

**The Worship Service**  
**Sunday, September 21, 2025**

**“PRAISE, O SERVANTS OF THE  
LORD; PRAISE THE NAME OF THE  
LORD.”**

**PSALM 113:1**

---

**Shenkel United Church of Christ**

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

610-326-3535 ~ [www.shenkelucc.org](http://www.shenkelucc.org) ~ [shenkelucc@aol.com](mailto: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                      When I Can Read My Title Clear                      (American Melody)

Welcome

Invocation

Call to Worship

L: We have been sculpted into being by a divine hand. That is why we gather as the people of God.

**C: We come with open and outstretched hands that reach in peaceful welcome to a world of neighbors known and unknown.**

L: We come with clasped hands that hold before God in prayer those things we release to Christ's care and entrust to the Spirit's power.

**C: We come to lend our hands as apprentices in the holy vocations of creation and renewal.**

**All: May we worship God with gladness and serve God hand-in-hand.**

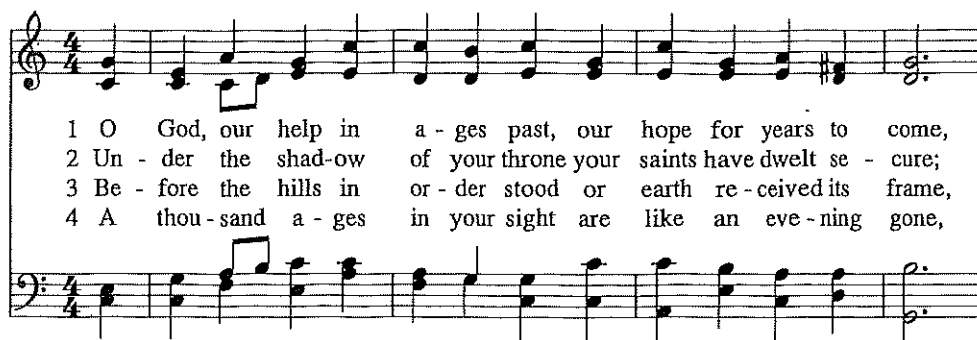
Opening Hymn                      "O God, Our Help In Ages Past"

## O God, Our Help in Ages Past

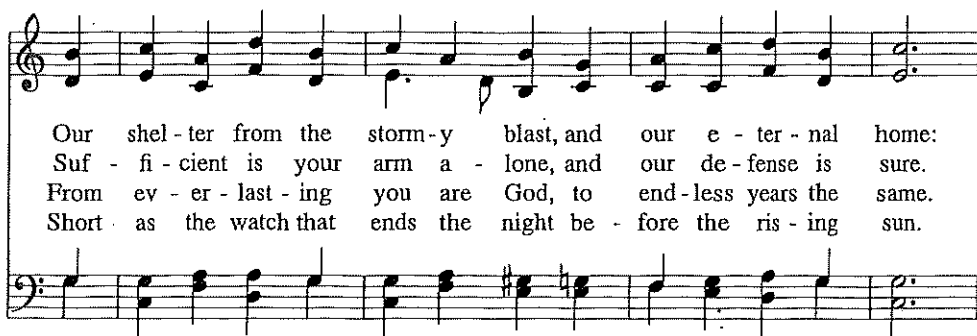
25

*Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.*

*Ps. 90:1-2, 4-5*



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,  
soon bears us all away;  
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream  
fades at the o-pen-ing day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Still be our God while trou-bles last,  
and our e-ter-nal home!

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Let us come humbly and boldly to our corporate confession.

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, we gather as people who long to be faithful, and we confess that our longing comes more easily than our faithfulness. Although we sense your presence within us and among us, we often acknowledge your grace grudgingly or receive it clumsily.**

**We ask that you enable us to become an ever more grace-full people. Help us to bear witness to your grace through the acceptance and compassion we show toward one another. Encourage us to rely upon your grace as the basis for envisioning a world at peace.**

**Forgive us, we pray, when the faith we practice places primary trust in human inventions, powers, and systems. Strengthen us to live a bold faith that instead places ultimate trust in your potent love and amazing grace. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Though we answer God's calls with hesitant commitments and erratic responsiveness, God builds our faith by extending a decisive and steadfast love. The love of God is infinitely considerate, patient, and kind.

Special Music

On Eagle's Wings, Lori Scharneck, Soloist

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Tootie Hine

Amos 8:4-7

Psalms 113

Luke 16:1-13

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Take My Life And Let It Be"

(SmSngBk#37)

~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                                      Flight of the Seagull                                      (Gratz)

Offering Response                                      “Here Are Our Hearts”

**178**

**Here Are Our Hearts**

The musical score is written on four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a common time signature (C), and a tempo marking of quarter note = 100. The melody is written on a single line. Below the staff, the lyrics are: "Here are our hearts. Here are our hands." The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "Here are our lives. Use them as You can. Show us those who hurt." The third staff continues with lyrics: "Show us those in need. Show us how to serve." The fourth staff concludes the piece with lyrics: "Teach us how to see." Chord symbols are written above the staff: C, G/B, Am, Em/G, F, C/E, Dm, G, C, G/B, Am, Em/G, F, C/E, G, G7, C, G/B, Am, Em/G, F, C/E, G, G7, C.

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

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn                                      “O For A World”                                      (SmSngBk#16)

Benediction

Postlude                                      How Can I Keep from Singing                                      (Tomlin)

---

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding	Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth
Email: <a href="mailto:shenkelpastor@gmail.com">shenkelpastor@gmail.com</a>	Organist: Susan Royer
Sexton: Stacy Keim	Secretary: Danielle Petersen
Ministers: All Members of the Church	

Special Music: (Michael Joncas) © 1979, 1991 New Dawn Music [one license #80468]

**Announcements:**  
**Sunday, September 21, 2025**

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 9/21/25 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove  
Sun, 9/21/25 ~ Church School at 11:00 am

**~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~**

Sun, 9/28/25 Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Grove with the Blessing of the Animals followed by refreshments.

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



**Scripture Reading for September 28th**

**Sandy Rowe**

I Timothy 6:6-19

Psalms 146

Luke 16:19-31

**Cluster donations for September:** Canned pineapple and mango

**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!

**Andrew Foss Family:** Gift cards for the Foss family can be placed in the envelope near the bulletins. Door Dash, Redner's, Weiss and Aldi's are all helpful gift cards.

**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!

**Bosco's Friends Helping Friends on October 22nd:** \$5.00 Coupon Shopping Passes. Shopping can be done in any Bosco'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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 is today.

**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:

Marie Bade

Christian, Mari and Connor O'Drain

Dan and Rose Wolgemuth

Forrest Kreiger

Faye Pedrick

**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 21, 2025



**GPC**

Gestalt Pastoral Care

## *Opening to Grace Retreat Day*

Take Care of Yourself by Exploring the *Unique* Way God  
is Working in You

Saturday, October 25, 2025

9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Reformed Church of the Ascension UCC

1700 W. Main St. Norristown, PA 19403-3202

**This retreat will give you an opportunity to:**

Experience a model of healing ministry that integrates Gestalt growth work with spiritual companioning and healing prayer. Gestalt Pastoral Care trusts that God desires to heal holistically--- body, mind, spirit, emotions, and social context---in a way that is unique to each person.



Facilitator:  
Darlene Meyers  
Gestalt Pastoral  
Care  
Minister/Trainer

**Fee: \$40.00 for Full Participant (Limit of 4)**

Includes the opportunity for personal healing work

**\$25.00 for Observer Intercessor (Limit of 4)**

Fully present to the healing work as witness

and prayer, without time for personal healing work

**Meals:** Drinks, snacks and lunch provided as part of fee

For more info, contact [darlene.Meyers@gestaltpastoralcare.org](mailto:darlene.Meyers@gestaltpastoralcare.org).

**Register at:**

<http://gestaltpastoralcare.org> or by  
scanning the QR Code



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

Our next online presentation of German Reformed History will take place this Thursday:

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

To register go to [psec.org](https://psec.org), click on the 300th Anniversary slider and scroll down to online presentations.



### **Remaining Opportunities to Review the 2026 Keystone Budget**

On November 22nd, the churches of the future Keystone Conference will have a zoom meeting to approve the Keystone 2026 budget. In order to familiarize yourself with that budget you may access it by going to [psec.org](https://psec.org), and clicking on the slider at the top of the page "Keystone Conference", and scrolling down to "Keystone Budget".

There are two remaining zoom opportunities to meet with members of the Keystone Budget & Finance team to ask questions on the budget.

Sept. 22 – Monday 6:30 -7:30 pm

Registration: <https://2026budget0922.eventbrite.com>

Oct. 14 – Tuesday 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Registration: <https://2026budget1014.eventbrite.com>



### **From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: Calendars**

The Addiction and Recovery Task Force will be collecting calendars again for the prisons this year. They are greatly appreciated. Please gather them in your congregations and bring them to the fall conference meeting. Thank you.