

The Worship Service
Sunday, April 26, 2026

*A good shepherd offers the sheep
protection, guidance, and abundant
life.*

*Green pastures, quiet waters, the
presence of the shepherd.*

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 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" (American Folk Melody)

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: The God of New Beginnings has called us to this place.

C: We come celebrating the new life that is ours as God's faithful people.

L: Let your joy ring through the universe, and let your vision see to the depths of every soul.

C: We will be shouters of joy and seekers of God's light wherever we go. Praise God for this day!

Opening Hymn "From All That Dwells Below The Skies" (NCH#27)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Friends, God has shown us what is good: to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly. Yet we often choose what is easy over what is right, indifference over compassion, pride over humility. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our failures together.

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we confess that we have not done justice. We have ignored the cries of those in need and turned away from opportunities to make things right. We have not loved kindness as you call us to, but have held onto judgment, resentment, and fear. We have not walked humbly with you but have relied on our own understanding and desires. Forgive us, we pray. Shape us into people who reflect your love, so that our lives may bear witness to your justice, mercy, and grace. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, God does not require perfection, but hearts turned toward love and justice. In mercy, God forgives and restores us, inviting us again to walk humbly in grace. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen!**

Special Music Solo (Sandy Rowe) and Congregation "Shepherd Me, O God"

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Sandy Rowe

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
John 10:1-10

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "My Shepherd Is The Living God" (NCH#247)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

Our Mother/Father, who are in heaven, hallowed by the 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.
April's Special Offering – Phoebe Ministries

Offertory "Nearer My God" (arr. Baranoski)

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

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" (NCH#252)

Benediction

Postlude "Carillon" (Young)

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, April 26, 2026~

Sun, 4/26/26 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Choir Rehearsal at 11:00 am.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

- 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.
- ~ Choir Rehearsal at 11:00 am.

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



Scripture Reading for May 3rd

Joan Palubinsky

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

Cluster donations for April: toothpaste and shampoo

Qigong classes at Shenkel!: Qigong classes will begin again Thursday, April 23rd at 11AM. There will NOT be a class on Thursday, 4/30. Class will resume weekly every Thursday beginning 5/7 at 11:00 am. The class is a "pay what you can", with a suggested fee of \$12 per session. Cash or check payable to Shenkel UCC. 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!

Church Change Changes Churches Results: Pulpit side = \$143.42, piano side = \$92.50 for a grand total of \$235.92.

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.

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 May 6th 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 and Maureen 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 10:00 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:

Elizabeth, James, Zoey, Henry and Molly Carr
Suzanne Spaulding
Pat Kuestner
Tootie Hine

Birthdays in the month of April:

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
Angeline Viti	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

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

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