

The Worship Service
Sunday, March 29, 2026

The good news is...
inspiring us to act

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 "Hosanna in the Highest" (Birchwood)

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Will you follow?
Will you lay down your coat?
Will you lay down something important?
Will you shout "Hosanna"?
Will you join the parade?
Will you sing, even if your throat is hoarse?
Will you cut down a palm branch?
Will you wave it in the air?
Will you follow the one riding on a donkey?
Will you let this good news inspire you to act?
**C: We will. We will sing. We will pay close attention.
We will worship. We will follow.**
L: Hosanna in the highest!
C: Hosanna in the highest.

Opening Hymn "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (NCH#213)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

The very first Palm Sunday was a day of action. It was a day of movement, of crowded city streets, and cries of "Hosanna!"
It was a day of peaceful protest and dreams for a better world.
The first Palm Sunday was a day of peaceful, hopeful action.
So friends, on this Palm Sunday, let us join the saints before us in an act of faith.
Let us begin with an act of prayer, an act of honesty, an act of transformation.
Let us begin by drawing close to God and sharing the truth of our lives.
Let us begin with confession.
Join me in prayer:

Prayer of Confession

**Jesus of Nazareth,
we know that you spent your days teaching and healing.
You marched through the streets and walked on water.
You laid hands on the sick and broke bread at crowded dinner tables.**

**Your good news was not confined to conversation.
 It was not confined to the Temple.
 Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world.
 Holy God, we long for a faith like that.
 Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith
 to something we think about, as opposed to something we act upon.
 Inspire us to love as you loved.
 Inspire us to act.
 With hope for tomorrow we pray, amen.**

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of forgiveness:

Church family,
 whether or not you wave your palm branch,
 whether or not you live out your faith,
 whether or not you allow this good news to inspire your actions,
 God will never stop loving you.
 Jesus will never stop marching for you.
 The Spirit will never stop listening to you.
We are claimed, loved, and held in grace.
What good, good news. Amen!

Special Music

Mantos Y. Ramos, Chancel Choir with Josh Giannini, solo & Guitar, Brian McShane, solo.

MANTOS Y RAMOS (Filled With Excitement)

Rubin Ruiz Avila (Lyric alt. DW)



Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na to Christ!
 Ho - san - na! ho - san - na to Christ! Our
 Sav - ior now has come! Ho - san - na!
 Ho - san - na to Christ! Ho - san - na!
 ho - san - na to Christ! Ho - san - na!
 Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na!
 Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na!

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Pam McShane

Psalms 25:1-10

Mark 11:1-11

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "For The Healing Of The Nations" (NCH#576)

~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.
April's Special Offering – Phoebe Ministries

Offertory "Day of Joy" (Denton)

Offering Response "We Give You But Your Own" (NCH#785)

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty" (NCH #215)

Benediction

Postlude "Ride On!" (R. Miller)

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

Special Music: (Ruis Avila) © 1972, 1979 & 1989 United Methodist Publishing House [one license #14737]

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

Announcements:

~Sunday, March 29, 2026~

Sun, 3/29/26 ~ 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, 4/5/26 ~ Sunrise Worship Service at 6:30 am at Temple UMC.

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

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



Scripture Reading for April 5th

Carol Pearson

Psalms 118:1,2, 14-24

Matthew 28:1-10

Cluster donations for April: toothpaste and shampoo

Congregational Meeting: There will be a brief congregational meeting after services today 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.

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 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, 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.

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

Erika Burhans-Price and Kim Price

Susan and Homer Royer

David Klein

Stephanie and Jace Horonzy

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.