

# **The Worship Service**

## **Sunday, February 1, 2026**



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### **Shenkel United Church of Christ**

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

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### **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 "Blessed" (Marshall)

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Come, all who are poor in spirit;  
come, all who mourn;  
come, all who are meek;  
come, all who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

**C: Come, all who would be merciful;  
come, all who would be pure in heart;  
come, all who would be peacemakers.**

L: Let us come together – the weak, the simple, the powerless, the foolish.

**C: Let us confess that the source of our life is Christ Jesus.  
Let us worship the God of every blessing.**

Opening Hymn "Praise To The Living God" (NCH#8)

### ~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Let us pray together our responsive prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession

L: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the realm of heaven.

**C: Forgive us our spiritual arrogance.**

L: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

**C: Forgive us our false independence.**

L: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

**C: Forgive us our misplaced aggression.**

L: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they shall be satisfied.

**C: Forgive us our gluttony.**

L: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

**C: Forgive us our half-hearted commitment.**

L: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

**C: Forgive us for waging war.**

L: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the realm of heaven.

**C: Forgive us for not taking a stand.**

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

## Assurance of Pardon

Rejoice and be glad!  
Blessed are those who seek the face of God.  
Everyone who asks, receives, and the one who seeks, finds.  
Blessed are those who ask for forgiveness, for they shall be forgiven.  
Blessed are those who repent, for they shall be freed to live fully in the present.

## Passing of the Peace

## Special Music

Be Now My Vision, Sandy & Brenda, Duettists

### ~We Hear God's Word~

## Scripture Lessons

Carol Pearson

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
Matthew 5:1-12

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

## Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit" (NCH#180)

### ~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.  
February's Special Offering – The Local Homeless Ministry

Offertory "Voluntary" (Boellman)

Offering Response "God Of Change And Glory" (NCH#177)

**Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.  
in our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise  
one Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God known in many ways,  
hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

## 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: 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:

**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 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 was say boldly what we believe:

**All: 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 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      “Let Justice Flow Like Streams”      (NCH#588)

Benediction

Postlude      “Southern Harmony”      (arr. Held)

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

Special Music: © 2005 First Run Muzik Psalter (ASCAP) [P.D. CCLI #30639]

**Announcements:**  
**Sunday, February 1, 2026**

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

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

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Tues, 2/3/26 ~ Operation 143 Pack Night at 5:30 PM.  
Sun, 2/8/26 ~ 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.  
~ Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship Service.

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



**Scripture Reading for February 8th**

**Louise Hine**

Isaiah 58:1-9  
Psalm 112  
Matthew 5:13-20

**Cluster donations for February:** Canned chili and canned pasta (Chef Boyardee)

**Operation 143 Pack Night:** Volunteers are needed Tuesday, February 3, at 5:30PM. There is a volunteer sign up sheet in the narthex. Contact Chris Gray (610) 246-3548 with any questions.

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** A pot luck luncheon, to be held immediately after late worship on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items include our end-of-year financials and submission of our Mission Statement for congregational approval.

**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 2/15/26.

**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:

Jim and Elaine Bevan

Bonnie Cox

Randy and Brenda Berriker

Jim and Clair Faust

**Birthdays in the month of February:**

Britnee Sanseverino	2/2/26
Barry Miller	2/4/26
Jesse Painter	2/4/26
Sandra Peterman	2/5/26
Nicole Meehan	2/10/26
Doug Allen	2/11/26
Audrey Dyott	2/13/26
Lori Skulski	2/15/26
Bill Sanseverino	2/24/26
Erika Manetti	2/25/26
Gary McDermit	2/26/26
Kathy Murphy	2/27/26