

## SHENKEL HAPPENINGS – MARCH 2026

Greetings, Shenkel Friends and Family!

As I write this, the sun is shining, and temps will head to 78 degrees this afternoon! Yahoo! Hallelujah!! I know this weather won't last (after all, it is the middle of March), but for today, I'm going to enjoy it.

For me, being outside is my happy place. Moving outside is even better. So, I encouraged my husband to join me on a 1.7 mile walk at our beautiful Township park. This trek always includes a stop to count the turtles that climb onto the downed trees in the canal that borders the trail. All winter, they are buried under the muck and mud, their metabolism lowered by up to 95%, surviving by absorbing oxygen from the water through their skin and blood vessels located, yes, in their butts. According to Professor Google, it's called butt breathing. I know a few kids who would get some giggles out of that one!

To the naked eye, these reptiles appear to be dead. Then, miraculously, when the time is right, they emerge from the muck, swim to the top of the water, and bask in the warmth and sunlight. What an apt metaphor for life! How often do you feel bogged down by life? Maybe from daily health or caretaking struggles, family needs and expectations, or the daily news reports of horrors occurring in our country and our world. It feels like too much.

But what would happen if we took a lesson from the turtles? When the muck is just too much, burrow down (give yourself time to rest and regroup), wait there (in life-giving prayer/meditation), and when the time feels right, swim up through the water (remember what comforts or energizes you or gives you purpose), and burst through the surface (reclaim your energy)! Then climb onto that tree limb (gather your people, figure out how you can move forward, help or be helped) and turn your face to the sun (bask in God's love), and allow it to permeate every cell of your mind, body and soul!

As we journey through Lent, I invite you to make time for church. Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 9:45, or Wednesday evenings at 6:30 for our Taizé service. Taizé is wonderfully centering, calming, and peaceful. Something we can all appreciate!

Now let's see what good things are happening at your church!

### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

You have two convenient choices for worship each Sunday:

1. **REFLECTIVE SERVICE AT 8:30 AM**, a good choice if you prefer no music and time for discussion and reflection, and
2. **TRADITIONALISH SERVICE AT 9:45 AM**. You'll find everything you've always wanted in a traditional service plus more. Pastor Suzanne has added a time for centering at the beginning which people are really appreciating.

**PLEASE NOTE:** On the Third Sunday of each month, there is one service held in Fellowship Hall where we gather for worship around tables. People love the casual atmosphere!

- **LENTEN SERVICES:**

For our Sunday services during Lent, we will be using material from “A Sanctified Art” with the theme of ‘Tell Me Something Good’. Yes, please!

- **TAIZE LENTEN SERVICES – WEDNESDAYS (February 25-March 25) at 6:30 PM in the Social Hall** -If you enjoy soft lighting, beautiful music, short readings, and short times for meditation and reflection, the Taizé services may be just what you need! The remaining services will be held on **Wednesday, March 18 and 25**. Surrounding yourself in the beauty of this meditative service will be the best 30 minutes of your week! Hope to see you there!
- **MAUNDY THURSDAY SOUP SUPPER and SERVICE – Thursday, April 2 at 5:00 PM in the Social Hall.** Maundy Thursday is a time when we remember Jesus at the Last Supper with his disciples. The focus will be Love One Another. Worship and share a meal with your friends!
- **GOOD FRIDAY** – Instead of a service, we will participate in the **Stations of the Cross in the sanctuary on April 3 from 4:00-6:00 PM**. This is a self-guided experience, so come when you wish and stay as long as you need. The Stations of the Cross leads us through the hours before Jesus’ crucifixion (the Passion of Christ).
- **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE at TEMPLE UMC at 6:30 AM**- Worship outdoors at the foot of the cross overlooking our beautiful Shenkel Valley, then join everyone inside for breakfast.
- **EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE - April 5, 9:45 AM at SHENKEL** – This is our time for joy and celebration! And for me, there’s nothing like singing “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” to put me in the Easter spirit. Hope to see you there!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

- **\*\*\*\* LET'S DANCE!!\*\*\*\*LINE DANCING AND MORE!**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21 from 7-9 PM in the SOCIAL HALL**

Never miss a chance to dance! Sandra Dee Guillen of Unity Rhythm Ballroom is coming to North Coventry! Join us for a few hours of fun to kick off the spring season.

A mix of country, party and Oldies—something for everyone taught by Sandra Dee herself!

No experience required, and no partners needed. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS! This is a free event. *Adults and interested teens are welcome.*

Let's make this our biggest community event ever!

## **CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS**

Consistory approved the purchase of a new digital keyboard and crank-up speakers for use at our outdoor and fellowship hall worship services. The purchase will come from our Music Fund account.

We learned that the number of families in North Coventry needing food assistance has increased dramatically. In addition to our special offering in support of the Coventry Food Pantry, Consistory approved a monthly donation of \$500 for the remainder of the year from our Program, Mission, and Service Projects allowance.

Special thanks to Lynne Moyer, Lori Scharneck, and Dan Snyder whose Consistory terms are expiring. A congregational meeting will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup> to elect new Consistory members. Watch for a further announcement about the meeting and proxy votes.

## **REQUEST FOR ALL FACEBOOK USERS**

Stewardship is working hard to put together interesting and timely speaker series events, but we may not be getting the word out. So, if you are on Facebook, please follow Shenkel UCC and look for any posts on upcoming events that Julie Zachesky has so faithfully been creating and posting. Then share it on your own personal FB page. We need to reach as many people as we can, and this is an easy way for you to use social media to let people know about our events. BETTER YET: Personally invite your friends and neighbors—it works! Thank you for your help!

## **CHURCH CHANGE CHANGES CHURCHES**

Are your purses or pockets weighed down with coins from those trips to Wawa? We have the perfect place to put them: in our Church Change Changes Churches jugs! Yes, we are bringing back this opportunity for you to lighten your load and help chip away at our deficit. Coins will be collected until Easter. Keep an eye out for those jugs!

## **SHENKEL PRAYER GROUP**

Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and celebrate the Spirit of God moving among us as we pray together. We changed the time and day of meeting to make it easier for some to attend and not run into other activities at church. The group meets at **10:00 AM on the first Monday** of the month. All are welcome to participate!

## **CHURCH SCHOOL**

Our youngest Shenkel learners meet for Sunday School on the **third Sunday of each month from 11:00-12:00**. They are learning about God's love and the life of Jesus. Each lesson includes music and singing (thank you, Susan Royer!), a Bible story, craft, and snack. Our group has grown this year, and we are always looking for new friends to join us! Please spread the word. Our next meetings are Sunday, March 15 and May 17.

## **YOCOM GROVE LANDSCAPING FUND**

The times when volunteers were plentiful and eager to put their backs into taking care of our properties are long gone. This means we must pay for much of the work that needs to be done for upkeep and repairs. To address this need, the Yocom family has generously started a fund to pay for mowing and to maintain the grove and labyrinth. Feel free to contribute as you are able!

## **STEWARDSHIP**

- Kim Yocom, our Property Committee Chair, has spearheaded many improvements at the pavilion, paid for by a generous bequest from Lisa Yocom's estate. More will happen once the weather warms up, so get the word out that this will be a great place for picnic/party rentals!
- We will continue to hold Qigong classes led by a class member as our teacher, Salil, takes a hiatus until April. Join us **Thursdays at 11:00 AM in the Social Hall**. Qigong's gentle movements have been used for centuries to improve health, reduce stress, and keep us in the present moment. Please wear comfortable clothing. The suggested fee is \$12.00 per class payable by cash or check, but if that is prohibitive, pay what you are able. Adults only, please.

- Along with coming up with interesting events to help people in the community know who we are, Stewardship is also tasked with coming up with fundraising ideas. If you know of anyone who needs a rental space for meetings, showers or birthday/anniversary parties, have them call the church office for information. Every little bit helps! And this has proven to be a very good moneymaker for our church.
- We're always looking for new ideas for our Speaker Series! Do you have a particular topic you'd like to explore? Know someone (community member, college professor, friend, to name a few) who could present a 1-to-2-hour program on a topic of interest? Please let anyone from Stewardship know your thoughts: Chris Gray, Dan Jenkins, Julie Zachesky, Kim Yocom, Mo or Tom Gallant, or Brenda Berriker.

### **CLUSTER NEEDS**

MARCH: Any kind of cracker and dry milk

APRIL: Toothpaste and Shampoo

### **LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY**

Shenkel folks are caring individuals who want to help those in need. We yearn to make a difference, but sometimes don't know where to start. Here is an opportunity to show you care: The **4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month**, a handful of our members help serve a **Community Lunch at Christ Episcopal in Pottstown**. Our church is an active participant in this local mission. Pastor Suzanne brings 70 salty and sweet snacks that are given out at lunch. These are purchased at Giant using the Giant gift cards that we also sell at church. These caring volunteers would love to welcome more helpers! You can serve lunch from 11:30-1:00, and/or go earlier to help sort food donations and prepare dessert trays. Don't worry—Shenkel is not responsible for the meal as we were years ago. We are simply willing helpers who are there to do whatever tasks need to be done.

### **GIANT AND REDNER'S GIFT CARDS**

You're doing a great job! This is an easy way to raise money for our church. Purchase your cards Sunday mornings or in the Church Office Tuesday-Thursday, between 9:00 and 1:30. Thanks for doing your part!

## **ONLINE GIVING/QR CODE**

It's easier than ever to catch up on your giving to support and sustain our church. Just go to [www.shenkelucc.org](http://www.shenkelucc.org), open up Online Giving, and choose where you want your donations to go. Simple! In addition, QR codes are in the pews and will be on the table in the grove for an easy, fast way of contributing. Thank you in advance for your continuing support of your church.

## **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

This committee is tasked with supporting the Pastor as well as bringing to her any concerns of the congregation. Information discussed is confidential. Members are Sandy Rowe, Dan Jenkins, and Tootie Hine. Please feel free to discuss any joys or concerns you have with any member of this committee.

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

Joan Granger	3/3/26
Kyle Manetti	3/3/26
Faye Pedrick	3/4/26
Brenda Berriker	3/6/26
Sela Chidawu	3/11/26
Clayton Brewer	3/11/26
Steven Craner	3/15/26
Adam Hartzell	3/19/26
Lynne Moyer	3/19/26
Lilly Keim	3/20/26
Cara Bevan	3/22/26
Stephanie Viti	3/30/26
Zoey Carr	3/31/26

## **MARCH PRAYER LOTTERY**

March 1

Nicole, Scott, Tully and Buckley Meehan

Michaela Craner

Connie Armbruster

Dan, Sharon, Malcom and Amelia Snyder

March 8

Ben Mocarski

Lucas Gray

Collin Gray

Alex Mocarksi

March 15

Bill, Britnee, Olivia and Delia Sanseverino

Tracy Dise

Maryln Rohrbach

Julie and Bill Zachesky

March 22

Faye Pedrick

Dan and Rose Wolgemuth

Sandy Peterman, James Heath and Emily Trego

Ron and Carol Pearson

March 29

Erika Burhans-Price and Kim Price

Susan and Homer Royer

David Klein

Stephanie and Jace Horonzy

### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Scott Meehan	4/4/26
James White	4/7/26
Debbie Hoff	4/10/26
Scott Kutz	4/10/26
Gloria Mest	4/10/26
Sandy Rowe	4/11/26
Gary Stultz	4/12/26
Julianne Wanner	4/12/26
Drew Sweinhart	4/16/26
Rosemary Wolgemuth	4/16/26
Jennifer Braley	4/18/26
Buckley Meehan	4/18/26
Kelly Strunk	4/19/26
Barbara Brown	4/21/26
Kaelyn Kline	4/24/26
Joan Palubinsky	4/28/26
Donald Laverty	4/29/26

## **APRIL PRAYER LOTTERY**

April 5

Abigail Dise

Erika, Kyle, Giovanni and Christopher Manetti

Sandy Rowe

Danielle Petersen

April 12

Drew Sweinhart

Doug and Margie Allen

Jennifer Braley

Eric Klein

April 19

Barry and Susan Miller

Lucas Zachesky

Jennifer, Jeffrey, Hannah, Catherine and Audrey Dyott

Kim Yocom and Barry Peterman

April 26

Elizabeth, James, Zoey, Henry and Molly Carr

Suzanne Spaulding

Pat Kuestner

Tootie Hine

Happy Easter!

Your Shenkel Happenings Editor,

Brenda Berriker