

The Worship Service
Sunday, March 2, 2025

*“This is my Son, my
Chosen One; listen to him.”*

Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

610-326-3535 ~ www.shenkelucc.org ~ shenkelucc@aol.com ~

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 Fairest Lord Jesus (arr. Smith)

Welcome

Invocation

Silence for Meditation

Call to Worship

L: Welcome to our worship.

C: Greetings to our brothers and sisters in the faith.

L: We come to celebrate God's presence.

C: And God's love expressed through Jesus Christ.

L: We come remembering Christ's life and ministry.

C: And the life we are called to live.

L: We come as a pilgrim people searching for ways to live out our faith.

C: We come seeking the strength to carry on our journey.

All: Let us rejoice in God's gift to us!

Opening Hymn "We Have Come At Christ's Own Bidding" (See insert)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Let us acknowledge together that we do not always live as people forgiven and united in Christ.

Prayer of Confession

O Source of all true wisdom and goodness, how often we substitute our own wisdom and goodness for the way of life shown to us by Jesus Christ. Forgive us, open our hearts to the simple, gentle, loving ways Jesus taught, and empower us by your Spirit so to live. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free.

Special Music

Be Thou My Vision, Sandy Rowe, Soloist

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Brian McShane

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-43a

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

(See insert)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Our Savior

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.

March’s Special Offering – One Great Hour of Sharing

Offertory

Morning Prayer

(Hokanson)

Offering Response “Love Came Down At Christmas”

Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine.
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

L: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

All: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ’s table.

L: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God’s people.

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: We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and

victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of this gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from the dead on the third day, and then to live in glory. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of the Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

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: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way also 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. Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ's death, O God, we proclaim.

Christ's resurrection we declare.

Christ's coming we await.

Glory be to you, O God.

L: Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

All: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

Prayer after Communion

All: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of 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. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

"Shine, Jesus Shine"

(See Insert)

Benediction

Postlude

Allegro

(Corelli)

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: (Ancient Irish Hymn/Irish Melody) Word alterations © 1992 The Pilgrim Press/Harmonization © 1927 Oxford University Press, Arrangement © 2006 First Run Muzik Psalter [CCLI #30639, P.D.]

Announcements:

Sunday, March 2, 2025

~**This Sunday at Shenkel UCC**~

Sun, 3/2/25 ~ 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 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

~**Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC**~

Wed, 3/5/25 ~ Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm
Sun, 3/9/25 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary
~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary
~ Chancel Choir rehearsal at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

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



Scripture Reading for March 9th

Sandy Rowe

Psalm 91:1, 2, 9-16
Luke 4:1-13

Cluster donations for March: Toilet paper

Adult Education: Sunday, March 9th; viewing and discussing the documentary “God and Country.”

Lenten Taize Services – Wednesday’s from 3/12/25 – 4/9/25 at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall.

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, March 16 in the Social Hall: In follow up to our Annual meeting on January 26, we will gather on Sunday, March 16 in the Social Hall to begin visioning Shenkel's path forward. In preparation for our conversations, please consider the role the church plays in your spiritual life and development. What are you seeking and how does Shenkel support that? What makes Shenkel special to you? Who is Shenkel in the community and how might that grow or change? Fellowship time will begin immediately following the 9:45 am service. Please consider bringing a covered dish to share.

Seeking leadership: Beginning April 2025 Consistory, the Board of Christian Ed, and the Pastoral Relations Committee will have opportunities for engagement. If you have questions about or interest in serving on any of these committees, please contact Kelly Strunk at kjstrunk@gmail.com by March 2. Please note: Nominees for Consistory and BOCE will be presented to the Congregation for election on March 16. PRC will be chosen and appointed by Consistory and Pastor Suzanne.

Scholarship opportunities through Shenkel: We are now accepting applications for the Bill Boyer and William J Burhans Scholarship funds through April 1. Awards will be announced April 15. Application packages include a general application sheet, a brief essay sharing information about applicants and their relationship to

Shenkel U.C.C., community service involvement, and how applicants see themselves being of service to others in their life and career. For more information, please contact Danielle at shenkelucc@aol.com or call 610-326-3535.

Speaker Series: Living Well – Ending Well with Rebecca Hobbs and Rev. Jo Ellen Mauger on 3/22/25 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Please bring your friends.

Results of the Pop Up Food Drive: 496 Pop Tarts, 354 Applesauce cups/pouches, 156 Fruit cups and 8 packs of sandwich crackers during our Operation 143 food drive. Thank you for your generosity!

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 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 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 on March 16, 2025.

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.

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

Barry and Susan Miller
Bob and Sherri Mocarski
Stacia and Joseph Bradley
Lilly Keim
Richard Golden

Birthdays in the month of March:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Karl Metka | 3/2/25 |
| Joan Granger | 3/3/25 |
| Kyle Manetti | 3/3/25 |
| Faye Pedrick | 3/4/25 |
| Brenda Berriker: | 3/6/25 |
| Sela Chidawu | 3/11/25 |
| Clayton Brewer | 3/11/25 |
| Steven Craner | 3/15/25 |
| Adam Hartzell | 3/19/25 |
| Lynne Moyer | 3/19/25 |
| Lilly Keim | 3/20/25 |
| Cara Bevan | 3/22/25 |
| Stephanie Viti | 3/30/25 |
| Zoey Carr | 3/31/25 |