The Worship Service
Sunday, November 22, 2026

Eternal Christ, you rule keeping company with pain; with love and truth as tools, come build in us your reign.

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 "March for St. Cecilia's Day" (Handel)
St. Cecilia's day is November 22nd. She is the Patron Saint of Music.

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: O come, let us sing to the Holy One with joy!
Many: The Sovereign One is the rock of our salvation, restoration, and hope!
One: O come, let us praise the Holy One with thanksgiving!
Many: The depths and the heights belong to our Maker.
One: O come, let us worship the Holy One who is great!
Many: The Holy One is our God, and we are the flock of God's realm.

Opening Hymn "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" (NCH#252)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

God of Justice, Righteousness, and Peace, we seek you and your influence in our lives, communities, and world. Inform our decisions and expand our understanding so that we reflect curiosity and compassion with our neighbors. Remove our uninformed and narrow assumptions and grow our appreciation for human siblings in your kindom. Enliven us again as we recommit to your realm and reign on earth. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

Community of faith, let us receive God's grace to strive boldly for justice, pursue God's peace, and live in righteousness. May we not take forgiveness as justification for complacency but to liberate us from the bondage of fear as we face the unknown. Let us live the promise of new life collectively as we witness to God's goodness and mercy in hope of a new era of abundance and flourishing for all. Amen.

Musical Moment "Autumn Carol" (arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar)

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons Brian McShane

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

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

Sermon Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Eternal Christ You Rule" (NCH#302)

~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 generosity abound! God has given us every good gift, has endowed us with power and authority, and has honored us with responsibility to one another and for all creation. In our giving, we demonstrate our commitment to the kindom, our citizenship in the realm of God, and our trust in the reign of God forever and ever.

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

Offertory **"**Prayer of Thanks" (Seymour)

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, may these gifts be magnified for your kindom. We trust that your realm has everything needed. May we share our time, talent, and treasure in a spirit of gratitude, joy, and hope as tangible acts of our faith and belonging. Grant us wisdom and discernment to be good stewards of the resources entrusted into our care for the ministry of the good news. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" (NCH#419)

Benediction

Postlude "We Gather Together" (Netherlands Hymn, arr. Baranoski)

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 22, 2026~

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.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sat, 11/28 ~ Decorating the Church for Christmas at 10:00 am.
Sun, 11/29 ~ 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.

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

Scripture Reading for November 29th **Louise Hine**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Isaiah 64:1-9

Cluster donations for November: Pasta sauce and broth

Community Thanksgiving Meal: The meal will start at 5:30 pm today.

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 on December 20th.

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:

Joe and Joan Granger
Lucas Zachesky
Mike and Robin Martin
Lori Scharneck

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.