

The Worship Service
Sunday, August 30, 2026

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO TAKE UP MY CROSS AND FOLLOW JESUS?

Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

610-326-3535 ~ www.shenkelucc.org ~ shenkelucc@aol.com ~

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 "Softly and Tenderly" (Thompson)

Welcome

Call to Worship

P: O give thanks to the Holy One, the I Am Who I Am, who calls us together and makes their name known.

C: We glory in God's holy name! Let the hearts that seek the Holy One rejoice and testify!

P: O give thanks to the Holy One, God of our ancestors, who lives and reigns with all generations.

C: Sing praises to our God. Remember their wonderful works, saving acts, and redemptive deeds.

P: O give thanks to the Holy One, Mighty and Just God, who lends strength in the struggle and leads in righteousness.

C: Seek the presence of the Holy One. Praise God!

Opening Hymn "How Great Thou Art" (SmSgBk#85)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Redeemer and Guide, we travel with you because you never leave us. Yet, sometimes we drift from the path of life you give us. Rather than holding fast to what is good, we compromise with evil. Rather than persevering in prayer, we dwell in anger, rage, and conspiracies. Rather than sharing our blessings and pursuing hospitality, we hoard the resources you have given us to share. Help us to live in love and harmony with one another. Empower us to pursue peace for all. Let us overcome and overwhelm evil with good, compassion, and hope in your name. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

Beloved, wherever we go becomes holy ground because the Holy One goes with us. Be firm in hope that the God who met Moses through a burning bush will meet us wherever we may seek strength, encouragement, and the will to live in righteousness, justice, and peace. By the grace of the Holy One, all these things are possible in us and through us.

Special Music

~We Hear God's Word~

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26

Matthew 16:21-28

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"

(SmSgBk#38)

~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

As a spiritual discipline, generosity demonstrates our commitment to the kingdom of God in a tangible way. When we share our resources, we proclaim our trust in God's abundant provision, our concern for the condition of our neighbors, and our responsibility for the maintenance and care of our community. Let us give generously to the good work of God's church.

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries.

August's Special Offering – North Coventry Meals on Wheels

Offertory

"Prelude in Em"

(Chopin)

Offering Response

"We Plow The Fields"

(Vs 3 only) (SmSgBk#36)

**We thank Thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;
Accept the gifts we offer for all Thy love im-parts.
And that which Thou desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.**

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Holy One, we present these offerings to you in hope and love. May they be a gift in our community and the world. May they spread hope and love. And, may they witness to your abundant and generous creation. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

"Go, Make A Difference"

(SmSgBk#64)

Benediction

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

Announcements:

~Sunday, August 30, 2026~

Sun, 8/30 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove.
~ Corn & Doggie Roast from 4 – 8 pm in the Pavilion.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Mon, 8/31 ~ Prayer Group at 10:00 am in the Pavilion.
Sun, 9/6 ~ Labor Day Community Service at 10:00 am in the Grove.

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



Scripture Reading for September 6th

Carol Pearson

Micah 6:8
Luke 10:29-37

Cluster donations for August: Instant potatoes

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!

Pat Kuestner New Address: 700 Swinehart Road, Apt. A1, Boyertown, PA 19512. Home phone: 484-415-0177, cell phone: 484-948-9847.

Corn and Hot Dog Picnic: Today from 4 to 8 pm.

What to bring?: Hot dogs, place settings, sticks for roasting your dogs, and a side dish or dessert to share.

What will be provided? Corn on the cob and drinks.

Hope to see you there!!

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends: being held October 21, 2026 from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm. You can go to the store or online to shop. See Louise or Tootie to get your \$5.00 shopping pass. More information to follow.

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 September 2nd 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 on September 20th.

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. **The prayer group will meet on Monday, 8/31 at 10:00 am in the Pavilion, instead of on Monday, 9/7 due to the holiday.**

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

Joyce Pashley
Barbara Brown
Andrew, Linda, Lexi, Brandon, Aaron, Michael and AJ Foss
Dan Jenkins

Birthdays in the month of August:

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

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

- prayerfully and creatively worships God;
- unconditionally loves and accepts all;
- generously gives and serves our community and our world.