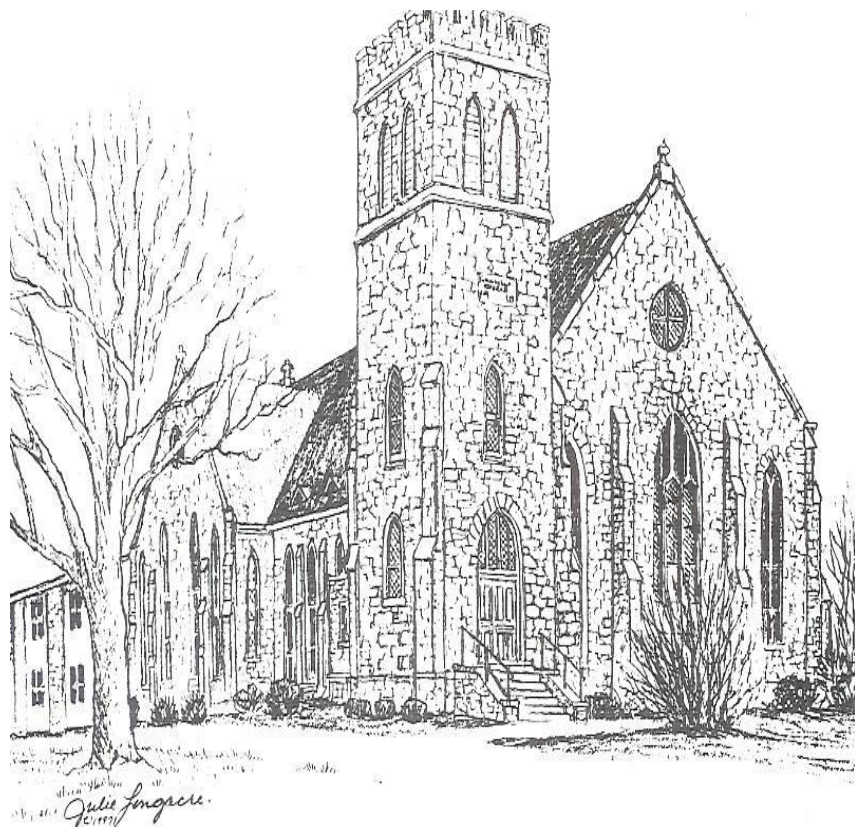


# **PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH**

**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 17, 2017

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT – LOVE CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude

“Carol of the Bells”

Andrew Pence

**Call to Worship**

God is in our midst; do not fear.

God rejoices to renew our lives in steadfast love.

**God gathers us for this time of worship.**

**God claims us and promises us a home.**

Trust in God who is our strength and life.

Give thanks to God, the source of our salvation.

**We will sing praises to exalt God's name.**

**With joyous shouts, we will tell of God's glorious deeds.**

Rejoice in God, whatever your circumstances.

Remember the good fortune God has shared with you.

**We will not worry as we seek God's peace.**

**We open our hearts and minds to God's leading.**

\*Hymn #145

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

**Lighting the Candle of Love**

*(Tune of the Father's Love Begotten)*

As we light this Advent Candle, may its light by all be seen

Waiting for the gift of love to come, throughout all eternity

May our hearts be filled with Christ's love

And that Love be truly seen, evermore and evermore!

Prayer

**O God, we thank you**

**That Jesus showed your love for every person –**

**babies and children, old people and young,**

**sick people and those who were strong,**

**rich people and those who were poor.**

**Come to us in this Advent season,**

**and give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.**

**Call to Confession****Prayer of Confession**

**All-knowing God, we confess our worry and anxiety over unimportant matters. We admit the fears that make us defensive instead of loving. We acknowledge our resentment over losses we have sustained and oppression we have suffered. We recognize that we have been far more concerned for our own welfare than for the building up of Christ’s body, the church. In our congregation, we have focused on survival more than service. We look for what we can gain more than for what we can give. Re-establish your rule among us, we pray, and save us from ourselves. Amen.**

**Time of Personal Confession****Assurance of Pardon****Youth Music**

“We Three Kings”  
 “Joy to the World”  
 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Shane Raab

**Scripture**

Isaiah 61:1 – 4, 8 – 11 (NRSV p. 603 – 604; LP p. 1162 – 1163)

**Children’s Christmas Program**

*Just a Little Christmas* (Children’s Version) by Sharon Kay Chatwell, 2009  
 Please enjoy this traditional Christmas skit with Scriptures read throughout.

Join us in singing our Christmas carols. Words are printed in the bulletin. The children will stand during the carols, however congregation, please remain seated.

**Cast of Characters**

Narrator 1 – Sabine Muse

Narrator 2 – Ethan Raab

Narrator 3 & Star – Lily Hoffman

Bible Verse Narrator – Anja Muse

Mary – Johanna Kinsler

Joseph – LJ Morasco

Lead Angel – Jovia Kinsler

Angels – Maya Yoder, Shelby Yoder, Sophia Nunan & Hailey Raab

Emperor Caesar Augustus & King Herod – Reid Hoffman

Shepherd – Parker Morasco

3 Wise Men: Josie Kinsler, Shane Raab & Bridgette Wright

Soldiers: Owen Hoffman, Brent Master & Andrew Pence

## **Musicians**

Christmas Program Piano accompaniment – Kate Pence  
Junior Bell Choir - Director Beth Croll, Johanna Kinsler, Job Kinsler,  
Jovia Kinsler, Blake Master, Andrew Pence, Nicholas Pence

Rainbow Bells

Job Kinsler - Drum

Josie Kinsler – Flute

Jovia Kinsler – Handbells

Brent Master – Piano

Nicholas Pence – Cello

Andrew Pence – Piano

Shane Raab - Cello

Props & Lighting – Lisa Stitt & her Sunday School Class

Costumes – Jean Ross & Lisa Stitt

## ***Just a Little Christmas (Children’s Version)* by Sharon Kay Chatwell**

### **Opening Music**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (instrumental)

### **Scene 1 – Angel Gabriel Appears to Mary**

Scripture Reading, Luke 1:26-38

### **Scene 2 – Angel Appears to Joseph**

Scripture Reading, Matthew 1:18-25

Join us in singing *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
From heaven’s all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O’er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o’er its Babel-sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

### **Scene 3 – Emperor Caesar Augustus Sends Everyone to be Registered**

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-5

Join us in singing *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee to-night.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us to-day  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

#### **Scene 4 – The Savior Is Born!**

Scripture Reading Luke 2:6-7

#### **Junior Bell Choir**

“Away in a Manger”

#### **Scene 5 – Angels Appear to the Shepherds**

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-20

Join us in singing *Silent Night*

*Silent Night*  
Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

#### **Scene 6 – King Herod Tricks the Three Wisemen**

*We Three Kings of Orient* (instrumental)

#### **Scene 7 – The Three Wisemen Offer Their Gifts**

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12

#### **Scene 8 – Mary & Joseph Flee to Safety**

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:13-15

## **Scene 9 – Mary & Joseph Live in Nazareth**

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:19-23

*The First Noel* (instrumental)

*Thank you to the Sunday school teachers, parents, and volunteers for helping to put the pageant together.*

*The congregation is invited for refreshments after worship in the Adult Sunday School Classroom.*

### **Pastoral Prayer and 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**

“The Little Drummer Boy”

Job, Josie, & Jovia Kinsler

#### **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**

**God of peace, in Christ you bring light to illuminate the**

**nations. He makes your will known to all who believe. We**

**come in response to his call to us, seeking to follow and fulfill**

**his commands. Accept the gifts we bring as symbols of our**

**commitment; sanctify them wholly, that they may be used as**

**you desire. Mold us and use us as instruments of your will.**

**May all that we do be in accord with the gospel of him you have**

**sent. Amen.**

#### **Rainbow Bells**

“Jesus Loves Me”

**\*Benediction**

**\*Hymn #151**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

**Postlude**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Brent Master

\*All who are able, please stand.

The bulletins today are sponsored in loving memory of our parents and grandparents: Helen and Harrison Miller, Kathryn and Arthur Marks, by Robbin and Steve Hawk.

**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:**

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 Updegrave, 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.

### **December Youth Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to...

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

### **Adopt-A-Family**

Thank you to everyone who purchased gifts to help a family in need.

### **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 **today**. 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.

### **Youth Sunday School**

December 24<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am – Youth combined Sunday school class

December 31<sup>st</sup> – No Sunday school for youth classes

### **Lights in the Parkway!**

This coming Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>. Sign up on the sheet located in the narthex or by emailing Barb at [kb3master@yahoo.com](mailto:kb3master@yahoo.com)

### **Thanks to All**

The Christmas Stocking Project was a real success this year. We made a total of 100: 40 went to Pennsburg Manor, and 60 went to Norristown State Hospital. We placed 11 items in each package. Social Service Committee – Sandy Kriebel, Miriam Hausman, Sally Wright, Ruth Weaver, Ethel Soffa



## **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).

## **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, Sumneytown, is excited to once again host its Live Nativity **this evening** 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.

## **Luminaries**

**Today** is the last day to order luminaries for the Christmas Eve service. Order forms will be available after the worship service. If you would like to help assemble the luminaries, we will be meeting at the pole barn this Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00pm. It should take us about an hour to complete this task. If you would like to help place the luminaries around the church on Christmas Eve day, that will take place at approximately 11:30 am (or just after that morning's worship service).

## **Thank You**

Thank you to the Ladies' Aid for the fruit basket and to our church family for the Staff gift basket. We are enjoying all of the tasty treats!

Kevin, Barb, Blake & Brent Master

## **Thank You**

Thank you to Lil and Walt Master for delivering, and to the Ladies' Aid for providing, the fruit basket we received.

The Schwoyer Family

## **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!

## **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.

### **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.

### **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 17, 2017

## Emerging Christianity

I am a big fan of Catholic Theologian Fr. Richard Rohrer. His daily emailed meditations help me start my day in a good frame of heart. (I am still working to end my day there. Prayers appreciated). You can subscribe here: <https://cac.org/>. Last week he shared this reflection-- words I wish I had written. In this season of Advent practices and Christmas preparation, they seemed particularly meaningful.

Practical, practice-based Christianity has been avoided, denied, minimized, ignored, delayed, and sidelined for too many centuries, by too many Christians who were never told Christianity was anything more than a belonging or belief system. Now we know that there is no Methodist or Catholic way of loving. There is no Orthodox or Presbyterian way of living a simple and nonviolent life. There is no Lutheran or Evangelical way of showing mercy. There is no Baptist or Episcopalian way of visiting the imprisoned. If there is, we are invariably emphasizing the accidentals, which distract us from the very "marrow of the Gospel," as St. Francis called it. We have made this mistake for too long. We cannot keep avoiding what Jesus actually emphasized and mandated. In this most urgent time, "it is the very love of Christ that now urges us" (2 Corinthians 5:14).

Quaker pastor Philip Gulley superbly summarizes how we must rebuild spirituality from the bottom up in his book, *If the Church Were Christian*. Here I take the liberty of using my own words to restate his message, which offers a rather excellent description of Emerging Christianity:

- Jesus is a model for living more than an object of worship.
- Affirming people's potential is more important than reminding them of their brokenness.

- The work of reconciliation should be valued over making judgments.
- Gracious behavior is more important than right belief.
- Inviting questions is more valuable than supplying answers.
- Encouraging the personal search is more important than group uniformity.
- Meeting actual needs is more important than maintaining institutions.
- Peacemaking is more important than power.
- We should care more about love and less about sex.
- Life in this world is more important than the afterlife (eternity is God's work anyway).

If this makes sense to you, you are already inside of Emerging Christianity.

- Rev. William P. Worley, Conference Minister



Training the Volunteers who Make It Happen!

- Develop strong leadership skills in your church and ministry team leads
- Team members feel heard and know their opinion is valued
- The Leadership Training Program is four modules:
  - ◇ Effectively Engaging a Project Team
  - ◇ Running an Effective Meeting
  - ◇ Listening Fully, Responding Intentionally
  - ◇ From Conflict to Conversation
  - ◇ Videos introduce each learning module
- Each module contains three lessons
  - ◇ Videos are used to explain important skills in each lesson
  - ◇ Each lesson provides one or more guide, worksheet and template to implement the skills taught.

**This is a new resource for all our churches and leaders!**  
**Read next week's Communitas for details!**



# This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

## **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 Childrens' Christmas Program Sunday Worship Service
- 11:30am Confirmands and Mentors Lunch and Faith Timelines
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are - Isaiah 61:1-4

## **Monday, December 18**

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are - Isaiah 61:8-11
- 7:00pm Board of Christian Education Meeting

## **Tuesday, December 19**

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are - Psalm 126
- 4:00pm Luminary Assembly
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts - Troop Meeting
- 7:00pm Girl Scouts Senior/Ambassador Troop 72134
- 7:00pm Mission Board

## **Wednesday, December 20**

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are  
1 Thessalonians 5:12-24
- 6:00pm Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30pm Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

## **Thursday, December 21**

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are - John 1:1-18

## **Friday, December 22**

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are - John 1:19-28

## **Saturday, December 23**

- 9:00am Senior Choir Rehearsal
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are - Luke 1:26-38

## **Sunday, December 24**

- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:15am Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service
- 11:30am Placement of Luminaries
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are - Luke 1:46-55
- 7:15pm Christmas Eve Cantata

# 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](http://www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com)

Church Administrator E-mail: [palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net](mailto:palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net)

Church Office Email: [palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net](mailto:palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net)

Pastor's E-mail: [palmpastor@comcast.net](mailto:palmpastor@comcast.net)

Copyright License Number: 1433223

## **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 610 – 845 – 7208

**The Call to worship and the Prayer of Confession are both reprinted by permission of United Church Press from Led by Love by Lavon Baylor. Copyright 1996 by the United Church Press.**

**The Prayer of Dedication is reprinted by permission of United Church Press from When We Gather by James G. Kirk. Copyright 2001 by Geneva Press.**