

**The Worship Service**  
Sunday, September 13, 2026

**NUANCE IN AN AGE OF SOUND  
BYTES**

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**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 "Give Thanks for Life" (Rene)

Welcome

Call to Worship

P: We are the community of faith that has been created by the love of God.

**C: We are the people who have been set free by the word of forgiveness in Jesus Christ.**

P: We have come not to parade our own goodness but to praise the holiness of God.

**C: We have come not to boast of what we have done but to proclaim the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.**

**All: With all our being, we will praise you, O God, and tell of all your kindness toward us.**

Opening Hymn "There's A Spirit Of Love In This Place" (SmSgBk#95)

### **~Coming Alive in Community~**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**Holy One, you have given us companions in life, family, friends, and neighbors. As Romans 14:7-8 reminds us, "For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." Help us live in ways that reflect your goodness, righteousness, and truth. Help us to love our neighbors with the fullness of shared life, accountability, and community. Help us repair what has been damaged, redeem what has been lost, and restore what has been broken for your name's sake. Amen.**

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

Beloved, God blesses us with the gift of accountability so that we need not settle for forgiveness that trivializes harm, ignores the need for repair, and leaves relationships fractured. God has given us accountability so that we may be transformed both individually and collectively, offender and offended, perpetrator and survivor for restoration, reconciliation, and righteousness. Receive the conjoined gifts of accountability and forgiveness.

Musical Moment "Fairest Lord Jesus" Carol Pearson, reader

**Sing when indicated:**

**Fair are the meadows, Fairer still the woodlands,  
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, Fairer still the moonlight,  
And all the twinkling starry host;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels heaven can boast!**

**~We Hear God's Word~**

Scripture Lessons

Louise Hine

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalms 114

Matthew 18:21-35

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection:

“Change My Heart O God”

(SmSgBk#71)

**~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

As we benefit from the treasures of a bountiful creation, the Holy One charges us to remember our roles as caretakers and our responsibilities as recipients of God's good and perfect gifts. Let us hold ourselves accountable by giving freely, generously, and cheerfully to the redemptive, restorative work of God's church.

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

September's Special Offering – Church World Service

Offertory

“There's a Spirit of Love in this Place”

(Miller)

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 imparts.  
And that which Thou desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.**

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Generous God, magnify the offerings we bring and may they be fruitful for the nurture and care of creation, the faithfulness of your church, and the needs of the communities and world we inhabit. Be glorified through our generosity. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

“Spirit, Spirit Of Gentleness”

(SmSgBk#44)

Benediction

Postlude

“Praise to the Lord”

(arr Shackley)

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

**Announcements:**

~Sunday, September 13, 2026~

Sun, 9/13 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Tues, 9/15 ~ Midday Dinner at Sunflower Café (Pottstown) at 12:00 pm.

Sun, 9/20 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove.

~ Church School at 11:00 am.

Sun, 9/27 ~ Last outdoor service and Blessings of the Animals at 9:45 am in the Grove with refreshments to follow.

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



**Scripture Reading for September 20th**

**Tootie Hine**

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Psalm 145:1-8

Matthew 20:1-16

**Cluster donations for September:** Salt & Pepper and common spices

**Thank you** for your generosity. The Labor Day offering for cluster was \$940.00!

**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. There's power in walking and praying together!

**Carol Lykens Giving Challenge:** We're receiving gifts for our Carol Lykens Fill-The-Hat Challenge! You're encouraged to make an additional contribution to the Current Fund beyond your usual giving. Contributions can be made to Shenkel UCC with "Carol Challenge" in the memo line, or donate online through our website. Thank you!

**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 October 7th 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 on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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:

Susan and Homer Royer  
Cameron Dushanko  
Olivia Dushanko  
Bob and Sherri Mocarski

**Birthdays in the month of September:**

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Mark Dushanko        | 9/5/26  |
| Clay Zachesky        | 9/5/26  |
| Glen Bradley         | 9/8/26  |
| Sherri Mocarski      | 9/9/26  |
| Collin Gray          | 9/11/26 |
| Connie Armbruster    | 9/16/26 |
| Catherine Dyott      | 9/19/26 |
| Heather Burhans Tran | 9/20/26 |
| Chris Gray           | 9/21/26 |
| Tesia Craner         | 9/23/26 |
| Ronald Pearson       | 9/24/26 |

# Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

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