

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Associate Member: United Church of Christ



**833 Gravel Pike
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Palm PA 18070
215-679-5321**

**PalmSchwenkfelder@comcast.net
www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com**

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2016

Foreword to

“A Journey to Hope”

The journey begins.

One step of devotion, and the waters clap their hands in worship, splashing joy on the hearts of the faithful.

Another step, and Christ calls His disciples to service and ministry.

A little further now, and Jesus calls to the sick, weary and burdened. Together they begin a parade of life, marching across the dusty landscape of Galilee.

The road delivers the pilgrims to the walled city of Jerusalem, filled with palms and psalms and shouts of “Hosanna!”

Just beyond the city walls, the winding path finds an upper room. The road-weary warriors of peace realize a moment to rest, refresh and reflect. In the hushed and mysterious chant of the ancient rituals of Passover, they learn of a new Way; a thoroughfare paved with grace and mercy that leads through the wilderness and to the Promised Land.

The road will not be easy for the Savior, for it rises to a walled garden where despair meets conviction. The inner battle won, the cup gripped and drained, He rises to walk another weary trail.

Walking, falling, stumbling and bleeding, the Savior takes the Way of Sorrow, and the journey ends in gasps of forgiveness.

The path to a borrowed tomb is thought to be the final destination. But joy breaks free with the morning sun, and is greeted with rolling stones and rising hopes, as Jesus walks again, in the garden with His creation.

Christ is the journey, and He is the journey’s end.

Amen!

Joseph M. Martin

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Change Our Hearts Offering

Prayer

Prelude

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad”

Dale Wood

*Call to Worship

Gather to remember and share stories of faith;
rejoice in the goodness of the loving God.

**Before our stories began, there was God;
through all our days, God walks with us.**

Worship the one who gives and sustains life;
sing praises to the one who is our refuge.

**There is no place we can where God is not;
amid life’s terrors, God’s promises hold true.**

Delight in God, whose protection we enjoy;
dance with the God who frees us for new possibilities.

**We call out to God, expecting to be heard;
we listen, knowing there is truth to be received.**

*Hymn #193

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Sovereign God, we confess our desire to reshape your world to our own advantage. We are more concerned with what we eat than with who will get to eat today. Our own security is more important to us than the health and safety of all your children. The first fruits of our labor grace the altars of our own desires instead of honoring you. We prefer that you keep your distance from us unless we need you. We like promises without commands, gifts without responsibilities. O God, we confess that our ways don’t work. Turn us around for true worship and service, as forgiven and forgiving people. Amen.

Time of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Children’s Choir

“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”
Peter Scholtes

Scripture

Luke 4:1 – 13 (NRSV p. 835; LP p. 1605 – 1606)

Children's Sermon

Children's Church

Lisa Stitt

***Hymn #532**

"Be Thou My Vision"

Sermon

"Keeping the Faith"

Senior Choir Anthem

"The Call to Faith"

Soloist Ken Jacob

Incorporating "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" and "Wade in the Water"

(from Joseph M. Martin's cantata "A Journey to Hope")

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

"Take Time to Be Holy"

James Southbridge

***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**

**Fostered by your tender care and secure in the haven of your
redeeming love, we are emboldened to approach you, O God,
with our gifts and offerings. May they be used to bring refuge
to the aimless, deliverance to the captives, and protection to all
who call on your name. For we bring them in Christ's name,
our source of salvation. Amen.**

***Hymn #540**

"Take Time to Be Holy"

***Benediction**

Postlude

"Be Thou My Vision"

Edward Broughton

*All who are able, please stand.

The flowers are presented today in loving memory of Corinne Hoffman by Richard and Merris Ann Hoffman.

The bulletins are sponsored today in loving memory of Lloyd G. Kriebel by Ethel and Francis Soffa and Andy and Sandy Kriebel.

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 Doris Masemore, Debbie Staver, Beth Cleverly, Martha Wolford, Becky Kraig Kimmel, Marvin Zeisloft, Gladys Hoffman, Bud Johnston, Betsy Yoder, Devon Hawkins, Mary Steltz, Kerm Goda, Rev. Linda S. Gruber, Vern Weller, Mary and Heinz Herrmann, Bryan Schwoyer, Donna Weller, Jeff Treichler, Donald Long, Jean Gentry, Mary Hartman, Janet Esposito, Alice Davis, Jen Fries, Margaret Wallinger, Reverend Ed Winslow, Ernie Guldin, Betty Serff, Mary Jane Burianek, Dave Jaeger, Robert Margerum, Helen Miller, Rob Ziegler, 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 Central Schwenkfelder Church.

Bible Study

This week's online Bible Study will be part two of a discussion in response to a question raised by a Study Partner concerning the Scripture and the Holy Spirit. Join-in the discussion by contacting Rick Jones or the Church Office.

What's for Lunch During Lent: Brown Bag Bible Study

During our 2016 Lenten schedule we are delighted to host a brown bag lunch Bible study which will be led by Sister Millicent Drake. This Scriptural study is framed upon the Joseph Martin Cantata, [A Journey to Hope](#), and invites us to explore the Biblical foundations of Lent, leading us through Holy Week and the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. The Brown Bag Bible Study will take place every Wednesday, at 11:30 a.m., beginning February 10th and finishing March 23rd. Please feel free to join the study as your schedule allows.

February Youth Birthdays

Happy Birthday to...

Andrew Pence (2/4), Stacey May (2/1), Samuel Pusey (2/26)

You Version Bible App – Teens & Adults

Bible.com is all new if you enjoy exploring God's Word on larger screens like your computer, laptop, or tablet. You will see clear, simple tabs to get you where you want. You will be able to adjust fonts to customize your reading. And, Bible.com can read to you with audio Bibles. Visit Bible.com to try the best Bible experience offered for the web.

Bible App for Kids ~ Read and interact with, The Beloved Son: Jesus is baptized.

"Change Our Hearts" Offering

In conjunction with the First Monday Community Meal that Palm will be hosting on March 7th, we are having a special change offering. This will continue each Sunday during the months of February and March to help offset the costs of this meal. So, during these months please remember to bring in all your extra change (or bills), for another successful meal!!

Children's Church ~ A Joyful Noise

Children's church has started again for the New Year. Leaders are needed. To sign-up to be a leader, please see the schedule posted on the wall next to the church office. Thank you.

Parents ~ If your child has allergies, please notify the leader of the day.

Sunday School Theme

“Rejoice in the Lord Always; again I will say, rejoice!” Philippians 4:4

The youth are continuing to do a great job celebrating the joy they receive from God's love by sharing that joy with others and acting kindly to one another.

Thank you for supporting this mission by punching the kids' cards. May God's joy ring out in your heart!

Donations of Finger Foods

After the Community Lenten Service held at Palm Schwenkfelder Church **this Wednesday, February 17th**, we will be serving refreshments. If you would like to contribute to the selection of delicious treats, please bring your food donations to the kitchen before the church service. Thank you.

Christian Exiles Are Fleeing Persecution

Let's help rescue some Exiles! The Deacons at Palm have arranged a partnership with Church World Service (CWS) that will allow all of us to play a role in solving the problem. We will begin by serving as a Hospitality Team for legal, Christian refugees arriving in our area. CWS is one of nine agencies certified by the US State Department to receive refugees. It is difficult not to be distracted by news reports, but it should be noted that it will be another two years before current Syrian exiles can be expected. Meanwhile, we seek to minister to a Brother or Sister from anywhere in the world who has made it through the process and arrives as a stranger in need. Please watch for announcements polling our congregation for specific needs. In the meantime, please include this mission in your prayers. Ask the Lord to guide us and ask how He wills each of us to participate.

Donations for the Migrant Hospitality Project

Offerings to support the Migrant Hospitality Project are welcomed. Please mark “Migrant” on your Envelope to direct your donation. Thank you.

Beds, Beds, Beds

Beds are the most urgent need for the MHP. Donation of just one, either twin or double, bed will likely complete the need for our first exiled Christian. Direct donation of bed frames, box springs and usable mattresses will meet the need. Offerings earmarked "Migrants" will be another solution. That will allow the purchase of a bed and the missing items, some of which depend on our actual client.

Annual Report Available to View

The Palm Schwenkfelder Church Annual Report for 2015 has been posted to the church website. It can be found by rolling your mouse over the “About” tab, then by selecting the “Present” page from the drop down menu.

First Monday Community Meal

The Deacons at Palm Church are sponsoring a free community meal at Pennsburg UCC on Monday, March 7th. We will provide, prepare and serve dinner. Last year was a success with serving ham, so it was decided to serve ham again. Volunteers are needed; 6 people to cook and prepare the meal between 3:00 – 6:00pm, and 8-10 people to help serve, box up leftovers and cleanup from 5:45-7:45pm. Monetary donations and food donations will be needed. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. If you would like to help cook or serve the meal on March 7th, or make a monetary or food donation, please see Kevin or Barb Master. Donations of desserts are needed. Please bring desserts to the Palm church kitchen either on Sunday, or on Monday morning. Youth are welcome to help!

Thank You

I would like to thank Pastor Nick, and Palm Schwenkfelder Church. In the few years that you were my mother's Pastor, you always made her feel special. She truly enjoyed all of your visits. Thank you, too, from the bottom of my heart, for the beautiful funeral service. It's still hard to believe she is gone from this earth. We all miss her every day.

God Bless You,

Brenda Norman and the Family of Clara Graber

Special Music! Be Sure to Mark Your Calendar

On Sunday, March 6th, come hear the Upper Perkiomen A-Choir as they share their talents with us during the worship hour. Then, on Sunday, April 24th, come join us as we celebrate Music Sunday with all of our talented musicians.

Palm Gives Hope!

Our church's fundraising for the 2016 Relay for Life event is well under way. Thanks to your participation in our Christmas season projects, and to the generous support of additional Palm donors, we are now \$1,128.00 away from receiving a Platinum Sponsor designation for the Upper Perk Relay for Life. Please prayerfully consider helping us to reach this goal. We will be accepting your donations following worship from now until a final deadline of Sunday, February 28th, or you may drop your donation in the lockbox until that date along with a note designating it for the Relay for Life. Please donate as you are able by cash or check. Checks must be made payable to "Palm Schwenkfelder Church" with memo: "Relay for Life." Thank you to all for your gifts of hope!

Back to Back Bay – 2016

The Mission Board is looking for Members to form a Mission Team for the next trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. The trip is scheduled to run from July 30 through August 7, 2016. So whether you are a "Seasoned Veteran," or have never been on a Mission Trip before; be on the lookout for further details, and consider joining what is sure to be another memorable, and moving, adventure in service.

Treasurer Report – January, 2016

	<u>January</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Cash on Hand 1/1/2016	\$35,761.03	\$35,761.03
Operating Income Received	\$19,894.61	\$19,894.61
Operating Expenses	\$34,786.33	\$34,786.33
Operating Cash on Hand	\$20,869.31	\$20,869.31

Annual Congregational Meeting

Next Sunday, February 21st, following the worship service, the Board of Trustees will present the Annual Report for 2015.

MCC Mobile Canner Project

On March 14, 15, and 16, 2016 you can help feed the hungry by graciously, lovingly, and compassionately contributing your money or your time to the MCC Mobile Canning Project at the MCC Material Resource Center (MRC). With an outpouring of your support, we can fill the needs of hundreds of thousands of starving people here and around the world. To make a tax-deductible contribution, your check may be made payable to the “MCC Canner Project” and mailed to the MCC Material Resource Center, 737 Hagey Center Drive, Unit C, Souderton, PA 18964. Those interested in donating a few hours of their time to this three-day operation may contact the MRC at 267 – 203 – 8074. Go to mcc-harleysville.org, click “Get Involved,” then “Meat Canning” for more information about how, together, we can sustain the lives of the hungry.

Altar Flowers and Bulletin Sponsorships

There are several upcoming dates open for sponsorship of our Sunday flowers and bulletins. Dates available for flower sponsorship are:

February 21st; April 17th; May 1st and 29th.

We have openings for bulletin sponsorships on:

February 28th; March 6th; May 29th.

The cost for flower sponsorship is \$50, and the cost for bulletin sponsorship is \$15.00. Please sign up on the chart in the hallway outside of the office. And, thanks!

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.

Lenten and Holy Week Schedule

Wednesday, February 17th
Palm Schwenkfelder Church at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24th
St. Mark's Lutheran – Pennsburg at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 2nd
Pennsburg UCC at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9th
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran – Sumneytown at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 16th
St. Paul's Lutheran – Red Hill Church at 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday, March 20th
Palm Schwenkfelder Church at 10:15 a.m.

Youth Easter Egg Hunt at 11:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 24th
Palm Schwenkfelder Church at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 25th at 1:00 p.m.
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Walk begins at 12:00 p.m.
Fellowship at McDonald's Following the Worship Service

Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship, March 27th
Palm Schwenkfelder Church at 7:00 a.m.

Covered-Dish Breakfast Following the Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Easter Sunday Communion Worship Service

LADIES AID EASTER FLOWERS
ORDERS AND MONEY DUE BY MARCH 13, 2016

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Each</u>	<u>Price</u>
6" Mums – Assorted Colors	_____	x \$7.00	= \$_____
3 Bloom Hyacinths – Asst'd Colors	_____	x \$7.00	= \$_____
4 Bloom Tulips – Asst'd Colors	_____	x \$5.00	= \$_____
6 Bloom Tulips – Asst'd Colors	_____	x \$7.00	= \$_____
4 Bulb Daffodils	_____	x \$8.00	= \$_____
White Lilies	_____	x \$8.00	= \$_____

Grand Total for Order = \$_____

Given in Honor of: _____

Given in Memory of: _____

- Make checks payable to "Ladies Aid Society"
- Place all completed orders in the lockbox on the door to the Church Office.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Please note: All flowers will be used to decorate the church on Easter Sunday. Each person is responsible for picking up their flowers after the church service on March 27, 2016.

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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

February 14, 2016

Racial Justice Sunday Message

From Rev. Edward Livingston, Assistant Pastor, Living Water UCC

As I prepare for this Lenten season, I am confronted with economies of exclusion that produce heavy burdens on people throughout the land. While these burdens impact people across the spectrum of society, African Americans and Latinos bear disproportionate hardships that result in high rates of incarceration and death, as well as barriers to health, opportunity and prosperity. For example, African Americans are six times more likely to be arrested and serve more prison time than their white counterparts for the same offenses.¹

Racial Justice Sunday is an appropriate time to fully open us to hear what God is speaking. If we truly listen, we will hear the blood of Tamir Rice, Reika Boyd and so many others crying out from the land. All lives matter...yes, and Black lives matter. Ignoring this deliberate focus invites continued racial injustice. To declare that *Black lives matter* is a fearless affirmation and a call to action to dismantle systems that destroy the lives of people of African descent.

A 2012 poll revealed that 51% of Americans expressed anti-black sentiments; a 3% increase from 2008.² Yet, we as members of the UCC have hope and believe that God is still speaking. As a united and uniting church, we are called to address the implicit bias³ and racial anxiety⁴ that divides our nation. We are called to lead our country in embracing a radical love that demonstrates the healing and reconciling power of God.

Start with prayer. Acknowledge any fears. Listen to God. Allow the Creator to empower you to help repair our world. The Holy Spirit is able to guide you in being in true relationship with people across racial lines. This is the most effective practice to dismantle the aim of racism and to create Dr. King's "Beloved Community."

United in Christ,

Rev. Edward Livingston, Assistant Pastor, Living Water UCC
Executive Director, Camden Churches Organized for People

1. U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 2011*, 8 tbl.8 (Dec. 2012)
2. AP Poll: U.S. majority have prejudice against blacks – 2012 usat.ly/VQAKGE
3. kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/understanding-implicit-bias/
4. pointofinquiry.org/getting_over_racial_anxiety_with_rachel_d_godsil/

The United Church of Christ has a long history of working towards Racial Justice. Visit ucc.org/justice_racism for more information on what the UCC is doing and how YOU can get involved.



Our mission at *The United Church of Christ at Valley Forge* is to follow in the Way of Jesus, deepen our relationships with God and our faith community, and in so doing, be empowered to reach out widely to our neighbors in love, justice, hospitality, healing, and hope.

We seek to nurture these deeper roots with God and each other by worshipping together, providing prayer partners who are available to pray with members of the congregation after worship, participating in and leading Christian education classes for children, youth, and adults, respectively, on Sunday mornings, as well as offering adult small groups that meet during the week to read and discuss books of the Bible. Church leadership attends an annual retreat together and we recently had a day-long prayer retreat for the congregation.

As our spiritual roots grow deeper, we are empowered to widen our connection to our local and regional communities with outreach activities like serving at the Old First Men's Shelter in Philadelphia, singing at nursing homes, planning and helping to run our annual Alternative Gift Market, sponsoring a fundraiser for LGBTQ youth, as well as participating in UCC national offerings as a "5 for 5" church.

One concern we've been currently focusing on is how to better integrate and offer activities that are available for all ages in the congregation, as part of our commitment to be a truly inclusive church. We've been experimenting with an intergenerational worship service, now offer a congregation-wide scavenger hunt on Rally Day, recently instituted an annual Saturday night talent show, and continue to look for and brainstorm about community outreach activities that are suitable for all ages.

If you have ideas for us to consider about intergenerational worship or are interested in learning more about any of the activities and ideas we've listed above, visit us online at uccvf.org to learn more and for contact information.



Prayers are requested for UCC at Valley Forge
in Wayne and Rev. Michael Todd Bush.

Palm Gives Hope!

Our church's fundraising for the 2016 Relay for Life event is well under way. Thanks to your participation in our Christmas season projects, and to the generous support of additional Palm donors, we are now \$1,128.00 away from receiving a Platinum Sponsor designation for the Upper Perk Relay for Life. Please prayerfully consider helping us to reach this goal. We will be accepting your donations following worship from now until a final deadline of Sunday, February 28, or you may drop your donation along with this form, in the lockbox until that date. Please donate as you are able by cash or check. Thank you to all for your gifts of hope!

**Please make checks payable to:
PALMSCHWENKFELDER CHURCH
Memo: Relay for Life Team**

PLEASE PRINT

Donor's Name _____

Phone Number _____

Today's Date _____

Total Donation \$ _____ *Check #* _____ *Cash* _____

This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Sunday, February 14

9:00am Sunday School

10:15am Sunday Worship Service

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 4:1 – 13)

Monday, February 15

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are
(Psalm 91:1 – 2, 9 – 16)

7:00pm Board of Christian Education Meeting

Tuesday, February 16

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Mark 1:16 – 18)

6:30pm Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm Boy Scouts - Troop Meeting

7:00pm Girl Scouts Senior/Ambassador Troop 72134

7:00pm Mission Board

7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 17

11:30am Brown Bag Bible Study w/Sister Millicent

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are
(Hebrews 11:1 – 7)

5:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal

6:00pm Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm Community Lenten Service @ Palm

8:00pm Fellowship Hour Following Lenten Worship Service

Thursday, February 18

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Genesis 6:9 – 22)

7:00pm Boy Scouts - Board of Review

Friday, February 19

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Genesis 9:1 – 17)

Saturday, February 20

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are
(Romans 10:5 – 13)

Sunday, February 21

9:00am Sunday School

10:15am Sunday Worship Service

11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting Following Worship

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 13:31 – 35)

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: Kevin Master

Ushers: Glenn Hoffman, Nancy Hoffman, Rick Jones, Tammy Long

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610 – 845 – 7208

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