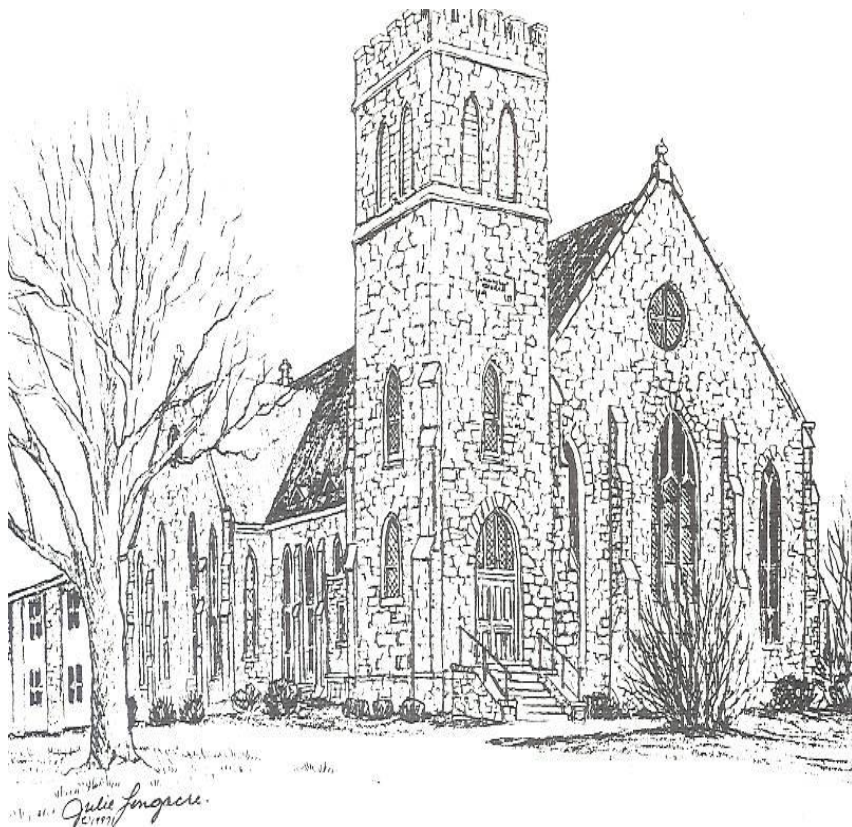


PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

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, NOVEMBER 29, 2015

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” David Cherwien

***Call to Worship**

The days are surely coming, says our God,
When justice and righteousness will appear.

**God’s promise will be made known to us,
And we will declare God’s goodness.**

Lift up your souls in trust and praise;
Open your hearts and minds to God’s teaching.

**God’s ways will be demonstrated to us,
And we will seek to walk in them all our days.**

Render thanksgiving to God for all life’s benefits.
Watch and pray in holiness and abiding faith.

**God’s mercy and steadfast love will surround us,
And we will abound in love for one another.**

***Hymn #135** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of promises and possibilities, we admit that we color the world according to our own limited vision. We are often unjust in our judgments and faithless in our relationships. We are haunted by sins we have not confessed. Hear us as we entrust them to your forgiving care. Help us to let go of our transgressions, to renew our covenant with you, and to live constructively with one another. In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, whose coming among us we await with great expectation. Amen.

Time of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Senior Choir Anthem “Celtic Advent Carol” Michael Barrett

Advent Lighting and Children's Sermon

Advent Candle Choral Response

Children's Church Barb Master
(Christmas Cards – All Older Youth May Attend)

Scripture Jeremiah 33:14 – 16 (NRSV p. 645; LP p. 1240)
Luke 21:25 – 36 (NRSV p. 856 – 857; LP p. 1647 – 1648)

***Hymn #163** “Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Sermon “Weighed Down”

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 “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending” Stephen Weber

***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 promise, you cause the branch of hope to bud and
flower, we offer the fruit of our labor. May what we do bring
reassurance to those seeking evidence of your goodness. Use
our gifts as signs of what deliverance can mean. We join with
the Christ in the struggle for justice; we commit ourselves for
the quest for peace. Amen.

***Hymn #142** “Long Ago, Prophets Knew”

***Benediction**

*All who are able, please stand.

The bulletins are sponsored today in loving memory of our grandparents by Brian and Renee Shelly.

The flowers are presented today in loving memory of Bernard Beard by his wife Grace.

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:

Kerm Goda, Rev. Linda S. Gruber, Michelle Johnson, Edmund Kuhns, Sandy Chrysczanavicz , Vern Weller, Mary and Heinz Herrmann, Bryan Schwoyer, Donna Weller, June Smoll, Jeff Treichler, Bill Ludlow, Tim Eschbach, Donald Long, Brian Shelly, Jean Gentry, Mary Hartman, Janet Esposito, Alice Davis, Clara Graber, Jen Fries, Doris Masemore, 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 the Men of Palm.

Bible Study

This week's online Bible Study will ask whether God's role in 1 Samuel 22 is confusing on purpose. Connect to the Study by contacting Rick Jones or the Church Office.

November Youth Birthdays

Happy Birthday to... Tatum Korn (11/13), Bridgette Wright (11/16), Hans Muse (11/18), Reid Hoffman (11/25), Anja Muse (11/29), Sabine Muse (11/30)

November Scripture about Joy

Consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. James 1:2-3

Advent Opening Devotions ~ Jesus' Birth

Story: Excerpts from the Gospel of Luke

Song: Joy to the World!

Memory Bible Verse: "This very day in David's town your Savior was born – Christ the Lord!

Luke 2:11 Good News Version

You Version Holy Bible App – Teens and Adults

Giving Thanks ~ You Version has focused this month's selections on plans that can help you rediscover the spirit of gratitude. Each day's readings offer reminders from God's Word of His promises and His faithfulness.

Bible App for Kids ~ Help your kids connect each day and help them fall in love with God's Word.

Lunch Outing

Youth and adults, join us for lunch at Chiaro's in Green Lane and a trip to the United Schwenkfelder Choir on Sunday, December 6th following the worship service. Please bring money for lunch. Youth, lunch is free. Please sign up in the Narthex or RSVP to Barb Master.

Children's Christmas Program Rehearsals

Christmas program rehearsals will be held on Sundays during the Sunday school hour beginning today. Kids should go to Opening Devotions first and should try to attend as many rehearsals as they can. Parents and teachers who can stay and help would be great. One Saturday rehearsal is planned for December 19th 9:00am – 11:30am.

Children's Christmas Program

The Christmas program is scheduled for Sunday, December 20th at 10:15 am during worship. Kids should arrive at 9:00am for rehearsal. After worship, join us in the Adult Sunday School room for refreshments and a hoagie sale.

Christian Exiles Are Fleeing Persecution

Let's help rescue some Exiles! The Deacons at Palm have arranged a partnership with Church World Services (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. 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

Offering to support the Migrant Hospitality Project is welcomed. Please mark "Migrant" on your Envelope to direct your donation. Thank you.

Thank You

Many thanks from the United Choir Gown coordinator to all of the seamstresses who helped to repair the gowns prior to our concert!

2016 Relay for Life

Palm's Relay for Life Team is excited to represent our church in a new way at the 2016 Relay for Life Event. We continue to be grateful to our church's members and friends for the success of this important mission over the last 16 years. Beginning with the 2016 Relay, Palm Schwenkfelder Church will be represented as an event sponsor. Not only will our church's name be printed on all of the Relay t-shirts, but also our church's banner will be displayed at the event acknowledging our participation as an event sponsor. We will continue to conduct some fundraising on a limited basis to help finance our sponsorship. The first of these fundraisers will be the Christmas Eve luminary project, the details of which are printed on the following page.

Music Ministry Committee

The Board of Music Ministry has been asked to consider providing appropriate sacred music from 10:00am - 10:15am, prior to the Sunday morning service. This will begin **today**. For those who arrive early, it can be a quiet time of reflection and prayer to prepare hearts and minds for the service which will follow. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact our Director of Music, Ed Bieler.

Altar Flowers and Bulletin Sponsorships

The Deacons would like to thank the members of Palm for sponsoring bulletins and real flowers every Sunday for the 2015 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 keep an eye out for the new 2016 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.

**Palm Schwenkfelder Church
Sponsors Luminaries for Christmas Eve**

Every Sunday, from November 22nd until December 13th, you may contribute \$5.00 per line for a luminary to decorate the church driveway on Christmas Eve. Your contribution may be made "in honor of" or "in memory of" friends or loved ones. There will be a special insert in the Christmas Eve bulletin acknowledging your gifts. **Please order your luminaries at the table located in the Narthex after worship services or place your order and payment in the office lock-box before the deadline of Sunday, December 13th.**

**Please make checks payable to:
PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH
Memo: Christmas Eve Luminaries**

PLEASE PRINT

Donor's Name _____

Phone Number _____

"In Honor of"

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

"In Memory of"

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19464

484-949-8774

November 29, 2015

Highlights of the 2015 PSEC Fall Meeting



On November 15, 272 people gathered at St. Paul's UCC in Douglassville for the PSEC Fall meeting. We opened the meeting with joyful seasonal

music led by The Revs. Josh Blakesley, Ann Few, and Mary Etta Mest.

We worshipped together and approved the spending plan for 2016.

We celebrated that many people in attendance participated in events offered by the Conference in 2015 a good indication that the budget dollars were spent in a way to assist and enlighten both clergy and lay folks in the Conference. We look forward to our 169 churches covenanting with the Conference to continue to be able to offer worthwhile programming and training. We have committed to monetary support of our youth to the National Youth Event in Disney World, to support Bethany Children's Home, to support our Members in Discernment and, through a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the two properties, support new ministries (a form is available online to request financial support from this New Ministry Fund.)

Rev. Christian Creyer, Conference Treasurer, confirmed that the Conference is no longer in debt, so every dollar received in 2016 will go to current expenses.

Worship followed the budget meeting. The longest ordained pastor, Rev. Charles Strasbaugh and the most recent ordained pastor, Rev. Zachary Jackson co-facilitated our liturgy. Conference Minister, Bill Worley, preached on Mark 13 encouraging those in attendance to fear not and look for signs of new birth in places where the Holy Spirit is least expected. Rev. Worley was joined by Revs. Craner and Morris in the celebration of communion.

Thank you to Rev. Steven Simpson, his gracious congregation for their extravagant welcome. We look forward to seeing you for the 3-day Spring Meeting at West Chester University, June 10-12, 2016.



Prayers are requested for Shenkel UCC in Pottstown and Rev. Bonnie L. Moore.

Getting to Know:

Shenkel UCC

1580 Shenkel Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

Nestled amid the rolling hills of northwest Chester County in an area once called Free Love Valley (ask us!), Shenkel UCC's vibrant and friendly congregation is an open house of God. Our faith is rooted in Christian spirituality.



Prayer and spreading God's love through service is our mission.

Shenkel people love to serve. We support the Coventry Food Pantry and the Pottstown Cluster, preparing and serving the community meal to those in need.

And Shenkel people love being together. There is always a chance to "raise a joyful noise" with Cherub, Youth, Chancel and Chime choirs, and occasions for young and old to share their instrumental musical gifts. Have a particular interest or talent? We may have a group. Or start one of your own!

At the center of our "doing" is a chance to "be." Prayer is central to our congregation. Agape group meets monthly for prayer and book study, and Sunday morning healing prayers are offered regularly. Walking Shenkel's labyrinth continues to be a spiritual high point for many throughout the community.

Recognizing that all have different needs, Shenkel offers several styles of worship. Summer services are held outdoors in our picturesque grove. From September through June, indoor Sunday worship includes Morning Prayer and Meditation from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m., and The Gathering, an inviting worship experience with diverse music, liturgy, and a message centered around a specific Bible reading at 9:30 a.m. Special worship opportunities such as our Moonlight Labyrinth Walks, Blessing of the Animals, and Longest Night services are offered periodically throughout the year.

At 10:30 a.m., we welcome all to our dynamic Sunday School program where children learn about faith through cooking, art, games, and music, youth gather bi-weekly to wrestle with contemporary issues and deepen their faith, and adults explore a wide range of spiritual, Biblical, and contemporary topics.

Check us out at shenkelucc.org. Come see why people call Shenkel unique among churches!

This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Sunday, November 29

9:00am Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program

9:00am Sunday School

10:15am First Sunday of Advent Worship Service

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are
(Jeremiah 33: 14 – 16)

Monday, November 30

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Psalm 25: 1 – 5)

Tuesday, December 1

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Psalm 25: 6 – 10)

1:00pm Ladies' Aid Meeting

7:00pm Boy Scouts - Troop Meeting

Wednesday, December 2

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are
(1 Thessalonians 3:9 – 13)

5:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal

6:00pm Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30pm Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 3

9:00am Staff Meeting

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 21:25- 28)

7:00pm Deacon's Meeting

Friday, December 4

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 21: 29 – 33)

Saturday, December 5

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 21:34 – 36)

6:00pm Troop 79 - Holiday Party & Lock-In

Sunday, December 6

- » 8:00am Troop 79 - Holiday Party & Lock-In
- 9:00am Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program
- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:15am Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service
- 12:00pm Youth Lunch Outing
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 3:1 – 6)
- 2:30pm United Choir Concert
- 7:30pm United Choir Concert

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 –Thursday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Friday 8:00 – 3:00

www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com

Church Administrator E-mail: palmschwenkfelder@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: Lawrence Croll

Ushers: Alex Jalowy, Joanne Jalowy, Karen Schultz, Kevin Schultz

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610 – 845 – 7208

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