

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Associate Member: United Church of Christ



833 Gravel Pike

PO Box 66

Palm PA 18070

215-679-5321

PalmSchwenkfelder@comcast.net

www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
PEACE

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Lani Smith

***Call to Worship**

The day of God is coming; lift up your voices.

Cry out with the strength God provides.

We await God’s coming day with anticipation.

We seek the peace and patience God provides.

Comfort, comfort my people, says our God.

Speak tenderly to our suffering people.

We will prepare the way for One who is coming.

We look forward to baptism in the Spirit.

God will feed us like a shepherd.

God will gather us in gentle, caring arms.

God’s hand is upon us in blessing;

We are welcomed by God’s steadfast love.

***Hymn #133**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of glory, we confess that we have not recognized you in our midst nor listened for your voice. Our faith is fragile, and our iniquity goes unrecognized amid our massive self-concern. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the life we have been given. Our church is focused more on our own survival than on it’s mission in the world. We come to prepare the way for Christ’s entry into our everyday environment. Pardon and change us, we pray. Amen.

Time of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

*(Sung to the tune of O come, O come, Emmanuel)
O come, our Peace to fill our souls again
Let us rejoice and turn our lives from sin
Freed by the gift of your own Son
We sing our praise to the Eternal One
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to you O Israel*

Advent Prayer

**Eternal God, we thank you
that through the years
you have given peace to your people.
Help us to have peace in our lives.
We pray that, in this Advent season,
we may, by what we do,
show your presence to the sick, to the hungry,
and to the lonely, so that they too may have peace. Amen.**

Scripture Isaiah 40:1 – 11 (NRSV p. 581 – 582; LP p. 1122 – 1123)
Mark 1:1 – 8 (NRSV p. 812; LP p. 1561)

Children’s Sermon

Children’s Church

Barb Master

(Rainbow Bells)

***Hymn #136**

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Sermon

“Lift Up Your Voice”

Senior Choir Anthem

“Rejoice, All Ye Daughters”

arr. Joseph Martin

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Call to Offering

Offertory

“On Jordan’s Bank”

David Paxton

***Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

While we are waiting and preparing for Christ to appear, we are seeking, O God, to act as faithful followers. May our offerings extend the promise of salvation to people whose lives are broken by neglect, abuse, bad choices, and sinful ways. May our church be a listening, caring presence for all its members, and through us for all those we meet in our work and leisure. Amen.

***Hymn #174**

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

***Benediction**

Postlude

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Henry Smart

*All who are able, please stand.

The bulletins are sponsored today in loving memory of our grandparents by Brian and Renée Shelly.

Mission Statement of PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH:

Our task is to proclaim the Living Word of God, which empowers us to care for and share with our community and the world.

Vision Statement of PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH:

Serving the glorious God, claimed by Jesus, and inspired by scripture, honoring our history, with renewed commitment we will reach out to our community and the world through worship, spirit enriching programs, and outreaching mission.

...Things of Interest to Our Palm Schwenkfelder Family...

This week, please keep in your daily prayers:

The family of Dave Parsons, Barry Slemmer, Jean Boreman, Leon Wohlbach, Lauren Crist, Bryan Schwoyer, Renée Shelly, Lena Johnson, Bob and Sandy Croll, Marvin Zeisloft Jr., Ralph Stevenson, Evelyn Bold, Ruth Adams, Darlene Jones, Rick Jones, Judy Yerger, Jacki Hensler, Erin Beighley and family, the Weinder family, Rochelle Ginder Manuel, Deena Updegrove, Rebecca Himmelwright, Joe and Sue Cooper, Jeff Treichler, Ernie Guldin, Meg Lester, Willard Long, Samantha Hossler and Ryan Woods, Lucile and Bob Jones, Sheryl Tomlin, Mae Gerhart, Marian Fox, Goldie Graber, Kylene Bertoia Hart, Mary and Heinz Herrmann, Martha Wolford, Devon Hawkins, Kerm Goda, Vern Weller, Donna Weller, Mary Hartman, Jen Fries, Mary Jane Burianek, Dave Jaeger, Betty Pope. Please also keep in your prayers the men and women serving in the United States Military. This month from our Schwenkfelder Prayer List we uplift the staff of Palm Schwenkfelder Church, and all those still being affected by the most recent natural disasters.

Holy Bible App by You Version

Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are – Isaiah 40:1-5

December Youth Birthdays

Happy Birthday to...

Andrew Colvin (12/21), Jonas Kinsler (12/30)

Helping Hands

Need help raking leaves or getting out Christmas decorations? Fill out a helping hands request form to receive exceptional help from our youth.

Adopt-A-Family

Today is the due date for purchased gifts. If you forgot to bring the gift, please see Barb Master today.

Just A Little Christmas

Palm Youth will be performing a Christmas skit called *Just A Little Christmas* during our regular 10:15 a.m. worship service **next Sunday, December 17th**. You will get to sing along to traditional Christmas songs, listen to Scripture readings and enjoy the sounds of young instrumentalists throughout the worship service. Please join us after the service for light refreshments and a hoagie sale. For participating youth, a list of rehearsal days and times are posted in the hallway.

Confirmands and Mentors Christmas Party and Luncheon

There will be a Christmas Party and Luncheon sponsored by the Board of Christian Education and the Mentor Committee **next Sunday, December 17th**. The party begins at approximately 12:00 p.m., immediately after the Childrens' Christmas Program. After lunch, we will discuss your Faith Journey timelines. Please be sure to have them completed by this time. The event concludes around 1:30 p.m. If you are UNABLE to attend, please notify your confirmand /mentor, and also notify the church office.

Palm Tee-Shirt Sale

Order forms are available in the narthex for Palm Church short-sleeve t-shirts, long-sleeve t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts. Available colors, sizes and prices are printed on the order form. There are also a few styles available for immediate purchase. Orders are due by **next Sunday, December 17th** and orders will be filled in January.

Youth Sunday School

December 24th – 9:00am – combined Sunday school class
December 31st – No Sunday school

Lights in the Parkway!

On Friday, December 22nd at 5:30 pm, all youth are invited to drive through *Lights in the Parkway*, a spectacular light display at the Lehigh Parkway in Allentown. All interested youth and driving chaperones, please sign up by Monday, December 18th. Sign up on the sheet located in the narthex or by emailing Barb at kb3master@yahoo.com

Help Needed for the Boy Scouts in Puerto Rico

Please help the Boy Scouts in Puerto Rico, whose camp was flooded and damaged by Hurricane Maria. Whitney Leh's Venture Crew, in the Hawk Mountain Council, is collecting items from other Venture Crews for Scouts in Puerto Rico. These items include Nalgene water bottles, microfiber towels, head lamps, propane lamps, and propane camp stoves (minus the propane tanks). The Crew anticipates sending several boxes of items to Puerto Rico and Whitney is asking if Palm would help with funds to purchase one camp stove, one lamp, and also cover the shipping costs (approx. \$300.00). Please consider donating funds to this cause to help the Scouts in Puerto Rico rebuild their camp. Funds should be earmarked "Puerto Rico Boy Scouts" and will be managed/disbursed through the Mission Board. Thank you for helping these Scouts in Puerto Rico.

Wind, Flood & Fire: Disaster Response

UCC Disaster Ministries has expanded the long-term recovery work for those recovering from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico along with those in need from the Wildfires in California. These efforts mean providing community support for holistic recovery, repairing house and home for families and children and restoring dignity for the most vulnerable who have lost everything in the wake of these catastrophic events. You may contribute to support Harvey relief and recovery efforts by clicking on the 'Donate' link to make a secure online donation at <http://www.ucc.org/disaster>. Gifts may also be made by indicating "Disaster Relief" in the 'Other' area of your Giving Envelopes; gifts will be forwarded to Wider Church Ministries by way of the Conference (PSEC).

Special Congregational Meeting

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held **today** immediately following the worship service, to elect our church leadership and approve our budget for 2018. There will be copies of the budget in the narthex available before the meeting. Please be sure to attend this important meeting.

Christmas Fund

For 116 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross has been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world. As one of the four Special Mission Offerings of the UCC, congregations have the opportunity to reach out in kindheartedness to those who have faithfully served the Church and are now facing unexpected financial needs. These gifts enable the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance to provide, on behalf of the whole Church, Supplementation of Small Annuities, Retiree Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gifts to those in need. This year's Theme is *Shepherding the Light*, and your support will help continue these ministries of light and love. The recipients of these gifts have faithfully served the church and now, in their time of need, we can be the church to them. We invite and encourage you to shepherd God's light and support this year's appeal.

Live Nativity

St. John's Lutheran Church, Sunnyside, is excited to once again host its Live Nativity on Sunday, December 17th from 5:00 to 7:00pm. Enhancing this year's live presentation will be a host of friendly live stable animals, carol singing, cookies, snacks and drinks, a fire pit and children's craft tent. Don't miss this festive annual tradition, whether you attend for a few minutes or for the entire evening event. All events will be held on church property at 3104 Main Street (Rt. 63), Green Lane.

Disaster Assistance Services Center for Hurricane Victims Now Open in Philadelphia

3 Great Loves....Love of Neighbor Opportunity for PSEC Churches!

Is your church looking for a great opportunity to be part of 3 Great Loves ...Love of Neighbor? Perhaps your church is also still wanting to assist those who suffered loss in this summer's hurricanes. If so, we have the answer! The Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management, in cooperation with the PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Southeast PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (SEPA VOAD) has opened a Disaster Assistance Services Center in the city to help those displaced by recent hurricanes in Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. Local, state, federal and non-profit partners are working together to provide information on available services for individuals displaced from the recent hurricanes. As of last count, 135 families, representing 280 individuals have visited the DASC for assistance. Evacuees can register for FEMA assistance, medical assistance, emergency food stamps, unemployment assistance at the center. In addition, evacuees can also obtain career services, medical and behavioral health evaluation and referrals. At the request of SEPA VOAD the PSEC is getting more involved. The conference has been asked to take the lead on this special mission. The UCC Disaster Ministries has issued a grant to the PSEC in support of this ministry however additional funds are required. As you can imagine the needs are many: housing, food, transportation, medical assistance, just to name a few. Your support of this cause can be sent to the Conference office. Please mark your check DASC. Each day we ask God to keep the world safe. When disasters occur, it is nice to know there is a way to help! No gift is too small!

Redner's 1% Save-A-Tape Rebate Program

Recently we have been notified by Redner's that they will no longer honor register receipts that have the bottom part cut off. To qualify for the 1% Save-A-Tape Refund Program, the register tape must be the *entire tape*. Also, they want *no magic marker* used on the tapes. *Entire tapes* dated within the last three years will qualify for the rebate. Thank you for your cooperation.

Donation of Flower Vases

The Deacons are looking for donations of flower vases. They are needed for altar flowers, for when they are delivered to someone who is sick or shut-in. You can give your donated vase to one of the Deacons, or you can drop it off in the office.

Did You Know...?

This is where we list items of interest to members and visitors. If you have any items to add, please call or email Dan Ferry in the church office. Thank you.

Did You Know...?

- LARGE PRINT bulletins are available from an usher. LARGE PRINT Bibles are also available for use during worship services, located on the table to the left between the front and back sections of pews.
- Listening devices are available for those who would like them. Please see an usher to assist you.
- A fully accessible restroom is located in the hallway, across from the office. A baby changing table is there, also.
- There are greeting cards on the podium as you enter the sanctuary. Anyone is invited to sign – you don't need to be a member of the congregation to add your name to the well wishes.
- Donations of greeting cards to this project are welcomed and needed, especially Get Well and Sympathy cards. Please see Nancy Hoffman with your donations, or place them on the podium shelf.
- There are two yellow and green bins at the back of the parking lot for recycling your office paper and newspaper. The church benefits from these collections, along with helping the environment.

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST****Communitas**

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464
484-949-8774

December 10, 2017

Why give to the "Christmas Fund" ?

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

"It wasn't easy picking up the telephone to share with you my present situation. In fact it was one of the most humiliating experiences of my life although it reminded me that grace still happens. Sometimes we as clergy persons lose sight of God's grace when the negative stuff comes into our lives."

"...thanks so much for sharing your time and ministry with me. Your most gracious gift is appreciated more than words can say as I continue to live in the 'meantime.'"

These eloquent words are from a pastor who is the recipient of the caring and concern of those who contribute to the Christmas Fund Offering.

You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in this year's Christmas Fund Offering.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors like the one above, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to low-income retirees.

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

However you choose to provide your gift, please know that it is truly appreciated and that it will brighten the life of one of God's servants who is facing a moment of personal need.

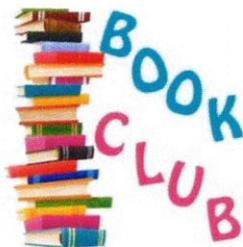
- from The Pension Boards

Attention Please!

“Books of the PSEC will close on January 16, 2018.
All OCWM contributions for 2017 must be
in our office by that date or they will be
counted towards 2018 contributions.”



JOIN PSEC's



Join together with
fellow members of PSEC to
share, discuss and interpret
books authored by our
colleagues.

Come for one or
come for all!

Location: Trinity UCC, 60 N. Hanover St., Pottstown

Time: 9:30 am—12:00 noon

Thursday, January 18th

w/ Harry Serio

Author of:

“The Dwelling Place of Wonder”

**Find out more about this event and how to register by clicking on
the link on the PSEC Calendar on the PSEC website (www.psec.org)**

There is NO CHARGE for this event.

This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Sunday, December 10

- 9:00am Rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Program
- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:15am Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service
- 11:30am Special Congregational Meeting Following Worship
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are – Isaiah 40:1-5

Monday, December 11

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are – Isaiah 40:6-11
- 6:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee
- 7:30pm Board of Trustees

Tuesday, December 12

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are – Psalm 85:1-2
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts of America - Troop Committee Meeting
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts - Troop Meeting

Wednesday, December 13

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are – Psalm 85:8-13
- 6:00pm Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30pm Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 14

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are – 2 Peter 3:8-10

Friday, December 15

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are –
2 Peter 3:10-15a

Saturday, December 16

- 9:00am Rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Program
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are – Mark 1:1-8
- 4:00pm Boy Scout Christmas Party - Court of Honor - Lock-In

Sunday, December 17

- 8:00am Boy Scout Christmas Party - Court of Honor - Lock-In
- 9:00am Rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Program
- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:15am Children's Christmas Program Sunday Worship Service
- 11:30am Confirmands Lunch and Faith Timelines
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are – Isaiah 61:1-4

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

833 Gravel Pike

PO Box 66

Palm PA 18070

Office Phone: 215 – 679 – 5321

Fax: 215 – 679 – 2650

Pastor Nick's Cell Phone: (267) 374 – 5691

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com

Church Administrator E-mail: palmadministrator@comcast.net

Church Office Email: palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net

Pastor's E-mail: palmpastor@comcast.net

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Serving You at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Ministers: All Church Members

Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Pence

Director of Music: Ed Bieler

Junior Bells: Beth Croll

Senior Bells: Joanne and David Luz

Organist: Peg Jacob

Church Administrator: J. Daniel Ferry

Youth Director: Barbara Master

Sexton: Kevin Master 484 – 358 – 1684

Greeter: Joan Pusey

Ushers: Gregg Hoffman, Glenn Hoffman, Scott Kriebel, Matthew Wright

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman

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