

The Worship Service
Sunday, August 16, 2026

**TUITION SPONSORSHIP
PROGRAM WITH GOD'S
PRESCIOUS CHILDREN**

Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

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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 "All Hail the Poser" (arr. Berry)

Welcome

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 133)

P: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

C: We gather together to worship the Holy One in unity!

P: How very good and powerful it is when we commit to the kingdom of God!

C: We gather together to discern God's will and declare God's reign!

P: How very good and hopeful it is when we reconcile and repair our brokenness and bless one another!

C: We gather together to love and to serve! Praise the Holy One!

Opening Hymn "Great Is Your Faithfulness" (SmSgBk#22)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

God of abundance, forgive us for living as if scarcity is an unavoidable reality. Forgive us for allowing siblings in our neighborhoods, communities, and world to live in poverty as an unending condition. Forgive us for not trusting in your abundance, and propel us to defy the temptation to adopt a scarcity mindset due to challenging economic conditions. Empower us to participate in mutual sharing of resources, as well as to demand and create equitable systems that eliminate poverty for all your creation. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

Beloved, Creator has crafted a world full of all we need. Embrace abundance as an act of faith and trust in the God who provides, who redeems, and who repairs. The kingdom will come as we insist upon it, and the Holy One meets us in our commitments.

Special Music

Prayer of St. Francis, Brenda & Randal Berriker, Duettists, Sue Stultz, Flute

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons Dan Wolgemuth

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalm 133

Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28

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

Sermon

Rev. Andrew Hostetter

Hymn for Reflection:

“Seek Ye First”

(SmSgBk#48)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Generosity

Knowing that every good and perfect gift has the Holy One as its original source, let us share the blessings that God has trusted with us. Give generously and lovingly in the name of the Holy One.

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

August's Special Offering – North Coventry Meals on Wheels

Offertory

“This Little Light”

(Spiritual)

Offering Response

“We Plow The Fields”

(Vs 3 only) (SmSgBk#36)

**We thank Thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;
Accept the gifts we offer for all Thy love im-parts.
And that which Thou desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.**

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Generous God, receive these gifts as a deposit into the kingdom and an act of trust and gratitude. May these offerings provide for the needs of our neighbors and enable this faith community to offer ministry in your name and your honor. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

“They'll Know We Are Christians”

(SmSgBk#19)

Benediction

Postlude

“Sonata in C Major”

(Mozart)

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

Special Music: (ascrib. to St. Francis/Sebastion Temple) [onelicense #80478]

Announcements:
~Sunday, August 16, 2026~

Sun, 8/16 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am, God's Precious Children in the Grove.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Tues, 8/18 ~ Midday Dinner at Vincenzo's (Douglassville) at 12:00 pm.

Sun, 8/23 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove.

Sun, 8/30 ~ Corn and Doggie Roast Picnic at 4:00 pm in the Pavilion.

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



Scripture Reading for August 23rd

Pam McShane

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalms 124

Matthew 16: 13-20

Cluster donations for August: Instant potatoes

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!

Pipe Organ Through History: A Benefit Recital on August 23rd at 3:00 pm at Maidencreek Church, 261 Main Street, Blandon. Free admissions, all donations benefit the music ministry at Maidencreek Church.

SAVE THE DATE: August 30, 2026

Corn and Hot Dog Picnic, 4 to 8 pm

What to bring?: Hot dogs, place settings, sticks for roasting your dogs, and a side dish or dessert to share.

What will be provided? Corn on the cob and drinks.

Hope to see you there!!

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends: being held October 21, 2026 from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm. You can go to the store or online to shop. See Louise or Tootie to get your \$5.00 shopping pass. More information to follow.

Qigong classes at Shenkel!: Classes are on Thursday mornings from 11AM-noon. Suggested cost is \$12/class or come and pay what you're able. Cash or check payable to Shenkel UCC. Hope you'll join us! 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 September 2nd 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 & Mo 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. Church school will resume in September.

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. **The prayer group will meet on Monday, 8/31 at 10:00 am in the Pavilion, instead of on Monday, 9/7 due to it being a holiday.**

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

Brian and Pam McShane
Clay Zachesky
Gary McDermit
Ashlyn Augustine

Birthdays in the month of August:

Steven Bade	8/3/26
Ted Gray	8/4/26
Dan Wolgemuth	8/6/26
Jim Bevan	8/10/26
Barbara Sweinhart	8/10/26
Elaine Bevan	8/12/26
Grace Major	8/12/26
Morgan Scharneck	8/16/26
Jennifer Dyott	8/17/26
Carol Pearson	8/18/26
Ashlyn Augustine	8/21/26
Kaya Skulski	8/27/26
Jeffrey Dyott	8/28/26
Lori Scharneck	8/28/26
Joyce Pashley	8/29/26
Noah Bradley	8/30/26
Christian Golden	8/31/26
Wayne Klein	8/31/26

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

- prayerfully and creatively worships God;
- unconditionally loves and accepts all;
- generously gives and serves our community and our world.