SHENKEL HAPPENINGS – OCTOBER 2026

Greetings, Shenkel Friends and Family!

I have a good friend who I really admire. She's the person you want in your corner when things go wrong. And she has the biggest heart of anyone I know!

This friend—I'll call her Kim (wink, wink)—makes it a point to do something good for someone each day.

Recently, she commented that she had noticed a few people outside a store she was visiting, and they asked for money. They were hungry. And some had a wrinkle-your-nose odor wafting her way. Instead of averting her gaze or turning her back, she told them, "Meet me over at Arby's. I'll get you something to eat." Off they went across the parking lot, no doubt relieved and grateful for this unexpected angel.

Not only did Kim buy them lunch—one man was looking for the cheapest thing on the menu, and she said, "No, get whatever you want!"—she bought them gift cards to use another day. Now that's generosity!

Let's face it. Many of us are living lives of plenty to one degree or another. But how often have we walked by someone who is struggling? We probably have this internal dialogue that goes something like, "What if they use the money for drugs? What did they do to get themselves in this situation?" Or maybe, "I don't have time. Somebody else will help them."

I think Jesus was pretty clear. Don't judge others unless you want to be judged. Love your neighbor—yes, the one who smells bad, and the one who made questionable choices, and the one who doesn't make enough money to eat and pay rent, and the one who has had a run of bad luck.

I'm going to try to channel my inner Kim. Maybe love a lot more and judge a little less. Put myself in other people's shoes—that's a good way to generate compassion in this crazy world we live in! Just think what would happen if we all unclenched our hearts and hands and allowed compassion and generosity to lead us. Then live out of a spirit of abundance. I think Jesus would approve.

Now, let's see what is happening at your church!

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

- **REFLECTIVE SERVICE at 8:30 AM** – A good choice if you prefer no music and time for discussion and reflection, and
- **TRADITIONAL-ISH SERVICE at 9:45 AM** – You'll find everything you've always wanted in a traditional service!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 from 10:00 to NOON - SCAM ALERT! TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!** Get ready to be informed and entertained! Special Agent "Ned" Conway from the FBI is coming to discuss ways to avoid being a victim of scams, how to protect your identity, and much more critical information to keep you safe from criminals trying to hijack your money and peace of mind. I hear he's a really good presenter with a great sense of humor! The information is posted on Facebook—please share!

- **OCTOBER 26 at CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH – COMMUNITY MEAL – We need your help**! This is our day of the month to help serve lunch! Come early at 9:00 and help sort and set up for the lunch hour. Or come around 11:00 to help serve for an hour or so. Pastor Suzanne will purchase the snacks we usually provide. She can only stay until 10:45, so more hands would be appreciated!

- **NOVEMBER 1 at 9:45 AM – ALL SAINTS DAY –** This is a day of remembrance for all of our Shenkel Family who have died since November 1, 2025.

- **NOVEMBER 3 – REMEMBER TO VOTE!!!**

- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 at 5:00 PM – ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SOUP SUPPER AND SERVICE** – Gather with your Shenkel and Temple UMC friends for good food and conversation! Singing traditional seasonal songs and a friendly Thanksgiving Trivia Game competition are part of the fun. We keep it simple with homemade soups, bread, and dessert. **Please sign up in the narthex** and indicate which of these you can bring. Can't wait to see you!

- **JANUARY 9, 2027 –** Plans are in the works for another ever-popular January Reboot presented by the Stewardship Committee. Look for details in November or December. It's going to be another good one!

THIRD ANNUAL CAROL LYKENS FILL-THE-HAT CHALLENGE

The third of our five-year challenge is underway! Each year, we have been using $5,000 of Carol's generous bequest to help fund our current budget deficit. Here is your challenge: From **now thru December 31, 2026,** we encourage you to make an additional Fill-the Hat Challenge donation to the Current Fund beyond your usual giving. Our goal is to match Carol's bequest of $5,000. This will help us meet our budget at the

end of the year, which is currently underfunded. Each year we've hit the mark and then some! Good job! Please give what you can and generously if you are able. Make checks payable to Shenkel UCC and in the memo line write "Carol Challenge." If you are making an online donation, you'll find it on our website. As of October 13, we have met **$1,165 of our $5,000 goal!**

CHURCH SCHOOL

God is Love! Calling all children ages 3 through 6th grade! Join us for a time of faith, fun, and friendship! Each week, we will learn songs, read well-known children's books and tie them into how they show God's love, do a craft, and have a snack. Your child will meet new friends and learn how to incorporate the kindness of God into their daily lives. We meet the **THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM.**

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Good news! We have almost reached our OCWM commitment for 2026! Once we achieve that goal, any additional OCWM contributions for 2026 will be transferred to the Carol Challenge to help reduce our Current Fund deficit.
- We learned that our fee for a Supply Pastor or Supply Organist/Pianist is well below what other churches are paying in our area. We updated our Fee Schedule to compensate the individual $200 for their services.

STEWARDSHIP

- Join us **Thursdays at 11:00 AM in the Social Hall** for Qigong, led by our amazing teacher, Salil Gutt. Qigong's gentle movements have been used for centuries to improve health, reduce stress, and keep us in the present moment. Please wear comfortable clothing. The suggested fee is $12.00 per class payable by cash or check, but if that is prohibitive, pay what you are able. Adults only, please.

- Along with presenting interesting events to help people in the community know who we are, Stewardship is also tasked with coming up with fundraising ideas. If you know of anyone who needs a rental space for picnics, meetings, showers or birthday/anniversary parties, have them call the church office for information. Every little bit helps! And this has proven to be a very good moneymaker for our church.

- We're always looking for new ideas for our Speaker Series! Do you have a particular topic you'd like to explore? Know someone (community member, college professor, friend, to name a few) who could present a 1-to-2-hour

program on a topic of interest? Please let anyone from Stewardship know your thoughts: Chris Gray, Dan Jenkins, Julie Zachesky, Kim Yocom, Mo or Tom Gallant, or Brenda Berriker.

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **COMMUNITY MEAL -** Shenkel folks are caring individuals who want to help those in need. We yearn to make a difference but sometimes don't know where to start. Here is an opportunity to show you care: The **4th Monday of each month**, a handful of our members help serve a **Community Lunch at Christ Episcopal in Pottstown**. Our church is an active participant in this local mission. Pastor Suzanne brings 70 salty and sweet snacks that are given out at lunch. These are purchased at Giant using the Giant gift cards that we also sell at church. These caring volunteers would love to welcome more helpers! You can serve lunch from 11:00 to 1:00 and/or go earlier around 9:00 AM to help sort food donations and prepare dessert trays. Don't worry—Shenkel is not responsible for the meal as we were years ago. We are simply willing helpers who are there to do whatever tasks need to be done.

REQUEST FOR ALL FACEBOOK USERS

Stewardship is working hard to put together interesting and timely speaker series events, but we may not be getting the word out. So, if you are on Facebook, please follow Shenkel UCC and look for any posts on upcoming events that Julie Zachesky has so faithfully been creating and posting. Then share it on your own personal FB page. We need to reach as many people as we can, and this is an easy way for you to use social media to let people know about our events. BETTER YET: Personally invite your friends and neighbors—it works! Thank you for your help!

SHENKEL PRAYER GROUP

Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and celebrate the Spirit of God moving among us as we pray together. The group meets at **10:00 AM on the first Monday** of the month. All are welcome to participate!

CLUSTER NEEDS

OCTOBER: Razor blades and shaving cream
NOVEMBER: Pasta sauce and broth

YOCOM FAMILY LANDSCAPING FUND FOR THE GROVE

The times when volunteers were plentiful and eager to put their backs into taking care of our properties are long gone. This means we must pay for much of the work that needs

to be done for upkeep and repairs. To address this need, the Yocom family has generously started a fund to pay for mowing and to maintain the grove and labyrinth. Please contribute as you are able!

GIANT AND REDNER'S GIFT CARDS

You're doing a great job! This is an easy way to raise money for our church. Purchase your cards Sunday mornings or in the Church Office Tuesday-Thursday, between 9:00 and 1:30. Thanks for doing your part!

ONLINE GIVING/QR CODE

It's easier than ever to catch up on your giving to support and sustain our church. Just go to www.shenkelucc.org, open up Online Giving, and choose where you want your donations to go. Simple! In addition, QR codes are in the pews and will be on the table in the grove for an easy, fast way of contributing. Thank you in advance for your continuing support of your church.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee is tasked with supporting the Pastor as well as bringing to her any concerns of the congregation. Information discussed is confidential. Members are Dan Jenkins and Tootie Hine. Please feel free to discuss any joys or concerns you have with any member of this committee.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Glen Hoff	10/2/26
Joe Granger	10/5/26
Forrest Kreiger	10/5/26
Sharon Snyder	10/6/26
Adrianne Wanner	10/7/26
David Phillips	10/8/26
William Zachesky	10/10/26
Susan Stultz	10/12/26
Stacia Bradley	10/13/26
Aaron Foss	10/14/26
Danielle Petersen	10/17/26
Maureen Gallant	10/19/26
Cameron Dushanko	10/23/26
Betsy Bevan	10/28/26
Jacoby Mest	10/29/26
Aaron Gray	10/31/26

OCTOBER PRAYER LOTTERY

October 4th
Barbara Sweinhart
Christian, Mari and Connor O'Drain
Eric Klein
Kathy Murphy

October 11th
Lilly Keim
Abigail Dise
Forrest Kreiger
Sandy Rowe

October 18th
Matthew Scharneck
Daniel, Sharon, Malcolm and Amelia Snyder
Laura Golden
Randy and Brenda Berriker

October 25th
Marie Bade
Lori and Kaya Skulski
Julianne Wanner
Drew Sweinhart

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Cole Major	11/5/26
Louise Hine	11/6/26
Alex Mocarski	11/6/26
Joe Palubinsky	11/7/26
Homer Royer	11/8/26
Kaleena Sweinhart	11/8/26
Madeline Mest	11/15/26
John Sabo	11/16/26
Peter Wanner	11/17/26
Clair Faust	11/19/26
Ben Mocarski	11/21/26
Tracy Dise	11/25/26
AJ Foss	11/25/26
Linda Foss	11/28/26
Mindy Chidawu	11/30/26

NOVEMBER PRAYER LOTTERY

November 1st
Julie and Bill Zachesky
Jesse Painter
Elizabeth, James, Zoey, Henry and Molly Carr
Tony Gulotta

November 8th
Joel Sweinhart
Bill, Britnee, Olivia and Delia Sanseverino
David Klein
Connie Armbruster

November 15th
Clayton, Katerina, Maxine, Bellamy and Rennick Brewer
Nicole, Scott, Tully and Buckley Meehan
Jim and Elaine Bevan
Henry and Carole Bailey

November 22nd
Joe and Joan Granger
Lucas Zachesky
Mike and Robin Martin
Lori Scharneck

November 29th
Glen Bradley
Erika, Kyle, Giovanni and Christopher Manetti
Noah Bradley
David Phillips

Enjoy Autumn's beauty!

Your Shenkel Happenings Editor,

Brenda Berriker