

The Worship Service
Sunday, February 22, 2026

**The good news is...
so good it catches us by
surprise**

Shenkel United Church of Christ
1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465
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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 "Just a Closer Walk" (arr. Landon)

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: The good news of the gospel is:

**C: manna in the desert,
water turned into wine,
love after loss,
forgiveness after pain.**

L: The good news of the gospel is:

**C: release for the captive,
hope for the hopeless,
mourning turned to dancing,
and strangers turned to friends.**

L: So come on in.

There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

C: Let us worship this good-news God.

Opening Hymn "God, Who Stretched The Spangled Heavens" (NCH#556)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

You may have heard, "All is fair in love and war,"
or "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."
But God says, "Forgive seventy times seven."
God says, "I am slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."
God says, "Turn the other cheek."
God's mercy catches us by surprise.
So with wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in prayer.
Let us be surprised by God's grace all over again.
Friends, let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God,
somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful,
we have to be serious.
We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.
We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.
We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.
But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed.**

You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.
And all of a sudden, we wonder:
Can we be like that mustard seed?
Can we be faithful and unruly?
Can we be playful and curious?
Can we be messy and still be yours?
We know the answer already.
The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course.
Forgive our doubt.
Pull us closer into your embrace.
With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.
Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of forgiveness:

L: God's grace is wild and unruly.
God's mercy is abundant and surprising.
God's love is expansive and unending.
So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?"
the answer is and always will be:
C: of course, of course, of course.
This is the good news of the gospel.
C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Special Music

In The Image Of God

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Joan Palubinsky

Matthew 13:31-32

John 2:1-11

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"

(NCH#205)

~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.
February's Special Offering – The Local Homeless Ministry

Offertory	“Preamble”	(Frescobaldi)
Offering Response	“We Give You But Your Own”	(NCH#785)
Prayer of Dedication	~Going out in Joy~	
Sending Hymn	“Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”	(NCH#77)
Benediction		
Postlude	“Sing to Jesus”	(arr. Prichard)

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: (John W. Peterson) © 1957

Announcements:

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Sun, 2/22/26 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.
 ~ Chancel Choir rehearsal after worship service.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 3/1/26 ~ Reflective Worship Service with Communion at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service with Communion at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.
 ~ Chancel Choir rehearsal after worship service.

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



Scripture Reading for March 1st

Maddie Mest

Luke 7:36-50
 Matthew 25:35-40

Cluster donations for February: Canned chili and canned pasta (Chef Boyardee)

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 February 4th 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 on March 15th.

Shenkel Prayer Group: Meets at 9:00 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:

Louise Hine
Peter and Adrienne Wanner
Olivia Dushanko
Morgan Scharneck

Birthdays in the month of February:

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

