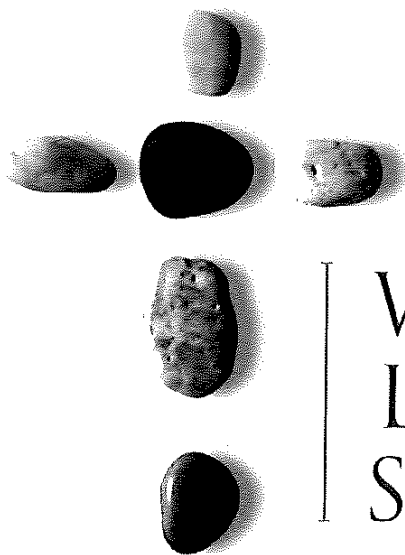


The Worship Service
Sunday, May 3, 2026



WE ARE
LIVING
STONES

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 "Cantilene" (Rheinberger)

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

P: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

L: The highest in all creation dwells among the least.

P: Christ journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

L: Come now, all who thirst,

P: and drink the water of life.

L: Come now, all who hunger,

P: and be filled with good things.

L: Come now, all who seek shelter,

P: and be warmed by the fire of love.

Opening Hymn "The Church's One Foundation" (NCH#386)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Caring and compassionate Creator,

we enter this place set aside for your worship

knowing we have failed to recognize you in other places.

We have ignored your beauty around us, in earth and sky, in plants and creatures, and in the people we encounter.

We have chosen to live more by our fears than by our faith.

We long for what we do not have, rather than rejoicing in your gifts to us.

In this moment, draw us so close that we cannot fail to recognize your presence.

Open our eyes and our hearts so that we may see you in each person we meet.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of forgiveness:

L: Once we were no people.

People: Now we are God's people.

L: Once we had not received mercy.

P: Now we have received mercy.

L: Thanks be to God!
ALL: Alleluia! Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Special Music

How Firm A Foundation, Chancel Choir, Brian McShane, Soloist (NCH#407)
The congregation is invited to sing vv. 1,2 and 5
v. 3- solo v.4 – skip

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Joan Palubinsky

I Peter 2:2-10
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
John 14:1-14

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

Sermon The Dwelling Place of God Rev. Pam McShane

Hymn for Reflection: **Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary**

♩ = 60

D/A Em/A D A

1. Lord pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
- pow'r me to be a wit - ness for you, act - ing

G Em7 D/A A A7

ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks -
bold - ly, in your name; seek - ing

D A

-giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu -
jus - tice, where there is hurt - ing off - ring

G Em7 A7 D D/A Em/A D

1. - ar - y for you. 2. God em -
hope where there is pain.

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

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.

May’s Special Offering – Creative Health Services

Offertory “Walking with God” (Smith)

Offering Response “God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

**Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ’s ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.**

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy One,

It is indeed right to give our thanks and praise,

For you, O God, created the world and filled it with richness and wonders....

... With grateful hearts, we join our voices with all your people in every time and place,

Saying:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy God, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!

Hosanna in the highest!

Gracious God, as we gather at this table, we ask that you pour your Holy Spirit on us...

...As we share in this feast, we proclaim the great mystery of faith,

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

When we rise from your table, we ask that you continue to dwell with us

in all the days ahead,

so we may worship you,

act with mercy in the world,
and proclaim the good news of your love.
In the name of the Holy Three in One we pray.
AMEN.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

Prayer after Communion

**Gracious God, how can we thank you for such a gift?
For you have met us, fed us, drawn us to you
and bound us to one another.
Now send us out, filled with your grace,
to offer your love to the world in Christ's name. Amen.**

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" (NCH#400)

Benediction

Postlude "Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart" (Kim)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com

Sexton: Stacy Keim

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Special Music: (John Rippon/Early American Folk Melody) © P.D. [one license #FBC-AO19103] © 1992-

Word Alterations Pilgrim Press © 2026-Music arrangement First Run Muzik Psalter (ASCAP)

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth

Organist: Susan Royer

Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Announcements:

~Sunday, May 3, 2026~

Sun, 5/3/26 ~ 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 at 11:00 am.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 5/10/26 ~ 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.

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



Scripture Reading for May 10th

Maddie Mest

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
John 14:15-21

Cluster donations for May: Pasta Sauce

Pastor Suzanne Vacation: She will be gone from May 1st through the 7th. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Jim Jannotti at 610-326-3941 or templeumchurch@gmail.com.

Qigong classes at Shenkel! Classes will resume Thursday mornings starting on 5/7/26 from 11AM-noon. 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! No experience necessary--All are welcome!

Walk and Pray: In an increasingly complex and troubling world, many of us are wondering what to do. One simple act is to walk and pray for peace and wholeness in our world. You are invited to walk the Labyrinth here at Shenkel from 9 - 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Come as you are able, leave when you are ready. Pam McShane will be at the Labyrinth most weeks to guide those who are new to labyrinth walking. There's power in walking and praying together!

Mental Health Awareness Program: Mark your calendars and invite your friends to the upcoming, "**Finding Peace in the Chaos: An Invitation to Sanity in These Times**" Saturday, May 30, 10AM-12 noon. Flyers are available in the narthex to share with friends, neighbors, and community.

Coventry Woods Festival: May 17th, 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Opportunity to be out in our community, meeting people and sharing why Shenkel is important to you.

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, Tom & Mo Gallant.

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 May 17th.

Shenkel Prayer Group: Meets at 9:00 am on the first Monday 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:

Roberta Peterman
Betty Bortz
Lori Scharneck
Henry and Carole Bailey

Birthdays in the month of May:

Robin Martin	5/3/26
Malcolm Snyder	5/4/26
Tom Gallant	5/6/26
Emily Trego	5/7/26
Connor O'Drain	5/8/26
Brooke Miller	5/10/26
Olivia Sanseverino	5/11/26
Matthew Scharneck	5/12/26
Jordan Hartzell	5/15/26
Patricia Kuestner	5/18/26
Michaela Craner	5/20/26
Lynn Derman	5/20/26
Randy Berriker	5/21/26
Christina Hauze	5/21/26
Bob Mocarski	5/23/26
Andrew Foss	5/29/26

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

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