

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Associate Member: United Church of Christ



**833 Gravel Pike
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**PalmSchwenkfelder@comcast.net
www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com**

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of glory, we confess that we have not recognized you in our midst nor listened for your voice. Our faith is fragile, and inquiry goes unrecognized amid our massive self-concern. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the life we have been given. Our church is focused more on our own survival than on its mission to the world. We come to you today with sincere repentance for our neglect. We have failed to prepare the way for Christ's entry into our everyday environment. Pardon and change us, we pray. Amen.

Time of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Prelude

"Wake, Awake"

Johann Sebastian Bach

***Call to Worship**

The day of God is coming; lift up your voices.
Cry out with the strength God provides.

We await God's coming day with anticipation.

We seek the peace and patience God provides.

Comfort, comfort my people, says our God.
Speak tenderly to my suffering people.

We will prepare the way for One who is coming.

We look forward to baptism in the Spirit.

God will feed us like a shepherd.

God will gather us in gentle, caring arms.

God's hand is upon us in blessing;

We are welcomed by God's steadfast love.

Hymn #174

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Advent Lighting

Advent is a time to watch.

We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

During Advent we watch for hope in the midst of despair.

We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

During Advent we watch for forgiveness in the midst of rebellion.

We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

During Advent we watch for peace in the midst of conflict.

We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

During Advent we watch for the presence of God in the midst of a fallen world.

We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

Refrain

(1st Sunday) We wait in
 (2nd Sunday) We watch in
 (3rd Sunday) We pre - pare in
 (4th Sunday) We praise with
 (Christmas Eve) We pro - claim with

hope _____ for the morn - ing Light,

for the love of Christ to il - lu - mi - nate _____ the night. _____

We wait with
 We watch with
 We pre - pare with
 We praise with
 We pro - claim with

joy _____ for the Sav - ior's birth;

we wait in
 we watch in
 we pre - pare in
 we praise with
 we pro - claim with

hope for peace on earth.

3

Senior Choir Anthem

“The Light Will Come”

Joseph Martin

Scripture

2 Peter 3:8 – 15 (NRSV p. 988 – 989; LP p.1907 – 1908)

Mark 1:1 – 8 (NRSV p. 812; LP p. 1561)

Children’s Sermon

Children’s Church

Corey May

*Hymn #133

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

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**

While we are waiting and preparing for Christ to appear, we are seeking, O God, to act as faithful followers. May our offerings extend the promise of salvation to people whose lives are broken by neglect, abuse, bad choices, and sinful ways. May these gifts offer hope to all whose suffering and loss seem too heavy to bear. May our church be a listening, caring presence for all its members, and through us for all those we meet in our work and leisure. Amen.

***Hymn#731**

“O Christians, Haste”

***Benediction**

Postlude

“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

David Cherwien

*All who are able, please stand.

Today’s altar flowers are presented in loving memory of Dan Davis by Carmen and Ray Davis.

Today’s bulletins are sponsored in loving memory of Norman and Mae Kuhns 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:

The family of Pam Gibbons, Bob Jones, Rick Jones, Walt Master, Jane Petrilla, Deb Callodonato, Molly Werley, Bryan Schwoyer, Clara Graber, Anna Bieler, Earl Yerger, Donald Long, Jen Fries, Vera Boykin, Jean Gentry, Doris Masemore, Wanda Gentry, Charlie Krauss, Margaret Wallinger, Reverend Ed Winslow, Ernie Guldin, Vern Weller, Betty Serff, Mary Jane Burianek, Karen Freed, Donald Cook, Dave Jaeger, Robert Margerum, Mary Hartman, Helen Miller, Rob Ziegler, Kathy Bartman, 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

Psalm 75 will be in focus for the online Bible Study this week. To join the Discussion, please contact Rick Jones or the Church Office with an email address.

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” Matthew 4:19

When you catch a youth member carrying out an act of kindness, you may tell them to put a punch in their fish card. Together we can help shape Christian behaviors.

Children’s Church

After the children’s sermon all children from 4 years of age thru 4th grade are invited upstairs to participate in Children’s church for an interactive Bible lesson and snack. Please advise the leader if your child has food allergies or food restrictions. Parent pick up is upstairs in the children’s church room.

December Youth Outing

Join us **TODAY** after worship for lunch followed by a trip to the United Schwenkfelder Choir concert. Lunch is \$5 per youth. The concert is free. Transportation is provided. Younger youth should be accompanied by a parent. See Barb Master with any questions.

Sunday School Room Committee

Beginning in the New Year, a committee will work on improving Sunday school rooms. We are looking for members of all talents. You may find that you are strong in organizing and planning or maybe in painting and handyman work. You are all needed. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please see anyone on the Board of Christian Education or sign up on the sheet outside of the church office. There will be an initial meeting in January. Come out and see if this committee is right for you!

Children's Christmas Program Rehearsals

Sunday, Dec 7th 9:00am – 10:00am

Sunday, Dec. 14th 9:00am – 10:00am

Saturday, Dec. 20th 9:30am – 11:30am

Sunday, Dec. 21st 9:00am – 10:00am

Sunday, Dec. 21st 10:15am, Christmas program during worship

Open Link Angel Tree

Unwrapped gifts are due back to the Narthex by this Wednesday evening. Please call Barb Master at 610-295-2190 if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

Jesus is “The Reason for the Season”

Palm Youth will present two great programs on Sunday, December 21st at 10:15 am. “The Reason for the Season” written by Angela and Jessica Simmons is a short play about Christmas decorations that find out Jesus is at the center of Christmas. Following will be a poem reading “The Christmas Story” written by Leanne Guenther with adaptations by Jerry Lynn Maldet. Watch the stable fill with life as the poem is read and Christmas hymns are sung.

Refreshments and Hoagie Sale

After the Children's Christmas program on December 21st, join us in the Adult Sunday school room for free refreshments sponsored by the Confirmation class in honor of the young performers. And, keep your lunch plans open as the youth will be selling turkey and Italian hoagies.

Confirmands and Mentors Luncheon

There will be a Christmas Party and Luncheon sponsored by the Board of Christian Education and the Mentor Committee **next Sunday, December 14th**. 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, also notify the church office.

Give the Gift of Warmth

Time has flown, as time is wont to do, and the Christmas season is once again upon us. One of the wonderful chances that we have to share with those less fortunate during this season is the Christmas Mitten Tree. Help decorate our Mitten Tree with new warm mittens, gloves, caps, and scarves for children and adults. Also appreciated are new socks or other warm winter clothes. After Christmas, these gifts will be given to Open Link for distribution to those in need.

United Schwenkfelder Choir 86th Annual Concert

The United Schwenkfelder Choir will present its 86th annual concert, “Shout for Joy,” **today, Sunday, December 7, 2014**. The 85-voice choir will perform a program of traditional and contemporary Christmas music at 2:30p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Central Schwenkfelder Church, located at 2111 Valley Forge Road, Lansdale, PA 19446. A free will offering will be taken. For additional information, contact 215 – 393 – 9974.

Nursery

When there is no one available to supervise the nursery, parents are welcome to use the nursery but are responsible for their children. If anyone is interested in providing child supervision, please contact Gregg Hoffman.

Brown Bag Lecture Series

On Wednesday, December 10th at noon, come to the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center to hear a Presentation by Allen Viehmeyer and music by Betty Hildenbrand. The presentation is entitled “Missing, Murder, and Bones.” What do three early 20th Century Schwenkfelder descendants have in common? Allen Seibt, an early scholar of Schwenkfelder hymns, seems to have disappeared. Was Horace K. Bechtel murdered? Who’s Michael Gery? (not a descendant) And what about those bones? After the presentation Betty Hildenbrand will play the “March Perkiomen”, written for piano. Enjoy a potpourri of local and Schwenkfelder history.

Aloha From Hawaii

(This was to have been in last week’s bulletin)

I just wanted to say Aloha and Happy Thanksgiving! Hope everyone is doing well! Stay safe and warm throughout the holidays. I know the snow is on its way. Will not miss that out here. Love and miss you all.

Matt Guldin

Ladies’ Aid Christmas Stockings

Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make this mission possible.

Ethel Soffa, Sandra Kriebel, Miriam Hausman, Sallie Wright, Ruth Weaver.

“Trees, Trains, and Gingerbread”

From November 29, 2014 to January 18, 2015, come to the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum where you’ll see an exhibit featuring a Schwenkfelder Christmas tree decorated with cookie cutters, and a showcase with German cookies and Schwenkfelder information on display. There will also be trees decorated with railroad themes and railroad gingerbread buildings and trains. A large O-gauge operating layout with a Reading Company theme will also be part of the exhibit. The Schwenkfelder pieces are thanks to Lee Schultz, and Bill and Sallie Wright. Museum hours are 10:00am – 4:00 pm on Saturdays, noon – 4:00pm on Sundays. Admission; adults \$7.00, seniors (65+) \$6.00, ages 5 – 12 \$3.00, children under 5 and active military are free. Free parking. For additional information visit www.readingrailroad.org/museum

Congregational Meeting

We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting after the worship service **next Sunday, December 14th**. Please take time to pick up a copy of a 2015 Budget and review this information as we will discuss this Budget at the Congregational Meeting.

Palm Leaves

Yes, it is that time again. Please submit any information you would like included in the January/February edition of the Palm Leaves by the end of the day this Wednesday, December 10th.

Annual Report Submissions

And yes, it's also that time, too. Annual reports from all Church committees are due in the office no later than January 5th, 2015. If possible, please e-mail your report to the church office. Any questions should be directed to our Moderator, Anne Goda, or Vice Moderator, Joanne Luz.

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.

Bulletin Sponsorships

The Deacons would like to thank the members of Palm for sponsoring bulletins and real flowers every Sunday for the 2014 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 sign up for 2015 on the chart in the hallway outside of the office. And, thanks!

Palm Schwenkfelder Church has decorated a tree at



Trains, trees, and gingerbread

at the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum





500 S. Third Street, Hamburg PA

www.readingrailroad.org

November 29, 2013 through January 18, 2014

Come and vote for our tree! Two free tickets with each admission. Additional tickets 50 cents each.

Also see:

-  Model trains: large display of vintage and modern model trains
-  More trees decorated in railroad themes by community groups.
-  Gingerbread railroad stations by individual crafters
-  Indoor and outdoor displays of Reading Railroad history and real Reading trains.

Museum hours: Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM, Sunday noon – 4 PM

Admission: Adults, \$7; Seniors (65+), \$6; children (5-12), \$3;
under 5 free

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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

December 7, 2014

Invitation to Conference Members to Attend General Synod 30 from Rev. William P. Worley, PSEC Conference Minister

The PSEC delegation has begun meeting in preparation for General Synod 30 that will be held **June 26-30, 2015** in the birthplace of the United Church of Christ and the home of the UCC Church House - **Cleveland, Ohio!** Did you know that you can also attend as a visitor?

The location of Synod moves to various locations around the United States. We are fortunate that the 2015 meeting is located on the East Coast in the headquarters of the National UCC. This is a wonderful time to explore the UCC beyond your church, town, and state.

Rev. Dwayne Royster, founding pastor of Living Water United Church of Christ in the North Philadelphia section of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, will lead Community Worship on Sunday, June 28, 2015. Some preliminary agenda information includes a Literacy Service Project, Church House Tours, Workshops, Gay Pride Parade, and General Synod Dance as well as business sessions.

Synod is an experience that will energize your faith and give you many opportunities to share stories with others and to come home with some wonderful ideas and experiences to share at your home church. I encourage you to participate in this unique, faith-filled, life-changing experience. If you decide to register, I invite you to share your name, church, email and cell phone number with Donna Tomlinson at donna@psec.org so that the PSEC delegation and PSEC visitors can stay connected while at Synod.

For meeting information and registration go to: ucc.org/synod/

Register by December 31, 2014 = \$225.00

January 1 through March 31, 2015 = \$236.50

April 1, 2015 through Synod = \$247.50

We are providing the following travel information from Philadelphia to Cleveland to assist you in determining the best mode of transportation for you:

Amtrak train: \$130 (14 hours) + \$60 shuttle from train to meeting area.

Airplane: \$400 (4 ¼ hours+) + \$60 shuttle from plane to meeting area.

Bus: \$104 (14-17 hours) +\$60 shuttle

Blessings as you discern your involvement in this UCC journey.

Rev. William P. Worley, Conference Minister, PSEC

NOTE: The PSEC Conference office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday beginning on Wed., Dec. 24 and will reopen on Mon., Jan. 5. The Conference Minister will be on call during the week for any pastoral emergencies. The closing date for the PSEC books for 2014 will be Jan. 16, 2015.

Did you know about these Spiritual Resources at ucc.org?

The United Church of Christ provides resources to **Feed Your Spirit** daily, weekly and whenever you visit ucc.org. You can subscribe to many of them:

- The **Stillspeaking Daily Devotional** can be delivered to your inbox each morning. Consider subscribing to these concise and thought-provoking messages about scripture written by the Stillspeaking writers group.
- **Peek, Ponder, Pray** includes a photo that provokes a question to ponder and a prayer to ask for guidance.
- The **Stillspeaking Weekly** is designed with pastors, lay leaders, and committees in mind, offering thoughtful and practical reflections that invite and inspire dialogue on how your church can strengthen its ministries.
- **Weekly Seeds** is a weekly email summary of a popular resource for lectionary - based Bible study. It includes next Sunday's Bible reading, a brief meditation, and reflections from ancient or contemporary sources. Recent **Seeds** topics include *Letting Go*, *The G-Word*, *Best Party Ever!*, and *All times and places*.

There is also a section describing **Spiritual Practices** that provides a greater understanding of their purpose and use including **Prayer Flags**. Have you heard of the tradition of the Tibetan prayer flags? The ancient practice, some say, goes back to the early days of the Buddhist tradition. Prayer flags are colorful square cloths carefully sewn to twine. They are strung along mountain ridges and peaks high in the Himalayas. You will find them stretching across the grounds of Buddhist monasteries, flapping in the wind. On each piece of cloth is a prayer. Some are for goodwill and good fortune, some are for peace and some for strength.

The belief is that as these prayers are blown by the wind, as they become frayed and tattered, the prayers *bless* the world. The wind carries the blessing into small villages and into bustling cities, into war-torn nations and to peaceful people. The wind carries a prayer of strength to that widow mourning the death of her husband. The breeze blows blessing into that home and over that newborn baby boy resting in the arms of his mother. You've probably been asked to say your prayers out loud, but could you or a group from your church be adventurous and *write* your prayers out loud?

This section also includes information about **Lectio Divina**, **Icons**, and **Prayer Beads**. To learn more, visit ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/practices/.



Prayers are requested for St. Peter's Tohickon UCC in Perkasio and Rev. Steven Hamilton.



United Schwenkfelder Choir
86th Annual Concert

'Shout for Joy'
you heavens;
rejoice, you earth;
burst into song, you mountains!

Isaiah 49:13

Sunday, December 7, 2014

2:30 pm and 7:30 pm

Central Schwenkfelder Church
Worcester, Pa.

2111 Valley Forge Road ~ Lansdale

Eduard K. Bieler - Director

Additional Information: www.UnitedChoir.org

A Free-will Offering will be received

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

Every Sunday, until December 14th, you may contribute \$5.00 per line for a luminary to decorate the church driveway on Christmas Eve. This is one of the fundraisers of the Palm Schwenkfelder Church Relay for Life Team.

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 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 14th.**

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

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** _____

This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Sunday, December 7

- 9:00am Sunday School – Children’s Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 10:15am Sunday Worship Service
- 11:30am Youth Lunch Outing and Trip to the United Choir Concert
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 40:1 – 5)
- 2:30pm Afternoon United Schwenkfelder Choir Concert
- 7:30pm Evening United Schwenkfelder Choir Concert

Monday, December 8

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 40:6 – 11)
- 6:30pm Bld. & Grounds Committee
- 7:30pm Board of Trustees

Tuesday, December 9

- 8:00am Quilters
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Psalm 85:1 – 2)
- 7:00pm Sanctuary Stage Goes Up
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts
- 7:15pm Boy Scouts of America - Troop Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 10

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Psalm 85:8 – 13, 2 Peter 3:8 – 10)
- 5:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00pm Junior Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30pm Palm Country Day School Fundraiser Poinsettia Pick-Up
- 6:30pm Senior Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 11

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (2 Peter 3:10 – 15a)

Friday, December 12

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

Saturday, December 13

9:00am Ladies' Aid Fruit & Flower Pick-Up

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Mark 1:4 – 8)

1:00pm Hamscher/Medina Wedding

3:00pm Boy Scout Holiday Dinner & Overnight "Lock-In"

Sunday, December 14

8:00am Boy Scout Overnight "Lock-In"

9:00am Sunday School

10:15am Sunday Worship Service

11:30am Congregational Meeting

12:00pm Confirmands & Mentors Luncheon

12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 64:1 – 4)

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

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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: Gregg Hoffman

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

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610 – 845 – 7208

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