

The Worship Service

Sunday, January 4, 2026



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 "Farandole" (13th Century French Carol)

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Although the beckoning star heeded by wise travelers long ago no longer leads the way,

C: The manger-born Christ is still to be found and followed.

L: We are not brought to our knees in surprise as were those journeyers of old,

C: Yet our desire to worship can be as deep as theirs.

L: And though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh,

C: We offer ourselves and what we have.

L: The story continues. The good news abounds. There is a living Christ to discover and worship and serve.

C: Let us rejoice and be glad!

Opening Hymn "Brightest and Best" (NHC#157)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

With humble and open hearts let us come to our confession.

Prayer of Confession

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace.

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, arise and shine, for your light has come! May the glory of the Lord shine on you and around you, for God is with us, renewing and redeeming us day by day.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

L: As God has shared God's peace with us in Jesus Christ, we are invited to share that peace with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you!

C: And also with you!

Special Music

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Lori Scharneck

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection:

“O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word”

(NCH#168)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

Our Mother/Father, who are in heaven, hallowed by the 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.

January's Special Offering – Bethany Children's Home

Offertory

“Der Morgenstern”

(The Morningstar) (Reger)

Offering Response

“Doxology Old Hundredth”

To God, all glorious heav'nly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night.
to God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise.
(Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.)

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, God of majesty and splendor. By your power you created all that is, making a universe out of chaos, and ruling over all things in love.

Throughout the ages you called your people to love and serve you, and to be your light among the nations. When we failed you, you did not fail us and sent prophets to call us back to your ways. We praise you that in the fullness of time, you revealed your love by sending your Son Jesus to be the Light of the world. He came to heal our brokenness and to set before us the ways of justice and peace. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. He was born to dwell among us, full of grace and truth; in him we have seen your glory. Baptized by John in the Jordan, he lived for you, spoke the truth, showed your love, and gave himself for others. In his death on the cross, he overcame death. Rising from the tomb, he raised us to eternal life, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: this cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Amen.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn "Jesus, the Light of the World" (NCH#160)

Benediction

Postlude "Let It Shine" (Hamm)

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, January 4, 2026

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 1/4/26 ~ Reflective Worship service with Communion at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship service with Communion at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sat, 1/10/26 ~ New Year Reboot from 10:00 – 12:00 pm in the Social Hall.
Sun, 1/11/26 ~ Reflective Worship service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

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



Scripture Reading for January 11th

Dan Wolgemuth

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 29
Matthew 3:13-17

Cluster donations for January: Canned oranges and canned pineapple

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!

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!

PSEC - Today: Rev. Bill Worley and Rev. Cean James will take their vows of release along with the rest of the staff at Reformed Church of the Ascension, Norristown at 2:00 pm. The staff have worked with faithfulness, skill, and grace through a demanding and transformative time. We hope you will find ways to express your gratitude by attending this service, as they have been the hands and heart of this ministry in countless ways seen and unseen.

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 December 3rd 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 on January 18th.

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:

Lynne and Cody Moyer
Joel Sweinhart
Mark Dushanko
Mindy Chidawu

Birthdays in the month of January:

Kimberly Yocom	1/4/26
Susan Miller	1/5/26
Barry Peterman	1/5/26
Olivia Dushanko	1/9/26
James Heath	1/10/26
Brandon Foss	1/13/26
Delia Sanseverino	1/18/26
Mike Martin	1/21/26
Aurora Keim	1/22/26
David Braley	1/24/26
David Klein	1/24/26
Eric Klein	1/27/26
Joseph Bradley	1/29/26
Suzanne Spaulding	1/30/26

