

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Associate Member: United Church of Christ



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PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
JOY

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”
Dorothy Howell Sheets

***Call to Worship**

Come apart to this place of rest and renewal;
Let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

We will sing of God’s steadfast love for all people.

We will proclaim God’s faithfulness to all generations.

God looks with favor on the humble and the lonely.

God’s covenant does not focus on rank or position.

God strengthens those who are weak.

The proud are scattered in the thoughts of their hearts.

Blessed are those who walk in God’s light.

Blessed are all who say “yes” to God’s call.

Let the heavens proclaim the wonders of God.

Let all the earth rejoice in Christ’s coming.

***Hymn #20**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

(Tune of Joyful, joyful we adore thee)

Come, our Joy, this Advent season, fill our hearts by your own grace

Make your presence known among as we lift our songs of praise

With the lighting of this candle, may its flame in all inspire

Gifts of Joy from God Eternal, lighted by the Spirit’s fire

Advent Prayer

O Holy One, as Christmas draws near,
there is a sense of excitement in the air.
We can feel a joy in our lives
and see it in those around us.
Still, for some of us this is a sad time
because of unhappy things
that have happened in our lives.
Help us to have the joy
that does not depend on earthly happiness
but on you.
Help us to be filled with your joy
so that we may share it in an often joyless world.

Hymn #139 “To a Virgin Meek and Mild”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, in whom all things are possible, we confess that we have doubted what we cannot explain. We have sought strength and enjoyment apart from you. We have taken pride in ownership more than giving praise through stewardship. We have neglected to thank you, either in good times or when you have supported us during days of uncertainty. We have resisted the newness of your offer. Forgive us, we pray, for installing ourselves as reigning deities. Lead us, rather, in paths of trust and obedience. Amen.

Time of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn #150 “What Child Is This?”

Senior Bell Choir “Let Heaven and Earth Sing Gloria!” Dan R. Edwards

Scripture Luke 1:26 – 55 (NRSV p. 831 – 832; LP p. 1598 – 1600)

Special Music

 “The Annuciation and The Magnificat” Marty Haugen
(from *Holden Evening Prayer*; Ken Jacob, soloist)

Children’s Sermon

***Hymn #178**

“Mary’s Little Boy-Child”

Sermon

Hymn #143

“For Ages Women Hoped and Prayed”

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

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Anna Laura Page

***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**

Our best we give to you, loving God, for you have given your best to us in the mystery of the incarnation. May our offerings proclaim Jesus in ways that will be received with joy. Send your word to the world in this season through our caring service. May we share it with one another in ways that help us all to grow. We are your servants. The gifts we dedicate are already yours. Thank you for all the ways you have provided for us. Amen.

***Hymn #156**

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

***Benediction**

Postlude

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Robert Buckley Farlee

*All who are able, please stand.

The bulletins are sponsored today in loving memory of Evelyn Schultz by Wilmer Schultz.

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 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.

December Youth Birthdays

Happy Birthday to...

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

Youth Sunday School

December 24th – 9:00am – Youth combined Sunday school class

December 31st – No Youth Sunday school

January 7th – Regular classes resume

January 21st– Combined Youth Sunday school - Winter Rally

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

Installation of Officers

On **Sunday, January 7, 2018**, during the worship service, we will have the installation of all new officers. Please greet and congratulate the new officers at the reception in the Adult Sunday School Classroom after the installation.

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.

Christmas Cantata

Tonight beginning at 7:15 pm, we will gather in worship to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This night of nights culminates the weeks of Advent Anticipation as we wait in hope, peace, love, and joy, and prepare our hearts to once again receive the greatest gift the world has ever known. This year our worship will feature Joseph M. Martin's Let There Be Christmas.

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!

Ladies' Aid Epiphany Party & Monthly Meeting

The Ladies' Aid Epiphany Party will be held on January 9, 2018 at 12:00 noon beginning with a covered dish luncheon. Please note the date change from our usual meeting schedule. Along with a variety of many delicious foods, we will be collecting monetary donations for Open Link. This event is open to all so please make plans to join us! (And don't forget to bring something yummy to share!) *Monthly Ladies' Aid business meeting will follow the luncheon.*

Annual Report Submissions

It's that time of year again. Well, Christmas and New Year's, sure, but I mean Annual Report time. So, to all department heads, committee chairs, and church leaders, I humbly request that you submit any and all information to be included in the Annual Report by January 9, 2018. If possible, please email your information to the church office. And if you have any questions, please direct those inquiries to Joanne Luz.

Altar Flowers and Bulletins

The Deacons would like to thank the members of Palm for sponsoring bulletins and real flowers throughout 2017! Everyone who did sponsor, please remember that bulletin sponsorships are \$15, flower sponsorships are \$50, and the flowers are yours to keep after the service. The new 2018 charts are in the hallway outside of the office. And, thanks!

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 24, 2017

God Is Doing Something Right Now

It is Christmas Eve! Merry Christmas! I hope you are enjoying a wonderful celebration surrounded by the people you love and who love you. I hope every expectation you had for this holiday season has become real.

But if you are far from home or feel distant from those who are very near, if there is more tension than cheer in the air, if you are exhausted, or feel let-down, or if your life feels like an unlikely place for Jesus to show up—pay particular attention. Because Jesus is always showing up in unlikely places, including perhaps the most unlikely place of all— in this moment **of your life**.

The news of Jesus' birth is announced not in a palace or a temple, not where things are bright and beautiful, not to good people, or *the right* people. Shepherds, poor and smelly people, were the first to get the news; and the first to share it. As surprising as this would have been at the time, in retrospect it seems entirely fitting. Jesus is forever showing up in the most unlikely places and associating with the most surprising people. And the message is always the same—God is doing something right now.

"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night... The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord."

It's the only announcement that ever changed the world. I hope it's the one that will change yours -- if it has not already.

With prayers for a changed world. Merry Christmas!

- William "Bill" P. Worley, PSEC Conference Minister

The effectiveness of any mission or ministry endeavor relies, in part, on faithful and effective leadership. Our Conference “2020 Vision” plan has a priority developing stronger leadership skills (lay and authorized ministers) in every congregation, their pastors, consistories and ministry teams.

First UCC Royersford, through the PSEC New Ministries Grant Program, has built this leadership training tool.

Getting Started with the Online Leadership Training Program

To get started with the training program you need to do 3 things:

1. Go to <https://psecleadership.expertlearning.net> , click on the “User Guide” and read it. Everything you need to know about the program and how to start learning new leadership skills is there.

2. Create an account.

- Scroll to Registration Instructions and click on [New Account form](#).

- You will be asked to enter your username. At this time enter a name you would like for your own user name.

- Next to the word Password you click on “[Click to enter text](#)”. A blank box will appear. Enter the password you would like to use.

- NOTE: be sure to copy your user name and password and keep them in a safe place. You will need them the next time you log in.

3. Enroll in a Module. There are 4 training modules:

Module 1: Effectively Engaging a Project Team

Module 2: Effectively Running a Project Meeting.

Module 3: Listening Fully, Responding Intentionally

Module 4: From Conflict to Conversation

Select the module you’d like to access by scrolling to the blue box that says “Enter here”. Click on the box. The first time you select a module you will need to enter your enrollment key in order to complete your enrollment. Your enrollment key is your 6-digit church ID number.

If you have any questions, please contact Sue at the conference office at susan@psec.org or 484-949-8774 x 312.

This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Sunday, December 24

9:00am Youth Combined Sunday School

10:15am Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are - Luke 1:46 – 55

7:10pm Christmas Eve Cantata

Monday, December 25

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are - Luke 2:1 – 14

Tuesday, December 26

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are

Wednesday, December 27

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are

Thursday, December 28

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are

Friday, December 29

11:00am Boy Scouts – Troop Meeting

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are

Saturday, December 30

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are

Sunday, December 31

9:00am Adult Sunday School

10:15am Sunday Worship Service

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

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

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

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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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