

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Associate Member: United Church of Christ



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PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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

“Gather Us In”

Jeffrey Honore

*Call to Worship

Put away your hesitation to come before God;
quiet your fears and anxieties, for God welcomes us.

**God is our light and our salvation;
whom shall we fear?**

Look to the heavens for inspiration and assurance;
look around you, for God’s presence is everywhere.

**God is the stronghold of our lives;
of whom shall we be afraid?**

Let us watch and wait with our Creator;
let us trust in the one who gives life and hope.

**Teach us your ways, O God,
and lead us on a level path.**

*Hymn #66

“The God of Abraham Praise”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Beloved God, whose mercy is everlasting and whose grace endures forever, look with favor upon us as we confess our sin. Lift our minds from earthly things to the vision of your heavenly commonwealth. We revel in self-glory; we delight in vain pursuits; we worship the idols of our base desires. Forgive our shortsighted behavior and reconcile us through Jesus to your eternal will. Amen.

Time of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture

Luke 13:31 – 35 (NRSV p. 849; LP p. 1632)

Children’s Sermon

Children’s Church

Corey May

*Hymn #534

“Draw Me Nearer”

Sermon

“Gathered In”

***Hymn *654**

“Two Fishermen”

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

“Listen, God Is Calling”

Anne Krentz Organ

***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**

Great Shield and Defender, you visited Abram and made him a great nation. You sent to earth Jesus, who called out the church. We join with the hosts who have gone before us, pilgrims on a journey towards your promised land. We pause on the way to give you our offerings, and dedicate ourselves anew to the faithful quest. Amen.

Senior Choir Anthem

“The Call to Follow”

*Incorporating “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me,”
“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,” and “Give Me Jesus”
(from Joseph M. Martin’s cantata “A Journey to Hope”)*

***Benediction**

Postlude

“Where He Leads Me I Will Follow”

E. W. Blandy

*All who are able, please stand.

The bulletins are sponsored today in loving memory of Herbert and Shirley Frey by the family.

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:

Wanda Gentry, 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 advance the current #100 series, study in 1 Samuel 23. We also have ongoing discussions active in the #12 and #23 series of notes. Take part 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

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new right spirit within me"

Psalm 51:10

The youth are continuing to do a great job celebrating the birth of God's love in our hearts by sharing that love with others and acting kindly to one another. Thank you for supporting this mission by punching the kids' cards. May God's love be born in your heart!

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 at <http://bit.ly/1OfQGoz>, or by going to www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com, rolling your mouse over the "About" tab, and then by selecting the "Present" page from the drop down menu.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Today, following the worship service, the Board of Trustees will present the Annual Report for 2015.

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!

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.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the many Valentines, get-well cards, food, and phone calls that I received in 2015, and already in 2016. Thank you!

Betty E. Krauss

Thank You

We would like to thank our Palm Church family for the bag of valentines and goodies delivered by Jean Ross. We appreciate you thinking of us.

Edmund & Grace Kuhns

Thank You

We would like to send a “thank you” note to all of our friends at Palm who sent us cards, notes, snacks, and greetings for Valentine’s Day.

Bill and Jane Shermer

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone at Palm for the Valentines cards and snacks I received.

Erma Kriebel

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 \$531.00 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 **next 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.

MCC Mobile Canner Project

In years past, our local MCC canning Operation produced nearly 14,000 cans of protein-packed meat for families devastated by drought, flood, tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, extreme poverty, war, or other emergencies. This year our local church community has been asked to help purchase, prepare, and pack 17,500 cans of meat needed to provide vital nutrition to sustain the lives of hungry people here and abroad. The MCC Mobile Canner will operate for three days at the MCC Material Resource Center (MRC) from 6:00am to 7:00pm on Monday, March 14, Tuesday, March 15, and Wednesday, March 16, 2016. Contributions have been coming in, but we need more volunteers. If you are interested in putting your love into action to help the needy through the simple act of sharing your time, please call the MRC at 267 – 203 – 8074. If you’d like to share your resources, your tax-deductible contributions may be made payable to the “MCC Canner Project” and mailed to the MCC Materials Resource Center, 737 Hagey Center Drive, Unit C, Souderton, PA 18964. 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:

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 24th
St. Mark's Lutheran – Pennsburg at 7:00 p.m.
(Please note change in time)

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

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464

484-949-8774

February 21, 2016

Ariel Royer, Global Ministries Intern - January to March 2016

Congratulations to Ariel Royer, Global Ministries intern, as she connects with UCC churches during her assignment to compile a living database of local congregations that are housing, welcoming or supporting refugees in the US in any way, or have done so in the past.



The global media coverage on the Syrian refugee crisis over the past 6 months has prompted many congregations to reach out to the national office (and doubtlessly to many of you) with interest connecting or re-connecting with the UCC's refugee ministries. This would include refugees resettling in the United States from Syria as well as from many parts of the world that receive little news coverage.

In response, we have invited **Ariel Royer** to serve for 3 months (January-March 2016) with Wider Church Ministries through the Partners in Service program. This is part of Ariel's home assignment at the conclusion of her service as a Global Mission Intern with partner churches in the Middle East. She will be compiling information of UCC congregations already welcoming and supporting refugees in a variety of ways— through sponsorship of families, holding fundraising efforts, involvement in advocacy and awareness raising. We hope that this information will better position us to:

1. facilitate increased collaboration between congregations welcoming refugees now or in the future;
2. share best practices with congregations;
3. tell the stories of local ministries welcoming refugees;
4. strengthen UCC refugee ministries through Church World Service and its affiliates.

Visit ucc.org and type "refugee-welcoming" in the search box to see a UC News article about this [New Project to Help Connect and Resource Refugee-welcoming UCC Congregations.](#)

Thank you for your help and encouragement in this project. We believe this will be a valuable resource for local congregations searching for ways to welcome refugees to the United States.

Jim Moos, Executive Minister

Wider Church Ministries Co-Executive, Global Ministries

Message from Rev. William P. Worley, PSEC Conference Minister

Armondo Tamargo is my best friend. He came to America from Cuba with his mother after Fidel Castro took power. He and millions of people hoped for the day when Cuba would be opened again and the broken relationships between friends and families could be restored. PSEC brothers and sisters worked to restore some of that brokenness before the Cuban-America reconnection began last year. Our partnership with The



Fellowship of Baptist Churches of Cuba formed in 2007 when a group of Conference representatives, led by members of Old First Reformed United Church of Christ in Philadelphia, visited Cuba. Since then several groups have exchanged visits to make connections with Cuban Christians who share a passion for the gospel and a commitment to the church.

The Fellowship of Baptist Churches of Cuba, an organization of 39 congregations founded in 1989, traces its roots to the 17th century. It's "Seven Commitments" mirror the values we prize in the United Church of Christ:

- To defend the independence of each of its 39 churches.
- To be unwavering in its defense of the historic belief of freedom of conscience and diversity.
- To work to empower lay people at every level of leadership.
- To preserve the principle of separation of church and state.
- To recognize the important role of women in the life of the church.
- To participate in the coming together, understanding and collaboration between different denominations of Christianity so that they may all be one.
- To renew and deepen its study of the Bible, and to incorporate elements of the local culture and traditions into its worship.

We have let time and distance diminish our partnership but PSEC Ecumenical Relations Team has seized this moment in history to reconnect with fellow Christians as the citizens of our two nations reestablish "normal diplomatic relations." As you read this, Rev. Darryl Cruz and I are in Cuba to attend the Annual Meeting of The Fellowship of Baptist Churches, worship with local congregations, revive old friendships and make new ones. We will share the news of our travels in a future edition of *Communitas*. In the meantime, please keep us and The Fellowship churches of Cuba in your prayers.

Blessing,

Rev. Bill Worley, PSEC Conference Minister



Prayers are requested for Trinity UCC in Tamaqua and Rev. Darryl E. Kensinger.

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.

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 \$531.00 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 **next Sunday, February 28th**, 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:

PALM SCHWENKFELDER 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 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)

Monday, February 22

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Psalm 27)
- 7:00pm Red Hill Band Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 23

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are
(Matthew 11:28 – 30)
- 6:30pm Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts - Troop Meeting
- 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 24

- 11:30am Brown Bag Bible Study w/Sister Millicent
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are
(Hebrews 11:8 – 19)
- 5:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00pm Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00pm Community Lenten Service @ St. Mark's Lutheran

Thursday, February 25

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are
(Genesis 15:1 – 11)

Friday, February 26

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are
(Genesis 15:12 – 21)

Saturday, February 27

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are
(Philippians 3:17 – 4:1)

Sunday, February 28

- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:15am Sunday Worship Service
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 55:1 – 9)

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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