

The Worship Service
Sunday, July 26, 2026

The “Kindom” of heaven is like...

Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

610-326-3535 ~ www.shenkelucc.org ~ shenkelucc@aol.com ~

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 "God Will Take Care of You" (Martin)

Welcome

Call to Worship

P : Give thanks to the Holy One. Make God's deeds known among the peoples.

C : We call upon the name of the Holy One!

P : Give thanks to the Holy One. Tell of all God's wonderful works!

C : We sing praises and remember the wonderful works, miracles, and judgements!

P : Give thanks to the Holy One. Glory in God's holy name!

C : We seek the Holy One, and our hearts rejoice! Praise the Holy One!

Opening Hymn "Thy Word" (SmSgBk#67)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Glorious God, may your face shine upon us. Teach us your ways so that we may live in peace, justice, and righteousness. Keep our way steady and directed toward you. Remove the hold of oppression and evil from among your people. Transform our hearts and minds so that we might reflect your goodness and love in the world. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

Servants of God, the Holy One radiates grace and mercy. By the power of Love and Spirit, receive the opportunity to redeem and repair every mistake, every passive participation, every deliberate action that has caused harm. Receive God's forgiveness in order to be released from shame and released to make things right. Nothing can separate us from God's love.

Special Music

I Could Sing of Your Love Forever, Soloist & Congregation

CHORUS

1) I could sing of your love____ for - er - er,
2) We could sing of your love____ for - ev - er,

I could sing of your love____ for - ev - er,____ I could sing of your love
we could sing of your love____ for - ev - er,____ we could sing of your love

____ for - er - er, I could sing of your love____ for - ev - er.____
____ for - ev - er, we could sing of your love____ for - ev - er.

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Maddie Mest

Genesis 29: 15-28

Psalms 119:129-136

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "You Are the Salt of The Earth, O People"

(SmSgBk#60)

~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

We are privileged to participate in the construction of the kingdom of God. Through our gifts, we follow the model of God's generosity, we express our hope for a better future, and we tangibly love our neighbor. Let us give with joy and expectation that our gifts are met with God's magnifying power.

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

July's Special Offering – Bill Boyer and Bill Burhans Memorial Scholarship Fund

Offertory

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

(arr. Lopez)

Offering Response

“Take My Life, And Let It Be” (SmSgBk#37-4th verse only)

**Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I with-hold.
Take my intellect, and use Every power as Thou shalt choose.**

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Generous God, may these gifts be sufficient to meet the needs before us. May we be good stewards of your resources. And, may we be moved to live the generous life more deeply and completely in every aspect of our lives. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

“Sois La Semilla” (You Are The Seed) (SmSgBk#8)

Benediction

Postlude

“Go in Grace and Make Disciples”

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: (Martin Smith) © 1994 Curious? Music UK [CCLI #1043199] © 1995-Music arrangement First Run Muzik Psalter (ASCAP)

Announcements:

~Sunday, July 26, 2026~

Sun, 7/26 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove.

~ Music and Worship meeting after the service.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 8/2 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service with Communion at 9:45 am in the Grove.

Sat, 8/15 ~ Community UCC, Pierce Pettis concert at 7:00 pm.

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



Scripture Reading for August 2nd

Susan Royer

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Matthew 14:13-21

Cluster donations for July: cereal

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!

Community UCC: Come and listen to songwriter and recording artist Pierce Pettis in concert on Saturday 8/15 at 7:00 pm at 3330 St. Lawrence Ave, Reading, PA 19606. There is a \$18.00 suggested donation at the door. Contact Rev. Bob Turner at pastor@communityucc.net or by phone 614-633-9319 for tickets and more information.

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 August 5th 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.

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

Doug and Margie Allen
Ron and Carol Pearson
Maryln Rohrbach
Tracy Dise

Birthdays in the month of July:

Lucas Gray	7/2/26
Susan Royer	7/5/26
Daniel Snyder	7/7/26
Erika Burhans Price	7/9/26
Stacey Keim	7/10/26
Linda Jonides	7/11/26
Laura Hauze	7/12/26
Leslie Hauze	7/12/26
Joel Sweinhart	7/12/26
Rebecca Major	7/13/26
Hannah Dyott	7/14/26
Jess Hartzell	7/18/26

Steve Mest	7/18/26
Lori Klein	7/20/26
Tully Meehan	7/21/26
Rachel Berriker	7/24/26
Julie Zachesky	7/24/26
Lucy Hartzell	7/25/26
Cody Moyer	7/26/26
Lucas Zachesky	7/27/26
Lindsay Hoff	7/28/26
Christian O'Drain	7/29/26

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

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