

The Worship Service
Sunday, March 9, 2025

*The temptation to spiritual
forgetfulness*

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

Welcome

Invocation

Silence for Meditation

Call to Worship

L: Lent calls us to journey along the edge, to anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem.

C: Lent calls us to the cutting edge, when the wheat falls to the ground and new life comes forth; the cutting of a new covenant.

L: Lent calls us not only to give up something, but also to take upon ourselves as community the intention of true participation in the mystery of God-with-us.

C: Lent calls us to corporate penitence, accountability, and preparation.

L: Lent calls us to concentrate upon our baptismal vocation to be a sign of the New Earth.

C: Lent calls us to face the darkness without holding a flashlight.

Opening Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress”

(See insert)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Let us confess our short comings to live as Jesus lived.

Prayer of Confession

We do not always walk well along the edge, God.

At times we fall into chasms which separate us from you, from one another, from ourselves.

With eyes closed, we risk falling into the abyss.

We attempt to stabilize our journey by demanding signs and seeking wisdom along the way.

We fail to ask, “Where is Christ being sacrificed now?”

At the end of our journey the hour will be at hand.

The questions flood our conscious minds:

What would we have done that night in Gethsemane?

Could we have been part of the political machinery that murdered Christ?

We shudder at the answers.

We need the strength and assurance of your grace.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

We have this assurance that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Special Music

I Wonder As I Wander

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Sandy Rowe

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Luke 4:1-13

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Forty Days And Forty Nights"

(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

Offering Response

"Doxology"

(See insert)

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

"O God Our Help In Ages Past"

(See insert)

Benediction

Postlude

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: (Appalachian Folk Song, Collected & Adapted by John Jacob Niles) © 1934 (Renewed) G. Schirmer, Inc.

**Announcements:
Sunday, March 9, 2025**

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

- 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
- ~ Adult Education: - viewing & discussing the documentary ‘God and County’

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

- Wed, 3/12/25 ~ Taize service at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall
- Sun, 3/16/25 ~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Social Hall (Only 1 service)
 - ~ Church School at 11:00 am
 - ~ Chancel Choir rehearsal at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary
 - ~ Congregational Meeting following the 9:45 am service in the Social Hall
- Sat, 3/22/25 ~ Speaker Series “Living Well-Ending Well” from 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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



Scripture Reading for March 16th

Joan Palubinsky

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Luke 13:31-35

Cluster donations for March: Toilet paper

Adult Education: Today we will be 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 today, 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.

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:

Lori Scharneck
Verna Walters
James White
Ted and Chris Gray
Steven Craner

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

