

The Worship Service

Sunday, March 16, 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 To the Wilderness (Scheffler)

Welcome

Invocation

Silence for Meditation

Call to Worship

L: We gather as the people of God, filled with reverence and with a special kind of joy, because

C: Our God reigns through love and hope.

L: In our coming together, there is a Spirit that connects us and bonds us to one another in fellowship, for

C: Our God reigns through love.

L: There is no better thing we can do with ourselves and our time than to worship with a sure confidence that

C: Our God reigns.

L: So here we are, the people of a faith-community, who join in service, song, and prayer, to worship.

C: Our God.

Opening Hymn "The God Of Abraham Praise" (See insert)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Let us come together to God's throne of grace and acknowledge our need of forgiveness and grace.

Prayer of Confession

God of compassion, you know how we rebel against you. You know how we doubt and fear and hold back, when you call us to freedom and to partnership in Jesus Christ. God, forgive us. Free us by the power of your cross, that we may serve you without fear. Grant us your peace, through Jesus Christ who was faithful to the end. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Friend's believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free.

Special Music

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons Dan Wolgemuth

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27

Luke 13:31-35

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns"

(See insert)

Order for Reception of Members

Invitation

L: We invite to come forward those who wish to affirm their baptism by uniting with us in this household of faith.

L: Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism.

These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Sentences

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit,

Questions of the Candidates

L: Do you desire to affirm your baptism?

C: I do.

L: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

C: I do.

L: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

C: I do.

L: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

C: I promise, with the help of God.

L: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in the world?

C: I promise, with the help of God.

Affirmation of Faith

L: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Address

L: By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Question about Participation

L: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

C: I promise, with the help of God.

Welcome and Reception

L: Let us, the members of Shenkel United Church of Christ express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

C: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

L: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Shenkel United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church.

Prayer

L: O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

~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 Come Unto Me Ye Weary

Offering Response "Doxology" (See insert)

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "If You But Trust In God To Guide You" (See insert)

Benediction

Postlude

The Solid Rock

(Hayes)

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

Announcements:

Sunday, March 16, 2025

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 3/16/25 ~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Social Hall (Only 1 service)

~ Congregational Meeting following the 9:45 am service in the Social Hall

~ Church School at 11:00 am

~ Chancel Choir rehearsal at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Wed, 3/19/25 ~ Lenten Taize Service at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall

Sat, 3/22/25 ~ Speaker Series "Living Well-Ending Well" from 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Sun, 3/23/25 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary

~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary

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



Scripture Reading for March 23rd

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8

Luke 12:1-9

Maddie Mest

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.

Congregational Meeting, Today, March 16th in the Social Hall: In follow up to our Annual meeting on January 26th, we will gather today, March 16th in the Social Hall to begin visioning Shenkel's path forward. In preparation for our conversations, please consider the role the church plays in your spiritual life and development. What are you seeking and how does Shenkel support that? What makes Shenkel special to you? Who is Shenkel in the community and how might that grow or change? Fellowship time will begin immediately following the 9:45 am service. Please consider bringing a covered dish to share.

Easter Flowers: Order forms will be in the Narthex starting today, please include cash or check made payable to Shenkel UCC and the dedication should be given to Louise/Tootie Hine by April 5th. 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 or call 610-326-3535.

Speaker Series: Living Well – Ending Well with Rebecca Hobbs and Rev. Jo Ellen Mauger on 3/22/25 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Please bring your friends.

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 Yocom, 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 today.

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:

Kaleena Sweinhart
Connie Armbruster
Kim Yocom and Barry Peterman
Nicole and Scott Meehan
Tracy Dise

Birthdays in the month of March:

Karl Metka	3/2/25	Lilly Keim	3/20/25
Joan Granger	3/3/25	Cara Bevan	3/22/25
Kyle Manetti	3/3/25	Stephanie Viti	3/30/25
Faye Pedrick	3/4/25	Zoey Carr	3/31/25
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		