

SHENKEL HAPPENINGS – AUGUST, 2024

Greetings, Shenkel Friends and Family!

I can't believe it's August! Kids will back to school in a couple of weeks, and the heat waves of the summer will soon be a distant memory. I think we can all thank God for that! For families, vacation opportunities are winding down, while the retirees may be hitting the road when the crowds have thinned and cool breezes return. While our lives aren't perfect, we sure have a lot to be grateful for! That includes Shenkel Church and the people we have come to know and love who make it all work. Let me catch you up on what is happening at your church!

OUTDOOR SERVICES

Many people love the sights and sounds of our beautiful grove. Join us for our **TRADITIONAL-ISH SERVICE AT 9:45 AM IN THE GROVE**. Bring your lawn chair or blanket or make use of our rustic benches in the Grove, and feel God's presence as you soak in all that God's creation has to offer. Can't wait to see you!

FAMOUS SHENKEL CORN & PIG & DOGGIE ROAST

It's almost here! Don't forget to mark your calendars for this Shenkel favorite! On **AUGUST 25 at 5:00 PM**, the Bevan/Gray/Wanner clan is pulling out all the stops for fun and fellowship. Corn, beverages, and the pig will be provided. Just bring your family, friends, place settings for your crew, hot dogs and rolls for yourself if a roasted pig isn't your jam, side dish, and dessert to share. Even if you haven't been a regular attendee at services, we would love to see all of our Shenkel friends and family! You do not want to miss this ever-popular Shenkel event!

LABOR DAY GATHERING OF FAITH COMMUNITIES IN OUR GROVE

For many years, we have invited area churches to worship with us in our beautiful grove. I have often run into people from other churches who I haven't seen in years and enjoyed catching up. Plan to join us **SEPTEMBER 1 AT 10:00 AM IN THE GROVE** for this special, wider community service. Other churches participating are Temple United Methodist, Cedarville UMC, First Baptist, Open Table UCC, and St. John's UCC. Hope you can make it!

CHURCH SCHOOL

The Board of Christian ED is gearing up for the new Church School year and welcomes Jessica Hartzell as its newest member!

Attention all children ages 3 through 6th grade! Church School is beginning **SEPTEMBER 15 FROM 11:00 AM TO NOON** and will be held the **THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**. The focus is on God's love in us and through us and showing compassion for others, as well as Bible stories. In this stressful world we live in, what a relief it is to know that our children can rely on this powerful message assuring them of God's love!

CHURCH PICNIC/BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SEPTEMBER 29 marks the end of our outdoor services. What better time to have our church picnic? In addition, we will have a time for Blessing of the Animals. So, plan to bring your favorite pooch, kitty, bunny, or whatever nonhuman creature (no giraffes, please) is special to you. More details to come.

AUGUST CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Please consider representing Shenkel on **NOVEMBER 9 at GOOD SHEPHERD UCC in TUCKERTON.** We need to send 2 individuals to participate in the Keystone Project process and vote on the Keystone Conference Resolution For more information about the Keystone Project, please visit <https://psec.org/keystone/>.
- After a successful Pottstown Area Pride Festival and concert in the grove with Bobby Jo Valentine, we took some time to debrief the overall experience, considering important take-aways and sharing feedback from the community. The planning committee, comprised of volunteers, hosts, and sponsors from the greater Pottstown community, including several Shenkel members, will debrief in greater depth and share back to help inform future planning opportunities for connections in the community.

CLUSTER DONATIONS FOR AUGUST –

PLEASE MAKE THIS A PRIORITY! The start of school is quickly approaching, and many Pottstown area children will be unprepared due to the cost of school supplies that parents need to provide. Here's where you can help! This month's needs are some of the things that children need to succeed in school: **Pens, pencils, crayons, erasers, and notebooks.** Please bring your donations to worship or drop them off at the office **TUESDAY TO THURSDAY BETWEEN 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM.**

CAROL LYKENS GIVING CHALLENGE

What can I say about Carol? She lit up the room with her big, loving, personality—and who can forget her laugh? She cared deeply for her Shenkel family and was always interested in our lives. Not only was Carol generous with her love, but she left our congregation a bequest that is enabling us to do some much-needed property repairs and contribute to our Current Fund.

We are all aware that our Current Fund needs help. Consistory approved in October 2023 a way for Carol's bequest to encourage our congregation to go the extra mile for Shenkel's ministries. So, starting September 2024, \$5,000 from the bequest will be used as an extra mile Current Fund donation.

Here is your challenge: Starting **September 8 through December 31, 2024**, we encourage you, our members and friends, to make an additional Carol Challenge donation to the Current Fund beyond your usual giving. Our goal is to match Carol's bequest of \$5,000. This will help to meet our budget at the end of the year, which is currently underfunded. Please give what you can and generously if you are able! Mark your checks "Carol Challenge", and if you are making an online donation, a donation button will be included on our website specifically for this challenge. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

THANK YOUs!

Have you been able to take a peek at Fellowship Hall? The refresh was a huge success! Many thanks to **LORI BREWER** for giving us guidance in choosing colors and taking care of the cost of the new cove molding. Her help really made a difference!

You may miss it if you don't look for it, so check out the new gutters and leaf guards on our pavilion. They were in much need of replacement, and **KIM YOCOM** very kindly took care of it! Thank you, Kim, for your generous donation and for all you are doing for our church!!

OUTDOOR CONCERT WITH BOBBY JO VALENTINE/PRIDEFEST

A shout-out to all who helped to make the festival and concert a success! The weather cooperated with a gorgeous, sunshiny day after the monsoon rains the day before. Several hundred people attended the festival, and 60 were present for the concert. Bobby Jo proved to be a talented musician who sang and played beautifully and shared personal stories that touched us all. The day was a lot of fun, and judging from the turnout, was much needed and wanted in our area. Thank you, Shenkelites, for opening our beautiful property to share love and light with a large crowd of diverse and caring people!

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY

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. At that time, Pastor Suzanne delivers 40 rolls of paper towels we have agreed to provide each month during the year for their "Essentials Pantry." She also 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.

FACILITIES USAGE

A local home school group, Wayfinders, is happily renting our space. They're kicking off the school year on September 10 from 9:00 to 12:00, and are planning to meet Tuesdays through the end of May. The 10 families (that's 23 children from 1 to 7 years old) are thrilled to have such a beautiful, functional space for learning. So, if you happen to be at church on Tuesday mornings, you may find our newest little friends utilizing our space. Be sure to give them a big Shenkel welcome!

SAVE THE DATE – BOSCOV'S FUNDRAISER

Yes, this popular Friends Helping Friends fundraiser is back. Just buy a coupon for \$5 from Tootie or Louise Hine and enjoy discounts on Boscov's merchandise purchased only on **OCTOBER 22** either in stores or online. They will be at Boscov's on **SEPTEMBER 21 and OCTOBER 12 from 12:00 to 3:00** selling coupons. It's an easy way to raise money for our church, so please support this project.

SAVE THE DATE – REV. BILL WORLEY, CONFERENCE MINISTER – SPEAKER SERIES

Have you ever met Bill Worley, our Conference Minister? He's an upbeat, intelligent, interesting guy (and a fantastic speaker!) with a gift for engaging his audience and helping people to learn and grow. We have the very good fortune of having him kick off our Speaker series **on OCTOBER 26 from 1-3 PM**. With the upcoming election, people have seen relationships crumble due to the inability to understand and communicate with people whose thoughts and beliefs may be different from their own. Bill's focus will be on maintaining love and respect for one another in divided times. You don't want to miss this incredible opportunity!

SAVE THE DATE – THANKSGIVING SOUP SUPPER

Mark your calendars for **NOVEMBER 24**. Look for details in future Shenkel Happenings.

SAVE THE DATE – ADVENT WORKSHOP

It's hard to think of Christmas when we're all still running around in shorts and T-shirts. But it'll be here before we know it! Join us **NOVEMBER 30** to help decorate the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Details to follow.

SAVE THE DATE – ADVENT SOCIAL GATHERING

Join your Shenkel church friends for coffee, tea, and your favorite Christmas cookies, **December 8**. Look for more details in upcoming Shenkel Happenings.

HAVE A FUNDRAISING IDEA?

Share it with the Stewardship Committee, and be prepared to help make it happen. Members are Chris Gray, Julie Zachesky, Kim Yocom, Dan Jenkins, and Brenda Berriker.

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 Sandy Rowe, Brenda Berriker, and Dan Jenkins. Please feel free to discuss any joys or concerns you have with any member of this committee.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Steven Bade	8/3/2024
Ted Gray	8/4/2024
Dan Wolgemuth	8/6/2024
MaryIn Rohrbach	8/8/2024
Jim Bevan	8/10/2024
Barbara Sweinhart	8/10/2024
Elaine Bevan	8/12/2024
Grace Major	8/12/2024
Morgan Scharneck	8/16/2024
Jennifer Dyott	8/17/2024
Carol Pearson	8/18/2024
Ashlyn Augustine	8/21/2024
Kaya Skulski	8/27/2024
Jeffrey Dyott	8/28/2024
Lori Scharneck	8/28/2024
Joyce Pashley	8/29/2024
Noah Bradley	8/30/2024
Christian Golden	8/31/2024
Wayne Klein	8/31/2024

AUGUST PRAYER LOTTERY

8/4/2024

Alex MocarSKI
Julianne Wanner
Noah Bradley
Cara Bevan
Sue and Gary Stultz

8/11/2024

Jeff luckenbach
Susan and Barry Miller
Betsy and Ken Bevan
Richard Golden
Brooke Miller

8/18/2024

Judy Gergle
Anthony Gulotta
Gary McDermit
Gloria Mest
Erika Price

8/25/2024

Lori Scharneck

David Klein

Gene and Nick Takach and Eric Croom

Mari, Christian and Connor O'Drain

Rosemary and Dan Wolgemuth

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mark Dushanko	9/5/2024
Clay Zachesky	9/5/2024
Glen Bradley	9/8/2024
Sherri Mocarski	9/9/2024
Collin Gray	9/11/2024
Jaden Viti	9/12/2024
Connie Armbruster	9/16/2024
Catherine Dyott	9/19/2024
Heather Burhans Tran	9/20/2024
Chris Gray	9/21/2024
Tesia Craner	9/23/2024
Ronald Pearson	9/24/2024

SEPTEMBER PRAYER LOTTERY

9/1/2024

Joe and Joan Palubinsky

Jim and Clair Faust

Stephanie Viti

Henry and Carole Bailey

Doug and Margie Allen

9/8/2024

Jennifer, Jeffrey, Hannah, Catherine and Audrey Dyott

Judy Gergle

Mark Dushanko

Randy and Brenda Berrick

Rebecca, Joe, Grace and Cole Major

9/15/2024

Dawn Yocom

Sharon and John Sabo

Bob and Sherri Mocarski

Richard Golden

Bonnie Cox

9/22/2024

Andrew, Linda, Brandon, Aaron, Michael and AJ Foss, Lexi and Christina Hauze
Kim Yocom and Barry Peterman
Ken and Betsy Bevan
Stacia and Joseph Bradley
Lucas Gray

9/29/2024

Jennifer Braley
Ben Mocarski
Sarah Neff Glatfelter, Emmit, Shane and Iris Glatfelter
Laura Golden
Lori Scharneck

That's all for now! Hope to see you soon!

Your Shenkel Happenings Editor,

Brenda Berriker