

The Worship Service
Sunday, August 9, 2026

*How did Joseph's brothers get from
sibling rivalry to a murder plot?*

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 "Ask, Seek, Knock" (Sirchio)

Welcome

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 105)

P: O give thanks to the Holy One; call on God's name

C: Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

P: Sing of the Holy One's abiding love, grace, compassion, and justice

C : Rejoice in the God's redemptive power

P: Seek the Holy One's presence, strength, and wisdom

C: Remember God's wondrous works. Praise the Holy One!

Opening Hymn "Holy, Holy Holy" (SmSgBk#2)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Gracious and eternal God, we, like Jacob, struggle when confronted with hard things. We use avoidance to shield us from acknowledging and correcting the wrongs we have done and continue to perpetuate. We, like Joseph, fail to consider the impact we have on others and how we contribute to making life better or worse for those around us. We, like those jealous siblings, attempt to find our own way and create our own schemes rather than trusting in your love that knows no favorites and embraces us all. Help us to shift our attitude and behaviors toward accountability, reconciliation, and love. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

Inheritors of the kingdom, rest assured that the Holy One's love knows no bounds. Rest assured that God will companion with you when the struggles life presents overwhelm you. We are all capable of confronting hard things and doing the hard work of restoration through recognition, repair, and reconciliation. God is with us on the journey...helping us to carry the burdens and reducing the load. Be made new in Christ Jesus.

Special Music

Step By Step, Brian McShane, soloist

~We Hear God's Word~

Matthew 14:22-33

Psalm: 105:1-6, 16-22

Genesis: 37:1-4, 12-28

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection:

“Open Our Eyes Lord”

(SmSgBk#53)

~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

The Holy One gives gifts freely and abundantly so that all will be well and whole. God provides and empowers us to participate in providing for one another. There is enough for all. Let us join in the Creator's holy, wondrous, and abundant generosity in sharing the gifts we have claimed.

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

August's Special Offering – North Coventry Meals on Wheels

Offertory

“I Will Rise When He Calls My Name”

(arr. Koerts)

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 im-parts.
And that which Thou desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.**

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Giver of perfect gifts, refine these offerings and our hearts so that they may bear fruit. Bless each of us with the joy of gift giving and help us to know the good that our generosity lends to the world in your Holy and Precious Name. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

“Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”

(SmSgBk#62)

Benediction

Postlude

“Shalom Chaverim”

(Israeli Melody)

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: (David (Beaker) Strasser [CCLI #96994]

Announcements:

~Sunday, August 9, 2026~

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

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

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

Sun 8/16 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am, God's Precious Children in the Grove.

Tues, 8/18 ~ Midday Dinner at Vincenzo's (Douglassville) at 12:00 pm.

Sun, 8/30 ~ Corn and Doggie Roast Picnic at 4:00 pm in the Pavilion.

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



Scripture Reading for August 16th

Dan Wolgemuth

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalms 133

Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28

Cluster donations for August: Instant potatoes

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.

SAVE THE DATE: August 30, 2026

Corn and Hot Dog Picnic, 4 to 8 pm

What to bring?: Hot dogs, place settings, sticks for roasting your dogs, and a side dish or dessert to share.

What will be provided? Corn on the cob and drinks.

Hope to see you there!!

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!

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 September 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. 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:

Betty Bortz
Mark Dushanko
Ken and Betsy Bevan
David Derman

Birthdays in the month of August:

Steven Bade	8/3/26
Ted Gray	8/4/26
Dan Wolgemuth	8/6/26
Jim Bevan	8/10/26
Barbara Sweinhart	8/10/26
Elaine Bevan	8/12/26
Grace Major	8/12/26
Morgan Scharneck	8/16/26
Jennifer Dyott	8/17/26
Carol Pearson	8/18/26
Ashlyn Augustine	8/21/26
Kaya Skulski	8/27/26
Jeffrey Dyott	8/28/26
Lori Scharneck	8/28/26
Joyce Pashley	8/29/26
Noah Bradley	8/30/26
Christian Golden	8/31/26
Wayne Klein	8/31/26

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

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