

**The Worship Service**  
Sunday, March 23, 2025

*The future is God's and we  
share in the unfolding of  
the future.*

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**Shenkel United Church of Christ**

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

610-326-3535 ~ [www.shenkelucc.org](http://www.shenkelucc.org) ~ [shenkelucc@aol.com](mailto: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                      I Come To The Garden Alone                      (C. Austin Miles)  
© [CCLI #625828, P.D.]

Welcome

Invocation

Silence for Meditation

Call to Worship

L: Creator God, you made us, and you are with us in every breath.

**C: We worship you, and open our hearts to you.**

L: Jesus, you heal us and teach us, you change us and you love us.

**C: We thank you and we sing your praise.**

L: Holy Spirit, you give us new hearts and fill us with the power of your love.

**C: Create in us a clean heart, o God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Amen.**

Opening Hymn                      "Let Us With A Joyful Mind"    Versus 1-4                      (NCH#16)

### ~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Trusting in God's tender mercy, let us confess our sin to God with one another.

Prayer of Confession

**Life-giving God, we have spent our lives on that which does not feed our souls, and labored for that which is not life. We have starved ourselves and others of your love. We open ourselves to your presence, your forgiveness and your love. Feed us life, that we may truly live, and bear the fruits of your grace.**

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Friends believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free.

Special Music

As The Deer, Dan Wolgemuth, Pianist

### ~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Maddie Mest

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

Luke 12:1-9

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Come To Tend God's Garden"

(NCH#586)

**~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. March's Special Offering – One Great Hour of Sharing

Offertory God Leads Us Along  
P.D.]

(G.A.Young) [CCLI #190919,

Offering Response

"Doxology"

(NCH#779)

Prayer of Dedication

**~Going out in Joy~**

Sending Hymn

"Lift Every Voice And Sing"

(NCH#593)

Benediction

Postlude

Your Grace Is Enough

(Matt Maher) (CCLI #4477026]

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Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth

Email: [shenkelpastor@gmail.com](mailto:shenkelpastor@gmail.com)

Organist: Susan Royer

Sexton: Stacy Keim

Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Special Music: (Martin Nystrom) [CCLI # 1431]

**Announcements:**

**Sunday, March 23, 2025**

**~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~**

Sun, 3/23/25 ~ 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

**~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~**

Wed, 3/26/25 ~ Lenten Taize Service at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall

Sun, 3/30/25 ~ 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 March 30th**

**Susan Royer**

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

Luke 15:1-3. 11b-32

**Cluster donations for March:** Toilet paper

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

**Easter Flowers:** Order forms will be in the narthex, please include cash or check made payable to Shenkel UCC and the dedication should be given to Louise/Tootie Hine by April 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be having lily's, tulips, daffodils and hyacinths.

**Scholarship opportunities through Shenkel:** We are now accepting applications for the Bill Boyer and William J Burhans Scholarship funds through April 1. Awards will be announced April 15. Application packages include a general application sheet, a brief essay sharing information about applicants and their relationship to Shenkel U.C.C., community service involvement, and how applicants see themselves being of service to others in their life and career. For more information, please contact Danielle at [shenkelucc@aol.com](mailto:shenkelucc@aol.com) or call 610-326-3535.

**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 18<sup>th</sup>.

**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:

Peter and Adrienne Wanner

Jess, Adam, Lucy and Jordan Hartzell

David and Lynn Derman

Gloria Mest

Tootie Hine

**Birthdays in the month of March:**

Karl Metka	3/2/25
Joan Granger	3/3/25
Kyle Manetti	3/3/25
Faye Pedrick	3/4/25
Brenda Berriker	3/6/25
Sela Chidawu	3/11/25
Clayton Brewer	3/11/25
Steven Craner	3/15/25
Adam Hartzell	3/19/25
Lynne Moyer	3/19/25
Lilly Keim	3/20/25
Cara Bevan	3/22/25
Stephanie Viti	3/30/25
Zoey Carr	3/31/25