

The Worship Service
Sunday, September 20, 2026

**THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN IS LIKE...
WHAT???**

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 "Tranquility" (arr. McKibben)

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: O give thanks to the Holy One! Tell of God's wonderful works.

Many: Declare God's marvelous deeds among the peoples.

One: O give thanks to the Holy One! Give glory and rejoice!

Many: Sing praises to our God! Let our hearts be glad!

One: O give thanks to the Holy One: Remember the miracles and the judgments.

Many: The Holy One has remembered us. Praise God!

Opening Hymn "Jesus Shall Reign" (SmSgBk#91)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Just God, we acknowledge that accountability is both a gift and a necessary step toward healing and repair. We also know that we do not sin against you alone. Forgive us for only seeking absolution from you for our benefit. Help us to reconcile with siblings, neighbors, friends, and enemies through recognition of harmful outcomes and committed actions toward repair. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

The Holy One is faithful to forgive and extends grace and mercy lavishly. At the same time, God wants us all to be well and whole. The Holy One will strengthen us to be accountable to both God and one another as well as to do the work of restoration and repair.

Passing of the Peace

Musical Moment

When In Our Music God Is Glorified, Vocalist: Homer Royer

~We Hear God's Word~

Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Matthew 20:1-16

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” (SmSgBk#70)

~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 give good gifts for the needs of our community with generous and loving hearts.

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel’s ongoing ministries.
September’s Special Offering – Church World Service

Offertory “Prelude in A major” (Chopin)

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

Loving God, thank you for the opportunity to participate in spreading the good news through the impact of the resources we offer today. Bless these gifts, magnify them, and sanctify them for your glory.
Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn “Dream Gods Dream” (SmSgBk#31)

Benediction

As you go, spread the love and hope of Christ.
Let generosity be your guide.
Let love be your compass.
And let peace be your destination.

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

Musical Moment: (tune: Stanford text: Green)

Announcements:

~Sunday, September 20, 2026~

Sun, 9/20 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove.
~ Choir Rehearsal after Worship at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary, all are welcome.
~ Church School at 11:00 am

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 9/27 ~ Last outdoor service and Blessings of the Animals at 9:45 am in the Grove with refreshments to follow.
~ Choir Rehearsal after Worship at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary, all are welcome.

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



Scripture Reading for September 27th

Sandy Rowe

Matthew 21:23-32
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Exodus 17:1-7

Cluster donations for September: Salt & Pepper and common spices

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!

Special Thanks: To our neighbor Tim who weeded and mulched the flowerbeds in front of the church.

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! **Qigong classes will now be held upstairs in the Sanctuary. There will be no Qigong classes on 9/24 and 10/1. Classes will resume on 10/8.**

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 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:

Mindy, Isabelle, and Sela Chidawu
Kaleena Sweinhart
Erika Burhans-Price and Kim Price
Steven and Kim Bade

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.