

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, DECEMBER 4, 2016

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" Ellen Jane Lorenz

Advent Wreath Lighting "Of the Father's Love" Joel Raney

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,
ev - er - more and ev - er - more, Em - man - u - el.

During Advent, we wait for the one promised in scripture.

And he will be called Mighty God.

We wait for the one who whose power has no limits and whose strength knows no end.

And he will be called Mighty God.

We wait for the one whose everlasting light can illuminate the darkest night.

And he will be called Mighty God.

We wait for the one whose mercy never ends and whose faithfulness endures forever.

And he will be called Mighty God.

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,
ev - er - more and ev - er - more, Em - man - u - el.

Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, you judge your people with righteousness; we judge our neighbors either right or wrong. Your Servant defended the cause of the poor; it is because of our greed that many still want. You bring deliverance to the needy, but we stand in the way of it being received. You send us a Savior who will crush the oppressor, but we raise up idols in his stead. Make us mindful of your dominion, how you rule while sun and moon endure. May we bow down before you and pay you the tribute that you are due. Amen.

Time of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

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

Scripture Isaiah 11:1 – 10 (NRSV p. 558; LP p. 1078 – 1079)
Matthew 3:1 – 12 (NRSV p. 784; LP p. 1508)

Children’s Sermon

Children’s Church No Children’s Church

***Hymn #136** “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Sermon “Rejoicing in a Vision of Peace”

Pastoral Prayer and 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

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**

The voice of one crying in the wilderness calls us to prepare your way, O Lord. Among the sounds of society you choose to reveal your will. Amid its clamor we yearn to hear voices seeking your mercy. Send us forth with clear minds so that your way is proclaimed with foresight. And grant us your benediction so that our acts are sanctified by your grace. Amen.

***Hymn #171**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

***Benediction**

Postlude

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Lani Smith

*All who are able, please stand.

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

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:

Edmund Kuhns, Lucile and Bob Jones, Sheryl Tomlin, John Detweiler, Carmen Davis, Maurice Meeker, Mae Gerhart, Brandon Komark, Rev. Bill Vanderslice, Alvera Heffner, Dorothy Parker, Sharon Stevens, Jack Bold, Marian Fox, Helen Miller, Goldie Graber, Kylene Bertoia Hart, Mary and Heinz Herrmann, Wanda Gentry, Martha Wolford, Becky and Kraig Kimmel, Marvin Zeisloft, Devon Hawkins, Kerm Goda, Vern Weller, Bryan Schwoyer, Donna Weller, Donald Long, Mary Hartman, Jen Fries, Margaret Wallinger, Reverend Ed Winslow, Ernie Guldin, Betty Serff, 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.

Bible Study

This week's online Bible Study will open 1 Samuel 31, the final Chapter in that Book. Join the conversation by contacting Rick Jones or the Church Office.

H.E.R.O.

Helpful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Optimistic!

When you recognize heroic behavior among our youth, please let them know. Acts 20:35 and Luke 19:10, check them out!

Holy Bible App by YouVersion

Teens - check out one of these current plans: Chasing Failure, How to Strengthen your Faith, or Fighting FOMO (it's what happens when everyone else's great day stops us from enjoying our own)

Kids - (and parents can help) check out one of these current plans: Courageous Kids, Next Steps for Kids, Truth or Trash.

Bible for Kids by YouVersion

Type in "Bible for kids free" to begin your kid's journey with Christ. New format, same great stories! Great for kids who aren't reading independently. Interactive fun for all ages.

December Youth Birthdays

Happy Birthday to...

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

Migrant Hospitality Project

The Migrant Hospitality Project (MHP) is awaiting activation. We are equipped to welcome a Christian exile household of up to 4 people. Cash donations are still appreciated, in anticipation of moving costs and final items that depend on demographics of the actual clients. Please mark your donations "Migrants."

Confirmands and Mentors Christmas Party and Luncheon

There will be a Christmas Party and Luncheon sponsored by the Board of Christian Education and the Mentor Committee **next Sunday, December 11th**. Snow date is the 18th. The party begins at approximately 12:00 p.m., immediately after the special church meeting. After lunch, we will discuss your Faith Journey timelines. Please be sure to have them completed by this time. The event concludes around 1:30 p.m. If you are UNABLE to attend, please notify your confirmand /mentor, and also notify the church office.

Special Congregational Meeting

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held **next Sunday, December 11, 2016**, immediately following the worship service to elect our church leadership, approve our budget for 2017, and have a discussion regarding the Church's Memorial Garden. There will be copies of the budget in the narthex available before the meeting. Please be sure to attend this important meeting.

We Need Your Help!

The Relay for Life committee needs to replenish its supply of gallon plastic milk jugs for the Christmas Eve luminaries. If you can contribute, please take off the labels, and place the jug(s) in the receptacle located in the coat room on the south side of the Narthex. We also need people to help assemble the luminaries at 4:00 PM, Tuesday, December 20th, and place the luminaries around the drives on Christmas Eve Day at 11:00 AM. There is a sign-up sheet for these two activities in the Narthex.

Kids' Christmas Program

On Sunday, December 18th Palm Youth will present this year's Christmas program entitled *A Not So Silent Night*. It's a Christmas comedy where the shepherds are on trial for "disturbing the peace" when celebrating the birth of Jesus. Cookies and refreshments will follow the program in the Adult Bible Classroom, along with a hoagie sale.

United Schwenkfelder Choir

The United Schwenkfelder Choir will present its 86th annual concert **today**. The 80-voice, non-denominational choir, representing membership in 30 churches from Montgomery and Bucks Counties, will perform a program of traditional and contemporary Christmas music at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Central Schwenkfelder Church, located at 2111 Valley Forge Road (Route 363), Lansdale, just north of Skippack Pike (Route 73). A free will offering will be taken. For additional information, contact choir president Dennis Alderfer at 215-393-9974, or www.unitedchoir.org.

Christmas Cantata

On Saturday, December 24th, at 7:30 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 [Canticles in Candlelight: A Cantata for Christmas](#).

Altar Flowers and Bulletin Sponsorship

The **new charts for 2017** are now available and are posted outside the office. The cost for flower sponsorship is \$50. The cost for bulletin sponsorship is \$15. Please sign up on the chart located outside the office. You could also call or email the office, or drop a note in the office drop box. Any Deacon or Church Officer will help you with any questions about the process. Getting your name in an available slot will hold the date for you. Thank You.

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.

Do You Know?

We are starting a new feature in our bulletins entitled “Do You Know?” Items of interest to members and visitors will be listed. If you have any items to add, please call or email Dan Ferry in the church office. Thank you.

“Do You Know?”

- ❖ We are sponsoring a family through Open Link with gifts for Christmas. Please take a tag from the tree in the narthex, purchase the item and return it to the church by **December 11th**. Thanks for spreading holiday cheer in our community!
- ❖ Help us decorate our Mitten Tree with the gift of warmth. Hats, scarves and mittens will be donated to Open Link after the Christmas services. You may bring your own items, or purchase them after the worship service, with proceeds from the sale going to Relay for Life.
- * 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.
- * 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.

**Palm Schwenkfelder Church Relay for Life Team
Sponsors Luminaries for Christmas Eve**

Every Sunday from November 27th until December 11th, you will have the opportunity to contribute \$5.00 per line for a luminary candle to decorate the church driveway on Christmas Eve. This is one of the fundraisers for the Palm Schwenkfelder Church Relay for Life Team. You may purchase a luminary "In Honor" or "In Memory" of anyone who holds a special place in your heart, a family member, friend, teacher, etc. There will be a special insert in the Christmas Eve worship folder acknowledging your gifts. **Please order your luminaries at the Relay for Life Team 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 11th.** You may use the form included in this newsletter to place your order.

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

PLEASE PRINT

Donor's Name _____
Phone No. _____

"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

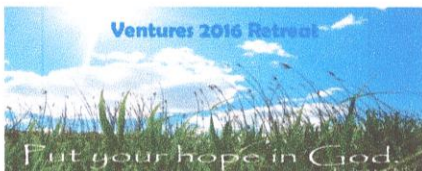
December 4, 2016

The Power of Hope and How Our Faith Makes A Difference

The theme of this year's Ventures retreat, held in late September, was **The Power of Hope and How Our Faith Makes A Difference**. One of the presenters was Rev. Karl Jones, PSE Conference Disaster Coordinator. He explained that there are many levels to disaster relief and that the United Church of Christ's primary involvement with the clean-up would probably not happen until 3 or 4 weeks after the disaster, probably long after the disaster had ceased to be the main story in the news. At the time of the retreat, our disaster ministries had provided help in 5 different locations in 2016.

An important element of the Conference's disaster ministries is clean-up as well as giving hope to those whose lives have been disrupted. In addition to personnel, they bring buckets, shovels, cleaning supplies, tools, nails, lumber, etc., all items to try to help those who were affected rebuild their lives.

Hurricane Matthew wasn't even on the horizon at the time of the retreat but it would be shortly. It held the news for several days and then went to the "back page." A member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Kutztown, who had attended Ventures, remembered the words of Pastor Jones. Just because it was no longer on the front page didn't mean that help was not still needed. So a plea was made to the congregation for help. October 23 was set as the day to receive a special offering for disaster ministries and a check for \$425 has been given to the Conference as a result of the generosity of this congregation.



 **Disaster
Ministries**

United Church of Christ

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference

Emanuel UCC

2628 Fillmore St., Philadelphia, PA 19137



Emanuel (Bridesburg) United Church of Christ was founded by German and Swiss immigrants who settled in the heavily-industrialized borough of Bridesburg, which in 1854 had been annexed to the City of Philadelphia. A nucleus of 34 immigrants of the Reformed faith gathered in 1857. For four years the group was served by traveling German Lutheran and Methodist pastors. Under the leadership of the Rev. J. G. Neuber, Emanuel's first German Reformed pastor, Emanuel Church was formally organized in 1861. Our church laid the cornerstone of our present building in 1863, and the building was dedicated in June, 1864. Also in 1863, under the leadership of then-pastor the Rev. Emanuel Boehringer, a home for children orphaned by the Civil War was established under the name of "The Orphans' Home of the Shepherd of the Lambs." This orphanage, located originally in South Philadelphia and then for several years in Bridesburg, was relocated to Womelsdorf, PA in 1870, and is now known as Bethany Children's Home. Our congregation values our historic connection to Bethany Children's Home, and the relationship between Emanuel Church and Bethany Children's Home continues to this day.

Emanuel Church recently celebrated our 155th anniversary. We offer a "Dinner Church" on the first Wednesday of each month, and our ladies organize a "Women's Wednesday" program on the third Wednesday of each month. We are a counseling site for the Second Chance Kinship Network, which helps at-risk children and youth by arranging kinship care. We have an annual "Backpack Sunday" before the start of each school year, and donate school supplies to Bridesburg Elementary School. Our fall and spring auctions raise funds for the maintenance of our cemetery. We regularly respond to genealogical inquiries about our cemetery, and through those inquiries have learned that our small church has family connections from coast to coast.



Prayers are requested for Emanuel (Bridesburg) UCC in Philadelphia and Rev. David T. Reppert.

This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Sunday, December 4

9:00am Sunday School

10:15am Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 11:1-10)

2:30pm United Choir Concert

7:30pm United Choir Concert

Monday, December 5

11:00am Board of Music Ministry Meeting

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Psalm 72:1-7)

Tuesday, December 6

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Psalm 72:18-19)

1:00pm Ladies' Aid Meeting

7:00pm Boy Scouts - Troop Meeting

7:00pm Girl Scouts Senior/Ambassador Troop 72134

Wednesday, December 7

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Romans 15:4-13)

6:00pm Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30pm Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 8

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Matthew 3:1-6)

Friday, December 9

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Matthew 3:7-12)

Saturday, December 10

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 65:17-25)

Sunday, December 11

9:00am Sunday School

10:15am Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service

11:30am Special Congregational Meeting Following Worship

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 35:1-7)

12:00pm Confirmands and Mentors Christmas Luncheon

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: palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net

Church Office Email: palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net

Pastor's E-mail: palmpastor@comcast.net

Copyright License Number: 1433223

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: Jean Ross

Ushers: Gregg Hoffman, Tom Long, Scott Kriebel, Matt Wright

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610 – 845 – 7208

The Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Dedication are both reprinted by permission of The United Church Press from When We Gather by James G. Kirk. Copyright 2001 by Geneva Press.