

## SHENKEL HAPPENINGS – MAY 2026

Greetings, Shenkel Friends and Family!

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What makes Marty stand out is that he isn't just standing there. Now, this is a large, busy intersection with traffic coming from four directions. So, he's looking forward, over his shoulder, left and right, eyeballing each car as it approaches or waits to turn. And he does this energetically, I might add, with a big I-love-life-and-you-are-awesome grin on his face. It's a genuine smile. As he grins, he throws up his other hand, points, and waves with unabashed enthusiasm similar to a kid on a stage when she spots her family in the audience. It's such an uplifting experience for everyone! Because as we sat in this line of traffic, I watched people in old cars, pick-up trucks, and shiny new SUVs wave enthusiastically back. Not everyone, for sure, but enough for me to notice that Marty was doing something special. Of course, I wanted to be part of the moment, so I waved back and felt my heart smile. I noticed one or two people reached out and handed him a bill, which he accepted graciously. Did I mention that he does this year-round, including on cold, windy days and sweltering heat when I wouldn't be caught dead standing in the elements? It's really quite remarkable.

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Patricia Kuestner	5/18/26		
Michaela Craner	5/20/26		

## **MAY PRAYER LOTTERY**

May 3

Roberta Peterman

Betty Bortz

Lori Scharneck

Henry and Carole Bailey

May 10

Matthew Scharneck

Glen Bradley

Aaron Gray and Angela Araque

TJ Augustine

May 17

Cara Bevan

Joan and Joe Granger

Jess, Adam, Lucy and Jordan Hartzell

Gloria Mest

May 24

Clayton, Katerina, Maxine, Bellamy and Rennick Brewer

Kaleena Sweinhart

Laura Golden

Forrest Kreiger

May 31

Joan and Joe Palubinsky

Dawn Yocom

Michael and Robin Martin

Noah Bradley

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Barry Yocom	6/1/26	David Derman	6/16/26
Gio Manetti	6/2/26	Marie Bade	6/18/26
Margie Allen	6/7/26	Amelia Snyder	6/22/26
Sharon Sabo	6/9/26	Ken Bevan Jr.	6/25/26
Dawn Yocom	6/13/26	William Keim Jr.	6/25/26
Tootie Hine	6/14/26	Dan Jenkins	6/29/26
Kim Bade	6/15/26	Michael Foss	6/30/26
Elizabeth Carr	6/16/26		

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June 7

Marie Bade

Joyce Pashley

Judy Gergle

Steven and Kim Bade

June 14

Bob and Sherri Mocarski

David Derman

BJ Peterman

Tom and Lori Klein

June 21

Gary and Susan Stultz

Julianne Wanner

Heather Burhans Tran

Lori Skulski

June 28

Kathy Murphy

Sharon and John Sabo

Josh Palubinsky

Christian, Mari and Connor O'Drain

Happy Spring!

Your Shenkel Happenings Editor,

Brenda Berriker

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Happy Spring!

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Betty Bortz

Lori Scharneck

Henry and Carole Bailey

May 10

Matthew Scharneck

Glen Bradley

Aaron Gray and Angela Araque

TJ Augustine

May 17

Cara Bevan

Joan and Joe Granger

Jess, Adam, Lucy and Jordan Hartzell

Gloria Mest

May 24

Clayton, Katerina, Maxine, Bellamy and Rennick Brewer

Kaleena Sweinhart

Laura Golden

Forrest Kreiger

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## **MAY PRAYER LOTTERY**

May 3

Roberta Peterman

Betty Bortz

Lori Scharneck

Henry and Carole Bailey

May 10

Matthew Scharneck

Glen Bradley

Aaron Gray and Angela Araque

TJ Augustine

May 17

Cara Bevan

Joan and Joe Granger

Jess, Adam, Lucy and Jordan Hartzell

Gloria Mest

May 24

Clayton, Katerina, Maxine, Bellamy and Rennick Brewer

Kaleena Sweinhart

Laura Golden

Forrest Kreiger

May 31

Joan and Joe Palubinsky

Dawn Yocom

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Gio Manetti	6/2/26	Marie Bade	6/18/26
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Kim Bade	6/15/26	Michael Foss	6/30/26
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Joyce Pashley

Judy Gergle

Steven and Kim Bade

June 14

Bob and Sherri Mocarski

David Derman

BJ Peterman

Tom and Lori Klein

June 21

Gary and Susan Stultz

Julianne Wanner

Heather Burhans Tran

Lori Skulski

June 28

Kathy Murphy

Sharon and John Sabo

Josh Palubinsky

Christian, Mari and Connor O'Drain

Happy Spring!

Your Shenkel Happenings Editor,

Brenda Berriker

## SHENKEL HAPPENINGS – MAY 2026

Greetings, Shenkel Friends and Family!

We traveled to Baltimore this past weekend. We've made this trip many times to visit our daughter. And whenever we return home by way of I-95, we encounter this man. I'll call him Marty. He's probably in his late sixties, but who knows? He's always standing on a median at the entrance to 95 with a one-foot cardboard square in his hand which I've never read because it's never facing the cars. I can guess what's written on it because I've seen it in other towns many times, but again, who knows?

What makes Marty stand out is that he isn't just standing there. Now, this is a large, busy intersection with traffic coming from four directions. So, he's looking forward, over his shoulder, left and right, eyeballing each car as it approaches or waits to turn. And he does this energetically, I might add, with a big I-love-life-and-you-are-awesome grin on his face. It's a genuine smile. As he grins, he throws up his other hand, points, and waves with unabashed enthusiasm similar to a kid on a stage when she spots her family in the audience. It's such an uplifting experience for everyone! Because as we sat in this line of traffic, I watched people in old cars, pick-up trucks, and shiny new SUVs wave enthusiastically back. Not everyone, for sure, but enough for me to notice that Marty was doing something special. Of course, I wanted to be part of the moment, so I waved back and felt my heart smile. I noticed one or two people reached out and handed him a bill, which he accepted graciously. Did I mention that he does this year-round, including on cold, windy days and sweltering heat when I wouldn't be caught dead standing in the elements? It's really quite remarkable.

As with most situations, there are two ways to look at this. Option 1 says Marty has a good thing going and knows how to convince people to give him money. Option 2 is that he needs the money to lighten his load and simply has a big heart and unlimited love to share with everyone. My money is on Option 2. I say that because I felt genuine joy coming from this man whose joy and enthusiasm were hard to resist.

I say thank you, God, for Marty's beautiful spirit! Wouldn't it be nice if we could all find a way to put joy, energy, and positivity into the world like Marty?

Now let's see what's happening at your church.

### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

You have two convenient choices for worship each Sunday:

1. **REFLECTIVE SERVICE AT 8:30 AM**, (until we head outside), a good choice if you prefer no music and time for discussion and reflection, and
2. **TRADITIONALISH SERVICE AT 9:45 AM**. You'll find everything you've always wanted in a traditional service plus more. Pastor Suzanne has added a time for centering at the beginning which people are really appreciating.

**PLEASE NOTE:** On the Third Sunday of each month, there is one service held in Fellowship Hall where we gather for worship around tables. People love the casual atmosphere!

3. **OUTDOOR SERVICES** will begin **June 14th** and end sometime in September. *Please note: there will be no 8:30 AM service once we are outside.*

### **FIRST OUTDOOR SERVICE**

For all of us who have been eager to worship outside, that opportunity is finally here! Make your way to the Grove on **JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> at 9:45 AM** and soak up the sights and sounds of nature as we “do church” outside in our beautiful grove. Bring a lawn chair or blanket (or use our backless benches) and let the centering beauty of God’s creation enfold you. There’s an added bonus: Kim Yocom, with the help of her brother-in-law, BJ Peterman, has been working hard on the remodeling of the pavilion which none of us has seen, and **the big reveal** is this day, too! Coffee hour with refreshments will follow the service that kicks off our Summer Worship in the Grove. Can’t wait to see you there!

### **WALK AND PRAY - LABYRINTH WALK EACH SUNDAY FROM 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM**

In an increasingly complex and troubling world, many of us are wondering what to do. One simple act is to walk the Shenkel labyrinth on Sunday mornings. Labyrinth walking combines prayer and action as you journey from the outside world to the peace pole at the center. It is literally taking a step toward God and toward peace and wholeness in the world. You are invited to walk the Labyrinth from 9 - 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Come as you are able, leave when you are ready. Pam McShane will be at the Labyrinth most weeks to guide those who are new to labyrinth walking. There's power in walking and praying together!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

- **COVENTRY WOODS FESTIVAL – SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the sight of the former Camp Fernbrook on St. Peters Road.**

This community event has something for everyone! Vendors, demonstrations, and the ever-popular goat races. It should be a beautiful day, so come out and join in the fun! And don’t forget to stop at Shenkel’s table which will be manned by folks from our Shenkel family. This is an easy way for our church to be visible in the community and to chat with folks who are interested in finding out more about us. See you there!

- **SPEAKER SERIES – MAY 30 from 10:00 AM to NOON**

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and we are excited to offer “**Finding Peace in the Chaos: An Invitation to Sanity in These Times**”, a much needed, timely topic that will give you the coping tools you need. Our speaker, Lauren Fritz, has been a therapist for over 28 years. She works with people through difficult life changes to reconnect to

the joy and purpose in living again. Lauren has a private practice where she specializes in grief, trauma, anxiety and depression. She is a licensed professional counselor and an art therapist who enjoys providing experiential workshops and small group experiences. Lauren lives with her husband, two grown sons, Jake and Ryan, (whom she helps to care for, as they have Muscular Dystrophy), along with their two dogs, cat and lizards.

You won't want to miss this! And as always, bring your friends!

- **KEYSTONE CONFERENCE SPRING MEETING -**

Pastor Suzanne and Lynne Moyer will be attending the meeting on June 5-7 at Millersville University. This will be the first Spring Meeting of this transitional year for the Conference. The theme is "Joy at the Table Together," and the centering scripture is Acts 2:46-47. "Every day they met together, breaking bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God." The meeting will include a Service of Consecration for Keystone Conference.

### **CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS**

- The following officers were elected to Consistory: Randy Berriker, President; Sandy Rowe, Vice President, and Dan Jenkins, Secretary.
- The Pottstown Cluster has a Spring Challenge to raise funds for meals for people in need. \$100 will provide up to 500 meals to families. Consistory approved a \$1,000 donation from our Service and Mission Allocation. This donation will provide 5,000 meals for local families.

### **LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**

- **MISSION FIRST**

Mission First, located on High Street in Pottstown does much more than fill holiday food boxes. They maintain a not-so-little food pantry on the street and keep it filled for those whose food budgets don't stretch far enough. They have a clothes closet, open M, T, W, F mornings providing clothing and hygiene products to those who need them. On Wednesday evenings, they serve a community meal. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they provide space to Street Medicine for a health clinic. They also provide Baskets of Hope filled with linens, cleaning supplies, etc. for families moving from shelters into more stable housing. There's a lot going on! For detailed information, go to [www.missionfirstpottstown.org](http://www.missionfirstpottstown.org).

How can you help this amazing outreach to neighbors who need help?

- Join them for an Anniversary Gala Fundraiser on May 15 in the Family Life Center at Cedarville Methodist Church. Tickets are \$25/person for a fun evening of music with DJ

Joel Blankenbiller, light refreshments and door prizes. For tickets and more information, go to [events@cedarvilleumc.org](mailto:events@cedarvilleumc.org).

- Donate needed items. In-season clothes in good condition and hygiene products are always welcome. For items needed, check the website.

- Volunteer to help out. Needs vary from day to day, but are mostly Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Drivers to pick up donated food are always needed. For more information, contact Sue Meloy at [skmeloy52@gmail.com](mailto:skmeloy52@gmail.com).

- **COMMUNITY MEAL**

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 **4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month**, a handful of our members help serve a **Community Lunch at Christ Episcopal in Pottstown**. Our church is an active participant in this local mission. Pastor Suzanne 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.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

- **PROPERTY**

-- Kim Yocom has been busy with updating and renovating the pavilion bathrooms. This project will be completed by the time we move outdoors for the summer. The work is being paid for from the Lisa Yocom bequest. Many thanks to Kim for the countless hours she's spent! **PLEASE NOTE:** Bathrooms are closed and there is no running water at the pavilion until the project is completed. AND the big reveal will take place the first Sunday we are outside, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

- Join us **Thursdays at 11:00 AM in the Social Hall** for Qigong, led by our amazing teacher, Salil Gutt. Qigong's gentle movements have been used for centuries to improve health, reduce stress, and keep us in the present moment. Please wear comfortable clothing. The suggested fee is \$12.00 per class payable by cash or check, but if that is prohibitive, pay what you are able. Adults only, please.
- Along with presenting interesting events to help people in the community know who we are, Stewardship is also tasked with coming up with fundraising ideas. If you know of anyone who needs a rental space for picnics, meetings, showers or

birthday/anniversary parties, have them call the church office for information. Every little bit helps! And this has proven to be a very good moneymaker for our church.

- We're always looking for new ideas for our Speaker Series! Do you have a particular topic you'd like to explore? Know someone (community member, college professor, friend, to name a few) who could present a 1-to-2-hour program on a topic of interest? Please let anyone from Stewardship know your thoughts: Chris Gray, Dan Jenkins, Julie Zachesky, Kim Yocom, Mo or Tom Gallant, or Brenda Berriker.

### **REQUEST FOR ALL FACEBOOK USERS**

Stewardship is working hard to put together interesting and timely speaker series events, but we may not be getting the word out. So, if you are on Facebook, please follow Shenkel UCC and look for any posts on upcoming events that Julie Zachesky has so faithfully been creating and posting. Then share it on your own personal FB page. We need to reach as many people as we can, and this is an easy way for you to use social media to let people know about our events. **BETTER YET:** Personally invite your friends and neighbors—it works! Thank you for your help!

### **SHENKEL PRAYER GROUP – CHANGE IN DAY AND TIME**

Enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and celebrate the Spirit of God moving among us as we pray together. The group meets at **10:00 AM on the first Monday** of the month. All are welcome to participate!

### **CHURCH SCHOOL**

Our youngest Shenkel learners meet for Sunday School on the **third Sunday of each month from 11:00-12:00**. They are learning about God's love and the life of Jesus. Each lesson includes music and singing (thank you, Susan Royer!), a Bible story, craft, and snack. Our group has grown this year, and we are always looking for new friends to join us! Please spread the word. Our next meeting is May 17. We're taking four summer break, so see you in September!

### **CLUSTER NEEDS**

May: pasta sauce

June: canned chicken and canned ham

## **YOCOM FAMILY LANDSCAPING FUND FOR THE GROVE**

The times when volunteers were plentiful and eager to put their backs into taking care of our properties are long gone. This means we must pay for much of the work that needs to be done for upkeep and repairs. To address this need, the Yocom family has generously started a fund to pay for mowing and to maintain the grove and labyrinth. Please contribute as you are able!

## **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](http://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, Dan Jenkins, and Tootie Hine. Please feel free to discuss any joys or concerns you have with any member of this committee.

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Robin Martin	5/3/26	Lynn Derman	5/20/26
Malcolm Snyder	5/4/26	Randy Berriker	5/21/26
Tom Gallant	5/6/26	Christinia Hauze	5/21/26
Emily Trego	5/7/26	Bob Mocarski	5/23/26
Connor O'Drain	5/8/26	Andrew Foss	5/29/26
Brooke Miller	5/10/26		
Olivia Sanseverino	5/11/26		
Matthew Scharneck	5/12/26		
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