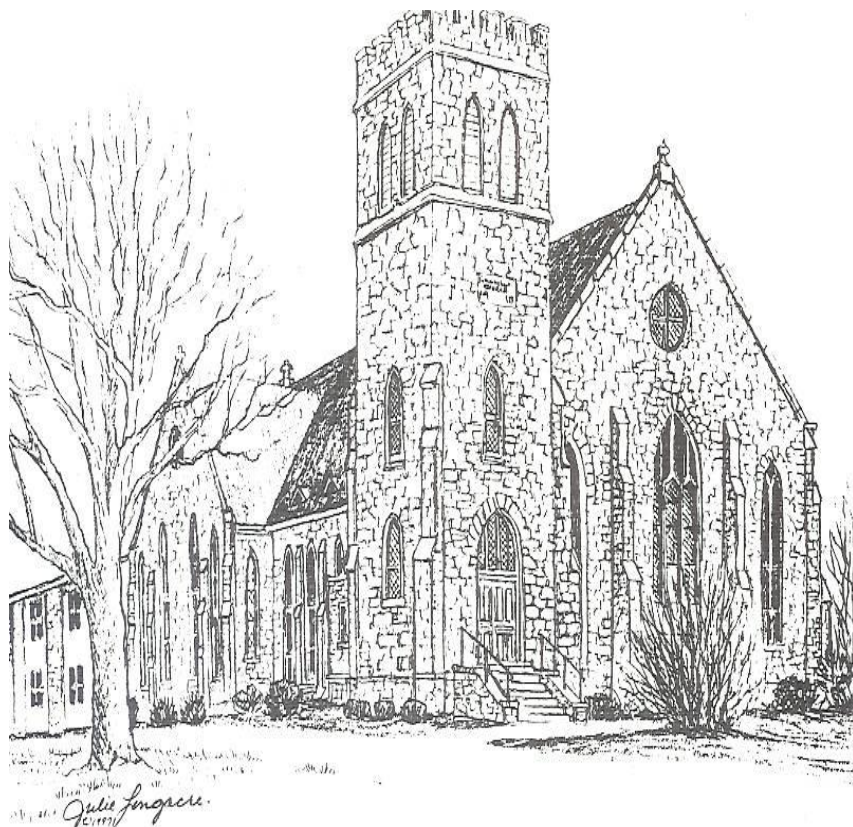


PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

Associate Member: United Church of Christ



833 Gravel Pike
PO Box 66
Palm PA 18070
215-679-5321

www.PalmSchwenkfelderChurch.com
PalmSchwenkfelder@comcast.net

PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2013

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer

Prelude

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Lani Smith

***Call to Worship**

Rejoice together, people of God.

Let all the earth praise our Creator.

We have gathered in honor of our God.

In awe and reverence, we seek God’s Word.

Welcome one another as Christ welcomes you.

Let each other know of Christ’s presence.

Surely Christ has come to change us.

Christ is coming still to redirect us.

This is a time to take delight in the Spirit.

This is the hour to seek knowledge and counsel.

We are ready to learn what the Spirit teaches.

We are awakening to the Spirit’s gifts.

***Hymn #133**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Awesome God, we have disregarded your Word, failing to inquire after your will for us. We have ignored the needy, defended our advantages, and neglected our prayers. We have not appreciated or witnessed your sustaining love. Instead we destroy the resources of the earth with little regard for those who follow us. We value our prosperity more than the harmony you envision for your people. O God, we do not like ourselves this way. Deliver us, we pray. Amen.

Time of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Advent Candle Lighting

Isaiah 11:1 – 10 (NRSV p. 558; LP p. 1078 – 1079)

(Tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

***O come, our Peace, to fill our souls again
Let us rejoice and turn our lives from sin
Freed by the gift of your own Son
We sing our praise to the Eternal One
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel***

**Eternal God, we thank you
that through the years
you have given peace to your people.
Help us to have your peace in our lives.
We pray that, in this Advent season,
we may, by what we do,
show your presence to the sick, to the hungry,
and to the lonely,
so that they too may have peace. Amen.**

Scripture Matthew 3:1 – 12 (NRSV p. 784; LP p. 1508)

Children's Choir "Joy to the World" (Kate Pence, piano)

Children's Sermon

Children's Church Tina Korn Barb Master

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

Sermon "God's Peaceable Kingdom"

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, How a Rose" Olive Nelson Russell

***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 #136**

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

***Benediction**

Postlude

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” David Cherwien

*All who are able, please stand.

Today’s bulletins are sponsored in loving memory of Evelyn Schultz by her granddaughters.

Today’s altar flowers are presented 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.

Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service

Tuesday, December 24th we will gather for worship on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We will begin at 7:15 p.m. with a collection of pre-service music. The service of lessons, carols, and anthems will begin at 7:30pm, and conclude with our traditional candle lighting.

... Things of Interest to Our Palm Schwenkfelder Family...

This week, please keep in your daily prayers:

The family of Mae Schultz, Shiogama Higashi Church, Sendai Hosanna Church, Jeff Treichler, Florence Miller, Vern Weller, the Nees family, Dick Guldin, Marty Glowacki, Vera Boykin, Charles Krauss, Betty Serff, Mary Jane Burianek, Barbara & John Kirwin, Karen Freed, Clark Schultz, Brad Hoffman, Donald Cook, Dave Jaeger, Pearl Freed, Harold Smoll, Robert Margerum, Mary Hartman, Helen Miller, Rob Ziegler, Kathy Bartman, John Hathaway, Bryan Schwoyer, 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, the online Bible Study will try to reason from the parable in 1 Samuel 11. Come help us in that endeavor by contacting Rick Jones or the Church office with an email address. Join in the discussion.

Children's Christmas Program

Join the children on Sunday, December 22nd at 10:15 am as they perform a nativity play entitled

Virtual Christmas

*Written by Vicky Best
Donation made to Tear Fund*



Virtual Christmas takes the familiar nativity story and gives it a fresh, new perspective.

Enjoy traditional Christmas carols sung by our youth and musical instruments performed by our youth. Join us after worship to enjoy light refreshments as you meet the cast. The youth will also be holding a hoagie sale.

Kids Get Caught Being Kind!

Members of the Congregation are invited to catch kids being kind. When you see a child carrying out an act of kindness, let them know you caught them and tell them to make a punch on their *Acts of Kindness Incentive Punch Card!* The acts are limitless! Once their card is complete, the card will be entered into a drawing and they will start a new one.

The Nativity Story Movie Night

For youth 5th grade and up, join us at Lisa Stitt's house from 7:00pm – 9:00pm this coming Friday, December 13th, to watch The Nativity Story movie. Warm-up at the fire and enjoy light snacks.

Christmas Program Rehearsals

Practices/Performances for everyone

Sunday Dec. 8th at 9:00am, Sunday Dec. 15th at 9:00am,

Sunday Dec. 21st 10:00am performance at Frederick Home

Sunday Dec. 22nd 9:00am rehearsal and 10:15am performance

Nursery

Sadly, Sallie Wright has indicated her intent to resign from the Nursery. Sallie has been the happy, familiar face that the children of Palm Schwenkfelder Church have seen for years now, and we thank Sallie for her years of dedication to our children. If you are interested in caring for the children on Sundays in the Nursery, please contact Joan Pusey (215) 679 – 2048, or see her in church.

Used Greeting Cards

The 5th & 6th grade Sunday School class needs your help. They are looking for old/used greeting cards. They will use the pictures on the cards to help create a special book of Bible verses. Please drop off your used/unwanted cards in the designated box located in the Narthex coat closet. Thank you in advance for your help with this special project!

Brown Bag Lecture at Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center

This coming Wednesday, December 11th at noon, come to the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center to hear *Schwenkfelder Life in Pennsylvania Before 1780*. Schwenkfelders in eighteenth century Pennsylvania lived a life that was in some ways similar, some ways different than the life they abandoned in Germany. This illustrated slide lecture looks at a variety of their life experiences and attempts to convey what life among the Pennsylvania Schwenkfelders was like during the colonial period. Some of the topics covered are contacts with Silesia, homes, occupations, religious practice and family life.

Mission Trip

If you are interested in going on the mission trip to Long Branch, NJ from July 6 – 12, 2014, please sign up on the sheet on the mission bulletin board in the narthex. An informational meeting will be held on December 15th following worship.

Annual Report Submissions

Annual reports from all Church committees are due in the office no later than January 3rd, 2014. If possible, please e-mail your report to the church office. Any questions should be directed to Vice Moderator, Anne Goda.

Altar Flower Sponsorship Announcement from the Deacons

Due to rising costs, the donation amount for Sunday altar flowers will be \$50. The new price is effective beginning January 5, 2014. Your participation in sponsoring flowers defrays the cost to the church and brightens our sanctuary with beautiful flowers each Sunday. Sponsorship of bulletins remains at \$15 per week.

Please sign up for the date(s) of your choice on the new charts posted in the hallway by the church office. Make checks payable to “Palm Schwenkfelder Church,” with the notation of “flowers” or “bulletins,” and place in the office lock box or offering plate prior to or on the date of your sponsorship.

Thanks for your support!

Palm Leaves

Due to some publication difficulties, the December Palm Leaves was sent out late. For that reason, several additional copies have been made and can be picked up here at church. These copies are located in the narthex. Thank you for your understanding.

Christmas Paper

Don't know what to do with all that wrapping paper once it's been torn off of all of those wonderful gifts? Well, you can recycle it! Just bring your bags full of wrapping paper, and any Christmas cards you don't want, to the recycling bins here at the church. But no bows or ribbon, please.

Senior Hand Bell Choir

Do you enjoy music? Please consider joining the senior hand bell choir as we need a couple more ringers. We will be glad to teach you. Musical experience is not necessary. If you have questions please feel free to contact Joanne Luz at 215-679-8237 or just show up for our next regularly scheduled practice on Wednesday, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.



Mark your calendars! Join us to see the World Premiere of Sight & Sound Theatres' newest show – MOSES! The parting of the Red Sea...the Burning Bush...the Plagues...the Ten Commandments...the greatest Biblical epic of the Old Testament comes to life on the Sight & Sound stage. The show is on Saturday, March 29, 2014. It starts at 2:45pm (bus leaves Palm Schwenkfelder Church at 12 noon). The price includes Perkiomen Tours bus transportation, show ticket, and dinner at Shady Maple Restaurant. The cost is \$130 for adults, \$92 for children (18 and under). Flyer and registration forms now available in the church Narthex. Questions – contact Karen Schultz at 215-679-6747 or karen.schultz12@yahoo.com (This may be the perfect Christmas gift – spending the day with your loved ones)

New Schwenkfelder Booklets

The Publication Committee of The Schwenkfelder Church is pleased to announce that the new *Schwenkfelder Heritage Sites in Southeastern Pennsylvania* booklets will be available for sale. The 70-page booklet contains historical and current information, locations and full-color photographs of Schwenkfelder churches, meetinghouses, cemeteries of the immigrants, and other places of interest. You will find a copy on display in the Narthex. There are maps of the three main Schwenkfelder districts, and smaller maps of selected sites. Two appendices list the immigrants, their “E” numbers, and places of burial. The booklets cost \$15.00 per copy. Please make checks out to “The Schwenkfelder Church.” We’d like to thank the many people who assisted the Committee, in providing photographs, history and information to make this booklet possible. The booklets may be purchased in the church office or by contacting the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center (shipping \$3.95 additional.)

**UNITED
CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Communitas

PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

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

December 8, 2013

**Martha Kriebel, first woman to receive a Degree at LTS at Philadelphia,
Remains a Vigorous Pastor, Grateful for her Seminary Years**
Excerpts from article on the LTS website: <http://lts.edu/RevMarthaKriebel>



In 1965, the Rev. Martha Bean Kriebel became the first woman to earn a degree from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP) — a Master of Sacred Theology. She had been ordained a United Church of Christ (UCC) pastor in 1959, and at the time was serving a Schwenkfelder congregation in Palm, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, thanks to an agreement involving the UCC Synod and special vote of the congregation in the farming locale.

...Martha Kriebel has always lived in the region. "I grew up in a Christian family," she said. Her father worked 48 years in finance for the Reading Railroad at 12th and Market Streets in Philadelphia. She spent a good part of her young life in the city's East Falls section, and graduated from the city's Girls High School. She also lived in Skippack and Lansdale, Montgomery County, and her family once operated a general store in Creamery, near Skippack.

During her college years, she studied pre-med for a while, thinking she wanted to become a medical missionary, but entering her junior year at Ursinus she began to feel a tugging to attend seminary, and decided on enrolling for post graduate studies at Lancaster Seminary rather than medical school. She met her husband, Howard, at seminary.

...Following 13 years as pastor for the Palm congregation, Kriebel was called in the early 1970s to seven years of service as assistant to the Conference Minister of her denomination in her region, with a portfolio that included evangelism, mission, and social justice. In 1979, yearning for a return to parish ministry, she was called as pastor of Trinity Reformed UCC in Collegetown, Pennsylvania, across the street from her alma mater, Ursinus College. Pastor Kriebel still vigorously serves as the congregation's pastor, and is proud of the Trinity's social and community service outreach.



Prayers are requested for St. John's UCC and Pastor Sue Marie Baskette that the congregation be unified in purpose and passion to serve God and community.



As the “mother” church of Kutztown, St. John’s celebrated its 275th anniversary in 2011. Our history may be old, but our thinking is not! The church aims to celebrate, explore, and grow in our love of God and one another through worship, fellowship and service. Mission has kept us busy: volunteering in NYC to restore a neighborhood park, preparing food for the Kennedy House and Women in Crisis, and supporting Friend Inc., a multiservice social agency and food bank in Kutztown. Our skilled Stitchers create scarves and hats for the needy and blankets for the newly baptized.

Outreach has been focused on community: offering CPR, maintaining a wildflower garden along a creek-side trail, and participating in both town and Kutztown University events like the Kutztown Community Block Party. This year we started our first St. John’s Block Party by inviting our neighbors to a free meal with live music and games. Every November we prepare our annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner-- free food, music and fellowship for the public, a collaborative effort of churches and businesses in Kutztown.

Fundraising is provided by dedicated workers who make delicious candy, cookies, chowchow and soup that is offered in the spring and at our November bazaar and flea market. Also, we offer strawberries and ice cream at the Kutztown PA German Festival every July.

In worship we use a variety of traditional and contemporary worship forms enhanced by soloists, instrumentalists, and intergenerational drama. Recently we have featured gospel and jazz, and our talented bell choir embellishes our worship experience every month. Our pastor has encouraged us to explore new approaches to worship, Bible and book study, and a theme to our worship of “Fulfilling God’s Promise.” This fall, our Christian Ed committee selected a new Sunday School curriculum for the children. To learn more, visit our website: stjohns-ucc.org.

NOTICE TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

The Conference offices will be closed for the Christmas holidays
Dec 24, 2013 through Jan 1, 2014.

The Conference books for 2013 will close on **Jan 17**. Monies received after Jan 17 will be credited to 2014. (To send monies for 2014 before Jan 17, use the 2014 OCWM form on the PSEC website under Resources\PSEC Local Church Resources\2014 OCWM Remittal Form.)

United Schwenkfelder Choir *85th Annual Concert*



*'Come and Worship
Christ the King'*

Sunday, December 8, 2013

2:30 pm and 7:30 pm

*Central Schwenkfelder Church
Worcester, Pa.*

2111 Valley Forge Road ~ Lansdale

Edward K. Bieler - Director

Additional information: www.UnitedChoir.org

A Free-will Offering will be received

Our Schedule: December 8 Through December 15, 2013

Sunday, December 8, 2013

9:00 a.m.: Sunday School

9:00 a.m.: Kids' Christmas Program Rehearsal

10:15 a.m.: Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service

Congregational Meeting Following Worship Service

2:30 p.m.: United Schwenkfelder Choir Concert at Central Schwenkfelder Church

7:30 p.m.: United Schwenkfelder Choir Concert at Central Schwenkfelder Church

Monday, December 9, 2013

Church Office Closed

6:30 p.m.: Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting

7:30 p.m.: Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

8:00 a.m.: Quilters

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Church Office Open

6:30 p.m.: Brownies

7:00 p.m.: BSA Troop Committee

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Church Office Open

12:00 p.m.: Brown Bag Lecture at Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center

5:30 p.m.: Children's Choir

6:00 p.m.: Junior Bells

6:30 p.m.: Senior Bells

7:30 p.m.: Senior Choir

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Friday, December 13, 2013

7:00 p.m.: Youth Nativity Story Movie at Lisa Stitt's House

Saturday, December 14, 2013

Sunday, December 15, 2013

9:00 a.m.: Sunday School

9:00 a.m.: Kids' Christmas Program Rehearsal

10:15 a.m.: Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service

Mission Trip Meeting Immediately Following Worship Service

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.

www.palmschwenkfelderchurch.com

Church Administrator E-mail: palmsadministrator@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 Luz

Organist: Peg Jacob

Church Administrator: J. Daniel Ferry

Youth Director: Barbara Master

Sexton: Kevin Master (484) 358-1684

Greeter: Luanne Stauffer

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

Prayer Chain: Nancy Hoffman 610-845-7208

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