

# **PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH**

**Associate Member: United Church of Christ**



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# **PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH**

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015**

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer**

**Prelude**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Lani Smith

**Call to Worship**

Listen! The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

**Prepare the Way of the Lord!**

**Senior Choir Anthem**

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Benjamin Harlan

**Scripture**

Luke 3:1 – 6 (NRSV p. 834; LP p. 1603 – 1604)

**Advent Lighting and Children’s Sermon**

(A Time of Confessing Our Need for Advent Peace)

**Advent Candle Choral Response**

# Celtic Advent Carol

## Congregation Part

arr. Jacob

Women

Men

5

Light the

Light the can - dle, Je - sus is com - ing.

7

can - dle, Je - sus is com - ing. Je - sus is

Light the can - dle, Je - sus is com - ing.

10

com - ing.

**Children's Church** Rosemary Heffner (Christmas Cards)

\*Hymn #136

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

**Scripture** Luke 1:68 – 79 (NRSV p. 832; LP p. 1600 – 1601)

**\*Hymn #133** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**Sermon** “A Father’s Song”

**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** “Wake, Awake” Johann Sebastian 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**

**How good you have been to us, gracious God! How meagerly we have responded. You have restored our fortunes when we felt all was lost. You have filled our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. We give thanks not only with a portion of our income, but also through renewed commitment to righteous living. By your grace, we share in the work Christ came to accomplish among us. May love abound in and through us. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #159** “Sing We Now of Christmas”

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** “On Jordan’s Bank” David Cherwien

\*All who are able, please stand.

The bulletins are sponsored today in loving memory of Norman and Mae Kuhns by the family.

The flowers are presented today in loving memory of Evelyn Schultz by Wilmer 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 Steltz, Kerm Goda, Rev. Linda S. Gruber, Edmund Kuhns, Vern Weller, Mary and Heinz Herrmann, Bryan Schwoyer, Donna Weller, Jeff Treichler, Bill Ludlow, 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 staff of Palm Schwenkfelder Church.

**Bible Study**

This week's online Bible Study will be a seasonal offering, to allow Study Partners time to work on last week's homework. Take part in either exercise by contacting Rick Jones or the Church Office.

**December Youth Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to...

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

**December Joy Scripture**

Joy is trusting when you want to doubt.

“Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.” Isaiah 26:4

**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****Christmas and Advent Plans ~**

Sounds of Christmas, Rhythm of Christmas, A Christmas Prophecy Devotional, The Christmas Story, Prayers for Christmas, An Advent Playlist: Hymn-Based Devotions, Waiting Here for You: An Advent Journey of Hope, and many more!

**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.

### **November Youth Hoagie Sale Round-Up**

Thank you for supporting Palm youth. We raised \$200 to donate to the Girl Scouts.

### **Lunch Outing**

Youth and adults, join us **today** for lunch at Chiaro's in Green Lane and a trip to the United Schwenkfelder Choir. Please bring money for lunch. Youth, lunch is free. Meet out in the Narthex after worship.

### **Children's Christmas Program Rehearsals**

Christmas program rehearsals will be held on Sundays during the Sunday school hour. 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 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 11:30am.

### **Children's Christmas Program**

The Christmas program is scheduled for Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **“The Birth of Jesus”**

Invite friends and loved ones to come see the youth present “The Birth of Jesus” on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> during worship. Join us after for free refreshments and a hoagie sale.

### **Open Link Tree**

Thank you for taking tags to buy gifts for an adopt-a-family from Open Link. There are a few more tags left. After purchasing a gift, bring the gift to the tree. The gift should not be wrapped and the tag should be with the gift. Please return no later than next Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Thanks again!

### **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!

## **Thank You**

The Ladies' Aid would like to thank everyone who contributed to the filling of the Christmas stockings.

## **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. 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.

## **December Palm Leaves Late**

Due to several issues, both technical and non-technical in nature, the mailing of the December Palm Leaves has been significantly delayed. The newsletter was delivered to the printer this past Friday, but may very well not arrive in the mail until the 20<sup>th</sup>. The digital version of the December Palm Leaves is available on our website, and was sent via email to everyone who has provided the office with their email address. Steps are being taken to ensure prompt delivery of the mailed newsletters in the future. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

## **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 charts 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**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. \_\_\_\_\_
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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 6, 2015

## CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

*Written by Rev. George Miller, Annuitant Visitor*

One of my duties as an Annuitant Visitor for the Pension Board is to maintain contact with approximately fifty retired ministers and/or spouses. While visiting these minister and spouses, I am in a position to recommend special gifts for people who have special needs and unmet services. Often, I suggest to the Pension Board that these people should be helped financially. Through the Christmas Fund, the Pension Board is able to give a gift of money to offer assistance.

Two recipients have shared their experiences with us to encourage the churches' support of this special ministry.

**Mrs. Shirley Johnson** - *My husband and I served the churches in various settings for 64 years. Those years were challenging and rewarding. Now that I am a widow, the people of the UCC have provided me with a gift of money from the special Christmas Fund Offering. It has helped me make it through the tough winter. Thank you for caring.*

**Rev. Jack Ivey** *It wasn't until I was on the receiving end of the Christmas Fund Offering that the true nature of the ministry became clear. I live with a cancer of the bone marrow plasma cells. Last winter the disease reached a point where more active treatment was needed in the form of a clinical trial. It was at that point when a check arrived, a gift made possible by the special Christmas Fund Offering. At a time when expenses mounted, that gift paid for gas, parking, and incidental expenses for twice weekly trips to Philadelphia. It enabled me to participate in the clinical trial. What years ago meant just an occasion for writing a check, being on the receiving end of that ministry made those therapies possible. I have a sincere appreciation for the Church's thoughtfulness. You make a difference in making this ministry possible. Thank you.*

As you can see, it is important that we continue to support this special fund for those who need it. Jesus calls us to care for those in need, and what better time than at Christmas! *Contributions to the Christmas Fund Offering will be received on Sunday, December 20, or whenever possible.*

## Upcoming Events for and at Our Local Churches

Details: [psec.org/category/local-events](http://psec.org/category/local-events)

[\\*psec.org/category/conference-wide-events](http://psec.org/category/conference-wide-events)

- Dec 6** – 50th Anniversary Celebration Worship Service at Calvary UCC in Barto
- Dec 6** – German Language Advent Candlelight Communion Service at Huff's Union Church in Alburts
- Dec 6** – Souderton Alumni Men's Chorus at Zwingli UCC in Souderton
- Dec 6** – Christmas Concert at Christ Church of the UCC, Trumbauersville
- Dec 8** – Berks Encore Orchestra at St. Paul's UCC in Kutztown
- Dec 12** – All-U-Can Eat Pancake Breakfast with SANTA! at Calvary UCC in Barto
- Dec 12** – Community Christmas Concert at Olivet-Schwenkfelder UCC in Norristown
- Dec 12** – Flea Market at St. Peter UCC in Knauertown
- Dec 13** – Christmas Cantata at Shenkel UCC in Pottstown
- Dec 21** – Longest Night Service at Shenkel UCC in Pottstown
- Dec 21** – Longest Night Worship Service at Calvary UCC in Barto
- Dec 27** – Christmas with the Dogs of Falkner Swamp in Gilbertsville
- \*Jan 12-14** – Clergy Women's Retreat at Raphaela Retreat Center in Haverford
- Jan 17** – VOICE IS at Zwingli UCC in Souderton
- \*Feb 26-27** - PSEC Clergy Couple's Retreat at Golden Plough in New Hope
- Apr 3** – Joybells of Melmark at Zwingli UCC in Souderton
- \*May 3-5** – 22nd Clergy Convocation at DoubleTree by Hilton in Lancaster
- 1st Saturday of Month** – Informal, 5-pm Church Service at Trinity UCC in Leesport
- 2015-2016 Season** – Fresh Florida Fruit and Elliott Pecans at Zwingli UCC in Souderton
- 2nd & 4th Fridays** - Elder Diner at Woodcrest UCC in Philadelphia
- Tuesday Afternoons** – Quilting for a Cause at Trinity Reformed UCC in Pottstown

**NOTE: The closing date for the PSEC books for 2015 will be January 14, 2016.**

## Classified Ads

Details: [psec.org/category/classified](http://psec.org/category/classified)

- PT Office Manager** at Good Shepherd UCC in Boyertown (posted 11-16-15)
- PT Music Director** at Zwingli UCC in Souderton (posted 11-5-15)
- Wurlizer Organ** – Emanuel UCC in Philadelphia (posted 10-29-15)
- PT Organist** – St. Paul's UCC, Birdsboro (posted 9-1-15)

Prayers are requested for UCC Warminster and Rev. Joshua Blakesley.



# This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

## 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

## Monday, December 7

- 11:00am Board of Music Ministry Meeting
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 1:5 – 20)

## Tuesday, December 8

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 1:21 – 25)
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts of America - Troop Committee Meeting
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts - Troop Meeting
- 7:00pm Girl Scouts Senior/Ambassador Troop 72134
- 7:00pm Stage Goes Up For Christmas

## Wednesday, December 9

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 1:57 – 66)
- 12:00pm Brown Bag Lecture Series @ SLHC
- 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 10

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 1:68 – 79)

## Friday, December 11

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

## Saturday, December 12

- 11:00am Fruit and Flower Pick-Up
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Philippians 1:3 – 11)
- 6:00pm Boy Scouts Holiday Party and Lock-In (Snow Date)

## Sunday, December 13

- » 8:00am Boy Scouts Holiday Party and Lock-In (Snow Date)
- 9:00am Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program
- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:15am Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 3:7 – 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 –Thursday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Friday 8:00 – 3:00

[www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com](http://www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com)

Church Administrator E-mail: [palmadministrator@comcast.net](mailto:palmadministrator@comcast.net)

Church Office Email: [palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net](mailto:palmschwenkfelder@comcast.net)

Pastor's E-mail: [palmpastor@comcast.net](mailto: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: Jean Ross

Ushers: Scott Kriebel, Darrell Manley, Matthew Wright, Pierce Wright,

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610 – 845 – 7208

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