

The Worship Service

Sunday, March 30, 2025



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 Change My Heart O God (Espinosa)

Welcome

Invocation

Silence for Meditation

Call to Worship

L: It is the young man whom we know as the prodigal son who said in desperation,

C: "I will arise and go to my father and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your child, treat me as one you your servants."

L: In this time of Lent we recognize our own unworthiness and inadequacy.

C: Even as we return home to God, we hear the unexpected words of forgiveness,

L: "Rejoice my child—you were dead and are alive again; you were lost and now are found."

All: Let us rejoice that we are at home in God's house.

Opening Hymn "For The Beauty Of The Earth" (NCH#28)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Trusting in God's tender mercy, let us confess our sin to God with one another.

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, we confess that we do not expect and long for the transforming power of your love to work miracles in these hard hearts of ours. Yet we secretly long for a rescue, an escape, a miracle, to relieve us of the responsibilities and the challenges you set before us. Healing Spirit, renew our confidence in your power and in the power of love to change our lives, and give us courage to be the fully responsible persons Christ calls us to be. 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

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Susan Royer

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

Luke 15:1-3. 11b-32

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "O God, How We Have Wandered"

(NCH # 202)

~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

Banner of Hope

(Gast)

Offering Response

“Doxology”

(NCH#779)

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

“My Life Flows On In Endless Song”

(NCH#476)

Benediction

Postlude

Larghetto

(Handel)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth

Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com

Organist: Susan Royer

Sexton: Stacy Keim

Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Ministers: All Members of the Church

**Announcements:
Sunday, March 30, 2025**

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 3/30/25 ~ 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

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 4/6/25 ~ 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

~ A Taste of Passover at 2:00 pm

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



Scripture Reading for April 6th

Lori Scharneck

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

John 12:1-8

Cluster donations for March: Toilet paper

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

Easter Flowers: Order forms are in the narthex, please include cash or check made payable to Shenkel UCC and the dedication should be given to Louise/Tootie Hine by April 5th. We will be having lily's, tulips, daffodils and hyacinths.

A Taste of Passover: April 6th at 2:00 PM – A teaching seder offered by Congregation Mercy and Truth at 575 Keim Street. Free, must register via email: info@pottstowncluster.org.

Holy Week Services:

Maundy Thursday at 5:30 PM – Supper and service

Good Friday service at 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunrise at 6:30 AM outdoors at Temple UMC

Easter Service with communion at 9:45 AM in the Sanctuary

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.

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 May 18th.

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:

Lucas Gray

Josh Palubinsky

Dan Jenkins

Danielle Petersen

Karl Metka

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

