

## SHENKEL HAPPENINGS – MAY, 2025

Greetings, Shenkel Friends and Family!

Happy Spring! Don't you just love this time of year?! The sights and sounds of nature are many people's God language. When I stop to gaze at the delicacy of my purple and pink bacopas, the vibrancy of my wave petunias, and listen to the birds calling out as they search for food for their nestlings, I can't help but feel closer to God. Beauty is everywhere. I feel peaceful. And I feel God's love.

It's in these moments that I am reminded of something that Freda Wanner said to me 25 years ago when I interviewed her for a college class. She talked about her spirituality, and told me, "I see God in everything." That was an "oh wow!" moment for me. What if I could see God in everything? Certainly, at this time of year, it's not hard. But what about the grumpy store clerk, or that person who is just plain annoying? Can I see God in them? And how about you? Where do you see God? In Spring's beauty? In the excited squeals of children? What would happen if you saw God during the winters of your life, when the world is gray and hard, and you just can't seem to figure out a way forward? Let's challenge each other to think like Freda. God is love—look for love in the unlovable. God is peace—search for peace. God forgives—forgive yourself and others. I want, most days, to be able to say, "I see God in everything." I invite you to join me, and let's see what happens!

Now, here's what's happening at your church!

### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

You have two great choices for worship each Sunday:

1. **REFLECTIVE SERVICE AT 8:30 AM**, a good choice if you prefer no music, time for discussion and reflection, and
2. **TRADITIONALISH SERVICE at 9:45 AM**. You will find everything you've always wanted in a traditional service plus more. Pastor Suzanne has added a time for centering at the beginning which people in person and online are really appreciating.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

- **MAY 18** – Our Vision Statement Committee (Kelly Strunk, Brian McShane, and Brenda Berriker) has developed a Vision Statement so we have a clearer understanding on how to clarify our ministry goals. To that end, it is important that you attend the **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** after the 9:45 AM worship service to hear what we came up with, give your input, and vote for approval. You're welcome to bring any snacks to share with the congregation, but certainly not required to do so. Thank you!

- **JUNE 15** – For everyone who feels closest to God in nature, our **FIRST OUTDOOR SERVICE** is finally here! The grove is going to need a little sprucing up ahead of time, so look for information from the Property Committee on when that will happen. The more folks helping, the easier (and more fun!) it will be!
- **JUNE 22** – What a day this will be! After worship, we're having the ever-popular **CHURCH PICNIC**! Chicken is provided, just bring a side or dessert to share. If you don't have time to cook, no worries—just come! There's always more than enough.

AND, to make the day extra special, **MARIE BADE** will be joining us to celebrate her **100<sup>th</sup> birthday!!!** Kim and Steve are providing the birthday cake and would love to see everyone come out to take a walk down memory lane with Marie and shower her with birthday wishes and love on her special milestone birthday. (Her actual birthday is June 18, so it's a perfect day to celebrate!)

AND, at **1:00 PM** following the picnic, Stewardship is hosting a **FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT** in the Grove. So, bring your lawn chair, sit back, and bask in the sounds of Reading's famous crooner, **Massimo Brutto**, featuring favorites from Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, and many more! Make it an outing with friends and family. What better way to spend a lazy summer afternoon!

### **CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS**

- A quarterly contribution of \$300 for the Coventry Food Bank drawn from our Mission Allocation was approved by Consistory.
- **CHURCH FINANCES:** The good news is that we have spent \$5,000 less than expected year-to-date! However, the Current Fund is still underfunded by \$17,000. Many thanks to Stewardship and our members for exploring ways to help reduce that deficit.

### **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!

### **SPEAKER SERIES:**

- **MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS: Building Awareness, Resilience, Empathy and Well-Being!** May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and we are excited to welcome a local mental health professional, Deb Fetterman, MSW, to help us

understand the current crisis and provide us with hands-on tools to help keep ourselves mentally and emotionally healthy. What an opportunity! Learn about and experience ways to maintain good mental health on **MAY 17 from 10:00 AM to NOON in the Social Hall**. Invite your friends and family!

### **MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE: WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Calling all able-bodied volunteers for outdoor summer services! So many people have told us how much they love worshipping in the grove. Show your support and help us keep this service going June 15 through September 28. We need at least two able-bodied people for each Sunday when we are outside to help set up and take down audio equipment (speakers, keyboard, etc.) and move songbooks from the garage to the worship area and back again after the service. Instructions for setting up the audio equipment will be provided by Dan Wogelmuth or Susan Royer. Please plan to arrive at 8:30 AM to help with this necessary part of outdoor worship. Call Danielle in the office at (610)-326-3535 to add your name to the list. Call Tootie at (610) 781-6645 with any questions. Thank you!

### **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

Over the years, the Fellowship Committee led by Tootie and Louise Hine, has enlisted folks to bring refreshments to be shared after outdoor services. The Committee has decided to offer this opportunity on the following dates only:

June 22 – Annual Picnic followed by Massimo concert  
July 20 – Ice Cream Sundae Social  
August 17 – Visit from God's Precious Children  
August 31 – Community Labor Day Service  
September 28 – Blessing of the Animals and last Outdoor Service

Watch for a sign-up chart to volunteer for a day. Questions? Contact Louise Hine at (610) 385-3716 or (610) 781-6645.

### **PASTOR'S VACATION**

Pastor Suzanne will be away from May 26 thru June 1. Rev. Kris Hayden, a retired UCC clergyperson, will be preaching. In case of pastoral emergencies, contact Rev. Jim Jannotti (Temple UMC's pastor) at (610) 326-3941 or, for non-emergencies, email him at [TempleUMC@comcast.net](mailto:TempleUMC@comcast.net).

### **COVENTRY WOODS FESTIVAL**

This ever-popular local event is a great way for Shenkel folks to meet people and be seen in the community. The festival is on **MAY 18 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM**, and we need people willing to set up, man the table, and pack up at the close. Choose how much

time you are able to help, and invite your Shenkel friends to participate. This really is an important way for us to be known in the community! Contact Pastor Suzanne if you are willing to help.

### **PRIDE FEST 2025**

The current date for the Second Annual Pottstown Area Pride Festival to be held in Shenkel's grove is **JULY 26 from 2:00 to 6:00 PM in the grove with a rain date of AUGUST 9**. Contact Pastor Suzanne for more info or to volunteer to help.

### **CLUSTER NEEDS**

MAY: Dish soap and all-purpose cleaners

JUNE: pancake syrup and shelf-stable milk

### **CHURCH SCHOOL**

Attention all children ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade! Church School is held the **THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH from 11:00 AM TO NOON**. The focus is on God's love in us and through us and showing compassion for others, as well as Bible stories. The kids love it!

**This month's class--the last one before summer-- is May 18 at 11:00 AM. The next session will begin in September.**

### **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 **4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **CEDARVILLE UNITED METHODIST YARD SALE**

Mission First, located at 414 High Street in Pottstown, is an outreach of Cedarville United Methodist Church. It provides free food, clothing and medical support through Tower Health to both homeless and residents in the community.

On **AUGUST 2**, Cedarville UMC is having an indoor/outdoor yard sale at their campus at 1092 Laurelwood Road, North Coventry Township as a fundraiser to support those

programs. Indoor (air-conditioned) table rentals are \$20, outdoor space is \$10. Set-up will be Friday 6:00 to 8:00 PM and Saturday 7:00-8:30 AM. All large items, i.e., furniture and yard equipment must be displayed in the outdoor space. Consider turning your treasures into cash by renting a table to sell your items while supporting this outreach ministry. For further information, contact Diana at (267) 992-1020 or email [events@cedarvilleumc.org](mailto:events@cedarvilleumc.org) for a reservation form. The form and check payable to Cedarville UMC – Events are due to Cedarville UMC, 1092 Laurelwood Road, Pottstown, PA 19465 by July 25, 2025.

### **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](http://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.

### **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Robin Martin	5/3/25	Lynn Derman	5/20/25
Malcolm Snyder	5/4/25	Randy Berriker	5/21/25
Emily Trego	5/7/25	Christina Hauze	5/21/25
Connor O'Drain	5/8/25	Bob Mocarski	5/23/25
Brooke Miller	5/10/25	Andrew Foss	5/29/25
Olivia Sanseverino	5/11/25		
Matthew Scharneck	5/12/25		
Jordan Hartzell	5/15/25		
Patricia Kuestner	5/18/25		
Michaela Craner	5/20/25		

## **MAY PRAYER LOTTERY**

May 4

Stephanie Viti  
Bill, Britnee, Olivia and Delia Sanseverino  
Suzanne Spaulding  
Ron and Carol Pearson  
Ken and Betsy Bevan

May 11

Glen and Debbie Hoff  
Sandy Rowe  
Betty Bortz  
Stephanie and Jace Horonzy  
Dan, Sharon, Malcolm and Amelia Snyder

May 18

Mindy, Isabelle and Sela Chidawu  
Linda and John Jonides  
Noah Bradley  
Tony Gulotta  
Randy and Brenda Berriker

May 25

Barry Yocom  
Elizabeth, James, Zoey, Henry and Molly Carr  
Aaron Gray and Angela Araque  
Kelly Strunk, Steve, Madeline and Jacoby Mest  
Tesia Craner

## **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

Barry Yocom	6/1/25	Marie Bade	6/18/25
Margie Allen	6/7/25	Amelia Snyder	6/22/25
Sharon Sabo	6/9/25	Ken Bevan Jr.	6/25/25
Dawn Yocom	6/13/25	William Keim Jr.	6/25/25
Tootie Hine	6/14/25	Dan Jenkins	6/29/25
Kim Bade	6/15/25	Michael Foss	6/30/25
Elizabeth Carr	6/16/25		
David Derman	6/16/25		

## **JUNE PRAYER LOTTERY**

June 1

Jennifer, Jeffrey, Hannah, Catherine and Audrey Dyott

Gene and Nick Takach and Eric Croom

TJ Augustine

Barbara Brown

Jennifer Braley

June 8

Judy Miller

Steven and Kim Bade

Glen Bradley

Collin Gray

Lynne Moyer

June 15

Clay Zachesky

Clayton, Katerina, Maxine and Bellamy Brewer

Mike and Robin Martin

Erika, Kyle and Giovanni Manetti

Jim and Clair Faust

June 22

Freda Wanner

Joyce Pashley

Rebecca, Joe, Grace and Cole Major

Joel Sweinhart

Sharon and John Sabo

June 29

Sandra Peterman, James Heath and Emily Trego

Heather Burhans Tran

Jim and Elaine Bevan

Judy Gergle

David Phillips

Wishing you peace and love.

Your Shenkel Happenings Editor,

Brenda Berriker