

The Worship Service

Sunday, October 26, 2025



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

Prelude in C

(J.S. Bach)

Welcome

Invocation

Call to Worship

L: How good to gather for worship on an autumn morning. Praise be to God!

C: God has given us this season of cider and sweaters, brown gardens and bright leaves, bold breezes and smoky smells.

L: God has given us this season when both apples and moonlit nights are crisp.

C: God has given us this season of squirrels scampering in the leaves and geese veering southward in the sky.

All: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Let us worship our Creator on this good autumn day.

Opening Hymn

"For The Beauty Of The Earth"

(NCH#28)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Let us come humbly with faithful boldness to our time of confession.

Prayer of Confession

O God, there are times we don't know what to say to ourselves, or to you. What is the truth of our lives we are too scared to see; too proud to share? Prod us gently, yet insistently, to look at ourselves with honesty. We are complex creatures; our lives confused and overrun; our spirits crippled; our responses to larger issues lame. Help us to clear the garbage away, to see clearly and hear plainly. Loosen the particular bond which fetters each of us, that we may straighten up – unwind - find movement possible once again toward you, toward ourselves, toward others. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

The good news in Christ is that God offers us life at every moment, forgiving us and inviting us to the freshness of new beginnings!

Special Music

Just as I am

~We Hear God's Word~

Joel 2:23-32

Psalm 65

Luke 18:9-14

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

Sermon

Mr. Randy Berriker

Hymn for Reflection: "Spirit Of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

(NCH#290)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Our Savior

All: 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.

October's Special Offering – Neighbors in Need

Offertory

Partita on Lobe Den Herren

(arr. Freudenburg)

Offering Response

"I Will Choose Christ" (Sing! Prayer And Praise #148, First complete Phrase)

I WILL CHOOSE CHRIST

Tom Booth

I will choose Christ, I will choose love,
I choose to serve, I give my heart,
I give my life, I give my all to you.
to you, I give my all.

© 1991 Tom Booth [CCLI #7253883]

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

(NCH#439)

Benediction

Postlude

Ein Feste Burg

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, October 26, 2025

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 10/26/25 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Community Labyrinth Walk at 11:00 am.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 11/2/25 ~ Reflective Worship Service with communion at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service with communion at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

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



Scripture Reading for November 2nd

Dan Wolgemuth

Ephesians 1:11-23
Psalm 149
Luke 6:20-31

Cluster donations for October: Instant potatoes

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!

Community Labyrinth Walk: Come experience the calming, centering possibilities of walking the labyrinth in community. The last Sunday of the month (10/26 & 11/30) join us for a labyrinth walk. Will start around 11:00 am following the 9:45 am service.

Operation 143 Fall Fundraiser Bingo Saturday, November 8 at 5:00 pm:

Stewardship will be organizing a prize basket on behalf of Shenkel. You can support this event by contributing towards the cost of the prize basket (money can be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office, marked as Operation 143 Bingo) and/or purchase a ticket and attend the event (tickets at operation143.org). A fun event for a very worthwhile cause!

Thanksgiving Meal Kits: Shenkel is contributing boxes of instant potatoes to the Cluster's Meal Kits. We are hoping to donate at least 300 boxes. We will collect them until November 16th and display them on the altar rail at the front of the sanctuary.

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 November 5th 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 November 16th.

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:

Elizabeth, James, Zoey, Henry and Molly Carr
TJ Augustine
Tootie Hine
Erika, Kyle, Giovanni and Christopher Manetti
Dawn Yocom

Birthdays in the month of October

Glen Hoff	10/2/25
Joe Granger	10/5/25
Forrest Kreiger	10/5/25
Sharon Snyder	10/6/25
Adrienne Wanner	10/7/25
David Phillips	10/8/25
William Zachesky	10/10/25
Susan Stultz	10/12/25
Stacia Bradley	10/13/25
Aaron Foss	10/14/25
Danielle Petersen	10/17/25
Roberta Peterman	10/20/25
Cameron Dushanko	10/23/25
Betsy Bevan	10/28/25
Jacoby Mest	10/29/25
Aaron Gray	10/31/25