

The Worship Service

Sunday, July 12, 2026



Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

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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 "We Have Met to Worship" (Moore, arr. Berry)

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Praise is due to the Holy One, whose ways are the joy of our hearts.

C: The Faithful One holds our lives and our hands. Happy are we who praise the Holy One!

L: Worship is due to the Holy One, whose revelation illuminates our path.

C: The Just God is righteous. Happy are we who follow the Holy One!

L: Love is due to the Holy One, whose compassion, peace, and strength satisfies the prayers spoken and unspoken.

C: The Sovereign God answers prayer. Happy are we who love the Holy One!

Opening Hymn "All Creatures Of Our God And King" (SmSgBk#18)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Let us incline our hearts toward God as we confess our shortcomings.

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we incline our hearts toward you, but the concerns of the world and challenges of daily living pull us away. Keep us grounded in your promises, your purposes, your power, and your presence. Reorient us on the road of liberation, belonging, and communal care so that not only do we receive the gift of transformation, we companion with siblings, neighbors, and even enemies in your work of making all things new. Remove the misleading veil that disguises sufficiency with scarcity. Sustain us with being satisfied with enough and abundance materially while continuing to thirst for righteousness so that all may be well. In you, we hope and believe. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, rest in the assurance of Psalm 65:5, "By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas." The Holy One receives and responds to our prayers and offers the promise of renewed life and the power of community in the kingdom of God. Through Christ, we participate as witnesses, agents, and recipients of transformation for the glory of God and by the grace of God.

Special Music

~We Hear God's Word~

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65

Matthew 13:1-9

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: “Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace” (SmSgBk#75)

~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

When we share our material resources, we proclaim our trust in God’s provision, abundance, and community. Let us give in order to support the ministry of this church in hope and faith.

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 “Sing A New Song” (Schutte)

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

Generous God, receive these gifts and magnify them to bless our community and world. May these offerings reflect our gratitude for your beloved community and trust in your kingdom. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn “You Shall Go Out With Joy” (SmSgBk#101)

Benediction

Postlude “Summer, Op 8 #2” (Vivaldi)

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

Announcements:
~Sunday, July 12, 2026~

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

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sat, 7/18 ~ Pride Festival from 1:00 – 5:00 pm in the Grove.

Sun, 7/19 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove.

Sun, 7/19 ~ Ice Cream Sundae Social 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 19th

Joan Palubinsky

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139:1-12

Matthew 13:24-30, 31-43

Cluster donations for July: cereal

Pottstown Area Pride Event: Shenkel will be hosting the Pottstown Area Pride Fest again. This is our 3rd 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). By signing up we can know who to count on for help the day of the festival – July 18th.** 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 18th 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 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:

James White
Barry Yocom
David Phillips
Gary McDermit

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 Berriker	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.