

**The
Worship Service
Sunday, August 23, 2026**

**“YOU ARE THE
MESSIAH, THE SON OF
THE LIVING GOD”
– PETER**

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 "Ecossaises" (Beethoven)

Welcome

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 124)

P: Blessed be the Holy One. If it had not been God on our side—the people proclaim!

C: With God on our side, we find our help in the name of the Holy One!

P: Blessed be the Holy One, who draws us from aimlessness, despair, and bitterness.

C: With God on our side, we find purpose, hope, and peace.

P: Blessed be the Holy One, who calls us to love one another—neighbors, enemies, family and friends.

C: With God on our side, we find compassion, grace, and mercy for one another. Blessed be the Holy One!

Opening Hymn "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less" (SmSgBk#15)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Sovereign God, we often forget important truths and lessons the past offers us, devalue the relationships brought to us, and misuse the power given to us. Help us to live in truth, with integrity, and for peace. May love and compassion guide us in all our actions and interactions. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

Body of Christ, in the words of Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." Receive the grace of God and the power of being in community to proceed in the newness of life as the One who loves us draws us from the threat of the depths into the hope of a blessed future.

Special Music

Go Down, Moses, Congregation w/Percussion

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Pam McShane

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm 124

Matthew 16: 13-20

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

Sermon

Rev. Becky Hoover

Hymn for Reflection: “Jesus, Name Above All Names”

(SmSgBk#31)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer

Through the power of God, Peter saw Jesus in spirit and truth. For the power of God to be felt in our own times, let us offer intercessions, saying: **Lord, hear us.**

For all peoples of the earth and powers of the world who have not yet recognized Jesus as the Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

For the unity of the churches, and for their common witness to the possibility of faith, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who struggle to believe in the earthly manifestations of Christ in the church, in the liturgy, and in daily life, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who suffer at the hands of the church, and for those who are oppressed in the name of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For ourselves, our families, and our communities, who are daily faced with questions of faith, let us pray to the Lord.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Living God, you wish to be among us in your Son and in his church. Hear the petitions we place before you. Increase our faith that we may see your works more clearly; purify our actions that we may reveal your love more surely. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

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

When we share our resources in community, we demonstrate our faith and trust in God’s provision and in our collective discernment. When we give, we replicate the Holy One’s generosity and creativity. When we offer ourselves, we magnify the blessings Creator has bestowed upon us. Let us give in a spirit of joy and hope for the kingdom of God.

Offering our Gifts – Thank you for your faithful support of Shenkel’s ongoing ministries.
August’s Special Offering – North Coventry Meals on Wheels

Offertory

“Like a Tree Beside the Waters”

(Hepp)

**We thank Thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;
Accept the gifts we offer for all Thy love im-parts.
And that which Thou desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.**

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Wonderful God, please sanctify these gifts for your glory, amplify them for your people, and replicate them for your kingdom. May they meet the needs and hopes of the world and community in which we belong.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

“Like A Rock”

(SmSgBk#49)

Benediction

Postlude

“Stronger”

(Fielding, Morgan)

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

Special Music: (African-American Spiritual) [onelicense #92184]

Announcements:**~Sunday, August 23, 2026~**

Sun, 8/16 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

Sun, 8/30 ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Grove.

Sun, 8/30 ~ Corn and Doggie Roast Picnic at 4:00 pm in the Pavilion.

Mon, 8/31 ~ Shenkel Prayer Group at 10:00 am in the Pavilion.

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

**Scripture Reading for August 30th****Brian McShane**

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26

Matthew 16:21-28

Cluster donations for August: Instant potatoes

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. 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!

Pastor Suzanne Vacation: 8/22 - 8/29, if you need pastoral care, please reach out to Jim Janotti at templeumchurch@gmail.com or 610-326-3941.

Pipe Organ Through History: A Benefit Recital today at 3:00 pm at Maidencreek Church, 261 Main Street, Blandon. Free admissions, all donations benefit the music ministry at Maidencreek Church.

Pat Kuestner New Address: 700 Swinehart Road, Apt. A1, Boyertown, PA 19512. Home phone: 484-415-0177, cell phone: 484-948-9847.

SAVE THE DATE: August 30, 2026

Corn and Hot Dog Picnic, 4 to 8 pm

What to bring?: Hot dogs, place settings, sticks for roasting your dogs, and a side dish or dessert to share.

What will be provided? Corn on the cob and drinks.

Hope to see you there!!

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!

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 September 2nd 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. Church school will resume in September.

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. **The prayer group will meet on Monday, 8/31 at 10:00 am in the Pavilion, instead of on Monday, 9/7 due to the holiday.**

Prayer Lottery: Shenkel will be praying for:

Scott Kutz

Judy Gergle

James White

Jim and Clair Faust

Birthdays in the month of August:

Steven Bade	8/3/26
Ted Gray	8/4/26
Dan Wolgemuth	8/6/26
Jim Bevan	8/10/26
Barbara Sweinhart	8/10/26
Elaine Bevan	8/12/26
Grace Major	8/12/26
Morgan Scharneck	8/16/26
Jennifer Dyott	8/17/26
Carol Pearson	8/18/26
Ashlyn Augustine	8/21/26
Kaya Skulski	8/27/26
Jeffrey Dyott	8/28/26
Lori Scharneck	8/28/26
Joyce Pashley	8/29/26
Noah Bradley	8/30/26
Christian Golden	8/31/26
Wayne Klein	8/31/26

Mission Statement

Shenkel UCC

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