

The Worship Service

Sunday, August 2, 2026



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 "Second Gymnopedie" (Satie)

Welcome

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 17)

P: The Holy One wondrously demonstrates steadfast love. Seek refuge at God's right hand.

C: Let God's love meet us and flow through us.

P: The Holy One attentively hears the just cause. Seek justice and righteousness for God's name sake.

C: Let us be steady and vigilant for the kingdom of God.

P: The Holy One faithfully vindicates our lives. Seek the path God paves for us.

C: Let us worship, honor and praise the God who delivers, redeems, and restores. Praise the Holy One!

Opening Hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (SmSgBk#94)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy One, we strive to be your people and reflect your goodness in the world. Yet, the way of wickedness is not far from us, and we have not passed every test. Fortify us in your word and drench us with your compassion so that we may find the courage to repent and repair. Help us acknowledge the harm we have allowed and the pain we have caused. Empower us to make things right with our neighbors and with ourselves. Let your grace and mercy liberate us to be agents of reconciliation and restoration in our families, communities, and world. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

Blessed of God, receive God's transformative and liberating grace. Be made new in Christ, and make a new way in mending broken relationships and forging new ones. Let the love of God be your guide and assurance that the One who is gracious and merciful, is good to all, and abundant in compassion has planted those seeds in you, upholds all who fall and remains near to you.

Passing of the Peace

Special Music

Above All, Sandy Rowe, Soloist

~We Hear God's Word~

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Matthew 14:13-21

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection:

“Taste And See”

(SmSgBk#50)

~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 good and generous gifts so that creation radiates with abundance. As we share in the blessings and gifts of God, let us give so that all will be filled and all needs will be met to the glory of God.

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries.
August's Special Offering – North Coventry Meals on Wheels

Offertory

“There's Room At the Table”

(Damon)

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 and Thanksgiving

Creator, thank you for the opportunity to share in your abundant and renewing work. Use these gifts for the kindom. Sow wisdom and discernment as we support the ministry of this church in your name.
Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

L: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

C: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

Communion Prayer

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Life 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.

L: Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it.

We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst.

We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

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!

L: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus also took 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."

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

C: Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!

L: Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt, and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

Prayer after Communion

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus 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; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” (SmSgBk#6)

Benediction

Postlude “Hoy celebramos” (Arias & Auza)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth
Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com Organist: Susan Royer
Sexton: Stacy Keim Secretary: Danielle Petersen
Ministers: All Members of the Church

Special Music: (Paul Balaaoshe & Kenny LeBlanc) © 1999 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music [CCLI #2672885]

Announcements:

~Sunday, August 2, 2026~

Sun, 8/2 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service with Communion at 9:45 am in the Grove.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

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

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

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 9th

Lori Scharneck

Matthew 14:22-33

Psalm: 105:1-6, 16-22

Genesis: 37:1-4, 12-28

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 August 5th 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:

Peter and Adrienne Wanner

Stacia and Joe Bradley

Louise Hine

Kelly Strunk and Steve Mest

Birthdays in the month of August:

Steven Bade	8/3/26	Noah Bradley	8/30/26
Ted Gray	8/4/26	Christian Golden	8/31/26
Dan Wolgemuth	8/6/26	Wayne Klein	8/31/26
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		

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

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