elect to meet someone else there.

Even though we cannot physically be with each other, there are a variety of other ways we can “visit” our faith family. Emails, regular cards or letters, phone calls, Facetime, and a variety of other new and old social networking options are available. Now more than ever we need to listen to, talk to, and support one another.

For now, the church office will be open its regular hours. If a pastoral care situation arises, contact the office, Pastor Suzanne (610-216-8083), or any Consistory member.

Without prompting from the Stewardship Committee, I would be remiss if I didn't remind us to honor our financial commitments to Shenkel. You can mail in your offering or complete your envelopes as usual and bring them all with you when we have our celebratory return.

Recently, while watching the never-ending, depressing news about the pandemic, I recalled that when the Israelites had been uprooted from their homes and were in Exile in Babylon, they were afraid and felt little hope. Jeremiah the prophet in Chapter 29, wrote, “Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters...For thus says the Lord...I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. When you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me.”

Have hope. Support each other. Trust in God.

In Christian love.

Randy Berriker  
Consistory President  
610-823-4908

# Volunteer Opportunities



## COVENTRY WOODS FESTIVAL

The annual Coventry Woods Festival will be held on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, and Shenkel will again be participating in the event. Right now we are looking for a couple volunteers to assist in planning our display. Please see Pat Kuestner if you are interested in helping.

As we get closer to the date, we will also be looking for volunteers to help “man” the table at certain times, and help with setting up and breaking down.



**Scripture Readers Needed:** We are looking for volunteers to read the scriptures on Sunday mornings at both services. Please contact Tootie Hine at 610-385-3716 or [weetwoangels@aol.com](mailto:weetwoangels@aol.com) if you would like to sign up.

# This Month at Shenkel UCC

## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Sunday, April 5*      *Palm Sunday Reflective Service with Communion at 8:30 am*
- Palm Sunday Traditional Service with Communion at 9:45 am*
- Thursday, April 9*      *Maundy Thursday Simple Supper at 6 pm*
- Friday, April 10*      *Good Friday service 7:00 pm*
- Sunday, April 12*      *Easter Sunrise service with Temple UMC 6:30 am*
- Easter Service at Shenkel UCC 9:30 am*
- Easter Brunch 10:30am*



## Mid-Day Dinner Club

*Our next event will be on Tuesday, April 21st at Longhorn Steakhouse*

The Mid-day Dinner Club meets at 12 noon on the third Tuesday of each month and you're invited! 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 a "regular," please check off your name on the plate in the narthex no later than the Sunday before the lunch so your reservation can be made on time. If you are a "newbie," please call the church office (or just add your name to the plate) if you're able to join us!



**PHOEBE MINISTRIES**

### Special Offering for April —

#### *Phoebe Ministries*

*Phoebe Ministries is a non profit, multi-facility organization located in server eastern counties affiliated with the UCC specializing in health care, housing and support services for seniors.*

*For more information, go to [www.phoebe.org](http://www.phoebe.org).*

# Monthly Meets

## **The Agape group**

Third Wednesday of the Month, 7 pm

Showing love through prayer, this group's time together is spent with a quiet time for centering and meditation with sharing prayer concerns. They meet at the home of Freda Wanner, 1752 Temple Road, Pottstown.

## **Card Making Class**

Third Thursday, 10 am in 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 Connie Armbruster at 610-326-6516 to insure there will be enough materials.

## **Community Lunch Bunch**

First Thursday, 11:30 am in Social hall

Open to the community, this monthly get together offers lunch followed by a short program that changes every month. The cost is \$7. Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Look on page 5 for this month's program. For more info, please call Linda Foss at 610-741-6949 or Sam Wilson at 610-323-1637.

## **Mid-day Dinner Club**

Third Tuesday, 12 pm

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. Meeting place changes every month. Look for the dinner plate sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please call the church office at 610-326-3535 with questions or RSVPs.

## **Shenkel Sewing Circle**

Second & Fourth Tuesday, 9:30 am in Social hall

We are a small group of very friendly ladies who love to visit and sew. We are currently not working on any big project, so bring what you love to do or just come for the fun conversation. We love to share ideas for sewing, cross stitch, quilting and knitting, etc. We also offer help with any of your projects. We would love to expand our group, so please spread the word. For more information or If the weather is questionable, please call Margie Allen at 610-326-1519.



Phillips, Celia	04/03
Trego, Bryan	04/04
White, James	04/07
Hoff, Debbie	04/10
Kutz, Scott	04/10
Mest, Gloria	04/10
Rowe, Sandy	04/11
Stultz, Gary	04/12
Wanner, Julianne	04/12
Sweinhart, Drew	04/16
Viti, Angeline	04/16
Braley, Jennifer	04/18
Baseley, Carolyn	04/20
Brown, Barbara	04/21
Kline, Kaelyn	04/24
Hauze, Mark	04/25
Neff Glatfelter, Sarah	04/25
Palubinsky, Joan	04/28
Laverty, Donald	04/29

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

- 4/5 Laura and Christian Golden  
Heather Burhans Tran  
Sherri and Bob Marcoski  
Ann Hartzell  
Taylor Murphy
- 4/12 Elaine and Jim Bevan  
Eric Klein  
Rick Viti  
Kathy Murphy  
Breanna Megni
- 4/19 Julianne Wanner  
Josh Palubinsky  
Michael Iezzi  
Kaleena Sweinhart  
Wanda and Steve Craner
- 4/26 Kay Ellis  
Matthew Scharneck  
David and Timothy Klein  
Lexi Foss  
Carole and Henry Bailey

## Holy Communion

Shenkel UCC celebrates the sacrament of Holy Communion at both services on the first Sunday of the month. We go to the Villa to share communion with folks there on Sunday, April 26 at noon!



The Pottstown Cluster Food collection at Shenkel UCC is the **1st Sunday of each month.**



The Cluster welcomes all cash and food donations 8:30am to 12pm Monday thru Friday. They are at 57 N. Franklin Street in Pottstown. Items such as coffee, tea, peanut butter, sugar, artificial sweetener and baking products are **always needed.** Current cluster needs:



## Food Collection

Please place your items in the plastic bins in the narthex. Thank you for your support!

- tomato products, canned soup
- jelly, canned fruit
- laundry detergent and all purpose cleaner (small containers)
- dish soap
- toiletries
- paper towels
- twin and queen size sheets new/used (must be clean)
- blankets, comforters
- pots and pans

They are not accepting any clothing at this time.



As of February 29, 2020	Current Fund	
ACTUAL	Month	YTD
Opening Bal.	2,649	8,784
Giving	9,647	17,603
Expenses	(15,080)	(30,701)
Subtotal	(2,784)	(4,314)
Rent Income	1,700	3,400
Other	8	(163)
Ending Balance	(1,077)	(1,077)
Net Chg	(3,726)	(9,861))
BUDGET	Month	YTD
Giving	14,707	29,413
Over (Under)	(5,060)	(11,810)

Our Church's Wider Mission		
February 29, 2020	Month	YTD
Actual	1,272.00	1,706.00
Budget	958.31	1,916.67
Over (under)	313.67	(210.67)