

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.

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

~Gathering Together~

Prelude An Exultant Alleluia (Smith)
 Risen Savior's Diadem (Mozart)

Welcome

Invocation

Call to Worship

L: On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.
C: On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.
L: On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.
C: But today, we know the good news is alive and well.
L: The good news is dancing!
C: The good news is on the loose!
L: The good news is out in the world, calling your name!
C: Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.
L: Let us worship our good-news Christ.

Opening Hymn "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" (NCH#240)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Friends, on Easter Sunday we remember that the world did its worst to God.
The world battered and bruised, betrayed and abandoned, crucified and buried our living God. And despite it all, Jesus still chose to return.
Jesus rose again and immediately went to work spreading God's love to the very people who had hurt him. So hear me when I say, there is nothing you can do that could keep God's love at bay.
With that good news in mind, let us go to God in prayer, trusting that Jesus Christ loves, claims, and seeks us.
Friends, let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, we want to be Easter people.
We want to shout your good news from the rooftop.
We want to follow the disciples who ran to look for you.
We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid,"
but we are afraid.
And we don't know where to look.
And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing.
So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people.**

**We are best intentions and best laid plans.
We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias."
We are on our way, but we are not there yet.
Show us how to embody your good news in this world.
Show us how to be your Easter people.
With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.**

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Forgiveness

L: Family of faith,
even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias," we belong to God.
Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could keep God's love at bay.
So join me in this good news declaration:
**C: Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed.
This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God.**

Special Music: *Christ Is Risen* (Ronald Cadmus/Dan Wolgemuth) Chancel Choir

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Carol Pearson

Psalm 118:1,2, 14-24
Matthew 28:1-10

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Now The Green Blade Rises" (NCH #238)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Our Savior

Minister: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

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 of glory, forever. Amen

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries.
April's Special Offering – Pottstown Cluster

Offertory

"Rise Up My Heart with Gladness"

(Bach)

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

Special Music: *Jesus Messiah* (Daniel Carson, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash & Jesse Reeves, Chancel Choir, featuring Josh Giannini, soloist)

~Celebration of Holy Communion~

Invitation to the table

L: On Easter morning, the women went looking for Jesus.

The angel said he was not in the tomb, so they ran, afraid yet filled with joy. They sought after him.

They hurried to Galilee, looking for their risen Christ.

And in their seeking, the text tells us: "Suddenly, Jesus met them" (Matthew 28:9).

Jesus met the women in their seeking. Jesus met them in their moment of fear and grief.

Jesus met them when they felt lost. Jesus met them and provided hope.

Friends, if like the women you are seeking Christ, if you have known grief or fear,

if you have ever felt lost, or if you are in need of some hope, then come to this Table.

All are welcome here. For just as Jesus met the women in their seeking,

I am confident that Jesus meets us here, saying, "Do not be afraid."

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 God Most High.

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

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Risen Christ, good-news God, and ever-present Spirit,
today is a day we've been waiting for.

We've been waiting for the holy mystery of this morning.

We've been waiting for the good news of an empty grave.

We've been waiting for the sound of alleluias.

Today is a day we've been waiting for, and now that we're here, all we can say is thank you.

Thank you for showing the world what could be.

Thank you for loving us with abandon.

Thank you for facing death and returning with mercy.

Thank you for the empty tomb.

Thank you for morning birdsong.

And thank you for meeting us here, as you always do.

Today we celebrate the good news that you are alive in the world.

The grave couldn't hold you.

Death couldn't keep you.

The empire couldn't confine you.

Instead, you are here and everywhere.

You are risen.

You are on the move in the world.

Your love meets us at this Table and calls us out into the world.

And that is good, good news.

We recall anew the words and acts of Jesus: As they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, "Take, eat: this is my body given for you." Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Come, Holy Spirit, come, bless this bread and fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died. Amen.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements (We will serve the communion in the pews this morning. The red is grape juice and the white is wine.)

Prayer after Communion

L: Loving Christ,
thank you for the bread that nourishes our bodies.

C: Thank you for the cup that quenches our thirst.

L: Thank you for this community, which reminds us who we are.

C: Thank you for this Table that brings us together.

L: Thank you for the music that lifts our spirits.

C: Thank you for the promise that at this Table, and every table, you will be there.

May this holy meal nourish us to go out into the world speaking of your good, good news.

With joy and hope we pray, amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today" (NCH #233)

Benediction

Postlude "Resurrection Morning" (Ritter)

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

Musical Guest Artists: Dave Stahl – Trumpet

Chuck Dressler – Trombone

Josh Giannini – Seasonal Intern; Vocals, Guitar

Special Music: © 2001 First Run Muzik Psalter (ASCAP); © 2008 Vamos Publishing, worshiptogether.com, Sixsteps Music, Alletrop Music [CCLI #5183443]

**Announcements:
Sunday, April 5, 2026**

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 4/5/26 ~ Worship Service with Communion at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Mon, 4/6/26 ~ Operation 143 Pack Night at 5:30 pm

Sun, 4/12/26 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.

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

Scripture Reading for April 12th

1 Peter 1:3-9

Psalm 16

John 20:19-31

Cluster donations for April: toothpaste and shampoo

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 today.

Operation 143 Pack Night: Volunteers are needed Monday, April 6, at 5:30PM. There is a volunteer sign up sheet in the narthex. Contact Chris Gray (610) 246-3548 with any questions.

Qigong classes at Shenkel!: Qigong classes will begin again Thursday, April 9 at 11AM. There will NOT be a class on Thursday, 4/16 and 4/23. Class will resume weekly every Thursday beginning 4/30 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!

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 Berrick, 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 April 19th.

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.

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!

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

Abigail Dise

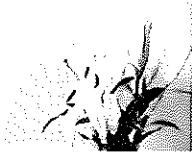
Erika, Kyle, Giovanni and Christopher Manetti

Sandy Rowe

Danielle Petersen

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



EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

APRIL 5, 2026

Connie Armbruster – In memory of Sam

Randy & Brenda Berriker – In memory of our parents

Ken & Betsy Bevan – In loving memory of our parents, Ronald & Freda Wanner

Andrew & Linda Foss – In celebration of our grandchildren and in memory of Bob &
Nancy Renninger

Louise & Tootie Hine – He is Risen!

Dan Jenkins – My Grandparents – Paul & Pauline Lenker, Ruth & Henry Barnes, Tom
& Ellie Jenkins

Brian & Pam McShane – In honor of our children and grandchildren

Lynne Moyer – Glory to God in the Highest!!

Ronald & Carol Pearson – Nancy Delp, John & Caroline Yearick

Sandy Rowe – To Family & Friends

Suzanne Spaulding

Gary & Sue Stultz – Remembrance of our parents