

# **PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH**

**Associate Member: United Church of Christ**



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# **PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH**

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015**

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer**

**Prelude**

“Wake, Awake”

Anton Leupold

**\*Call to Worship**

Rejoice, give thanks; call on God’s name;  
the Holy One is in our midst.

**How good it is to come over to God’s house!**  
**How good it is to gather in Christ’s presence!**

Sing aloud! Exult with all your heart;  
the Sovereign One has done glorious things.

**We offer up our anxieties, seeking God’s peace.**

**We face our plenty, eager to share.**

Shout your praise! Express your joy!

The God of our salvation welcomes us.

**God’s love is renewing us in these moments.**

**God’s strength is becoming our song.**

**\*Hymn #136** “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” (verses 1 and 2)

**Call to Confession**

**Time of Personal Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**What shall we do, O God? We can never do enough to deserve your love. We confess that we are not always truthful. We have defaced the purity of your love for us. We have embraced ugliness and oppression rather than loveliness and grace. We have distorted your cries for justice in order to benefit ourselves. We have given less than our best to others and to you. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Hymn #143** “For Ages Women Hoped and Prayed” (verses 2 and 3)

**Scripture** Luke 1:26 – 38 (NRSV p. 831; LP p. 1598 – 1599)


**Senior Choir Anthem**

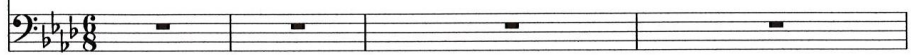
“The Angel Gabriel”


Basque Carol  
arr. Joel Raney


**Advent Lighting and Children’s Sermon**


# Advent Candle Choral Response


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


Men 

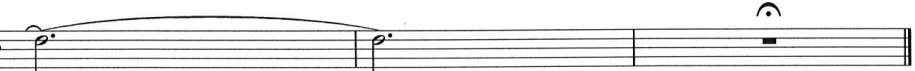
5  Light the

 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 Choir** "Mother Mary, May I Hold Your Baby?" Walter J. Gladwin

**Children's Church** Tina Korn

**Scripture** Luke 1:39 - 55 (NRSV p. 831 - 832; LP p.1599 - 1560)

**Hymn #150** "What Child Is This?" (verses 1 and 2)

**Sermon**

“Mary’s Song”

**Hymn #165**

“I Wonder As I Wander” (verses 1 and 2)

**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**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Gustav Holst

**\*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**

**We rejoice, O God of peace, in the privilege of giving without fear. You come to us daily with blessings, too numerous to count. You are the Holy One whose presence relieves our anxieties, feeds our hungers, and stirs our compassion. Through our offerings, we express our gratitude. As we give of ourselves, we respond to your call to bear fruit and to make your name known among nations. Thank you for accepting all we offer. Amen.**

**Hymn #156**

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

“Lift up Your Heads”

Lani Smith

\*All who are able, please stand.

The bulletins are sponsored today in loving memory 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.

### **Congregational Meeting**

We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting after the worship service **today**. Please take time to pick up a copy of a 2016 Budget and review this information as we will discuss this Budget at today's Congregational Meeting.

### **Bible Study**

The online Bible Study will contrast the futility of prayer to a generic God with the effectiveness of prayer to the revealed LORD. We had barely mined the lesson from 1 Samuel 22-24 when it began playing out in modern headlines. Take part in the discussion by contacting Rick Jones or the Church Office.

### **Combined Sunday School**

Our annual Hockey Game will be an intergenerational Sunday School on Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM in the Adult Bible Classroom. The season and the Bible provide questions. It plays very much like ice hockey, with body-checking prohibited. The need for teamwork assures roles for anyone old enough to attend Sunday School. Some past games have been high scoring; some have been defensive contests. The fellowship is genuine. Please join us!

### **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.

## **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 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 the worship service. Kids should arrive at 9:00am for rehearsal. Join us after in the Adult Sunday School room 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.

### **Migrant Hospitality Team**

Would you like to be part of the Migrant Hospitality team? We want to make sure that you are included! Drivers, cooks and movers are needed for arrival day. Occasional help will be needed collecting items in preparation. Volunteer forms for these roles are available in the Narthex.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016. 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.

### **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.

### **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 sign up for 2016 on the new 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. \_\_\_\_\_
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 13, 2015

## General Synod Delegate Nominations Wanted

At the 2016 Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Spring Meeting, we will be electing delegates for the 2017 and 2019 General Synods. We need lay delegates, ordained delegates, youth delegates (anyone under 30), female delegates, and male delegates. The next General Synod meeting will be in Baltimore, Maryland, June 30th through July 4, 2017. Anyone wishing to nominate someone please submit their name, local church, home phone and email to the PSEC Nominating Committee via Donna Tomlinson ([donna@psec.org](mailto:donna@psec.org)). If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please make sure you have contacted that person and secured their permission. Self-nominations are fine and encouraged. If you have never attended a General Synod meeting, this is a wonderful opportunity to experience the depth, breadth, and diversity of the United Church of Christ.



## The Dedication of the new Chapel at Phoebe Richland Health Care

The new Chapel has been completed at Phoebe Richland Health Care in Richlandtown and is the "new home" of the stained glass windows from the former Church House in Collegetown. Also, a dozen prayer shawls, hand-crafted by PSEC local church groups, initially for Mensch Mill, have been shared with Rev. Moyer, Chaplain, for use by the residents.

The Dedication of the Chapel will be held on **January 17, 2016** at Phoebe Richland Health Care, 108 S. Main Street, Richlandtown, PA 18955, following the 2:30 PM Installation of Rev. Jamie L. Moyer as Chaplain.

All are welcome to attend. Guests arriving following the Installation should enter the building through the Meadow Glen lobby entrance and then will be directed to the connecting hall where the Chapel is located.

*A reception will follow the Dedication For those attending the Installation, clergy are invited to Robe and process. Liturgical color is Red.*



**NOTE:** The closing date for the PSEC books for 2015 will be January 14, 2016. The PSEC Conference office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24 and 25 and Thursday and Friday, December 31 and January 1. The Conference Minister will be on call during this time for pastoral emergencies.

## Joyful Ministry in Our Churches - Ideas Worth Sharing



On Nov. 15, St. Paul's UCC in Exton celebrated Harvest Home Sunday with many special components. In place of the usual testimony from church members about what stewardship means to them, Pastor Jonathan Hauze invited congregation members to take a few moments to finish the sentence, ***"When I think about my church, I am thankful for..."***

Everyone was included -- children, teens, and adults.... The results were used to form a word cloud where the size of each word is relative to the number of times it was mentioned in the responses - an illustration of what makes the church meaningful to us, what we love and value about our life together in Christ.

Pastor Hauze then used the image as the bulletin cover for the Harvest Home service. Prior to the service we had a potluck breakfast in our fellowship hall and members added their food donations to the display on the altar. At the beginning of the service each person was asked to write a gift of the spirit we wanted to work on in the coming year on a paper pumpkin seed. A few of the children then affixed them to our Harvest Home banner.



The service included elements from several American Indian peoples and prayers and hymns of thanksgiving and blessing. The children brought forward symbols of the harvest including grains, roots, fruits, seeds, vegetables, herbs and flowers to add to the altar for dedication along with our monetary pledges and pledges of our time and talents. And, we all left filled with joy and renewed hope for our future together.

To share your church's joyful ministry, send text and pics to [marge@psec.org](mailto:marge@psec.org).



Prayers are requested for St. Stephen's UCC in Philadelphia and Rev. Dr. William Alexander.

# **This Week at PALM SCHWENKFELDER CHURCH**

## **Sunday, December 13**

- 9:00am Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program
- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:15am Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service
- 11:30am Congregational Meeting Following the Worship Service
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 3:7 – 9)

## **Monday, December 14**

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 1:5 – 20)
- 6:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee
- 7:00pm Board of Christian Education Meeting
- 7:30pm Board of Trustees

## **Tuesday, December 15**

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 1:21 – 25)
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts - Troop Meeting
- 7:00pm Mission Board

## **Wednesday, December 16**

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Zephaniah 3:14 – 16)
- 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 17**

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Zephaniah 3:17 – 20)
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts - Board of Review

## **Friday, December 18**

- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Isaiah 12:2 – 6)

## **Saturday, December 19**

- 9:00am Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Philippians 4:4 – 7)

## **Sunday, December 20**

- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:15am Fourth Sunday of Advent - Children's Christmas Program
- 12:00pm Daily Time of Prayer Wherever You Are (Luke 1:39 – 45)

# **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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