The Worship Service

Sunday, November 15, 2026

"For God has not destined us for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ..." – Apostle Paul

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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 "Come, Now is the Time to Worship" (Doerksen, arr Wyrtzen)

Welcome

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalms 123 and 90)

One: Lift up our spirits to the God enthroned in the heavens!
Many: The Holy One is our dwelling place from generation to generation.
One: Lift up our hearts to the God who shapes us and guides us.
Many: The Holy One is God, forming the earth, the world, and the universe.
One: Lift up our worship before the Holy One who is God.
Many: The Holy One teaches us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Praise God!

Opening Hymn "When Morning Gilds the Skies" (NCH#86)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Responsive Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Righteous God, too often, we seek positions of privilege and power for our own benefit. We accept the ways of the world in order to receive validation, acceptance, and temporary satisfaction. Transform our hearts and our ways to reflect your kindom. Grant us courage to live as you demonstrate and empower us for your glory and honor. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

Christ-follower, God is with you. Receive wisdom and power to continue in the way of Jesus through trials and struggle. Find your validation and affirmation in the unconditional and boundless love of God. Embrace the guidance of the Spirit and the companionship of Jesus as you choose justice and righteousness as your position and purpose. Amen.

Musical Moment "In the Lord, I'll be Ever Thankful" (Taize)
Flutist, Susan Stultz

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons Brian McShane

Matthew 25:14-30
Psalm 123
I Thessalonians 5:1-11

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

Sermon Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Take My Life, God, Let It Be" (NCH#448)

~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

> Let us position ourselves for the generous life and demonstrate that commitment through our resources of time, talent, and treasure for the glory of God.

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries.
November's Special Offering – All Saints, Keystone Retired Clergy

Offertory **"**Simple Gifts" (Shaker tune, arr. Sewell)

Offering Response "Doxology"

> **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**
> **Praise God, all creatures here below;**
> **Praise God for all that love has done;**
> **Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

> Generous God, please receive these gifts from the position of love to elevate the position of our neighbor, our witness, and our faith community. Magnify them and bless us as we give. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing" (NCH#77)

Benediction

Postlude "Sing Praise to Our Creator" (Norris)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding
Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com
Sexton: Stacy Keim
Ministers: All Members of the Church
Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth
Organist/Interim Music Director: Susan Royer
Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Announcements:

~Sunday, November 15, 2026~

Sun, 11/15 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary
~ Music & Worship meeting after Worship.
~ Church School at 11:00 am.
~ Choir Rehearsal after Worship at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary, all are welcome.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Tues, 11/17 ~ Midday Dinner at Limerick Diner at 12:00 pm.
Sun, 11/22 ~Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary. ~ Choir Rehearsal after Worship at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary, all are welcome.
~ Thanksgiving Soup and Supper at 5:30 pm in the Social Hall.
Sat, 11/28 ~ Decorating the Church for Christmas at 10:00 am.

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

Scripture Reading for November 22nd **Carol Pearson**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Matthew 25:31-46

Cluster donations for November: Pasta sauce and broth

Community Thanksgiving Meal: The meal will start at 5:30 pm on November 22nd. There will be a sign up sheet to bring either a soup, bread or dessert.

Poinsettia Time: Louise and Tootie are taking orders for poinsettias from Levengoods, the cost is $12.00 per pot. They will need a preliminary count by November 29th and a final count by December 6th.

12th Night Festival: You are invited to join Shenkel friends on January 10th in attending a 12th Night Festival in Allentown. This is a traditional celebration of the 12th Day of Christmas, in the style of a medieval banquet. (No actual food, it's more of a pageant.)
We will be carpooling from Shenkel at 11:30 a.m. in time to get to the 1 p.m. show in Allentown at Christ Lutheran Church. It's a fascinating and enriching program. You can read more about it here: https://www.christ-atown.org/twelfth-night-festival
Suggested donation is $15 per person. We should reserve seats ahead of time, it is a very popular event. If you are interested, please let Susan Royer know as soon as possible!

Bethany Children's Home Christmas: We are once again giving gift cards to Bethany Children's Home. Please take one or more paper ornaments from the tree in the Narthex labeled with gift card of your choice. Purchase the gift card(s) and place in the envelope under the tree.

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!

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! **Qigong classes are now held upstairs in the Sanctuary.**

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 December 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. Our next Church School is today.

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:

Clayton, Katerina, Maxine, Bellamy and Rennick Brewer
Nicole, Scott, Tully and Buckley Meehan
Jim and Elaine Bevan
Carole Bailey

Birthdays in the month of November:

Cole Major	11/5/26
Louise Hine	11/6/26
Alex Mocarski	11/6/26
Joe Palubinsky	11/7/26
Homer Royer	11/8/26
Kaleena Sweinhart	11/8/26
Madeline Mest	11/15/26
John Sabo	11/16/26
Peter Wanner	11/17/26
Clair Faust	11/19/26
Ben Mocarski	11/21/26
Tracy Dise	11/25/26
AJ Foss	11/25/26
Linda Foss	11/28/26
Mindy Chidawu	11/30/26

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

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