



Shenkel United Church of Christ

2021



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <i>Rejoice! He Lives!</i>				1 Maundy Thursday Virtual service	2 Good Friday Virtual service	3
4 Traditional service with Communion at 8:30 am & 10:30 AM	5	6	7 Bible Study 7 pm	8	9	10
11 Traditional service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am—Zoom	12	13 Consistory 6:30 pm	14 Bible Study 7 pm	15	16	17
18 Traditional service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am—Zoom	19	20	21 Bible Study 7 pm	22	23	24
25 Traditional service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:30 am—Zoom Congregational meeting	26	27	28 Bible Study 7 pm Church office closed	29	30	

Shenkel United Church of Christ

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

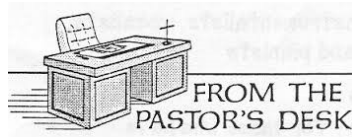
Deacons:
Dan Jenkins
Gary McDermit
Pat Kuestner
Tony Gulotta

MINISTERS

All the members
of the church

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown PA 19465 610.326.3535

Email: shenkelucc@aol.com www.shenkelucc.org



I've been thinking about trauma recently. Very simply put, trauma is a deeply distressing or disturbing experience. The Covid-19 Pandemic has been just that for the world, for our country, and for our Shenkel community. And it has been a widely varied experience for everyone.

As we begin to move toward meeting in person for worship again there may be a measure of fear to gather in a group. That is understandable and we encourage everyone to come or stay at home according to your comfort level. At the same time it is good to recognize that this is a time of transition and we humans are very adaptable! Sometimes the power of a traumatic experience is lessened when we have opportunity to talk about it with others who have had similar experiences.

Later in April and in the month of May I would like to offer that sharing time to any who would like to join outdoors in the pavilion on fine days (sunshine and warm temps). I'm going to suggest Thursday afternoons about 2:00 pm. We'll meet there in the pavilion with our masks on, unless all are vaccinated, and have a chance to talk about how this past year has been, the joys and sorrows, the discoveries, whatever the group needs to talk about. The first Thursday to meet will be April 15, again, if the weather is fine!

I look forward to seeing you in the pavilion and being able to share our pandemic experiences together. As we move into spring, take the time to notice small things that make you smile; buds on trees, birds singing in the morning, daffodils showing their bright faces, etc...

Blessings of grace and peace,
Pastor Suzanne

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 25 immediately after worship for the election of Consistory and Board of Christian Education members. Proxy ballots will be available prior to the meeting.

Newsletter Editor: Lisa Dice

March Consistory Highlights

- ◆ We elected to return to in-person worship on Easter Sunday. Details about our return can be found on Shenkel's website or in the email/letter each member received.
- ◆ Pastor Suzanne's Call Agreement has been extended until 12/31/21 including the 2021 Current Budget Pastor Salary and Benefit revisions.
- ◆ We approved an Audiobahn proposal which will enable us to better stream and record worship and other events at Shenkel. \$4,500 from our PPP Funds were allocated as a budget for the project.
- ◆ The Nominating Committee is looking for candidates to fill two open Consistory and 2 open BOCE positions. All nominations must be in by March 31st.
- ◆ A special offering will be added starting in 2022 for the William Burhans Scholarship. The offering replaces the prior Relay for Life Offering.
- ◆ We are still looking for a member to volunteer to be a backup to the Cemetery Superintendent. If interested in learning more, please contact Randy Berriker.

From the PSEC Racial Justice Initiative Team:

Questions after the Atlanta Mass Murders

Last week we again heard the horror of three deadly shootings, this time at Atlanta-area spas where eight people lost their lives. In the aftermath, many questions swirled around the situation, including the motive of the shooter and the treatment of the case by the Atlanta police.

The shooter, Robert Aaron Long, will face many charges as a result of his actions. However, the one most surprising to me was the verdict of his home church congregation that he was no longer welcome, he was no longer a member, he was expelled, he was too vile to be one of them.

This week's actions provoked many questions for us, as congregations and as individuals. Included in a short list are:

How would we react if Robert Aaron Long was one of ours? Would we be strong enough to keep our baptismal covenant with him and bold enough to extend our love to the families of the murdered?

Have we had tough conversations about racism, homophobia, and xenophobia? Have we cultivated a safe space for these types of discussions or is our space safe in the knowledge that we might never have these discussions?

Have we stated and re-stated that the Gospel message is one of love, and that violence is never the result of love.

Violence against Asian Americans increased nearly one hundred fifty percent in the past year. We have witnessed the boldness of hatred, that was once closeted, break into the open. It is long past time for congregations to have the hard talks, to examine and state their beliefs, to, paraphrasing MLK,..... *bring to the surface the hidden tension that is already alive; bring it out in the open, where it can be seen and dealt with. Like a boil that can never be cured so long as it is covered up but must be opened with all its ugliness to the natural medicines of air and light, injustice must be exposed, with all the tension its exposure creates, to the light of human conscience and the air of national opinion before it can be cured.*

We encourage you and your congregations to find ways to have these hard conversations and find ways to stand with and bear witness to the stories of those who are struggling for justice.

Raymond Edwards

Micah 6:8

OFFICIAL CALL -  ANNUAL MEETING 2021
Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

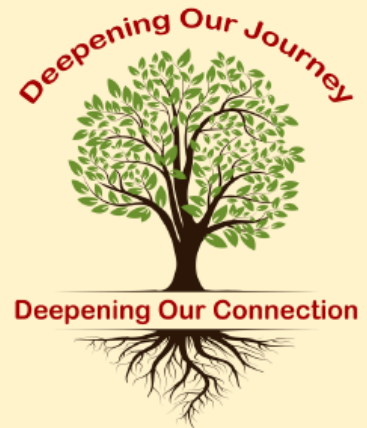
Deepening Our Journey Deepening Our Connection

You are invited !

Friday, June 4—Saturday, June 5, 2021

via Whova

Register at: <https://psecannual21.eventbrite.com>



“Deepening our Connections, Deepening the Journey” is the theme, and the hope, of PSEC’s Annual Spring meeting that begins Friday, June 4 with nationally celebrated social justice leader and guest presenter Sister Simone Campbell a Catholic nun who, with a few sisters in faith, chartered a bus to change the world. Our connecting continues with Saturday’s conferring sessions, workshops and worship services to honor anniversary clergy and congregations, to lament the losses endured through the pandemic and to welcome the hope of better days ahead. We gather online in a new virtual meeting space (“Whova”) for our (hopefully) last completely virtual Conference gathering.



Sister Simone Campbell—We are excited to announce that Sister Simone Campbell will join us for our 2021 Annual Spring Meeting. Sister Simone Campbell is the Executive Director of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice – a federal advocacy organization founded by Catholic Sisters to lobby in Washington, D.C. for policies that mend the gaps in income and wealth in the United States. She has led six cross-country “Nuns on the Bus” trips focused on tax justice, healthcare, economic justice, comprehensive immigration reform, voter turnout, bridging divides in politics and society, and mending the gaps.

Registration for this two-day online event is only \$30. per person.
This will enable more members of your church to attend!
There will also be a subsided option for \$15.00 if \$30.00 is a hardship.

PLEASE NOTE * Registration ends May 25, 2021**

For questions contact Susan at the PSEC office at susan@psec.org
or 484-949-8774 x 312



Kelly Martin	04/01
Celia Phillips	04/03
Bryan Trego	04/04
James White	04/07
Debbie Hoff	04/10
Scott Kutz	04/10
Gloria Mest	04/10
Sandy Rowe	04/11
Gary Stultz	04/12
Julianne Wanner	04/12
Drew Sweinhart	04/16
Angeline Viti	04/16
Jennifer Braley	04/18
Carolyn Baseley	04/20
Barbara Brown	04/21
Kaelyn Kline	04/24
Mark Hauze	04/25
Sarah Neff Glatfelter	04/25
Joan Palubinsky	04/28
Donald Laverty	04/29

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

4/4	Glen Bradley Jaden Viti Sandy and Ray Rowe David Phillips Carol Lykens
4/11	Mark Dushanko Faye and Ed Pedrick Sharon and John Sabo Joyce Pashley Sue and Mike Kulp
4/18	Nicole and Scott Meehan Lucas Zachesky Heather Burhans Tran Debbie and Glen Hoff Priscilla Denham
4/25	Joan and Joe Granger Erika Price Freda Wanner Antony Gulotta Ashlyn Augustine



LET'S CELEBRATE!!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM

YOUR PROFILE TEAM

It's time to whoop and holler! The Profile Team has completed two out of the three sections of the Profile: Who Are We Now? and Who Are Our Neighbors? Now it's time to celebrate and move on to the final section: Who Is God Calling Us to Be? It is extremely important that everyone who cares about Shenkel's future be part of this final step!

On April 18, we will be having a special worship service at 9:45 a.m. which will be in person, inside, with all social distancing and mask protocols in place. If you are unable or uncomfortable with an in-person gathering, no worries. The service will be recorded to YouTube and streamed live through a link on our website so everyone can give thanks for this milestone and prepare for the final and very important piece of writing the Profile.

The Profile Team will be presenting the highlights of the information gathered through surveys and community information. This will take place after the service on April 18 at 11:00 a.m. It will be live streamed, but if you are able to be there, great. If not, it will also be recorded and uploaded to YouTube, and you can view it there at your convenience.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is for you to participate in this visioning process!
This is your church, and your thoughts and feelings about what our future will look like are important. During the presentation, you will be asked to jot down three different words, visions, and/or themes that you saw emerge from the information we gathered. DREAM BIG! Then we will ask you to pray about them daily for the next two weeks. In case you will be watching the presentation online, I share with you now the prayer:

God of the past, the present, and the future, creator of worlds and seer of possibilities, help us to understand the information we have been given. Help us to know your best hope for us and our church. Show us the way you would have us go. Show us the path you want us to walk. We wait to hear your voice. Amen.

Thank you so much for all of the help you have given us. Please help us now to develop a vision for Shenkel's future that will lead us into the next phase of Shenkel's ministry.

Peace and Blessings,

Your Profile Team:

Brenda Berriker
Gary McDermit
Dan Jenkins
Lori Scharneck

Holy Communion

Shenkel UCC celebrates the sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month.



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.

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, prayers, concerns and phone calls while I recover. I REALLY appreciate your kindness!

Barb Burhans



As of February 28, 2021	Current Fund	
ACTUAL	Month	YTD
Opening Bal.	4,318	6,546
Giving	8,239	19,140
Expenses	(14,119)	(28,949)
Subtotal	(1,562)	(3,263)
Rent Income	1,700	3400
Other	1	1
Ending Balance	138	138
Net Chg	(4,180)	(6,408)
BUDGET		
Giving	14,591	29,182
Over (Under)	(6,352)	(10,042)

Our Church's Wider Mission		
February 28, 2021	Month	YTD
Actual	600.00	980.00
Budget	1,000.00	2,000.00
Over (under)	(400.00)	(1,020.00)