The Worship Service
Sunday, March 1, 2026

THE GOOD NEWS IS ...
GREAT LOVE FOR GOD AND NEIGHBOR

Shenkel United Church of Christ
1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465
610-326-3535 ~ www.shenkelucc.org ~ shenkelucc@aol.com ~

Shenkel's UCC's Vision Statement
Shenkel United Church of Christ extends a heartfelt welcome to all unbound by physical structure or geography and grounded in creative worship, active spirituality, community action, love and service.

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 "God So Loved the World" (Stainer)

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Tell me something good!
C: God loves you more than you could imagine.
L: Tell me something good!
C: God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.
L: Tell me something good!
C: God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.
L: This is good news indeed!
C: Let us worship our compassionate God.

Opening Hymn "O God, Our Help In Ages Past" (NCH#25)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Family of faith,
we long to love others as God loves us,
but that work is easier said than done.
We lose our way.
We become distracted.
We grow fearful.
We need God's grace.
Fortunately for us, God's grace is freely and abundantly given.
So join me in the Prayer of Confession.
Join me in being transformed.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?
Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?
Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?
Or did we cross the street?
Did we avert our eyes?
Did we come up with every excuse in the book?
God, we long to be people who love our neighbors
with the same overwhelming love that you have for them.

But we must admit, we have a long way to go.
Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear
get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of forgiveness:

L: Faith family,
even when we act with judgment,
even when we are guided by fear,
even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,
God does not turn God's back on us.
So join me in this good-news declaration:
C: We are seen.
We are forgiven.
We are invited to try again.
Thanks be to God for this unending love.

Special Music

Shout to the North, Chancel Choir

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons — Maddie Mest

Luke 7:36-50
Matthew 25:35-40

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

Sermon — Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "God Loved The World" (NCH#208)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

Our Mother/Father, who are in heaven, hallowed by the 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.
March's Special Offering – One Great Hour of Sharing

Offertory "Variations on "Primrose" (arr. Broughton)

Offering Response "We Give You But Your Own" (NCH#785)

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

L: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.
P: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

Communion Prayer

L: God be with you.
C: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to God.
L: Let us give thanks to God Most High.
C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

L: Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history. We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints and all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

All: 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 I the highest!

L: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way, Jesus took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

C: Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!

L: Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt, and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine (Pew Communion)

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 "Unto The Hills We Lift Our Longing Eyes" (NCH#466)

Benediction

Postlude "There's Bread for the Journey" (Caceres)

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

Special Music: (Martin Smith) © 1995 Curious? Music UK [CCLI #1562261]
Liturgy from A Sanctified Art, written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed.

Announcements:
~Sunday, March 1, 2026~

Sun, 3/1/26 ~ Reflective Worship Service with Communion at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service with Communion at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Congregation Picture after 2nd service.
~ Chancel Choir rehearsal after worship service.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 3/8/26 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Chancel Choir rehearsal after worship service.

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

Scripture Reading for March 8th **Susan Royer**

Ephesians 3:20-21
Mark 6:32-44

Cluster donations for March: dry milk and crackers (all kinds)

Let's Dance: Join us from 7:00 – 9:00 pm on 3/21/26 in the Social Hall for some line dancing taught by Sandra Dee Guillen of Unity Rhythm Ballroom.

Church Change Changes Churches: Tired of lugging around loose change? Donate it to Shenkel! You can put your change in one of two receptacles at the end of the back pews. We'll have a little contest to see which side of the sanctuary gives the most from 1/11/26 until Easter Sunday 4/5/26.

Qigong classes at Shenkel!: Thursday mornings 11AM-noon. No experience necessary--All are welcome! Suggested cost is $12/class or come and pay what you're able. Cash or check payable to Shenkel UCC. Hope you'll join us!

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 will meet next on February 4th at 5:30 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 Yocom, 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 on March 15th.

Shenkel Prayer Group: Meets at 9:00 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:

Nicole, Scott, Tully and Buckley Meehan
Michaela Craner
Connie Armbruster
Dan, Sharon, Malcom and Amelia Snyder

Birthdays in the month of March:

Karl Metka	3/2/26
Joan Granger	3/3/26
Kyle Manetti	3/3/26
Faye Pedrick	3/4/26
Brenda Berriker	3/6/26
Sela Chidawu	3/11/26
Clayton Brewer	3/11/26
Steven Craner	3/15/26
Adam Hartzell	3/19/26
Lynne Moyer	3/19/26
Lilly Keim	3/20/26
Cara Bevan	3/22/26
Stephanie Viti	3/30/26
Zoey Carr	3/31/26

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

- prayerfully and creatively worships God;
- unconditionally loves and accepts all;
- generously gives and serves our community and our world.