

The Worship Service

Sunday, September 7, 2025

WHAT ISSUES AND RELATIONSHIPS TRY YOUR FAITH?

Shenkel United Church of Christ

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

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

Shenkel's UCC's Covenant Statement

So reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it, now you do it!

(Romans 15:7, The Message)

We are aware of pain organized religion has inflicted on many; and we are aware many places of worship have not given the extravagant welcome God offers to us all. Therefore, Shenkel United Church of Christ covenants to extend heartfelt hospitality to ALL. Shenkel UCC affirms all persons are created in the image of God, so we offer full inclusion (communion, life, and ministries) in the faith journey of this congregation, regardless of differences: whether religious background, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, national origin, immigration and refugee status, age, ethnicity, relationship status, addiction/recovery, physical or mental ability, and political affiliation. We proclaim this statement: **no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**

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 Break thou the Bread of Life (arr. Lopez)

Welcome

Invocation

Call to Worship

L: Before beginnings and beyond never-endings, our God stretches through eternity.

C: God reaches out to embrace us every moment.

L: Both in common tasks and in unique experiences, our God is present and active.

C: God wills to be known by all members of the human family.

All: That is why we gather to worship. With the opening of worship, we open ourselves. May we see anew our eternal God, greet with grace our sisters and brothers in Christ, and receive with thanks an empowering Spirit.

Opening Hymn "Bring Many Names" (SmSngBk#89)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Let us come humbly and boldly to our corporate confession.

Prayer of Confession

God, we confess that sometimes we close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people's worries, against the winds of change. God, we confess that we often draw the curtains against people who are different, against world news or community concerns. Forgive us our insulation in our own homes, our shuttered churches, the security systems on our hearts. Open up our lives. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Forgiveness is the threshold. First we look out, then we are sent out... Thanks be to God.

Special Music

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons Brian McShane

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 1

Philemon 1:1-21

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

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Our Savior

All: 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.

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel's ongoing ministries.
September's Special Offering – Church World Service

Offertory

Grace Chose You

(Sirchio)

Offering Response

"Here Are Our Hearts"

Here Are Our Hearts

178

Handwritten musical score for the hymn "Here Are Our Hearts". The score is written on four staves of music. Above the first staff, the tempo is marked "♩=100" and the key signature is "C". The chords for each staff are: Staff 1: C, G/B, Am, Em/G, F, C/E, Dm, G. Staff 2: C, G/B, Am, Em/G, F, C/E, G, G7, C, G/B. Staff 3: Am, Em/G, F, C/E, Dm, G, C, G/B. Staff 4: Am, Em/G, F, C/E, G, G7, C. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The lyrics are: "Here are our hearts. Here are our hands. Here are our lives. Use them as You can. Show us those who hurt. Show us those in need. Show us how to serve. Teach us how to see."

Words and Music: Susan Drake and Julie Jennings, Copyright ©2007
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

L: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made know to them in the breaking of the bread.

All: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

L: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

Communion Prayer

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to God.

L: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

L: We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

L: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ's death, O God, we proclaim. Christ's resurrection we declare. Christ's coming we await. Glory be to you, O God.

L: Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

All: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

"In The Midst of New Dimensions"

(SmSngBk#84)

Benediction

Postlude

Bound for the Kingdom

(arr. Giamanco)

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, September 7, 2025

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 9/7/25 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am with communion in the Grove

Sun, 9/7/25 ~ Sunset Labyrinth Walk at 6:30 pm

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 9/14/25 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove

Tues, 9/16/25 Midday Dinner at Railroad Street Bar & Grill at 12:00 pm

Sun, 9/21/25 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove

Sun, 9/21/25 ~ Church School at 11:00 am

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



Scripture Reading for September 14th

Louise Hine

I Timothy 1:12-17

Psalm 51:1-10

Luke 15:1-10

Cluster donations for September: Canned pineapple and mango

Special Labor Day Offering for Operation 143: totaled \$800.00. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

Qigong classes at Shenkel!: Thursday mornings 11AM-noon. No experience necessary--All are welcome! Cost is \$12/class, cash or check payable to Shenkel UCC. Hope you'll join us!

Sunset Labyrinth Walk today at 6:30 pm: Join us at Shenkel UCC as we discover & explore the true meaning and experience of a labyrinth walk, often viewed as symbolic of the twists and turns of our own life journey. No experience needed and all are welcome!

Carol Lykens Giving Challenge: We're receiving gifts for our Carol Lykens Fill-The-Hat Challenge! You're encouraged to make an additional contribution to the Current Fund beyond your usual giving. Contributions can be made to Shenkel UCC with "Carol Challenge" in the memo line, or donate online through our website. Thank you!

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends on October 22nd: \$5.00 Coupon Shopping Passes. Shopping can be done in any Boscov's or this year online!! The proceeds will go to the Mission Fund.

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 October 7th 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.

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. Our next church school will be on September 21st.

Shenkel Prayer Group: Meets at 9:00 am on the first Thursday 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:

Glen Bradley
Rebecca, Joe, Grace and Cole Major
Barbara Brown
Gene and Nick Takach, Eric Croom
David Derman

Birthdays in the month of September

Mark Dushanko	9/5/25
Clay Zachesky	9/5/25
Glen Bradley	9/8/25
Sherri Mocarski	9/9/25
Collin Gray	9/11/25
Connie Armbruster	9/16/25
Catherine Dyott	9/19/25
Heather Burhans Tran	9/20/25
Chris Gray	9/21/25
Tesia Craner	9/23/25
Ronald Pearson	9/24/25

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST****Communitas**

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464

484-949-8774

September 7, 2025

300th Anniversary Celebrations of the First Communion in the German Reformed Church in America

Our celebrations of the 300th Anniversary of the first Communion in the German Reformed Church in the United States continue.

Two online presentations of German Reformed History remain and are listed below.



September 25: *United and Uniting: How the UCC Makes Room for German Reformed and Armenian Evangelical Christians*
(Rev. Dr. Heather Ohaneson)

October 28: *A Lasting Legacy: Gifts of the Reformed Tradition to the emerging church* (Dr. Randall Zachman)

In addition we will hold two worship services in October to lift up the actual communion anniversary.

Oct. 12th—1:30 reception/3:00 service at Falkner Swamp UCC
-in person and online—reservations REQUIRED

A state-wide celebration on Sunday afternoon. The communion bread from this service will be shared out to all four conferences.

Oct. 15th—6:30 pm at Wentz's UCC—in person and online
A PSEC only celebration on the actual anniversary date.

For free registrations and information on all these events, visit the **300th Anniversary Celebrations** page of our website for more information. Do this by going to psec.org and clicking on the 300th Anniversary Celebrations slider at the top of the home page.

Falkner Swamp UCC
Offering 300 Year Historic Tours on Sept. 20th

Celebrate 300 Years of Communion at Falkner Swamp UCC!
Join us on **Saturday, September 20, 2025**, as we honor the **300th Anniversary of the First Communion of the German Reformed Church in the United States**, held right here at Falkner Swamp.

Come walk through history with a tour of our historic cemetery and building, stories of past pastors, unique artifacts, and a special presentation on Rev. John Philip Boehm, a founding leader of the Pennsylvania German Reformed Church. And yes—there will be an ice cream sundae bar!

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025

1:00–4:00 p.m.

Falkner Swamp UCC, 2077 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville

All are welcome to this once-in-a generation celebration!
For more information please contact Rev. Frances Chester,
pastorfalknerswamp@comcast.net



Lay Leadership Support Group—Sept. 27th

A Lay Leadership Support Group exists that is ***OPEN***
to ALL Lay Leaders!
The group gathers the fourth Saturday of the month
via Zoom from 10:00 – 11:00 am!



They have found it to be a great place to form new friendships, to gain support, and to be educated on a variety of topics concerning our churches. The discussions are centered around sharing valuable information about what our churches are doing or maybe could be doing. This meeting will be online to make ease of attendance for all!

For more information go to psec.org, click on the Events & News tab and click the date on the calendar.