

The Worship Service
Sunday, November 3, 2024

“Happy are those who keep
God’s decrees, who seek
God with their whole
heart.” Psalm 119:2

Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

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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 Arietta (Beethoven)

Welcome

Invocation

Silence for Meditation

Call to Worship

L: We have come to affirm our historic faith.

C: To worship the God of our mothers and fathers.

L: We have come to remember God's benefits to us the living.

C: To respond in thanksgiving to the mighty works of God in our lives.

L: We have come to affirm our trust in the God of all futures.

C: To whose name be blessing and honor, glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

Opening Hymn "Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing" (NCH #303)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Too often our hearts are cold and without gratitude.

Too often our hands are passive and unwilling to carry out acts of mercy.

Too often our lips are pursed tightly, unwilling to speak words of love.

Too often we are indeed separated and alienated from our better self, separated and alienated from God.

Let us confess our separation and alienation.

Let us join together in the prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession

God of Grace, you are always more ready to forgive our shortcomings than we are willing to admit them. You give us great promise for our living, and we laugh at you, thinking that we are no good. You call us to difficult and inspiring missions, and we busy ourselves with other things that we decide are more important. You challenge us to have courage, and we shrink back, locking ourselves into the safety of our own homes. Bring us new life, God, so that the spirit of Christ may shine in us. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free!

Special Music

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Sandy Rowe

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Psalm 119:1-8

Mark 12:28-34

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

Sermon

Rev Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection:

“As We Gather at Your Table”

(NCH #332)

~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.

November's Special Offering – All Saints – Retired Clergy

Offertory

Breathe

(Marie Barrett)

Offering Response

“We Give You But Your Own”

(NCH#785)

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

L: Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

C: In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

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 give thanks to God Most High.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

L: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

C: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

L: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: This is my body." Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." We remember Christ's promise not to drink of the fruit of the vine again until the heavenly banquet at the close of history, and we say boldly what we believe.

C: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

L: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

C: Amen.

Breaking the Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

Remembering the Saints

Remembering those who have joined the "great cloud of witnesses" since November 1, 2023:

Barbara Painter

Barbara Burhans

Sheree Scheler

Renee Stultz

Mary Lou Smith

Steve Comishock

Sam Armbruster

Sue Kulp

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

"For All the Saints"

(NCH #299)

Benediction

Postlude

Immortal Invisible

(arr. Peterson)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding
Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com
Sexton: Stacy Keim
Ministers: All Members of the Church

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth
Organist: Susan Royer
Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Announcements:
Sunday, November 3, 2024

~**This Sunday at Shenkel UCC**~

Sun, 11/3/2024 ~ 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, 11/10/24 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

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



Scripture Reading for November 10th

Joan Palubinsky

I Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 146
Mark 12:38-44

Carol Lykens Giving Challenge: We're receiving gifts for our Carol Lykens Fill-The-Hat Challenge! You're encouraged to make an additional contribution to the Current Fund beyond your usual giving. Contributions can be made to Shenkel UCC with "Carol Challenge" in the memo line, or donate online through our website. Thank you!

Cluster donations for November: Apple juice (Our goal is 300).

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 November 17th.

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.

Thanksgiving Soup Supper: November 24th at 5:30 pm.

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

Julianne Wanner
Tom and Maureen Gallant
Barry and Lisa Yocom
Faye Pedrick
Lori and Kaya Sluski

Birthdays in the month of November:

Cole Major	11/5/2024
Louise Hine	11/6/2024
Alex MocarSKI	11/6/2024
Joe Palubinsky	11/7/2024
Homer Royer	11/8/2024
Kaleena Sweinhart	11/8/2024
Madeline Mest	11/15/2024
John Sabo	11/16/2024
Peter Wanner	11/17/2024
Clair Faust	11/19/2024
Ben MocarSKI	11/21/2024
Tracey Dise	11/25/2024
AJ Foss	11/25/2024
Linda Foss	11/28/2024
Mindy Chidawu	11/30/2024