

The Worship Service

Sunday, April 6, 2025



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 Jesus Fount of Consolation (Bach)

Welcome

Invocation

Silence for Meditation

Call to Worship

L: God calls us away from the tumult of the world, that we may focus our thoughts on things that are lasting.

C: In God's presence we see our lives more clearly; the broken pieces are put back together.

L: God calls us out of loneliness into a life of community.

C: Worshiping together, caring about one another, we find out what it means to be truly human.

L: But God will send us back into the world's confusion and busyness, its brokenness and isolation.

C: We will go with serenity and joy, strengthened to be God's servants, the bearers of peace.

Opening Hymn "Awake My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve" (NCH#491)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Trusting the God of love, let us make our confession.

Prayer of Confession

Eternal and loving God, you have long sought us and we have fled. You have offered us an easy yoke, and we have tied ourselves down with cares and burdens. You have forgiven us, and we have complained against our sisters and brothers. Give us a conversion that turns us around to face the light; teach us a repentance that lives in works of love; lead us into the narrow path; guide us through the valley of the shadow of death. Call us to follow Jesus Christ and in his way to live and suffer, die and rise again. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Friends, believe the good news; in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free.

Special Music

Let Us Hope When Hope Seems Hopeless, Brain McShane, Vocalist

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Lori Scharneck

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

John 12:1-8

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Said Judas To Mary"

(NCH#210)

~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.

April’s Special Offering – Phoebe Ministries

Offertory

Musette

(Young)

Offering Response

“Doxology”

(NCH#779)

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to God.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion Prayer

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God our creator and redeemer. In your wisdom, you made all things and sustain them by your power.

You formed us in your image to love and serve you, but we forgot your promises and abandoned your commandments. In your mercy, you did not reject us but still claimed us as your own.

When we were slaves in Egypt you freed us and led us through the waters of the sea. You fed us with heavenly food in the wilderness, and satisfied our thirst from desert springs. On the holy mountain you gave us your law to guide us in your way. Through the waters of Jordan you led us into the land of your promise, and you sustained us in times of trial. You spoke through prophets calling us to turn from our willful ways to new obedience and righteousness. You sent your only Son to be the way to eternal life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the burden of guilt. He shared our life in every way, and though tempted, was sinless to the end.

Baptized as your own, he went willingly to his death and by your power was raised to new life. In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ, and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

Prayer after Communion

All: We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

“Savior, An Offering Costly and Sweet”

(NCH#536)

Benediction

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: (David Beebe/Rowland Prichard) Words © 1994 The Pilgrim Press / Music arrangement © 2022
First Run Muzik Psalter (ASCAP)

Announcements:
Sunday, April 6, 2025

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 4/6/25 ~ 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 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary
~ A Taste of Passover at 2:00 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Wed, 4/9/25 ~ Lenten Taize Services at 6:30 pm
Thu, 4/10/25 ~ Qigong Classes at 11:00 – 12:00
Sun, 4/13/25 ~ 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

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



Scripture Reading for April 13th

Dan Wolgemuth

Psalm 118:1,2, 19-29
Luke 19:28-40

Cluster donations for April: Canned Pasta, Pork N Beans

Lenten Taize Services – Wednesday's from 3/12/25 – 4/9/25 at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall.

Qigong classes at Shenkel!: Thursday mornings 11AM-noon. No experience necessary--All are welcome! Cost is \$12/class, cash or check payable to Shenkel UCC. Hope you'll join us!

A Taste of Passover: Today at 2:00 PM – A teaching seder offered by Congregation Mercy and Truth at 575 Keim Street. Free, must register via email: info@pottstowncluster.org.

Holy Week Services:

Maundy Thursday at 5:30 PM – Supper and service
Good Friday service at 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary
Easter Sunrise at 6:30 AM outdoors at Temple UMC
Easter Service with communion at 9:45 AM in the Sanctuary

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 May 18th.

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:

Maryln Rohrbach
Stacey, Bill and Aurora Keim
Tom and Maureen Gallant
Laura Golden
Louise Hine

Birthdays in the month of April:

Scott Meehan	4/4/25
James White	4/7/25
Debbie Hoff	4/10/25
Scott Kutz	4/10/25
Gloria Mest	4/10/25
Sandy Rowe	4/11/25
Gary Stultz	4/12/25
Julianne Wanner	4/12/25
Drew Sweinhart	4/16/25
Rosemary Wolgemuth	4/16/25
Jennifer Braley	4/18/25
Buckley Meehan	4/18/25
Kelly Strunk	4/19/25
Barbara Brown	4/21/25
Kaelyn Kline	4/24/25
Joan Palubinsky	4/28/25
Donald Laverty	4/29/25

