

SHENKEL HAPPENINGS – AUGUST 2026

Greetings, Shenkel Friends and Family!

Have you ever had an experience that was so clearly a God moment that you couldn't deny it? I've had a few, and one incident was so impactful that I need to share.

I had the best grandmother. She laughed a lot, baked fantastic pies, always had creamsicles on hand, and taught my sister and me how to play Parchesi. She filled our bellies and our hearts with unconditional love. We loved staying with Grammy and PopPop! But, unlike my own grandparenting style where planting as many smooches as possible on my grandchildren's squishy, adorable cheeks was a given, she never gave or asked for kisses. As a greeting, as a goodbye, just because we were too cute for words--nothing.

I was a young mother, and Grammy's 76th birthday was the next day. She lived with my aunt and uncle by then, never drove a car, and spent her days alone. I decided it would be the perfect time for my daughter and I to embark on a birthday visit. With flowers in hand, we drove to Grammy's. When she opened the door and saw us, a big grin spread over her face and she ushered us into the family room.

We had a nice time catching up, and she enjoyed watching her great-granddaughter play. There's nothing like a toddler to put a smile on your face! It became clear, though, that my daughter was ready for her nap and, quite honestly, my energy was flagging, and I was ready to leave. Grammy looked disappointed and said, "Oh, can't you stay a little longer?" I responded, "I wish I could, but Jen really needs her nap. But I'll come again next week." That made her happy.

As we walked to the door, this overwhelming feeling came over me that I should give Grammy a kiss. It was so strong that it felt like a hand was on my back, pushing me toward her. As she turned to say goodbye, I opened my arms, wrapped her in a hug, and kissed her cheek. It was soft and warm, and I thought, "This feels so good! Why haven't I done this before?!" Feeling the current of love that passed between us and telling myself I will definitely do that again, we left.

The next day, while my aunt was doing Grammy's hair in preparation for an out-of-state visit to her daughter, she collapsed and died.

I do believe that God or an angel intervened that day. There is no other way to explain what happened. And I believe that this kind of thing happens more often than we may realize! It may not be something as dramatic as my experience. Maybe it's a strong sense that you need to say or do something, or an idea that pops into your head to help someone who needs it. Or a gut feeling that something is wrong. If it's an action that will result in good, I think the urge to act just may be from God. So, I invite you to pay attention to the nudges, the intuitions, the opportunities placed in your path, and take a leap of faith that Love is speaking to you!

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

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Join us in our beautiful, rustic worship area **SUNDAYS at 9:45 AM in the Grove.** Please note: There will be one outdoor service from now through September. Early services will resume when we move back inside on October 4.

WALK AND PRAY - LABYRINTH WALK EACH SUNDAY FROM 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM

In an increasingly complex and troubling world, many of us are wondering what to do. One simple act is to walk the Shenkel labyrinth on Sunday mornings. Labyrinth walking combines prayer and action as you journey from the outside world to the peace pole at the center. It is literally taking a step toward God and toward peace and wholeness in the world. You are invited to walk the Labyrinth 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!

PASTOR SUZANNE ON VACATION – AUGUST 22-29

Rev. Becky Hoover will be preaching on August 23. In case of emergency, please contact Rev. Jim Janotti at templeumchurch@gmail.com or (610)-326-3941.

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **AUGUST 30 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM – CORN & DOGGIE ROAST-** It's corn season and you know how we all love to eat and catch up with our Shenkel friends! Bring your hotdogs and rolls, sticks for roasting, place settings, and a side dish OR dessert to share. Corn on the cob and drinks will be provided. Hope to see you there! Note: 4:00-5:00 is set-up time. Please help if you can!
- **SEPTEMBER 6 at 10:00 AM in the Grove – COMMUNITY LABOR DAY WORSHIP SERVICE** - Join us in the Grove as we gather for worship with our friends and neighbors from Temple UMC, First Baptist in Pottstown, Open Table UCC, Cedarville UMC, and St. John's UCC.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Calling all children ages 3 through 6th grade! Beginning **SEPTEMBER 20, 11:00 AM TO NOON**, and continuing the third Sunday of each month, children will gather downstairs to learn all about our faith. Spread the word! Bring your friends!

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

None to share this month.

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 Beriker.

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 11:30-1:00, and/or go earlier 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.

• MISSION FIRST

Mission First, located on High Street in Pottstown does much more than fill holiday food boxes. They maintain a not-so-little food pantry on the street and keep it filled for those whose food budgets don't stretch far enough. They have a clothes closet, open M, T, W,

W, F mornings providing clothing and hygiene products to those who need them. On Wednesday evenings, they serve a community meal. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they provide space to Street Medicine for a health clinic. They also provide Baskets of Hope filled with linens, cleaning supplies, etc. for families moving from shelters into more stable housing. There's a lot going on! For detailed information, go to www.missionfirstpottstown.org.

How can you help this amazing outreach to neighbors who need help?

- Donate needed items. In-season clothes in good condition and hygiene products are always welcome. For items needed, check the website.

- Volunteer to help out. Needs vary from day to day, but are mostly Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Drivers to pick up donated food are always needed. For more information, contact Sue Meloy at skmeloy52@gmail.com.

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

AUGUST: instant potatoes

SEPTEMBER: salt & pepper, common spices

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.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

AUGUST PRAYER LOTTERY

August 2

Peter and Adrianne Wanner

Stacia and Joe Bradley

Louise Hine

Kelly Strunk and Steve Mest

August 9

Betty Bortz

Mark Dushanko

Ken and Betsy Bevan

David Derman

August 16

Brian and Pam McShane

Clay Zachesky

Gary McDermit

Ashlyn Augustine

August 23

Scott Kutz

Judy Gergle

James White

Jim and Clair Faust

August 30

Joyce Pashley

Barbara Brown

Andrew, Linda, Lexi, Brandon, Aaron, Michael and AJ Foss

Dan Jenkins

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mark Dushanko 9/5/26

Ronald Pearson 9/24/26

Clay Zachesky 9/5/26

Glen Bradley 9/8/26

Sherri Mocarski 9/9/26

Collin Gray 9/11/26

Connie Armbruster 9/16/26

Catherine Dyott 9/19/26

Heather Burhans Tran 9/20/26

Chris Gray 9/21/26

Tesia Craner 9/23/26

SEPTEMBER PRAYER LOTTERY

Sept 6

Linda and John Jonides

Bonnie Cox

Stacy, Bill and Aurora Keim

Jess, Adam, Lucy and Jordan Hartzell

Sept 13

Susan and Homer Royer

Cameron Dushanko

Olivia Dushanko

Bob and Sherri Mocarski

Sept 20

Mindy, Isabelle, and Sela Chidawu

Kaleena Sweinhart

Erika Burhans-Price and Kim Price

Steven and Kim Bade

Sept 27

Tootie Hine

Jennifer Braley

Ted and Chris Gray

Suzanne Spaulding

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Your Shenkel Happenings Editor,

Brenda Berriker