

**The Worship Service**  
Sunday, February 23, 2025

*“Love your enemies, do  
good to those who hate  
you...”*

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**Shenkel United Church of Christ**

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

610-326-3535 ~ [www.shenkelucc.org](http://www.shenkelucc.org) ~ [shenkelucc@aol.com](mailto: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                      Come, Now Is the Time to Worship                      (Doerksen)

Welcome

Invocation

Silence for Meditation

Call to Worship

L: O great God, who are you? O great God, where are you?

**C: O great God, show yourself to us, in this place, at this time. We are listening for you.**

L: We are here because we want to know you more fully. Let us listen and sing and pray together.

Opening Hymn                      "I Sing The Mighty Power Of God"                      (NCH#12)

### ~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Gracious God, Creator and Redeemer, in reverence we bow before you, giving thanks for your love and seeking grace.

Prayer of Confession

**Humbly we acknowledge that you have blessed us and called us to be your servants in the world. Yet we confess that we have hoarded more than our share of the world's bounty; that in silence we have consented to the oppression of our sisters and brothers; that we have failed to witness, by word and action, to the liberating truth of Jesus Christ. In Christ's name, forgive us and grant us a new birth of spirit, that we may be your instruments of oneness and of joy, of healing and of peace. 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

Love, Kelly Strunk, Soloist

### ~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Louise Hine

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

Luke 6:27-38

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

(NCH#485)

~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. February’s Special Offering – Local Homeless Ministry

Offertory

Larghetto

(Mozart)

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

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

"Be Still My Soul"

(NCH#488)

Benediction

Postlude

Go Down Moses

(Spiritual)

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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: (Brian Wu) © 2006 Ali Song Music [CCLI #5095665]

**Announcements:**

**Sunday, February 23, 2025**

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 2/23/25 ~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, 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

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



**Scripture Reading for March 2nd**

Exodus 34:29-35  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
Luke 9:28-43a

**Brian McShane**

**Cluster donations for February:** Bath soap and shampoo

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**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:

Barbara Sweinhart  
Erika Burhans Price  
Lori Skulski  
Drew Sweinhart  
Linda and Andrew Foss, Lexi, Brandon, Aaron, Michael and AJ

**Birthdays in the month of February:**

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

