

The Worship Service

Sunday, October 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 "Kum Ba Yah" (African-American/Gullah)

Welcome

Choral introit "Golden Breaks the Dawn" Chinese Folk Tune
Chancel Choir

Call to Worship

One: Praise God, the Alpha and the Omega, the creator of the world;

All: We praise the God of all creation.

One: Peace, salaam, shalom;

All: We come, praying for peace for all the nations.

One: We come with sumud— steadfastness - in solidarity with our global siblings;

All: We worship God, we follow Christ's call, and we follow the guidance of the Spirit.

One: Let us worship the one God, source of all life, ground of all being;

All: Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn "De Colores" (NCH#402)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: Spirit of nourishment, we so often create pockets of scarcity. We have this innate tendency to disregard the opportunities around us to give away, when we hoard.

Many: Loving God, remind us of the radical compassion that's ours to share.

One: God who is love, we apologize for our hard hearts. So quickly we turn away from the plight, the terror, of those surviving warfare and atrocity in Palestine. We lose ourselves, and the cause of Christ in the privilege and comfort of American exceptionalism.

Many: Loving God, remind us of the radical compassion that's ours to share.

One: With sober hearts and ever-deepening breath, we know there's a way for us to hold fast to the shared humanity that crosses time and space. May this conviction in our bellies teach us new ways to pray without ceasing, de-escalate our rage, and turn our hearts towards occupied Gaza yet again.

Many: Loving God, remind us of the radical compassion that's ours to share.

One: May each loaf -- each waterdrop of manna -- turn into something tangible for Palestinian children: the hopeful, the suffering, the resilient. May we in Christian tradition continue to humbly learn with open, ready hearts. May we serve beyond ourselves, as people of faith always will.

Many: Loving God, remind us of the radical compassion that's ours to share. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

Because of God's compassion and steadfast love we are assured of forgiveness and the life transforming work of God's Spirit within us. Rejoice in the new life we are offered.

Praise Response	“Amen, We Praise Your Name”	South African Folk Tune
	Chancel Choir	

Passing the Peace of Christ

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Joan Palubinsky

Psalm 19
Matthew 21:33-46

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

Sermon Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation” (NCH#400)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Generosity

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel’s ongoing ministries.
October’s Special Offering – Neighbors in Need

Offertory “Cristo Vive!” (Christ is Living) (Argentinian hymn)

Offering Response	“Doxology”
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Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us open our hearts.

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right and good to give our thanks and praise. Alleluia, Alhamdullilah!

God of peace and justice, after 40 days and nights on the ark, Noah and his family knew it was safe to come back to the land after a dove brought back an olive branch. Since then, the olive branch has been a symbol of peace and stability in your Holy Land and beyond.

Yet we mourn that at this time in your Holy Land, O God, there is no peace, no stability, no justice. We mourn that this week will mark three years since the devastating events of October 7, a day of terrible violence. We mourn that this will also mark over 1000 days of relentless death and destruction in Gaza, with over 75,000 of our Palestinian siblings killed, nearly a third of them children. We mourn the destruction of olive trees in the West Bank— one of the most important sources of livelihood for Palestinian farmers— bulldozed by the Israeli military, and set fire to and uprooted by illegal settlers, and we mourn the continued ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their homes and villages throughout the land.

We confess that we have grown weary of hearing about war. We confess our own nation's complicity through the supply of bombs, artillery shells, and other weapons. We confess our sense of powerlessness and hopelessness.

And yet, O God, you remain faithful. You have not given up on your people in the Holy Land, just as you do not give up on any of your children. You were faithful 2000 years ago when you sent us your son Jesus. Born under Roman occupation, in Bethlehem, and then a refugee in Egypt. Raised in Nazareth, baptized in the Jordan. He called his disciples while in the Galilee and journeyed through the Golan and along the Mediterranean coast, through Samaria and then back to Palestine, to Jerusalem. He rejoiced with all who rejoiced and wept with all who wept. He restored the alienated and made whole the broken. He listened with understanding and spoke your word of hope. He worked wonders to reveal your glory, and offered your peace to all.

We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halleluja, hallelujah.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus remained faithful to his friends, gathering them for a meal. During the meal he took the bread, broke it, and said to his disciples, "this is the bread of life, broken for all for the restoration and reconciliation of all creation. Each time you eat this bread, do so in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and share it with his disciples, saying, "this is the cup of God's renewed covenant with humanity, poured out for the sake of peace, love, and justice in the world. Each time you drink from this cup, do so in remembrance of me."

Let us pray... Holy God, pour out your Spirit upon this bread and this cup, and upon all of your children gathered, wherever they may be. May your spirit of peace be embraced throughout the earth on this

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 10/11 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.

~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.

~ Choir Rehearsal after Worship at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary, all are welcome.

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



Scripture Reading for October 11th

Maddie Mest

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Matthew 22:1-14

Cluster donations for October: razor blades and shaving cream

Speaker Series – Scam Alert: Join us from 10:00 – 12:00 in the Social Hall about knowing the signs and stopping the scams! All are welcome, bring a friend or neighbor and help us spread the word!

Tuesday Mornings: In October at 11:00 am Pastor Suzanne is offering a class from Dr. Jemar Tisby “How to Resist White Christian Nationalism”. For people who already know what white christian nationalism is and still don’t know what to do about it. Come learn and grow together!

Walk and Pray: In an increasingly complex and troubling world, many of us are wondering what to do. One simple act is to walk and pray for peace and wholeness in our world. You are invited to walk the Labyrinth here at Shenkel from 9 - 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Come as you are able, leave when you are ready. There's power in walking and praying together!

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: being held October 21, 2026 from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm. You can go to the store or online to shop. See Louise or Tootie to get your \$5.00 shopping pass. More information to follow.

Qigong classes at Shenkel!: Classes are on Thursday mornings from 11AM-noon. Suggested cost is \$12/class or come and pay what you’re able. Cash or check payable to Shenkel UCC. Hope you'll join us! No experience necessary--All are welcome! **Qigong classes will now be held upstairs in the Sanctuary. Qigong classes will resume on 10/8.**

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, Tom & Mo Gallant.

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 10/18.

Shenkel Prayer Group: Meets at 10:00 am on the first Monday 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:

Barbara Sweinhart
Christian, Mari and Connor O'Drain
Eric Klein
Kathy Murphy

Birthdays in the month of October:

Glen Hoff	10/2/26
Joe Granger	10/5/26
Forrest Kreiger	10/5/26
Sharon Snyder	10/6/26
Adrianne Wanner	10/7/26
David Phillips	10/8/26
William Zachesky	10/10/26
Susan Stulz	10/12/26
Stacia Bradley	10/13/26
Aaron Foss	10/14/26
Danielle Petersen	10/17/26
Maureen Gallant	10/19/26
Cameron Dushanko	10/23/26
Betsy Bevan	10/28/26
Jacoby Mest	10/29/26
Aaron Gray	10/31/26

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

- prayerfully and creatively worships God;
- unconditionally loves and accepts all;
- generously gives and serves our community and our world.