

**The Worship Service**  
Sunday, September 8, 2024

“Be  
Opened!”

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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 Covenant Statement**

So reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it, now you do it! (Romans 15:7, The Message)

We are aware of pain organized religion has inflicted on many; and we are aware many places of worship have not given the extravagant welcome God offers to us all. Therefore, Shenkel United Church of Christ covenants to extend heartfelt hospitality to ALL. Shenkel UCC affirms all persons are created in the image of God, so we offer full inclusion (communion, life, and ministries) in the faith journey of this congregation, regardless of differences: whether religious background, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, national origin, immigration and refugee status, age, ethnicity, relationship status, addiction/recovery, physical or mental ability, and political affiliation. We proclaim this statement: **no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**

## 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

Welcome

Invocation

Congregational Introit "Lord Prepare Me"

(SSB 13)

Call to Worship

L: Listen! God is welcoming us to this time of worship. Young and old, rich and poor, all are welcomed.

**C: This is a place where all belong. This is a time when all are accountable to God.**

L: The Maker of all seeks our common good. The God of Mercy calls on us to be merciful.

**C: We are not judges over our sisters and brothers. We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

L: Come to sing praises and put your trust in God. Come to prepare yourself to serve in Christ's name.

**C: We bring all our needs to God, our hope. We want to share faith and hope with others.**

Opening Hymn

"This Is My Father's World"

(SSN BK#87)

### ~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

The Holy One - who opens eyes and ears, makes the mute to speak, and delivers the tormented from demons within - invites us to seek the healing we need. God reigns in spite of us but longs for our participation in faith-filled ministries. Let us confess our estrangement from the One who offers us true freedom.

Prayer of Confession

O God, we confess that our good intentions have gone astray. We favor the people who are like us and honor those we deem to be important. We dishonor the poor, write off those with whom we disagree, excuse our self-serving behavior, and sow injustice on every hand. It is so much easier to give advice than to do good. We would rather point fingers at others who are unfair than to give up our own advantages. O God, we plead for your forgiveness and for a depth of faith that will make a difference in us and in our world. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

When we show mercy, we are able to accept God's mercy, which triumphs over judgment. God can turn our waywardness upside down and set us on the path of true community with those whom we have disdained or ignored. God opens our minds and hearts to hear and understand those who need our help. God empowers our response.

Special Music

Put Your Hand In The Hand Of The Man

(SSN BK#105 w/percussion)

~We Hear God's Word~

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalm 146

Mark 7:24-37

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Be Now My Vision"

(SSN BK#30)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Our Savior

Minister: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

**All: 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. September’s Special Offering – Church World Service

Offertory

Offering Response Rise Up, Rise Up

(SSB #2)

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "Shadow And Substance"

(SSN BK#83)

Benediction

Postlude

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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, September 8, 2024**

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 9/8/2024 ~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Grove

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 9/15/24 ~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Grove

Tues, 9/17/24 ~ Midday Dinner at Limerick Diner at 12:00 pm

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



**Scripture Reading for September 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Susan Royer**

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalms 19

Mark 8:27-38

**Blessing of the Animals (Service) and All Church Picnic on 9/29/24:** following the service.

**Boscov's Friends Helping Friends on 10/22/24:** \$5.00 Coupon Shopping Passes. Shopping can be done in any Boscov's or this year online!! We have two dates where we will be sitting at Boscov's offering coupons to Boscov's customers. The dates are: Saturday, September 21 starting at noon; and Saturday, October 12 starting at noon. We will be able to be there for 3 hours or more. If anyone can help us it would be greatly appreciated, Tootie and Louise Hine.

Any further suggestions for things to do, please contact Lousie Hine at 610-385-3716 (Home) or Tootie Hine 610-781-6645 (cell) or at [angels2we@gmail.com](mailto:angels2we@gmail.com).

**Carol Lykens Giving Challenge:** We're kicking off our Carol Lykens Fill-The-Hat Challenge! You're encouraged to make an additional contribution to the Current Fund beyond your usual giving. The goal is to match Carol's \$5000 bequest to help us meet our budget. Contributions can be made to Shenkel UCC with "Carol Challenge" in the memo line, or donate online through our website. Thank you!

**Cluster donations for September:** Trash bags and cleaning supplies

**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.

**Paper Towels:** Over the past 12 months we collected and delivered 480 rolls of paper towels to Christ Episcopal for their essential pantry! Thank you all for your generosity. Well done!

**Stewardship:** Stewardship Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 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 Yocum, 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 starts September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Shenkel Prayer Group:** Meets at 10:00 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:

Jennifer, Jeffrey, Hannah, Catherine and Audrey Dyott  
Judy Gergle  
Mark Dushanko  
Randy and Brenda Berriker  
Rebecca, Joe, Grace and Cole Major

**Birthdays in the month of September:**

Mark Dushanko	9/5/2024
Clay Zachesky	9/5/2024
Glen Bradley	9/8/2024
Sherrri MocarSKI	9/9/2024
Collin Gray	9/11/2024
Jaden Viti	9/12/2024
Connie Armbruster	9/16/2024
Catherine Dyott	9/19/2024
Heather Burhans Tran	9/20/2024
Chris Gray	9/21/2024
Tesia Craner	9/23/2024
Ronald Pearson	9/24/2024