

The Worship Service
Sunday, July 19, 2026

“ I am devoted to wayfaring
strangers, traveling through
troublesome lands.”
- God

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 "Beautiful One" (Hughes)

Welcome

Call to Worship

P: The Holy One is in this place! Do we know it?

C: The Holy One has searched and known us, our path, and all our ways.

P: The Holy One is in this place! Such knowledge is too wonderful!

C: Wherever we go, Spirit goes with us! We cannot flee for God is there!

P: The Holy One is in this place! Spirit bears witness with our spirit, and we gather and wait in hope.

C: The Holy One is with us. Praise God!

Opening Hymn "All Thing Bright and Beautiful" (SmSgBk#32)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Righteous God, test us and stretch us, strengthen us in your truth and justice, fortify us with resolve and power so that we might be the people you have called us to be. Holy One, even beyond forgiveness, we seek transformation. Renew our minds, open our hearts, and release our hands to repair, reconcile, and restore in your name. Keep us from being the cause of suffering. Equip us to be agents of healing. Make us attentive to your presence. Attune us to your will. Lead us on the path you have paved before us so that the grace we receive will sow seeds of redemption and healing in the world. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

Offspring of the Divine, live in your power and purpose as beneficiaries of the new covenant and conspirators of God's liberating work and impact in the world. Receive God's forgiveness and move beyond shame and judgment to new life and right relationships with the Holy One and neighbor.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you.

Special Music

Cleanse Me, Sandy Rowe, Pam & Brian McShane, Vocalists

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Joan Palubinsky

Matthew 13:24-30, 31-43

Psalms 139:1-12

Genesis 28:10-19a

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

Dramatic Reading

"A Wayfaring Stranger"
Eloise Smyrl

Brian McShane
Randy Berriker

Hymn for Reflection:

"Wherever You Go"

(SmSgBk#14)

~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

God's gifts are generous and abundant. Give in the spirit of sufficiency and trust that God has provided for all of our needs. Our gifts enable us to share abundance so that all may feast and rejoice in God's creation.

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

"I Wonder as I Wander"

(Niles)

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

Holy One, may these gifts reflect our trust in you and your provision. Magnify them for your purpose and grant us discernment to be caretakers of the resources entrusted to us. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

"We Are Marching In the Light Of God"

(SmSgBk#10)

Benediction

Postlude

"Flute Sonata"

(Mozart)

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

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

Special Music: (J. Edwin Orr) © P.D [onelicense #97942] © 2026-Music arrangement First Run Muzik Psalter (ASCAP)

Announcements:

~Sunday, July 19, 2026~

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.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 7/26 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove.
~ Music and Worship meeting after the service.

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



Scripture Reading for July 26th

Maddie Mest

Psalms 119:129-136
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Cluster donations for July: cereal

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:

Scott Kutz
Donald Laverty
Rachel Berriker
Barbara Sweinhart

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.