At an intersection a few miles from where United Airlines Flight 93 plunged to the ground, stands one man's testament to the crew and passengers onboard. It’s never a part of the official observances there every year when that fateful day is remembered. But the Rev. Alphonse Mascherino's Flight 93 Memorial Chapel in Stonycreek Township shows how one man's vision can sprout like a mustard seed. Mascherino, who has since past, had grand plans for the abandoned chapel from the moment he saw its "for sale" sign about a month after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The tiny building was dedicated as a house of worship in 1902 and was used as a Lutheran Church until 1969. It later became a seed storage building. Sitting abandoned for so long, it obviously needed a lot of work.

"I wanted to honor faith. This is a tribute to faith.” he explained. “The government will never honor God.”

With only about $300, a collection of antiques and coins and a good bit of faith, he was able to secure a loan to open the nondenominational chapel, a museum of sorts where today everything from photos of the crash to memorabilia from the victims' families is displayed. He planned to chip away at his project for as long as it took. Whenever he'd save up $50, he'd drive to the local 84 Lumber store, hand a worker a list of items he needed, and ask for $50 worth.

After a few trips, folks at 84 Lumber began asking questions. Unbeknownst to Mascherino, someone from the company began scouting out the chapel and what was going on.

Impressed, the company kicked in $23,000 for supplies and later decided to take over what turned into a $150,000 renovation project, getting the work done in 10 days, in time for a Sept. 11, 2002, ceremony. Volunteers, many of whom heard about the project through word of mouth, began traveling from as far away as 50 miles to pitch in.

Until his passing he accumulated a collection of items related to Sept. 11 and the families directly affected by it. There are signs and remembrances that were left at properties near the crash site, relics from the World Trade Center, and personal items belonging to passengers and crew aboard Flight 93.

He later stated that the items in the chapel reflect the spontaneity and emotion of people who visit. Among donated items are a memorial stained glass window, a sanctuary lamp and several quilts made by a group of women in Berks County who were moved by their visit to the chapel.

Besides the memorial-filled sanctuary, there is a meditation room that features biographies of all 40 crew and passengers aboard the plane. Outside stands a tower holding the half-ton
"Thunder Bell" that visitors are urged to ring four times for the four planes that terrorists crashed a decade ago.

Behind the chapel is a 14-foot high, 16-ton black granite Flight 93 Crew Monument donated by the CAUSE Foundation. The monument, surrounded by granite benches with passengers' names engraved in them, features pictures of each of the crew members.

"He was a godsend to us," Pat Morris, a retired United Airlines flight attendant, said of Mascherino.

"Unfortunately, [the chapel] is not part of the national memorial, but it's something that's become important not only to the local people there, but to a lot of the family members," related Ed Root, whose cousin was part of the Flight 93 crew.

Mascherino lost a long battle with cancer in 2013. He was 69. By then, an estimated 300,000 visitors had passed through the doors.

"Everybody, one way or another, ends up in Shanksville," Mascherino once said. "It's a place of confrontation where you come face to face with destiny."

The Memorial Chapel is included in the “early bird” ride Wednesday. There is no admission fee, but donations are appreciated to maintain daily operations.