

# The Worship Service

## Sunday, June 23, 2024



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## Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown PA 19465

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### **Shenkel 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 Spirit Come (Sirchio)

Welcome

Invocation

Congregational Introit Lord Prepare Me (SSB 13)

Call to Worship

L: Gather in awe before God, who laid the foundations of the earth. Open your hearts to the steadfast love God offers.

**C: The deeds of God are beyond our knowing. Yet we catch glimpses of God's mercy and care.**

L: God does not forsake us when we are dismayed and afraid. Our Creator is with us in all times and places.

**C: God is a stronghold for the oppressed and troubled. The needy and the poor are not forgotten.**

Opening Hymn "This Is a Day of New Beginnings" (SSB 86)

### ~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

All of us have faltered before the lions and giants that seem ready to destroy us. Life's storms overwhelm us, and fear takes a deadly toll. Sometimes we are snared in the work of our own hands. We forget the greatest source of help and hope. In these moments together, we lay aside our doubts and fear of judgement to open our lives to God.

Prayer of Confession

**Help us, God for we do not have the wisdom to help ourselves. When the good we have known crumbles beneath our feet and we are mired down in hopelessness and self-pity, we need you. When we cannot hide from the evil that is all around us because some of it is also in us, we cry out for your saving mercy. We confess that it is easier to see the problems than the promise. We have been more ready to complain than to accept your help. O God, we open our hearts to you. We want to be healed. Amen.**

### ~Silence for Prayer and Meditation~

Assurance of Pardon

God has listened to us. In spite of all we have done or not done, God accepts us. This is a day of salvation, when brokenness is mended, problems are seen in a new light, and fierce winds are stilled. God does not forget the cry of the afflicted. God's affection for us is limited only by our failure to respond. Accept the gift of God's love, for it is everything we need.

Special Music Little Children, Welcome © 1973 Hope Publishing Co/ © 1990 Selah Publishing Co. Inc [onelicense #19448]; Chancel Choir, Maddie Mest, Soloist – See insert

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Joan Palubinsky

I Samuel 17:1-11, 32-49

Psalm 9:9-20

Mark 4:35-41

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

Sermon

Rev Suzanne M. Spauling

Hymn for Reflection: "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

(SSB 20)

Welcome

L: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

**C: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.**

L: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

Address

L: Jesus said: Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the reign of God; unless we are born of water and the Spirit, we cannot enter God's new order. Paul the apostle said: All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into Christ's death. We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, to the glory of God, we too might walk in newness of life.

L: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. In as much as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**C: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ members of Christ's body.**

Questions of the Candidates

Pastor: Do you desire to have your children baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**Parents: I / We do.**

Pastor: Will you encourage these children to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

**Parents: I / We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Will you teach these children that they may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

**Parents: I / We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple(s), to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

**Parents: I / We do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with these children in the Christian faith, to help these children to be faithful members of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that they may affirm their baptism?

**Parents: I / We do, with the help of God.**

#### Congregational Assent

L: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

**C: We promise our love, support, and care.**

#### United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the mad of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion of victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

#### Prayer of Baptism

L: Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

L: We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning.

In the time of Moses, your people of Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb.

Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

L: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in all baptized this day that they may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

## Act of Baptism

### Prayer for the Baptized

L: Let us pray for those baptized today. Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless these newly baptized people. May they be filled with joy: may they never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you.

L: Bless the parents of these children. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for Ford and Rennick.

L: Bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Act of Praise

See insert (NCH 323)

### ~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 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**

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries.

June's Special Offering: The Coventry Food Pantry

Offertory                      The Voice of Peace (Paxton)

Offering Response              "Rise Up, Rise Up"                                      (SSB 2)

## Prayer of Dedication

### ~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn                      "We Are The Church"                                      (SSB 80)

Benediction

Postlude All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises (Baloche)

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Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding  
Email: [shenkelpastor@gmail.com](mailto:shenkelpastor@gmail.com)  
Sexton: Stacy Keim

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth  
Organist: Susan Royer  
Ministers: All Members of the Church

**Announcements:**

**Sunday, June 23, 2024**

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 6/23/24 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary  
~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Grove.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 6/30/24 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary  
~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Grove.

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



**Scripture Reading for June 30th**

**Maddie Mest**

Lamentations 3:22-33  
Psalm 30  
Mark 5:21-43

**Congregational meeting:** has been canceled Sunday, June 30. Tree and stump removal was approved under the Capital Improvements funds from the Carol Lykens bequest (\$65,000) by the Congregation in 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Strunk at [kjstrunk@gmail.com](mailto:kjstrunk@gmail.com).

**Carillion Concerts in July:** World renowned David Hunsberger will be presenting two concerts in July. July 17th at the bell tower in Valley Forge State Park at 7:30 pm. July 19th at Longwood Gardens at 6:00 pm. For more information contact Louise or Tootie Hine.

**Save the date:** August 10<sup>th</sup> outdoor summer concert with Bobby Jo Valentine here at Shenkel UCC, preceded by Pottstown Area Pride Festival beginning at 4:00 pm in the grove.

**Famous Shenkel Corn & Pig Roast Sunday, August 25, 2024 at 5 PM**

Corn, Pig and Beverages to be provided.

Things to Bring:

- Your family and friends!
- Place settings for your family
- Side & Dessert to share

**Cluster donations for June:** Ramen noodles and canned pasta.

**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.

**120 Paper Towel Rolls:** We continue to collect paper towels for Christ Episcopal. We have already collected and delivered 9 month's worth. Thank you for your generosity. Donations of any size are welcome.

**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. April 21st is our next church school. Our next church school will be in September.

**The Agape Group** is re-organizing and will now become the Shenkel Prayer Group. This will be a time for prayer requests, meditation, fellowship and a way to explore prayer. We will be meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 10AM at Freda Wanner's home starting in June. Freda's address is 1752 Temple Rd, Pottstown 19465. All are welcome, including new faces! Come join us for a cup of coffee or tea and celebrate the Spirit of God moving among us. Any questions feel free to talk with Tootie and/or Louise.

**Prayer Lottery:** Shenkel will be praying for:

Jaden Viti

Kaleena Sweinhart

David Klein

BJ Peterman

Lori Scharneck

**Birthdays in the month of June:**

Barry Yocom	6/1/2024
Margie Allen	6/7/2024
Sharon Sabo	6/9/2024
Dawn Yocom	6/13/2024
Tootie Hine	6/14/2024

Kim Bade	6/15/2024
Elizabeth Carr	6/16/2024
David Derman	6/16/2024
Marie Bade	6/18/2024
Amelia Snyder	6/22/2024
Ken Bevan Jr.	6/25/2024
Willaim Keim Jr.	6/25/2024
Dan Jenkins	6/29/2024
Michael Foss	6/30/2024



