

The Worship Service

Sunday, October 25, 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 "Fantasia on Duke Street" (arr. Paxton)

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Blessed are those who walk hand in hand with goodness,

Many: who stand beside virtue, who sit in the seat of truth.

One: For their delight is in the Spirit of love, and in love's heart that dwell day and night.

Many: They are like trees planted by streams of water,

One: that yield fruit in due season and their leaves flourish;

Many: And in all that they do, they give life.

One: Let us worship the Author of life in whose presence we are gathered.

Opening Hymn "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing" (NCH#42)

~Coming Alive in Community~

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Gracious and Holy God, we thank you that you have called us to be holy as you are holy. Oh how we struggle with that concept! Thank you that in Scripture you teach us that the first steps are to love you with all of our being and then to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Enable us by your Spirit to keep taking those steps every day as we trust your transforming work. Amen.

Silence for Prayer and Meditation

Words of Grace

Love comes to all who open their hearts, and dwells therein, offering gifts of peace and harmony. The beloved answers our heartfelt prayers.

Musical Moment "Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him" (Holy Manna, arr. Hopson)
Chancel Choir

~We Hear God's Word~

Scripture Lessons Lori Scharneck

Leviticus 19:1,2; 15-18

Psalms 1

Matthew 22:34-46

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

Sermon Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding

Hymn for Reflection: “Lord I Want to be a Christian” (NCH#454)

~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

Generous God, just as you provided for all our needs in your creative acts, you have made us caretakers of your good creation. Let us accept the call to faithful discipleship, the opportunity to trust in your provision and the generous nature you have embedded in us.

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

Offertory “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” (Scholtes)

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

Receive our gifts, generous God, as a loving response to your generosity to us. Bless each gift and each giver we pray. Amen.

~Going out in Joy~

Sending Hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (NCH#439)

Benediction

Postlude	"Prelude in G minor"	(J.S. Bach)
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Pastor: Rev. Suzanne M. Spaulding
Email: shenkelpastor@gmail.com
Sexton: Stacy Keim
Ministers: All Members of the Church

Music Director: Dan Wolgemuth
Organist/Interim Music Director: Susan Royer
Secretary: Danielle Petersen

Announcements:

~Sunday, October 25, 2026~

- Sun, 10/25 ~ 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.

~Upcoming events at Shenkel UCC~

- Sun, 11/1 ~ Reflective Worship Service with Communion at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary.
~ Traditionalish Worship Service with Communion 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 November 1st

Revelation 7:9-17
I John 3:1-3
Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Cluster donations for October: razor blades and shaving cream

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!

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.**

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 November 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, 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 is on November 15th.

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:

Marie Bade
Lori and Kaya Skulski
Julianne Wanner
Drew Sweinhart

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.