

SHENKEL HAPPENINGS – SEPTEMBER 2025

Greetings, Shenkel Friends and Family!

When was the last time you had a good belly laugh? You know, that loud laugh that starts deep in your belly and bursts from your mouth as your entire body shakes and you gasp for air—yes, that kind of laugh. I was reminded of a family holiday 20 years ago when my cousin's 10-month-old son, Evan, sat ramrod straight, legs splayed on our kitchen floor surrounded by grown-ups chatting with one eye on adorable Evan. Suddenly, our Maltipoo granddog spied him and approached hesitantly. They eyed each other. The dog barked. Evan giggled. The dog barked again. And Evan laughed louder. The dog barked again, and Evan laughed even harder, from the belly. He could barely breathe! And he couldn't stop laughing. You get the picture. It was pure joy! The dog/baby comedy routine went on for several minutes. And you know what? It was contagious! We all started laughing--yes, from the belly--howling till our faces hurt. What started as a pleasant family get-together turned into a party to remember!

When I think about our amazing bodies and how God made sure that laughter was a necessary part of who we are, I am grateful for laughter and joy. And yes, for belly laughs. On this soon-to-be-fall kind of day, I wish you joy and belly laughs!

Now let's see what's happening at your church!

SUNDAY SERVICES

OUTDOOR SERVICE at 9:45 AM. IN THE GROVE (WEATHER PERMITTING). Please note: We are not offering the early service through the end of September. This service will resume on October 5 when we move indoors.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **BAPTISM – SEPTEMBER 14 - Molly Alice Carr**, granddaughter of Betsy and Ken Bevan and daughter of Elizabeth and James Carr, will be baptized Sunday, September 14. Please join us in supporting the family and welcoming Molly into our Christian faith community.
- **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILEPACK EVENT - SEPTEMBER 20 from 12:00-2:30 PM** – Feed My Starving Children is a Christian Nonprofit dedicated to providing meals to children around the world. The MobilePack Event helps by packing bags of soy, rice, vitamins, and veggies to feed hungry children. The goal for the event is to pack 500,000 meals! And Shenkel folks are eager to help! At this writing, we have 6 people signed up, but need 10. Contact Pastor Suzanne if you are able to help with this critically important outreach.
- **LAST OUTDOOR SERVICE – SEPTEMBER 28** – We've come to the end of our summer services. Many thanks to the folks who tirelessly hauled music equipment, songbooks, and tables from the garage to the Grove and back each

and every Sunday. A special thanks to **Dan Jenkins** who was always there bright and early to get a jump on the set-up, with assists from **Susan Royer, Dan Wolgemuth, Gary McDermitt, Ron and Carol Pearson, Lori Scharneck, Pam McShane**, and other folks as they were able. Thank you all for your help and dedication to a service that is very meaningful to the nature lovers among us!

- **SEPTEMBER 28 at 9:45 AM – BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE –** Every creature needs God's blessing! Bring your favorite furry or feathered friend to receive a blessing from Pastor Suzanne! **Refreshments in the pavilion after the service.**
- **OCTOBER 5 – FORREST KRIEGER'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!** See invitation below.
- **OCTOBER 18 from 10:00-NOON –** As part of Stewardship's Speaker Series, we are excited to host David Youngren, author of a new book, Life Ascending: Unlocking Mental Wellbeing through Timeless Wisdom and New Science. He will be sharing hands-on ways to keep ourselves emotionally healthy and see the world through new eyes. You can check him out at www.davidyoungren.com. And remember to bring your friends! People of all faiths will want to hear what he has to say!
- **OCTOBER 22 – BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS –** Ok Boscov's shoppers! Here's your chance to earn some money for Shenkel and shop till you drop! Buy a \$5 coupon from Tootie or Louise and shop at any Boscov's store or online on one day only, **OCTOBER 22**. Have fun!

LEND A HELPING HAND - We are a congregation that cares, and the Foss family needs our help! Andrew Foss is scheduled for knee surgery on October 9 with an overnight stay in the hospital. He will be non-weight bearing for 2 months. Andrew is the main caregiver and cook in the household. We can help by offering meals for the family or by purchasing gift cards for the family to use. Door Dash, Redner's, Weiss, and Aldi are good daily options for the Fosses. Gift cards from Dairy Queen or Rita's Water Ice or Olive Garden would be appreciated too. Most cards can be purchased at your local grocery store. Please place them in the envelope next to the bulletins or drop them at the church office during office hours. Thank you in advance for your help!

Please join us in celebrating Forrest's 90th Birthday

Oktoberfest Open House

Oct. 5, 2025 1 – 4 p.m.

Come when you can, leave when you must.

Frederick Living Auditorium

[2849 Big Rd.](#)

[Zieglerville, PA 19492](#)

Enter at the front of the building, under the portico

In lieu of gifts to Forrest, contributions can be made to the

Benevolent Care Fund of Frederick Living if you wish.

(Checks payable to Frederick Living, with Benevolent Care Fund written in the memo line.)

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Consistory appointed Betsy Bevan and Gloria Mest to 3-year terms on the Board of Christian Education.

CAROL LYKENS FILL-THE-HAT CHALLENGE

In September thru December, we will begin the second of our five-year challenge where \$5,000 of Carol's generous bequest will be used to help fund our current budget. Here is your challenge: Starting **September 7 thru December 31, 2025**, we encourage you to make an additional Fill-the-Hat Challenge donation to the Current Fund beyond your usual giving. Our goal is to match Carol's bequest of \$5,000. This will help us meet our budget at the end of the year, which is currently underfunded. Last year, you hit the mark and then some!! Great job! Please give what you can and generously if you are able. Make checks payable to Shenkel UCC and in the memo line write "Carol Challenge." If you are making an online donation, you'll find it on our website.

YOCOM GROVE LANDSCAPING FUND

The times when volunteers were plentiful and eager to put their backs into taking care of our properties are long gone. This means we must pay for much of the work that needs to be done for upkeep and repairs. To address this need, the Yocom family has generously started a fund to pay for mowing and to maintain the grove and labyrinth. Feel free to contribute as you are able!

DID YOU NOTICE?

If you had the good fortune to attend the labyrinth walk this past Sunday, you probably were bowled over by the total redo of the landscaping and the weed-free labyrinth interior. The transformation is incredible! Many thanks to Kim Yocom for her generosity in hiring Bill Sanseverino's landscaping company to get this monumental job done!

STEWARDSHIP

- Qigong classes are in full swing with Salil on **Thursdays at 11:00 AM in the Social Hall**. Everyone is loving Salil's calm presence as he teaches us the gentle movements used for centuries to improve health, reduce stress, and keep us in the present moment. Please wear comfortable clothing. There will be a charge of \$12.00 per class payable by cash or check, which Salil has kindly asked be donated to our church. And remember to bring a friend!
- We're always looking for new ideas for our Speaker Series! Do you have a particular topic you'd like to explore? Know someone (community member, college professor, friend, to name a few) who could present a 1-to-2-hour program on a topic of interest? Please let anyone from Stewardship know your thoughts: Chris Gray, Dan Jenkins, Julie Zachesky, Kim Yocom, or Brenda Berriker.

CLUSTER NEEDS

SEPTEMBER: Canned pineapple and canned mango

UCC INFORMATION: Neighbors in Need is a UCC fund that we generously support through OCWM. Following is an excerpt of a letter from Rachel McDonald, Generosity Officer, OCWM and Special Mission Offerings:

“For at least ten consecutive years, your congregation has supported our Neighbors in Need offering. Thank you! I do not take for granted this kind of consistency and the ministry it enables.

Neighbors in Need has and will continue to provide grants to local UCC congregations and partners. These grants are distributed between direct service projects and uniquely innovative programs that can be replicated in other settings. Strategic funding demonstrates a commitment to not just addressing the immediate needs of our neighbors but also addressing the systems that create harm.

Your gifts also have strengthened our UCC Washington D.C. Office of Public Policy and Advocacy. Their work succeeds due to long-term relationships and a deep understanding of the complexities of advocacy. Consistent funding enables the United Church of Christ to speak up for the values of our church.

Neighbors in Need is about long-term, dedicated work to create lasting change. Your commitment to this offering has brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to life in our world. I am proud of the witness of our denomination standing together and speaking up for justice.”

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. My term was up in April, so present members are Sandy Rowe, Dan Jenkins, and Tootie Hine. Please feel free to discuss any joys or concerns you have with any member of this committee.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mark Dushanko	9/5/25
Clay Zachesky	9/5/25
Glen Bradley	9/8/25
Sherri Mocarski	9/9/25
Collin Gray	9/11/25
Connie Armbruster	9/16/25
Catherine Dyott	9/19/25
Heather Burhans Tran	9/20/25
Chris Gray	9/21/25
Tesia Craner	9/23/25
Ronald Pearson	9/24/25

SEPTEMBER PRAYER LOTTERY

Sept 7

Glen Bradley
Rebecca, Joe, Grace and Cole Major
Barbara Brown
Gene and Nick Takach, Eric Croom
David Derman

Sept 14

Steve and Kim Bade
Judy Miller
Michaela Craner
Linda and John Jonides
Bonnie Cox

Sept 21

Marie Bade
Christian, Mari and Connor O'Drain
Dan and Rose Wolgemuth
Forrest Kreiger
Faye Pedrick

Sept 28
Mike Kulp
Karl Metka
Erika Burhans-Price
Jess, Adam, Lucy and Jordan Hartzell
Lucas Gray

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Glen Hoff	10/2/25
Joe Granger	10/5/25
Forrest Kreiger	10/5/25
Sharon Snyder	10/6/25
Adrianne Wanner	10/7/25
David Phillips	10/8/25
William Zachesky	10/10/25
Susan Stultz	10/12/25
Stacia Bradley	10/13/25
Aaron Foss	10/14/25
Danielle Petersen	10/17/25
Roberta Peterman	10/20/25
Cameron Dushanko	10/23/25
Betsy Bevan	10/28/25
Jacoby Mest	10/29/25
Aaron Gray	10/31/25

OCTOBER PRAYER LOTTERY

Oct 5
Tom and Maureen Gallant
Gary McDermit
Noah Bradley
Barbara Sweinhart
Jim and Elaine Bevan

Oct 12
Jennifer, Jeffrey, Hannah, Catherine, and Audrey Dyott
Patricia Kuestner
Mindy, Isabelle and Sela Chidawu
Daniel, Sharon, Malcolm and Amelia Snyder
Lynne Moyer

Oct 19

Don Lavery

Scott Kutz

Mike and Robin Martin

Kelly Strunk, Steve, Madeline and Jacoby Mest

Glen and Debbie Hoff

Oct 26

Elizabeth, James, Zoey, Henry and Molly Carr

TJ Augustine

Tootie Hine

Erika, Kyle, Giovanni and Christopher Manetti

Dawn Yocom

Wishing you God's peace and love.

Your Shenkel Happenings Editor,

Brenda Berriker