

The Worship Service
Sunday, January 18, 2026

“WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?”
- JESUS

Shenkel United Church of Christ
1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465
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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 "Where He Leads Me" (Norris)

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: In the beginning our God created the light.

C: Morning broke open on the first day.

L: This God of ours sent the light.

C: Jesus the Christ came to the world's people.

L: Morning light opens for us.

C: God's Light illuminates our lives; and opens us to worship this day.

Opening Hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (See insert)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Call to Confession

You are our light, O God. In your presence our lives are illumined, our way becomes clearer. Our own light comes from you.

Prayer of Confession

And so we confess to you, O God, that we often hide our light under a bushel. Not trusting our perceptions, we do not share our truth with others. Not trusting our abilities, we do not risk sharing our gifts in community. Not trusting our skills in relationships, we do not reach out in friendship, we do not raise issues which should be raised, we do not break the silence of anger to give or seek forgiveness. Help us to trust in you where we cannot trust ourselves. Radiate through us with your holy love and wisdom, healing the hurts of the past, giving us courage for the future. Warm our coldness; relax our tight muscles; give us clarity and peace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who came to reveal your light to the world. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Happy are those who put their trust in God and delight to do God's will for God makes our footing sure upon the rock of Christ.

Passing of the Peace

Special Music

Agnus Dei, Brian McShane, Soloist, Sue Stultz, Flautist

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons

Pam McShane

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

John 1:29-42

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

Sermon

Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: "Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"

(See insert)

~Sharing Blessings with Others~

Prayers of the People

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.

January's Special Offering – Bethany Children's Home

Offertory

"Blessed"

(Marshall)

Offering Response

"God Of Change And Glory"

(NCH#177)

**Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
in our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
one Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God known in many ways,
hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

Prayer of Dedication

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn

"O Source Of All That Is"

(See insert)

Benediction

Postlude

"Winter, Op 8 No 4"

(Vivaldi)

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: (Michael W. Smith) © 1990 Sony/ATV Music [CCLI #626713]

Announcements:

Sunday, January 18, 2026

~This Sunday at Shenkel UCC~

- Sun, 1/18/26 ~ One Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Social Hall.
- ~ Church School at 11:00 am.
- ~ Chancel Choir rehearsals after worship service.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

- Sun, 1/25/26 ~ Reflective Worship Service at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
- ~ Traditionalish Worship Service at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary.
- ~ Chancel Choir rehearsals after worship service.

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



Scripture Reading for January 25th

Brian McShane

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
Matthew 4:12-23

Cluster donations for January: Canned oranges and canned pineapple

Pastor Suzanne Conference: She will be away at a conference from 1/21 – 1/27. During that time Jim Janotti will be available for any pastoral care needs. He can be reached by email or phone: templeumchurch@gmail.com (610) 326-3941.

Church Change Changes Churches: Tired of lugging around loose change? Donate it to Shenkel! You can put your change in one of two receptacles at the end of the back pews. We'll have a little contest to see which side of the sanctuary gives the most from 1/11/26 until Easter Sunday 4/5/26.

Qigong classes at Shenkel!: Thursday mornings 11AM-noon. No experience necessary--All are welcome! 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!

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 February 4th 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 today.

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:

Stacey, William and Aurora Keim
Stacia and Joseph Bradley
Dan Jenkins
Barbara Brown

Birthdays in the month of January:

Kimberly Yocom	1/4/26
Susan Miller	1/5/26
Barry Peterman	1/5/26
Olivia Dushanko	1/9/26
James Heath	1/10/26
Brandon Foss	1/13/26
Delia Sanseverino	1/18/26
Mike Martin	1/21/26
Aurora Keim	1/22/26
David Braley	1/24/26
David Klein	1/24/26
Eric Klein	1/27/26
Joseph Bradley	1/29/26
Suzanne Spaulding	1/30/26

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Your jus - tice like moun-tains high soar - ing a - bove,
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

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John 1:32

Isaac Watts, 1707; alt.

1 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven-ly Dove, with all your quick-en-ing powers;
2 In vain we tune our for - mal songs, in vain we strive to rise;
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven-ly Dove, with all your quick-en-ing powers;

Kin - dle a flame of sa - cred love in these cold hearts of ours.
Ho - san-nas lan - guish on our tongues, and our de - vo - tion dies.
Come, shed on us the Sav - ior's love, that it may kin - dle ours.

This text from an early collection of Watts' Hymns and Spiritual Songs (1707) has seen many modifications through the years, including some made by John Wesley on theological grounds.

Tune: ST. AGNES C.M.
John B. Dykes, 1865

O Source of All That Is

*Johann Heermann, 1630
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993*

1 O Source of all that is, most good-ly Fount of fa - vor,
 2 Help me to Christ-like speech, my care-less tongue re - strain - ing.
 3 Let me en - joy, with friends, a life of mu - tual car - ing,
 4 Re - mind me, as I die, of Je - sus' cru - ci - fix - ion.

Al - low me health and strength, and bless my dai - ly la - bor.
 Pre - vent the i - dle vow and si - lence dull com - plain - ing.
 Com - mu - ni - ty in Christ, each oth - er's bur - dens bear - ing.
 Be - stow on me, that hour, your fi - nal ben - e - dic - tion.

Grant that I may com - plete the good works you as - signed,
 But should in - jus - tice rage, the strong op - press the weak,
 If I find wealth or fame, if I live man - y years,
 Then wel - come my glad soul in - to that glo - rious place,

My con - science clear and sweet, my words both true and kind.
 My el - o - quence en - gage, and teach me how to speak.
 Save me from sin and shame, and calm my mor - tal fears.
 Where I shall, pure and whole, a - dore you face to face.

Amid the fighting of the Thirty Years' War, Lutheran pastor Johann Heermann wrote this hymn of faith. The chorale tune is one of several sometimes referred to as O Gott, du frommer Gott through association with this text.

Tune: O GOTT, DU FROMMER GOTT
(DARMSTADT) 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.
Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693