

SHENKEL HAPPENINGS NOVEMBER, 2024

Greetings, Shenkel Friends and Family!

I don't know about you, but in the run-up to Turkey Day with the anticipation of family gatherings, Black Friday deals, and the realization that Christmas is a mere few weeks away, I have to remind myself to breathe (deeply and often).... Stop the frenzied busyness.... Think about all of the things that are really important and let go of what is not And understand that, while life may not be perfect, I have so many things to be thankful for.

What are you thankful for? A favorite hobby? A walk in the outdoors? Spending time in meditation and prayer? Being with children or grandchildren? Meeting new people? Cultivating the loving relationships you have? Even if you find just one thing that touches your heart, give thanks. And remember what you learned about crossing streets safely: Stop the busyness for a moment... Look for even small things to be grateful for.... Listen for God's voice--perhaps in nature, or a friend's wise advice. Let God meet you where you are. And feel God's love that is always present.

Now let's catch you up on what is happening at your church!

SERVICES

You have two great choices for worship each Sunday:

1. **REFLECTIVE SERVICE AT 8:30 AM**, a good choice if you prefer no music, time for discussion and reflection, and
2. **TRADITIONALISH SERVICE at 9:45 AM**. You will find everything you've always wanted in a traditional service plus more. Pastor Suzanne has added a time for centering at the beginning which people in person and online are really appreciating.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE AND SOUP SUPPER

Join us on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 at 5:30 PM** for a simple meal with your Shenkel Family, followed by a Thanksgiving service. Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex, and if you are willing, bring either soup and bread or a dessert to share.

ADVENT SERVICES

Pastor Suzanne is trying something new this year: Tapping into talents of some of our finest Shenkel folks, she has developed a **DRAMATIC SERMON SERIES** during Advent. Word has it you don't want to miss this! Join us at the **9:45 AM service** to see what all the buzz is about.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- It's that time again! Get in the Christmas spirit by lending a hand to **DECORATE OUR CHURCH** for Christmas on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 in the morning**. You know what

they say, the more the merrier when it comes to accomplishing a task, so stop by for as long as you are able.

- **ADVENT SOCIAL HOUR** – We don't have many opportunities to get the people from both services together, so here is your chance! On **DECEMBER 8 between 8:45 AM and 9:30 AM**, bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to share with your friends. Don't worry, all you non-bakers! Come anyway—the people who love to bake have you covered! And we invite you to bring your favorite creche for the table—is there a story behind it? Share it with your tablemates. Coffee and tea are provided. Can't wait to see you!
- Is the prospect of Christmas with its expectations for happiness, parties and family gatherings getting you down? Are you grieving, feeling alone, or just needing to feel held in God's embrace? Our **LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 at 7:00 PM** may be just what you need. Please join us and wrap yourself in God's comfort and love.
- Keep your eyes out for more information for our next event in our Speaker Series in January! We're focusing on a **New Year's reboot** to reset and energize your mind, body and spirit. You won't want to miss this one!!

BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

There is something about making a child's Christmas special that is so gratifying, and Consistory has a plan to do just that. A small Christmas tree will be set up in the Narthex with ornaments identifying gift cards needed by Bethany Children's Home for the holidays. If you would like to participate, please select an ornament, which will provide a description of the gift card requested. Please bring the gift card or cards to the tree by Sunday, December 15.

HANDS ON LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Shenkel has a long history of supporting efforts to help the homeless. To this end, Shenkel will provide a meal for Beacon of Hope on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**. Dan Snyder is coordinating the meal preparation and service. Volunteers will meet following the 9:45 AM church service to plan the meal, purchase the food, prepare it, and deliver it to the location (to be determined). Meals provided serve 25-35 people. In addition to making food, volunteers are needed to serve at the location. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dan Snyder at einheir@gmail.com. We need as much help as possible, so any amount of time you can give is appreciated!

CLUSTER DONATIONS FOR NOVEMBER – Help the Pottstown Cluster assist those in need by bringing your generous donations of **APPLE JUICE** to the narthex on Sunday mornings or drop them at the office during office hours (Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00-2:00 PM). Help us reach our 300 bottle goal! Thank you!

FINANCIALS UPDATE

Year-to-date, the Current Fund is underfunded by \$40,508.

Year-to-date, OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) is underfunded by \$2,763.33.

See Carol Lykens Fill-the Hat Giving Challenge below.

CAROL LYKENS FILL-THE-HAT GIVING CHALLENGE

We Shenkel people certainly do love a challenge, and we throw everything we've got behind whatever cause we are asked to support. In this case, matching (or exceeding)) Carol's very generous bequest in the amount of \$5,000 by the end of December to keep our church afloat is getting lots of attention! And guess what! As of November 10, you have donated **\$4,990.75!!** Knowing what an amazing congregation we have, Stewardship has decided to extend the challenge to see how much more we can give to chip away at our deficit. I see Carol now, throwing back her head and laughing in delight to know how much her gift has helped us work together to keep our church humming along. Thank you! Let's keep the challenge alive! (Feel free to donate through our website, or send a check payable to Shenkel UCC with "Carol Challenge" in the memo line.)

SPEAKER SERIES

Our time with our Conference Minister, Bill Worley, last month was very productive. Many thanks to him for leading a thoughtful discussion on how to maintain love and respect for one another in divided times.

Please share any ideas you may have for future speakers or topics with any member of Stewardship or Pastor Suzanne.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Attention all children ages 3 through 6th grade! Church School is held the **THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH from 11:00 AM TO NOON**. The focus is on God's love in us and through us and showing compassion for others, as well as Bible stories. The kids love it!

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Shenkel folks are caring individuals who want to help those in need. We yearn to make a difference, but sometimes don't know where to start. Here is an opportunity to show you care: The **4th Monday of each month**, a handful of our members help serve a Community Lunch at Christ Episcopal in Pottstown. At that time, Pastor Suzanne delivers 70 salty and sweet snacks that are given out at lunch. These are purchased at Giant using the Giant gift cards that we also sell at church. These caring volunteers would love to welcome more helpers! You can serve lunch from 11:30-1:00, and/or go earlier to help sort food donations and prepare dessert trays. Don't worry—Shenkel is not responsible for the meal as we were years ago. We are simply willing helpers who are there to do whatever tasks need to be done.

HAVE A FUNDRAISING IDEA?

Share it with the Stewardship Committee, and be prepared to help make it happen. Members are Chris Gray, Julie Zachesky, Kim Yocom, Dan Jenkins, and Brenda Berriker.

GIANT AND REDNER'S GIFT CARDS

You're doing a great job! This is an easy way to raise money for our church. Purchase your cards Sunday mornings or in the Church Office Tuesday-Thursday, between 9:00 and 1:30. Thanks for doing your part!

ONLINE GIVING/QR CODE

It's easier than ever to catch up on your giving to support and sustain our church. Just go to www.shenkelucc.org, open up Online Giving, and choose where you want your donations to go. Simple! In addition, QR codes are in the pews and will be on the table in the narthex for an easy, fast way of contributing. Thank you in advance for your continuing support of your church.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee is tasked with supporting the Pastor as well as bringing to her any concerns of the congregation. Information discussed is confidential. Members are Sandy Rowe, Brenda Berriker, and Dan Jenkins. Please feel free to discuss any joys or concerns you have with any member of this committee.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

NOVEMBER PRAYER LOTTERY

November 3 rd	November 10 th
Julianne Wanner	Forrest Kreiger
Tom & Maureen Gallant	Alex MocarSKI
Barry & Lisa Yocom	Gloria Mest
Faye Pedrick	Dan Jenkins
Lori and Kaya Sluski	Dan, Sharon, Malcolm & Ameila Snyder

November 17th
BJ Peterman
Maryln Rohrbach
Josh Palubinsky
Barry, Susan & Brooker Miller
Kathy Murphy

November 24th
James White
Gary McDermit
Lynne Moyer
Susan & Homer Royer
Glen & Debbie Hoff

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Isabelle Chidawu	12/4/2024	Betty Bortz	12/21/2024
Mari O'Drain	12/4/2024	Bonnie Cox	12/21/2024
John Jonides	12/8/2024	Jim Faust	12/22/2024
Abigail Dise	12/9/2024	Josh Palubinsky	12/23/2024
Analexis Foss	12/15/2024	TJ Augustine III	12/24/2024
Verna Walters	12/15/2024	Jeffrey Luckenbach	12/26/2024
Judith Gergle	12/20/2024		

DECEMBER PRAYER LOTTERY

December 1st
Stephanie and Jace Horonzy
Stacey, Bill and Aurora Keim
Michael Kulp
Steve Craner
Julie and Bill Zachesky

December 8th
Steven & Kim Bade
Noah Bradley
Joel Sweinhart
Christian, Mari & Connor O'Drain
Aaron Gray

December 15th
Joyce Pashley
David, Lynn and Katherine Derman
Danielle Petersen
Karl Metka
Marie Bade

December 22nd
TJ Augustine
Jesse Painter
Roberta Peterman
Pat Kuestner
Judy Miller

December 29th
Collin Gray
Dan and Rosemary Wolgemuth
Joan Granger
Heather Burhans Tran
Suzanne Spaulding

Happy Thanksgiving!
Your Shenkel Happenings Editor,
Brenda Berriker

**If you need to reach me by email, please contact me at Brenda.berriker@gmail.com instead of the AOL address. Thanks!