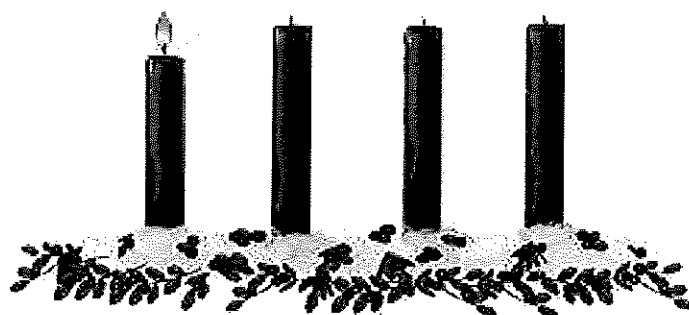


The Worship Service

Sunday, November 30, 2025



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 "Come thou Almighty King" (arr. Peterson)

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Light a candle bright and tall.
For the hope within our world.
Hope that heard the ages call.
As the stars and plants whirled.
Shine within our hearts today.
Come, O Hope, to us we pray.

Prayer

Call to Worship

L: Now is the time of watching and waiting.
C: The time of pregnant expectation of new life.
L: Now is the season of hope unfolding.
C: The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.
L: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.
C: May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!
All: Rejoice! God comes to bring the birthday of life and hope. Amen.

Opening Hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (NCH#116)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

How can we stand in the presence of God? Let us confess those places where we need to grow to prepare for Christ to come to our lives.

Prayer of Confession

God of the loving heart, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance: people we have refused to love; habits we never get around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others. Come to us in the light of your Christ. Shine on those places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us. Be known among us now and forever! Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news in Jesus Christ. We can stand before God, not through our own goodness, but through God's great kindness to us. Rejoice and be glad, for God comes to you!

Special Music

Give Thanks, Congregation w/Chimes

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Louise Hine

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Matthew 24:36-44

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Keep Awake Be Always Ready"

(NCH#112)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Our Savior

All: Our Mother/Father, who are in heaven, hallowed by the 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.

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

November's Special Offering – PSEC Retired Clergy

Offertory

"Veni Emmanuel"

(arr. Bumgarner)

Offering Response

"Doxology Old Hundredth"

Hope in the God who reigns above,
Who holds us all in steadfast love;
Whose Spirit blows across the earth,
Preparing us for second birth.

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

"Come O Long Expected Jesus"

(NHC#122)

Benediction

Postlude

"Noel"

(Mulet)

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: (Henry Smith) © 1973 Integrity's Hosanna! Music [CCLI #20285]

Announcements:
Sunday, November 30, 2025

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 11/30/25 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Community Labyrinth Walk at 11:00 am.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 12/7/25 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am with Communion in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am with Communion in the Sanctuary.

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



Scripture Reading for December 7th

Tootie Hine

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Matthew 3:1-12

Cluster donations for November: Bar soap

Qigong classes at Shenkel!: Thursday mornings 11AM-noon. No experience necessary--All are welcome! Cost is \$12/class, cash or check payable to Shenkel UCC. Hope you'll join us!

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!

Community Labyrinth Walk: Come experience the calming, centering possibilities of walking the labyrinth in community. Today please join us for a labyrinth walk. Will start around 11:00 am following the 9:45 am service.

Gift cards for Bethany Children's Home: During December the congregation will have the opportunity to purchase gift cards for the residents at Bethany Children's Home. You can take an ornament from the giving tree in the Narthex and purchase that gift card. Gift cards are due by December 14th.

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 3rd 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.

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 December 21st.

Shenkel Prayer Group: Meets at 9:00 am on the first Thursday 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:

Kaleena Sweinhart
Joyce Pashley
Lori and Kaya Skulski
Stacey, Bill and Aurora Keim
Lilly Keim

Birthdays in the month of November

Cole Major	11/5/25
Louise Hine	11/6/25
Alex Mocarski	11/6/25
Joe Palubinsky	11/7/25
Homer Royer	11/8/25
Kaleena Sweinhart	11/8/25
Madeline Mest	11/15/25
John Sabo	11/16/25
Peter Wanner	11/17/25
Clair Faust	11/19/25
Ben Mocarski	11/21/25
Tracy Dise	11/25/25
AJ Foss	11/25/25
Linda Foss	11/28/25
Mindy Chidawu	11/30/25

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST****Communitas**

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464
484-949-8774November 2, 2025

Communitas Ending with this Issue

After many years of supplying Communitas to our churches,
today's edition will be the last. We leave you with important
2025 event dates still remaining for the
Pennsylvania Southeast and Keystone Conferences!

PSEC—Saturday, November 8th,

We will gather for the **final meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference**. This will be a moment of worship, gratitude, and holy closure — a time to celebrate the 63 years of ministry we've shared and to give thanks for all that God has done among us. We strongly encourage you to attend. Your presence matters — not just as witnesses to an ending, but as participants in a new beginning. This is a **hybrid meeting at St. Paul's UCC, Amityville**. Reception begins at 1:00pm followed by a 2:00pm start to the program. A worship service will close out the day. Voting is not taking place at this meeting. Delegates are not required.

Free registration can be found at: <https://psecfinal.eventbrite.com>

PSEC—Sunday, January 4th

Rev. Bill Worley and Rev. Cean James will take their **vows of release** along with the rest of the staff at **Reformed Church of the Ascension, Norristown** at 2:00 pm. The staff have worked with faithfulness, skill, and grace through a demanding and transformative time. We hope you will find ways to express your gratitude by attending this service, as they have been the hands and heart of this ministry in countless ways seen and unseen.

Free registration can be found at: <https://psecrelease.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, November 22nd,- QUORUM NEEDED!

We will gather online ONLY to approve the Keystone Conference Budget for 2026. This meeting is online only BUT will require that we, as a Keystone Conference, meet quorum. Below you will see registration information and the number of delegates your church is entitled to under the new Keystone bylaws.



**OFFICIAL CALL— 2026 BUDGET MEETING
w/ Committee Appointments**

Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ
Mr. Robert Ames, Consistory Secretary

November 22, 2025

9:30 am

Online meeting only

For more information and the link to registration:
<https://keystone2026budget.eventbrite.com>

Welcome to the 2026 Budget Meeting of the Keystone Conference
of the United Church of Christ—
the first business meeting of our historic new Conference!

We will gather online for the purpose of approving the 2026 budget
and approving committee appointees.
Quorum of 150 must be met. Churches will have the following delegates:
Churches with up to 100 members will have two lay delegates
101-300 members will have three lay delegates
301-500 members will have four lay delegates
over 500 members will have five lay delegates
All authorized clergy will also have vote.

Any questions or issues with registration, please contact Susan at
484-949-8774 opt. 1 or at susan@psec.org.