

The Worship Service
Sunday, October 5, 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 Andante from 1st Organ Concerto (Handel)

Welcome

Invocation

Call to Worship Julia Esquivel, Guatemala

L: I love all your paths that lead me to your House, Lord, simple roads, dusty, neglected, bordered by simple houses.

C: Undeveloped roads marked by the footprints of working people: builders of broad highways, fancy houses, gardens, and parks.

L: I love those paths open to the rain and to the good will of their discounted residents.

C: Paths that lead me to the illiterate woman, to the child who has no school, to the old man who sells ice cream from his worn-out wooden car.

L: I love those paths, unimpressive, unattractive that lead me to your brothers and sisters,

C: because You, poor with them, speak to me from their indigence and violently shake loose all my assurances, binding me inescapably into the secret tenderness of your unknown suffering.

All: And so I know I am your friend, because you reveal your secrets to me, the secrets of a love without measure!

Opening Hymn "The Church's One Foundation" (NCH#386)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Brothers and sisters, in the presence of the God of glory, we need to confess our true human condition.

Prayer of Confession Church of South India

In the light of Christ's self-giving life, his way of the cross, we see the darkness in our lives. As we think of the evil and oppression in the world of which we are a part we need to repent together with our fellow-humans. As members of a people called to follow Christ and live in his new righteousness, we need to repent for the evil in the church's life.

The Savior of the world, the Refuge of the repentant, forgives and strengthens all who truly seek his grace. He accepts you as his sons and daughters, and sets you free from the bondage of your past for Christ died and rose to new life that we might all share his wholeness and abundant life. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon from the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and South Africa)

Christ is our peace; those who are divided he has made one. He has broken down the barriers of separation by his death and he has built us up into one body with God. To whomsoever repents and believes he has promised reconciliation. So, live as people reconciled. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Special Music

(Just Like The Three) Make Us One (Dan Wolgemuth) Chancel Choir, Sue Stultz, flute

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Joan Palubinsky

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

Psalms 37:1-9

Luke 17:5-10

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Bread Of The World, In Mercy Broken" (NCH#346)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People Germany

L: Let us pray to God in peace: for an alert conscience, for forgiveness of our debts, and an open, quiet heart, let us pray, God have mercy upon us.

All: God have mercy upon us.

L: For an understanding of our fellow human beings, for a readiness and courage to speak the truth, let us pray:

All: God have mercy upon us.

L: For the ability so to behave to all people that they also through us might experience the love of God, we pray:

All: God have mercy upon us.

L: For our church and for all Christians, that they beyond all past divisions might be one in faith and in deed, let us pray:

All: God have mercy upon us.

L: For our nation and for all nations of the world, that, where there is war, justice and peace might prevail, let us pray:

All: God have mercy upon us.

L: For those who are in need and distress, that they may find help, let us pray:

All: God have mercy upon us.

L: Stay with us, God, with your Word and the gift of your goodness. May your [Reign] come. And so we pray in the faith of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.

October’s Special Offering – Neighbors in Need

Offertory

No East or West

(tunes: McKee, St. Peter)

Offering Response

“I Will Choose Christ” (Sing! Prayer And Praise #148. First complete Phrase)

I WILL CHOOSE CHRIST
Tom Booth

I will__ choose Christ, I will__ choose love,
I choose_ to serve_ I give_ my heart,
I give_ my life, I give_ my all_ to you_ 1.
to you_ 2. I give_ my all_

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Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

L: Throughout God’s world this day Christian churches are celebrating the Eucharist as one family dining together in one room under one roof.

C: Our sisters and brothers in Africa, Europe, Central America, Asia and in all lands and countries join us in lifting the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

L: Neither powers nor principalities shall stop us nor deter our purpose our sense of mission, or our challenge to go forth as disciples into every town, village, and crossroad proclaiming the love of Christ for all creation.

C: In Christ’s love there is no East, no West, no North, no South, but only one Spirit of hope, love, and peace for all.

L: Let us praise Christ! May this holy meal empower each of us to be agents of hope and peace in a time of uncertainty and strife.

C: The bread and wine are not for us alone, but are symbols of a universal message that surpasses the might of missiles and the walls of oppression.

L: May Christ bless the worldwide communion of the church this day!

C: Praise be to Christ our Creator, Redeemer, and Savior! Amen.

Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O God, for the mighty sweep of your love, embracing all people and all nations. We thank you that you have sent Jesus Christ to us to break down the walls of hostility which divide the earth's people, and to reveal your all-encompassing love making us all one. Through the power of your Spirit, may this unity become reality.

Now, by your presence, make sacred this feast in memory of Jesus Christ. As this broken bread was scattered like grain on the hillsides, and then, when gathered together, became one loaf, so may your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your eternal realm. Like Christ, who was offered up to you that we might live, and like this wine, which was poured out that all might share in the signs of new life, so may the lives of your people be poured out in compassion, and in solidarity with the poor, the oppressed, and the hungry of this world. For it is in the name of Jesus Christ, your Servant, that we pray. Amen.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

Prayer after Communion India

We thank you, Lord, that you have strengthened us through your nearness and we pray: grant that the ears that have heard your Word may be closed to the voice of discord; that the eyes that have seen your great love may see the blessedness which you have promised. that the tongues which have sung your praise may testify henceforth to the truth; that the hands which have received your gifts may do good to your honor; that the feet which have come into your house may not stray from the way of light; that the bodies which have had a share in your living body may change into a new life. To you be glory forever. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "Saviour, Again To Your Dear Name" (NCH#80)

A Litany of Commitment as Benediction Philippines

L: We, the church in the United States and the church all around the world, are members of the one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

C: O GOD, BESTOW UPON US YOUR LOVE OF JUSTICE. ENABLE US TO MINISTER WITH YOUR COMPASSION AND WISDOM, SO THAT THE DEPRIVED AND THE DEFENSELESS MAY BE TREATED OBJECTIVELY AND WITH JUSTICE.

L: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

C: UNPLUG OUR SENSES OF HEARING TO THE WAILS OF THE PEOPLE CLUTCHED IN THE PROGRESSIONS OF POVERTY, ABUSE AND VIOLENCE.

L: A body is made up of many parts, and each of them has its own use. That's how it is with us. There are many of us, but we each are part of the body of Christ, as well as part of one another.

C: IMPART UPON US THE WISDOM TO DISCERN THE NOBLEST ACT AND VALOR TO EMBODY JUSTICE AND CONCORD EVEN WHEN IT PRESSES US TO THE MARGINS.

L: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, since as members of one body we were called to peace.

All: As we thrive to be more cohesive with our mission partners, may the people flourish; may there be lasting peace and plenty for all. Praise be to God's glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with God's glory. Amen and Amen.

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: © 2008 First Run Muzik Psalter (ASCAP)

Announcements:
Sunday, October 5, 2025

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 10/5/25 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am with communion in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am with communion in the Sanctuary.
~ Forrest Kreiger's Birthday Celebration from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 10/12/25 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.
Sat, 10/18/25 ~ Speaker Series – David Youngren from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.
Sun, 10/19/25 ~ One Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Social Hall.
~ Church School at 11:00 am.

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



Scripture Reading for October 12th

Maddie Mest

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66:1-12
Luke 17:11-19

Cluster donations for October: 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!

Forrest Kreiger's 90th Birthday Celebration: Join the Kreiger's in celebrating Forrest's 90th Birthday today from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Frederick Living Auditorium, 2849 Big Road, Zieglerville, PA 19492. Enter at the front of the building, under the portico. In lieu of gifts to Forrest, contributions can be made to the Benevolent Care Fund of Frederick Living if you wish. (Checks payable to Frederick Living, with Benevolent Care Fund written in the memo line.

Andrew Foss Family: Gift cards for the Foss family can be placed in the envelope near the bulletins. Door Dash, Redner's, Weiss and Aldi's are all helpful gift cards.

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!

Federal Budget Cuts and Your Town Hall on October 15th at 7:00 pm: Co-hosted by Representatives Ciresi and Friel. Tri County Active Adult Center, 288 Moser Road, Pottstown.

Speaker Series – David Youngren: Life Ascending on October 18th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Join us for a talk about mental wellbeing based on new science and the wisdom of Jesus.

Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends on October 22nd: \$5.00 Coupon Shopping Passes. Shopping can be done in any Boscov’s or this year online!! The proceeds will go to the Mission Fund.

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.

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 October 19th.

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:

Tom and Maureen Gallant
Gary McDermit
Noah Bradley
Barbara Sweinhart
Jim and Elaine Bevan

Birthdays in the month of October

Glen Hoff	10/2/25	Betsy Bevan	10/28/25
Joe Granger	10/5/25	Jacoby Mest	10/29/25
Forrest Kreiger	10/5/25	Aaron Gray	10/31/25
Sharon Snyder	10/6/25		
Adrianne Wanner	10/7/25		
David Phillips	10/8/25		
William Zachesky	10/10/25		
Susan Stultz	10/12/25		
Stacia Bradley	10/13/25		
Aaron Foss	10/14/25		
Danielle Petersen	10/17/25		
Roberta Peterman	10/20/25		
Cameron Dushanko	10/23/25		