

SHENKEL HAPPENINGS - MARCH 2025

Greetings, Shenkel Friends and Family!

It's Sunday evening, and I just stepped outside and was welcomed by a warm, soft breeze that reminded me of Spring—it's almost here! And yes, we can focus on pollen counts and grass to be mowed and weeds to be pulled and allow it to put us in an unwelcoming mood. OR, we can choose to see the beginnings of new life as dormant trees bud, daffodils bloom, and we prepare our flower beds for new growth. Let's find reasons to celebrate the times when life is easy as well as the challenging moments of our imperfect lives. And allow God's love to flow.

Now, let's find out what amazing things your church is doing!

SUNDAY SERVICES

You have two great choices for worship each Sunday:

1. **REFLECTIVE SERVICE AT 8:30 AM**, a good choice if you prefer no music, time for discussion and reflection, and
2. **TRADITIONALISH SERVICE at 9:45 AM**. You will find everything you've always wanted in a traditional service plus more. Pastor Suzanne has added a time for centering at the beginning which people in person and online are really appreciating.

LENTEN SERVICES

- **TAIZE SERVICES** will be held **each Wednesday in Lent (March 12-April 9) at 6:30 PM in the Social Hall**. If you are new to Taize, let me explain. The room is candlelit, and we ask that you refrain from talking as you enter this sacred space. Simple music is sung several times at various times in the service to center ourselves in God's love and peace. There are readings from various sources, but not sermons. Prayers are offered silently and verbally. It is a beautiful way to center ourselves in God's love. We hope you'll join us!
- **HOLY WEEK**
There are several opportunities this week to put aside the busyness and come together to remember Jesus' journey to the cross.
 - Join us on **April 17 at 5:30 PM** for a **MAUNDY THURSDAY SOUP SUPPER and SERVICE** in the Social Hall.
 - Our **Good Friday** service will be held on **April 18 at 3:00 PM** in the sanctuary.
 - On **April 20 at 6:30 AM**, a sunrise service will be held on the hill at **Temple Methodist**, followed by breakfast in Temple's Social Hall.

- **Easter morning service at Shenkel**, a time for joy and celebration, will be held at **9:45 AM** in the sanctuary. There's nothing like singing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" to put you in the Easter Spirit!

TEACHING SEDER

On **April 6 at 2:00 PM**, our Jewish friends have invited us to "A Taste of Passover" where we will learn about this ritualistic meal that commemorates the Israelites' liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt. Taste foods common to the Seder meal and learn about the traditions centered around the story of the Exodus. There is no charge and reservations are required by email: info@pottstowncluster.org. Hosted by Congregation Mercy and Truth, 575 N. Keim Street, Pottstown.

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

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 or call 610-326-3535

FINANCIALS

February Treasurer's Report:
Current Fund: (\$13,708)
OCWM: (\$407.33)

STEWARDSHIP

Your committee has been hard at work to find ways to provide programming not only for our members, but the community as well. Our January Reboot was a huge success, with 29 attendees who gave nothing but positive feedback and the hopes that we will continue to offer this program.

As a result, **Qigong** teacher, Salil, is excited to offer weekly **Thursday classes beginning April 10 at 11:00 AM in the Social Hall**. Please wear comfortable clothing. There will be a charge of \$12.00 per class payable by cash or check.

SPEAKER SERIES: LIVING WELL, ENDING WELL- MARCH 22, 1:00-3:00 PM

We are very excited to have Elder Law Attorney Rebecca Hobbs, Esquire present the ins and outs of Wills, Powers of Attorney, and other matters relating to getting your legal and financial lives in order in the event of your death. This session is intended for every adult who wants to make sure their loved ones will know their wishes and won't be left with a legal mess and possibly a financial drain at the end of their lives. Look for lots of important information here!

Our second presenter is Rev. JoEllen Mauger, a retired pastor who focused on bereavement care while working for hospice and also served as a nursing home chaplain during her career. She has helped grieving families and individuals find meaning in their end-of-life journeys and will share her insights.

Please tell your friends and neighbors!

PRIDE FEST 2025

The current date for the Pride Festival to be held in Shenkel's grove is **JULY 26 with a rain date of AUGUST 9**. Contact Pastor Suzanne for more info or to volunteer to help.

ADOPT A WINDOW!!

Our Shenkel Family never ceases to amaze me! We identified a need and you stepped up. All twelve of the window shades are now fully paid for by member contributions without dipping into the Lykens bequest! A big thank you to our contributors below:

Freda Wanner
Sue Stultz
Randy and Brenda Berriker
Chris and Ted Gray
Sharon Sabo
Joyce Pashley
Sandy Rowe
Ron and Carol Pearson
Dan Jenkins
Kim Yocom
Barry Yocom
Susan and Homer Royer
Louise Hine

CLUSTER NEEDS

March: Toilet Paper

April: Canned Pasta and Pork N Beans

CHURCH SCHOOL

Attention all children ages 3 through 6th grade! Church School is held the **THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH from 11:00 AM TO NOON**. The focus is on God's love in us and through us and showing compassion for others, as well as Bible stories. The kids love it! Because the 3rd Sunday in April coincides with Easter we will not meet in April. **Next meeting is May 18 at 11:00 AM.**

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Shenkel folks are caring individuals who want to help those in need. We yearn to make a difference, but sometimes don't know where to start. Here is an opportunity to show you care: The **4th Monday of each month**, a handful of our members help serve a **Community Lunch at Christ Episcopal in Pottstown**. Our church is an active participant in this local mission. Pastor Suzanne brings 70 salty and sweet snacks that are given out at lunch. These are purchased at Giant using the Giant gift cards that we also sell at church. These caring volunteers would love to welcome more helpers! You can serve lunch from 11:30-1:00, and/or go earlier to help sort food donations and prepare dessert trays. Don't worry—Shenkel is not responsible for the meal as we were years ago. We are simply willing helpers who are there to do whatever tasks need to be done.

HAVE A FUNDRAISING IDEA?

Share it with the Stewardship Committee. Members are Chris Gray, Julie Zachesky, Kim Yocom, Dan Jenkins, and Brenda Berriker.

GIANT AND REDNER'S GIFT CARDS

You're doing a great job! This is an easy way to raise money for our church. Purchase your cards Sunday mornings or in the Church Office Tuesday-Thursday, between 9:00 and 1:30. Thanks for doing your part!

ONLINE GIVING/QR CODE

It's easier than ever to catch up on your giving to support and sustain our church. Just go to www.shenkelucc.org, open up Online Giving, and choose where you want your donations to go. Simple! In addition, QR codes are in the pews and will be on the table in the grove for an easy, fast way of contributing. Thank you in advance for your continuing support of your church.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee is tasked with supporting the Pastor as well as bringing to her any concerns of the congregation. Information discussed is confidential. Members are Sandy Rowe, Brenda Berriker, and Dan Jenkins. Please feel free to discuss any joys or concerns you have with any member of this committee.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

MARCH PRAYER LOTTERY

March 2

Barry and Susan Miller
Bob and Sherri Mocarski
Stacia and Joseph Bradley
Lilly Keim
Richard Golden

March 9

Lori Scharneck
Verna Walters
James White
Ted and Chris Gray
Steven Craner

March 23

Peter and Adrienne Wanner
Jess, Adam, Lucy and Jordan Hartzell
David and Lynn Derman
Gloria Mest
Tootie Hine

March 30
Lucas Gray
Josh Palubinsky
Dan Jenkins
Danielle Petersen
Karl Metka

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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
Doanld Laverty	4/29/25

APRIL PRAYER LOTTERY

April 6
Maryln Rohrbach
Stacey, Bill and Aurora Keim
Tom and Maureen Gallant
Laura Golden
Louise Hine

April 13
Eric Klein
Faye Pedrick
Julianne Wanner
Scott Kutz
Julie and Bill Zachesky

April 20

Jeff Luckenbach

Roberta Peterman

Susan and Homer Royer

Marie Bade

Pat Kuestner

April 27

Jesse Painter

Dawn Yocom

Gary and Susan Stultz

Christian, Mari and Connor O'Drain

Bonnie Cox

Wishing you peace and love.

Your Shenkel Happenings Editor,

Brenda Berriker