

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Associate Member: United Church of Christ



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PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2015

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude

"March of the Kings"

Carl Simone

***Call to Worship**

Arise, shine; for your light has come; and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Lift up your eyes and look around; sons and daughters gather together, they come to you.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Let us worship God.

***Hymn#159**

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of sovereigns and commoners, we confess that we are often more impressed with famous people than we are with your amazing glory. The rulers of this earth are more real to us than the One who reigns over time and eternity. Your priorities are not foremost in our lives. We reach for power and popularity more than for justice for the poor. We are more focused on prosperity than on relief for the oppressed. Our pursuits do not satisfy; save us from their fragmenting grip in our lives. Cause a new epiphany among us, we pray. Amen.

Time of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture Matthew 2:1 – 12 (NRSV p. 783 – 784; LP p. 1506 – 1507)

Children's Sermon

Children's Church

No Children's Church Today

***Hymn#186**

"Wise Men, They Came to Look"

Sermon

“Entering the House”

Senior Choir Anthem

“Were You There on That Christmas Night?”

Natalie Sleeth arr. Lloyd Larson

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 "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" Johann Christoph Bach

***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**

O God, as wise rulers of old brought gifts and worshiped a newly born baby, so also we bring offerings in praise of him whom you sent. The star that we follow is the light of Christ’s teachings, calling us to be faithful in all service to all in need. Accept what we earn, the products of our creative energy and talent. Let this be the gold, frankincense, and myrrh that we bring. By our gifts may a sad and needy world be enriched and comforted. Amen.

***Hymn#185** “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

***Benediction**

Postlude "Wise Men, They Came to Look" Anton Leupold

*All who are able, please stand.

Today’s bulletins are sponsored in loving memory of Uncle Robert and Aunt Doris Schultz by Lee 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:

Mary and Heinz Herrmann, Rick Jones, Walt Master, Deb Callodonato, Molly Werley, Bryan Schwoyer, Clara Graber, Anna Bieler, Earl Yerger, Donald Long, Jen Fries, Vera Boykin, Jean Gentry, Doris Masemore, Wanda Gentry, Charlie Krauss, Margaret Wallinger, Reverend Ed Winslow, Ernie Guldin, Vern Weller, Betty Serff, Mary Jane Burianek, Karen Freed, Donald Cook, Dave Jaeger, Robert Margerum, Mary Hartman, Helen Miller, Rob Ziegler, Kathy Bartman, John Hathaway, 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 Olivet Schwenkfelder Church.

Bible Study

The online Bible Study is examining the Biblical, rather than theatrical, version of the David vs. Goliath battle in 1 Samuel 17. To join the discussion, please contact Rick Jones or the Church Office with an email address.

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” Matthew 4:19

The kids are doing great earning punches in their fish card. Keep catching those kids acting kind!

Snow Tubing

Join us on Friday, January 30th from 6:00 – 9:00pm at Bear Creek Mountain for a fun night of snow tubing. Palm youth 18 and under are free and adults are \$24 each. Some chaperones will be needed. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, January 18th.

Sunday school Room Committee

Beginning in the New Year, a committee will work on improving Sunday school rooms. We are looking for members of all talents. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please see anyone on the Board of Christian Education or sign up on the sheet outside of the church office. There will be an initial meeting in January. Come out and see if this committee is right for you!

Ladies' Aid

The Ladies' Aid January 6th meeting time has changed to 12:00 noon. This will be the lunch and Epiphany Party. Please meet us in the fellowship hall and bring a covered dish to share. Instead of a gift exchange, a monetary collection will be taken for Open Link. The monthly business meeting will be held after lunch.

Installation of Officers

Next Sunday, January 11th, after 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 room after the installation.

“Trees, Trains, and Gingerbread”

From November 29, 2014 to January 18, 2015, come to the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum where you'll see an exhibit featuring a Schwenkfelder Christmas tree decorated with cookie cutters, and a showcase with German cookies and Schwenkfelder information on display. There will also be trees decorated with railroad themes and railroad gingerbread buildings and trains. A large O-gauge operating layout with a Reading Company theme will also be part of the exhibit. The Schwenkfelder pieces are thanks to Lee Schultz, and Bill and Sallie Wright. Museum hours are 10:00am – 4:00 pm on Saturdays, noon – 4:00pm on Sundays. Admission; adults \$7.00, seniors (65+) \$6.00, ages 5 – 12 \$3.00, children under 5 and active military are free. Free parking. For additional information visit www.readingrailroad.org/museum

Annual Report Submissions

Annual reports from all Church committees are due in the office tomorrow, January 5, 2015. If possible, please e-mail your report to the church office. Any questions should be directed to our Moderator, Anne Goda, or Vice Moderator, Joanne Luz.

Nursery

When there is no one available to supervise the nursery, parents are welcome to use the nursery but are responsible for their children. If anyone is interested in providing child supervision, please contact Gregg Hoffman.

Address Changes/Updates

As a service to our members, any address changes that come through the office will now be listed in the bulletin. There will also be a section in the Palm Leaves that will list new addresses. If you have any information on members who have may have moved, or if any of the addresses listed appear to be incorrect, please call the office to let us know. Thank You.

Bulletin Sponsorships

The Deacons would like to thank the members of Palm for sponsoring bulletins and real flowers every Sunday for the 2014 calendar year! 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. Please sign up for 2015 on the chart in the hallway outside of the office. And, thanks!

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

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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

January 4, 2015

Message from Rev. William P. Worley, PSEC Conference Minister Tony Robinson reminded me several years ago that the name of this month, "January," comes from the ancient Roman deity, Janus - a lesser god but one who has always made sense to seekers after the heart of the Divine. Janus was the god of gates and doorways. He had two faces, one looking forward, another looking backward. So there is only a little surprise and much gratitude that in Psalm 121 God keeps a particular vigilant watch of our times of "going out and coming in," our times of ending and beginning, and all that is between the two.

Transitions - whether of the calendar or in the seasons of our lives – are crazy-making times. They can be confusing and exhilarating; chaotic and creative. That certainly has been true of our Conference life. We've been through more transitions in the last year than could easily be counted here. That's true of our congregational lives where all of us worship in "the church that has been" feeling anxious about "the church that will be." And it's true of our personal lives where the only constant, to quote the old adage, is change.

But that is not the only constant. When everything else may seem up for grabs or in flux, one thing is not: God's abiding love and presence. "I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me..."

This I know to be true. And it is my prayer for you and all our brothers and sisters in Christ that we move confidently into this New Year holding fast to that which has been good ready to receive what is going to be even better.

God bless your New Year,
Rev. William P. Worley, PSEC Conference Minister

NOTE: The PSEC Conference office will reopen on Mon., Jan. 5. The Conference Minister is on call for any pastoral emergencies. PSEC books for 2014 close on Jan. 16, 2015.



Back in 1883, at a meeting held at the public school house, a unanimous decision was reached to build the first church in the village of Perkasio (then not yet incorporated). *The St. Stephen's Reformed Church of Perkasio* was the original name chosen because the Reformed Church is the church of martyrs and St. Stephen was the first martyr. The first church building was dedicated on November 14, 1886. Our Mission Statement says: Our purpose as St. Stephen's United Church of Christ is to respond to God's call as a community of covenant and faith in Jesus Christ; to worship God and celebrate together in the gospel of Jesus Christ; to share in the love and fellowship

of Christ; and to minister loving service to humankind. *"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."* (Romans 15:7). Our congregation extends hospitality to **all** - no matter who you are **or** where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Children play an active role in the worship services and intergenerational mission programs. Through our ministry and mission we strive to deepen one's understanding and relationship with God and over time transform lives by making disciples of Jesus Christ. We are constantly visioning and working at community building and "faith talking." For the sixth consecutive year, St. Stephen's has participated in Interfaith Hospitality Network during August, serving as a host to homeless families. Our parsonage continues to be used by Keystone Opportunity Center (Souderton) to provide a home for a family in need. Our mission outreach is expansive and on-going. Just as there are times of passage in our own lives, so there is in the church.



This is one of those times, as it is with mixed emotions that **today** we celebrate and bid farewell to The Rev. Janet L. Fries, who is retiring. For the past thirteen years, Pastor Fries has blessed this congregation with distinguished service.

The Consistory is currently seeking an Intentional Transitional Interim Ministry. As St. Stephen's Church looks to the future, we pray that God will give to this generation the same vision and courage that inspired those who have been part of the history of this congregation, and who, by their faith and willingness to work and sacrifice, have made possible what we have been privileged to know as St. Stephen's today. Learn more about us on our website: www.stephensucc.org.



Prayers are requested for St. Stephen's UCC in Perkasio and The Rev. Janet L. Fries as she begins a new chapter in her life.



SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday,
February 7, 2015

Women's Fellowship

*The Women's Fellowship of New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ would like to cordially invite the women of your congregation to worship with us on **Saturday, February 7, 2015**. We will be celebrating "Women's Week" with a communion service in our sanctuary beginning at 9:00 a.m., followed by a continental breakfast. More information will follow in the upcoming weeks.*

Palm Schwenkfelder Church has decorated a tree at



Trains, trees, and gingerbread

at the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum





500 S. Third Street, Hamburg PA

www.readingrailroad.org

November 29, 2013 through January 18, 2014

Come and vote for our tree! Two free tickets with each admission. Additional tickets 50 cents each.

Also see:

-  Model trains: large display of vintage and modern model trains
-  More trees decorated in railroad themes by community groups.
-  Gingerbread railroad stations by individual crafters
-  Indoor and outdoor displays of Reading Railroad history and real Reading trains.

Museum hours: Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM, Sunday noon – 4 PM

Admission: Adults, \$7; Seniors (65+), \$6; children (5-12), \$3;
under 5 free

This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Sunday, January 4, 2015

9:00am [Sunday School](#)

10:15am [Epiphany Sunday Worship Service](#)

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

Monday, January 5, 2015

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

8:00am [Quilters](#)

12:00pm [Ladies' Aid Lunch and Epiphany Party](#)

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

7:00pm [Boy Scouts](#)

7:00pm [Girl Scouts - Senior/Ambassador Troop](#)

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

5:30pm [Children's Choir Rehearsal](#)

6:00pm [Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal](#)

6:30pm [Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal](#)

7:30pm [Senior Choir Rehearsal](#)

Thursday, January 8, 2015

9:00am [Staff Meeting](#)

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

6:30pm [Boy Scouts of America - Patrol Leaders Council](#)

7:00pm [Diaconate Meeting](#)

Friday, January 9, 2015

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

Saturday, January 10, 2015

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

Sunday, January 11, 2015

9:00am [Sunday School](#)

10:15am [Sunday Worship Service - Installation of Officers](#)

11:30am [Music Committee Meeting](#)

12:00pm [Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are](#)

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.

Church Office Hours

Tuesday through Thursday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Friday 8:00am – 3:00pm

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

Pastor Emeritus: Ronald R. Krick

Director of Music: Ed Bieler

Children's Choir: Gail Ferry

Children's Choir Accompanist: Joan Pusey

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: Phillip Badman, Tim Hoffman, Rick Jones, Brian Shelly

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610 – 845 – 7208

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