

**The Worship Service**  
Sunday, July 5, 2026

"The Lord upholds all who are  
falling, and raises up all who  
are bowed down."  
Psalm 145:14

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**Shenkel United Church of Christ**  
1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465  
610-326-3535 ~ [www.shenkelucc.org](http://www.shenkelucc.org) ~ [shenkelucc@aol.com](mailto: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 "Prelude" (John Blow)

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: We are summoned here by our holy God, who calls us each by name and gathers us together in the unity of Jesus Christ.

**C: From classroom and kitchen and workplace, we are called into God's presence. Young and old and middle-aged, individuals and families, softspoken and outspoken, we hear our names being called to join in worship.**

L: This space of worship is a place to pursue God's vision for all people: unity and joy and faith expressed through different gifts. Let us worship together!

Opening Hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We adore You" (SmSgBk#25)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

We confess our sins so that we can be set free from the bondage of the past.

Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

**Because we have seen pain without being moved, because we forget your love with solemn pride,  
because we pass by happily before poverty and sadness,  
Lord have mercy,  
Lord have mercy,  
have mercy on us.**

**For speaking of love without loving our sister or brother, for speaking of faith without living your  
word, because we live without seeing our personal evil, our sin,  
Christ have mercy,  
Christ have mercy,  
have mercy on us.**

**For our tranquility in our affluent life, for our great falseness in preaching about poverty, for  
wanting to make excuses for injustice and misery,  
Lord have mercy,  
Lord have mercy,  
have mercy on us. Amen.**

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

How we love to hang on to the past! We get all tied up remembering, keeping count, bearing grudges. God doesn't. Your past is accepted. Let it go. Live in the freedom God hands to you afresh each day. Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Special Music

Let There Be Peace, Congregation w/Sue Stutz, Flute

(SmSgBk#74)

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Tootie Hine

Psalm 145:8-14

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Be Gentle When You Touch Bread"

(SmSgBk# 29)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

L: Let us pray.

Let us pray for those who weep  
and for those who cause their weeping;

**C: Hear our prayer, O God.**

L: For those who are without food, clothes, and a place of shelter;

**C: Hear our prayer, O God.**

L: For those who live without hope and meaning;

**C: Hear our prayer, O God.**

L: For those who live as the objects of the whims of others;

**C: Hear our prayer, O God.**

L: For those who are fooling themselves;

**C: Hear our prayer, O God.**

L: For those who live with wars and rumors of wars;

**C: Hear our prayer, O God.**

L: For those who distort the good news of the gospel;

**C: Hear our prayer, O God.**

L: For those who make gods of things and of themselves;

**C: Hear our prayer, O God.**

Amen.

**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.**

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel’s ongoing ministries.  
July’s Special Offering – Bill Boyer and Bill Burhans Memorial Scholarship Fund

Offertory “We Remember You” (Dearman)

Offering Response “Take My Life, And Let It Be” (SmSgBk#37-4th verse only)

**Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I with-hold.  
Take my intellect, and use Every power as Thou shalt choose.**

Prayer of Dedication  
Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

L: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**All: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ’s table.**

L: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God’s people.

Communion Prayer

L: God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to God.**

L: Let us give thanks to God Most High

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being.

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory.

We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

**All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover.

Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**All: Christ's death, O God, we proclaim.**

**Christ's resurrection we declare.**

**Christ's coming we await.**

**Glory be to you, O God.**

L: Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory.

We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

**All: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.**

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

Prayer after Communion

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn                    "We Stand Humbly In God's Grace"                    (SmSGBk#43)

Benediction

Postlude                    "Many and Great O God Are Your Works"                    (Renville)

Special Music: (Sy Miller & Jill Jackson) © 1955, renewed 1981 Jan-Lee Music (ASCAP) [onlicense #80436]

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Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding  
Email: [shenkelpastor@gmail.com](mailto:shenkelpastor@gmail.com)  
Sexton: Stacy Keim  
Ministers: All Members of the Church

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth  
Organist: Susan Royer  
Secretary: Danielle Petersen

**Announcements:**

**~Sunday, July 5, 2026~**

Sun, 7/5 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service with communion at 9:45 am in the Grove.

**~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~**

Sun, 7/12 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove.

Sun, 7/19 ~ Ice Cream Sundae Social Sunday after the service in the Pavilion.

Tues, 7/21 ~ Midday Dinner at Rise & Shine Café (Limerick) at 12:00 pm.

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



**Scripture Reading for July 12th**

**Sandy Rowe**

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalms 65

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**Cluster donations for July: cereal**

**Prayer Community:** Will meet on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the Pavilion, weather permitting.

**Pottstown Area Pride Event:** Shenkel will be hosting the Pottstown Area Pride Fest again. This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year as hosts. **Anyone is welcome to volunteer to help make this event fun and safe for all. Please sign up as a volunteer on the website ([pottstownpride.org](http://pottstownpride.org)). By signing up we can know who to count on for help the day of the festival – July 18<sup>th</sup>.** Hope to see you there as we move fully live into our mission to unconditionally love and accept all and generously serve our community. Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 5:00 pm in the Grove!

**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!

**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 July 1st 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:

Tom and Maureen Gallant  
Tesia Craner  
Ashlyn Augustine  
Jesse Painter

**Birthdays in the month of July:**

Lucas Gray	7/2/26
Susan Royer	7/5/26
Daniel Snyder	7/7/26
Erika Burhans Price	7/9/26
Stacey Keim	7/10/26
Linda Jonides	7/11/26
Laura Hauze	7/12/26
Leslie Hauze	7/12/26
Joel Sweinhart	7/12/26
Rebecca Major	7/13/26
Hannah Dyott	7/14/26
Jess Hartzell	7/18/26
Steve Mest	7/18/26
Lori Klein	7/20/26
Tully Meehan	7/21/26
Rachel Berrick	7/24/26
Julie Zachesky	7/24/26
Lucy Hartzell	7/25/26
Cody Moyer	7/26/26
Lucas Zachesky	7/27/26
Lindsay Hoff	7/28/26
Christian O'Drain	7/29/26

# Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

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