

The Worship Service

Sunday, January 5, 2024



Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

610-326-3535 ~ www.shenkelucc.org ~ shenkelucc@aol.com ~

Shenkel's UCC's Covenant Statement

So reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it, now you do it!

(Romans 15:7, The Message)

We are aware of pain organized religion has inflicted on many; and we are aware many places of worship have not given the extravagant welcome God offers to us all. Therefore, Shenkel United Church of Christ covenants to extend heartfelt hospitality to ALL. Shenkel UCC affirms all persons are created in the image of God, so we offer full inclusion (communion, life, and ministries) in the faith journey of this congregation, regardless of differences: whether religious background, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, national origin, immigration and refugee status, age, ethnicity, relationship status, addiction/recovery, physical or mental ability, and political affiliation. We proclaim this statement: **no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**

Welcome to Shenkel United Church of Christ!

An Open and Affirming congregation since 2018

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

~Gathering Together~

Prelude De Drei Koningen [The Three Kings] (Flemish Carol)

Welcome

Invocation

Silence for Meditation

Call to Worship

L: The magi came from many places, following a star.

C: We come to worship, and the star sheds light on our lives.

L: The magi brought gifts to offer the Child.

C: We too bring gifts ourselves, our hopes, our dreams.

L: Shepherds and magi the meek and the mighty all were welcome in Bethlehem.

C: We too come to Bethlehem and then return to our homes rejoicing.

Opening Hymn "Arise Your Light Has Come" (NCH#164)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

God of perfect light, lead us as we proceed through life. Forgive us when, like Herod, selfish ambition makes us willing to hurt others. Forgive us when, unlike the magi, we refuse to follow the light you give us. Shine in our lives through the light of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news, we are forgiven and set free.

Special Music

Good King Wenceslas, Congregation w/Chimes

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Louise Hine

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Matthew 2:1-12

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

Sermon

Rev Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection:

“Love Came Down At Christmas”

(NCH#165)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel’s ongoing ministries. January’s Special Offering – Bethany Children’s Home

Offertory

Out of the Orient Crystal Skies

(Tyrolese)

Offering Response

“Love Came Down At Christmas”

(NCH#165, vs 3 only)

Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine.
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

When Jesus sat at table and enjoyed communion with tax collectors and sinners he proclaimed that God’s care knows no bounds. We proclaim again the comfort and challenge of that witness: all are invited now to share God’s table, and be nourished by the Bread of Life.

Communion Prayer

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts:

C: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us thank God:

C: It is good to thank God.

L: We thank you, God, that you have provided for all the worlds that ever were or will be by giving yourself to them in love. If we go to the heights of the mountains, or if we make the grave our bed, you are with us. If we go to the depths of the sea, your right hand holds us fast. We thank you for Jesus, your Word, who lived among us, uncovering your presence. We thank you that you stamped his death with victory and that Life, not Death, was the final word. We ask now that you bless us, as we share this bread and cup, that we might be nourished by that same unbounded love and so be encouraged to be your servants to the world. And now, as your daughters and sons whom you have reconciled to yourself, we pray:

All: Our Mother/Father, who are 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

Breaking the Bread

At this grain once was scattered in the fields and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread. Take. The Bread of Life.

Pouring of the Wine

The cup which we share is the cup of New Covenant written in our hearts and witness by Jesus. Take. Drink. The Cup of the New Covenant. God is with you.

Sharing the Elements

Prayer after Communion

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn “As With Gladness Those Of Old” (NCH#129)

Benediction

Postlude Go Tell It On The Mountain (Spiritual)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth
Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com Organist: Susan Royer Sexton: Stacy Keim
Secretary: Danielle Petersen
Ministers: All Members of the Church

Special Music: (John Mason Neale/Traditional Melody) [CCLI #7117956, P.D.] © 2018 First Run Muzik Psalter

Announcements: Sunday, January 5, 2024

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 1/5/2025 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am with communion in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship service with communion at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 1/12/2025 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

Tues, 1/21/2025 ~ Midday Dinner at Michael's Diner at 12:00 pm.

Sun, 1/26/2025 ~ Congregational Meeting – One service at 9:45 am in the Social Hall.

Please feel free to scan this code to donate through our online giving page.



Scripture Reading for January 12th

Sandy Rowe

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Luke 3:15-17, 21 & 22

Cluster donations for January: Laundry detergent and dish soap.

OPERATION 143 BACKPACK NIGHT: Monday, January 6th is the next Shenkel Pack Night at Operation 143. We will meet at 6 pm at Operation 143 (entrance in the back of the New York Plaza Building). At least 10 volunteers are needed. Individuals interested in participating should contact Chris Gray cgcgal@comcast.net or (610) 246-3548.

Mark Your Calendars: “NEW YEAR REBOOT: CONNECTING MIND, BODY & SPIRIT FOR A HEALTHIER YOU”: January 11th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, this is an ADULT ONLY event.

Grocery run? Consider using Giant and Redner's cards for your grocery store purchases: Shenkel earns \$5 for every \$100 on Giant and Redner's gift cards – which are available every week at church.

Stewardship: Stewardship Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. The charge of the committee is to: find ways to increase much needed revenue, attract new members, and identify new ways to provide ministry. Please contact members of the committee with your thoughts. Committee members: Chris Gray, Dan Jenkins, Kim Yocum, Julie Zachesky, and Brenda Berriker.

Church School: Children from 3 years through grade 6 are invited to participate in church school on the third Sunday of the month at 11:00 AM. Our next church school is January 19th.

Shenkel Prayer Group: Meets at 10:00 am on the first Thursday of the month. All are welcome to participate. Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and celebrate the Spirit of God moving among us as we pray together.

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

Elizabeth, James, Zoey, Henry and Molly Carr

Barbara Sweinhart

Freda Wanner

Barbara Brown

Clay Zachesky

Birthdays in the month of January:

Kimberly Yocom	1/4/25
Susan Miller	1/5/25
Barry Peterman	1/5/25
Olivio Dushanko	1/9/25
James Heath	1/10/25
Brandon Foss	1/13/25
Freda Wanner	1/13/25
Delia Sanseverino	1/18/25
Mike Martin	1/21/25
Aurora Keim	1/22/25
David Braley	1/24/25
David Klein	1/24/25
Eric Klein	1/27/25
Joseph Bradley	1/29/25
Susanne Spaulding	1/30/25

