

The Worship Service
Sunday, March 15, 2026

The good news is...
protection and care for the
vulnerable.

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 "Oh the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" (Williams)

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: God loves the field mouse.

C: God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

L: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

C: God loves the child who rocks and claps.

L: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

C: God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

L: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

**C: God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens,
standing strong over all of us.**

L: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

C: There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

L: So let us worship this good-news God!

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn "Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us" (See insert)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Family of Faith,
every week we pray the Prayer of Confession,
because every week we need to be reminded of God's abundant grace.
Every week we need to be reminded of God's love.
Every week we need to be reminded that we too can grow and change.
So join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation.
Friends, let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

L: God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

C: Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

L: Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

C: We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

L: God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

C: We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

L: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

C: We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of forgiveness:

L: Fortunately for all of us, God also said,
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.”

**C: By God’s grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

L: May this good news change our lives!

C: Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Special Music

“O God Of Love, O God Of Peace”

(NCH#571)

~We Hear God’s Word~

Scripture Lessons

Lori Scharneck

Matthew 19:13-15

Deuteronomy 24:17-22

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection:

“O For A World”

(See insert)

~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.

March’s Special Offering – One Great Hour of Sharing

Offertory

“Wade in the Water”

(arr. Taylor)

Offering Response

“We Give You But Your Own”

(See insert)

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

“Christian, Rise And Act Your Creed”

(See insert)

Benediction

Postlude

“Etude”

(Kabalevsky)

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

Liturgy from A Sanctified Art, written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed.

Announcements:

~Sunday, March 15, 2026~

Sun, 3/15/26 ~ One Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Social Hall.

~ Church School at 11:00 am.

~ Chancel Choir rehearsal after worship service.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Tue, 3/17/26 ~ Midday Dinner at Doc Watson's at 12:00 pm.

Wed, 3/18/26 ~ Taize Service at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall.

Sat, 3/21/26 ~ Line Dancing from 7:00 – 9:00 pm in the Social Hall.

Sun, 3/22/26 ~ Reflective Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.

~ Traditionalish Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

~ Chancel Choir rehearsal after worship service.

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



Scripture Reading for March 22nd

Dan Wolgemuth

Matthew 23:23

John 8:2-11

Cluster donations for March: dry milk and crackers (all kinds)

Easter Flower Orders: The deadline to order Easter Flowers is next Sunday the 22nd. There will be order forms available at this Sunday's service in the Social Hall. After the 15th, the order forms will be up in the Narthex. Please make sure you give your order form to Tootie and Louise. Please do not put in the offering plate as they may not get it. Also, if possible they would like to have all the order forms in by this Sunday the 15th.

Let's Dance: Join us from 7:00 – 9:00 pm on 3/21/26 in the Social Hall for some line dancing taught by Sandra Dee Guillen of Unity Rhythm Ballroom.

Congregational Meeting: There will be a brief congregational meeting after services on Sunday, March 29th to elect members to Consistory.

Church Change Changes Churches: Tired of lugging around loose change? Donate it to Shenkel! You can put your change in one of two receptacles at the end of the back pews. We'll have a little contest to see which side of the sanctuary gives the most from 1/11/26 until Easter Sunday 4/5/26.

Qigong classes at Shenkel!: Thursday mornings 11AM-noon. No experience necessary--All are welcome! Suggested cost is \$12/class or come and pay what you're able. Cash or check payable to Shenkel UCC. Hope you'll join us!

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 April 1st 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.

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 today.

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:

Bill, Britnee, Olivia and Delia Sanseverino

Tracy Dise

Maryln Rohrbach

Julie and Bill Zachesky

Birthdays in the month of March:

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

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

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

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847)

John 10:1-29

From Hymns for the Young, 1836; alt.

St. 1 transl. to Hawaiian by Laiana (1807-1886)

1 Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten-der care;
 1 Ie-su no ke Ka-hu-hi-pa, Ka-hu-hi-pa ma'i-ka'i e,
 2 We are yours, in love be-friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 Let us al-ways seek your fa-vor; let us al-ways do your will;

in your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your folds pre-pare.
 Ei-a ma-kou ka 'o-ha-na ke ho'o-lo-he a ha-hai:
 keep your flock, from sin de-fend us, seek us when we go a-stray.
 Je-sus Christ our on-ly Sav-ior, with your love our spir-its fill.

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us, yours we are;
 E a-lo-ha, e a-lo-ha, a-la-ka'i a ha-nai mai,
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear your chil-dren when we pray;
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still;

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us, yours we are.
 E a-lo-ha, e a-lo-ha, a-la-ka'i a ha-nai mai.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear your chil-dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.

The theme of Christ as shepherd is familiar and beloved to Christians. Emma Lyons Doyle, granddaughter of Laiana (translator Lorenzo Lyons), once said, "If you want to know the full beauty of this hymn, hear it sung in Hawaiian."

Tune: BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.
 William B. Bradbury, 1859

O for a World

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Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12

1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839

Text: William W. How, 1864; alt.

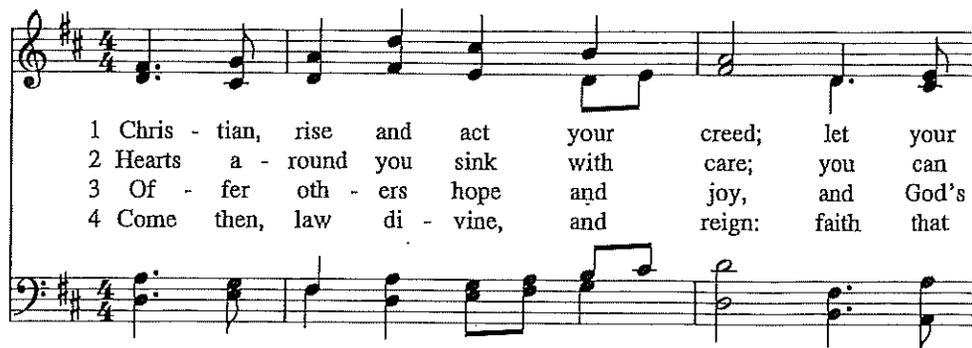
Music: Cantica Laudis, Lowell Mason and G. J. Webb, 1850

We give you but your own, what - e'er the gift may be;

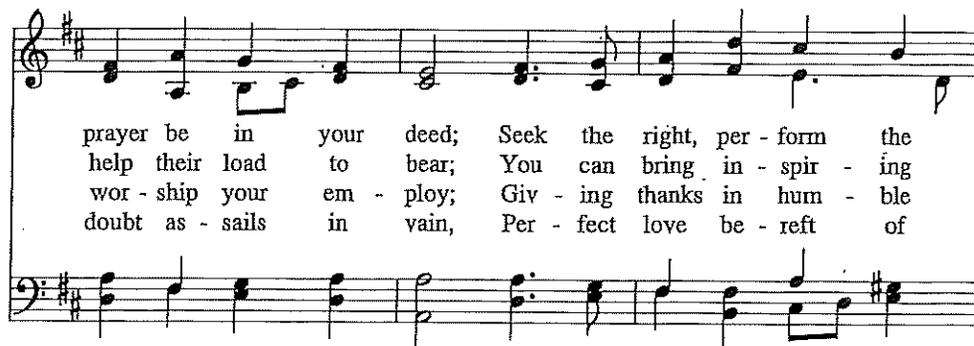
All that we have is yours a - lone, we give it grate-ful - ly.

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

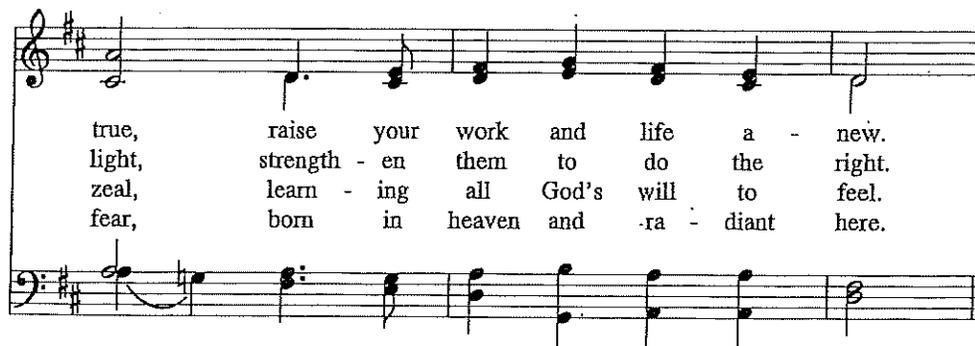
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Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; alt.


1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your
 2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can
 3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's
 4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that



prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the
 help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing
 wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble
 doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of



true, raise your work and life a - new.
 light, strength - en them to do the right.
 zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.
 fear, born in heaven and - ra - diant here.

Francis Albert Rollo Russell was a writer on scientific subjects and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. This hymn was first published in the Pilgrim Hymnal (1904). The tune originated with a text used for the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

Tune: INNOCENTS 7.7.7.
 The Parish Choir, 1850