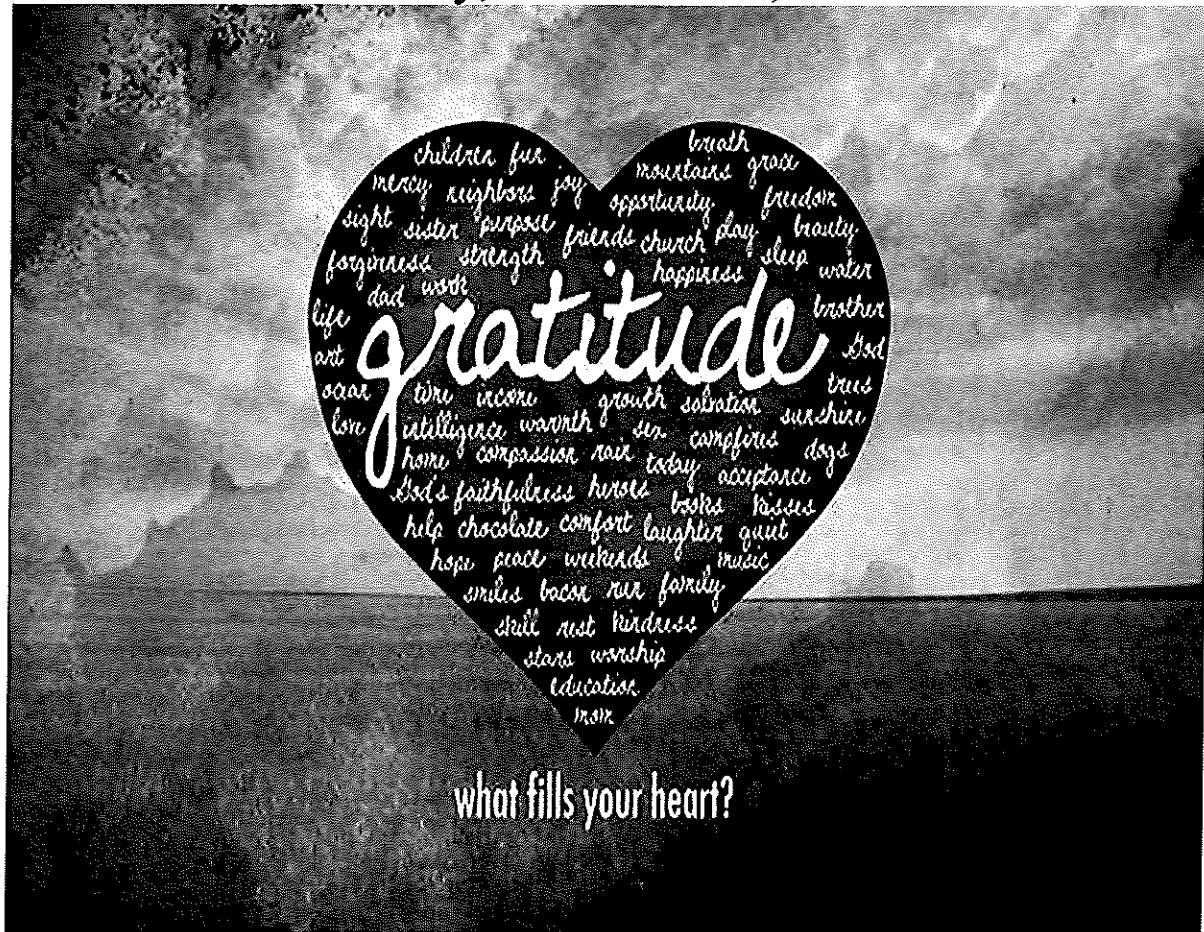


The Worship Service

Sunday, October 12, 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 on 'Shout On' (Rathbun)

Welcome

Invocation

Call to Worship

L: In caring and compassion, God's arms hold us when we are weak

C: With ideas and inspiration, God pushes us to grow and thrive.

L: With divine generosity, God shares all creation with us.

C: God calls us as partners to build a world of joy and hope.

L: Let us join our hearts, hands, and voices with people the world over in praise, thanksgiving, and commitment to our one, our wondrous God.

Opening Hymn "Come, God, Creator, Be Our Shield" (NCH#69)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

Let us join together in our corporate confession, trusting in God's grace.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you have called us to live in faith and freedom, but we live with tightness in our chest. You have called us to move in a new direction, but we cling to the path we know. You have called us to reach outward in love, but we draw inward for protection. You have called us to live with abandon, in trust, but we live carefully, in fear. God forgive us. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

God sent Jesus not to judge us, but to save us. God accepts both our courage and our fears. In the name of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Dare to accept the gift of a new beginning.

Special Music

Give Thanks, Congregation w/Chimes

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Psalms 66:1-12

Luke 17:11-19

Susan Royer

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection:

“How Can I Say Thanks”

(NCH#14)

~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

Offertory

(Andre)

Offering Response

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

I WILL CHOOSE CHRIST

Tom Booth



© 1991 Tom Booth [CCLI #7253883]

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

“Eternal Christ Who Kneeling”

(NCH#390)

Benediction

Postlude

Recessional

(Young)

Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth

Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com

Organist: Susan Royer

Sexton: Stacy Keim

Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Special Music: (Henry Smith) © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music [CCLI #20285]

Announcements:
Sunday, October 12, 2025

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 10/12/25 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.

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

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sat, 10/18/25 ~ Speaker Series – David Youngren from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Sun, 10/19/25 ~ One Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Social Hall.

~ Church School at 11:00 am.

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



Scripture Reading for October 19th

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalms 119:97-104

Luke 18:1-8

Kelly Strunk

Cluster donations for October: Bar soap

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!

Federal Budget Cuts and Your Town Hall on October 15th at 7:00 pm: Co-hosted by Representatives Ciresi and Friel. Tri County Active Adult Center, 288 Moser Road, Pottstown.

Speaker Series – David Youngren: Life Ascending on October 18th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Join us for a talk about mental wellbeing based on new science and the wisdom of Jesus.

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends on October 22nd: \$5.00 Coupon Shopping Passes. Shopping can be done in any Boscov's or this year online!! The proceeds will go to the Mission Fund.

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.

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.

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 October 19th.

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:

Jennifer, Jeffrey, Hannah, Catherine, and Audrey Dyott
Patricia Kuestner
Mindy, Isabelle and Sela Chidawu
Daniel, Sharon, Malcolm and Amelia Snyder
Lynne Moyer

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

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST****Communitas**

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464
484-949-8774

October 12, 2025

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

Today, in 1725, German refugees in the new Pennsylvania held their first documented Communion service at Falkner Swamp Church in Gilbertsville.

My ancestors, and I suspect some of yours, had left war-torn Germany with what they could carry. They traveled by the mercy and generosity of strangers in France then England where they were eventually sent packing in a fashion similar to what is happening now to refugees in America. By the time they reached the 'New World,' they had less than that with which they left home. Somehow, they carved out an existence that has been passed down through the generations to us.

In that first Communion, I imagine German immigrants who longed for the stability of home, the resonance of their grandparent's language, the assurance that God had not abandoned them in a new wilderness. Communion gave them belonging – that they were not just scattered immigrants, but the body of Christ knit into a story stretching back to the first communion.

The people sitting in church have the same need. So do you. And me. It's the need of all people created in the image of the divine—to belong, to be connected, and to be loved. That is the essence of our faith. Belonging. Connection. Love. Jesus built those things into a ritual we have to do (nearly) everyday to survive. Eating. Food for the body helps us live. Food for the soul gives us a reason. Those two things taken together have helped humans survive one wilderness experience after another. Thanks be to God, they still do.

Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister

**From the Conference Minister:
Register for Fall Meeting**

The final meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ is more than a gathering; it is a sacred moment of remembrance and witness. It is the place where we honor decades of faithful ministry, celebrate the saints who gave their lives to the work of Christ in this region, and entrust the seeds of our future to God's care. To attend is to take your place in the unfolding story of the Church — bearing testimony to what has been, and offering your presence as a sign of hope for what is yet to come. Registration is open and prayers for your arrival ascend.

Blessings, R
Pastor Bill

Final Meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference

Saturday, November 8

1:00-5:00p

St. Paul's UCC in Amityville

Hybrid meeting

For free registration:

Go to psec.org, click the Events & News tab, click on the calendar, go to the November 8th date and click on the event for more information.

As there will be no official business for this meeting, delegates are not required.

